

Unexpected blessings

Unexpected blessings

with angels on my path

Cees Buys

1e druk

2022 Mijmanagementboek.nl

Copyright: Cees Buys, september 2018 ©

E-mail: cabuijs@gmail.com

Omslagfoto: Marloes T.H. Buijs

ISBN: 9789463189033

NUR: 746

1st edition

Courage, mon ami, courage.

Hercule Poirot

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of both authors.

Insofar as the making of copies from this publication is permitted on the basis of Article 16B Copyright Act 1912 j° the Decree of 20 June 1974, St.b.351, as amended by the Decree of 23 August 1985, St.b.471 and Article 17 Copyright Act 1912, the legally owed fees for this must be paid to the Stichting Reprorecht (P.O. Box 3060, 2130 KB Hoofddorp). Part(s) of this publication may be used in anthologies, readers and other compilations (article 16, 1912 Copyright Act).



Index

Foreword by the late Prof. dr. Paul de Chauvigny de Blot SJ Lic. Ph

Introduction by the author

Chapter 1 Spirituality as a basis for life

- 1.1. Where is your cradle?
- 1.2. The angels on your path
- 1.3. The downside
- 1.4. Faith and trust
- 1.5. The ideal situation
- 1.6. Dogmas versus reality

Chapter 2 Reflection on our life

- 2.1 The youth years
- 2.2 The coming of age and a brief life insight

Chapter 3 Who are the angels on your path?

- 3.1 The angels on my path
- 3.2 Is friendship a dream
- 3.3 The center of your life

Chapter 4 Adversity and yet a blessing

- 4.1 Can adversity be a blessing?
- 4.2 The role of friends

Chapter 5 God's Love Leads Us

- 5.1 God's grace is enough. Just follow Him on this path
- 5.2 The divine 'stage'
- 5.3 What is true success in this life: **but God**

Chapter 6 On whose path are you an angel?

- 6.1 Turn around now
- 6.2 Pitfalls

Nawoord

Word of Thank

The greatest danger of most of us lies not in aiming too high and failing, but in aiming too low and achieving our goal.

Michelangelo



Photograph of Mineko en Hiroshi Katsuta

I want to dedicate this book to my "Japanese father," Hiroshi Katsuta from Tokyo, Japan. Without really being aware of it, he has played an enormously important role in my life and now also in that of my wife and our children. He has thus become a common thread in our lives in terms of brilliance, adventure, Japanese atmospheres, hospitality and time. His statement, "No, I am the president" has always stayed with us when on yet another day of our honeymoon in March 1982 he again took all the time for us and Marjolein, my wife gently asked him if he didn't have to go to work because we definitely didn't want to disturb him in his business or professional obligations. His hospitality was always very generous and our children also experienced this to a large extent during their travels and studies in Japan. This heartwarming behavior was adopted by his immediate and also further family members. Meeting Hiroshi was, in retrospect, a gift from heaven and it has made our life to a great extent successful, that we have really lived our life and made the most of it. The name Hiroshi has several meanings: 'prosperity', 'generous' and 'tolerant' and he certainly lived up to his name. Marjolein and I are very grateful to him and his wife, Mrs. Mineko Katsuta-Uchida.

The first proof copy of this book was officially handed over to my Japanese brother, Hiroshi's eldest son, Osamu Katsuta, on September 18, 2015, during his visit to us in the Netherlands.

Cees Buys

Foreword

UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS

As a Jew, the well-known psychiatrist Viktor Frankl managed to survive several German concentration camps. When asked how he experienced this, he addresses two points. First, no one is able to survive the concentration camp without friends. Secondly, it is about the power of awareness of the Unknown God that can give us the strength not to succumb.

This has also been my experience in the Japanese concentration camp. It is your friends who give you the strength to endure but in addition it is the extraordinary inner strength of faith that transcends all understanding. It is not about religion but about a spiritual power that cannot be put into words and for which I cannot find any other word than God.

It is not about knowledge but about a deep inner grip that transcends all concepts and makes you silent.

