

Bedtime Stories From Angels To A Lonely Child

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**By Daniel Raphael
and
*Leah, Guardian Angel***

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*This is a "sample book" of stories and articles — any part of which could become an ongoing series.
It is not intended as a "stand alone" book in its own right.*

Daniel Raphael, PhD

— *opus unius hominis vitae* —



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The stories you are about to read involve a young girl, her Guardian Angel, Seraphina, and her family. Daniella was the only child of an average, middle class couple who lived in the suburbs. She was very, very lonely. By a wonderful series of circumstances, she learned that she had her very own Guardian Angel, and later learned how to talk to her. That is the beginning of many curious adventures that Daniella and Seraphina would like to share with you. You might learn, too, that you have a Guardian Angel who is waiting to share your life's adventures, too.



Just like Daniella, the author's life has been colored from a rich palette of experiences. He has had the fortunate experience to lead his Guardian Angel, Leah, since the spring of 1994. Since then his relationship with Leah has helped him gain an immediate relationships and angelic relationships with mortals. Daniel has helped many people dialogue with their own Guardian concerning current problems and issues, and for clarity and insight into their plan of life. The loneliness of Daniella, the main stories, was taken from Daniel's own experiences.

Daniel Raphael is a holistic life coach, the author of numerous books, and a channel for those who wish to talk with their Guardian of light in the Creator's Grand Universe. He lives in Evergreen, Colorado, USA, and is the father of three grown children: Dere, grandfather to Sophia Grace, Andrew Jeremy, and Charlie Marx.

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Preface

Hi, my name is Daniel Raphael and I am the co-author of this children's book. The other co-author is Leah, my Guardian Angel. I have been able to talk to Leah since the spring of 1994. She is my constant companion, my ever-present help, counselor, and friend. I want you to know that I truly appreciate her presence in my life – and I want you to know that she never interferes or “butts in” ... ever. She only helps me when I ask for her help in situations when I ask, and sometimes in situations where I need help, but forget to ask.

Leah helped write this book. It is not a book like “Harry Potter” or “The Wizard of Oz” or some emotional roller coaster novel. This is about the adventures of a small, lonely girl, “Daniella,” who finds a friend – Seraphina, her Guardian Angel. So, if you are expecting a series of stories that challenge Superman™, Batman™, Spiderman™, or any of the other exciting personalities of comic drama, you will be disappointed. But then again, life is not about comic drama from day to day, but of the normal, ordinary circumstances that challenge our ability to cope with the trials and tribulations of ordinary life, like what happens at school, or on field trips, or being at home alone, or being by yourself when your parent's friends come over for dinner and leave their children at home with a babysitter.

These stories are meant to give you hope, wisdom, and guidance for the challenges of ordinary life – but with the help and assistance of YOUR own Guardian Angel. Yes, you too have your very own Guardian Angel just like Daniella and me. Relationships like this exist on all planets that have people with souls, like you and me.

You may wonder how you might be able to talk to your Guardian Angel, but you don't need to wonder very long. Just ask! And you too will see that a warm, friendly presence is near to you – ALWAYS – wherever you are, any time of the day.

Well, let's get started. Daniella and Seraphina are waiting to tell you about their adventures.

Introduction

Bedtime stories represent the fullness of life for a child. Telling or reading bedtime stories embodies the best that parents can give to their child. Reading stories becomes a shared experience for the storyteller and the listener. Reading bedtime stories is a time of bonding between parent and child through the shared experience in their imaginations. Often the words of fairy tales and lore melt the seams between imagination and dreaming for both the storyteller and the listener.

For a parent to use his or her personal time at the end of the day, (and precious time that is!) to tell their child a story is evidence of compassion and caring for a child's own difficult day. This is a service above and beyond the call of parentage that issues forth from their own child-within who once enjoyed such a wonderful treat, or who cried themselves to sleep yearning to hear bedtime stories read to them. Some children are aware, too, that their friends have bedtime stories told to them by their own parents. For these lonely children this disparity makes their loneliness even more deep and isolating.

The first three stories provide the background of a grown woman, Daniella, who was very lonely in her childhood. Some of Daniella's loneliness can be explained by the separation of her own ego from that of her parent's, as she grew older. This is a normal pre-teen experience that child psychologists call the "nine-year old change" that occurs between ages seven and ten. But for the child, the loneliness of that separation process is intimately real and dismal, as it was for Daniella. For Daniella, her loneliness began many years before she was nine years old

You will learn about Daniella's childhood as she explains to her own daughter, Rebecca, how she came to know her own Guardian Angel. She tells us about her childhood and recalls the special visitor who came to replace her tears, which often had been her only comfort when she fell asleep. The following stories begin with Daniella's recollection of the inspiring and deeply heartfelt stories Seraphina, [*sar-a-fee-na*], her Guardian Angel, shared with her. She now tells them to her own daughter.

Book 1
Bedtime Stories

My Loneliness

This first story is the recollection by a young mother, whose name is Daniella, of her own lonely childhood. This story tells us about the time before bedtime stories began being told to her. It ends with her vow to God that if she ever became a mother when she grew up that she would always read bedtime stories to her own children, and to any child who was lonely.

~

Daniella now begins to recall her childhood: My first memory was of myself standing in my crib, hanging onto the railing and crying and sobbing for hours. I was alone. I could hear my parents downstairs, and I am sure they could hear me crying in my room, but they didn't come to me.

My name is Daniella. I am now twenty-seven years old, married, and my husband and I have a daughter. Her name is Rebecca, and we love her so very much. Her father and I never leave her to cry alone. When I was younger I vowed that I would never let my child cry alone as I did when I was a child.

As I grew older, my tears turned inward so that I cried only inside my heart. When I played alone in my room with my dolls and toys I often sobbed to myself, but I didn't have any tears.

There were lots of kids like me in our neighborhood. We all lived in big houses and had lots of toys, swing sets, and some of us even had a swimming pool. But most of us were left alone, except when our parents had parties and let us kids play together. Looking back upon those years, I realize that the children in our neighborhood were treated just like Christmas tree ornaments. We were taken out at special times and shown to others, then put away when we were not needed.

Besides the memory of me crying in my crib, I have three other memories of my loneliness. The first memory is that I would wander around the house running my finger along the walls without taking my finger off the wall. I would end up going outside, around the house, inside the garage, the closets, bathrooms, and everywhere the wall led me. I could do that as long as I didn't touch any of the pretty things or move them from one place to another. The second memory is about me wandering around the house dragging my dolly by her arm beside me. It seemed like I would just wander around the house for hours dragging my dolly beside me. I would look up at the high ceilings, the hanging lamps, and pictures on the walls and just walk around the house from one room to another. It was a way to stay busy while also being so lonely.

I have another memory of me pretending I was a dog or cat. I would get down on my hands and knees and move under and around the furniture in the rooms. When no one was looking I would scoot up onto the couches and crawl across the top, and lie there like a cat stretched out taking a nap or looking out the window for hours. I would also imagine that we were having a big dinner party and I would pretend to be a dog and beg and whine beside the guests at the dinner table for scraps of food, or to be petted and talked to. Some of the imaginary dinner guests would pat me on my head and scratch me behind my ears, and I would lick their hand to thank them for their gentle touch.

Most of the time, as a child, I lived in an imaginary world. I imagined that I was accepted by my parents as though I was one of their guests, and that we had great conversations about interesting topics. And I imagined that I was a fairy princess in a castle by myself. But when I wasn't imagining things like that, I felt very lonely. The loneliness came from deep in my heart. I cried often to myself in my room. Sometimes I didn't cry any tears, only my shoulders would shake and my chest would shudder with every breath. But sometimes my tears flowed so freely they ran down my cheeks and off my chin onto my blouse. It's amazing how wet and salty tears can be!

In the evenings, when I was old enough, my parents would tell me to get ready for bed by myself. Wherever I had been playing, I would pick up my dolls and toys that had been with me, and line them up in my room to wait to play with me the next day. I would tell them not to get into any trouble at night, and wait to play the next day. Next, I

dressed into my nightgown, brushed my teeth, then I would go to the bottom of the stairs and tell my parents I was ready for bed.

They almost never took me to bed. Usually they just said, "Good night, Daniella. See you in the morning." They said it as a matter of fact. I felt like I was a worker in a factory preparing to leave and return to work the next day. Then I would go to my room and shut the door.

They never bothered me once I went to bed as long as I was quiet in my room. Once or twice I can remember them checking on me when they went to bed, and that was because I had a cough and they gave me some medicine to be quiet.

One time I had a sleep-over with a friend, Gabriella [*gaw-bree-el-a*] who I met at daycare. Her family prays at mealtime to bless the food, and asks God to bless it, too. Her parents also take Gabriella to bed *every night* and read her bedtime stories. When I stayed overnight with her, her mother took both of us to bed and read us a bedtime story. I really enjoyed hearing her mother read the bedtime story.

Closing my eyes and listening to the story, I thought I was in the story itself. I got a little sleepy and soon I couldn't tell where my imagination ended and where my dreams began. That was when Gabriella's mother asked us to put our hands together to pray. We prayed to God that our Guardian Angels would watch over us and protect us through the night.

That was one of the best nights I ever spent in my life as a child. I will never forget how Gabriella's mother read the story so that the people in the story came alive. She would use a different tone of voice for different people in the story, and she would make faces that matched the situation in the story. It was wonderful. I felt like Gabriella's mother was an angel sent to watch over her.

I will never forget the way Gabriella's mother looked at us after we said our Angel prayers. Her eyes were so tender and sweet. I could tell that she really loved her daughter, Gabriella, and me too. She even told us so. After she said "good night" to us, she ran her fingers gently through my hair and bent down and looked me right in the eye and said, "The Angels will watch over you tonight, Daniella. They love you very much." And then she kissed me on my nose and forehead, and said, "Good night, Daniella." She even left the door part way open when she left, and didn't even come back to scold us when we giggled and talked for awhile before falling asleep.

A couple of weeks later I got to stay over with Gabriella again, and I asked her mother, "Ma'am, how do you know that the angels love us so much?"

"Daniella," she said quietly, "they tell me so. Someday you will be able to talk and hear the angels, too. They answer all my questions very lovingly and simply. They will answer yours too when you are able to hear them."

That night was the very first night that I prayed to God to see and hear my Guardian Angel, just like I could see Gabriella's mother and

hear her voice. I made a promise to God that when I grew up and had children I would read bedtime stories to them every night, and if they had friends who were lonely, I would read stories to them too. I promised myself that I would never let my children be lonely, and I would never would let them cry themselves to sleep because they were so lonely.

From that time on I prayed the same prayer to God every night in my room before I fell asleep. I prayed for the Angels to watch over me and talk to me. I prayed that an angel would come to my room and read me stories just like Gabriella's mother did, because I knew my mother and father never would, even if I asked them to. I prayed as hard for an Angel to talk with me as I prayed to God to heal my dog when it was hurt. I didn't want to be so alone ever again.



An Angel Appears

How my Guardian Angel became known to me is an especially good memory, a happy memory I shall never forget. In all the years since that time, I can recall very vividly and clearly how it all came about. I wonder now whether my angel helped arrange her appearance in such a wonderful way. It certainly began in a very special way on my birthday.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DANIELLA!" everyone said at once.

"Go ahead, make a wish, and blow out the candles," my mom said.

I closed my eyes, squeezing them very tight as though squeezing them more tightly would make my wish come true. I opened my eyes and stared at the candles and took a big breath. There were only nine candles on the very large cake, so I knew I could blow them all out at once. And I did. Then everyone sang the happy birthday song to me.

As I opened my presents, the guests my parents had invited watched me tear at the ribbon and paper. Everyone was saying "Ooooo," and "Aahhh," every time a new present appeared. But I was not listening to them or even hearing the paper being ripped and torn by my

hands. All I heard was the words of my birthday wish repeated over and over again in my mind, "I wish God would answer my prayers for my own angel storyteller." "I wish God would answer my prayers for my own angel storyteller." "I wish God would answer my prayers for my own angel storyteller."

The last guests to leave were Gabriella and her mother. I took hold of her mother's skirt and yanked it a couple of times. She bent down to my level and looked straight into my eyes with that same kind and gentle look she gave me when she ran her fingers through my hair and kissed me on the nose and forehead when she said good night to me and Gabriella.

I asked her, "Ma'am, I want to tell you what I wished for when I blew out the candles. I wished that God would answer my prayers to send me an angel storyteller like you, since my mom doesn't read stories to me or kiss me good night. Do you know if God heard my prayer, and if he did, when will my own angel come to me?"

She closed her eyes and was quiet, as though she was thinking real hard how to answer my questions. With her eyes still closed a big smile appeared on her beautiful face. Her eyes were sparkling merrily when she opened them.

"Daniella," she said softly, as though no one else was to hear her answer, "God has indeed heard your prayers, and he knows how sincere you are about your request. He also knows how much you really do need an angel to be with you at night and all the time."

As she was saying this to me, something seemed to startle her because she turned her head to the side quickly, and almost immediately her mouth opened and I heard her say, "Oooohhh," to herself as though she realized something new had come to her attention.

She continued, "Even now, Daniella, another angel just appeared and is standing right beside you. It's not my Guardian Angel because she is standing next to me. I think it is *your* Guardian Angel, but I don't know when she may come to speak to you or when she may appear to you.

"Do you understand, Daniella?"

"Yes I do," I murmured.

"Wouldn't that be a wonderful birthday present if your Guardian Angel appeared to you soon?"

"Yes," I said almost breathlessly, "that would be really wonderful. I'll wait and wait for her to come to me."

That night I think I must have stayed awake almost all night waiting for my angel to appear. I kept waiting, and every night and morning

I prayed for her to be my friend and be with me when I was lonely, and to tell me bedtime stories like Gabriella's mom does.

One night, after I said my prayers and turned out the light, I began to tell myself my own bedtime story -- one that I had made up. As my eyes began to close and I fell asleep in the darkness of my room, I imagined that a glow in the dark began at the foot of my bed and got brighter and brighter.

I opened my eyes slowly and saw the glowing light get brighter. As it got brighter I began to see a shiny figure inside the glowing light. At first all I saw were two hands, one held upward and the other with a finger that slowly came to rest, pointing straight up, in front of two lips. And I heard a very quiet, "Sshhhhh," come from the lips behind the finger.

Was this my imagination? Was this a part of the story I was telling myself? Or was this really happening, and I wasn't dreaming? I didn't know.

Slowly the glow of light got a little brighter and I could see the beautiful face of a young woman who seemed to glow like one of those crystal glass figurines in jewelry stores that have a little light behind them. Everything seemed to glow in her except the lines of her face. Slowly I began to see the rest of her, too.

"Quietly, Daniella, let us talk for awhile," she said, as she slowly moved toward me and sat down beside me.

As she talked I could see that the crystalline light of her face slowly became more and more real, like a real person's face with soft skin and bright shining eyes.

She took my hand in hers and looked into my eyes just like Gabriella's mother did.

"Daniella, my name is Seraphina. I am your Guardian Angel, and I will be with you forevermore, until you and I meet God a long, long time from now. Do you mind?"

"You mean do I mind if you stay with me for all of my life?"

"Yes, that is what I mean, Daniella."

"Wow, heck no! That would be wonderful!" I exclaimed quietly.

A bit embarrassed, I asked, "Uh, is it wrong to say 'heck'?"

"No," Seraphina chuckled under her breath, "heck is not a bad word."

And that was the beginning of my relationship with Seraphina, my Guardian Angel, and the first of a zillion questions I was to ask her as I grew up.

(Continued in "Special Promises.")



Special Promises

This chapter continues Daniella's recollection of what occurred when the angel, Seraphina, appeared to her for the first time.

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Seraphina continued, "Daniella, there are special promises that angels make when they begin the watchcare of mortal children."

"What are those promises, ...uh, what's your name again?"

"My name is Seraphina. It means 'special angel,' an angel especially sent to be with you."

"Oh, goody, Seraphina, but what are the promises?"

"The first special promise is from the Creator. When the Creator made children, a promise was also made that goes along with that child as long as they live. The Promise is this: 'This child is made in the image of the Creator and has a protector and guardian who shall always go with the child wherever it goes, and be with this child, as long as it feels it needs the company of the angel to protect, guard, and guide its growth along its path of life.'"

"Seraphina, does this mean that when I am grown up you won't be with me anymore?"

"No, Daniella, I will never abandon you. The Creator considers all mortals to be Its children even when they grow old."

"Oh, goody, Seraphina. I was *worried* that you wouldn't be with me when I grew up and had children of my own. I want you to be with me when I have children, 'cause I will need to know how to raise them so they won't feel lonely. Can you help me do that when I grow up?"

"Yes, Daniella, that will be a wonderful thing to look forward to. Don't worry about it, Daniella. Nine-year-old children don't need to have any worries. If you ever feel worried about anything, I want you to talk to me about it, ok?"

"Ok!" I exclaimed, relieved that worrying wasn't something I was supposed to do yet. That's something my mom always is talking about, being worried.

Thinking more about worrying and such, "Seraphina, my mom says she frets a lot, too, besides worrying. If I'm not supposed to worry yet, am I supposed to fret?"

"No, you needn't fret either. We'll leave that to adults who feel they need to fret. But let's continue to talk about the rest of the promises."

"Sure, I want to know all about the promises."

Seraphina explained that there were only two promises, one from the Creator, who some people call God, and the other is from the angel who comes to be with a child.

"The second promise is my promise to you, Daniella. My promise is that I will always be with you for all of your life; I will never abandon you; I will always help you do your best; I will always advise you in ways that are right that lead you to the Creator; I will always help you love yourself and to love others; and lastly, Daniella, I will always be here, right here, so you can talk to me whenever and wherever you want. That's my promise to you. It's also the same promise that all other Guardian Angels give. Do you understand my promise to you?"

"I think so," said Daniella slowly, "but does that mean that I won't be lonely again?"

"Yes. It means I will always be here with you. If you ever think you are alone, just ask this question, 'Seraphina, are you here?' and I will always answer, 'Yes, I am here, Daniella.'"

"Wow, Seraphina! This is my first visit from an angel. My birthday wish was granted."

"Actually, Daniella, it was your very sincere and earnest prayers that the Creator heard first. Your tears of loneliness and sadness touched Creator's heart. No one is supposed to be alone in the entire universe. And no one is ever alone unless they want to be. Your loneliness was like a hole in the fabric of love in the universe that needed to be filled. So I asked if I could become more visible to you.

"That was how your prayer and your birthday wish were answered. I have always been with you, even at the time of your birth. You have never been alone, even when you thought you were. I have always been with you, but you could not see me. Now you can see me, and now you know that you are not alone, and that you never were alone."

"Oh, Seraphina, that's really wonderful to hear, and I don't feel lonely. But I do feel a little sleepy. Will you be here with me when I sleep tonight, or will you leave to do something else?"

