

HEAVENLY MANIFESTATION by Heber C. Hale, President of Boise Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

It is with a very humble and grateful spirit that I attempt to relate on this occasion, by request, a personal experience which is very sacred to me. I must of necessity be brief. Furthermore, there were certain things made known to me which I don not feel at liberty to relate here. Let me say by way of preface that between the hours of 1:00 AM and 7:30 AM on the night of January 20, 1920, while alone in a room at the home of my friend, W. J. Rawson of Carey, Idaho, this glorious manifestation was vouchsafed to me.

I was not conscious of anything that transpired during the hours mentioned, except that I experienced in this manifestation. I did not turn in bed, nor was I disturbed by any sound, which is indeed unusual for me. Whether it be called a dream, an apparition, a vision or a pilgrimage of my spirit into the world of spirits, I know not--I care not. I know that I actually saw and experienced the things related in this Heavenly Manifestation, and they are as real to me as any experience of my life. For me, at least, this is sufficient.

Of all the doctrines and practices of the Church, the vicarious work for the dead had been the most difficult for me to comprehend and whole-heartedly accept. I consider this vision as the Lord's answer to the prayer of my soul on this and other certain questions.

I passed but a short distance from my body through a film into the world of spirits. This was my first experience after going to sleep. I seemed to realize that I had passed through the change called death and I so referred to it in my conversation with the immortal beings with whom I came immediately into contact. I readily observed their displeasure at our use of the word "death" and the fear we attached to it. They use there another word in referring to the transition form mortality to immortality which I do not now recall, and I can only approach its meaning, as the impression was left upon my mind, they called it a new birth.

My first visual impression was the nearness of the world of spirits to the world of mortality. The vastness of this Heavenly sphere was bewildering to the eyes of a spirit novice. Many enjoyed unrestricted vision and unimpeded action while others were visibly restricted to both vision and action. The vegetation and landscape wee beautiful beyond description, not all green as here, but gold with varying shades of pink, orange and lavender, as the rainbow. A sweet calmness prevaded everything. The people I met there, I did not think of as spirits but as men and women, self-thinking and self-acting individuals, going about important business in a most orderly manner. There was perfect order and everybody had something to do and seemed about their business in a most orderly manner.

That the inhabitants of the spirit world are classified according to their lives of purity and their subservience to the Father's will was subsequently made apparent. Particularly was it observed that the wicked and unrepentant are confined to a certain district by themselves, the confines of which are as definitely determined and impassable as the line marking the division of the physical from the spiritual world, a mere film, but impassable until the person himself has changed. This world of spirits is the temporary abode of all spirits pending the resurrection from the dead, and the judgment. There was much activity within the different spheres, and appointed ministers of salvation were seen coming from the higher to the lower spheres to pursue missionary appointments.

I had a very pronounced desire to meet certain of my kinsfolk and friends, but I was at once impressed with the fact that I had entered a tremendously great and extensive world, even greater than the

earth and more numerous inhabited. I could not only be in one place at a time, could only do one thing at a time, could look in only one direction at a time, and accordingly it would require many, many years to search out and converse with all those I had known and those whom I desired to meet, unless they were specially summoned to receive me. All worthy men and women were appointed to special and regular service under a very organized plan of action, directed principally toward preaching the Gospel to the unconverted, teaching those who seek knowledge, and establishing family relationship and gathering genealogies for the use and benefit of mortal survivors of their respective families, that work of baptism and sealing ordinances may be vicariously performed for the departed in the Temples of God upon the earth. The authorized representatives of families in the world of spirits have access to our temple records and are kept fully advised of the work done therein, but the vicarious work here does not become automatically effective there.

The recipients must first believe, repent, and accept baptism and confirmation, then certain consummation ordinances are performed of actualizing these saving principles in the lives of these beings.

I was surprised to find no babies in arms. I met the infant son of Orion W. Rawlings, my first counselor. I immediately recognized him as the baby who died a few years ago, and yet he seemed to have the intelligence and in certain respects the appearance of an adult. He was engaged in matters pertaining to his family and their genealogy. My mind was quite contented on the point that mothers will again receive into their arms their children who died in infancy and will be fully satisfied, but the fact remains that entrance into the world is not an extenuation of growth, but the greater opportunity for development. Babies are adult spirits in infant bodies.

