



Since 1988

CANDACE FRAZEE – Founder & Editor of **SILA**; Email: SILA88@aol.com
Founder & Director of **THE ANGEL FESTIVAL**SM; www.theangelfestival.com
Postal Mail: P.O. BOX 273, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91102 U.S.A.
Phone & Fax: (626) 794-4458

For a free Swedenborg book: BookCrossing.com/mybookshelf/Swedenborgians/referral



There is an answer!

APRIL 2008

All angels fly to this festival!

Literalists

Dear Candace,

Did Swedenborg ever say anything about people that take the Bible literally.

*Anonymous
Los Angeles, California*

Dear Anonymous,
Hedid!

Divine Love and Wisdom #167:

Those who place merit in works interpret the Word literally to their own advantage and laugh with scorn at its inner content.

Swedenborg is not referring to those that ignorantly take the Bible at its word and who lead a good life in keeping with their type of religion. They will have heaven granted to them in the next life as determined by the nature of their good.

It's those that flip through the pages looking for what their looking for that Swedenborg is referring to. They're not going to find truth that way.

Most realize that one cannot take all the Word literally. With the aid of religious teachings drawn from the whole Word one can grasp some of its inner meaning.

But, Swedenborg gives a twist on this thinking that may surprise most non-literalists. He says we need to know the text for the sake of the angels.

Word of the Lord From Experience #22:

It is important for a person to understand the Word literally in very many passages. For example, what the Lord says about cities, successive states of the church; in many passages of the Prophets, as about Tyre; in the Book of Revelation about paradise. The reason is that the angels with the person follow the spiritual sense.

Who knew this fact before Swedenborg told us? Reading any angel book on the market, one would think angels are only concerned with rescuing people, telling earthlings that they are loved, and relating personal family history to prove their deceased one's existence.

But, angels are so much "higher" than us that they aren't helping us the way one has been told they do, but through our thoughts are connecting us with the Lord while we read His Word! It is the good spirits nearest us that are helping with rescues, etc. And I think only mischievous spirits—not necessarily bad—are telling us what we want to hear!

Dear **SILA** Readers,
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) read Swedenborg!

I learned that from the Swedenborgian Church of North America newsletter *The Messenger*, Feb. 2008.

MLK Connection to Swedenborg Revealed

by Jim Lawrence

Morehouse College in Atlanta acquired the Martin Luther King Collection last year and recently provided a tantalizing preview of King's interest in the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg.

I contacted my friend, Jim. He told me that our friend, Ted Bosley had made the discovery.

Hi, Candace—

There's no more to be gleaned until they open up the new collection. They're guarding it like a pitbull at Morehouse College, which is probably what they should do. They have at least four to five curators working full time trying to catalog everything before they open the floodgates, which will be sometime around Christmas. So.... it will be interesting to see how substantial his "essay" is, but just from the snippet I've seen, I was impressed, because he doesn't make a generalized positive statement, but offers specific insights about Swedenborg's theology that indicates he really had engaged it to some extent. It will be so interesting to read what else he had to say!

All the best, Jim

Rev. Dr. James Lawrence
Dean, Swedenborgian House of Studies
Pacific School of Religion (www.psr.edu)
Berkeley, California

I contacted Ted.

Hi Candace,

On the MLK Jr. connection, it could only have been Divine Providence that led me to see that written comment about Swedenborg in King's own hand.

I was at Sotheby's auction house in New York two years ago this June to meet with one of the specialists there who had handled a number of Greene & Greene objects in recent years and there happened to be the exhibit of

King's personal papers, which had already been sold privately to Morehouse College (see link to a New York Times article: http://www.atlantaga.gov/client_resources/media/mlk%20papers.pdf).

I had some time on my hands (rare) and so began to wander around the exhibit, captivated by the inspiring sermons I was reading in King's own handwriting. I could suddenly feel how his genius worked, the ideas apparently flowing directly from his mind to the page with few cross-outs or erasures.

I came to a small glass display case containing books from King's shelf and I noticed one book, Emerson: A Modern Anthology edited by Alfred Kazin and Daniel Aaron (New York, 1958). On the opening (blank) pages of his paperback copy MLK had written something. The name Swedenborg literally jumped at me from the page.

Heart pounding, I searched for a piece of paper and pencil to record what I had just read, about the afterlife and how Swedenborg "enables us" to contemplate what it means to be present in life, and in the afterlife.

Swedenborg enables us to understand why we were created, why we are alive and what happens to us after our bodies die. Swedenborg enables us to have the best possible understanding of God's message as it exists in those Bible Books which constitute God's Word. MLK

My mother had entered the spiritual world only two weeks earlier, so I was feeling the force of this message very personally. I was fairly certain, too, that no one in the sphere of Swedenborg studies had known about this heretofore obscure item.

Since the book was in a glass case I could not turn the page to see if there was more. I think there may be. I wrote in an email to Jim Lawrence about this back in September. (Why I waited so long to be in touch with Jim about this probably has more to do with my pretty full life, and regularly losing track of slips of paper, than my enthusiasm for the subject.) It seems to me that it may be worth a visit to the King archives at Morehouse College in Atlanta to determine if there is more of King's thoughts on Swedenborg.

Ted
Edward R. Bosley
Director, The Gamble House
(www.gamblehouse.org)
Pasadena, California