"I will be right here by your side, Daniella. I have only one thing to do and that is to be with you and to help you grow up to be a terrific, loving person. I will be right here when you wake up."

Daniella yawned widely and sleepily said, "If mommy comes to my room to wake me up, will she be able to see you?"

"In your family, only you can see me, and that's because you have prayed to have an angel to keep you company. Gabriella's mother can see me, and a few other people, too. You had to believe in angels to make this happen, and not everyone believes in angels, Daniella."

Finally, Daniella lay her head on her pillow and fell asleep very quickly. It was so comforting to feel Seraphina stroke her face and hair and kiss her good night.

"Good night, Daniella. I'll be watching over you."

"Good night, Seraphina. I'm the luckiest little girl in the whole world. And I don't feel lonely."

Within seconds Daniella fell fast asleep. Her dreams were filled with many scenes of her and Seraphina walking, and talking, and playing around the house, and being with her when she traveled in the car. She even had a dream of Seraphina being with her at school. In all the dreams, Daniella was laughing and playing merrily as she had never done before. Everyone in her dream wondered what the secret was that made Daniella so happy. Only Daniella knew what her secret was. (End)



A Note From The Storyteller

During the many years after my ninth birthday, Seraphina told me many angel stories. Some of the stories sounded like make-believe stories, but some of the stories were from real life situations that angels deal with every day, or at some extraordinary times in their long careers of service to mortals.

I have asked Seraphina to tell me which stories are make-believe and which ones are real, but she has yet to tell me which is which. Sometimes I think they are all real because angels do not lie. They never even fib and they never twist the truth. But they do tell stories at times to make us think and stretch our minds so that we grow to expand our awareness of what is possible in the Creator's great, great universe.

Of course, in the past years of consciously living with an angel in my life I have some stories of my own to tell. In some of them, it is obviously easy to figure out how Seraphina helped me in my life, to build my faith and how to work constructively and positively with my life. But in some of my own stories it is much harder to tell how the angels helped. Much of what angels do is still a wonderful mystery to me. I am pretty sure angels must have meetings where they sit around drinking angel tea and talking about ways to help us so that it doesn't look like they are involved.

The stories begin shortly after Seraphina came into my life. Seraphina didn't waste any time helping me figure out how angels and mortals work and live together. And I didn't waste any time either because I was a very, very curious little girl with hundreds and hundreds of questions.

Daniella and Seraphina Make the Bed

The next morning my mom called up the stairs to wake me.

"Daniella, time to get up and get ready for breakfast. Today you go to school. Be down here in just a few minutes, and don't forget to make your bed, please."

I was out of bed and out of my nightgown and into my school dress and shoes before I remembered about what happened last night. I was almost afraid to ask if Seraphina was here, for fear of ruining my wonderful memory of her coming into my life and filling my loneliness with happiness and smiles.

Calling out under my breath, "Seraphina, are you here?"

Almost like magic, Seraphina appeared right there at the end of my bed looking right into my eyes. I hadn't seen her before, and I wondered if she had been there all along or if she had just flown in from heaven.

"Good morning Daniella. Did you sleep well?" she asked in that gentle voice I would come to rely upon later whenever I became anxious or nervous about something important in my life.

"Yes, I slept well, and I had lots of dreams.

"Seraphina, can my mom hear you when you speak?"

"No, Daniella, only you can hear me."

"But she can hear me, can't she?"

"Oh, yes, she can hear you very well. Maybe it would be best," Seraphina advised, "if you spoke to me more quietly, as though you were speaking to yourself, so no one else can hear us talk. We wouldn't want to startle anyone who might hear us talking, don't you think?"

"Yes," I whispered, "I don't think mommy would understand, and I don't want to go to one of those 'cycle-lollo-gists' or whatever they are called, who talk to little kids about their problems. I don't think they would help me stop being lonely like you do."

I continued to ask Seraphina questions. I didn't understand how she came and went. One time I would see her and pretty soon I wouldn't.

"Seraphina," I began inquisitively, "when you appeared just a minute ago at the foot of my bed, were you there all along with me through the night, or did you just fly in from heaven or someplace?"

Seraphina chuckled under her breath when I asked my question. I would come to learn that whenever she did that I had asked a question she found very innocent.

"Daniella, I have been with you all night long. I have been in your room *with you* all the time. I did not leave you, not even once."

"I'm glad of that," I said with relief. "But didn't you have to leave to go to the bathroom or get a drink of water?"

More chuckles came before her answer. "No, I didn't leave. I have no need for water, and no need to use the bathroom. I don't even have to wash my face in the morning like you do. Aren't I lucky?"

Well, I never thought of angels having to wash their faces or not. The more I thought about angels the more curious I became, and the more curious I became, the more questions started to come out of my mouth. I suppose now that I am older some of my questions seem silly, but at the time they seemed very important to me.

Almost aghast with surprise, I blurted out, "You mean you don't get sleep in your eyes like us kids do? Don't you sleep? Do you have a bedroom? How 'bout a pillow? Do angels have teddy bears?"

It was almost as though my mind had become a big fire hose of questions shooting them out to Seraphina. My mind was beginning to spin with the realization of the differences between a little girl who was getting ready to go downstairs for breakfast and then to school, and the life of an angel.

My questions stuttered to a halt as I was beginning to barely grasp the type of person an angel is compared to mortals.

I stuttered, "Bu-bu-bu-but Seraphina, wha-wha-wha-what is your body made out of? If you don't drink water, and you don't go to the bathroom, and you don't have to wash your face, what kind of person are you?"

Before Seraphina could answer my questions mom called to me. I was going to learn that some conversations with Seraphina needed to be saved for more convenient times than right after I get up in the morning, especially on school days.

"Daniella, what's the matter this morning? Better get moving before you miss breakfast."

I hurried as fast I could. Forgetting that Seraphina was an angel, I asked her to help me make the bed.

"Help me Seraphina. I don't want to be late. Mommy will really yell at me if I come down late for breakfast."

And as quickly as I had asked, Seraphina helped me make my bed. I found that it sure is handy having an angel help make your bed, especially when one side of the bed is against the wall. Angels can squeeze into really tight places and can tuck in the covers without having to move the bed. I knew it wouldn't be too long before I asked Seraphina how she did that.



Daniella And Seraphina Feel What Is In Their Hearts

By the time Daniella got down to the kitchen and sat down on the tall stool at the serving bar, Seraphina was no longer in sight. Curious but not wanting to be uncomfortable with Seraphina in her presence, Daniella ate quietly.

"Daniella," her mother called out from the intercom nearby, "when you get done, please put your dishes in the dishwasher, put your coat on and get into the car. I'll meet you there after I put on my makeup."

"Ok, mommy," Daniella said brightly, "I'll be ready when you are."

Daniella was surprised by her own response, how lively and cheery she felt. A new wonder had entered her life and it was giving her new energy and excitement. She finished her cereal and juice quickly, put the dishes away as she was instructed to do, rushed to the coat rack beside the garage door, and fairly flew out the door with one arm in her coat.

Thinking to herself, "Golly, I rushed out so quickly, I wonder if Seraphina got caught in the door?"

"I'm right here beside you, Daniella. And, no, I didn't get caught in the door."

Thoughts rushed through Daniella's mind like cars through toll booths on the freeway, only stopping momentarily to register their presence, "Oooops, I didn't know I called out to you Seraphina. How did you know I was wondering about you and if you got caught in the door? Can you read my mind? Can you read my mind all the time? Gosh, aren't my thoughts private?"

"I'm glad we are in the car, Daniella. Now we can talk," said Seraphina gently. "You have lots of questions, and I will answer every one of them for you. It is important that you fully understand about angels and our relationship to you."

"First of all," Seraphina continued, "your thoughts are private. Angels do not intrude or interfere with any of your thoughts."

"Second, we are aware of your thoughts. Usually we hear them like the chatter you would hear from the TV in the next room. We don't pay much attention to it until our name or some thought of us is mentioned. Then we listen carefully. Do you understand that so far?"

"Yes," replied Daniella with a concerned tone of voice. "So you listen to my thoughts but you really don't hear what I am thinking until it is something you can help me with?"

"That's right, Daniella. For instance, you were concerned if I had gotten caught in the door as you rushed out to the car. When your mind thought about me, I began to listen very carefully and heard what you were thinking. Is that all right with you?"

"Sure, Seraphina, that's all right with me. Seraphina," Daniella said slowly, "you won't embarrass me by showing up sometime when I am with other people, will you?"

"No. Never. I will never intentionally embarrass you in any way. My job is to help you do the very best you can in everything you try."

"Good," Daniella said as though the whole topic had been put to rest, but her mind was still chewing on unfinished business. She had to continue because more questions kept coming up.

"So how do you know when to appear and not to appear, Seraphina? I still don't know when you will appear or disappear."

"Not to worry, little one. I am able to listen in on your thoughts, but I only appear when you are in need of me being with you. When you become distracted by something else and your attention wanders to a new topic that does not involve me, I disappear. You see, although I am always here with you, I only become visible to you when you are comfortable with my presence. I will not be visible to you when other people are around until you are comfortable with me being with you and other people, too. It really all depends upon you.

"Just as I can listen in on your thoughts, I can *feel* how you feel. If you have even the slightest hesitation about me being present with you, I will not appear. In some ways I can feel how you feel even before you are aware of how you feel. That is why you sometimes think I can read your mind even before you know what your thoughts are."

"Ooooh," said Daniella slowly as she thought over what Seraphina had been saying. "But, golly, do you feel *everything* I feel? Sometimes I get really angry at mommy and dad. Do you feel that, too?"

"I feel your anger, Daniella, but I do not become angry. Angels are very fortunate in many ways, one of which is that we do not feel or express negative emotions like anger, jealousy, or disappointment."

"Why don't you feel or express negative emotions, Seraphina?" said Daniella inquisitively.

"It's because of our job and how we help mortals as you. We cannot help you grow in love and learn how to love more completely each day if negative emotions got in the way. The Creator made us so that we could only help his mortal children. He gave us a mind, too, so we can decide when to help and when not to help, but we do not interfere or get involved in the negative emotions of mortals. Does that help you understand better?"

"Oh, very much, thank you," Daniella said a bit distracted, and then continued, "Am I 'just a job' to you Seraphina? I mean that's something my dad says a lot about his work. When he comes home at night sometimes he is tired and unhappy. He and mommy talk about it and then he always ends it by saying, 'Oh, well, it's just a job,' like it didn't matter at all. Do I matter to you, Seraphina? Or am I just a job?" Daniella said matter-of-factly.

"You matter very much to me, Daniella. Everything you do is important to me. And, no, you are not 'just a job' but the very reason I am here on your planet helping you. Without you, I would not be here. I would be waiting to volunteer to help some other child. But I am here with you, and you matter to me. My job really is to guide and tutor you so that you grow and develop into a loving, caring person. Now, *can you feel* in your heart what I am saying and how important this is to me?"

"Yes! I can feel your caring in my heart, Seraphina. I think you taught me something already, and I'm not even in school yet. It feels so good. Is this part of what angels are supposed to teach mortals?"

"Yes, Daniella, it is. I'm so proud of you that you recognized in yourself what angels also feel. Now you are a little bit angelic too, just like me."

Just at that moment the door to the garage opened and Daniella's mom came rushing out to the car. As she opened the door and looked at Daniella, who had already buckled herself into the seat, she noticed a very pleased and happy look on Daniella's face that she had not noticed before.

"Daniella," she began to question, "what's that happy smile on your face all about?"

Still smiling "Oh, mommy, I was just thinking about my birthday presents and how much I really appreciate the one God gave me."

"The one *God* gave to you, Daniella?" Daniella's mom began. "What did God give to you for your birthday? Have I seen it yet?"

Daniella, who was already smiling widely, was now almost beside herself with glee. She began to giggle to herself as she replied, "No, mommy, you haven't *seen* it yet. But I will tell you about it tonight, if you want."

Daniella carefully turned to see if Seraphina was still beside her. Seraphina's presence startled her -- she was *still there!* Seraphina didn't say a word, she just smiled and then winked at Daniella. They continued to look and smile at each other as the car sped to the school.

Daniella's mother occasionally looked in the rear view mirror and wondered what had come into her daughter's life that gave her such happiness and that beautiful smile.



Learning To Trust An Angel

Daniella grabbed her backpack as the car pulled into the school driveway. Once the car stopped, she stood up and kissed her mother goodbye.

"Bye, mom, see you this afternoon!" she shouted.

"I'll be right here waiting for you, honey. And keep on smiling. It looks great on your face."

Daniella hopped out of the car and pulled the sliding door forward to close it, at the same time looking inside to see if she had forgotten anything.

"Nope," she said to herself, "I have everything I need." As the door slid shut with a big thud, Daniella suddenly realized she didn't see Seraphina in the car. She twirled around and around as she walked to the front door of the school to see where Seraphina might have gone, but she was nowhere in sight.

As she neared the front door she heard her mother call out, "Daniella, are you all right?"

"Sure, mom, I was just spinning around to see the trees and school go 'round, that's all."

To herself she said, "Oh, rats, I fibbed. I wonder if Seraphina will be mad at me for telling mommy a fib. But I didn't want to tell her I was looking for my Guardian Angel. That would be hard to explain."

Daniella still had not become comfortable with having an angel with her. She realized that she would have to practice being more casual and accepting when and where Seraphina might show up.

Daniella thought to herself, "Seraphina said she wouldn't embarrass me. I have to learn to trust her and know that she won't do anything to make me feel bad about myself. Now I have to be careful not to do anything to embarrass myself. I'm acting like an adult — life is getting so complicated! I think I will not call on Seraphina anytime during school today, maybe even the whole week, until I know for sure how she is going to act all the time. I'm having a hard enough time knowing how *I* should act, let alone worrying about how an angel acts!"

The day went well for Daniella. Seraphina didn't appear once, and Daniella didn't ask her to appear, either. Soon it was time for her to leave and wait outside for her mom. As soon as she walked out of the building with the other kids her mom drove up.

Waving to her mom, she yelled out, "Hi, Mom! I'm ready to go home." And upon entering the car Daniella asked, "Mom, can we stop at the ice cream shop on the way home. I think I need an ice cream cone today. How 'bout you?"

"Sure, Daniella, that's a good idea," her mom said easily, thinking that she would use the time in the car eating ice cream to ask Daniella about God's birthday present to her.

After they gotten their ice cream cones, they went outside to sit on the bench to enjoy them. Daniella liked ice cream cones. She liked the way they melted slowly all over so that she could just keep turning the cone to lick the newly melted ice cream. She especially enjoyed being with her mother, with just the two of them to enjoy each other.

Daniella's mother, who left Daniella alone too much, really didn't know any better. She loved Daniella very much but did not know how to appreciate her as a person who was growing up, and didn't know how to spend time with her young daughter. Leaving Daniella alone much of the time was her way of giving Daniella "her own space," something she valued very much as an adult. What she didn't realize was that children need lots of time in the company of loving adults to learn how to learn to love themselves and to learn to be socially responsible.

Not wanting to wait until the evening to talk to Daniella about her birthday present from God, she asked, "Daniella are all of those beautiful smiles of yours connected to the present that you said God gave to you for your birthday?"

"Yes, mommy," she said guardedly, not wanting to have her new friend, Seraphina, sent away from her. Daniella had already come to value her company very much. Seraphina had become her companion, who took away Daniella's loneliness and gave her friendship in return.

"Please tell me about this special present. I promise not to make fun of you or your present. Obviously this present means a lot to you, and it has done you a lot of good."

"Ok, but I don't want you to tell me I can't have my present, either."

"I promise," her mother reassured her.

"Well, you know don't you, how often I cry myself to sleep at night?"

"Yes, but that is due to being told to go to bed earlier than your father and me."

"Mom that is only part of it. I do want to stay up with you and daddy. But I cry at night because I am so lonely." And before her mother could volunteer, Daniella exclaimed, "And NO I don't want a baby brother or sister."

"All right, I understand. Now please tell me about the special present."

"Like I was saying, mom, I have been very lonely in my room. I have wanted someone to see me to bed at night, and read me stories,

and talk to me about what happened in my day. But you don't do that.

"So, I learned from Gabriella and her mom about God, who is the Creator of the universe and us, too. They explained to me that the Creator made people and angels." She quickly added, "But you can't see angels most of the time.

"Anyway, everybody is supposed to have a Guardian Angel who is always with you. So, I asked God to send me one to keep me company. I have been asking him for an angel ever since I learned about them. When I had my birthday party and had to make a wish and blow out all the candles at once to make the wish come true, I wished God would send me an angel like I asked him to do."

"And did the Creator make an angel just for you, Daniella?" her mother asked gently, seeing that Daniella was very serious about what she had been saying.

"Yes, mommy, I now have my own Guardian Angel who keeps me company at night, and is with me in my room."

"Does that make it easier for you to go to bed at night?" her mother asked.

"Yes. I don't mind at all. In fact, I really like going to my room after dinner now so I can be with her. Now I don't cry myself to sleep."

"That's good, dear," her mother said by way of completion. Not wanting to push her daughter's mind further into the wild frontiers of

the creative imagination she knew Daniella had, she dropped the subject. Little did she know how powerful Seraphina would become in her own life over the months and years as Seraphina tutored Daniella in her growth.

Daniella, too, knew their discussion had ended because her mother always ended uncomfortable conversations by saying, 'That's good, dear,' or some words like that, which always ended with the word 'dear.'

It was much easier that evening to go to her room after dinner, and her mom didn't even ask her to help clear the table or clean up the kitchen as she usually did. Daniella hurried to her room.

"Seraphina, are you here?"

"Yes, Daniella, I am here," she said as she slowly became visible to Daniella. Seraphina was sitting on Daniella's big toy box with her hands folded in her lap. "Are you ready for us to talk?"

"Yes, Seraphina, I am glad you are here. It has been a really difficult day."

Although Daniella was a child, she had come to act and talk very much like an older person. She had been around adults most of her life, and tried to talk as they do, and she had become very capable of doing so.

"Is there something on your mind you would like to talk about, Daniella?" Seraphina asked.

"Yes, Seraphina," Daniella said with a sigh. I think I fibbed to mommy today. I'm not supposed to fib, am I?"

"No," Seraphina replied very quietly, as though the topic of fibbing and lying was of a very serious nature.

"Well, how was I supposed to tell mommy this morning that I was spinning around looking for you, and I hadn't even talked to her about having a Guardian Angel?" Daniella was as serious about this subject as Seraphina was about fibbing.

"There were many ways you could have handled your problem at that moment, Daniella. Fibbing was the easy way out. You told her what you thought she would believe most easily. Telling the truth may have raised some questions in your mom's mind about me, but after school you told her about your special present from God, anyway. That could have been a way of letting her ask questions about me.

"Would that have been too embarrassing or too hard to do?" Seraphina asked.