Cees Buys must have had a similar experience, though within a different cultural environment and image. He speaks of an experience of angels guiding and supporting him on his life's path and describes this reality as an encounter with angels. For him it is a view of a deep being experience that cannot be put into words but can be expressed in the spiritual image of the angel. The divine power, which he experiences as a hold that is difficult to put into words, but can be experienced for him as an angelic world.

This book is neither a reading book nor a meditation book but shows us in a mirror image our divine experience that we cannot put into words. It is definitely worth reading if you are open to it. I wish the reader with a believing experience a richer spiritual understanding with this book.

Prof. Dr. Paul de Chauvigny de Blot SJ Lic. Ph

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.

Jesus Christ



Introduction by the author

Over the past decades, my spouse, Marjolein and I have had a number of special encounters. The people who crossed our path played a crucial role in our personal development and thus, to a large extent, in our lives. Both the positive and the, at first sight, negative situations, turned out to be blessings on my path. I wanted to write and publish this book together with Marjolein but she stated, looking back, that the content of this book was primarily mine. In the end we chose that I would be the author of this book.

I only became aware in retrospect of the importance of the many people who have had a special impact on my life. Arriving at a somewhat later age and looking back, it only struck me. The combination of all those people has been eminently important to my life course.

When you observe the combination of all those unexpected blessings looking back and also naming them, you realize that these are people who fell to you at the right moments. That I could never have directed this confluence of circumstances myself. Even in the best case scenario I could not have influenced it. It came my way, it fell to me (no coincidence).

You don't discover new continents without the courage to lose sight of the old coast.

André Gide

Some years ago, during a moment of reflection, I shared this phenomenon of that neatly arranged series of coincidences with my wife. It was only at that moment that I became aware of the difference between the words "coincidence" and "it happening to you."

We have become aware that we have been helped beyond measure and certainly blessed as well. From our own experience we can only say that angels were put on our path to make us who we are today.

My life is an exciting boy's book and I am very happy with that. The question then presented itself: "am I unique in this?" and "can I speak of angels?". I

asked around and brought up this subject many times. Almost everyone recognized angels on their path and they told me they had had similar experiences. They confirmed that those encounters had a great impact on their lives.

We now deliberately call them the Angels and were guided by two sermons by godly men who implicitly inspired us to do so on December 25, 2016 during the Christmas service. The first was American TV minister Bobby Schuler (Hour of Power) who spoke about "the incarnation of the spirit" and the second was a pastor during the 2016 Christmas service. Their speeches came down to the fact that at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ, unimaginable numbers of angels occurred (read: Luke 2: "...suddenly joined the angel a great heavenly army praising God ..."). At Easter it was only two angels and at Pentecost there was no more talk of heavenly angels because with the coming of the Holy Spirit, people received the Divine Comforter. So from then on God uses people for the angelic task and that is very special. This book is now about angels on my life's journey who were all simply human (incidentally without being aware of this role).

Because this phenomenon fascinates me and I know that it will very likely fascinate very many, I decided to write this book. In doing so, I stay very close to myself and, as I write, I realize that it is a great openness that I share with you, the reader. For the sake of completeness of this book I also touch on the nature of my religious beliefs. My faith, along with all the effects it has had on my life over the decades and has also become a determining factor. It has become alive for me in the knowledge that God is Love and Jesus Christ is very close to me and to us (especially if you believe in him and involve him daily in your life). The effects are then almost magical.

For the readability of this book I want to give my definition of an angel because there are also many angels around us who have an opposite effect.

Beware of these angels as they almost always hurt emotionally

The definition of the angel in your path is in the total complex of characteristics shown on the next page below.

