

The Practical Mystic

*Life-Lessons from
Conversations with Mrs. Booth*

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MORYA



MARK



MOTHER



MRS. BOOTH

CHAPTER 2

Snapshots from the Life of a Chela

Annice Elma Moore was born on May 28, 1920. Annice never liked the name Elma, but Mark said that you cannot get closer to El Morya than El Ma Moore. He explained that *El Ma* means “mother of God,” and Moore was the name of one of Morya’s embodiments.

Annice describes her childhood as a happy one. She had two sisters—one of whom died at an early age due to a genetic disposition to heart disease. Annice inherited the same condition but broke out of that mold in a spectacular way.

She attended the University of California in Berkeley and majored in Latin and French. She wanted to be a teacher, but did not finish her degree. She was also a serious Bible student and could quote scripture—book, chapter and verse.

Annice married Lester Booth on May 30, 1940, two days after her twentieth birthday. Her father lost his job three weeks before the wedding and he had no savings. He was a meat buyer for the Andrew Williams chain of stores. He called in an efficiency expert, who promptly decided that they could



Annice at nine months. When Mother saw this picture of Annice she said, "This is a serious soul!" Annice was known for being serious and disciplined. Each one of us was born to serve on one of the seven rainbow rays of God. Annice served on the white ray of God's purity, discipline and love. That discipline shows through in this picture.

Annice in 1938,
an eighteen-year-old sophomore.
This was her
engagement
picture.



do without Annice's father. Annice said, "He efficienced himself out of a job!"

The big wedding she had planned in a large church in Hayward, California, was scaled back to a more intimate occasion at home. Annice, as always, was adaptable. They moved the organ to the living room and the bride walked down the aisle from the kitchen. The number of guests was reduced to about thirty.

Lester owned a photography studio in Hayward. After they married Annice went to work at the studio. At this point she became "Mrs. Booth." It was a name that would stick for a lifetime.

Annice's son, Lawrence William Booth (Little Larry), arrived on April 28, 1943. Larry was Annice's only child and she considers that she was lucky to have him. Her doctors had told her earlier that because of her health problems, including thyroid disease and myasthenia gravis, she could never have children. But Annice didn't give up. She so much wanted to have a child.

Mother once told Annice that she had searched the karmic records and there was no indication that Annice and Larry had any connection, good or bad. There was no karma between them at all. This is very unusual, since most families come together with ties from past lives. Often they are working out their past negative karma together; sometimes positive momentums from the past are a foundation for service together in this one. But Annice and Larry had never been together in any past lives and there was no earthly reason why she should be his mother. Annice says that she basically pestered God until he gave her this little boy. The Karmic Board, the spiritual overseers who oversee these things, finally said, "All



Annice on her wedding day. Annice said of this photograph "What a picture of innocence if ever you saw it." Her purity certainly shines through. This photograph is taken in her family home, where the wedding took place.

Annice took this photograph of her son, "Little Larry," while her husband, Lester, was away in Guam during World War II. Lester was the photographer in the family and she was proud that she could be behind the camera for once.

She had never taken a photograph before, let alone printed one, but she set the whole thing up herself and developed the film in the closet. She was very pleased with herself. Even Lester admitted that Annice "did a good job."



Annice and her son, Larry. It was not in Annice's divine plan to have children in this life, but like the woman in Jesus' parable of the unjust judge, Annice prayed so earnestly to have a child that the Karmic Board finally granted her request.



During World War II Annice went to San Diego to say good-bye to Lester when he was sent to Guam.

right. Let's give her a child."

In addition to raising their son, Annice and Lester ran the photography studio from 1958 to 1969. Annice was successful in business. She never lacked for abundance. In later life, she would comment how the money seemed to grow in her bank account. She put it to good use. Never extravagant, she always had everything she needed, a self-described simple soul who could be happy almost anywhere. When in later years she wrote her book *Secrets of Prosperity*, she outlined the keys to her success in life and told some of the lessons she had learned from her years in business. It was a very practical application of the thirteen steps to prosperity taught by Mark Prophet.

Annice has a somewhat Buddhic nature hidden within a seemingly ordinary exterior. She is flexible and moves with the Holy Spirit. If something changes, she just says, "That's the way it goes," and moves on. She would need that flexibility all too soon. Her life changed dramatically when she found the Teachings of the Ascended Masters and the messengers Mark L. Prophet and Elizabeth Clare Prophet.

