

CHAPTER 7

Discussion with spirit guide **Abraham Lincoln**

GF: Hello. Earth to Abraham Lincoln.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: I'm still here! Don't be afraid. Haven't you "seen" a homely middle aged "man" with an ugly beard before? Never mind the fact that I'm invisible. It's like I'm standing right next to you, only my connection with you is even more intimate than that (and the same is true of the readers of this message).

(Sarcastically) Oh, blasted! There I go again! I almost forgot that I'm no more than a figment of Dr. Frick's imagination—a product of his subconscious mind. . . . (Laughing) I'm telling ya, you psychiatrists need psychiatrists more than anybody else, especially

considering the fact that you have to deal with “people” like me. And yes, it is true everybody, Abraham Lincoln did have manic depression/bipolar disorder. He was about as much of a nutcase as there was. Obviously, don’t take me too literally, but I felt like a nutcase much of the time. I suffered from terrible mood swings. Could you imagine what hell it must have been like to live with a person like Abraham Lincoln?

If it hadn’t been for the fact that Mary Lincoln . . . (Snickering) Well, was who she was, I’d say she should be canonized for sainthood, just because she lived with me! Boy, I wish I had access to modern day psychiatry when I was President of the United States.

GF: For a so-called “basket case,” you were able to function well as President of the United States.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Only by the grace of God. My depression got pretty bad at times.

GF: Some psychoanalysts say that manic patients are really depressed and their mania is a defense mechanism in order to not deal with their depression.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Believe it or not, I thought of that possibility as being true in my lifetime as “Abraham Lincoln.” Psychiatric medications probably wouldn’t have hurt either.

GF: There are some who say that manic patients can be very creative.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: But when you are President of the United States, creativity usually isn’t nearly as important as stability. People need a stable person they could look up to—not some creative nut.

I guess I’m being a little too hard on myself. Your point is well taken. Somehow, I completed my life as

Abraham Lincoln with a sense of fulfillment that few people experience during their lifetime.

And I know I'm sort of like a celebrity in your culture. You people see me as a hero, but you have no idea what it was like being President of the United States during the Civil War. Suppose the North had lost the war. . . .

GF: Even if the North did lose the war, it wouldn't have necessarily been your fault.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Even if it hadn't been my fault, I still would have felt terrible. Suppose your books wound up doing the world more harm than good. It's very unlikely I might add, but you don't know for sure how your writing is going to be interpreted.

GF: Honest, I'd feel terrible if that happened.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Well, multiply how terrible you'd feel by a thousand, and that's how I would have felt had the North lost the Civil War. And the North wouldn't have even had to lose the Civil War in order for me to regret. . . . Please help me out.

GF: I think what you're trying to tell me is war could be very complicated, and there was a lot that could have gone wrong when you were President of the United States.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: You don't know the half if it!

GF: Despite what you are telling me, there is a part of me that can't help but think of you as a celebrity of sorts. Almost as if you have achieved "rock star status" in our culture (i.e., Elvis Presley has got nothing on you)!

(His “voice” starts getting deeper.)

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: I’m very aware of the times you are living in. Look what happened in the 1980’s. With Ronald Reagan, you had an actor in the White House!

GF: Do you think that Ronald Reagan was a good president?

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: I would really prefer not to answer that question . . . Dag nab it, why do I have to be so gosh darn polite? You should know that I had no intention of answering that question, but I can’t blame you for trying to ask me.

GF: Are you Abraham Lincoln or King Solomon now?

(KING SOLOMON “TAKES OVER.”)

KING SOLOMON: You realize that the spirits are the same, don’t you? (i.e., Abraham Lincoln was the reincarnation of King Solomon.)

GF: Yes, I do, but why are you presenting yourself as “King Solomon” now (rather than “Abraham Lincoln”)?

KING SOLOMON: When you go to work, you are the same person you are as when you go out with your friends. When you go out with your friends you are the same person you are as when you spend time with your family. Your spirit is the same in each case, but you present yourself a little differently.

GF: Do you prefer presenting to me as Abraham Lincoln or King Solomon?

KING SOLOMON (with amusement): I'd hate to disappoint my fellow Americans but I really did love being king, so I'll say King Solomon!

GF: I've known that Abraham Lincoln was the reincarnation of King Solomon for years. When I read the sections of the Bible written by King Solomon, I could swear that they were also written by "Abraham Lincoln."

KING SOLOMON: They were! That's what I'm trying to tell you all! The spirits of "Abraham Lincoln" and "King Solomon" are one and the same.

GF: I'd like everybody to picture a handsomer version of Abraham Lincoln with a crown sitting on a throne, and telling amusing stories just as Abraham Lincoln did.

KING SOLOMON: A much handsomer version I might add! And being King of Israel, I had a captive audience. I could tell all the amusing stories I wanted and people had no choice but to listen to them. I didn't have to worry about being voted out of office, because I was the king.

To answer a question you've asked me before, I loved being king—that's why I prefer presenting to you as "King Solomon." Don't get me wrong, I'm just as proud of my lifetime as Abraham Lincoln (maybe even more so), but I just loved being king! I was good at it. I was as arrogant and obnoxious as hell sometimes, but most people just knew I meant them well.

The world was a very difficult place to live in during those days, but if somebody really wanted to make a difference. . . if he could somehow get the attention of the king. . . . I can't even describe it, times have changed so much since my lifetime as King Solomon.

And believe it or not, with all of today's "great"

modern day technology, there were advantages of living during that time period. For instance, Dr. Frick, if you had been born into my kingdom, even if you were a peasant, I could have turned you from a peasant into one of the richest prophets in my kingdom by the time you were thirty years old. You wouldn't have had to go through the aggravation of having to get "published" and "marketing" your writing.

As king, I had nobody to answer to (except for God). You wouldn't have had to worry about impressing anybody except me! . . . I also could have used you for . . . It's hard for me to describe times have changed so much. We definitely have enough material for at least one more book, maybe even more than that depending on the circumstances involved.

GF: How important are these writings to you?

KING SOLOMON: They are not "important" in the same sense that they are "important" to you, but they are still important. I want to make a positive difference in your world just as you do, only as a spirit I have the ability to detach from your existence in a matter that you obviously have difficulty doing.

And in your case, I don't want you to become too detached. You're living in the world for a reason! You'll have plenty of opportunity to detach like I do when you reach the afterlife.