

*A HEAVENLY
MANIFESTATION*

to

HEBER Q. HALE

President Of

Boise Stake, Idaho

David O. McKay Library



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With humble and grateful heart, I try, upon request, to report a personal experience, which is very sacred to me. I must necessarily be brief. Certain things were also manifested to me, which I do not wish to report, as I do not feel to tell them here.

For preface I will remark that I was alone in a room of my friend W. F. Rawson in Carey, Idaho, in the night of Jan. 20, 1920. In that same night, between 12 and 7:30 o'clock, the following glorious manifestation was given me.

I will remark yet, that I absolutely cannot remember more, than the experience I received in this manifestation. No noise disturbed me the whole night, neither had I changed my position in bed, which is very unusual to me.

Whether it is to be a pilgrimage of my spirit or to be called a dream, an appearance or a vision, I do not know—I don't worry about it. One thing I know, that what I have seen in this heavenly manifestation is as sure a certainty for me, as every other experience in my life, for me at least, is this enough.

Of all the doctrines and ordinances of the Church of Jesus Christ, was the vicarious work for the dead, the hardest for me to understand, although I accepted it willingly. I admit that this vision was the Lord's answer upon the prayer of my soul about this and certain other questions.

I went only a short distance from my body through a veil of mists, into the spirit world. This was my first perception after I had fallen asleep. To me it was indeed as if I had gone through the change called "death", and I remarked this also at once to the heavenly beings with whom I came in contact. At once I could perceive that these beings did not like the use of the word "death" and the fear we have of it and expressed their displeasure about it. They used another word in relation to the change from this into that world. I, however, cannot remember

the word and can only call the nearest meaning: "a new birth," as the impression of my mind manifests it me.

My first observable impression was the near relation between the spirit world and earthly world. The vast greatness of the heavenly existence was confusing for the eyes of a novice like myself. Many enjoyed unlimited and unhindered action, while others, again were limited in this respect. The plant world and landscape was undescribably glorious, not everything green, like here, but golden, with numerous pale red shadows, orange and lavender colored, like the rainbow colors. Everything was penetrated with a wonderful stillness. The men and women I met I did not regard as spirits, but as men and women, self thinking and self acting persons, who followed their important business according to order. Perfect order reigned and everyone had something to do and seemed to care for his own business.

That the inhabitants of the spirit world were divided in classes according to their lives and the will of the Father, was at once visible. The repentless and wicked were separated in another district, whose boundaries were unpassable like the boundaries between the natural and spirit world, they remain there so long until the same have changed.

This spirit world is the temporary abode of all the spirits until the day of resurrection of the dead on the last judgment.

Within the different divisions or spheres reigned an active spirit, ambassadors, equipped with authority were seen, who came from higher to lower spheres in observance of their missionary destinations.

I entertained a great desire to meet especially my relatives and friends, but got at once the impression, that I had entered a great and extended world, greater than our earth and inhabited more numerously. I could only be at one place at a time, could only do one thing at a

time, and could only look in one direction at a time. According to it, it would take several years to find those whom I knew and I wished to talk to, except they were especially called to receive me.

All worthy men and women were called to do special and regular service, after a plan of work laid down. Especially were they destined to preach the gospel to the unconverted, and to impart to others the understanding referring to the gathering of their genealogies on earth for them. The respective proxies of these families have entrance to our temple records and are perfectly informed about the work which is done in the Temples. The vicarious work on earth is however, not effective in the next world. The receiver must first believe, repent and accept baptism and confirmation, after which particular ordinances are performed, which have a saving effect upon the being born again. In this way the great work goes forward. These spirits do work which cannot be done here, and we perform works which cannot be done there—both are necessary and supply one another. In this way the salvation of men, that want to be saved is accomplished.

I was surprised not to find any little children. I met the little son of Orson W. Rawlings, my first counselor. At once I knew him as the son of the above named, who died some years ago and yet he seemed to have the knowledge and especially the appearance of a grown-up. He was occupied in the affairs of his family relative to the genealogy. I am perfectly convinced that mothers get the opportunity to again take their little dead children into their arms, but the fact remains, that the entrance into the world of spirits is no stop of growing and that we have the greatest opportunity for development there. Children are grown-up spirits in infant bodies.

So on I saw a great multitude of men, the greatest I ever saw gathered at one place, which I at once recog-

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nized as soldiers. Millions they were, who were murdered cruelly and driven into the world of spirits through the great world war. In the midst of the great multitude moved a great general, quietly and majestic. When I came nearer the mild smile and welcome of the much beloved man greeted me. It was Richard W. Young. Then the positive conviction entered my soul that none was endowed so perfectly for this great mission for which he was called than exactly him. He stirs up at once the attention and esteem of the soldiers—a great General and High Priest of God. No earthly field of action for which he could be destined can be equalled in importance and extension, as with what he has to do now. Later on, I heard that General Young had organized this vast army of men perfectly with officers over divisions succeeding one another. All were seated and he preached to them the gospel with great earnestness and conviction.