Seraphina shared her thoughts about all these things in a very gentle and sympathetic way, not wanting to bluntly ridicule or chastise Daniella for her minor indiscretion. Seraphina in her ageless wisdom knew that changing little behaviors as fibbing takes time. It takes care and love to help children become more and more responsible for what they say. It also takes firmness to provide children with a clear understanding of the significance and meaning of what was done.

"No. I guess not, Seraphina. I told mommy anyway about having a Guardian Angel. I guess that would have been a way of letting her know, and for her to ask me questions. But is fibbing really wrong?"

"Yes, it is really wrong. If you continue to do it, soon the fibs become larger and you use fibbing more often. It is wrong because fibbing delays taking responsibility for what you do in your life. And it is wrong because you are fooling people into believing something about yourself that is not true. By doing so, you deceive other people, and worse yet, you begin to deceive yourself. Soon you begin to believe the fibs are the truth. It is a very hurtful process that eventually separates you from others, and the Creator."

"Oh, wow, fibbing does all of that?"

"Yes, but it is your decision and your life. You are responsible for your life, not me. I can only help you live your life more easily. Telling the truth is the easiest way," said Seraphina very gently, but earnestly.

"Okay, I understand. And you're not angry at me?"

"No," Seraphina replied with a little chuckle under her breath. "I am not angry at you. I love you very much and would never be angry with you."

Daniella still was not certain whether Seraphina really was angry with her. "So you still love me as much as you did before I fibbed?" she asked rather incredulously.

"Yes. That's because I don't have to live with the consequences of what you do. I am me and you are you; you are responsible for what you do, and I am responsible for what I do."

Relieved that she could really trust Seraphina to love her even when she did wrong, Daniella said with a big sigh, "Thanks Seraphina, you make growing up a lot easier." Daniella was beginning to realize that Seraphina loved her for herself, not for what she did, either right or wrong.



Daniella Asks About Angels

Daniella and Seraphina continued to develop and deepen their relationship. Daniella became less and less concerned about Seraphina's appearances as they always coincided with Daniella's need for assistance and advice about her young life. Seraphina was always ready to guide and advise her, and arranged for those special coincidences that made Daniella's lessons about life appear when she was most capable of dealing with them. For the moment, Daniella still had not satisfied her curiosity about Seraphina and about the nature and behavior of angels in general.

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"Seraphina," Daniella began shortly after she had gone to her room after dinner, "why did the Creator make Guardian Angels?"

"The answer is really very simple, Daniella. Guardian Angels were created because mortals are not able to see and understand the whole nature of their lifetime either as a mortal or as a spiritual person after they leave their physical body."

"What do you mean by 'leave their physical body'? You mean die?"

"Yes," continued Seraphina easily, "we do not use the word 'die'

because people do not die, only their body dies. Bodies are living machines that carry your spirit around in this lifetime. After they get old, they quit, letting your spirit go.

"Creator made Guardian Angels to help guide people from one classroom of life to another. We are like the Teacher's Assistant at your school. During the first few days when you were new at school, the Assistant would guide you from your classroom to the playground. When it was time to come in, she called to you and guided you back to the classroom. She also helps you remember to take your hat and coat and lunchbox home with you when you leave school in the afternoon. She even helps you remember to tie your shoes so that you don't stumble over them. Guardian Angels are like that for mortals."

Although the answer to Daniella's question was very simple in nature, it was sufficient to satisfy Daniella's curiosity about that topic for the moment. Her questions, however, were like eating only one chocolate chip, one is not enough and soon leads to many more.

"Seraphina, I want to know more about angels," Daniella began warming up to the subject. Do angels grow up like people?

"Angels are not born and do not develop in size. They don't get bigger. Creator made angels just as they are."

"But Seraphina, in Gabriella's church, there are pictures of little angels and big angels. Don't the little angels grow up to be big angels sometime?" Daniella was a pretty smart child, and could think about simple subjects and ask questions about them that helped enlarge her awareness and knowledge very quickly.

"No," Seraphina continued, realizing that her young friend had been thinking a lot about angels and had been storing up the questions. "There are small angels, but their hearts are very, very large and they care very much about mortal children. If you could see them, you would know that they are really as large in the most important ways as any other angel.

"But to answer your question, Creator did make small angels. They are of the lowest orders of angels that were made. There are other orders of angels, and they are larger, even much, much larger than I."

"What's an 'order,' Seraphina?" Daniella said inquisitively. Daniella was always willing to stop any bedtime story for a moment or two to find out what some unknown word meant.

"It is another way of saying 'group.' An order is a group, much like your classroom of children at school. All of you in that group are very similar in height, weight, and size."

"Then are girls an order?"

Seraphina was a bit surprised by Daniella's precocious understanding of the word 'order.' "Why yes, exactly, Daniella. And boys are an order of humans, too. Very good, Daniella. I am glad that you understand the word 'order' so well. Now, do you want to know more about the word 'order' and how it is used for angels?"

"No, that's okay. I want to hear more about angels, please," said Daniella politely.

Seraphina continued, "Creator made orders of angels. Some were created small and do not grow bigger, and some were created my size, and I don't grow any bigger, either. And some were created larger than I am, and some were created very, very large."

"Wait a minute, Seraphina, you keep saying angels were created. You mean they weren't born like human babies? Daniella asked, just a bit astounded that some living beings are not born.

"No. Creator creates us. We are not born and we do not die. We have an infinite lifetime, just like you do, but you were born."

Understanding the nature of angels a bit better Daniella continued her questions. "Then angels don't grow up," she said as a statement rather than a question, and Daniella said it with a bit of disappointment. "Does that mean you won't be growing up with me as I get older? Will I outgrow you when I get older?"

Seraphina could tell that Daniella's little heart was about to break

with the possible answer she might give her. Daniella was looking deeply and intently into Seraphina's bright aqua-blue eyes.

"I have good news for you, Daniella," Seraphina said cheerily. "I will be here with you all during your life as a mortal, until your body wears out and your spirit continues on. And better yet, dear one, I will still be with you when you wake up with your new spiritual body in your next lifetime."

Thrilled that her new bedtime story companion would not abandon her, as she grew older, Daniella's gloom vanished with the appearance of a big smile on her face and her eyes sparkling. "Wow, you mean we will always be friends, Seraphina, and you will be helping me all along the way 'til we get to see the Creator?"

"Oh, yes, I will surely be with you all along the way, my cheery little friend. We will always be friends, from now until forever. Is that too long for you, Daniella?" Seraphina was tempting Daniella into territory where she could ask more questions if she were ready for the answers.

"No," sighed Daniella with relief that her new companion would not be leaving anytime soon. "But, ..but what will you do when we both get to heaven?" Interjecting, she asked, "That place is called heaven, isn't it? Where God lives?"

"Yes, you can call it heaven if you like. Some people call it other names, like paradise, for instance. It does not matter what you call it. It is located at the center of all creation. It is stationary, does not

move, and all the rest of the universe revolves around it, like the moon revolves around the earth," explained Seraphina.

"Can we get back to what we do after we get to heaven, please?" requested Daniella, who had not gotten lost in Seraphina's answer.

"Yes," said Seraphina with some enthusiasm, "that is the best part. You see, when you and I have gotten to heaven through all the experiences of growth that are along the way, you will be given a big hug by Creator. The hug is Creator's way of saying, 'Thanks for doing a good job of growing up,' and when Creator hugs you, you will become an eternal citizen of paradise."

"That's nice, but what happens to you?" Daniella was not going to give up on finding the answer to her question, overlooking the profound meaning of Seraphina's explanation for her own life.

"As for me, Daniella, because you were successful in the long journey to paradise, successful to overcome the many challenges of many difficult experiences along the way to meet Creator, I will be promoted to a higher order of angels. That is Creator's way of saying to me 'Thanks for a job well done, Seraphina, for helping Daniella come to me.'"

"So God makes you into a bigger angel?" asked Daniella with new understanding.

"Yes, Daniella, I will become a bigger angel. That is how angels

grow bigger. We grow bigger by helping mortals along the way who become successful in their journey to heaven. It is not automatic. It is done as a form of thanks and congratulations. Other angels can do many things to grow bigger, but for Guardian Angels, helping mortals to successfully find the Creator is how we become bigger."

"Is *that all*? Daniella asked with some impatience. Although being very bright, Daniella had not begun to understand the enormity of the task of a Guardian Angel to successfully guide a mortal to the embrace of the Creator at the center of an immense universe.

Although it was getting late and Daniella had yawned several times, her inquisitive little mind would not let her rest until her answers about this topic had been fully explored. She continued, "Will I just live on and on in heaven? Will I be able to go to the ice cream store and eat all the ice cream cones I want all day long? What will you do? I want to know what you will do, Seraphina, once I get to heaven."

"As you will learn in the rest of your lifetime, Daniella, there is never an end to the story or of any journey for angels or mortals. For me, I will become a bigger angel, a new angel in another order of angels. I probably will get a vacation, and after that I will volunteer to help someone or some situation just like I volunteered to help you."

To Seraphina it was easy to see that her little friend was just about asleep already, though she continued to ask questions long after her eyelids had closed.

Seraphina ran her hand and fingers gently through Daniella's hair, then cradling her head in her hands she bent over and kissed Daniella on her forehead, and patted her cheek. For Daniella, this was the perfect ending to a perfect day with a perfect friend and Guardian, and was fast asleep.



Daniella And Seraphina Go On A Field Trip

Weeks passed since Seraphina's presence had become apparent to Daniella. Their relationship had become smoother and more cordial as Daniella began to trust Seraphina more and more. One day Daniella and her school class went on a field trip to the zoological and botanical gardens in the city. What Daniella would discover about her world would make her curiosity even sharper. You see, Daniella was always trying to fit all the pieces of her experience together with other pieces so that she saw the "big picture" as her father called it.

We begin this story when Daniella and her mother are in the car on their way to Daniella's school.

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"Oh mommy, I'm so happy we are going on a field trip today," Daniella squealed with excitement. "Can you come with us, and not go to work like you always do?"

"I'm sorry, Daniella, but I can't take off from work whenever I want to," her mother said softly, almost under her breath. "You enjoy your day, and tell me all about it at the dinner table when daddy is there. Okay?"

"Sure, mommy. I'm sorry you have to be by yourself." Thinking a bit about her mother's situation, she offered, "You know, mommy, you need a Guardian Angel like Seraphina to keep you company. Then you wouldn't be lonely at work."

Still not actually believing that Daniella had an actual Guardian Angel with her, Daniella's mother didn't pursue the topic of angels any farther. "That's okay, Daniella, there are lots of people at work."

Not willing to see her mother be lonely, because Daniella knew all about loneliness even in the company of other people, she continued her advice. "Well if you ever want to know more about angels, and maybe even meet your own Guardian Angel, just let me and Seraphina know. We can help you," Daniella said in a much louder voice as they neared the school driveway.

"Give me a kiss goodbye, Daniella. Your dad will pick you up later today when you return from your field trip. I'll have dinner ready soon after you both get home. Now run along, dear, and enjoy your day."

Daniella fairly flew out of the car, kissing her mother and opening the door and closing it with such speed and excitement that she seemed

to become a blur of motion, like a piece of paper in a whirlwind. Yet, once on the sidewalk and having waved goodbye to her mother, she settled into a slow walk into the school's front doors. During this time she had come to learn that it was a special time when she could be with Seraphina.

"Seraphina," she called softly under her breath.

"I am here, Daniella. It's a lovely day for a field trip isn't it?" Seraphina began.

"Oh, yes, it is so lovely. It is a great time of year to go to the zoo and the flower gardens. The newsman on TV said that springtime is a great time to go there because of all the new baby animals and all the flowers that are in bloom.

"Seraphina, I want you right next to me all the time on the field trip. I want to find out all I can about zoos and animals and flowers and trees and all that stuff."

"I will be right with you Daniella. And if you wish, I will be right beside you but not visible to you, so that you can talk to me without having to look at me, which we have found is rather distracting and disturbing to other children," Seraphina thoughtfully offered.

Seraphina continued, "Remember a few weeks ago when we were in church with Gabriella, and you began whispering to me?"

"Yes, I'll never forget that, Seraphina. You were sitting next to

me, and the woman at the other end of the pew kept staring at me whenever I would turn and talk to you. I thought I would almost giggle myself to death when she asked Gabriella's mother if there was anything wrong with me. The lady thought I was talking to myself. I won't do that again, Seraphina. It's really too bad that other people don't see you, though."

"Everyone will see their Guardian Angel in time, Daniella, even if that isn't until their body wears out and they leave it behind."

Daniella walked through the front door of the school.

"Good morning, Daniella," said the principal, cheerily. "Are you looking forward to the field trip today with your class?"

Her eyes sparkling and bright smile on her face, her glee and excitement being very much evident, Daniella said with her typical loud voice when she was excited, "Oh, yes, Mrs. Bonfiere, I have been looking forward to this day for a long time. I'm really excited," she volunteered. "Are you going with us, too?"

"Thank you for asking, Daniella, but, no, I am not. I went with the older children last week, so I am staying here today. You have a good time, and tell me all about later, okay?"

"Okay, Mrs. Bonfiere. If you will excuse me," Daniella said politely, "I need to get to my class so I can be ready to get on the bus with the other kids," Daniella said over her shoulder as she hurried off to her classroom.

Soon the children were all seated and had become quiet. They knew that only after they had all become quiet would the teacher let them file out to the bus. The class became quiet very quickly, and their teacher asked them to line up and walk to the buses without talking. The big yellow buses were parked in a row beside the wide sidewalk in front of the school, right beside the flagpoles. Each driver was beside the open door to their bus with a clipboard in their hand, checking off the names and greeting each of the children, teachers, and teacher assistants as they all climbed onto the bus.

Finally it was Daniella's turn.

"Good morning, Daniella," said Mr. Jacquard. "Do you have any companions with you who will take up any extra room?" Mr. Jacquard alluded to the common knowledge of the school staff that Daniella had a Guardian Angel that only she could see. While no one ever made fun of Daniella, because they respected the imagination of each child, they also liked to talk to Daniella about her angelic friend. The adults at school were very polite when they asked questions about Seraphina, who they thought was a figment of Daniella's overly developed imagination. Yet, other adults at school talked to Daniella about her Guardian Angel with the same respectfulness as though they, too, had a Guardian Angel that they talked to everyday.

Knowing what Mr. Jacquard was alluding to, Daniella kidded back at him, "Oh, Mr. Jacquard," she began with a giggle under her breath, "you know my dolly in my backpack won't need another seat."

"Oh, I wasn't thinking about your dolly," Mr. Jacquard responded, "I was thinking more about your Guardian Angel beside you who might need another seat. "

Daniella knew Mr. Jacquard couldn't see Seraphina, but continued anyway, "Oh, don't be silly Mr. Jacquard, Seraphina doesn't even take up one inch of room. In fact she is able to squeeze behind my bed to help me pull the covers tight, and it's against the wall!"

"Oh, Daniella, you've got quite an imagination all right," he returned as he grasped her hand and helped her up to the first step of the bus.

Soon all the children and teachers were on the buses, and the train of buses began to enter the street on the way to the zoo.

Continued in the next story, "At The Zoo."



At The Zoo

All the way to the zoo Daniella listened to the other children talk to the teachers about the animals they would see. The teachers talked about the different animals and how they were all related. Some were called mammals, some were reptiles, fish, and birds. But she said some of the animals that looked like fish were really mammals. Daniella wondered about all of this and decided to ask Seraphina about animals at the zoo. Little did Daniella know that her simple questions would lead to bigger and bigger questions as she learned more about the world she lived in.

The buses came to a stop at the entrance of the zoo, and the children filed out and stood in neat little rows waiting for their teachers and assistants to hand out the tickets. Soon each ticket was held very tightly in the small hands of the children. Each teacher and assistant was given charge of a small group of children to lead to the ticket booths where they handed in their tickets. In return the back of the children's hand was stamped with the impression of an animal. Some children had stamp impressions of elephants, others had ostriches, alligators, and some had fish. Daniella had an ostrich stamped on the back of her hand.

As soon as her small group got their hands stamped, their teacher called them together to give them instructions about their tour through the zoo. Daniella wanted to ask Seraphina questions and stayed at the back of her group so she could talk with her more easily.

Daniella's group first went to the aviary to see all the small airborne birds, then on to the bird pavilion where the larger birds lived in habitats similar to those in the wild.

"Seraphina," Daniella whispered under her breath, "do angels fly? I've never seen you fly. Do you fly?"

"Yes and no, Daniella," whispered Seraphina. "Yes, I can travel through the air, but 'no' I don't fly like a bird. I can walk or I can travel through the air just as easily. We don't call it flying we just call it traveling. Do you understand?"

"Yes and no," said Daniella, mimicking Seraphina's answer. "Yes I understand what you said, but 'no' I don't understand how it works. You don't have wings like a bird like I thought angels would. So how do you travel through the air?"

"First of all, Daniella, I travel through the air because I choose to, or I walk on the ground because I choose to. It is as easy for me to choose to travel through the air as it is for you to choose to sit down in a chair. And it is as easy for me to choose to walk as it is for you to choose to stand up. Since the gravity on this planet.... Oooops! Do you know what gravity is, Daniella?"

"Kinda, Seraphina. It's what makes apples fall to the ground, right?"

"Yes, that's close enough," Seraphina continued. "The gravity on this planet does not affect me. My weight on this planet is like a feather in the wind. It can travel through the air as easily as it can come to rest on the ground. Feathers can't decide to do either, but I can. And right now I have chosen to walk beside you while we see all there is to see in the zoo. Is that clearer?"

"Sure, Seraphina," Daniella said cheerfully.

It was easy to see that Daniella was having a terrific time at the zoo. Since her last birthday, her eyes seemed to have a sparkle to them, and her ear-to-ear smile made people who saw her wonder what special gift had come into her life. Her adventure at the zoo simply made her joy even more evident.

Daniella continued, "Sure I understand. I can choose to sit or to stand. But, Seraphina, I haven't learned how to choose to travel through the air. Will you teach me how to do that, someday?"

"Learn how to walk and skip and run and jump very well first, then we can talk about flying sometime later. Okay, Daniella?"

"Okay, Seraphina," Daniella exclaimed so excitedly that several children turned their heads to see what Daniella was excited about.

The small group continued on through the exhibits. In each exhibit the animals lived in a habitat very similar to the one they left in the wild.

"Teacher," Daniella called out, "why did the people who built the zoo make the animal habitats like the animals had in the wild?"

"Oh, there you are, Daniella. I'm glad that you have joined the group again with your question.

"Yes, Teacher, I am here, but why did they build the zoo this way?" Daniella continued.

The Teacher stopped the group and began to explain to the children. "The reason the zoo was designed and built so that it resembles where the animals came from is because that is what the animals were used to, and where they can live most easily. If animals were put in cages and not allowed to roam or fly or swim they would become lazy and forget how they lived in the wild. The zookeepers even allow carnivorous animals to hunt animals just like they used to do in the wild. That may seem very gruesome and violent, but that is how they live. We are able to see them this way just as though they

were living in the wild. It is also a way of maintaining balance and harmony in the zoo. We might not understand why the balance works as it does, but it is a balance of nature that the animals accept as part of their existence.

