

Excerpt from Chapter One of

Dance of Heavenly Bliss

We floated through the shimmering doorway to the Spirit Side, and we strolled through the lush green meadow I remembered from previous trips. Once again I could enjoy the fragrant scents wafting up from the flowers bordering the path, resplendent with a profusion of iridescent hues that were indescribably beautiful. The songbirds perched on the cherry trees filled the glen with their joyful rhapsody. The majestic oak trees at the far edge of the meadow stood at attention, their leaves fluttering in the gentle breeze. The scene was exquisite beyond words, and I felt a lump in my throat as I surveyed the sublime tableau spread out before us.

I followed Albert to the top of a gentle slope where I could see in the distance the towers and spires of the white city known as Aglaia. I had been here before with Albert, although I still marveled at its opulence, with its palatial structures glimmering in the soft light that seemed to emanate from everywhere. We entered the city through its large stately portal and strolled down the wide boulevard.

The streets were full of people gathered in small groups and engaged in animated conversation, while others sauntered casually with the carefree confidence that sprang from a life of peace and security. As before, I was captivated by the display of diverse and vibrant attire worn by the denizens of this magnificent city.

Albert had explained on my first visit to Aglaia that souls on the Spirit Side could choose to appear in any form they pleased, and they would often assume the appearance of someone from one of their previous incarnations on Earth. This explained the diversity of the apparel proudly worn by these beautiful souls: tuxedos from the Gatsby era, long silk evening gowns from seventeenth-century France, miniskirts from the sixties, kangas from Africa, gauchos from Argentina, fustanellas from the Balkans, and chimas from Korea, just to mention a few.

Eventually we arrived at the majestic Hall of Wisdom, with magnificent white Grecian pillars lining the front. We entered through the arched doorway and made our way down the broad corridor until we reached an elegant burnished brass door. I remembered from a previous trip with Albert that the Hall of Wisdom was the home of the Council of Wise Ones, which was a committee of very wise old souls whose primary function was to oversee all the incarnations on Earth.

Albert tapped gently with the round doorknocker before we entered the Council chamber on the other side. It looked the same as my first visit with the Council of Wise Ones (described in *Dancing Forever with Spirit*): a circular room with a high domed ceiling and a large table in the center in the shape of a semicircle. Seated around the table were the eleven members of the Council wearing long gold robes tied at the waist with white sashes, looking even more regal than before. The august lady seated at the center, who had introduced herself as Sophia, was once again the chair of the Council.

“Welcome back, Garnet,” Sophia began in her soft and dignified manner. “We have been looking forward to this meeting as we have something important to tell you. Before we begin, please tell us how you are enjoying your adventures with Albert.”

“Albert has been a great tour guide,” I responded. “All of the vistas I saw with Albert were fascinating and thought provoking, although I was shocked and dismayed by some of the scenes of abuse I was allowed to witness. I understand these trips were carefully orchestrated for my benefit, so I could write about them in my book.”

“Indeed, your astral adventures were designed to inspire your writing, and we thank you for describing them in your second book. We have more information to pass on to you today, and then Albert will take you on a few more excursions which we hope will serve as inspiration for your third book.

“We are unhappy with the progress humanity has been making on the road to spiritual enlightenment. Humans are still not able to control their negative emotions to the extent necessary to raise their vibratory rates and expand their consciousness, so they can make the shift to a higher dimension. Too many humans are ruled by fear rather than love, which fosters anger, hate, greed, and jealousy. This often results in violence and abuse toward other humans, other creatures on Earth, and Mother Earth herself.

“There have been previous human civilizations on Earth that had learned to reject fear and embrace love, and there are now civilizations on other planets and dimensions that have learned to live in peace and harmony with each other and the other creatures who share their world. If these enlightened societies have found a way to reject the dark side of humanity, your civilization should be able to do the same.

“Most humans on Earth are arrogant and self-centered, which is why so many people have little regard for your environment and the other creatures on your planet. The abuse humans dish out to animals is appalling, not to mention the manmade pollution that fouls your air, poisons your water, and desecrates your land. Mother Earth and her other creatures would be much better off if humans, in their present state, did not inhabit your planet.

“And the violence humans inflict on other humans of your planet is an absolute disgrace and not in keeping with what we would expect from a race of intelligent beings. Your civilization is a prime example of a race whose emotional intelligence has not kept up with its technological advances. And unless there is a drastic change in your thinking, your civilization could face a very tragic ending.

“But all is not lost because there are many humans who have seen the light and recognize the importance of living in harmony with Mother Earth and all of her inhabitants. The milk of human kindness flows freely in these people, and the love they radiate is a shining beacon for all to follow. The challenge for humanity is to increase this flow of love until it smothers all the darkness that pervades your planet.

“Your mission is to let Albert guide you on a journey of enlightenment to search for the truth about the cycle of life on your planet and elsewhere in your galaxy and to tap into the wisdom of some extraordinary souls who have riveting tales about life on Earth. Then you must reveal what you have learned for all to see.”

“Farewell for now, Garnet. We will meet again soon. Enjoy your adventures with Albert.”

We waved farewell to the Council and left the Hall of Wisdom, meandering through the throngs of people on the main boulevard. Before we reached the city exit, I stopped when I heard loud cheering and

clapping coming from somewhere on my right. Albert could see I was curious about the applause, so he led me down one of the side streets in the direction of the clamor.

Soon we came upon a large open amphitheater nestled on the side of a hill. We were standing on the top level of the stadium looking down on the semicircle of seats, filled with thousands of spectators in colorful garb that stretched all the way down to the stage at the bottom. As we sat down on a nearby bench I noticed two individuals standing at the front of the stage, with an orchestra forming a semicircle behind them. Albert said the two performers were the souls who had last been on Earth as members of the Beatles, and the orchestra was composed of former members of the London Symphony Orchestra. I focused my gaze on the two men at the front, and my heart skipped a beat when I realized they did indeed look like John Lennon and George Harrison.

The orchestra soon launched into the soft strains of the next song, which I recognized immediately as one of the Beatles' number-one hits, "Norwegian Wood." When John and George chimed in with the vocals, the music was breathtaking—a magical tour de force that evoked many fond memories from my past. I stood there with a lump in my throat, totally captivated by their performance as they slid seamlessly from "Yesterday" to "Let It Be," followed by a stirring rendition of "Something." And when they closed the set with "Hey Jude," one of my all-time favorites, I could feel the shivers running down my spine as their adoring fans, who were all standing by now, belted out the chorus in a joyful salute to these talented musicians. It was mesmerizing, and I could have stayed there forever.

When the set was over Albert broke my reverie with a gentle nudge. Reluctantly, I followed him back to the main boulevard and out through the stately portal of the city.

"This was an amazing concert," I said. "Can we come back later to listen to the rest of it?"

"Concerts like this run on a continual basis on the Spirit Side, one of the pleasant aspects of living back at Home. We have a mission to fulfill, so the concerts will have to wait. Come with me, I want to show you something on your planet that will be appalling to most humans, but important for you to see firsthand."

I nodded my assent, knowing full well Albert would take me there even if I didn't want to go. *Let the adventure begin*, I thought as we floated down toward the beautiful blue planet we call Earth.