As I went farther forward, I met also my beloved mother. She greeted me lovingly and expressed her surprise to see me there, told me however, that I had not yet fulfilled my given-mission on earth. She seemed to be in a hurry to go some where, therefore she took leave from me with the remark that she would see me again soon.

I went farther and went a great distance, for which I used much time. I saw the most wonderful landscapes, parks, trees and flowers. Many people I met, of whom I knew some, but many thousand did not number to my acquaintance circle.

Now I approached a little group of men who stood in a wide street, which was lined with flowers, lawns and shrubberies of golden tints and which led to a magnificent building. This group of men was engaged in earnest conversation. One of them separated from them and came to meet me. At once I recognized in him my esteemed President Joseph F. Smith. He embraced me like a father his son. After he had greeted me, he re-

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marked, "You have not come to stay!" which remark I understood more as an enlightenment than a question. For the first time I was perfectly conscious that my earthly mission was unfinished and although I should gladly have stayed, I asked Pres. Smith if I was permitted to return. "You have a righteous desire," he said. "I shall confer with the authority about this matter and give you an answer later."

We turned and I accompanied him to the little group of men from whom he had come. At once I recognized President Brigham Young and the Prophet Joseph Smith. I was surprised to find in the former a more undersized, heavy built man, than I always had imagined. So also with the latter. I found him taller and more stately than I expected. Both of them, as also President Joseph F. Smith, possessed a mild and esteem commanding highness which worked both kindly and impressibly. Pres. Smith introduced me to the others, who greeted me kindly. We then turned our steps back. Pres. Smith took leave and said he would see me again

From a certain point there on the other side I was permitted to see the earth and what happened there. To my horizon no boundaries were set, which amazed me. I saw my wife and children at home. I saw President Heber J. Grant at the head of the great Church and Kingdom of God. I felt the wonderful power which proceeds from God and directs the destinations. I saw that this nation (U. S. A.) was founded on true principles (Constitution) and is destined to hold out, although possessed with evil and priestcraft which try to lead men astray, to hinder the purposes of God. I saw cities and villages and the sins and wickedness of men. I saw sailing ships on the oceans and perceived the battlefields of France and Belgium. To be short, I perceived the whole world which lay before my eyes like a passing panorama. Then I obtained the convincing impression that the view of the

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earth and men on it was open only for the vision of the spirit when special permission for it is given them, or when same are destined to certain services on it. This is chiefly the case with the righteous souls who are occupied in the service of God, who cannot occupy themselves with two fold things at the same time.

The wicked and unconverted spirits have always their free will yet as formerly but they do not use the same for a wise investigation of the plan of salvation, but seek pleasure in their old camp and rejoice in the sins of a wretched and hopeless humanity. In this relation they are always yet the tool of Satan. It is these idle, wretched and evil spirits that perform the miserable falsifications in spiritual sittings, moving of tables, etc. The noble and great spirits do not answer the call of a medium or any group of curious, meddling investigators. The good spirits did not do it in mortality and therefore will certainly not do it in their growing knowledge in immortality. Only the evil and unconverted spirits as allies with Satan and his army work through willing mediums in flesh. These three powers constitute the unholy trinity of Satan and are responsible for all sins, wickedness, distress and misery among men and nations.

I went farther and my eyes delighted on all the wonders which surrounded me. I enjoyed the undescribable peace and happiness which reigned everywhere. The farther I went, the more glorious things appeared. While I stood on a certain favorable point I perceived in a short distance from myself a wonderful and beautiful Temple the towers of which were covered with gold, out of which came a group of men in white garments and conversing stride along. These were the first I saw clothed thus. The millions which I saw before were fully clothed but in a different way. The soldiers, for example were in uniform. In the little group of men my eyes perceived one special high and holy man more prominent than all the

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others. While I gazed astonished at him Pres. Smith, leaving the others, came to me and asked: "Do you know him?" I answered quickly: "O I know Him, my eyes see my Lord and Savior." "It is true," Pres. Smith said. My soul was penetrated by an enraptured and an unspeakable joy filled my heart. President Smith then informed me that permission was given that I could return, to fulfill my mission on this earth, for which the Lord has chosen me. Pres. Smith then laid his hand on my shoulder and said the following remarkable words:

"Brother Heber, you have a great work to do, go forward with a prayerful heart and you will be blessed in your service. From now on you will doubt no more, that God lives and Jesus Christ is his son—the Saviour of the world—and that the Holy Ghost is a God of the spirit, an Ambassador of the Father and the Son. Never doubt the resurrection of the dead, the immortality of the souls, that the destination of men is an eternal progress. Never doubt again, that the mission of the Latter Day Saints is to bring the Gospel to all mankind, living or dead and that the great work, the salvation of the dead in holy Temples, has just begun. Be assured, that Joseph Smith was sent by God to bring the Gospel in the fullness of time, and that for the last time on earth. His successors were all called of God. Heber J. Grant is at this time the acknowledged and ordained head of the Church of Jesus Christ here on this earth. Give him your confidence and support. Much you have seen and heard which you are not permitted to publish when you return to the earth."

