

The Wisdom of Silver Birch: What Is It Like on the Other Side?

Written by Rev. Ella Groves

Recently, I attended a Christian funeral and the minister referred to the place where the deceased had gone as 'a place of mystery'. I was not a mystery to the 17th century scholar, Emanuel Swedenborg, who for the last 27 years of his life was in constant touch with the Other Side. Quite suddenly, he was given the psychic gift of seeing into the Spirit World. Swedenborg wrote, "Thereafter the Lord daily opened the eyes of my spirit to see in perfect wakefulness what was going on in the other world, and to converse, broad awake, with angels and spirits."

Swedenborg described in detail about architecture, the 'artisans' work, flowers and fruit, scribes, embroidery, art, music, literature, science, schools, museums, colleges, libraries and sports activities in the Other World.

Andrew Jackson Davis, a forerunner of Modern Spiritualism did astral traveling into the Summerland, the sphere where children go when they pass into spirit. He described their surroundings, homes and the way spirit children were educated.

A young man by the name of Maurice Barbanell was persuaded by a friend to go with him to a home circle in London. That very night, the reluctant Barbanell fell into a deep trance and was later told that an Indian guide had spoken through him. Silver Birch, an entity from a higher spirit realm, came and spoke to the members of the circle for many decades. The messages and teachings of Silver Birch were published in a weekly newspaper for all to read.

The home circle would gather once a week and the sitters would be invited to ask questions. The answers were recorded. Tonight we will talk about what it is like on the Other Side.

Silver Birch explains, "One day your spirit, the God-given life-spark, will leave the physical body it adopted to allow it to function on this planet." When asked how a spirit-world resident would occupy his time, Silver Birch replied, "We have no day or night. We are not dependent on the rotation of the earth's axis. We do not revolve around the sun. We have eternal light. So we do not have hours as you do on earth.

Do we work? Of course, because we love to work. We love to serve. You will come to our world and work there, but it will be work that you enjoy. You will not have to do it to earn money, to pay the rent, to buy clothes, to buy food.

There are always people coming to our world with gifts and talents and faculties that were never manifested before. They can give them full expression and enrich the lives of the many in our world.

Each does whatever he wants to do. There are an infinite number of pursuits for the spirit. If he likes music, he can study all the compositions of your world and those of ours. We have concerts. If he is interested in literature, we have access to all the literature of your world and in ours. Art, painting – we have access to all the masterpieces produced in your world and in ours.

If he is interested in children, he can look after those who come into our world and precede their parent. If he is interested in sick souls, he can help to tend them and nurse them towards spiritual health. There are an infinite number of tasks we have for individuals to perform. Then there are others like myself who spend their time working in your world.

Once you leave your world you have a richness awaiting you that it is almost impossible to describe. We are not limited in music to your scales. We are not limited in art to your colors. It is very difficult to convey all this.”

Another sitter asked, *“If I wanted to learn to play the piano in your world would I have to take lessons?”*

“Of course, you would. You do not get anything for nothing. We have advanced tutors who can help according to the talents that you possess. Often our life gives a tremendous opportunity to newly-arrived dwellers who had gifts, talents and faculties which they could not possibly develop in your world through economical or social circumstances. Now they are free to allow these talents to reach their fullest heights.”

Through the mediums we learn that there is life after death and spirit visitors can be identified by their physical appearance, but there are still major differences between our physical body and our spirit body.

The following question was asked: *“When we pass to the Spirit World do we take any form or shape as we have in the Material World?”*

Silver Birch answered, “...You will be a real individual with a body, and features, which enable you to be recognized by others. You will have all the senses that will enable you to recognize others. You will have the entire spiritual apparatus which is necessary for you to function in our world.

You will have form, you will have shape; you will have individuality. What you will not have are any of the physical organs, but you will have correspondingly all the spiritual equipment necessary for you to function in our world.

What you must appreciate is that to you matter is solid and tangible, and spirit is shadowy and insubstantial. In our world, spirit is the reality, is tangible and matter is the shadowy and the insubstantial.

