

APPENDIX

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE TERM *VESSEL*

Some of my friends have mentioned that they don't particularly like the term *empty vessel*. It is true that generally the term *vessel* refers to a utensil that holds water, such as a pitcher; however, *vessel of the Lord* is a well-established term in religious circles. I was asked if perhaps the term *conduit* might not be better to express the meaning of *vessel* in this book. Some years ago, before my first book was published, I showed the manuscript to a German friend of mine, and she told me that *empty vessel* couldn't be translated literally into German; however, later I read the autobiography of the late German mystic Carl Welkisch, and I found that he used that exact term in German.

Initially the term *vessel* was given to me to refer to myself. I assumed this was because of objections some religious groups now have to the term *channel*, even though *channel of blessings* has long been an acceptable religious term. I do understand that since some mediums refer to themselves as *channels*, I needed to distinguish myself from them. I did not lose consciousness of my surroundings or give over control of my body when I received this material from God and Jesus. In the messages, *empty vessel* was used over and over, and I accept that there was good reason for this. I would, however, like to say that my personal understanding is that one must first become an empty vessel before he or she can be a pure conduit.

Perhaps it is good to elaborate a little on the term *empty vessel*. We are all in the process of re-identifying with the Spirit of God within us. Before that can fully take place, we must remove the blocks to that realization. We may begin by releasing pride, self-centeredness, grudges, hate, resentment, blaming other people for situations in our lives, attachment to pleasure, etc. This is part of the process of shifting the identity from that of the ego to the Spirit of God within. We must eventually reach a point of releasing all things to God and accepting that every person we encounter is essentially an extension of God and not the ego or the body. We will never truly accept this about ourselves until we accept that about others—*everyone*.

There are many things involved in this process, and some people are surprised to hear that an important step is reaching a point where we accept and desire to be of service to our fellowman—in a way that would touch their hearts and ultimately benefit them spiritually. When we accept to do this, then we will have also accepted that we are one with them. Then we realize that only God knows what true service is, and we must look to Him to work through us. In order for that to happen, we must be truly empty of personal desires and preconceived notions, and we must desire that only God's Will come about, with no preferences on our part. When we reach this point, then we can be the conduit through which God works—*because* we are empty.