

## FROM PASTOR KEN'S DESK



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### *The Four Winds Within America*

#### **Part 4: The Fourth Wind- Spiritualism**

By the mid 1840's, another phenomenon was beginning to sweep throughout America.

It began with the mysterious rappings on the wall in March of 1848. Three Fox sisters, **Kate Fox (1837–1892)**, **Leah Fox (1814–1890)** and **Margaret Fox (1833–1893)**, had moved into a small cabin in Hydesville, New York.

The rappings on the wall formed a code for communication from departed spirits and it grew and continued in intensity until more than 300 people were involved in listening to messages from the other side, the underworld, and departed relatives. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox\\_sisters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox_sisters))

The movement spread like wildfire and started the modern day movement of New Age or Spiritualism. The sisters became instant national celebrities and their séances became more and more elaborate, with objects moving about, spirits appearing and tables levitating. The concept raced through the country and this era became known as the “Mad Forties”.

By the 1860's, societies had sprung up and spread all over the populated United States. The *New York Times* was one of the most ardent promoters of Spiritualism and the paper was blatant in forming new chapters of the “*American Association of Spiritualists*” in every city.

It is an interesting side note that in 1888, Maggie Fox, now a hopeless alcoholic consumed by loneliness, grief and thoughts of suicide, stood on the stage of the New York Academy of Music and recanted her position on Spiritualism. She stated “That is why I am willing to state that Spiritualism is a fraud of the worst description.” Sitting in a box overlooking the stage, Kate silently affirmed her sister's confession.

Yet, the unfolding of spiritualistic fervor could not be quenched. It's interesting how the media jumped on the bandwagon, as another renowned newspaper, *The Boston Investigator*, took up the torch and became one of its greatest promoters, one of the key guiding lights in Spiritualism's spread across the nation. By 1895, the National Spiritualists Association was holding huge conventions in every city.

Andrew Jackson Davis, a U.S. Senator, was considered the prophet of modern Spiritualism. James Martin Peebles was said to have stated “Spiritualism is commanded by God and the crowning truth of the Bible.”

Several books were written in reply to attacks on Spiritualism by Uriah Smith.

One hundred years later, the next “Great Awakening” of Spiritualism began. The 1960's did more for the rise of Spiritualism than any other age since its founding. It truly was the dawning

of the Age of Aquarius. Jupiter aligned with Mars and psychedelic drugs, free love and astrology became chic. Spiritualism transitioned to the “New Age” movement and communicating with the dead took on a modern garb of communicating with the ancients. Spirit guides were called upon from centuries ago, who dispensed wisdom of the ages and advice in everyday life.

From 1970-1980, Nancy Reagan spoke on a regular basis with her “guiding lights”, contacting the dead and then sharing what she learned with her husband.

The pen of inspiration notes:

“It is fondly supposed that heathen superstitions have disappeared before the civilization of the twentieth century. But the word of God and the stern testimony of facts declare that sorcery is practiced in this age as verily as in the days of the old-time magicians. The ancient system of magic is, in reality, the same as what is now known as modern spiritualism... The mystic voices that spoke at Endor and at Ephesus are still by their lying words misleading the children of men. Could the veil be lifted from before our eyes, we should see evil angels employing all their arts to deceive and to destroy.”

AP p 289, 90

In the last 25 years, just as Christianity has become an amalgamation of denominations, the New Age philosophy became an amalgamation of many different philosophies and occult sciences, all with one common theme. It combines aspects of Spiritualism, cosmology, astrology and humanism, all the while focused on rejecting its arch-enemy, the saving power of Jesus Christ, Christianity.

The turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century added a deadly mix of the occult in the form of Wicca, brought on by the popular Harry Potter books. Public schools from elementary to high school are now flooded by a tsunami of this form of witchcraft, under the guise and umbrella of New Age. No one is able to give statistics of numbers in North America because of the nebulous attachment under this giant deception; however the majority of those who claim to be spiritual in North America do so under some form of New Age.

**Next week: Conclusion**

*Blessings, Ken Crawford*