All of the points listed apply. I mention:

1. *The angels usually do not know each other. They often do not even know that they have fulfilled this role to others and that they have been "sent";*
2. *An angel is one who is essentially pure in character;*
3. *You can never arrange or direct an 'angel situation' yourself;*
4. *There is always a high degree of apparent coincidence: Angels fall to you (= no coincidence);*
5. *It sometimes takes place intermittently over many years of life. It forms, retrospectively, a thread through a human life of successive events;*
6. *Angels always work out well and result in a positive further development for the person in whose path the angel was put and also for the angel himself;*
7. *Positive impact both in times of prosperity but also in times of oppression;*
8. *It hooks into the major process in your life and allows you to grow into the next phase;*
9. *It is a consequence of God's grace and love for you as a human being. It happens to you and it is undeserved;*
10. *You always discover only in retrospect that an angel has been in your path and to the pattern in your life who it was and also why that angelic action was so necessary or welcome.*

Despite the fact that I have heard many wonderful stories from many people, I only describe my own experiences with angels here. In doing so, I also deal directly with a number of life questions that may also be helpful to you as a reader. I will limit myself to my personal religion, that of Christianity where Jesus Christ is definitely and very consciously my idol. In doing so, I will try not to get muddled with the various dogmas that originate from the different religions. Sincere faith and a pure spirituality are also essentially separate from any religion and stem from God's Love. The Love with the capital L.

For me, writing this book has been organizing. Satisfaction and also soul peace I have gained more than ever. It has also helped me to put into perspective all

the "craziness" of the world and society we live in. Finding the answers to the hard-to-answer life questions will hopefully become a little easier this way.

In this book I have also included a number of quotes that Marjolein, my wonderful wife, has found in books, magazines, newspapers, etcetera over the past decades. In reading them, they can also provide inspiration. I have presented these pieces in a frame with, where possible, the source cited.

As a convinced Christian, I have let my life and also the writing of this book be greatly inspired by the Bible and by God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Now I have always asked myself what my life is leading to. What are the effects on my life of all these angels that have come to me? I realize right now that this question reflects on my ego and is actually selfish. In fact, for years I have been struggling with the image that the circle of my life must come full circle with a happy ending in a material and social sense before I can publish this book. If angels in your path are a finger pointing from God, it will lead to Love. Love for yourself but certainly for others. The ball should not be rounded to the material or social sense but much more on the unseen, the intrinsically human plane: the spiritual. By now I can say that I am out of my struggle and that I have grown as a human being towards a certain enlightenment in my life. My ambition and the accompanying motives are therefore aimed at service to others.

I have learned, with all my struggles since about 2010, that the material and social values of life are actually irrelevant. That what is important is that you radiate a form of (Divine) Love to those around you. Love is without end and you can keep on giving. Having written this, I now look back at the past 10 years with very different eyes. I now realize that I too have been an angel in the lives of many and that this road is actually the goal. This road, in fact, completes the circle of my life. To be honest, I have to admit that sometimes a certain restlessness arises in me that is inspired by my ego and material programming. I have always been a man of the grand gesture but that now gets a different interpretation.

To conclude, in this introduction with a view to chapter 5.3, I would like to state what I mean by now by being successful. By now you know that I am a conscious Christian. The Bible is for me the source of wisdom with all the

answers to important life questions. What does my God think about being successful? The Bible gives an example of one Naaman, the army commander of the king of Syria at that time. He was held in high regard. He was a great warrior, but he was leprous. The Bible tells here that this man went to the king of Israel with a letter from the king of Syria and with silver and money. The king of Israel could not help him but the prophet Elisha asked him to forward Naaman to him (see also 2 Kings 5 in the Bible). Naaman was a man of status who became angry when this prophet ordered him to go to the Jordan River and immerse himself there seven times. Naaman had expected more stature, more show, from Elisha and wanted to turn right around, back to Syria. One of his servants convinced him to get over his ego and do what he was told. So it happened and he was healed.

If we continue to hold on to our own success-thinking and status (ego) and we don't acknowledge God as omnipotent over this planet and everything and everyone who lives on it, then we will never be truly successful. Jesus Christ here gives in simple terms the recipe for real success where He answered in Bible book John 14, verse 6: "I am the way, the truth and the life. Only through Me can you come to the Father". Only with the Father lies true and also lasting success: happiness, peace, harmony and prosperity in life. After all, God provides everything you need. We have actually experienced this firsthand. I did not use the phrase "almost magical" for nothing.

Everything else about success is only of limited duration and makes empty. At this point, believing and the only real path to success starts. The rest is in fact no longer important. Very many, however, cannot believe this and, like Naaman before them, want to turn back angrily because they do not (yet) see the importance of having the real success in life. Hopefully the contents of this book will contribute to this: food for thought.