I presently beheld a mighty multitude of men, the largest I had ever seen gathered in one place, who I immediately recognized as soldiers, the millions who had been slaughtered and rushed so savagely into the world of spirits during the time of the great world war. Among them moved calmly and majestically a great general in supreme command. As I drew nearer, I received a kindly smile and generous welcome from that great loving man, General Richard W. Young. Then came the positive conviction to my soul that of all the men, living or dead, there is not one who is so perfectly fitted for the great mission unto which he had been called. He commands immediately, that attention and respect of all his soldiers. He is at once a great general and a great High Priest of God. No earthly field of labor to which he could have been assigned can compare with it in importance and extent. I passed from this scene to return later when I found General Young had these divisions all seated, and he was preaching the Gospel in great earnestness to them.

As I passed forward, I met my beloved mother. She greeted me most affectionately and expressed her surprise at seeing me there and reminded me that my mission on earth was not completed. She seemed to be going somewhere and was in a hurry and accordingly took her leave, saying that she would see me again.

I moved forward, covering an appreciable distance and consuming considerable time, viewing the wonderful sights of landscape, parks, trees and flowers, and meeting people--some of whom I knew, but many thousands of whom I didn't recognize as acquaintances. I presently approached a group of men, standing in a patch lined with spacious stretches of flowers, grass and shrubbery as a golden hue--marking the approach to a beautiful building. The group was engaged in earnest conversation. One of their number parted from the rest and came walking down the path. I at once recognized my esteemed president, Joseph F. Smith. He embraced me as a father would his son, and after a few words of greeting, remarked, "You have not come to stay," which remark I understood more as a declaration than an interrogation. For the

first time I became fully conscious of my uncompleted mission on earth, and as much as I would have liked to remain, he replied, "And I shall take the matter up with the authorities, and let you know later."

We then turned and he led me to the little group of men whom he had left. I immediately recognized President Brigham Young and the Prophet Joseph Smith. I was surprised to find President Young a shorter and heavier built man than I had pictured, and on the other hand I found the Prophet Joseph much taller than I had expected to find him. Both they and President Smith possessed a calm and holy majesty which was at once kind and kingly. President Smith introduced me to the others, who greeted me warmly. We then retraced our steps and President Smith took his leave, saying he would see me again.

From a certain vantage point I was permitted to view the earth and what was going on here. There was no limitation to my vision and I was astounded at this. I saw my wife and children at home. I saw President Heber J. Grant at the head of the great Church and kingdom of God, and felt the divine power that radiated from God. I saw towns and cities, the sin and wickedness of men and women. I saw vessels sailing upon the oceans and scanned the battle-scarred fields of France and Belgium. In a word, I beheld the whole world as if it were a panorama passing before my eyes. Then there came to me the unmistakable impression that this world and persons upon it are open to the vision of the spirits only when special permission is given or when they are assigned to special service here. This is particularly true of the righteous who are busily engaged in the service of the Lord and who cannot be engaged in two fields of activity at the same time. The wicked and unrepentant spirits having still, like the rest, their free agency, and applying themselves to no useful or wholesome undertaking, seek their pleasure about their old haunts and exult in the sin and wretchedness of degenerate humanity. To this extent they are the tools of Satan. It is these idle, mischievous, and deceptive spirits who appear as miserable counterfeits at spiritualistic seances, table dancing, etc. The noble and great ones do not respond to the call. They would not do it in mortality, certainly they would not do it in their increased state of knowledge in the world of immortality. These wicked and unrepentant spirits are allies of Satan and his host, operating through willing mediums in the flesh, these three forces constitute an unholy trinity upon the earth and are responsible for all the sin, wickedness, and misery among men and nations.

