

Asking Questions about the Spiritual World

Swedenborg asked many questions when he visited the spiritual world. Most often angels give him answers. Read about times when Swedenborg asked an angel a question.

We came down from the hill to cross the valley. In places we saw wood and stone carved to look like people, animals, birds and fish. “What are they?” I asked. “Are they idols?”

The angel said, “No, these shapes show moral virtues and spiritual truths. The people who made them knew about the relationship between spiritual things and earthly things. Since every person, animal, bird and fish corresponds to a spiritual quality, each carving shows an aspect of a virtue or truth. Together, they are a picture of all virtue. These carvings were called hieroglyphs in Egypt.” (See *Conjugal Love* 76)

I asked the angel, “Why are the houses here wooden?” He said, “Because wood stands for natural good, People in the third age of the earth were in that good.” (See *Conjugal Love* 77)

I looked to the west and saw pools that looked like they held fire and brimstone. I asked the angel, “Why do the hells there appear like that?”

He answered: “They appear as pools from making truths appear to be untrue. Water in the spiritual sense is truth. Fire, appears around and within the pools, from the love of evil, and brimstone from the love of what is false. The pool, the fire, and brimstone are appearances because they stand for the evil loves in which evil spirits live. All who are there are shut up and work for food, clothing and bed. When they do evil, they are punished.” (See *Conjugal Love* 80)

What questions do you have about the spiritual world? Write your questions here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

To learn the answers, ask someone who reads the Heavenly Doctrines, such as a parent or minister. When you are older you will be able to find out the answers yourself.