In October 1966 her sister showed her a brochure from The Summit Lighthouse that said, "Jesus is inviting you to have lunch with him in the garden." She felt the call of the master and attended the Harvest Class in Colorado Springs. From the moment she met Mark and Elizabeth, she felt she was home, and she became an active member of the organization. She regularly attended conferences and seminars, and she accompanied the messengers on their European Tour in August and September of 1968.

Mark Prophet invited Annice to join the staff of The Summit Lighthouse in 1969. She wanted to accept Mark's offer but initially declined because she was so busy with the

photography studio. But eventually, at the age of forty-nine, she closed her business and joined staff. Lester joined staff a while later.

Annice served in many different capacities in her years on the messengers' staff. The month that she joined, the organization acquired a property in Santa Barbara that would be known as the Motherhouse of the Keepers of the Flame Fraternity. Annice's first job was to supervise the staff who tackled the huge task of painting and remodeling to make the property a beautiful home for the masters. The Motherhouse formally opened Easter 1970, and Annice was placed in charge of this new outpost of the organization in California. She purchased the food, cooked meals, cleaned, supervised staff, conducted services and did whatever else needed to be done.

This willingness to serve in any capacity and meet the need of the hour is one of Annice's characteristics, and she wore many different hats in the early years. She answered the phones, handled correspondence, mailed the *Pearls of Wisdom*, taught at Ascended Master University and was even the principal of Montessori International at one time. For a while she commuted between Santa Barbara and Colorado Springs, continuing to run the Motherhouse while helping Mark and Mother complete their landmark publication *Climb the Highest Mountain*.

She traveled extensively with Mark and Elizabeth, accompanying the messengers and their staff on several tours around the world, including the India Pilgrimage in April 1970 (right after the opening of the Motherhouse), the Holy Land Tour in September and October 1972, and Mission South America in December 1973.

Mother frequently told Annice that she was family, even



Annice in 1947, age twenty-seven. In this photograph I see a sweet and simple quality and a quiet spirituality.

Annice with Mom, Pop, Grandma and Uncle Charlie, who planned to live to be a hundred years old. He was ninety-seven in this picture.

When he got to ninety-eight he said, "It just isn't worth it," and died soon after.



The 1967
Christmas card
from Les Booth
Photography
Studios. Lester,
Annice and Larry
and the family
business



Annice Booth, the
successful business-
woman. This photo-
graph was taken
for an appearance
as a guest speaker
at a conference of
the Professional
Photographers
of America.

though Annice was very clear about who was Guru. She shared many intimate moments with the messengers, even helping Mother raise her youngest child.

In February 1973, Mark Prophet made his transition, going on to become the Ascended Master Lanello. Mark's departure was a great loss to Mother and the staff. They no longer had his personal presence with them. Annice was no exception to this sense of loss, and she felt Mark's absence keenly. Staff life was an intimate, almost family experience for them all. But encouraged by Mother's example, the staff rallied to carry on the mission that beloved Mark had begun, to bring the Teachings of the Ascended Masters to the world.

Annice was ordained as minister in The Summit Lighthouse on July 4, 1974, at a conference held in Spokane, Washington. Many have benefited from her practical spiritual counsel since that time. She was someone you could go to for a no-nonsense perspective.

Under the direction of the messenger, she ministered to a worldwide movement from 1978 to 1982 as the head of the Office of the National Coordinator, later renamed the Office of Ministry. By this time she was divorced from Lester, and the work took her around the world, lecturing, counseling, directing and visiting the study groups and teaching centers on every continent. She considers that it was a time of balancing world karma.

Annice was a faculty member of Summit University for more than twenty years. She taught a course on the laws of the abundant life on Wednesdays, the day of the fifth ray, wearing a long green robe, the color of abundance and healing. She read her lectures from handwritten note cards with carefully chosen quotes, teachings and affirmations from the messengers

and the masters. Her course on the ascension followed the same format and was popular with generations of students.

Her ascension class, “The Path to the Ascension,” was always on Friday, the day of the amplification of the fourth ray, the ray of the ascension flame. She arrived at 8:30 A.M. sharp wearing her white robe. Annice started promptly and ended exactly on time. Tardy students soon became acquainted with a practical demonstration of the discipline and attention to detail of the fourth ray. She would say, “Young man, do you have a watch? They sell them at the bookstore!” Few students were late twice.