The teacher continued, "Zookeepers know their zoo is being run right when an animal returned to the wild can forage, or live off the land without any problems. Thank you, Daniella, for your question. Anyone else have a question?"

Several children raised their hands and many questions were answered by the Teacher, but Daniella had returned to the back of the group to ask Seraphina questions of her own.

"Seraphina, why did Creator make so many different kinds of animals? There are hundreds of kinds of birds, fish, reptiles, and mammals. Why were so many different kinds created?"

"The answer is really very simple, Daniella. Creator is *very generous* in all that It does for everyone in the universe. Also, Creator is very creative. The Creator is like a brilliant artist who has hundreds of ideas for one concept and then proceeds to create those ideas in Its creations. Look at the birds. There are small ones and big ones and very, very large ones like the ostriches. Some fly, some do not. Some run and forage on the ground and some fly and forage in the air. And look at their feathers. Their feathers are miraculous creations of brilliant colors. Does that help?"

"Oh, yes, Seraphina," she said, with eyes wide with amazement. Daniella seemed a bit overwhelmed by the abundance of all that she had seen, and they had only gotten through the aviary, so far.

Daniella's questions continued to flow as she thought about the Creator, the acts of creation and what she had learned about It in Gabriella's Sunday school classes.

"Seraphina, I have lots more questions. Is it okay to ask them now, or should we wait until tonight when I go to bed and talk to you?"

"Ask one more question, and save the rest for tonight. Then you can enjoy the tour through the zoo with the other children and observe all that you see, and think about it all. Your questions will be ready then."

"Seraphina, why was Creator in such a rush to create all of the world and the universe in just a few days?"

Angels don't usually express surprise and, in the many millions and billions of years of their existence they have gathered and shared immense libraries of information. There is little that is amazing to them, but the point blank discharge of children's questions is probably the only instance that would cause surprise or amazement. And it did in this case when Daniella asked her question.

"Ah-ha, Daniella, so you are ready to ask this very important question. I will try to give you an answer, for there are many ways of answering this question, that will satisfy your young mind," Seraphina began.

"First of all, Creator is never in a hurry. This is so because Creator does not live where there are any clocks. No clocks, no time. No time, no days or nights."

"You mean Creator lives where the sun always shines and there is no night?" Daniella asked incredulously.

"Yes, that is where Creator lives. Although Creator's energy presence is everywhere, Creator lives where there are no clocks, no time, no days and no nights. So, with no clocks, Creator has all the time to create what Creator wants to create. We call this place where there are no clocks "eternity," which means without time or where time does not matter. How am I doing? Do you understand this so far?"

"Sure. Creator doesn't have to go to bed at night, but can play or create all day long, and the day lasts for eternity."

"Very good, Daniella, you have a good understanding of this. Well, to continue, Creator did not want to rush to finish the universe because Creator has all the time in eternity to finish the universe and all of creation that you see."

"Thank you, Seraphina. Now I will be quiet and be a part of the group. I can't wait until tonight after dinner when we go to bed. I'm going to have lots of questions to ask you, Seraphina."

"You can ask all the questions you want, dear, as long as you have your eyes and ears open to receive them. But I think you are going to be very tired and sleepy tonight after walking around this very large zoo all day."

Daniella and her group continued to visit all of the exhibits in the zoo. Dozens more questions were asked, many that could not be answered even by great philosophers.

As the day came to a close the children gathered once again at the entrance of the zoo, and filed onto their buses. Once on the road, the rocking and bumping of the buses had a hypnotic effect on the children. Soon, the children's eyes and mouths that had been incessantly busy all day were now closed and quiet.



Just Tell Me A Story, Seraphina

After Daniella's visit to the zoo she became very, very tired. Although it seems that small children can stay in perpetual motion, sooner or later these small wonders of energy unwind and become tired, needing to be recharged. Daniella was no exception. Her father picked her up at school late in the afternoon and they traveled home quietly. At home, Daniella was so tired her mother had to tell her what to do from one moment to the next. At the dinner table, she ate only a few bites and chewed very slowly. Although she was hungry, she was too tired to have much enthusiasm over dinner.

"Mama," Daniella said sleepily, "can I just go to bed. I'm too tired to finish dinner."

"Sure, honey. Clear off your plate and silverware and put them in the dishwasher, then brush your teeth. I'll see you in the morning," directed her mother, who had not seen Daniella so tired, before.

"You must have done a lot of running around looking at all the animals, today," commented her dad.

"Yeah, dad, we couldn't see enough of the exhibits. Some of us kids would run ahead to the next exhibit -- then back to the exhibit the group was looking at, and sometimes we would ran back to the exhibit we just had seen. We had a great time. Now, may I be excused?"

"Sure," her dad replied. "Sleep tight, and don't let the tigers chase you in your dreams."

Daniella slowly cleared off her plate and silverware and stored them in the dishwasher. Her movements were like watching a movie in slow motion. Then she gathered up her dolly in the family room and slowly climbed the stairs to her room.

"Seraphina," Daniella whispered loudly as she entered her room, "are you here?" It was a question Daniella always asked whenever she entered her room, and always the answer was the same.

"I am here, Daniella. My, you surely are tired tonight. Do we have time tonight for questions and answers? You said at the zoo that you would have a lot of questions for me tonight."

"Nah!, I'm too tired. As soon as I brush my teeth and brush my hair I'm going to go to bed and not play with any toys or ask any questions tonight." She proceeded to slowly remove her play clothes, placed them in the laundry hamper, then put on her nightgown. In the bathroom, she climbed her small stool to reach her toothbrush. She began to brush in slow jerky movements, first one side then the other, then the other side again, repeating this process many times, each time forgetting that she had already brushed the other side top and bottom.

Her brushing slowly came to a stop, and with closed eyes she stood at the sink for an interminable time, before jerking awake. Daniella realized that she had fallen asleep while brushing her teeth, so she quickly finished, returned to her room and quickly crawled under the covers.

Once she had her head on the pillow, she yawned widely and she asked Seraphina for just a story without questions and answers.

"Seraphina, could you just tell me a story like you sometimes do. I promise not to ask any questions. I'll just listen until I fall asleep. Would you do that for me?"

"Of course, Daniella," said Seraphina with compassion for her little whirlwind who had lost her wind. "Is there any particular type of story you would like to hear?"

"No, you pick it out, Seraphina. I'm too tired to choose,"

Daniella said sleepily, already beginning to open and close her eyes as sleep began to fill her body with peace.

Seraphina sat on the bed next to Daniella and held Daniella's hand as she began a story she knew so well. "Daniella, we call this story 'The Birth Of Angels.' It is a story all Guardian Angels know well."

The Birth of Angels

"In my earliest beginning, I was a breath of God, as are all angels. We are a breath of God, messengers in the service of the Creator.

"Every angel has a moment of beginning, that moment of creation which brings every angel into existence. And every angel has the very same type of beginning, so if you are able to understand how I came into existence, then you will know how every other angel came into existence, too.

"Have you ever blown bubbles, the kind of bubbles that you make from a bottle of solution you buy at the store or you made at home? As an angel, I have watched many children blow bubbles to the delight of themselves and others.

"It is a simple process to make bubbles, but each bubble takes on a part of the person who blows the bubbles. First dip the bubble maker into the solution, then hold it close to your lips and carefully blow through your lips, which you have shaped as though you were going to whistle a tune. Next, you watch the bubble as it is formed from blowing. Then when you know the bubble is just the right size and shape, you pull the bubble maker away from your lips and gently twirl it in the air, releasing the beautiful bubble into the air.

"The bubble will float silently in the air, a majestic floating transparent pearl with all the colors of a peacock plume, like you saw at the zoo today. The surface of this floating pearl swirls with liquid colors that flow and twist and rotate on the surface of this beautiful miniature planet of wonder floating before you -- fiery magenta, yellows, greens, blues, reds, purple, and oranges.

"Magnificently, the bubble is held together by the most tenuous surface of moisture and living color, given form from the pressure of the living breath within it. This bubble is unique, as no other before it or any created after. Yet, in its unique existence it has the uniform commonality of all bubbles. It is round, and though it may bend, stretch, and compress it will always bounce back to its perfect form. It is non-resistant, never forceful, always pliant, and forever carrying the breath of the creator within it.

"Angels are created very similarly as bubbles that children make and release to the air. But for angels, our creation is a result of

the Creator and the Eternal Spirit, together. The Eternal Spirit is the visible surface of the bubble, while the breath of the Creator provides the contents and pressure within the bubble to give it form.

"When there is a need for more angels, the Creator is enfolded by the Eternal Spirit, while the Creator gently blows a breath outward and an angel is created. Some angels are larger than others, but all are very much alike otherwise.

"When a new angel is created, they shimmer and sparkle and radiate fiery iridescent colors just like the colorful bubbles that children create. When they move, they leave trails of bright little sparks behind them. Their faces are brighter than snow on the brightest day. They are so bright and sparkling that the very air around them seems to become luminescent.

"Yes, angels are wondrous creatures, and their creation is even more wondrous. In their creation and existence they become the embodiment of the breath of the Creator, messengers of the Creator. Wherever they go they take the message of God with them, and when they speak they speak with the breath and message of the Creator.

"When you are in the presence of angels you will know that they are real, and you will know what they are. You will have a giddy feeling, the same joyful, respectful giddy feeling that you get when you are in the presence of the bubbles that you have created, a sense of awe and wonder and playful joy.

"May your life always be filled with bubbles and angels, sweet Daniella. We love to be in your presence when you create bubbles, because it is then that you seem to be at your very best in character and personality. Then you are most like the Creator we all know so well and love so much.

"The end," Seraphina concluded softly.

By now Daniella was fast asleep. Sleeping soundly through the night Daniella had dreams of running quickly on the wide sidewalk beside all of the animal exhibits in the zoological park with a large bubble-maker in her hand. From it streamed thousands of sparkling, iridescent bubbles. A line of bubbles flowed wondrously from her bubble maker wherever she went, each with a little pair of angel wings that flapped gently in the air like a butterfly. Soon the park was laced with winged bubbles following Daniella wherever she went.



Daniella Learns A Lesson

The days turned into weeks and the weeks turned into months. Although Daniella was older, she still retained her child-like innocence that Seraphina prized in her most of all. Only now and then did Daniella return to those periods where she asked lots and lots of questions. Most of the days and weeks now were passed just enjoying Seraphina's company, her ever present love, and highly stable and predictable disposition. For Seraphina, Daniella's unpredictable expressions of appreciation and love for parents and the make-believe friends she saw in her stuffed animals provided Seraphina with new ways of appreciating Daniella.

Daniella and her mother had completed the dinner dishes. She said "good night" to her parents and went to her room where she could talk easily and freely with Seraphina.

"Seraphina, I understand that you are very old and wise. Is that right?"

"Yes, Daniella. In terms of your years, I am very, very old. But angels are fortunate in some ways — we don't age. To you, I look just as old as I did when I was first created. Angels get wiser, but don't look older.

"As for being wiser, yes, I do get wiser and wiser with each passing day. I am able to learn from every experience that I encounter, and I learn very well from what others do. Mortals provide a wonderful way for angels to learn without making mistakes."

"Oh, Seraphina, angels make mistakes too, don't they?"

"No, not really. Angels do not normally or even extraordinarily make mistakes concerning our affairs and relationships with mortals."

"How come, Seraphina, that you don't make mistakes, but I do. That's not fair. Why do I have to make mistakes and you don't?" Daniella said rather loudly and in a tone of exasperation.

"Daniella, you don't have to make mistakes, but making mistakes is just a part of growing up as a mortal. Making mistakes is a part of learning how to make good decisions. Mistakes just tell you 'not this way.' Right results tell you 'go this way.' Both provide important answers. The only wrong decisions and mistakes are the ones you make twice. Do you understand?"

"I like the answer you gave me Seraphina, but why do mortals make mistakes at all?"

"Oh, I see. You want to know why mortals make any mistakes. Is that right?"

"Kinda, but go ahead. I like listening to your answers."

"Thank you, Daniella. You are very polite and kind. But to answer your question, it is partly what I said in the beginning. You, as a mortal, you are at the very beginning of your spiritual career."

Daniella interrupted again, "Golly, Seraphina! You mean I am already a spirit?"

"Yes, and no, but for now let me continue to answer your first question. Okay?"

"Sure, but don't forget," said Daniella, as she shook her finger at Seraphina.

"I promise not to forget. Yes, as a mortal, you are a bit of spirit. It is a small part that lies within you but will become larger and larger as you grow into your spiritual career. You are now at the very beginning of your spiritual career. That is why you are making so many mistakes in life, whether that is with your parents, your friends, people you meet or with yourself."

"Does that mean that I am always wrong and they are always right?"

"Absolutely not, Daniella. Everyone in the early part of their spiritual career makes mistakes in their relationships with others. That is why there is so much difficulty on your world. Being here is about learning how to become successful at living, and for some that means learning how not to make mistakes. For others, though, it means learning how to make right decisions and success as often as possible.

"Guardian Angels always urge mortals to learn how to make right decisions, rather than avoiding making mistakes."

"Why is that Seraphina?"

"That's because some people think they can be happy and successful by not making any decisions, to avoid making any mistakes. But the problem with that, Daniella, is that if you don't make decisions, you don't learn, and if you don't learn you don't develop and get promoted in your spiritual career."

Daniella furrowed her brow in thoughtful preparation for asking a very serious question. "Does that mean that people who do that just die and go to hell?"

"No, it is more serious than that, Daniella. People who do that in this lifetime and all the lifetimes in spirit just stay put and don't go to heaven to be reunited with the Creator."

"Ooooh," sighed Daniella, "you mean I have to make decisions now as a kid to help my spiritual career? And I didn't even know I had a career yet!"

"You are already making decisions, Daniella, about your life and your relationship to yourself, your parents, friends, and everyone you meet."

Cheerily and humorously, Daniella couldn't help but ask, "Well, Seraphina, how am I doing so far?!" she said giggling, and fell backwards on the bed to relieve the serious nature of the question she had asked.

"You are doing very well, Daniella. Although your parents don't congratulate you very much about your good behavior, they still admire the mature and responsible way you play with your friends and how well you get along in school. Getting along with others is not the measure of growth of anyone's progress on their spiritual career. Too many people are only trying to look good and end up being insincere. As for yourself, you are doing really great. You neither value yourself too much nor too little in respect to others. That is, you don't think you are more important than anyone else, or less important than anyone else. We know this by what you do and what you say.

"Oh sure, sometimes in your mind you think you are more important than others. That's natural. But you don't use words to tell others you are more important than they are, and you don't use words to tell others they are less important than you are. And still

better yet, *you don't do anything* to hurt others to make them feel bad about themselves, and you don't do anything to make yourself look better than others.

"I think you are doing so well, Daniella, that it is appropriate to recommend you for a special citation recognizing you as an especially mature mortal at your age."

"Would you really!" squealed Daniella.

"Very definitely, Daniella. Guardian Angels have the prerogative...."

"What's a prerogative, Seraphina?"

"It means that I have the choice to recommend you for an award. If my recommendation is approved, it will always remain on your personal spiritual progress record for all time and infinity."

Beside herself with glee, Daniella could hardly contain her excitement. "What will the award look like, Seraphina? Huh? Will I be there when it is given to me? Will you give it to me, or will an Archangel do that? Please tell me, Seraphina."

"You won't be able to show it to anyone, but all the angels will know it exists and can see it whenever they wish. You needn't worry about having to polish it or keep the dust off of it as it is simply an entry written in gold in your record."

"And that's for making good decisions and making no mistakes?" Daniella asked.

"Only partially. The award is for learning a very important lesson that is the result of making right decisions, and learning from wrong decisions. The lesson is that your worth and value is the same as very one else's and that every one else's worth and value are the same as your own. That is a pretty simple lesson, but many mortals on your world do not understand it, even after many, many decades of making both right and wrong decisions.

"That lesson is only one of hundreds of lessons you will learn in your spiritual career as a mortal. Eventually, when you have successfully mastered most of the lessons as a mortal, you will have an almost exact duplicate of the book of wisdom that Guardian Angels use to teach mortals. When you are successful learning all those lessons, then I have successfully fulfilled my role and my work in your life. That is an accomplishment all Guardian Angels strive to fulfill. If I can do that with you, Daniella, in your lifetime as a mortal, I will be very, very pleased with your accomplishment and my own.

"So now do you understand why I am so very pleased with your progress that you have learned this lesson well?"

"I guess so," Daniella said through a wide and slow yawn.

"It is because I, too, have grown because of your right and wrong decisions, and as a Guardian Angel I have demonstrated my ability to teach these lessons to a mortal. It is a wonderful achievement for both of us — something neither you nor I can force, but must let happen one day at time as we work toward this goal."

"I think I'm getting really sleepy, Seraphina. Could we just skip the bedtime story tonight and go to sleep?" said Daniella as she crawled under the covers of her bed and let her head fall onto the pillow.

"Tomorrow is always another day for more bedtime stories, Daniella. The Creator loves you and embraces you with Its spirit and energy," said Seraphina, bringing to a close a very beautiful and wonderful day.



Daniella and Seraphina Go Camping

The school year came to a close and Daniella said goodbye to all her friends. Some were going to stay in the city and some were going to visit grandparents in other states, and some were going on a vacation before summer school started. Daniella and her parents were going on a camping vacation.

Daniella's mother was busy inside the house packing food into boxes, and had already prepared their clothes to be taken to the RV and stored away in the drawers and cupboards. Daniella's dad was busy carrying food and clothes, hiking shoes, and backpacks out to the big RV they had rented for their camping vacation. Daniella was right beside him running in and out of the house carrying her share of equipment, food, and clothes.

"Dad, how can we go camping in this big RV? Isn't camping supposed to mean we live in a tent and sit on logs by the fire and cook our food on a camp stove?"

"Anymore, Daniella, camping means that you are going away from home to a state or national park and live in the woods or some place that isn't a house, or motel, or hotel. For us, we are going

camping in the RV. It's a lot like taking your home with you, so that you can be comfortable while you are out in nature's special places. And besides, your mom doesn't like to rough it."

"Rough it? What's 'rough it' mean, Dad?" Daniella asked quizzically.

"Oh, 'rough it' means to go out and live in the rough, out in nature and the wild without sinks, bathrooms, and bedrooms. When you rough it, you are living close to nature, close to the ground and the earth — dirt. And your mom doesn't like to get dirty or too far away from the mall."

Daniella continued her questions, "But we're going out into the wild a little bit, aren't we?"

"Sure, we can either eat in the RV or out on a picnic table or on a log if we want. And we can sleep outside in a sleeping bag on the ground, or on a cot outside, or sleep in the RV. We can also take showers in the RV or go swim in the lake to cool off. What do you think about those ideas, Daniella?"

