

From Caesars Palace

To the Emerald City



By Evsttarr

Surrender is something I do each and every time I write an article. I meditate in my usual rattan rocker in my home office, surrendering my brain, my typing fingers and my word count to the powers that be. In my case, the powers that be include an extended list of my angels, guardian angels, God, the Holy Spirit,

the Ascended Masters and all the dead boyfriends. Then I walk over to my computer and let my fingers do the walking. I forget what I wrote a day or so after I write it. By the time *The Journey* magazine comes out, a month or so later, not only have I forgotten what my article is about, I've completely forgotten the theme. Then I flip the pages, find my article, read it and say, "Wow, I wrote that? Damn is that good." You see "I" didn't actually write it. Oh yea, sure, I did the research, I meditated but then I surrendered everything to spirit. It's much easier that way, less stressful. See, then you have an out if somebody doesn't like it, then you just say spirit must have had an *off* day that day.

Surrender can be interpreted in various ways. I used to be a poker player. Back in the '70s, when my first husband was still alive, we used to meet with a few people every Sunday afternoon in somebody's basement and play nickel dime poker. The dealer would always have the option of calling the game. My favorite was Follow the Queen, where the card that followed the Queen as you were laying the cards down on the table was wild; and, of course, the lady always won.

Surrender is a blackjack option that's rare in the Midwest but not at all uncommon in Las Vegas. The option is offered at such places as the Tropicana, Caesars Palace, Mandalay Bay, New Frontier, Harrah's, Rio, Bellagio and other casinos. It gives the player a way out when stuck with a horrendous hand. The mechanics are simple...the surrender option is offered only after the dealer checks to see if he has a blackjack. If he does, players who don't also have a blackjack lose and their chips are swept away. However, if the dealer does not have blackjack, the player may surrender half his bet in exchange for not playing out the hand beyond the first two cards. (Excerpt from [Don't Give Up on Surrender](#), by John Grochowski)

Most of you are probably familiar with the spiritual

meaning of surrender. "What exactly is surrender? To give yourself entirely, unconditionally and absolutely to God is surrender." – Sai Baba

I was going through a tumultuous divorce back in 1990. I had *given up* everything I could possibly have released at the time, including my oldest daughter, who was 12. She chose to stay with her step-dad. I also relinquished the home I lived in, remodeled, wallpapered and decorated; all assets, insurance, pensions, etc.; child support for my youngest, who was about nine months old; alimony; all the material goods, furniture and appliances. What was left of my life?

A good friend and mentor at the time said to me one night, "You know Evelyn, you need to surrender everything to God." Looking puzzled I said, "Are you kidding me, I've given up everything." She then said, "No, you haven't given up Shayna." "My baby," I said. "I can't possibly give up my precious baby, she's all I have left."

"To truly surrender is to turn everything over to God, including the baby."

So that night, as I lay awake in the still of the night, darkness surrounding my bedroom like a heavy blanket of doom, I prayed. Crying silently, listening to the echoing throbbing of my heart, but knowing what *must* be done, I spoke quietly into the night. "God, if it is your will, then so be it, I release my baby to you, for the highest good of all parties concerned, if you think someone, anyone else shall have her, then so be it." I remember that moment as if it were yesterday. Never in my life could I imagine such a heart-wrenching moment as to give up the very thing I lived for. Well, once you surrender, it's like a boomerang – whatever is meant to be yours *cannot* be taken from you. The court's decision was in my favor, my daughter shall reside with me. She is now 16 years old; sometimes I ask myself, "What was I thinking?" No, seriously, I love every minute of it, the teenage years less than some.

One of my most beloved movies of all time is watching *The Wizard of Oz*. Now, there is a girl after my own heart, Dorothy. Out to explore the world, rescuing Toto, running away from the crabby Ms. Gulch, heading off to the Emerald City in search of the Wizard, only to come across the wicked witch of the west who had it in for Dorothy and the ruby slippers. However, Dorothy was a woman with a mission and a mind of her own, regardless of what the rest of the world thought she should do.

"To be one's self, unafraid whether right or wrong, is more admirable than the easy cowardice of surrender to conformity." – Irving Wallace

As Dorothy, the scarecrow, the tin man and the lion are

finishing their beauty treatments in the Emerald City, the wicked witch reappears on her broomstick, etching a warning in black smoke across the sky: "SURRENDER DOROTHY." The people in the Land of Oz scatter about wondering who is Dorothy. Dorothy and her entourage insist on seeing the Wizard but the guard will not allow it, until the scarecrow chimes in "but she's Dorothy." So the story goes on and after a series of events, Dorothy wakes up back in Kansas, thinking it couldn't have been a dream; it was so real. The story ends with Dorothy saying, "There's no place like home." Dorothy had the power all along; she just needed to surrender to it.

So, whether you're playing black jack, yielding your control to a higher power or following the yellow brick road to the Emerald City, remember it takes more energy to swim upstream and fight the current than to let go, let God and go with the flow.

Evstarr's spiritual journey has taken her coast-to-coast studying the various schools of thought. Look for Treasure Mapping and Prosperity classes coming up in Avon Lake (440-930-4135) and La Grange (440-355-6100). Contact Evstarr@yahoo.com for speaking engagements at your upcoming events and to book your Angel Card parties. Check out her web site reachforthemoon.net for latest listings or to be added to her mailing list.



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