I wish you much wisdom as well as a blessed life in which I sincerely wish that you too may be an angel on the path of life of others.

Cees Buys

Chapter 1 Spirituality as a basis for life

1.1 Where is your cradle

By birth, as a rule, you become part of a family. As a child, you have no influence on this and in this position a child is completely helpless and dependent on the parents. It happens to you as a child and you have to put up with that, officially until your eighteenth birthday.

It is usually good the way it is and it will become the basis for the rest of your life (even if sometimes it is or seems not to be positive). It puts a great responsibility on the shoulders of parents. In doing so, realize every day, from the moment you become aware of your "being," that you as a human being are responsible for the content and value of your own life at all times. Awareness is very important and so is reflection on your life. The many learning moments and learning points in a human life (positive and negative) improve the value of your own life.

All experiences in every phase of our lives thus determine to a great extent the value of our further lives. There is one very important rule here: "it's not so much what happens to you as how you deal with it". This rule applies to both positive and negative moments and situations in a human life. It forms us and if you continue to cling to and trust in your Heavenly Father, everything will turn out for the best and He will provide for you in that in-between phase. No matter how hard and difficult you experience your own life. It is also a law that every process (including the life process) has a life cycle. It has a beginning and therefore also an end.

In this it is certainly important in which family you are born. Backlogs in personal development occur more easily in living environments which are

- **Poverty gobbles up brainpower.**

Marjolein Buijs

in scarcity and where parents have to devote much of their attention and energy to survival. The energy lost in this process can no longer be used for personal development towards better times. Scarcity situations, in the material sense, very quickly block the way to personal growth, often also motivated by various emotions, which can, for example, legitimize crawling away in a victim role. However human these feelings may be and however explainable, it keeps the people who have ended up in this situation in an oppressive grip. You then often need the compassion and strength of others to get back on your feet.

The energy that is needed to survive in all imaginable difficult situations is almost always at the expense of the energy and resources that adults and their children need to develop. Money (care) seems to be the blocking factor here, but actually it is the negative emotions in people, prompted by fear, that are largely blocking. Continuing to trust, no matter how difficult life may be for you, in that higher Power which from now on I will conveniently call God¹, is of the utmost importance that you can leave these difficult times behind you. I lived and still live in this trust and it has also helped me beyond measure during the difficult times in my life and that of my wife. I was able to leave all the misery behind me at some point after the sun had risen again in our lives. Hope for better times is necessary and a rock-solid trust in God is crucial.

In addition, it is certainly not true to say that children who are in a situation of scarcity by definition also have or will have a developmental disadvantage. The chance that children grow up in a poverty situation, however, lags behind in their development, is many times bigger than children who grow up in prosperity. Faith in God's omnipotence makes everything possible if you just believe in your heart and soul that everything is possible.

¹) Source: Wikipedia: In Jewish tradition, the name of God "Yahweh" was spelled in texts as יהוה (YHWH), but not pronounced itself: instead, אֲדֹנָי (adonai) was said, indicated by the vowel signs of that word. Old Protestant Bible translations combined these vowels and consonants to form the name Jehovah. Until 1955, Jehovah was the name of the God in the common spelling of Protestantism. At some point the NBG decided not to use the word "Jehovah" in their Bible translations anymore. It is said that this name of God is associated too much with the 'Jehovah's Witnesses'. In my opinion this is a fallacy because the name YHWH for our Heavenly Father has been used for centuries in Protestant religious experience.

In doing so, remain confident in His presence and Love for you as a human being and His creature. God loves us all as we are. He is our Heavenly Father and wouldn't a Father always want the very best for us?

Believe that God is faithful unto eternity, He loves you in spite of all your bad qualities and deeds and He, in sincere regret, always forgives you. When this faith has become a "certainty" for you, you may expect any outcome from God. It is a universal law that He will help you through that difficult time and eventually let the sun rise over your life again. Also in this situation I experienced that several angels came on my path who made the positive difference and helped me crawl out of the deep pit in which we had also ended up.