"Sounds like fun to me, Dad!" Daniella said excitedly.

Daniella continued her short trek between the RV and the house, helping both her mom and dad as they asked her to. She wanted to get on the road and see all the sights she could. She had not gone camping before and this would be her first time.

Soon they were on their way. Daniella laid on the large bed in the back of the RV holding her doll and talking to Seraphina. Her parents thought she was always talking to her doll, but actually Daniella was talking to Seraphina. Seraphina explained how the Creator had formed the earth out of the nothingness of space to create the world they were enjoying now. Daniella had lots of questions as usual, while Seraphina supplied loving and reasonable answers Daniella could understand for her age.

The trip went quickly, and soon they passed the entrance gate of the park called Yellowstone National Park. They drove past Yellowstone Lake, with its cold clear water, and trout that jumped and splashed as they fed on flying bugs that hovered near the surface of the water.

"Oh, Seraphina," Daniella said excitedly under her breath, "we're at Yellowstone National Park. I read about it at school. It's got hot steamy geysers and belching caves of hot, smelly water and gases, and beautiful waterfalls, and bear, and deer, and lots of other wonderful things. Oh, Seraphina, I'm so excited. This is a wonderful place to visit."

"Yes, it is a beautiful place, but a wild place, Daniella. You are

not used to living in a place like this, so I want you to be extra careful of where you go."

"Oh, I will," Daniella assured Seraphina, not knowing what she actually had to be careful of or what to watch out for.

The big RV pulled into the camping area where many others were parked. Some had children playing around them and some had older people who looked like grandparents sitting in lawn chairs.

Soon they pulled into the parking spot that had been assigned by the Park Ranger and came to a stop. Daniella's dad called for her to help him.

"Daniella, come with me to hook up the RV. I'll plug in the electrical and television cable, while you connect the water hose. Ok?"

"Sure, dad," Daniella said as she jumped from the top step of the RV to the ground below. Her dad pulled out the water hose and handed it to Daniella. She tugged at the hose and removed it from its storage bin, then connected it to the water faucet.

"It's all connected and turned on, Dad. Can I go play now?"

"Sure, but don't go too far away. Your mom and I will be getting dinner ready. I'll call for you when it's ready."

"Thanks, dad," she said over her shoulder as she began to explore around the parking area.

"It sure is pretty here, Seraphina. There are more trees here than where we live."

Daniella walked down the narrow road that meandered around big rocks and trees, where more RVs could park in places that were quiet and peaceful. Soon she had fully explored the entire length of the camp's road, and had said hello to lots of people who were sitting beside their RVs. She met some older kids who told her about a neat trail to the top of a hill where she could see some bones of a big animal that had died a long time ago.

She walked to the top of the camping area and found the trail. As she walked along the narrow trail, Daniella did not look up to see where she was going or what landmarks were present to help her get back to the camp. At the top of the hill she came upon the old bones of some animal that had died long ago. Its bones had been picked clean and bleached white from the sun and rain.

"Seraphina, do animals go to heaven?"

"Let's talk about animals and heaven another time, Daniella. It will be time for dinner soon, and if you are not nearby, your parents will become very concerned. Let's return to camp and enjoy the trail along the way. Before we start, look out at the horizon. Do you see the reflection of the sun and clouds on the lake?"

"Golly, Seraphina, it's beautiful."

"And do you see the RV camp below?"

"Sure. It's a long ways down there. The big RVs look like little toys in the grass."

"Keep your mind's eye on the camp when you return, Daniella. Visualize walking down the trail and the RVs getting bigger and bigger and the sounds of the campers becoming louder and louder."

"Why do I need to do that, Seraphina?"

"To help you get back to camp successfully, and on time."

"Oh, you think I might get lost, or something?"

"No. It is best to have a vision or picture of where you want to be or where you want to get to, and its location from where you are. Are you ready to return?"

"Sure, I'm ready. Let's go."

Daniella proceeded down the trail, but she did not keep track of the landmarks or the fresh footprints she had left on the trail when she came up the hill. She believed that if she just proceeded down hill that she would easily return to camp. Soon the trail split into two trails, one straight ahead and one to the right and also down hill. Without a thought or conscious decision, Daniella turned right.

The trail continued downhill and became steeper and steeper. Soon Daniella was grabbing at tree branches near the trail to keep from slipping on the loose rock and gravel on the trail. Letting go of one branch she took a step forward and her foot slipped out from under

her. Daniella fell soundly on her fanny and began sliding down the hill, bouncing on the slippery tree roots and rocks as she went. Down she slid, not stopping until she had slid all the way to the bottom, ending up at the edge of a small stream.

Tears streamed down her cheeks. Daniella was scared, and sobbed from fright and the small injuries on her legs and hands.

"Oh, Seraphina," Daniella whimpered through her sobs, "Look what I've done. I ruined my jeans. My sneakers are all dirty, my hands are all scratched up, and I don't know where I am. I'm so stupid. I shouldn't have left the RV camp to see those old bones anyway. Mom is just going to have a fit when she sees me like this. And if I don't get back to camp on time for dinner before mom and dad start calling for me, it'll ruin the start of our vacation. Can you help me find my way back to camp, Seraphina?"

"I think you already know how to get back to camp, if you just sit and become calm for a moment or two. And as you become calm, remember the sight of the lake, the RV camp, and the slopes of the hills leading to the lake."

Seraphina knew that Daniella had all the knowledge she needed to get back to camp on time. All Daniella needed was confidence that she could do it, and to see herself walking thoughtfully and peacefully along the trail beside the stream until she could find her own way back to camp.

"Are you ready, Daniella?"

"Yeah, I guess so," Daniella said gloomily.

"Where do you think this stream leads to, Daniella?"

"Uh, well, down to the lake I suppose."

"What do you remember about driving into the RV camp?" Seraphina encouraged.

Daniella was looking up toward the sky but had her eyes closed, as though she were trying to visualize what she had seen before they turned into the RV camp. "The road followed the edge of the lake, and we crossed a bridge before we turned into the RV camp."

"Yes, that is correct. What does that tell you about where you are now?"

"I guess it means that probably we are by the stream that goes under the bridge that leads to the lake." She became more excited as she realized that the stream also probably traveled beside the RV camp and that if she followed it she could find her way back. "And it probably means that the RV camp is right beside the stream some place. Am I right?"

"Let's find out, Daniella. Which way should we go, upstream or downstream?"

"Downstream, silly! Going upstream would mean that we would be going farther into the forest. And we don't want to go that way," Daniella exclaimed ruefully.

"Then let's go or we will be late for dinner," Seraphina urged to Daniella.

Feeling far more confident about her situation, Daniella teased, "Oh, silly, you don't eat dinner anyway. Say, what do angels eat, anything, or just Angel food cake?" Daniella's anxiety had turned into silliness as she began her first steps back to camp. Down stream she found a shallow place in the stream and lots of footprints that lead to a well traveled path. She took the path in the direction of the camp. Soon she heard the sounds of children laughing and people talking.

Daniella came upon the narrow road that wandered in and out of large rocks and trees. A few moments later she came upon her RV at the same time her parents were stepping out of the door to call to her.

"Oh, there you are, Daniella," said her mom. "We were just about to call to you for dinner. I'm glad that you stayed in camp and were safe." Seeing the streaks of dirt on Daniella's jeans and her dirty sneakers, it was obvious to Daniella's mom that she had done more than just walk peacefully around the RV camp talking to neighbors.

"Daniella, what happened? Did you wander off and get hurt?"

"Oh, it's ok, mom, I just slid down a little hill. I'm ok. Really, mom," Daniella reassured her mother, knowing that it was more than just a little hill.

"Well, come inside and wash up and change your clothes. Then tell me all about your great adventure."

Daniella washed up and changed, then sat down for dinner at the large wooden picnic table beside the RV. She recounted her adventure of talking to the other kids, hiking on the trail and finding the old bones, and returning to camp. Daniella did, however, leave out the detail of taking the wrong trail and sliding down the steep hill and almost landing in the water.

That night, as she lay in bed waiting for sleep to sweep her into the sweet oblivion of imagination and dreams, she quietly spoke to Seraphina and thanked her for her help.

"Seraphina, I really appreciate your help getting me back to camp. I thought I was really lost for awhile." Daniella talked on and soon her monologue turned into a ramble of words as she became more and more sleepy.

"G'night, Seraphina," she said at last.

"Good night Daniella. Sleep well. The Creator and the angels will watch over you."

"I'm glad of that, Seraphina," Daniella sighed as sleep finally overcame her.

All through the night the fragrance of the forest sifted into the RV through the open window beside her, and the quiet moan of the wind could be heard as it moved through the treetops. In this forest slumber land, Daniella slept peacefully with her Guardian Angel watching over her.



The Adventures of Daniella and Seraphina have ended for now, but will continue. We are simply waiting for Rebecca, the storyteller, to continue the stories of her shared saga with her Guardian Angel.

Until then, please enjoy some other stories about angels and people.

Letters to Leah

Bedtime Stories From Angels To A Lonely Child

Angels Are Cool To Talk To

Dear Leah,

Some of my friends have been saying that I am taking this "angel thing" too far. They say it is o.k. to talk about angels and to wear angel pins and read articles about angels, but that it is not cool to talk to angels as though they are real or anything. But Leah, I do believe that angels are real. Am I taking this "angel thing" too far?

(Signed) **"ANGELS ARE COOL TO TALK TO"**
Salem, Oregon

Dear **"ANGELS ARE COOL TO TALK TO,"**

Thank you for your thoughtful question and thank you for including your real name. That helps me answer your question more personally. Normally angels don't snoop into a mortal's life and relationships, but in this case your question provided me with your permission to understand your situation better.

Because you are a young person, you can be easily influenced by others. You have chosen to be influenced by an angel. For the duration of your life as a mortal you probably could not have picked a better companion than an angel to talk to.

Angels have not been cool for a long time, but centuries ago they were very cool. Many Renaissance painters used angels in their pictures to depict the spiritual companionship that you are now experiencing.

The "angel thing" today is a fad, a trend that is sweeping the nation and the world. Soon the enthusiasm for angels will fade for

those who do not really believe or want an angel personally in their lives. But you are different. You are sharing a wonderful relationship that you will enjoy during your long journey to Paradise, as an evolving spiritual being. You will be pleased to know that mortals throughout all of God's magnificent universe are paired with angels for this long journey. It's no fad.

On most worlds, mortals are aware of the presence of their guardian angels. Millions of others like you talk to their guardian angels every day. Unfortunately, on earth most do not because they are confused about the reality of angels. Angels are real — a permanent order of beings in the universe.

When you speak to your angel, do so in private, as you would with a very dear and trusted friend, one whom you love dearly and would not want others to tease and make fun of. That is not for the angel's sake, but yours. Your angel relationship will outlast almost all other relationships that you form during your mortal stay on earth. Protect it and cherish it.

Be as pleased with yourself as we are that you talk to your angel. That is cool. Very cool.

A loving angel,
Leah

Just Waiting

Dear Leah,

I am a resident in an elder-care apartment complex. Many people who come here live awhile, maybe years, but eventually they leave. We see the flashing lights of the ambulances come up the driveway and whisk them away. It makes a lot of us wonder when our time will be up, and what we can do in the remaining time to prepare for our own leaving.

Is it too late, Leah, to begin a relationship with my guardian angel? What can a guardian angel do for me now, after all these years?

(Signed) **"Just Waiting"**

Berkeley, California

Dear "Just Waiting",

Thank you for your question. It is a good question, too. The answer is appropriate for people of all ages.

First, it is absolutely not too late to begin a conscious and personal relationship with your guardian angel. This is a time to get closely acquainted with your guardian angel who will be with you as you move from mortal consciousness to consciousness as spirit.

Your guardian angel has had a rather one-way relationship with you most of your life. So she knows you well. You have a lot of

catching up to do when you begin to talk to her. This is a time of awakening, a time to reap wisdom, a time to glean remarkable insights from your life.

You are at an advantage over young people. You have a whole lifetime to review with your guardian angel, with thousands of life-situations to gather wisdom from. Now, at this time of your life, you can truly weigh the value of honesty, loyalty, kindness, compassion, and genuine love. These are the flowers of life to gather and enjoy. You and your angel can take this remaining time to gather the flowers of your life into a bouquet and savor their fragrances.

Just as you pull the thistles and weeds from a flower garden, while keeping the flowers, weed out all negatively charged emotional memories. This remaining time is a superb opportunity to learn and practice some of life's most important lessons: how to love and how to forgive. This is a time of wiping the slate of life clean of all grudges, resentments, spite, envy, anger, and hate, if those exist and have not already been resolved.

This is a time for healing relationships, many or almost all of which no longer exist in life, but remain only as memories. Those memories are for you to learn by — to learn to forgive, and to learn to love, gathering wisdom as you move from anger to acceptance, for

example. If this too difficult, ask your guardian angel to help you move from unforgiveness to a position of loving acceptance.

Your life is much like a book with many chapters. You are just now opening it with real understanding, beginning in the last chapters. Your angelic tutor of life will help you figure out the plot and what the characters were doing in the story. Together you can finish the book without having missed any of the good parts.

A loving angel,

Leah

Curious and Cautious

Dear Leah,

I have been to a lot of metaphysical bookstores, new age healing centers, and psychic fairs, and have had my palms read, my mind scanned, and my aura photographed. I've seen and heard a lot of prophets, seers, and fortunetellers, even some who said they were Christ returned, Mother Mary, and even John the Baptist. Some of these people were obviously mentally disturbed, but some spoke and appeared as though they had seen the shining face of God whose brilliance now shines from within them.

How can I tell if what you say is that of an angel who works and lives in the loving light of God?

(Signed) **"Curious and Cautious"**
Los Angeles, California

Dear Curious and Cautious,

Thank you for your letter and your question. The question you raise is one that should be asked by all mortals who seek authentic spiritual assistance. Your caution is prompted by an alert mind. Being alert is part of the solution — the other part is discernment.

Discernment is one of the most important tools you can use

during the course of your life. Discernment is a process of weighing and evaluating evidence that can lead to insight and wisdom. Without discernment, mortals can be easily manipulated and controlled.

For angels, discernment is a part of our being. We would ask, "Is this advice 'of God' or 'not of God'?" The answer flashes into our consciousness as quickly as light enters a dark room. For you, discernment is much more difficult. The following broad descriptions of angelic advice, compromised and diluted messages, and UN-angelic messages will help you distinguish variations of spiritual advice.

1) Genuine angelic advice strives to aid the **integration** process of mortal consciousness with the transcendent gift of God within each of you. This becomes complete after your long journey to Paradise and you enter into the fusion-embrace of God. Then the fullest spiritual integration is achieved.

Advice which is "of God" will always advise you to "seek God first" and to "call upon God" in all instances of uncertainty. It will urge you to become God-conscious and to motivate your thoughts and words from that God-consciousness so that your actions become filled with love, kindness, forgiveness, patience, forbearance, caring, compassion, and gentleness and urge you to be of service to others.

2) Diluted and compromised spiritual advice can be discerned when the message is not consistent within itself. There should be no mixing or association of dark advice with angelic advice. There should be no "ifs," "buts," "however," or other words that compromise a message of light.

Further, compromised spiritual advice is often fear-based. Angels do not use fear in their advice to guide you. Fear is "not of God," while love is. Fear repels, love attracts. Fear is animal-based, while love is spirit-based. Love urges you to aspire to God, while fear repudiates God-likeness. Angelic advice *does not* associate fear and dread with God's eternal invitation to be with him.

Also, messages of angels do not give special recognition, elevate, or aggrandize the status of the angel or the mortal who are sharing the angelic message. Angelic messages do not suggest or urge you to give, donate, or buy anything that can be computed in financial terms. And, angelic advice does not recommend any specific organization or group to aid the processes of your spiritual integration.

3) Advice that is NOT ANGELIC will try to persuade or direct you to think, feel, or act in ways that put you in **separation** with yourself, others, God, and Its angels. Look for words that urge you to separate, detach, disconnect, divide, segregate, or split from God and others, to become autonomous and separate. Look for words that feed self-destructive emotional states associated with separation, such as hate, bigotry, prejudice, loathing, jealousy, envy, greed, lust, anger, rage, spite, and dozens more.

If you are ever in doubt about a spiritual message, first and always call upon your Father-Mother God for guidance and to strengthen and guide your powers of discernment. By being alert and discerning throughout your lifetime, you can make rapid progress to become spiritually whole and complete.

A loving angel,
Leah

A Concerned Friend

Dear *Leah*,

I am very concerned for my very dear friend, Amie, who is going to have surgery for an unexpected and serious problem. She has large ovarian cysts and other unknown growths that must be removed. Will Amie's guardian angel be with her during surgery? How can I help my friend? And what can her guardian angel do for her during this time before surgery?

(Signed) "A Concerned Friend,"
Boulder, Colorado

Dear "Concerned Friend,"

Thank you for your question and your sincere concern for your friend.

Yes, Amie's guardian angel will be with her during surgery, just as she is at all other times.

You can best help Amie by praying to God, asking for special healing assistance for her full and complete recovery. Ask your own guardian angel to work in harmony with Amie's guardian angel for her rapid healing and recovery. Further, affirm and KNOW that spiritual action is being applied before, during, and after her surgery. See God's brilliant healing light surrounding and filling Amie during all of these days. Release the outcome to God.

You ask what Amie's guardian angel can do for her during this

time before surgery. Be assured that her guardian angel will be doing as much as is allowed without Amie's permission and authority. Much more can be done by her angels when she asks for and gives permission to God and her angels to do all that they can for her healing and full recovery. She would in effect become a co-creative partner with her angels in her own healing and recovery.

The strength of these suggestions is based upon the necessity for mortals to deliberately initiate a **co-creative relationship** between themselves and spirit at all levels. A co-creative relationship is a **conscious, empowering, and active** relationship. In an angelic-mortal co-creative relationship, both mortal and angel are mutually *conscious* and aware of each other's presence and capability. Knowing this, when the mortal is presented with a difficult life-situation, he or she *empowers* the angels to alleviate the difficulty by 1) asking for assistance, and 2) giving permission and authority to the angel to act in their behalf. The most powerful co-creative relationships are continuously *active* in all parts of the mortal's life.

Know "concerned friend" that your guardian angel and I love you dearly, but we will not intrude where we are not asked, either in your own life or Amie's. Talk to your friend and suggest how she can empower her own guardian angels to assist her healing to their maximum capacity.

For both of you, your actions must be consistent with the

mortal paradigm of “hope-faith-belief-trust-knowing”: You have *hope* that the outcome of your requests will be answered. You have *faith* that when you ask, your prayers will be answered. You have *belief* that God and his angels are available to help. You *trust* that after asking for the right and perfect outcome, it will occur. You *know* that the right outcome is occurring, even now. Then trust once more, knowing that the outcome is then beyond your control. Having done this, good friend, know too that you have done the utmost that any mortal could do for themselves or for their friend.