In April 1980 Annice traveled with Mother and other staff members to India to establish the Ashram of the World Mother in New Delhi. In May she traveled as school principal with Mother and Montessori International students to Washington D.C., England, Scotland and Ireland.

Annice was director of the two teaching centers in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul from 1982 until 1989. One staff member who served there describes her as a “very dear friend who stands up for your soul to support you.” Annice was indeed a friend of your soul—and not your human creation, with which she could be stern. She touched many lives throughout her long years of service.

It was in Minneapolis that Annice was suddenly forced to step back for a while from her busy schedule of service. In October 1988 she suffered a major heart attack. Then, when she was in the hospital recovering, she had a cardiac arrest. For twelve minutes the hospital staff worked to revive her while the ascended master Lanello and his twin flame, Mother, were on inner levels discussing Annice’s fate.

Lanello wanted her in heaven; Mother wanted her to stay



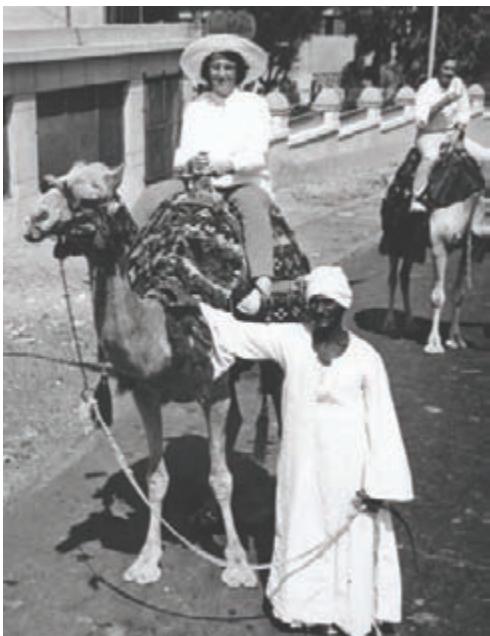
Annice in 1970,
her passport
photo for
the India
Pilgrimage

Annice at her desk at the Pasadena campus, which was the headquarters of the organization from 1976 to 1978. We do not know the date, but we know it was a Tuesday because her dress is blue, the color of the ray for that day.



The India
Pilgrimage,
April 1970.

Annice is
preparing to
give *prasad*,
holy offering,
at a shrine.



Riding a camel
in Egypt, on the
Holy Land Tour,
September 1972

on earth. In describing this event later, Mother said there are so many saints in heaven, she couldn't understand why God would need another one there when there is so much that needs to be done down here.

Eventually Mother won. Annice was resuscitated and returned to the land of the living. The surgeons opened her chest to perform several bypass grafts. When she was recovering from the surgery, they were amazed to find that she had *no* post-operative pain.

After Annice came back, people asked her what she remembered of her time on the “other side.” She said that she remembered looking at the clock on the wall of her room. The next thing she remembered was looking at the clock again and it was twelve minutes later. Her room was full of people and her chest hurt. (They had been pounding on it doing CPR to revive her.) She didn’t remember any of what had happened during her near-death experience—no tunnel of light, no meeting with masters and beings of light. She said, “I don’t think there is any hope for me. I remember nothing.”

We were told at the time that part of the reason for Annice’s heart attack was the weight of condemnation upon her. Various people were angry at her for the disciplinarian approach she used in running the teaching center in the Twin Cities. But we also understood that Annice had been granted a dispensation to extend her life. All she knew was that God had sent her back to earth, and therefore she must have more work to do.

On March 15, 1989, at Mother’s invitation Annice stepped down as director of the Minneapolis Teaching Center and came to serve at the Royal Teton Ranch in southwest Montana, the international headquarters of The Summit Lighthouse and

Annice home from the hospital in November 1988 following her heart attack and twelve minutes on the "other side." She is recovering in her "mansion by the lake," the teaching center on Lake Harriet in Minneapolis known as Minnehaha House.



In 1989, after recovering from her heart attack. Note the cake with strawberries in front of her (Annice's favorite dessert) and the map of the world behind her. She was about to begin a new phase of her world service.

