

Cameo 22: “The Return of His Will”

The context for this is that Bill has been depressed and missing sleep. Just three days before this guidance was received, Bill had recorded in his journal: “Great difficulty in getting up, feeling of generalized fatigue, etc., as continuation of previous depression.”

He had also said, “I did not sleep particularly soundly during the night; a vague awareness from time to time that a great deal of unconscious material was being stirred up.”

Here is the message Helen received for Bill:

He is in a very deep sleep and much more resistant to waking than you are. The major problem with him is that his is a *passive* resistance, which implies a giving over of will. This always induces a state of resignation and therefore depression. Tell him that no one can resign from the Sonship, since membership is not optional. He has been looking for someone to *take his will away*, because he thought *it* was the cause of his trouble. Since the course has placed such consistent emphasis *on* will, and *since he agrees with the emphasis*, his past adjustment is threatened. That is why he could not sleep. His past came to “haunt” him *because* he is giving up the belief in ghosts.

Tell him again not to be afraid of ghosts and remind him that he *has* no past. The return of his will is what he *wants*. No one can accept it but himself.

Bill believes that his will in the past was the source of his trouble. He believes it did bad things.

So he has tried to give over his will. He wanted someone to take it away.

This entails a passive resistance to waking. He feels a sense of resignation that he has no power to wake up and is not part of the Sonship.

But now the Course is placing “such consistent emphasis *on* will, and...*he agrees with the emphasis.*”

This threatens his shelving of his will, and it brings up his will’s past misdeeds, which he wants to forget.

Instead, he needs to realize that “the return of his will is what he *wants.*”

Reflections

There are many of us who are in Bill's position—we have given over our will.

We think of it just in ego-based terms—it's just there to shove your way through life.

Indeed, our whole spiritual culture largely reflects this emphasis. The focus is mostly on passive qualities like *being*. In contrast, *doing* is denigrated. Detach. Let go. Surrender. Abide in presence. I need do nothing.

Like Bill, we need to reclaim our will. It has a positive and essential role.

In the process, we need to realize that the things that haunt us from our past are unreal ghosts, for we *have* no past.

Exercise in reclaiming our will

*I do regret ways that I have used my will.
But there is a purely positive use of it.
I need it to propel my journey home.
I need it to set the goal of awakening.
I need it to pursue that goal with unswerving drive.
I need to claim the power of conviction.
I need to fix my mind on truth and only truth.
I need to exercise the power of decision.
I need to act strongly in the world on behalf of love.
And I am not afraid of the ghosts of my will's past misdeeds.
For these ghosts are not real and I have no past.*