Conjuring Archangel: Chronicle of a Journey on the Path

Introduction: ... she describes him to me very vividly. He is fair-skinned and clean shaven, with an exquisite face framed by short, dark hair, deep set eyes of the same gray-green color as her own, a strong brow ridge and broad, high cheek bones, a perfectly sculpted aquiline nose, and a small bow of a mouth, capable, nonetheless, of a quick, wide smile, though more apt to pucker cherubically. His jaw is just square enough to suggest muscularity. The striking beauty of this vision serves to transfix her attention. But now to attempt feebly to describe their relationship, beyond words really in its wonderful uniqueness.

Beware of comparing what you have from me with any previous experience. While stirring your emotions, it is not what you must needs call *love*. A closer term, often used by the few who have truly experienced it, is "inner peace," though that may seem too restful to you in your current fervor.

Can you tell me, then, why I am dear to you?

Well, you in particular because I am charged with guarding as well as guiding you.

"Guardian." I must tell you that is a beautiful and reassuring thought to me just now.

Do you not begin to feel a sense of perfection in your karmic experience, that everything is just as it should be, complete and sufficient? That is timelessness. You will not escape time as a karmic actor, except in meditation, but I hope you will at least approach the place where life and zazen are not different. We will keep this faith together. As an old colleague once said, "I am with you always." He meant to free his followers from self and time...

I just do not believe that people die, Spirit Guide, nor that they live on in heaven, nor that something of them continues in their descendants. These are but flimsy scenarios to explain the odd phenomenon we see as death. I don't believe any of it!

Exactly why I find you so promising, my dear disciple, because you are precisely correct. Nothing is born; nothing dies. All potentiality exists in nonexistence, which is by way of saying that paradox is the only way for words to attempt even feebly to express transcendence. Karmic beings

witness karmic manifestation disappear from their field of vision, because these configurations are subject to causes and conditions. But karmic manifestation *represents* omnipotentiality, which is Ultimate Essence. Through observing your conscious mind, you learn something even more important: that the wisdom, love, and strength, which people consider to be their own exclusive province, are in truth that very Essence Nature seeping in.