Bridge Across the River

Communications from the life after death by a young artist killed in the First World War

In 4 Parts

Botho Sigwart Earl of Eulenburg

Translation: Joseph Bailey
November 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 1916

Joy at the beauty of the nature surrounding you here is what drew me to you, called me here to my oak tree. Here dwells peace. The dull, enclosed grave of human mourning was not where my earthly sheath was supposed to rest. No! Here in God’s lovely nature, in the place where your eye is met by nothing but beauty, is where I wanted to create a place for all of you, in order to soothe your sorrow over my having to strip off my garment and take my leave of your circle. I wanted to guide you across to light’s side, so that you can transform the woe of what once was into peace. Have I not done it right?

Now the leaves are falling once more; what glory around those of you who can see it!

Just as the night slowly sets in to crowd out the glowing golden day, just so does the depth of your being move when you go to sleep to enter other worlds. These worlds, which sleep now conceals from you, are a thousand times brighter than your day, because they open themselves unto the true things. That is what beholding with the right eyes is.

Therefore, do not mourn when gradually the autumn’s display of colors disappears, only to be enshrouded in barren darkness. Gaze through this darkness into my world!

Love everything that seems sad to you, because in this kind of greatness lies happiness. 

\textit{Sigwart}

November 18\textsuperscript{th}, 1916

Now I have managed to penetrate the fluids surrounding you, and I come to you to report all manner of things about the world here, where everything weaves, lives, creates. I have completed great works, and that is why I feel especially happy and satisfied. These works were preparations for a grand, world-shaking transformation of all the things that surround you. Forces have been created that will take care of everything, forces from the realm of the exalted hierarchies. Thousands and thousands of them are proclaiming the new laws, the new world order. That is mighty, that is indescribable!

How gladly I would tell you more in detail about these matters, but I may not, because they concern the future.

One thing you should hear about, though: the people who have a part in these matters become \textit{seers and hearers}; that is how powerful the force of this divine influence is.

You actually experience all this, but without feeling it with your physical consciousness. It is your higher selves only that assimilate matters – many matters indeed – that jar them. This often surfaces as seemingly unexplainable depressions or even feelings of happiness which, however, are no more than the result of what you experienced and received at night when I was allowed to tell you about the above events.

November 25\textsuperscript{th}, 1916
You must not become impatient so quickly, because, you see, it always takes considerable time for me to unite with you. Our uniting, after all, always entails a complete alteration of my present body. You mustn’t forget that; and above all, you must never make an attempt until you feel exactly that it is me.

There is a lot going on in all of you; don’t you notice the altered dreams? This means progress, as you well know. What you call dreams are direct or symbolic experiences. And you eventually need to learn to distinguish which dreams are meaningful and which ones are not. Dreams are among the few things for you human beings that are not tied to matter. The higher you ascend, the more meaningful dream life will become for you. You can achieve a great deal through willpower in this matter. You need to write down every significant dream first thing in the morning when you wake up – but right away. In this way, you will gradually bring them over into waking consciousness when you enter it and sense them as conscious experience.

I am with you, in you, at your side.

Sigwart

December 4th, 1916

I am here; it’s me, Sigwart.

Once again I’ve experienced a lot since the last time I spoke with you. In my connection with you I can hardly adhere to any concept of time. What you call long, we call short. That is why fixed times are hard for us to express in your terms. Here, impending events can often be seen in such a finished state that we assume they will occur in the very nearest future. But for you this very near future often amounts to a considerable stretch of time.

I say this also on account of the war. What has been predetermined for it already exists. We can see it; that is, it is lying there, all finished. This is what I meant, too, when I said the fight is over, everything has been decided; that wasn’t the case earlier.

But you must refrain from using earthly standards to measure time in spiritual matters. You need to adjust so that you can take them in more correctly; otherwise you would often not understand matters.

Unfortunately, you cannot see how we spiritual beings take part, work and fight along. To witness these super-human deeds is magnificent.

December 24th, 1916

Christmas! How peacefully you resound amid the great storm roaring among men, you Christmas, festival of peace! Your bells toll from all the steeples where people enter, that they may pour out their hearts to the Almighty. This is how you should experience Christmas, this is also how Christmas should shine this year: as devotion to peace!

There is still a lot I want to say to you, but I need to ask permission from my master first.

Be ready tomorrow, tomorrow I’ll be back.

