

Becoming an Angel

(Uncovering the Way Through a Divine Allegory)

Websites of interest:

www.newchurch.net.au

www.spiritualwisdom.org.uk

www.swedenborgmovement.org

www.swedenborgdigitallibrary.org

www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk/

www.swedenborg.com

www.swedenborg.org

www.swedenborg.org.uk

www.spiritandlife.net

www.newchurch.org.nz

www.newchristianbiblestudy.org

God's Word (sacred scripture) is made up of many stories, containing allegorical meaning (the spirit within), which treats of the life of Jesus (God with us) on one level and our own personal journeys on another level. It is a Divine love story which, inmostly, describes God's love for us and his unceasing effort to draw us closer to him so that we may become angels in heaven.

This little known truth has been revealed in the Divinely inspired writings of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772). His writings uncover the deeper meaning in the story of Creation, showing that each day spoken about represents a stage in the growth of our faith and love or our spiritual development, culminating in angelhood, the final stage when God is said to rest.

This leaflet gives a brief overview of the inner meaning of the story of creation as depicted in the opening chapters of *Secrets of Heaven*, written by Swedenborg. We hope it may inspire you on your own journey to becoming an angel.



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God makes us with a higher self and a lower self (the heaven and the earth) and we start life in the darkness of spiritual ignorance (without form and void). But the spirit of God is hovering over the depths of our potential (as a hen broods over her eggs), warming us with memories of loving care that we can draw from in times of adversity. Then, with God's words, "Let there be light!" a spiritual awareness begins to dawn. There is a separation in our mind of what comes from God and what comes from ourselves and the world (the waters above and below). Then God prepares our mind for the reception of spiritual insight (the dry land appearing). Ideas begin to take root in our mind and form as we search for the light of God's truth. We start to think how we can be useful (seed bearing plants). As we begin to reach out to others, these ideas blossom and eventually come to fruition in our first attempts at useful service.

People often wonder why the sun was not created until the fourth day. This



is the stage of our development when the reality of God's love and wisdom (the warmth and light of the sun) becomes the centre of our lives. We then develop faith (the moon) in God's loving presence even in the dark times (night) and we look for his truth for guidance (the stars). This enables us to gain ideas (fish) to strengthen us for life experience and to lift our thoughts

(birds) to higher things, putting our faith into action. Only then do we really start to live spiritually, as we feel God's spirit motivating us and developing kind and gentle affections (animals) within us.



We become truly human (made in God's image and likeness) when we walk in our experience of God's truth and love and mirror these in our lives, giving to him the credit for all the good we do. God tells us to be fruitful and multiply (live useful lives) and have dominion over all other living creatures. This means we are to have control over our hurtful and destructive tendencies, the things that get in the way of our relationships with God and other people. As we change these things at the external level, God makes the changes within, and the union of his truth and love within us gives birth to new positive qualities. This sixth stage in our spiritual development is an ongoing process, the process of our lower self coming into harmony with our higher self—our becoming an angel. And God rests (the seventh day).

