



Contacting Spiritual Beings: Guardians

The role of the Guardian is to protect and preserve people, places, spiritual teachings and energy patterns. As we shall see, they are beings who tend to be associated with specific sacred sites and spiritual traditions.

The Guardians do not necessarily coincide with popular Christian notions of guardian angels. That is, with the belief in special beings assigned on a one-to-one basis to each soul at birth, and whose primary role is to protect that individual soul during his or her incarnation. That constitutes only a very small and largely misapprehended picture of the role of Guardian beings. In fact it may well be that the idea of individual personal guardian angels is a trivialization of a much more powerful ancient experience.

It seems likely that in the earliest days of Christianity guardian angels were linked primarily with sacred places



rather than with individual souls. Individual souls would come under the collective protection of the angelic Guardian who was associated with the particular church or sanctuary where they worshipped. Indeed, if we accept this as the original experience behind the teaching about Guardian Angels we find that the idea is very much in accordance with the experience of Spirit Guardians in many other magical traditions.

Personal Guardians do occur, however, but these tend to function more within the province of esoteric schools or shamanic experience. This is because initiates work upon the inner planes in cooperation with many different kinds of beings and forms of energy, and sometimes require special protection—if only from themselves!

The solitary nature of the Shamanic Traditions, for instance, makes the need for individual Guardian Spirits— often encountered in animal form— more or less indispensable.

Even where personal Guardians are more common, their function is not necessarily to prevent bad things happening to the individual, but merely to prevent irreparable damage to the soul as it learns its lessons. And the way of esoteric training in any tradition can be very long and for some very hard, especially where the candidates—and this covers a lot of us!—have a stubborn or egotistical streak.

In the Mystery Schools, students and initiates come automatically under the protection of the Guardian Spirits of the Lodge. But there are instances where individuals are given special protection.

In specific ceremonies and ritual work the function of the Guardian is closely associated with the ritual office of Doorkeeper. This very important, though often undervalued, ceremonial office involves the establishment of a special relationship between the soul of the individual who holds that office and the Guardians of the Lodge.



The probability that experience of personal Guardians is on the whole a relatively rare occurrence has important implications. For since many people in our modern era are no longer closely linked to sacred sites, sanctuaries or other empowered places of worship, many of them may no longer be under the protection of Guardian Spirits.

Generally speaking, one cannot advocate the indiscriminate visiting of ancient sacred sites. So often this amounts to nothing more than spiritual trespass. It is well known to those in the Mysteries who concern themselves with such matters that there are many powerful sites around the world where the Sentinels have been roused. All this is despite, or in some cases because of, the intentions of well-meaning, but ignorant, people who in various ways have invaded their sanctity. And those who go there with the wrong intentions or attitudes are apt to find themselves getting some hard lessons indeed.

Such lessons stem from encounters with the Guardians in their aspect of “mirroring” entities. They tend to manifest the reverse images of our souls, reflecting back to us in great detail all the impurities and negative or unredeemed aspects of ourselves.

One of the great Guardian figures of the ancient world was Pan, the Lord of Nature. The word “panic” originally described the feeling sometimes evoked in those who came into contact with this mighty being. This feeling of panic results from imbalances in our own elemental selves, that part of us which corresponds to, or participates in, the raw forces of Nature.

In the Magical Traditions, it is said that before one can achieve adepthood, one must first face the Guardian or Dweller on the Threshold. Occasionally this will manifest as a terrifying inner experience. More often however, the power of the Dweller is externalized through the mechanism of “projection.”

When we are engaging in or engaged by a negative projection (not all projections are negative and none are intrinsically “bad”), we are caught within a kind of *glamor*, an illusory milieu wherein the worst aspects of our personalities are objectified by



being attributed to those around us. Friends, family, employers, employees, all those with whom we come into daily or intimate contact provide ready hooks on which to hang our fears and insecurities.

From within the experience, projection or glamor is extremely hard for the untrained and unwary to recognize, though to the outsider it may be all too plain to see. In truth, everyone is englamored to some degree. And it must be said that projection occurs whether there is a Guardian being to initiate it or not. It is a consensus experience for most human beings. Contacting a roused Guardian at an ancient site or facing the Dweller on the Threshold merely accentuates and amplifies this common experience. It is an essential phase in the development of the seer or magical adept to learn to recognize and accept his or her projections, to become, so to speak, “dis-illusioned.”

It will be noted that the outcome of contact with Guardian beings depends very much upon the wisdom, knowledge and spiritual integrity of the individual who makes the contact. Thus, again, although I would discourage indiscriminate psychic or physical activity at ancient sacred sites, visits and pilgrimages by those who are sincere and knowledgeable can be healthy, instructive and revitalizing. But we must be sure to approach the sites and the beings who are associated with them in an appropriate way.