Church Universal and Triumphant. This spiritual community, known as the Inner Retreat, became her home. She began working once again on Mother's writing and publishing team.

By October 1990 Annice was working as hard as ever. She became the director of the Office of Ministry and soon took on added responsibilities for outreach coordination, Summit University, and rapidly expanding translations and fundraising teams. In a real sense Annice ministered to the world, and the messenger considered that she was "mother to the teaching centers and study groups." She was a prolific letter writer, and at one time or another she visited almost every major center.

She was an excellent administrator and delegator. She did not do anything herself if she could delegate it to someone else, and this is one secret of her success. It took three people to replace her when she retired. By her constancy and faithful support of the mission of the messengers, year in and year out, Annice demonstrated the qualities of perseverance and endurance. Saint Germain once told us that the one quality he wanted from his chelas was endurance.¹ Mother told us that it takes profound love to endure on the path, and Annice certainly endured.

In a dictation on May 28, 1993, the Maha Chohan, the ascended master who is the representative of the Holy Spirit, said to Annice, "The Darjeeling Council salutes our co-worker Rev. Annice Booth and does wish her a happy birthday." This was a very rare honor, since the ascended masters seldom referred to any student by name in a dictation. This salutation shows the esteem with which the Brotherhood held Annice. Mother often told Annice that she was closer to heaven than to earth.

For five years Annice bore the weight of the world on her

On the occasion
of Annice's
seventy-third
birthday, the
messenger gave
her a framed
picture of the
Maha Chohan,
perhaps a remem-
brance of the
dictation by the
Maha Chohan
where he ex-
tended birthday
greetings to her.



Annice at her seventy-seventh birthday party, with some of her "ladies in waiting."

shoulders as she was responsible for overseeing so many aspects of the worldwide organization. But in time, this took its toll on her health. In 1995 she was seventy-five and had had double pneumonia and congestive cardiac failure. Morya told her through Mother that she could not sign one more letter or document or piece of paper, that he did not want that burden on her heart. He told her that she should retire from all responsibilities in the departments where she worked. (However, she continued to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Church Universal and Triumphant, an office she had held from January 28, 1991, until April 30, 1998.)

With her new freedom, Annice's health soon recovered. But then she got bored! Annice is happiest when she is working, doing something positive for the world and the masters. Years earlier she had dedicated the remainder of her life, "as long as God wants me to remain in embodiment," to spreading the Teachings of the Ascended Masters to the lightbearers of the world. She wasn't about to let retirement stand in the way of her mission, so she settled down to write her first book, *The Path to Your Ascension*.

Annice relates that at one point it seemed that the book was just not coming together. She made the calls to go to El Morya's retreat at Darjeeling that night. The next morning she woke with a first sentence for the book running through her mind. She quickly got up and wrote it down before she forgot, and pretty soon she had written out the whole first chapter, sitting there in her nightgown.

She was inspired to re-write the chapters as if they were lessons in the etheric retreat of Serapis Bey, the Ascension Temple at Luxor. The story just flowed and she was on her way. After the publication of this book, the Ascended Master

Djwal Kul commented on it: “Now you have the book that was written by your teacher Annice Booth. And so you have something that is magnanimous, in a sense, to take to the world and to worlds beyond. Think of the wondrous glory of giving to everyone you know an understanding of karma and reincarnation. Is this not a joy of joys?”²

Annice started work on two more books of her own writings, *Secrets of Prosperity* and *Memories of Mark*. She felt driven to write each of them, and many felt she was overshadowed by the ascended masters in doing so. They convey the unmistakable flame of the Brotherhood and make enjoyable reading.

Having completed her three books, in 1999 Annice turned her attention to some of Mother’s publication projects. Foremost of these was the Climb the Highest Mountain series. Annice had worked with Mark and Mother on this project from 1970 to 1972 (when the first book in the series was published, containing the first seven chapters) and also in late 1970s and early 1980s when Mother had worked on additional chapters. Mother retired in 1999, and from that year to 2008 Annice completed the eight remaining volumes in the series as well as two volumes of additional material, *The Masters and Their Retreats* and *Predict Your Future*, which contains the teaching on charting your initiations in life through the science of the cosmic clock.

