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### AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

by **The Rev. Ann Davies**  
**Prolocutor General**

This age-old question cannot be answered by a simple "yes" or "no" because human consciousness, in its present state of evolution, can have as many and varied interpretations of responsibility as there are minds to question it.

Those who have attained to high states of Illumination answer the question in this manner: "The greatest responsibility that every human being has is to know how to help others to help themselves." I have been taught by the Masters of Wisdom who inspire and watch over the teachings of B.O.T.A., that one of the great problems which many well-meaning aspirants have is in mistaking their own desire to be needed for the need existing in another. For example, I can smother an individual with kindness and attention thinking that I am expressing love and unselfishness; but my real and hidden motive may be the desire to have that individual dependent upon me. Or, I may suffer from guilt complexes and overwhelm another with material gifts and services only because again, I am unaware that this is my way of covering up a hidden antagonism. Where these negative attachments exist between individuals there is usually an attempt to force upon the other, one's own concept of helpfulness. In essence we are our BROTHER'S KEEPER if we truly recognize the unity of all life and the preciousness of its individual expressions.

True love seeks ever to revere and protect the freedom of other human souls. It gives of itself with discrimination and does not try to force itself upon another. It disciplines with mercy, yet does not expose itself to the mass-mind prejudices. It fights injustice where Wisdom dictates and protects the helpless in such ways as to develop self-sufficiency.

Beloved brother and sister of B.O.T.A., continue to study that which lies hidden deep in the heart of subconsciousness. Discover the despotism of the old habit patterns and find your Inner Freedom. Thus, will you truly know that you are, in truth, your BROTHER'S KEEPER, and that KEEPER ever keeps open the door to the LIGHT!

**UNBALANCED MERCY IS BUT WEAKNESS!**  
**UNBALANCED SEVERITY IS TYRANNY!**