

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

Communications from January 18th-31st, 1916

January 18, 1916

You must think of me constantly whenever you feel I want to say something to you. At that moment the other elements will step aside and, attracted by your thoughts, I can come to you immediately. You need to bear in mind that it is becoming more and more difficult now, because I am becoming more and more spiritualized. We will remain together as we are, however, such that I will communicate with you for a long time to come yet; only less frequently, not on a regular everyday basis like at the beginning. Then gradually you will immerse yourselves ever more deeply into the spiritual teachings, such that you won't need my communications anymore. A time might also return it will go better. I currently have a great deal to do with tasks that are not particularly edifying, and I do not wish to drag you in on them.

I have to go now.

January 19, 1916

Today I am allowed to be entirely with you once again. I was so looking forward to this evening with you dear ones, in which no foreign influences will disturb us. Now be happy, I am with you, I am listening to what you are saying and want to be happy with you. Later: The currents flowing from the ones to the others here are strong. This connection among you makes it easy for me to approach you, because I can enter these currents and within them feel you quite clearly. Their purpose is to interconnect you in your physical existence the same way as you are interconnected spiritually, that is, through your meditations. Even if the one or the other of you does not feel it, they stream through you all the same. You need to bear in mind that we here seek spiritual people who are united, because they support us and all of you as well. That seems strange to you, but believe me, often there are many spiritual beings who join your circle, mostly good ones and lofty. But other spirits are also fighting for these places, and we do not always have the strength to banish the Impure Ones. How worried I often was earlier, but now I am completely reassured concerning such things. You feel it yourselves, don't you, and that means you have achieved a degree of spiritual development not to be underestimated. Now I must be off to my unpleasant task. Spending these hours with you dear ones has been a great source of recuperative strength to me. Put your hands out to me, I want to feel you all once more.

Your Sigwart

January 21, 1916

How long it took for you finally to become tranquil again. The time is coming when everything will become brighter. You will see, you too have now made your start. I am happy now, because I have been redeemed from that repulsive task. Praise and thanks be to God, for those days were really quite horrible for me. You surely know what the matter was: I was

involved in the destruction of the evil forces. But I have accomplished my part now and am free to do what I want.

January 23, 1916

Greetings to you at the 7:00 hour, which we always spend together in communion of thought.

Your spirits are lifted up to my regions, and we can interact and exchange thoughts with each other more closely than at other times.

It is so nice for me to look up at you from my work and feel quickened by your love and your spiritual attitude. I need you now more than at other times, because my current activity takes me into regions that lie quite a distance from you and your stream. Your loving thoughts are a source of solace and strength for me at such times.

I wanted to tell you that. You can help me now through thoughts that edify me and give me strength.

Now to your work! I am listening and am with you in love.

To Tora, his youngest sister:

Dear Sister! I know everything that moves your heart, you much-plagued child. But be patient, in patience lies victory. You are, after all, so close to me that I go through everything with you, except that it doesn't seem of any importance to me. You must always think about what I once told you: the only way your situation becomes dire is if your spirit is damaged, otherwise all is well. The more sorrow and worry reach you all, the faster you develop. And what is your goal on earth? To become mature for what awaits you here.

What is your world with all its deception, lies, show, and pain? Yes, I once loved the earth in all its beauty too, but now I know better, and that's why I come to console you all. I implore you, do not place such value on all the things that you encounter, they are really negligible. But you haven't learnt it yet, you still tremble and fret over every little thing that is uncomfortable to your bodies and souls. These disturbances are all welcome to your spirit, though, because only it knows they are for its good. And so we want to try, dear sister, to stride with courage and strength into the new life I prescribed to you. Remember: I am always at your side. If it should happen that you endure suffering, I am unable to assuage it, but I can encourage you by letting a light, cool breath waft over your hands, and that is the sign that I am taking part in your torments and your burdens. The more suffering allotted you to bear, the stronger you are supposed to become. The reward is inner peace. What matters now is that you persevere, because now a lot of trials are coming your way. Always remember this and say to yourself: "Whatever may come, it will give me strength, the strength that I need. Only through suffering do I learn to prevail, and when I have prevailed there will be no more suffering." I fight along with you when you fight, I see everything, I know everything. The threads that connect us are much too loving for any sort of worry or

sorrow that casts its shadow on you not to touch me as well. But how differently I sense them!