Lovingly, your Sigwart
December 25th, 1916

Now I can tell you undisturbed about what moves my heart. I want to give you a picture of Christmas as it is experienced and celebrated here. So listen:

The festivities begin with great trials that place us according to our merit. Once this placement process has happened, the first grand act begins, with all its sub-events. All this is only seen by those who have passed their trials. None of the others hear anything about the true greatness and depth of the Christ event being celebrated. The others, however, are permitted to penetrate further and further, as deeply into the mystery as their level of development permits them, and that varies widely. To illustrate this to you, I would like to give you the following example: think of a difficult book containing many different levels of meaning and given a hundred different people to read. Each person will understand the book’s content in a slightly different way, and only the very fewest of them will be revealed the very deepest meaning slumbering in its content. That is the way it is here, too. Only the fewest grasp the all-powerful experience to its full extent.

Now comes the second event, which consists mainly in the working together of the same currents and the same thoughts. These blend to a single gigantic current and permeate the heavenly space up to the lofty spheres into which no normally developed human being has ever been able to gaze. But divining and feeling and longing upward in this direction strengthen and accelerate the various paths of development. This was the mighty second thing.

Now concerning the third aspect of the holy acts. This part is the hardest one for you to understand, because there is nothing you can compare it with. It is the fulfillment of the entire Christ experience on every one of us. We suffer, we live as He suffered and lived – we even think and feel ourselves to be within Christ; thus we are Christ from the event of His birth until His death.

You probably comprehend or at least divine, if not fully grasp, that this last aspect, which we live through in this heaven, has an all-powerful effect on us.

I was still so filled with it yesterday that I could not possibly have bonded with you any longer. It would have taken away too much of the strength of this influence I had lived through. But one day we will celebrate this festival jointly. And how I am filled with bliss at the thought that one day I will live through this most exalted event with you together!

This is a further reason why you must become active, not only in your physical garment, but thereafter as well, here in your spiritual garment. For these things are never simple! But if you continue living as you do now, everything here will be much easier for you.

I am glad to go on showing you the way and how to tread it. Only I have to repeat one thing over and over: Don’t place such value on things of such little importance! The more you do, the more the unpleasant little things will get to you, which you deem so important. You also need to believe in your destiny to some extent. You quite frequently believe you could hinder it, or that you could accomplish this task! True: your wills are free; but out of free will arose deeds, and it is these deeds that determine you now.
Just don’t get stuck on the consequences of others’ deeds. That will get you nowhere. Stream love outward into the world wherever you can! Why are you always passing judgment on others whose lives you don’t know, no matter how close you are to them? You do not know them, because you judge them only by their deeds in their current life. Please don’t do this! You are doing great harm to yourselves!

This has been my Christmas greeting to you all.

I want always to help you walk the right path, and that’s why I said these things today of all days. Don’t resent it, only know that at the conclusion of the old year I want you to shed these traits as well, which only bring suffering. I see the consequences for you; that is why I am so strict with you, who are and will be my everything.

December 30th, 1916

I felt your wish once more to hear words from my heaven.

It is hard to believe that another year is now drawing to a close for you, because here in our sphere everything consists of such different concepts of time. Here we have the time of eternal light with days that have no beginning and no end. There is no other time here than the one apportioned according to development. For us the eternally changing times are simply degrees of the developments going on. For those who develop quickly, it goes without saying that time passes infinitely fast here; for those, however, who stay on one level for a long time, it passes very slowly indeed, often at a downright creeping and arduous pace.

How time passes for me here you can well imagine. It is a splendid lingering and at the same time a soaring through the worlds around me that fills me with indescribable bliss.

In this sense my reunion with all of you is not at all that far off; to me it feels like only a short time until you will have met your earthly obligations and will be able to shed what it is such travail to carry: “your body”. This is why my separation from you no longer makes me so dejected, because the moment when we will meet again is close at hand rather than far off. Only you must never let up feeling me here, the way I am now, rather than seeking me on your earth. This will make it easier for you to see me again in the moment of your own parting. Whenever you think of me, imagine me in my former form, but now in a spiritualized world; that must become second nature to you.

Tomorrow is the change to the year during which the earth will run a completely different course. The coming year is the year of great change in everything that lives there. You may celebrate it with peace of mind, because it is to be the year of the light following the darkness.

Your Sigwart
Bridge Across the River, Part 2, January 28th – December 31st, 1916