

Guest Contributor



The Stage and the Platform

Have you ever pondered the difference between a stage and a platform? There is clearly a difference between the two and, in my opinion, this difference should be anchored in the subconscious of everyone working as a spiritual medium or a Spiritualist medium. Why should it be? Because it creates a completely different atmosphere in this sacred space of a divine service, an evening of mediumship or a similar event when being aware that you are on a platform and not on a stage. To acknowledge we are working with, and for, the Spirit World; and, we are simply the medium and that, moreover, it is an honour being the translator, the telephone wire if you will, will lead us into more humble behaviour with a deeper attitude of responsibility. Let us acknowledge, it is not about the medium, it is about the Spirit World.

I would like to make sure my aim with this article is not to impose my opinion upon you; rather, to get some thoughts rolling. Are you curious if it does? Let's start the topic from the beginning.

A SNUi-member does not need to be a committed Spiritualist. Therefore, we have members on SNUi who do not yet know much about the Union. It seems to me, that it is a big advantage for many that they first have the opportunity to observe and to decide, without time pressure, if this is the right movement for their own spiritual development.

However, with being a member of the online branch of the Spiritualists' National Union, which SNUi is, I think it is vital to at least be interested to know what National Spiritualism is about. I am sure many of you can remember when you were new to Spiritualism. Maybe it even was a longer way to discover what this religion, this philosophy and this science are offering. And, maybe you are still in the process of understanding it is much more than "only" contacts from our departed loved ones.

Please understand me right, I do not want to diminish the faculty of communicating mediumship, not at all. Indeed, I think it is most vital for us as working mediums to bring evidence that the world of spirit is alive and around us. Rather, what I am trying to emphasise is, contacts are one small slice of a whole cake. There is so much more to discover about Spiritualism.

I love to observe how focus changes over time for many. The philosophy becomes much more important; and, this is, in my opinion, what it takes to become a committed Spiritualist medium. This applies no matter which faculty we are in. To live life as a Spiritualist is the basis for everything. We let the 7 Principles become a natural part of our personality, of our deeds, thoughts and of our chosen way of life, which merges 24 hours a day, whether we are just managing everyday things or working on a platform.

And with this, we come to the difference between stage and platform. My students know I do not ever accept the term "stage" relating to the work we do. It is a platform. Indeed, it is a platform from the perspective of everyone present: for the working medium, the chairperson and the congregation. However, in this article I would solely like to focus on the working medium.

Why am I so picky about this? Because it is the mood the two words convey. On a stage we have actors. An actor is there to be seen, an actor slips into a role and his reward is the applause of the audience. This would not suit to a Spiritualist medium. The reward of a Spiritualist medium is not the limelight. It is rather to feel the comfort, the healing, the upliftment it brings whilst being of Service to the world of Spirit, and with that, also to the world of matter. The medium's reward is to feel the reunion of the two worlds; no matter which faculty you are working in.

To be a messenger for the Spirit World also brings a huge responsibility with it. If we only think about decorum and courtesy or how to put the perceived energy into words and gestures, thus the vocabulary we use. When standing on platform, we are a shopwindow for Spiritualism. A Divine Service is not a hilarious birthday party, it is a celebration of our religion. Sometimes, there is a very fine line between celebrating the joy of living and acting inappropriately for the occasion.

Therefore, you see, the combination of stage and mediumship does not work for me. For none of the mediumistic faculties. For me, this is because Spiritualism and mediumship go hand-in-hand. They are like day and night. You can clearly describe the two separately and yet, they belong together. Only in harmony, they form an enchanting whole. This shall encourage every Spiritualist to keep a high standard in attitude and behaviour. Let us make a difference and carry it out there in the world.

P.S.:

A small note for translated English expressions:

I know in some books you may find the direct German translation of "stage" instead of "platform". This occurs with other jargon which are not translated accurately. For example, "The 7 Principles" are often translated as "Die 7 Prinzipien". This is a one-to-one translation and implies the sense of being a dogma. This is not true. The right translation would be "Die 7 Leitsätze" which implies everyone is welcome to discover and find their own personal philosophy based upon our 7 Principles.

Therefore, please remember to be attentive if you read translated books; even other than German. Use your own common sense and knowledge. If you are not sure, dare to ask. We are happy to help.



Heartfelt greetings,

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