Our life together here one day will be of infinite beauty; look forward to it. What a sunny future lies ahead for us yet! Only first meet the obligations on your earth, then the reward...

I often give you all riddles in your dreams to solve, but you do not comprehend their depth and meaning. I do it again and again, because I hope, after all, that sometime you will understand them.

I greet you as your most faithful eternal brother

Sigwart

January 24, 1916

I, Sigwart, have great things to proclaim to you today: the divine beings have been beneficent and have allowed us yearning disciples to have a look into their world, this world of wonders. I have been rewarded for my recent unpleasant work. I would never have expected such rich reward. It was splendid, I could tell you about it for hours. Like a student I was asked about all sorts of things, and I was able to tell them so proudly about all your development and your progress and everything that makes my heart rejoice. It is from them that I receive everything, including the prayers and meditations that I pass on to you. They are the ones who initiated me into the laws prescribed for teachers, and it is from them that I always receive all wisdom. For the first time I was now allowed to gaze into their world, and that was an infinite joy for me. These are the beings who compose the meditations and disseminate them over the whole earth. They are also the ones who permitted me to remain in contact with you. They are great organizers, the highest among the infinitely many spiritual schools in all parts of the earth. They set the exact sequence of the meditation exercises for the schooling of the spirit; I owe them so very much.

When they summoned me this time, I felt like a child who was now to see the real princes of the land of fairy tales for the first time. But I lost my shyness the moment I felt the goodness and mildness surrounding them. The entire organization is marvelous. One cannot understand how it is possible for these few great and lofty beings to have all this in their hands and know of human beings' every spiritual development.

I got a clear picture there of how much more widespread the direction toward the spirit has become. This has happened in secret and much more extensively than you can divine, or than I had suspected. It will assert itself even more strongly after the war, because the wish to understand things in a spiritual context has grown very large, as has the ardent longing to be able to picture the present dwelling-place of all who have died in the war. When this happens, everything will reach full maturity: Our circle will no longer be so isolated, because there will be many newcomers to it. Even now, it is wonderful for me when all your prayers ascend to me at the same time like a splendid column striving upward into heaven. Even

now this is a mighty force, and every individual who connects with us is a gift for me, for which I am grateful from the bottom of my heart.

January 29, 1916

Finally you have called for me! I cannot be around you constantly as I was before when I just waited until you had a quiet moment to listen to me. That is why it is good if you call me, so that I do not need to wait so long.

I wanted to tell you more about the development of the war here in our world. Listen:

The large-scale disappointment continues; but those killed in the war have now been told by the beings who decide over their present activities that they are being helped greatly for their further development. Unfortunately, that is not what some of them want, so they can't be helped at all. The others, though, are being shown ways for them to make much faster progress.

I believe that due to this we will have more peace, and I will be able to draw a breath of relief once this restlessness and dissatisfaction are over.

But something needs to happen before that: the complete compensation of good and evil among the dissatisfied warriors who beset each other in strife and envy. Even though it is not my duty, I have a strong inner desire to help precisely them. I usually succeed, too.

You, too, can do *a lot* of good, by resolving, before you fall asleep: "Tonight I want to help the dissatisfied warriors as well as ever I can". Right away your spirits will hasten to these spheres to bring help. It is doubtful that as a matter of course we will meet just there, because the space is immense. But if you were to tell me before you fall asleep, it is self-understood that I would come and be able to give you all sorts of helpful instructions. You can also do it by yourselves, though, because the moment you arrive, you will be told what to do.

You don't need to get upset if once in a while you don't do your meditations so well. There are times when one can't be as concentrated as one would like. Then there will be times when everything goes easily, from the inside out. Just don't think about the failure very often. On the contrary: always think with a joyful heart that it will get much better with time. That makes it easy and gives you new strength. You have to promise me that you will go about your inner work cheerfully and with love, because I experience it downright as pressure if you think about the meditations with negative thoughts or discomfort because you are afraid you will miss the time.