This saying, he bade me farewell and "God bless you"—a wonderful testimony. I went back a long distance through different regions and passing many people before I got back to the place at which I had entered the spirit world. On my way, many of my friends greeted me. Some of them sent greetings and exhortations to their loved ones, my mother was one of them. Another thing

I will mention. I met namely Bro. John Adamson, his wife, his son James and daughter Isabella. All were killed at their home in Carey, Idaho by the hands of impious assassins, on the evening of October 29, 1915. These anticipated that I was on my way back to mortality and Bro. Adamson asked me to execute the following message: "Tell our children that we are very happy and very much occupied, that they shall not mourn over our departure, they shall also not worry about the manner and nature in which we were taken from the earth. There was a purpose in it and we have work to do here which claims our united exertion and which work could not be done by one individual of us." I was at once given information that the mentioned work was the finding of the genealogy record, for which they endeavored in England and Scotland.

One of the greatest and most sacred matters of heaven is the family relation, the establishment of a perfect chain without any broken links, brings perfect joy. Very bad members are left out and either new members take their place or the adjoining members are forged together. All over through the whole world, men and women are influenced to gather genealogy records from their departed ancestors. These are the links of the chains. The ordinances of baptism and sealing, which are performed in the Temples of God by the living for the dead are the forging of the links. Ordinances are performed in the spirit world effective upon the personal receiver of the saving principles of the gospel, which are vicariously performed on earth.

When I arrived near the entrance, my attention was turned to some little groups of women who seemed to prepare clothing. Observing the inquiring expression of my face, one of the women said: "We are preparing to receive Brother Phillip Worthington very soon." (Phillip Worthington died Jan. 22, 1920, of which incident Bro. Hale was advised by wire and went back to Boise and

preached the funeral service Jan. 25th.)

When I repeated astonished, Worthington's name, I was surprised to hear the following: "If you knew what joy and a glorious mission awaits him here, you would not wish to hold him back on earth any longer." Then the truth came to my knowledge, that only the will of the Lord can be done on earth as in heaven, if we conform ourselves perfectly to his will and that this will is done in and through ourselves. Because of the selfishness of men and their personal will against the will of God, many persons, who otherwise would have been taken away in peace and innocence have obtained permission to live and they have lived a suffering and miserable existence, through temptation, treaded the road of crime. Men, women and children are often called to great and important missions on the other side. Some answer with joy, others refuse to go or their loved ones do not give them up. Others leave this mortality without any special manifestation of the divine will. If a man is sick, the first important question should be: "Will he live or die?" What does it avail whether he lives or dies, as long as the will of the Father is done! Certainly we can commit him to God. Herein lies the special duty and privilege of the laying on of hands of the Holy Priesthood. To the elders of the Church of Jesus Christ it is given to let the will of the Heavenly Father work. If for any reason the called elders are unable to comprehend the will of the Father, they should continue to pray in faith and humbly submit to the Lord, that his will be done as it is performed in heaven.

For the righteous it is a privilege and blessing to be born into the spirit world. The greatest spirits of the Father's family have generally no permission to live in the flesh longer than until they have fulfilled a special mission. Then they are called into the spirit world, where the field is greater and there are fewer laborers. This

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earthly mission may therefore be long or short, just as the Father decides it.

I went calmly out of the spirit world on the spot, where I had entered, and directly my body was enlivened and I arose, reflecting over the many wonderful things to write them down.

I herewith publish to the world, not minding what others say or think;

That I know by my own positive knowledge of my own experience that God is the Father of the spirits of men and that he lives;

That Jesus Christ is His Son and the Saviour of the world;

That the spirit of man does not die, but goes through a change, "The so-called death" and goes into the world of the spirits and that this spirit world is near, or even on this earth.

That the personality of man is not lost through death, nor is his progress prevented.

That the spirits literally take up again their bodies in the resurrection;

That the principles of salvation are now taught to the spirits and that the great work of this salvation is performed now among the Father's family—whether living or dead and proportionally few are lost at last;

That the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been founded again on this earth with all keys and power, authority and blessings through the co-operation of the Prophet Joseph Smith;

That this is the power, which saves and elevates not alone those that yield obedience, but saves also the world at last.

That the task of our mission is to save souls and that the work of salvation for the dead is not less than the work for the living.