



Triangles

BULLETIN

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A SPIRIT OF FORGIVENESS

Something happens to us, is done to us – something painful and disturbing. It burns its way into our emotional memory banks, and there it lives, constantly resurfacing and flooding us with feelings. How do we respond? What is the right attitude to deeply disturbing memories?

This is not an abstract question for philosophers to play with in their idle moments. It is a question that lies at the very core of human relations. Memory of past wrongs is the major factor in most conflict situations. At a collective level accumulated resentments flow through societies, erupting in irrational violence, polluting the atmosphere in relations between races, communities, religions and nations. So how should those who seek to contribute towards right relationships deal with these aspects of memory?

Down the ages, and in cultures and traditions as diverse as humanity itself, the wise have directed our attention to forgiveness, as a particular aspect of love in relation to memory. Henri J.M. Nouwen writes of how “freeing” it is to “become aware that we do not have to be victims of our past and can learn new ways of responding”. And, beyond this, he reflects that we can choose to give love to those who have done us harm: “Forgiveness is love practiced among people who love poorly. It sets us free without wanting anything in return”. As C.S. Lewis puts it, “real forgiveness” involves recognising wrong action, seeing it in all its “meanness and malice ... and nevertheless being wholly reconciled to the person who has done it”.

To forgive, in this deeper sense, is to ‘give for’, to freely choose to relinquish the memory of past hurts and pain – and to do so as a gift for the greater good. It is about forgetting, or sacrificing, the emotions and pains associated with the past without necessarily forgetting the wrong itself. After all, we grow as individuals and communities by remembering the wrongs we and others have done in the past, and by learning from them. It is human to err – we have all made mistakes, all done the wrong thing.

It is this deep, heart-felt spirit of forgiveness, which lives and breathes in so many healing initiatives amongst strife-torn communities and in work with inter-personal relations. Circulating light and goodwill through the Triangles network helps create the atmosphere in which such forgiveness work can grow and flourish. And it helps us, too, as we grow in our ability to rightly ‘forget the things which lie behind’.

THE SACRED IN LITERATURE

'Sacred' has its origin in the Latin word, 'sacer' meaning 'holy' or that which is of God, the Whole, the All, the One. Although sacred literature, or scripture as it is often called, ranges from the Buddhist to the Zoroastrian, the sacred *in* literature is a wider concept than that.

The opposite of 'sacred' is 'profane' or, originally "outside the temple", and it is true that literature is not all of it sacred, and much of it is profane, just like us all in fact. But that doesn't mean that it doesn't have the sacred in it. Indeed, this idea of the temple signifies that holy place, or heart, found in all literature as it is found, too, in all people, however well hidden it may be or even denied. So the analogy is clear. The sacred in art, including literature, is one and the same thing as that which is sacred in the human being. It seeks experience, it seeks expression and it seeks recognition.

The written word, whether in the form of poetry or prose, a work of science or a work of the imagination, is properly called literature if, to quote the dictionary, "it is characterised by excellence of style and expression and by themes of general or enduring interest". The same criterion might be said to apply to our fellow men and women no less than to ourselves, for excellence proceeds from the heart, the soul, the inherently spiritual, in which all life in form is One.

If this suggests a perfection few writers have attained, few books express and even fewer readers share, that is simply to recognise the fact that, though we are all on the Path, not many have travelled very far on it. Therefore, anything which helps them forward is, by definition, spiritual, and serves to bring humanity nearer to full realisation of the reality in which the sacred resides.

A major example of such service is writing which comes from the sacred in the author,

appeals to the sacred in the reader, and stimulates both to foster the sacred in whatever is their personal field of service. Ultimately, that field is humanity and humanity's natural environment.

The literature which tries to fulfill that function is various. For example, in works of science, inner divinity is approached through such subjects as physics, chemistry, natural history and geography by studying form, movement and interrelationship. In history and biography, and also in the novel, the sacred is approached by way of research into outer actions and circumstances, of course, but also by discovering the psychological, inner causes of outward manifestation.

While these provide an indirect exploration of the sacred in our world and in our fellow men and women, poetry on the other hand, like music, attempts to communicate directly with the reader by sympathetic vibration, or resonance. This kind of revelation is at least an approximation of a situation in which the sacred, the One, communicates with Itself, for the source of what is communicated and the recipient are One.

Literature, therefore, is capable, in its own way, of bringing the sacred to light, and that is how it resembles the work of Triangles. Both invoke those divine energies needed for the reappearance of the sacred and the externalisation of its rule on Earth. Literature may not be aware of this; Triangles is fully aware and works with strong intent.

We are told that "potencies produce precipitation". Among those potencies is the sacred in literature. In so far as literature reveals the sacred at its heart, it carries forward the work of such worldwide spiritual groups as Triangles for, like all true servers, it works in, and fosters in the reader, the light and the love and the will by which, alone, the Plan is fulfilled.

