

ROADS ON THE WAY TO HEAVEN

By Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss

In the world of spirits people travel on many roads. They may not realize it but secretly they are following what they love, and coming closer and closer to the places they will live forever. A good person is getting closer to heaven all the time, and a bad person closer to hell.

A person walks along a road because it seems to him like an interesting road. Have you ever looked at a path in the woods and wondered what was around the next corner, and where it led to, and wanted to walk down it? That's what a person in the world of spirits sometimes feels. Secretly, though, the Lord is leading the person to come to a place that will teach him something. If the person is good, it will lead to some exciting and wonderful new part of his life.

When a person first comes into the world of spirits, he will follow a road which will lead to a town or village or farmhouse where he will feel at home. That is his first road—maybe not a very long one, and it takes him to his first home in the spiritual world. After the person has been there for some time though, he wants to move on. He is learning about heaven and has learned all he can in that place. So this person will find a road and walk along it. Maybe he will be with some of his new friends, or maybe he will walk alone. That road will take him to new friends, who are even nicer, and to places where he learns things about heaven that he didn't know. He will learn how to get rid of some of the bad habits he has had—like showing temper or using bad language. His new friends will help him to see that these things are not right.

Later the person will want to find out what work he should do in heaven. He will also want to learn even more. This will be because he has fought against and beaten his bad habits and is really becoming an angel in his body and thoughts, just like he always was an angel in his heart. The Lord is giving this person the strength to do these things.

Then perhaps the person will see another road and want to follow it, and it will take him to a new village or town, or maybe to a beautiful house in the country. This is his last stop before going to heaven, and here he will be taught only by angels. He won't find any bad people here at all. He may stay here for a few weeks or even longer, learning all he has to know before going to heaven itself.

At last the person is ready, so, again, he will see a road. In his heart he will know that he ought to follow it. He and the person he loves above all others, who will be his conjugal or married partner forever, will take that road and

walk along it together. They will come to a place in heaven and wonder if this is the part of heaven they are to live in. The people will welcome them and make them feel they are with friends. The two of them may stay there for a while, but if they have not found just the right place then they will walk along another road, until they come to the place the Lord wants them to live in. There they will find a new home, and it will be standing empty, and they will feel sure that it is the most beautiful home they have ever seen, and the Lord has made it just for them.

The people of that place will be there to meet them, and there will be great rejoicing, because a new angel family has come to live with them.

Can you imagine what it will be like when the Lord leads you and your married partner along a road and you find your home and all the angels come out to make you feel welcome? Your hearts will be full to overflowing as you look at that home and know that this is the place to which the Lord has been leading you. Can you imagine how happy you will be, as you turn to meet the people who are going to be your very best friends forever and ever?

FROM THE WORD:

“Heaven is granted only to those who know the way to it and walk in that way.... In the spiritual world there are actually ways that lead to every society of heaven and to every society of hell; and there each one as if from himself sees his own way. He sees it because there is a way there for every love.... Other ways than the way of his love no one sees. From this it is clear that angels are nothing but heavenly loves, for otherwise they would not have seen the ways leading to heaven” (*Divine Providence* 60).

From *Life Is Forever: An Introduction to the Spiritual World for Children* by Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, published by the General Church of the New Jerusalem, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, 1984.