May you and your friend know peace during this time.

A loving angel,
Leah



Now, the storyteller, Rebecca, would like to share a few of the “angel stories” that Seraphina told her when she was a child.



Bedtime Stories From Angels To A Lonely Child

Angel Fiction

(Or Maybe It's Real!)

Angel Tactics

Someday your little planet may eventually be able to receive educational broadcasts from the angel circuits of the universe. Maybe one of the broadcasts would look somewhat like this:

“The following material is provided to you by the Information Ministry of the Angelic Corps of Training and Education for Mortal Awareness. The purpose of the Ministry is to provide mortals with information that 1) develops greater confidence in the presence and actions of angels, 2) helps mortals understand the work of angels in their personal life, and 3) persuades mortals to voluntarily align their thoughts, words, and behavior with that of their future status of "Citizen of the Universe." Each of these three influences will speed mortal spiritual progress and development, and aid the work of guardian angels.

“It is helpful for mortals to understand that achieving the status of ‘Citizen of the Universe’ is earned through daily living in relationship with others in peace, harmony, and love. As mortals, you can begin the art of relationships by practicing the skills of universe citizenship. These include cooperation, patience, deferment

of ego gratification, loyalty, service, and social courage, for example. The alternative is to wait to practice these skills on the training worlds, which you will encounter just after material death, thus delaying your spiritual progress and sightseeing adventures of the universe's vast array of beautifully appointed worlds. Those of you who decide to continue your infinite ascendant career will eventually learn these skills if you ever hope to progress past the training worlds to enjoy the direct and personal embrace of God in Paradise.”

“The following begins today's information packet:

STRATEGY AS INTRODUCTION

“You are about to be informed about the completely unclassified subject of ‘Angelic Strategy and Tactics’. No need was ever felt by the angelic corps to classify these sensitive materials as few mortals would ever consider such lovingly passive actions as ever effective to win over the heart, mind, and soul of one, let alone a whole universe, of God's mortal creatures.

"While surprise as a tactic is tantamount to victory for mortal military generals, the eternal patience of angels assures the same for the souls of spiritually evolving individuals. Angels have the patience to wait for the full duration of a mortal's 80 or so years of life for one single opportunity to guide *the mortal's decision* to accept the opportunity and challenge of spiritual living and eternal life. That is *The Strategy*.

"Never forget that angels are consummate militarists organized in legions, companies, and squads, and trained to carry out God's strategy for the salvation of mortals, individually! As individuals, Angels courageously infiltrate the daily lives of mortals and patiently wait to draw them into a closer relationship with themselves and God.

"Now the tactics, beginning with a reading of the Oath Of Guardian Angels."

OATH OF GUARDIAN ANGELS: "I, _____(Leah)_____, Guardian Angel, do eternally affirm that I will never violate the self-will of any mortal for any reason; I do eternally affirm that I will eternally support any and all decisions made by my guarded mortal that aids his or her progress along their ascendant career of spiritual growth and maturity; I do eternally affirm that I will take all action that is

consistent and supportive of my guarded mortal's life plan and the will of God for their life, now and ever after. If, in the event that my guarded mortal makes a conscious and willful decision to accept the challenge to complete the full course of their infinite ascendant career, I volunteer and accept the opportunity to act as his or her guide, tutor, companion, and guardian until and after their eventual embrace by the Creator, which signifies eternal acceptance into the Corps Of Finality in Paradise, and completion of my assignment."

Sworn in the presence of the INFINITE SPIRIT.

(No signature necessary.)

"The next segment of our presentation includes part of a commencement speech delivered by one of the prior Commandants of the Guardian Angel Academy of Strategy and Tactics. We share it with you now to let you know the earnestness of Guardian Angel training and preparation.

— **Graduation Presentation** —

"As graduating class of Guardian Angels, your voluntary acceptance of assignment to mortals on the planet of Earth is testimony to all the universe of your courage and character to practice every aspect of angelic tactics in the daily course of your work. On no other planet in this universe is there such adversity to purity, love, and the perseverance of moral character that so automatically lead to immediate promotion to the spiritual training worlds immediately following material death for mortals on other material planets.

"Daily upon that small, dark planet it will be necessary for you to unerringly adhere to the tenets of your oath while practicing the tactical skills you learned so well at this academy. You will be severely tested.

"Help your guarded mortal to understand more fully the depth and breadth of your service to them. You are much like a divinely wise and loving martial arts instructor who is willing to share tactics, lessons, and who accepts the bruises to achieve fulfillment of *The Strategy*. Share your tactical training so that your mortal student understands the loyalty of our companionship, the fervor of your dedication to their spiritual well being and moral training, the strength of your eternal commitment to them, and the profundity of your love and wisdom upon which they can dependably draw.

"To be successful, the following tactics must be indelibly and

eternally etched in the infinite capacity of your spiritual minds and permanently bonded into the energized angel circuits of your radiant bodies so that you act unerringly in all circumstances of your guarded mortal's life:

"HONESTY and TRUTHFULNESS: During the full existence of your lives (an eternity) you will always be honest and truthful with no allowance of even one instance otherwise. You were created perfect, and perfect shall be your service to the mortals whom you serve. You have volunteered to be the guardian of a mortal, an incomplete soul, a soul that is forming. Therefore, always model in all your actions, advice, counsel, and service to your guarded mortal the loving example of the Father-Mother-God in the relationship you have with your guarded mortal. Teach and lead your guarded mortal into their cherished, rightful place in their relationship with God, which you already enjoy.

"LOYALTY: Whether near or far from the life of your guarded mortal, always remain steadfastly loyal to them as a being worthy of God's eternal love and forgiveness.

"PATIENCE and PERSEVERANCE: You have the full length of the mortal's life to draw them into a closer relationship with their real, spiritized self, with you, and with God and you will never cease during the mortal's material lifetime to fulfill *The Strategy*.

"SINCERITY: Your oath affirms the eternal depth of your sincerity for service to aid the development of the mortal's spirit potential.

"WISDOM: You will use all wisdom of the universe available to you through the circuits of the Infinite Spirit. Whisper wisdom into your mortal's mind's ear to guide the mortal to choose the wisest option in every moral decision, and every decision leading to their eventual status of "Citizen of the Universe." Your guarded mortal came into material existence with an empty soul. Ensure that your training, teaching, and guidance provides the mortal with sufficient decision-opportunities to fill that soul with correct moral choices, IF they so choose.

"TENACITY: You will be unyieldingly tenacious in the application of all tactics, and stick by the side and life of your guarded mortal; likewise instill in your guarded mortal the same tenacity for moral choices in living.

"LOVE: Love and cherish your guarded mortal as yourself, always applying that love as earnestly for their spiritual growth and maturity of your guarded mortal as you have your own, even as the Father-Mother-God loves you.

"FORGIVENESS and NON-JUDGMENT: You will eternally reserve judgment as the domain of the Ancient of Days and the Creator; eternally will you be forgiving of your guarded mortal's life and moral decisions.

"FORBEARANCE: Eternally will you combine the tactic of patience with eternal love to guide your own decisions to initiate action for the spiritual development of your guarded mortal.

"INFINITELY CREATIVE: You have for your use the

complete catalog of universal tactics for leading your guarded mortal into a life of moral decision making. Teach so that moral decision making on the mortal's part is not as a guard against punishment by God, but as a permanent pattern for living in loving harmony with all citizens of the universe now and after material death.

"INITIATION OF ACTION: All tactics you use, even those small devices whether easy or difficult, which most mortals know as either good fortune or bad fortune, serendipity and coincidence or 'bad luck', windfall or calamity, use them to the eternal advantage of the mortal.

"You have successfully completed your training. You know The Strategy, the tactics, and the mission. You have been rigorously trained, practiced, and tested in the full arsenal of angelic tactics. Now receive the "GRANTING OF AUTHORITY" to empower your training for the good of your guarded mortal!:

GRANTING OF AUTHORITY:

"You are hereby granted full authority to initiate any and all action concerning the life and circumstances of your guarded mortal that is consistent with your oath to achieve The Strategy. Initiated actions may be of the order of 'miracles,' with the approval of the supervising archangel, where you personally and directly intervene on the behalf of your guarded mortal; initiated actions

may be ordinary 'serendipity' and 'coincidence;' initiated actions may be ordinary 'difficulties' and 'hard luck;' and initiated actions may even take the form of 'calamity' and 'disaster.'

"Similarly as miracles, you are not authorized to independently initiate calamity and disaster upon the mortal as these can be arranged by 'circumstance' and 'situation' as the mortal stumbles into them. Learning the lessons of material life that support and give meaning to eternal life are hard enough on mortals as it is. Use discretion always when using 'circumstances' and 'situations,' *always leaving the ultimate decision of the mortal to enter into these or not.* The goal of all these tactics is to lead to the mortal to consciously make choices and decisions of life and living that contribute to the survival of their soul. All initiations of actions are to present the mortal with "either-or" options for living.

"In addition to using the previously mentioned tactics to fulfill The Strategy, strive to guide your guarded mortal to learn the following spiritized philosophies of living. These will enhance the mortal's admission standing when they are received on the training worlds after their transition from material existence. Even now many mortals on Earth know and practice these guidelines for living as potential citizens of the universe, while the vast majority does not. Many of these wisdoms are common and found in humble circumstances, even in fortune cookies, though few mortals practice them with the same enthusiasm as they do their chopsticks:

"Cleverness is not a substitute for true character; Few persons

live up to the faith which they really have; Inherent capacities cannot be exceeded; The majority of impoverished souls are truly rich, but they refuse to believe it; Difficulties may challenge mediocrity and defeat the fearful, but they only stimulate the true children God; Enjoy privilege without abuse; Have liberty without license; Possess power but steadfastly refuse to use it for self-aggrandizement; Effort does not always produce joy, but there is no happiness without intelligent effort; Action achieves strength; Moderation eventuates into charm; The weak indulge in resolutions but the strong act; Life is but a day's work — do it well; The act is yours, the consequences God's; Mortals only learn wisdom by experiencing tribulation; Give advice only when asked; Ambition is dangerous until it is fully socialized; Impatience is a poison; Anger is like a stone hurled into a hornet's nest; Anxiety is to be abandoned; The disappointments hardest to bear are those which never come; The evolving soul is not made divine by what it does, but by what it strives to do; The destiny of eternity is determined moment by moment by the

achievements of day by day living; The acts of today are the destiny of tomorrow; Greatness lies not so much in possessing strength as in making a wise and divine use of such strength; Knowledge is possessed only by sharing — it is safeguarded by wisdom and socialized by love; Progress demands development of individuality but mediocrity seeks perpetuation in standardization; The argumentative defense of any proposition is inversely proportional to the truth contained."

"Graduating Guardian Angels I have stood where you now stand, and have served where you will serve. Know as surely as I now stand before you that the demands of your time with your guarded mortal will be brief in comparison to your own life, but it will be intense, and the consequences eternal. Do your work well — those who prosper by your work will live in the company of the Divine forever.

"The Academy Angel At Arms will now dismiss you."

"ATTENTION! CLASS DISMISSED!"

"We of the Information Ministry of the Angelic Corps of Training and Education for Mortal Awareness hope you enjoyed today's presentation."



A Flight To The Sea Of Glass

This is a personal story of my own that began while I was meditating one day, several years ago. The angels who arranged this flight asked that I share it with you.

In a dreamy, meditative, almost trance like state I somehow I found myself at the planetary pole of earth from where transport seraphim (angels) take off. There, I watched a group of seraphim carefully prepare an individual, who no longer had a material body, onto the back of the transport seraphim. No words were spoken to me, but I understood what was going on from the assisting angels who explained everything as they worked.

They had the person stand back to back with the transport seraphim. Next they assisted the transport seraphim close its three pair of 'wings' around the person that act as a shroud during flight. First the lower pair around the feet, then the middle pair, and finally the third pair of wings at the top. The upper wings overlapped the lower wings like shingles on a roof.

They explained that because transport angels have the capability of traveling many times the speed of light, the wings of the angel wrapped around the person act as a shield against frictional heat during flight. Light and all transmissible energy in "space," even though non-resistant to us, causes resistance to the transport angels. Slipping through photon waves of light and other electromagnetic waves can cause intense heat. Plus there are myriads of other energy forms in "space."

Most quanta energies, as we know them, exist in more than the ordinary four dimensions that we know of. They exist in the spirit side of the universe as well as the material side of the universe. That explains why astrophysicists have not been able to find the "lost" balance of universe mass. It is not empirically evident, looking from this side of the universe. Anyway, this energy causes frictional heat to transport angels and all those who travel through the spiritual transport energy circuits.

Transport angels do not travel in three-dimensional space, as

we know it, so are outside the material aspects of space. Yet every planet and every sun is an energy form that needs to be avoided during travel since they present further resistance to the flight of the transport angels.

I was next to be enseraphimed. It was not my material body that was to be transported as that still rested quietly in my easy chair in my study in Boulder, Colorado. What was to be transported was my spirit consciousness, which is an energy construct similar to angels and all spirit, only immature and small. A spiritual body, I suppose, would look much like what you would see of molecular resonance without the molecules!

Even though I was enseraphimed, I had a full awareness of "sight" of what was taking place. I could see to the rear of us as we lifted off the planet. Lift off speed was probably 20-50 thousand miles per hour in comparison to the speed of orbiting satellites I had observed so many times on starry evenings in the past.

The thoughts of my transport seraphim, "Saw-wah," entered my consciousness as easily as though they were my own. "We have begun the flight slowly in order to exit the dense energy field immediately surrounding the planet."

We traveled in an arc above the plane of the solar system, then almost like the Star Trek Enterprise we shifted into a mid-range of speed, traveling very rapidly parallel to the plane of the solar system, exiting it in less than half a minute. Upon exiting the rim of

the solar system we again shifted speed to yet a higher rate and we shot forward. The planets, glowing orbs of dark energy, immediately disappeared into the black bed of space, and soon the sun too became just another knot of light in the quilt of stars sewn by our Creator.

Time did not exist, as I was aware of it, and soon we were nearing a cluster of large planets.

"We are nearing Uversa, the capital of Orvonton.

"Uversa?" I asked.

"Yes, Uversa," said Saw-Wah matter-of-factly.

"Not Jerusem the capital of our local universe (galaxy)?"

"No, we did not go in that direction. We are entering the capital estate area of the capital of the seventh super universe in the grand universe. In terms of earth time, we have been gone eighty thousand years."

"But it seemed," I exclaimed, "like it was just only about eight minutes ago."

"Yes, it always feels that way, even to me," said Saw-wah. "We will be approaching the third inner layer of planets which contains the receiving planet and its sea of glass, which is a magnificent landing and takeoff field.

"This planet alone," she continued, "is very large in comparison to your planet, to your sun and even to your solar system. It is as large as the orbiting circumference of your planet Mercury. Yet it is not the largest of planets in and around Uversa. And do not be concerned about the gravity pull of this planet as it is largely hollow below approximately 100 miles of the surface, as it is an architectural planet.

"We have slowed and we will be landing in a few moments. Even though thousands of visitors arrive and leave every few moments, all arrivals and departures are coordinated in thought consciousness with each other. There is never any conflict."

As we approached, I could see that the planet was incredibly huge. The process of approaching the planet and then landing seemed very bizarre to me. Although I was fully conscious of us as being material in that we had dimensions to our existence before we left earth, I guessed that we were not actually material in either the three-dimensional definition or the spiritual dimensional definition. It didn't seem that we actually decelerated but just "popped" into position many millions of miles from the planet. We approached the planet slowly, and again we just seemed to "pop" into a stationary landing position on the sea of glass without slowing our descent.

The sea of glass is as shiny as any crystal that ever existed. Looking into the far distance, with no loss of vision acuity, I could

tell that the planet was incredibly huge. There was no visible horizon! There was no horizon of any sort, just more and more and more and more of the planet. In retrospect I now know that earth is a very small planet since we can see the horizon and actually see mountains and hills and plains 'disappear' behind the curvature of the earth as we travel away from them.

But here, it was like one never-ending flat billiard table of aqua-marine glass with large crystalline "buildings" in groups around it.

As we waited for our receiving party to arrive, Saw-wah told me about the sea of glass.

"The sea of glass," Saw-wah explained, "is one solid crystal many thousands of miles wide and about 100 miles thick. When it is not used for transport arrivals and departures, it is used for huge planetary gatherings, a sort of grand auditorium where everyone has a front row seat.

"Every receiving planet is like that," she continued. "If you attended a conference or were present for a speech, you could come here and "see" and "hear" what was being transmitted through your "mind's eye" and "mind's ear." Though the presentation might be a hundred miles away, each person on the sea of glass can "see" and "hear" the presenter as though he or she were immediately in front of them.

"Sometimes the event or presentation is not on the planet but received as a broadcast from another capital, or even Havona (Heaven, the first orbiting super universe that surrounds Paradise). You would still "see" and "hear" the broadcast in a personal way. This occurs only on the sea of glass which is a special receiving/sending antenna of sorts for energy circuits and for transport."

Soon we were greeted by what appeared to be several semi-material spiritual beings. Well, everyone here is spiritual in one form or another. They were not angels but glowing and diffuse, more than consciousness yet not real enough to shake hands with. We glided rapidly across the glassy surface with them to the reception 'palace' where guests and newly arrived students gathered for orientation.

They too "spoke" to me as in thought before they became words in my mind. As words, their "voices" sounded much like my own mind's voice, but energetically they were different, and decidedly not my own mind's voice. That part of communicating with them is difficult to explain. I realize now that when we "listen" to our friends on earth we actually "hear" and perceive far more than just the vibrations of their voices in the air as they speak. We also pickup on the energy of their whole being (aura?), which acts like a "signature" or energy imprint. That is why when someone sneaks up behind us, without us actually hearing them, we can identify that someone has arrived, and who it is.

"Welcome to Uversa. I am the Uversa representative who receives visiting entities of consciousness, such as yours, who have not yet made the metamorphosis-transition from material mortality.

"Your visit is not the first from your planet, though it is a rare occurrence. The purposes of your journey and visit are educational for yourself and for those with whom you share this odyssey. We hope the brevity of your visit here does not disappoint you."

"No," I said through my consciousness, "I am pleased to have experienced what I have. Does this mean that I will be returning to earth soon?"

"Yes. And your return will be via the almost instantaneous reconnection of your consciousness with your body-mind through the transport circuits, rather than via your angelic escort, Saw-wah. We will prepare for this to occur when you are ready."

I took one long last sweeping look at the surroundings of the receiving palace. "I am ready."

They bowed, or whatever they did that seemed like an acknowledgement of my presence, which was about to depart, then returned to an erect position. Together they raised their arms, linking themselves together around me in a glowing opalescent ring. I felt the gladness and love emanating from them.

