

Doreen Virtue

Doreen Virtue (b. 1958) is a US spiritual writer and teacher who has degrees in theology and counselling psychology. Until she recently became "a born-again Christian who was saved out of New Age deception in 2017", as described on her web page, she was especially known for her spiritual teachings on angels and how to draw on angelic energies. Presently she describes this long phase in her life as a process of seeking which ended by finding "Jesus who died for our sins". Other influential names in the field of popular and vernacular angel spirituality include Lorna Byrne (b. 1953) from Ireland and Diana Cooper (b. 1940) from the US. All these women have offered, in their own slightly different ways, esoteric interpretations to the traditional and powerful Christian symbol of the angel.

Doreen Virtue's numerous publications in angel spirituality include such titles as, *How to Hear Your Angels* (2007), *The Miracles of Archangel Michael*, (2008), *Angel Numbers 101* (2008) and *The Angel Therapy Handbook* (2011). In these and other books, she teaches on the healing energies of angels, angel numerology, chakra energies etc. The books and other materials (e.g. CDs) include channeled messages from the angels as well as small rituals and meditation techniques to be used for consultation and healing in personal life crisis. Virtue emphasizes that even if loneliness is a common and painful human experience, one can always call upon the angels which ensure that in the end one is never really alone.

Her popular *Angel Therapy Oracle Cards* (2008) are designed to be used in the same manner as Tarot cards for guidance and inspiration in crossroads of life. The guidebook introduces each card and its interpretation. For instance, the significance of the card "Manifestation power" is the following: "Use your spiritual gifts and natural abilities to attract your desired outcome", and the message of the card "Cut your cords": "Ask Archangel Michael to clear any old attachments to fear that stem from past relationships, freeing you from destructive patterns."

Recently, Virtue has strongly emphasized what she sees as the Bible's message, that only God can send angels and that angels invited by humans are often demons in disguise: she has declared for example that her angel cards are actually dangerous demon cards. Her present self-presentation and self-positioning hence provides an interesting example of the continued dynamics and possible oppositions between esotericism and Christianity today.

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Further reading

Draper, Scott & Joseph O. Baker. 2011. "Angelic Belief as American Folk Religion". *Sociological Forum* 26 (3): 623–643.

Gardella, Peter. 2007. *American Angels: Useful Spirits in the Material World*. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas.

Virtue, Doreen. 2007. *How to Hear Your Angels?* Carlsbad: Hay House.

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- Virtue, Doreen. 2008. *Angel Numbers 101*. Carlsbad: Hay House
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