

**THE PHILOSOPHY OF
SPECIAL PROVIDENCES:
A VISION**

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The Philosophy of Special Providences: A Vision by Andrew Jackson Davis

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OF
SPECIAL PROVIDENCES.
A VISION.

BY
ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS,
AUTHOR OF
"Nature's Divine Revelations," "The Great Harmonies,"
"Arabula," "The Temple," etc., etc.

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PREFACE.

If the reader will but imagine himself to be addressed by Truth, as my Guide addressed me, he may receive much good, and many suggestions, by carefully examining the following pages. They contain two Visions, and an Argument.

The *first* vision placed me in that moral and intellectual position which the professed believers in *supernatural* miracles and *special* providences generally occupy,—that is, it made me see with the eyes and through the opinions of those who *base* their faith and hope upon superficial perception and human testimony. The *second* vision enabled me to examine the seeming miracles and special providences, which are recorded in the Bible and elsewhere, through the pure mediums of Nature and Reason. But the argument is addressed to the Understanding.

An honest, unprejudiced, impartial state of mind is absolutely indispensable to a proper perception and comprehension of divine Truth. In this mental condition, and in no other, it is good to commence and pursue the present inquiry.

THE AUTHOR.

ARE THERE SPECIAL PROVIDENCES?

THIS interesting and important interrogatory revives in my soul a multitude of the most impressive meditations—visions so solemn and gorgeous as to revolutionize the deepest feelings, and expand the best conceptions to limits undefinable. The impression was too perfectly and forcibly imparted for me to ever disremember the *time* when I was made to *realize* what the majority of the world (especially the Christian world) believe concerning Divine interposition. My mind had been exercised many days upon the subject under consideration. The world-wide interesting problem, *Whether there had been, or were now, supernatural interpositions among men, for the purpose of changing, reversing, or regulating human affairs and designs*, was agitating my spirit almost continually; and I well remember the circumstances which attended its final examination and settlement. And let me here express—what I cannot but feel—the wish that every inquiring mind could be enriched with a similar revelation. I know, to the

depths of my soul, that it would emancipate the individual from the slavery of ignorance, superstition, and bigotry.

It was the last day of the beautiful month of June when I received an authoritative impression, from the interior life, to ascend the summit of a high but familiar mountain. My native village (by adoption) was visible at a distance on the opposite side of the river. This mountain was my usual retreat; nothing was there to disturb—but all outer things, the solitude, the stillness only broken by the song of birds, and the scenery, were conducive to spiritual development, elevation, and vision. Upon this mount, and at this time, my spirit, in its accustomed manner, was enabled to subdue and subordinate the body to itself, and my interior principles of perception were opened, and were permitted their easy and natural exercise. The problem to be solved was resting heavily upon me; and that innumerable diversified and mountain-high accumulation of individual biographies—unphilosophically termed personal and national history—were presented as the materials by which I was to be made to *realize* the general belief in a partial Providence, and the influence of such doctrine.

I saw the wide-spread Earth, its entire surface! It is easy to converse about the Earth, its dimensions, its

scenery, and possessions—but it is not easy to grasp a *realising* conception of its magnitude and appearance. When the mind beholds at a glance a conglobated accumulation of matter, twenty-five thousand miles in circumference; and, instead of a single great city densely inhabited, nine hundred millions of living human individuals; I say when the mind beholds all this overwhelming combination of spirit and matter, the little material and space it itself requires as one individual, is enough to beget conceptions of its own weakness and insignificance.

When this view was given me, I ceased wondering that the inhabitants of original Central America once believed their local habitation to be the centre of the universe, and themselves the favorites of presiding gods. Yes, I ceased wondering *at*, or blaming any people, or nation, for believing the Earth to be the masterpiece of divine creation, and themselves under the *special* and immediate control of various divinities.

Down, down the rugged declivities and towering pyramids of Humanity's History were my interior perceptions directed; and I beheld the many and different events and circumstances which were and are referred to the supernatural or miraculous interpositions of an invisible but *especially* overseeing Providence.

I saw approach, even to the margin of an awful preci-

pice, a man whose mind had been, for many years, deranged; he fell over the brink, and was arrested, by some imperceptible cause, on his downward way; rescued, by his affrighted friends from this perilous situation, he was found to be unhurt; and from that hour, henceforth, he was sane and well. The wise men and soothsayers of the city pronounced his escape "an instance of the *special interference* of the Lord."

I saw, situated upon the side of the sea, a beautiful village, whose people were accomplished in the science of agriculture. The sky blackened, the earth trembled, the ground opened, and several villages, and two opulent cities, were shaken and sundered into pieces; but the beautiful village remained wholly unmoved and unchanged. The priests said, "It was a manifestation of the *judgment and justice* of the great Jehovah."

I saw, standing before a splendid tribunal of Knights Templars, a female, clad in the garments of condemnation and death; she was tried for sedition and conspiracy; the judgment was rendered against her; and she was harshly conveyed to the Inquisitorial Hall for execution; the executioner placed her head upon the block, uplifted the sword—and, lo! the terrific lightning struck him to the earth: the temple was set on fire, and scarce a person escaped unhurt except the falsely con-