My next experience lasted only a fraction of a second. I felt as though I had become an elongated light beam a micron in diameter coursing through space.

I was immediately aware that "I" was back in my body in the easy chair in the study. The arrival of my consciousness slammed into my body like a physical blow. My body rocked back in the chair from the impact, or maybe it was just a whole-body jerk or spasm that I felt.

"Geez!" I exclaimed aloud to myself aloud. "Was that real or what?"

I looked at the clock and only 40 minutes had passed by during this incredible meditation.

I remembered what the seraphim had said in the beginning, and went to my computer to type out the text of the fantastic journey that you are reading. The computer technology I was using seemed more than a bit outdated compared to what I had experienced during my visit to Uversa. Ω

Citizen of the Universe

A Guardian Angel explains universe citizenship, and the role guardian angels play in helping their guarded mortals become a "Citizen of the Universe."

This is Seraphina, Guardian Angel. I want to begin to awaken you to your eventual achievement of a new status — that of Citizen of the Universe. This status is achieved first through training and preparation, and subsequently through demonstrated responsible behavior. Your guardian angel arranges the training, you demonstrate the behavior.

THE KEY WORD. The key word to this new status is "citizen," a word that describes a *relationship*. **Universe citizenship is a status that is achieved through responsible relationship behavior with all other beings in the universe.** Rebecca calls these kinds of relationships "sacred relationships" where each person in the relationship understands their mutual and reciprocal relationship duties to and for each other, as part of their ascendant career of spiritual completion.

Most people on earth have not yet achieved the status as Citizen of the Universe. This is normal for material beings living on an evolutionary world. Earth is a training world. As material beings you are a captive here until you make your transition from material life to the first stages of spirit. To use a metaphor that is close to the actual situation, imagine a pre-school environment where children prepare for the responsibilities of school by practicing their evolving social skills. Similarly, formal schooling begins after pre-school is completed.

EARTH — A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. Your world, Earth, is a learning environment where each of you is being prepared by your guardian angel for eventual Citizenship. When you accept her influence, your guardian angel can guide you into employment, leisure time, and family situations and circumstances where you can make choices of behavior as to how you will live and relate to others. She is here to protect you so that you survive to maximize your training experience on this world. And, she is here to ensure that you are exposed to as many life-challenging situations as possible so that your experience is full and rich.

Just as a pre-school teacher helps small children learn courage by assisting them on the playground to climb to the top of a tall slide and slide down safely, your guardian angel teaches you social and moral courage by guiding you into life-situations where you are required to have social and moral courage to make right choices. If you are a social and moral coward, you will take the lesser choice of action. The lesser choice of action may not be a "wrong" choice, but a choice that is less than the one needed to exercise your social and moral courage. In all cases, it is your choice. At no time and in no situation will your guardian angel place you into a situation or circumstance that you have not chosen, either actively or passively. Your life becomes rich and full when you actively choose *every* life-situation. Your training is to choose among the options available, make a decision to act, and then take action.

DUTIES AND SERVICE. At this time most of you are not Citizens of the Universe because you have not completed and demonstrated a sustained, peaceful, loving relationship between yourself and others on your own world, let alone the universe. By demonstrating over and over again your ability to choose the higher value option, you are demonstrating the capacity to achieve the status of Citizen of the Universe. Few mortals have achieved this status compared to the vast majority who are social and moral cowards. What is required of citizens of this status is the consistent demonstration of one who is willing and able to demonstrate their relationship responsibilities for the *duties* to God and humankind, and additionally the responsibilities of *service* to the brotherhood of humankind.

Fulfillment of duties is the minimum obligation for citizenship, while the voluntary provision of service is the mark of the status of Citizen of the Universe. Do you see the change of attitude, the decision that is required to move from obligatory attention to duties to the willing acceptance of opportunities for service to others? The move from one to the other is subtle but the consequences, and rewards, are marked and profound.

UNBRIDLED WILL. You may be wondering why so many mortals have difficulty achieving the status of universe citizenship. The biggest problem is the abuse of their freedom to use their God-like will that gets them into trouble. This same element also gives you the capability of the divine by the end of your pilgrimage to Paradise. Irresponsible use of your will may be called sin. Here, *sin depicts immaturity* dazzled by the freedom of the relatively sovereign will of personality while failing to perceive the supreme obligations and duties of cosmic citizenship. That is, you have the essence of God within you, but you do not have the experience to know how to responsibly direct your will.

Your old religious documents tell you, "And They created him (man/woman) in their image." What this means is that the triune Godhead brought material beings into existence with the capability to create by the thought/will of their mind. Thought/will always precedes any choice of action to create whether that is through the efforts of your hands or thought, as God does. What God wills **IS!** As the Creator-God, to will is to create — the instantaneous

manifestation of thought/will. You have this ability too, but you do not have the experience, the history, or wisdom of the cosmic mind of God to sublimely practice your will peacefully to bring you joy and harmony. That takes training, experience, and patience. It takes the practice of making thousands of higher-value decision-making choices.

For the rest of the universe, it is fortunate that irresponsible, self-willed creatures are material captives on a material world, thus limiting their destructiveness to one planet. Playgrounds are inherently dangerous places, not because of the equipment but because of the unlimited freedom of those who "play" there. If this limitation did not exist, many humans in their social and cosmic immaturity would blow up suns and wipe out solar systems of races of mortals just to see the expression of their will, like so many small boys poking sticks and throwing stones at a colony of ants in one of your forests.

However, for those of you who have demonstrated the rudiments of cosmic social and citizenship behavior, your situation as spiritual captives on a material world unfortunately limits the extent of our spiritual education. Yet, many guardian angels have found it fruitful for their mortal charges to guide them into "master teacher" learning situations. But, that is a topic for another written lesson.

COURAGE. For those of you who think your life is difficult, do you see why your life is so difficult? It has nothing to do with

God's direction for the course of your life. Your life is difficult because of your immaturity to make choices that make your life easier, full of joy, and fulfilling, *or because of your lack of courage to change it if it is miserable.* It is a matter of experience. Ignorance and inexperience can be overcome, and overcome quickly. The wonderful aspect of your life is that you now have all the tools you need to change your life dramatically. It does, however, require that you WILL to change your life and its circumstances.

It is perplexing to guardian angels that the vast majority of humans accept and live in sustained personal misery while they have the power of will, the freedom and opportunities to change the circumstances of their lives for better ones, but do not. We can do nothing to help you until you make up your mind to change, and actually initiate a change. If you say, "I am going to change my life," and ask for our help to improve your life, and then courageously act on those words, **only then can we help you directly.** Until then, we can help you only indirectly. And in no case will we do it for you.

And that dear mortals is why conscious awareness of your guardian angel is so useful. Your guardian angel can help prepare you for responsible relationships with your self and the rest of the beings in the universe. The more higher-value decisions about relationships you make during this brief lifetime, the more quickly you will adjust to your next life. A good place to start is with your guardian angel who already is a Citizen of the Universe.

A REASON FOR PROBLEMS. Now do you understand why some of you have problems with other mortals? ...to teach you about yourself. For example, do you know why you have problems with authority figures? To teach you more about yourself as a person with less authority; to teach you humility, how to constructively subdue a runaway ego; to teach you how to be of genuine, loving service, and to teach you how to be responsible using authority when you are in a position of authority in the future.

In the future of your infinite universe career, you will always be in positions having less authority than someone else. God will always, eternally, exist. To chafe against authority is to be out of sacred relationship with yourself and God, and all others who live in cooperative harmony in God's universe. The wonderful difference in spirit is that everyone helps you to the utmost degree understand that role, because everyone else is in the same relationship! It's a win-win-win situation. For now, responsible relationship behavior leads to the development of social peace and understanding *for you* in your own personal life, family, and community.

When you begin to glimmer this concept in your life, you will know what it is leading to — eventual recognition as a "Citizen of the Universe." In that status you are aware of your responsibilities as a cosmic citizen in relationship to ALL OTHERS in all the universe. Metaphorically, your actions are as pebbles that drop into the pond of universe beings, causing a splash when you act irresponsibly, or slipping smoothly into the flow of existing ripples of universe currents.

When you begin to truly understand this, you will act humbly, lovingly. You will then know the sublime joy of the full awareness of the "golden rule," for you will know that all others hold you in as high a regard as themselves and treat and serve you accordingly. The true cosmic meaning of this rule of universal relationship is revealed only in its spiritual realization, in the interpretation of the law of conduct by the spirit that indwells the soul of mortal man. And when such spirit-led mortals realize the true meaning of this golden rule, they are filled to overflowing with the assurance of citizenship in a friendly universe, and their ideals of spirit reality are satisfied only when they love their fellows with the full appreciation and realization of the love of God.

And this, dear ones, is the more subtle reason for the presence of a guardian angel in your lives. Without your guardian angels, the path to your new status as "Citizen of the Universe" would take many material lifetimes.

YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL. On other material worlds where mortals are also in training, those mortals are constantly aware of the immediate aid of their guardian angel. But most of you on earth are blind to the rich relationship you could have with your own guardian angel. Though you cannot see us with your physical eyes, you can still have and enjoy a relationship with your guardian angels. Your guardian angel can explain to you what your life is all about, why there are problems in your life, and how to consciously create joy and fulfillment in your life. When you see your life through the eyes of

your guardian angel, your life will make much more sense to you. It may not become any easier immediately, but it will make much more sense, and the pain and difficulties you experience will fit into place. You will achieve a new perspective of your life in relationship to the rest of the universe, and this is the beginning of becoming a Citizen of the Universe.



Book II
Practical Information
From Angels

Why There Are Guardian Angels

Why are there angels, anyway? This question is several thousand years old, as old as mortal awareness that angels have existed. And as old as this question is, it has been answered fairly consistently: Angels act as God's messengers and they also guide and protect mortals. In recent years, angels have become familiar objects of interest to many people including myself. Being a rather practical person, I have mused about angels in general, and more personally about my own guardian angel. I have felt comforted with the knowledge that I have a guardian angel with me.

Several years ago my life changed dramatically, and my relationship with my guardian angel also changed. It was a time of intense loneliness and social isolation. I remember one particularly lonely day when I was talking out loud to God. I told him, "If I have a guardian angel, and she is going to be with me all of my life, I would like to have a personal, ongoing, conscious relationship with her. I mean, if I have a guardian angel, are there any reasons you wouldn't want me to know my guardian angel better? And if guardian angels are here to help me along my life's journey, then couldn't she do that better if she and I talked it over fairly often?"

So, I initiated a conscious relationship with my guardian angel on my own. Often when I was alone I would talk out loud to her — about anything that concerned me in my life, about my loneliness, my isolation, the purpose of my life, about the life-plan that God gave me, and much more. And sometimes during moments when I felt the desperate vacuum of my loneliness and wept from the depths of my heart, I would cry out to her. I pleaded — crying for just a small, comforting hug, for it had been so long since I had been hugged with deep compassion and love.

Some months later I moved to another state and lived in the quiet basement of my aunt's farm home. One Sunday morning in my loneliness, while I was tying my necktie before going to church with my aunt, I felt a light pressure on the sides of my upper arms. I jerked around in surprise. Looking around from side to side to see if anyone was there with me, I fully expected to see someone just behind me. But no one was there. Shaking off the surprise of the experience, I continued to wrap the knot of my tie. Like an unfinished sentence in my mind, I didn't make any conclusions about the experience, at the time.

About three weeks later at the same time of day, again wrapping the knot of my necktie, I felt a heavier, broader pressure upon the outside of my upper arms. I was again surprised, but this time I recognized it as a hug, the kind of hug a mother or loving father would give to a child who is facing the world alone — a hug from behind where you wrap your arms around the child's arms and body, and lay your head upon the top of their head. No words need be spoken, for we all know the deep compassion, love, and tenderness that flow from that experience. I knew that hug was from my guardian angel. My desperate cries for a hug had been answered. Now my tears were filled with joy.

That was the beginning of my conscious, ongoing, personal relationship with my guardian angel, Leah. Since then we have become good friends with conversations on a daily basis, and sometimes even more often. I have asked her many, many questions. Because I had been so lonely and isolated, many of my questions were about relationships.

I have come to know from my dialogues with Leah that there seems to be only one infinite function of guardian angels: to guide us along an infinite ascendant journey of progressive sacred relationships. The ultimate goal of guardian angels is to lead us, if we will follow, to a personal, sacred-relationship with God. **Relationships are an eternal reality** of our life in spirit. Social isolation, whether self-imposed or the result of being socially exiled, exists only upon our strange little world. Once we cross the threshold into spirit,

we will eternally —ALWAYS— be in relationship with others. So we might as well get on with learning good habits in relationships, including that with our own self. Fortunately, our guardian angels are always here to model their half of a sacred relationship, and give us advice when we ask. It is our responsibility to listen. Their relationship to us as individuals epitomizes what relationships are supposed to be — sacred.

Angels are in sacred relationship to us. No matter what we do, what we say, or what we think, angels just keep loving us. While they often do not approve of what we do to others and ourselves, they continue to love us without judgmental reaction. How are they able to do that!? They are able to do that because they are in complete sacred relationship with themselves and God. They have achieved near-perfection and do not fall into emotional reaction to what we mortals do. They remain constant and loving, ever near to us, all the while attempting to draw us toward a sacred relationship with our own self, with others, and them.

Like excited human parents who see their child accomplish the first somersault, angels become ecstatic when they see us begin to be in sacred relationship with our self. This is the first step of many steps that our spiritual ascendant journey will confront us with, and to overcome. As we successfully learn them, we progress to the next step in our ascendant career. Our guardian angels are our protectors, guides, tutors, friends, and companions throughout the duration of our long journey.

Conscious awareness of the relationship we have with our guardian angels enhances the potential for much more rapid spiritual progress, social understanding and personal happiness. Real spiritual progress and growth occurs when we consciously embrace the journey and dedicate our lives to our spiritual growth, and service to others. The sooner we begin a conscious, ongoing, and personal relationship with angels, the sooner we can begin to heal our planet and the loneliness in our own lives. The more people who learn to do this, the sooner our world will live in continual peace.

Hugs to you from the angels and me,
Daniel Raphael

An Angel's Suggestions On How To Develop A Personal Relationship With Your Guardian Angel

Good morning, this is Leah, Daniel's guardian angel. The early morning just after rising is Daniel's usual time to speak with me, and I have volunteered to work with him on his first angel article. He prefers to type at his computer with his eyes closed, a suggestion you might want to explore with your own guardian angel if you have a computer to use.

To begin with, I have been with Daniel before his natal birth. I reviewed the life plan God made for him and volunteered to be his guardian angel. I was not assigned to him. I saw in his life plan the potential of growth to which I could best contribute my time and experience. I am pleased with the progress of his life.

I have been with him all of his life protecting him, guiding him, providing insights of wisdom to him that have shown him options for his decision-making. Oh, many times he ignored this advice, these insights, but over time he has come to "hear" my counsel more clearly and surely to appreciate it much more. This was the beginning of drawing him into a relationship with me and all of spirit,

leading to a personal relationship with his Creator.

Guardian Angels throughout the universe are directed to honor decisions of human will. Expressions of human will cannot ever be voided, countermanded, changed, amended, rescinded, or annulled by anyone other than the mortal who made that expression of will. Even when the human will errs greatly or in small measure, we do not ever go against that will. I help Daniel grow spiritually by supporting his best decisions and the best expressions of his will.

The only way that human mortals can ever become full expressions of the God within them is to consciously will to develop and express the potential of Godhood within them. Only unhindered freedom to express their will can provide for the possibility that mortals eventually will make that decision. Having full authority over their will, mortals of course also have full responsibility to make the decision to develop or not to develop that potential.

Next, guardian angels love their human charges no matter what they do. You see, our love for you is not conditional. We love you

because you are you and because of your potential for universe greatness, not because of what you do.

Only when the individual willfully rejects all of spirit, all of the Creator's expression, do we ever stand aside and wait in a dispassionate, distant sort of way. Otherwise we are constantly loving you whenever, wherever, and however you live your life.

You might ask, "How does respecting our will and loving us unconditionally aid in the development of a mortal-angelic relationship?" The answer is that by always being here, by always loving you, by always letting you express your will, we leave it totally up to you to *come* to us.

It is a learning process. The development of the mortal-angelic relationship is like the relationship of a wild goat tethered to a post on a 200-foot leash. We are the post, connected to you by our dedication and love for you. You are the wild goat tied to the leash. And as you can imagine, this hard-headed animal, used to butting its head against all things threatening, unknown, or unusual has a difficult time changing its behavior. But we hope that after years of continually calling out to you, you will look our way and be drawn into a friendly, loving relationship with us.

To get to the heart of this relationship quickly, let us discuss the guidelines that you can use to develop an ongoing, personal, intimate relationship with your guardian angel.

First, it is **your intent** that is of utmost importance, followed by **your sincerity**. That is, what is your intent for establishing a

relationship with your guardian angel, and how sincere is your intent? Though intent and sincerity are similar, they are really the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the beginning stages of our relationship. (You can think of qualitative and quantitative as a crayon and its color. The color is the quality of the crayon, and the crayon is the quantity of the color!)

Intent measures the reasons why you want a relationship with your guardian angel. Whatever relationship you want with your guardian angel, speak it out loud as though you were saying it to a friend.

Next is *sincerity*. When you think of sincerity, think of commitment. How committed are you to having a personal, ongoing relationship with your guardian angel? Do you desire a deep, committed, ongoing, personal and intimate relationship with your guardian angel, or do you want a superficial, shallow, and periodic relationship with us? The choice is yours. Even if you are not very committed, your guardian angel is totally committed to you and the unfoldment of God's plan for you during your mortal life.

The next step is to ask your guardian angel if she would like to have a relationship with you. A question as, "Dear guardian angel, would you like to have a permanent, ongoing relationship with me?"

Although the answer is always "YES," it is very important that you ask the question. Asking the question puts us on an equal level with you. If you did not ask, you may unconsciously feel that you can command our participation, and that cannot be done.

After you ask this question, *pause* and listen. Some of you will actually hear our "yes" in your mind's voice. This is how we communicate with you most of the time. Do not expect angelic trumpets or harps to play. Just listen in the silence of your mind.

If you do not "hear" that "yes" in your mind's voice, then we will respond in other ways, which are the usual ways that people come to know we are in their lives.

The next step after declaring your intent is for you to sanctify our new relationship by invoking the light, love, and presence of God in the relationship between your guardian angel and you.

A Working Relationship with Your Guardian Angel. Some of you come to know us in the beginning as "The Parking Angel." For example, we are often called upon to help you find a parking space in a crowded part of town or close to a store, and we become known as your "Parking Angel." Oh, I know that seems frivolous and not too meaningful, but when you need a parking space at a destination, ask in advance. When your right parking space comes along, give thanks. Your thankfulness, your expression of gratitude is acknowledgement that your guardian angel has been present.