NOTES ON THE NETWORK

From time to time, we are pleased to feature on this page, news about the Triangles work and other related matters. Last year, a number of triangles were formed by co-workers all around the world. Over 400 new members, from India to Bulgaria, from Kenya to the Ukraine, and from Argentina to the Congo were drawn to the work, to the idea of planetary transformation. These numbers may seem insignificant compared to the billions of people upon the planet today. But, when viewed in conjunction with the thousands of people of goodwill, who are already actively working in Triangles, and using the power of lighted, loving thought each day, the potency of the work is immeasurable. One person thinking truth and living a spiritual life in his or her environment quietly radiates beneficence. Magnified exponentially, the Triangles network acts as a vast, planetary magnetic aura upon and through which the highest impressions can flow.

In addition to the ongoing initiatives in India and Sri Lanka – translating, printing and distributing Triangles literature – a co-worker in Eastern Europe is working along similar lines to sound the note of Triangles in Bulgaria through literature distribution and setting up a website.

Also, we greatly value the dedicated support of the international group of translators, who work on the Bulletin and other literature in Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish, and who enable the work to reach people of goodwill throughout the world.

In the last 'Notes on the Network' page (September 2003), we mentioned that plans were underway to include Spanish-speaking co-workers on the Triangles Bulletin Board. This service enables people of goodwill to link up and to form triangles on a secure web page on our website. We are pleased that this facility is now up and running, and that Spanish-speaking co-

workers can now use this service, which we hope to expand to other language speakers in due course.

Some of you may be familiar with the World Goodwill 'Goodwill Meditation Group' work; but, those who are not may be interested to learn more about this important group service. Once a week the group links up subjectively to reflect upon, evoke and distribute the abundant energy of goodwill. This work offers all who are involved a unique opportunity to help cultivate right human relations in society. For further details please contact World Goodwill.

For some time now, as many of you probably know, we have been sending out the quarterly Triangles Bulletin by email in Adobe 'PDF' format. If anyone would like to receive the Bulletin by email instead of by normal postal services, please do inform us, giving your name, postal and email addresses. Please note that in order to receive the Bulletin in 'PDF' format, you will need to have Adobe Reader installed on your computer. This software can be downloaded at no charge from: www.adobe.com.

The beauty of Triangles lies in its innate simplicity and in its ability to harness the limitless higher energy streams that emanate from the sacred realms. This anchoring and expression of archetypal spiritual energy patterns in the world of form is hastened through the work of those engaged in Triangles. We live in an unprecedented period of planetary crisis, where the reactionary forces seek to hold back the tide of evolution and to thwart the birth of an inclusive, tolerant and compassionate global awareness. So, let us renew our efforts to form new triangles and to vitalise the Triangles work, and so help to maintain a lighted pathway between the sacred and the material realms.

HEARING THE CRY OF HUMANITY

We need no special faculties to hear the cry of human distress, for it assails our senses night and day via the media from all corners of the globe. And while it can be an overwhelming sound that leaves us with a sense of futility, thousands are rising to the challenge undeterred, many even sacrificing their lives to this cause. Submerged beneath this sound, and arising from it, another cry is also detectable to the inner ear. This sound is an invocative appeal arising from the collective consciousness, reflective of humanity's deepest spiritual needs. It is known as the 'cry of humanity' and is a result of the 'principle of conflict' at work in the human race.

This principle has been ruthlessly misapplied down the ages and has led to countless wars and untold suffering. However, its true function, when used intelligently, is to spiritually condition the form nature of a human being and release the soul within. It is through this right use of inner conflict that humanity learns to co-operate with the Word of God, incarnate in all nature. Through the struggle to hear this sound, the soul is slowly liberated from subjugation to matter and contributes its note to the growing symphony, thereby increasing the divine circulatory flow on earth. As this service grows, the planetary acoustics change, allowing greater attunement of the many notes that together form the expression of the One Life.

The beauty of the Triangles network lies in its capacity for assimilating the power of the Divine Word. Its simple building and revitalising processes let the rejuvenating livingness of spirit flow into those hearts and minds immersed in the darkness of form, longing for the light of liberation that will reign once the structures of unity have been built. These structures are being erected through activities such as Triangles and in the etheric realm that science is now beginning to recognise. This substructure underpins the entire universe as both a recording medium and an all-pervasive network of communication. Emerging from this is a new world-view devoid of separatism and isolation, and which instead sees all life forms as indivisible from their environment and all states of consciousness subjectively influencing one another.

Therefore, the consciousness we bring to the act of listening to the 'cry of humanity' and what it evokes in us directly affects the world in a positive manner. In meditation we create an inner stillness, a positive quiet in which the current need of humanity rings out as clearly as the cry of a child in the middle of the night. And just as the parent rushes to bring comfort and protection, on a higher turn of the spiral, Triangles workers respond to the spiritual need of humanity through the daily sculpting of lighted thought in invocative and transformative ways.

Triangles is a world service activity in which people link in thought in groups of three to create a planetary network of triangles of light and goodwill. Using a world prayer, the Great Invocation, they invoke light and love as a service to humanity. Further information is available on request from Triangles.

The Triangles Bulletin is for men and women of goodwill and is published four times a year in Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. Triangles is an activity of the Lucis Trust, a non-profit educational charity which exists to promote right human relations.

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