I love you all like the sun loves the sprouting earth.

Your Sigwart

January 30, 1916

Sometimes I forget completely that I stripped myself of matter so long ago, because I have become so much more to all of you, every single one of you, since I no longer walk among you. How happy I am when now and then I picture what it will be like once you are also redeemed and we stand face to face. If I want to, I can make myself happy every day, each hour even, by seeing you. But you, my loved ones, do not have this possibility, so that my joy is not quite complete.

I have the feeling that you do not need me now as much as you did at the start, and this fills me with satisfaction. After all, it shows me that all our work has not been in vain, that it has much rather born rich fruit already. How happy that makes me, your Sigwart, who remains always the same for you, whom you will find again years from now, just as you did on earth; for I am the "I" that you love and will remain this "I" always and forever, despite any changing situations. We too have been unseparated throughout unimaginable times. I sincerely hope you do not call the state caused by my having died separation! Oh no: while I was alive there were many times when we were more separated than we are now. The only conceivable way for us to become separated now is by you coming to a standstill in your spiritual development and I for this reason no longer being able to spend time with you. Barring that, we will remain together until all development is over, until we unfold our being in the highest spheres and become One with God. Then, humanity will have ceased longing for anything, then it will be everything and will be made up of everything.

That, then, is how long our eternal revolving on development's wheel will last, until the path of tribulation that we tread together ends in the sea of light, and we may rest – but only after the day's accomplishment – in Thee.

January 31, 1916

I am here, your Sigwart, who envelops you with love and who sees how your lives have become full and rich since we have been able to exchange thoughts like – and even more effectively than – we did when I was alive. But the higher I ascend, the more strength and devotion you require to comprehend and to pass on my communications. That is why you need to plan your time better. For me to be able to come into contact with you, I need an environment that is strong and pure. You can have this contact anywhere, you only need to want it. I need more tranquility on your part. You have no idea how often I suffer when I want to say something to one of you but cannot, because you let yourselves be distracted excessively.

I have coordinated my entire development and all my activities according to my connection with you. But it is up to you whether or not I will be able to maintain it for much longer. And it is not only your development that is important here, but also the state of your health (which must not be spent on other things), as well as the atmosphere that surrounds and flows around you. If my contact to the earthly world should be broken, it would be very difficult indeed to reestablish it. I come into currents that make it hard for me to maintain the ability to speak with you.

Dear sister, the writing activity you are currently engaged in introduces an indescribable unrest into your environment. You create nothing but living beings, and then I can hardly speak with you any longer. But even your writing could be coordinated, if the free rein you give to these thoughts were for a certain portion of the day only. In this place such a chaos of thoughts would be utterly impossible.

For us here, each hour has a whole world of thought of its own; there is no other way to reach one's goals, no other way to get everything done thoroughly. Disturbances in the thought world, against which you all have to struggle constantly, do not occur then. Let me come to you the way I used to, without such impediments. I still have so much to say to all of you, much that is great and exalted, but you quite frequently lack the mood of consecration. I had to just say this to you, so that you know where we two stand with each other.

The positive forces arising from the war are of enormous consequence for humanity; they are particularly advantageous for the spiritually more advanced. It is as it were a highly concentrated essence of something great and omnipotent, a little bit of which is now being given to each individual. You too have received a portion of it – the absolute purest part. I could compare it with a drop that is dripped into the eye, clouding it for a moment, but then clarifying it and giving it new seeing power. All of you have received this power, and it makes you see differently. Suddenly, the things that come to you take on a different value. What you sense in them is the same, and nevertheless something quite different. This is the power of the war, of this horrific war. Even it has its good sides. We all needed strength, and such strength could only be created by this sacrifice. That is the great and the only edifying thing about this inhuman struggling, that it creates an impulse that is stronger than anything else.

I believe you will now see the war with different eyes. Please do so. Do not see what is ugly; rather, always see nothing but a great, pure, almost holy power growing upward before you eyes, which bathes everything in the balm of eternal love. This is how you should imagine the war henceforth; don't despair and don't complain about it. Everything sad about the war that confronts you, you should take up in this spirit. Please: imprint my words into your hearts.

Your Sigwart