You do not have any of the apparatus to make you speak because you do not have to speak. All our communication is done by thought. We send our thoughts to one another and we are able to communicate. As a result thought is a reality in our world. Everything that exists is created out of thought. And thus you can have whatever you deem necessary for as long as you want it.

We have oceans, seas, mountains, lakes and flowers, plants, trees, animals and birds. We have beauty of the kind that you cannot appreciate until you come to our world.”

The sitters were aware that Silver Birch came from a part of the Spirit World for advanced spiritual beings. They were naturally curious to learn about the place that Silver Birch called home. The question was asked: *“When you are away from this circle, at what level of consciousness do you function? How great is your awareness?”*

Silver Birch does not describe his world so much in terms of physical features, but terms of spiritual awareness, the degree of the soul’s spiritual enlightenment.

Silver Birch said, “We have spheres or conditions of being that are graded according to the evolution of those who dwell in them. You can reach that sphere for which you are spiritually ready.”

Jesus taught, “In my Father’s house there are many mansions” According to Silver Birch there are many, many spheres of spiritual existence.

Silver Birch explained that his mission was to come and teach the children of the Material World and that he had teachers teaching him, and his teachers were being taught by teachers from even higher realms. He had progressed to a certain level, but he had difficulty conceiving of the multitude of mansions beyond his own. As stated in the seventh principle of Spiritualism, eternal progress is open to every soul.

Silver Birch attempts to describe his world. “We are in the realm of the incomprehensible. In the spiritual realm you are in states which are beyond earthly language and require an inner realization of what is being experienced. When I leave your world and withdraw into the level or sphere which is my natural habitat, I am expressing a developed consciousness that cannot be manifested when I communicate on earth. It is a degree of spiritual realization that cannot be measured in language that you would understand.

It is very difficult to convey what life in our world is like because we live in dimensions that are beyond what you can comprehend in your limited state. Language is inadequate to convey what is beyond the three dimensions of being with which you are familiar.

I cannot possibly express the richness of living that exists in our world because there are not sufficient comparisons that can be made. It is a world where the aspirations, dreams and hopes of those who seek to develop the fullness of being are realized. Gifts that were stultified on earth are expressed.

We do not have economic problems, we do not have social problems; we do not have color or racial problems. We are concerned not with bodies but with souls. And souls do not have color of white, red, yellow or black.”

By now you have started to acknowledge that we are more than a physical body. We are spirit housed in a physical body and when our time on earth is completed, the physical body turns to dust and our spirit goes on to live in the home that it has made for itself.

After hearing about the pleasantness of the Other Side, you might be asking the same question as this sifter. *“For what reason is there a Spirit World and a physical world? Why is there not just the Spirit World?”* This is a good question!

This is Silver Birch’s reply, *“Why do you send you send children to school?”*

“This is done so that in their schooldays they learn the lessons that will equip them for the life they must lead when they leave school and are confronted with very different conditions. That is the reason why you come into the physical world. It provides the opportunities and challenges for you to equip yourself for the life you must lead when you leave your physical world. It is a process of learning so that you are ready for the next stage. Also Earth is an essential part of spiritual progress. If it were not so, then it would not exist.”

A final question that may leave you with more questions to be answered: *“If you were asked to describe **where** the Other Side is, how would you reply?”*

Silver Birch explains, “It is the invisible and inaudible side of the world in which you live. You are as much now in the World of Spirit as ever you will be. You will not go there when you pass from your world; you are in the spirit world now. You cannot register it unless you have developed the gifts of the spirit so that you can tune in to all its vibrations and frequencies. It is not another world; it is an integral part of the universe of which Earth is but one aspect.”

It is interesting that Silver Birch says that we are in the Spirit World now. It is all around us, but it is invisible and inaudible and that you have to develop 'the gifts of the spirit' so that you can tune into all its vibrations and frequencies. That is the work of this church to train energy workers who tune into the vibrations of spirit healers and mediums that connect clairvoyantly, clairaudiently and clairsentiently with those who live on the Other Side?

It is hoped that through the words of Silver Birch you no longer think of the Other Side as 'a place of mystery'