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MEDIUMSHIP

## **GUIDELINES TO VIRTUAL MEDIUM ACTIVITIES**

**International Spiritist Council**

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A close-up photograph of several green wheat stalks, showing the grain heads and long awns. The stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with a soft, blurred background of more wheat. The lighting is bright and natural, highlighting the texture of the grain.

# GUIDELINES TO VIRTUAL **MEDIUM ACTIVITIES**

Allan Kardec used the most modern resources, at his time, to make the Spiritist Ideas and Principles more accessible to all, making conferences, publishing books, magazines and traveling with the objective of reaching the greatest number of people and making Spiritism known and assertive in its foundations and theories.

Early Christian missionaries also used the technological means available at the time for the transmission of the Christian Doctrine. Paulo de Tarso is the greatest example of the transmission of teachings at distance. His epistles were addressed to distant Christian communities. Besides him, countless other apostles used letters to spread the knowledge of the Gospel, such as Peter, James, John and Judas. They became, along with the notes of the apostles who were to become Gospels, the basis of the new Doctrine.

Currently, the evolution of the social media and the technological development of communication, make it possible for practically every individual on the planet to be able to connect to an information or communication service provider.

The doctrinal activities delivered virtually by the Spiritist Center are increasingly necessary. There are many people to benefit: including individuals with professions that require constant travel, who take care of children or adults, with mobility difficulties, who live in places without Spiritist Centers, who face the congestion of large cities and risks of personal safety, in addition to populations eventually isolated by cataclysms or pandemics.(1)



### Among the activities that can be practiced virtually:

1. Board meetings
2. Studies of the Basic Works
3. Fraternal Care
4. Emanation of light and Prayer Meetings
5. Interactive Lectures (lives)
6. Virtual Seminars
7. Training for volunteers
8. Valuing and providing opportunities for youth(2)

In response to the need of conducting mediumship activities safely, at a time when technological tools bring us closer and facilitate distance communication, we present the following reflections on the subject:

### Mediumistic meetings

In this topic we would like to invite the Spiritists to reflect on virtual mediumistic meetings. Inviting Mediums to consider:

- That the spiritual support was not interrupted during the period of suspension of in-person activities at the Spiritist Centers. The Superior Spirits were aware of this moment of trials of humanity, preparing themselves to help and support the incarnated and disincarnated.
- Home does not offer the protective and homogeneous vibrational barriers found in Spiritist Centers, which can represent a state of vulnerability for incarnated family members. This is an effectively delicate situation, which hinders the action of benefactors against the





invasion of frivolous or disturbing Spirits, before, during and after the mediumistic session. As much as spiritual protectors are able to form such barriers, they would only be effective if the home was effectively committed to the task of becoming a place for mediumistic practice, which is not the case. The mediumistic room, however, is prepared well in advance and there remain spiritual vigilantes, ready to intervene if any anomaly occurs. It is always relevant to review this clarification by Manoel Philomeno de Miranda: A mediumistic meeting of any kind is always a noble achievement in a joint action, in which its members harmonize and interconnect for the benefit of the pursued results. It facilitates spiritual communications, it helps the afflicted on both planes of life, it educates the disoriented, special therapies are applied, and, disobsessions occurs. Given the greater severity of the commitment, it becomes a specialized mental health clinic, in which delicate surgeries are performed in the perispirits, through very careful processes, that require an efficient team of cooperators in the physical world. (FRANCO, Divaldo Pereira. Sex and obsession. By the Spirit Manoel Philomeno de Miranda. 8. ed. 3. imp. Salvador: Leal, 2019, chap. 5, p. 79-80.) (3)

- The influence of the environment is, therefore, a relevant factor. It is directly related to the quality of mediumistic practice. Aware of its importance, the members of the serious mediumistic meeting learn to act in an integrated manner, united among themselves as a "beam", in the words of the Encoder, who states: "A meeting is a collective

being, whose qualities and properties are the result of those of its members, forming a kind of bundle. Well, the more homogeneous this is, the more strength it will have." (4)

- That is why prior study of the theory is essential for anyone who wants to avoid the inconveniences peculiar to experience. (5)

In The Mediums' Book - Chap. XXIX

"329. Study meetings are, moreover, of immense use for mediums of intelligent manifestations, for those, above all, who seriously wish to improve themselves and who do not attend them dominated by a foolish presumption of infallibility. Constitute the biggest stumbling blocks of mediumship, as we have already said, obsession and fascination. They can therefore delude themselves in very good faith regarding the merit of what they achieve and it is easy to conceive that deceiving spirits have the way open, when they are only deal with the blind. For this reason, they distance their medium from all inspection; they even, if necessary, make him take aversion to anyone who can clarify things for him. Thanks to insulation and fascination, they manage without difficulty to get him to accept whatever they want. It cannot be repeated too often: there lies not only a stumbling block, but a danger; yes, real danger, we say. The only desirable path forward for the medium is the analysis practiced by disinterest and benevolence, that cold-bloodedly and impartially appreciate the communications, open his eyes and make him realize what, by himself, he cannot see." (6)



## IN PERSON ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING

### Suggestions:

- A. Details of the Meeting: Private (no public);
- B. Duration: maximum 1h (one hour);
- C. Participants: a coordinator, collaborators trained in radiation and mental discipline, for vibratory support;
- D. Participants' requirements: knowledge of the Spiritist Doctrine, emotional and spiritual balance, faith and ability to concentrate, moral conduct, absence of addictions (smoking, alcohol, etc...);
- E. Permanent recommendations to participants: maintain the habit of prayer and meditation, exercise concentration, study thought forms, maintain mental alertness;
- F. Development of activities: reading; preparatory; opening prayer; vibrations; final prayer;
- G. Each member has a role. The indoctrinator is the chief surgeon; the dancer contributes as the instrumentalist, who provides the skillful apparatus for the operation; those who pray offer their own resources for anesthesia, and each one has a loving role that results in a disciplined and harmonious team. (7)

**Meeting requirements:** union of thoughts, concentration and respectful silence, perfect communion of views and feelings, cordiality among its participants and desire for good.

• Here is the advice that St. Louis gave us in this regard: "Whatever the legitimate confidence that the Spirits who preside over your work may inspire in you, there is a recommendation that it is never too much to repeat and that you should always bear in mind, when you give yourselves to your studies: it is that of weighing and meditating, it is that of submitting to the crucible of the most severe reason all the communications you receive; it is that of not failing to ask for the necessary explanations to form a secure opinion, as long as it looks suspicious, dodgy or obscure." (8)

• Mediums' Book – Chap. XXIV, 15a – In order not to be deceived, is it enough for someone to be filled with good intentions? And are serious men, who do not mix their studies with vain curiosity, also find themselves liable to be deceived? "Of course, less than others; but, man always has some weaknesses that attract mocking spirits. He thinks he is strong and often is not. Therefore, he must always be suspicious of the weakness that arises from pride and prejudice. No one takes these two causes of downfall into account enough, which the spirits take advantage of, who, flattering manias, are sure of success."

As we reflect on the subject and the current moment we are currently experiencing, the following words of Emmanuel regarding the medium's greatest need remain current: "The medium's first need is to evangelize himself before giving himself over to the great doctrinal tasks, because, otherwise, he may always run into the phantom of personalism, to the detriment of his mission." (9)

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