Mother had often spoken of the importance of the teachings in the Climb the Highest Mountain series. The masters had referred to it as the scripture for the Aquarian age, the Everlasting Gospel referred to in Revelation 14. As Annice worked on completing this key element of the mission of the messengers, she felt that this was one of the reasons she



Annice with Mother at Annice's eightieth birthday
celebration—the last picture of the chela with her Guru.



At the Minneapolis Teaching Center in 2000.
Even after she moved to Montana, Annice frequently
returned to the Twin Cities to deliver a lecture, to counsel
and to meet with the members of the center.

was sent back into embodiment after her heart attack.

Annice's retirement was hardly that of a lady of leisure. Yet she was a great example of balance in life. She was well known for her afternoon naps. When she and her body had had enough, many a meeting would end with the words, "Nap time." She knew when her body needed rest, and we all knew not to disturb her between 1:30 and 4 P.M. except in an emergency. She often slept, but sometimes just laid on her bed and rested. Her body needed the time-out.

Annice did all her work without a computer or access to email. We tried in vain to interest her in the wonders of technology, but she steadfastly refused to get a computer or learn how to use one. She appreciated all that the Internet and modern technology could do for the spreading of the teachings and enthusiastically encouraged us to pursue this avenue of contact with the world, but she knew it wasn't for her.

Friends and co-workers printed out important email messages to keep Annice in the loop, but I do not think she ever totally trusted computers. She felt that there was something about her aura that wasn't compatible with them—they just would not work for her. And who knows? She may have been right. So till the end of her working life Annice used the reliable manual methods she was familiar with, while her assistants used computers to bring the fruits of her labor to the rest of the world.

Mother had told Annice after her heart attack in 1988 that she had balanced only 43 percent of her karma at that time. This was a bit of a shock for Annice. If she had passed at that time, since she had not balanced 51 percent of her karma, she would not have qualified for her ascension. She took this very seriously, and from that time on she gave an hour of violet

flame each day as often as she could to transmute her remaining karma.

She evidently made much progress, for in 1997 El Morya told her, “Beloved Annice, Serapis Bey is standing behind you, his perpetual presence over you. You have recently balanced 51 percent of your karma, and that figure very recently jumped to 61 percent.”

In 2007 Annice had a serious stroke, which affected her ability to speak coherently. (The medical term for this is aphasia.) She had thought that her time might be near, and when she first learned she had had a stroke, she expected that Lanello would shortly come and whisk her off to heaven. When that did not happen, she knew that there must be some reason God wanted her to stay on earth a little longer, and she accepted the limitations that came with this new assignment. She sat up in her hospital bed laughing at her own funny speech and the jumble of nonsensical words that came out of her mouth.

After her stroke, Annice was no longer able to give her mantras and decrees. She looked sadly at me and indicated that she could no longer get the words out. Seeing Annice in this situation gave me a new appreciation of the concept, “Work while you have the light.” Her many years of service and giving violet flame decrees would have to provide the momentum to see her through this next phase of her life.

Annice often used to remind us that Archangel Michael once asked the students of the ascended masters to try to live to ninety-nine years of age. At the age of eighty-four, she would often say, “I’m trying.” In later years she would comment that old age is not for the faint of heart. It takes courage to go through the challenges of life’s later years,

especially when the body is not behaving as well as it used to.

For as long as I have known her, Annice has been dealing with various challenges to her health: a heart condition, high cholesterol, hypertension, myasthenia gravis and a thyroid condition, to name a few. But she never seemed to let these things stand in the way of her service. She had a philosophical attitude, seeing them as a means to balance karma. “I must have been naughty on Atlantis,” she would say with some amusement.

She has always worked hard to maintain her health and stay in embodiment as long as she can. Along with her medications, she takes a number of natural remedies and supplements, including red yeast rice for lowering cholesterol and Hawthorne berry for her heart. God has a plan for each of us, and we must strive to live as best we can until it is time for us to go—on his timetable, not ours.

As of the time of this writing, Annice is still with us. She doesn’t have the stamina of earlier years. Her words still come out wrong, but she continues to work on her speech therapy. She keeps up with the news and world events, and although she can no longer decree, she prays in her own way.

And always the chela, at the age of eighty-nine she is still working on balancing her remaining karma and looking for ways to serve the masters and their mission.

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Cover photo:
Annice Booth in 2003 signing a newly-released book.

For additional photographs of Annice and her life,
and for a reading group guide,
please see our web site.