Back to the children for a moment. A small child in a family context has little or no frame of reference other than the perception of the immediate family. A child clings to that wholeheartedly. How good or bad that world of experience is, does not matter much to the child in that situation. It is by definition 'normal'. The child has only one strong instinctive drive: it must go on. The child then receives every experience, small or with great impact, as life baggage. What is essential here is that a child is surrounded by genuine parental love throughout its upbringing. Parental love with all the care, security and responsibilities. On the other hand, a child is extremely blessed if it is treated sincerely and lovingly by others outside the parental influence. It is then necessary that the child also wants to receive help from this corner. There is an important saying in the English language: "It takes a village to raise a child" and that hits the nail on the head here. A child needs to be helpable in a certain phase of his life (for example puberty). Position themselves in such a way that if people want to help them, they offer them the opportunity to do so. Not shutting down but opening up (how difficult that can be for people whose trust has been betrayed).

The parental love and genuine affection of others who influence the child is very important. All the selfless activities in doing so, make young children become conscious adolescents and eventually balanced adults. Adults who will then also take up their task towards again their children

and others, seriously and dedicatedly. Every human being is the result of her or his past.

Conversely, it can also go very wrong when a child in his young life is confronted with insecurity and a serious betrayal of his trust. If you can't trust your parents (anymore), who can you trust? Especially in the area of trust and safety, parents have a big responsibility.

Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans.

John Lennon

At some point in life, a child becomes an adult. This degree of maturity can hardly be linked to an age. This moment does mark the start of a phase in which the young adult (usually) becomes aware of the fact that you are at all times responsible for your own development path in this world even though so much went wrong in the period before.

As a boy, I realized this when I was about fourteen years old. At that time I strongly felt the responsibility I had for primarily myself. I remember living through that responsibility very consciously. There was quite a bit going on in my childhood partly due to the fact that my parents had a bad marriage with heavy drinking and regular physical violence. Many have pityingly predicted that not much good would come of "those children from that family". Our mother's youngest sister (she eventually became my favorite aunt), reported to me, when I was already approaching fifty, that, theoretically, I should have been in the gutter. This had always been her firm belief. I then replied to her that, in a general sense, it is not so difficult to end up in the gutter. In fact, this can happen to almost all Dutch people quite easily and also quite quickly. Fortunately, we do not realize this every day, but it is true. The fact is that all three of us have not ended up in the gutter, on the contrary. There have been people who have cared about my and our fate. People who have taken over the parental responsibility unsolicited and in part. On this front, by the way, it can also become very dangerous for children.

In therapist Lillian Rubin's study of "indestructible" children, for example, it was found that children who survived all kinds of terrible things attracted surrogate parents and mentors at different stages of their lives. People who gave them a helping hand when they needed it. Rubin calls that ability "adoptability. I'll come back to these people later who also lent a helping hand to me because I was also unconsciously 'adoptable' during that period.

It is also a law of life for every human being that, sooner or later, he or she will have a cross to bear in her or his life. This is destiny. In this regard, never judge certain family situations that look carefree: appearances are almost always deceiving.

In my upbringing, not all developments have been positive, in contrast to the upbringing of my wife Marjolein. In a very broad sense and in my experience, my parents were always quarreling with each other and I was mostly the loser. My father often called me names and belittled me, even using physical violence. Subsequently my mother would stand up for me and that caused more tension. By now I'm convinced that I always got everything the hard way. Marjolein's parents had a harmonious marriage and that was a good and warm nest for her and her twin sister.

Looking back, my upbringing was certainly not always bad and so we both have many good memories but also definitely a lot of ballast on our shoulders.

Now, after every upbringing, whether it went well or not so well, you can always go two ways. You can pick up the positive experiences and make the rest of your own life a party or you can focus on the shortcomings of your childhood. All further experiences in that phase of life will determine the pleasure or burden that you will thus place on your own shoulders in the future. Do you choose a kind of victim role in which you can lay everything that is wrong outside yourself? Then realize that you are putting others in charge of you. However, if you put your attention and energy on the opportunities and possibilities that come your way, then you are also open to people and situations that bring positivity. The first choice, in whatever form or intensity, is always unwise and can also