While standing at a certain vantage point, I beheld a wonderfully beautiful temple capped with golden domes from which emerged a small group of men dressed in white robes. They paused in conversation. These were the first I had seen thus clad. The persons that I had previously seen were dressed of course, but dressed variously. The soldiers, for instance, were in uniform. In this little group of holy men, my eyes centered on one, more resplendent and holy than the rest. While I thus gazed, Joseph F. Smith parted from the others and came to my side. "Do you know him?", he inquired. I quickly answered, "Yes, I know Him. My eyes beheld my Lord and Saviour." "It is true," said President Smith. Oh how my soul filled with rapture--unspeakable joy filled my heart. President Smith informed that I had been given permission to return and complete my mission upon the earth which the Lord had appointed me to fulfill, and then with his hand upon my shoulder, uttered these memorable and significant words: "Brother Heber, you have a great work to do. Go forward with a prayerful heart and you shall be blessed in your ministry. From this time on, never doubt that God lives, Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Saviour of the world. That the Holy Ghost is the God of Spirit and the messenger of the Father and the Son. Never doubt the resurrection of the dead: The immortality of the soul.

The destiny of men is eternal progress. Never again doubt that the mission of work in the temples for the salvation of the dead has only begun. Know this, that Joseph Smith was sent by God to usher in the

Gospel dispensation of the fullness of times, which is the last to mortals upon the earth. His successors have all been called and approved by God. President Heber J. Grant is at this time the recognized and ordained head of the Church of Jesus Christ upon the earth. Give him your confidence and support. Much you have seen and heard here you will not be able to repeat when you return. Then he bade me goodbye saying, "God bless you."

Quite a distance through various scenes and passing innumerable people, I traveled before I reached the sphere which I first entered. On my way I was greeted by many friends and relatives, certain of whom sent words of greeting and counsel to their dear ones here, my mother being one of them. One other I will mention. I met Brother John Adamson, his wife, his son James, and daughter Isabel, all of whom were killed by the hand of a foul assassin in their home at Carcy, Idaho, on the evening of November 29, 1915. They seemed to divine that I was on my way back to earth and immediately said: (Brother Adamson speaking) "Tell the children that we are very happy and very busy and they should not mourn our departure nor worry their minds over the manner by which we were taken. There is a purpose in it and we have a work here to do which requires our collective efforts and which we could not do individually." I was at once made to know that the work referred to was genealogy on which they were working in England and Scotland.

One of the grand and most sacred things of Heaven is the family relationship. The establishment of a complete chain without any broken links brings a fullness of joy. Links welded together. Men and women everywhere throughout the world are being moved upon by their departed ancestors to gather genealogies. These are links for the chain. The ordinances of baptism, endowments, and sealings performed in the Temples of God by the living for the dead are the welding of the links. Ordinances are performed in the spirit world, effectualizing in the individual recipients the saving principles of the Gospel vicariously performed here.

As I was approaching the place where I had entered, my attention was attracted toward a number of small groups of women, preparing what appeared to be wearing apparel.

Observing my inquiring countenance, one of the women remarked: "We are preparing to receive Brother Phillip Worthington very soon." (Phillip Worthington died on January 22, 1920. President Hale was advised by telegram and returned to Boise and preached the funeral sermon on January 25, 1920.) As I gasped his name in repetition I was admonished, "If you knew the joy and glorious mission that awaits him here, you would not ask to have him longer detained upon the earth."

Then came flooding my consciousness this beautiful thought: The will of the Lord can be done on earth as it is in Heaven--only when we resign completely to His will and let His will be done in and through us. On account of selfishness of men, the assertion of personal will as against the will of God, many persons who might otherwise have been taken in innocence and peace have been permitted to live, and have passed a life of suffering and misery or debauchery and crime and have lived to their own peril. Men and women and children are often called to missions of great importance on the other side, and some respond gladly while others refuse to go and their loved ones will not give them up. Also, many die because they have not faith to be healed. Yet others live long and pass out of the world of mortals without any special manifestation or action of the divine will. When a man is stricken ill, the question of prime importance is not--is he going to live or die so long as the will of the Father is done. Surely we can trust Him so long as he is with God. Herein lies a special duty and privilege of administration of the Holy Priesthood namely: It is given the Elders of the Church of Christ to divine the Will of the Father concerning the one upon whose head their hands are laid. If for any reason they are unable to presage the Father's will, they should then continue

to pray for the afflicted one, humbly conceding supremacy of the Will of God, that His will may be done on earth as it is in Heaven.