This small example illustrates how we begin to form a working relationship with you. Just as a friend would help another friend in need, we aid our mortals in small and large ways. Just as someone holds the door open for you when you have an arm full of packages, just as someone would hold their arm out at the crosswalk to prevent you from stepping out in the front of an oncoming car, just as a friend

would bring over a plate of cookies and visit with you, we also use many small acts of kindness to help build this relationship.

Most people are not conscious of our work, and much of our work goes thankless. But we have found that people who have initiated and declared their intent with a sincere heart to have a relationship with us give thanks whenever and wherever gestures of good will come their way, no matter how small or how large.

Soon the tethered goat comes to the post often for a handful of grain, for currying, for comforting when it is hurting. Soon mortals find that our presence is comforting and nurturing and loving and always present when they begin to realize and recognize the continuous fountain of good will and love that we have available for them.

Lastly dear ones, and although there are many more cues that acknowledge our presence, I will give you two more: you will begin to see a much more frequent number of coincidences — the serendipitous coincidence of circumstances which bring two events or objects together as though they were prearranged. That is our handiwork. Angels are masters of arranging and devising coincidences, particularly serendipitous coincidences. Give thanks when they occur.

The last note of our presence is the "insight," that wonderful "Ah-ha!" that comes to you that solves a common or difficult problem. An insight is an idea, a thought, the clarity of thought about a problem or situation that cuts through the knot of the issues involved.

That is evidence of your guardian angel at work.

Personal insights are also evidence of your growing nearness to your guardian angel. That is proof that you are on the right path of relationship development with your angel.

Guardian angels are also masters of developing networks of relationships so that you meet the right person at the right time to resolve a problem, or to make a new connection with someone. Just ask your Guardian Angel to help make the arrangements!

Thank you for your time. I wish you a very good relationship with your guardian angel.

Blessings and love,

Leah

How To Hear Your Guardian Angel

Many of you have prayed and asked the Creator to be able to hear and talk to your Guardian Angel. Talking to your Guardian Angel is a lot like talking on the telephone. First you need to believe it can be possible to do so. Here are some very practical suggestions that will help you.

Necessary premises, assumptions and permissions:

1. I believe angels actually exist.
2. I believe that a guardian angel loves me and cares eternally for me and wants to aid me in my spiritual journey.
3. I believe that I can talk to angels.
4. I believe that angels can hear me.
5. I believe that angels can talk to me.
6. I believe that I will hear angels.
7. I want and desire a conscious, personal, ongoing, and sacred co-creative relationship to exist between myself and my angels.

8. I hereby give my guardian angel permission to develop a conscious, personal, ongoing, and sacred relationship with me.

10. I give myself permission to have a conscious, personal, ongoing, and sacred relationship with my guardian angel.

11. I hereby give my guardian angel authority to take any action for my highest and greatest good according to God's will and plan for my life.

Declaration of intent: A fully co-creative relationship with angels, who work in God's light and love, can only exist when the mortal has the right intent and motives for that relationship. It is the mortal who must ask why they want to have a relationship with their guardian angel. Think deeply and carefully to answer the following questions, "What is my intent and motive for having a conscious, personal, and ongoing relationship with my guardian angel? Is my intent for spiritual growth or to support my ego?"

If your intent is to bolster your ego, your guardian angel may introduce you to some living situations to learn humility. As Daniel's guardian angel, it was necessary for me to introduce him to several

lessons to help him train his will to control his ego. Learning true humility applies equally to the person with low self-esteem and poor self-image, as well as to the person who is ego-centric and narcissistic.

A relationship with your guardian angel is not a means to avoid working through your personal issues, but a means to work through them successfully and quickly. Although a personal, conscious relationship with an angel is not conditional, a relationship with her will occur sooner when you *will* to assist her along your journey of spiritual growth and moral maturity.

The examination of your sincerity for this relationship. The degree of your sincerity is also a measure of your commitment to your relationship with your guardian angels. If you are insincere, your commitment may be indifferent, aloof, and casual —you may see this relationship as being superficial to your life. You can be sure that your guardian angel will not initiate steps for a fully conscious relationship with you until you are prepared for it with the right intent and commitment. It is not that your guardian angel wants to remain distant from you. It is because the conscious relationship you establish with your guardian angel has the potential to last thousands of years, and it needs to get off to a good start with good intent, genuine sincerity, and unwavering commitment.

Necessary preliminary steps:

1. Whenever you meditate or prepare to talk to angels, invoke the brilliance of God's and the Master's loving light within you, and around you.

Example: "I invite and invoke God's and the Master's light and love in and around me at all times, and particularly now as I prepare to talk and listen to my Guardian Angel." An affirmation Daniel uses almost daily to begin almost any activity is, "I am a bright and shining beacon of the Christ-light that shines and flows through me!"

2. Just as you invoke God's and the Master's light and love in and around you, also use this brilliant, radiating light to repel any dark energy around you.

Example: "With God's radiating light to protect me, I command all dark energy to be gone. Only energy of God's light and love have my permission to be with me now or at any time."

3. Consciously choose a time of day when you are most settled, at peace, and open to personal contact by angels. Try to use the same time each day because your efforts to meet at the same time prepare *you* for that special time.

4. Consciously choose a place, a physical space, that is clear of any disruptive energies; choose a place that feels good, feels light as though angels have already prepared it for your meeting. If you don't have space that is clear, make one.

You can use several techniques to clear out darkness and limitations: light a candle, make an angel altar with mementos that have spiritual meaning to you, smudge the room if anyone

has been in it when they were angry or filled with other negative emotions. Verbally expel any residual dark energy. Lastly, invite angels into the room and the space, and ask them to fill the space with their radiant light. The best rooms are those that have been filled with sunlight, love, devotion, loyalty, patience, forbearance, kindness, and all of the other positive emotions connected with an angelic relationship.

5. Prepare your mind for the coming time of your angel contact. Think about this appointment time as you would about meeting an old friend whom you love very much. This time is special.
6. In this time and space, consciously relax your body.
7. In this time and space, consciously prepare your mind and emotional body to be at peace, relaxed, open and receptive.

Now you are ready.

As you practice the following steps, they will feel less mechanical, and you will become more at ease in using them.

1. Light your candles and incense; make your invocations for light and the repulsion of darkness; place your body in a comfortable position; talk to your mind to relax and setting aside any agendas, making or doing things, or meetings with people; affirm that you are open and receptive to what your

angels have to say, and invite the angels to speak powerfully to you so you can hear them.

2. *Begin with simple questions:* Angels love questions. Keep your early questions simple. Keep them personal, not about other people. Keep them in the present time, not in the future or the past. Angels will answer hundreds of questions, even simple-minded questions if they are posed sincerely and earnestly. Though the incessant question-asking by an inquisitive four and five year old children can usually drive a caring mother batty after only a few hours, a guardian angel can answer those types of questions from a whole day care center of children all day long, day after day, and love every minute of it.

Here are some examples of opening questions: "Guardian Angel, do you want a conscious relationship with me?" "Am I a child of God?" "How will I always know that you are my guardian angel?" "How long will you be with me?" "Will you help me to be with God in Paradise?" "How does my life make a difference to this world?" "What good is love?" "How will you teach me to love?" The answers will follow even before you say the last word. What did you hear?

3. *Hearing* the responses from your guardian angel poses another situation quite different from just having the courage to ask your guardian angel a question. It is at this point that many people falter in their attempts to develop a conscious

relationship with their guardian angel. Many people suspect that the answers they heard were from their own imagination, something from their own mind, or that their mind was playing tricks on them. It's ok to make mistakes, but allow yourself the flexibility to experiment with this process. Soon you will learn to differentiate your own mind's voice and activities from that of your angel's.

► Tell yourself, before you ask your first question, that whatever answer you get you will pretend it came from your guardian angel and continue on. It is important to continue the flow of dialogue.

Then, ask another question, and continue on as though you were having a conversation with your guardian angels as being physically present. The key to any conscious, genuine, loving, personal relationship and conversation is that you don't let your judgments of what is said stop you from continuing the dialogue and the relationship.

If you still think you are hearing your own mind-voice or cannot hear your angel due to the incessant chatter of your own mind, then turn to the section of this article captioned, "Troublesome Issues."

You will find in the early stages of your conscious angelic relationship that their answers will be quite short, very succinct, and perhaps even blunt. But they will always be extremely wise and loving. Sometimes people are so touched by the loving answers of their angels that tears come to their eyes. That is a result of the

sympathetic vibration of their answer attuned to the love in your heart.

When you ask a question they are not supposed to answer, it will feel as though someone had pulled the telephone cord out of the wall while you were talking on the phone. The loss of connection between yourself and your angel feels just like that. Just apologize and ask another question. Their minds are operating at about 1,000 times the speed and capability of your own mind. They know what is happening, and will wait for your next question.

Questions that have anything to do with your ego-needs will be curbed, set aside, ignored or patiently answered so as to be instructive. Questions as, "Will I out live my children?" or "When will I die?" or "When will the guy I've been dating ask me to marry him?" and similar questions may provide your guardian angel with an opportunity to provide unusual and unexpected answers without answering your question directly. Their concern is to help you along on your spiritual path of life, and to live it to its fullest to help you gain the most wisdom and love it has to offer.

In the early beginning, continue to ask your angel questions, while continuing to pretend the answers are coming from your guardian angel. Soon you will begin to *know* that what you are hearing is actually from your guardian angel, and soon you will know that you are actually having a conversation with your guardian angel. You will recognize your Guardian Angel's answers as being authentic when you discover the answers are much wiser and loving than you would have given to your own questions.

If you still do not accept that what you are hearing is actually coming from your guardian angel, ask a friend who has confidence in his or her relationship with his or her own guardian angel to confirm or deny what you are hearing. Angels everywhere work *very* closely with each other all the time.

Conversations with angels can happen anywhere at any time.

Soon you will be able to talk with your guardian angel anywhere and at any time —if you give yourself permission to do so, and if you ask your guardian angel to help you do that. Just as you can talk to a trusted, loyal, and loving friend anywhere and at any time, you can do the same with your guardian angel. You are going to be in this relationship for thousands of years, and you might as well begin to receive its benefits right away. You will never be alone, and you need never feel lonely again.

TROUBLESOME ISSUES

Sometimes you may have a problem talking to your guardian angel. It is not unusual that you may have occasions when you cannot hear your guardian angel, or that you cannot be still and able to listen carefully to what she is saying. Here are a few problems that might be the cause of your difficulties.

MIND TALK

There are several types of “mind talk” that might be interfering with your connection to your guardian angel.

One type of thinking, which some call "**stinkin' thinkin'**" is associated with negative self-images and low self-esteem, or the opposite. It is that discontented voice in the basement of their mind calling up to the conscious level, "Ah, yer stupid. Who'd listen to you anyway?" "Why look in the mirror? It's the same stupid face you've always had." "You can't do it. You're a quitter. Why even begin?" and many more negative statements. On the other hand, some people have just the opposite messages calling up from the basement of their mind: "You are too good for these people. Why do you demean yourself by being with them?" and so on.

Another type of mind activity is "**doing things**" and "**making lists**": "Let's see, after I'm through meditating I have to exercise, put on my makeup, eat breakfast, dress the kids for school, pack Harry's lunch, and drop the baby off at the day care center. Let's see, at work I need to finish that report, ..." and on and on.

Another type of very distracting mind activity is what I call "**dealing with people**," whether manipulative or for constructive purposes. For example, "I'll just happen to be in the lunch room when Phyllis comes in and I'll be talking to Ben. That will make her furious!" And about the habits of children: "Ok kids, how many times have I told you to pick up your clothes before breakfast. I've told you at least a zillion times! This time you are not going to get a

video on the weekend until you have picked up your clothes every morning of every school day. Is that clear?!" and many more.

Another type of mind activity is "**thinking through.**" This is the kind of mind talk that is similar to the talk you share with a friend or co-worker when you are working on a joint project, but in this case your co-worker is yourself. This can either be done aloud or in your mind. The least obvious but most difficult to control is talking to yourself in your mind. For example, "Oh this old recipe. I swear I know it by heart but it's best to look it over just in case I miss a step or leave out an ingredient. Lessee, first turn on the oven, pull out the flour, corn meal, shortening, milk, eggs, salt, baking power ... oops don't forget the baking soda, too ... now to grease the pan. hmmm single batch or double batch? Double, the kids like to reheat it and put syrup on it." And so on.

This last type of mind-talk is the one which trips up most people who try to talk to their guardian angel. Why is that? It's because in our mind we continually ask ourselves questions as a way of helping ourselves sort out and understand what we are doing, keeping track of a project or a means of guiding our thinking along to a desired end. A potential down-side of asking ourselves questions involves doubt. It is a subtle shift from asking questions to relieve our doubts or to raise doubts.

To hear angels speak to us we must have the consciousness and naive acceptance of children. Jesus said that "Unless you become as little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." This is good advice for hearing your guardian angel, too. As an adult, Edgar

Cayce always seemed to be amazed that he was actually the channel for much great wisdom from spirit. Yet, as a child he thought everyone could see angels and talk to deceased grandparents.

TRUSTING and DOUBTING

Another pair of problems involves trust and doubt about what you are hearing from your guardian angel. Some of you will have a great deal of trouble TRUSTING that what you hear is actually coming from an angel. Some people have been taught that Satan is always lurking about trying to seduce you into evil ways by pretending to be an angel and give evil advice. People who give Satan and Lucifer more power in their daily life than God, Jesus, the Infinite Spirit, and all of God's angels will be troubled with ongoing conflict between trust and doubt.

Beginning your angel dialogues with the invocation of God's light and love, and the repulsion of dark beings and energy will help to develop your own confidence and dispel any darkness. Since we were created "in God's image" capable to express our **will** as God did, and that we were created "just a little lower than angels" we are able to **choose** what energies and beings we want in our lives. To condition this situation even further, we can limit our **permission** and **authority** for beings who talk to us to ONLY beings that work in loving harmony with God's will for our individual lives. I know of no other or greater power and authority to help you with this problem.

DISCERNING ANGELIC ADVICE

When talking to angels, be a child —trust and accept what you hear, but first discern the message so that you are not blind in your trust and acceptance.

Discernment is probably one of the most powerful mental activities we exercise in our lives —if we choose to exercise it. After a session of asking your guardian angels questions, and listening to their answers, discern if the answers were "of God" or of a misguided nature.

Angels will never give you bad advice, steer you into trouble, or say anything to make you feel bad or look bad, or make anyone else look bad. They will never suggest that you violate your own will, the will of any other person, or that of God, Jesus, or the Infinite Spirit. Angels will always defer to your own choices. They are straightforward and often very direct. They are not solicitous, conniving, "slick," or seductive. They are honest and loving above all else. They will never force you into a corner of "making choices." They will always advise you to make the highest value choice that leads to love of God, yourself, and others. Angels are angelic! and give you angelic answers.

► To help you begin, pretend that the answers that come to you are from angels. Discern and judge the answers later. Ask lots of questions from your heart. Listen with your heart. Let your mind judge later.

PERSONAL ISSUES

Learning to hear your guardian angel would not be complete without discussing "personal issues." Personal issues are the personal, emotional, mental, social, and physical problems that plague most mortals. It is necessary to discuss personal issues because your relationship with your guardian angel involves her continual efforts to help you clear your life of the personal issues that prevent you from growing into wholeness in spirit, mind, body, and emotions.

Personal issues provide the grist for the mill of personal growth, moral choices, and ethical conduct, which ultimately provide the material that fills your soul — wisdom and love. While angels protect you, they also guide you into learning situations. Many of the difficult situations you find yourself in during your life have been arranged by your guardian angel, the other ones you arranged yourself. And once you overcome a personal issue, frequently you will receive a "review" of that issue in a different context to ensure that you "got it" and will not fall back into your old ways of behaving. When this occurs, some people say "the Lord is testing them." This is accurate since angels work to ensure that the plan given for each individual by the Creator is completed.

Your guardian angel's role is to help you grow, to remain on this planet as long as possible to ensure that you are presented with as many situations as possible which challenge the limits of your personal dimensions. While you may think that people who are wealthy and live a life of ease have a perfect life, in the larger context

of universe reality they may fail to grow morally, ethically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally because their wealth protects them from the challenges of life, and the growth-potential that those challenges provide.

Money, for example, will not be a subject of interest to you after you have made your transition into spirit. Money is only a medium of value exchange, an instrument of finance, a tool. How people think about money and the emotions they have about it is the more important aspect. Greed and envy are at the core of negative energy involving money, while patience, forbearance, generosity, and other expressions of altruism are at the core of positive energy involving money. For angels, money is only a tool to be manipulated for a mortal's personal growth. An abundance of money provides opportunities to practice the positive aspects that money can provide.

Personal issues do not stand in the way of personal growth, but provide the means for personal growth. Once you see your personal issues as a challenge and opportunity for growth of your soul, you will see your personal issues in positive terms and begin to take constructive action to work through them with your guardian angel. Hearing your guardian angel provides a means by which you can work through your personal issues much more quickly, with fewer times of backsliding or denial.

CLOSING

Conversations (talking to and hearing) with your guardian angel provide a means of eliminating intense loneliness, and it can also provide the means by which you can receive and enjoy the successes of life and living for which so many of your planet's inhabitants yearn. But you are the only one who can take the first step, which can be done by asking your angel to help you work through your personal issues. You can condition that statement by asking that the overcoming be done in a way that is as gentle as possible, yet progressive. Your guardian angel's highest ambition is to help you move positively, constructively, constantly toward a life of wholeness in spirit, mind, emotions, body, and in relationship with yourself, others, and God. Talking over your journey of life with your Guardian Angel makes it more understandable and meaningful.

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"Goodnight," from Leah

Dear Storytellers and Listeners,

As a Guardian Angel, I hope you have enjoyed this short adventure into what Guardian Angels do from day to day with the mortals they protect and guide. To us, whether you are eight months or eighty years old, you are worthy to be protected, guarded, and guided so you are able to advance your spiritual status in the universe. Your world is a spiritual nursery where growing souls gather their strengths and practice the skills of spiritual children who will eventually become spiritual adults. Just as you would watch over the children in a nursery of infants and young toddlers, we act in nearly the same capacity.

We hope these stories have given you another way of understanding who angels really are. We are real —just as real as you —except that most of you cannot see us. Some of you do. And some of you talk to us, and some of you hear us when we speak to you.

The universe is not a lonely place to live in. It is filled with millions of worlds of mortals who are growing just as you are. Some have “graduated” and have moved on in their studies. You will too, if you choose to. No one ever needs to be lonely, even in the farthest reaches of the Grand Universe, such as where your planet and galaxy are. Every planet that has mortal life has Guardians like me. You have one, too. Believe, have faith, trust, and know that this is so. As Daniel's Guardian Angel, I assure you this is so.

Sleep well and know that a Guardian Angel is watching over you.

A Loving Angel,
Leah