

Transformation and the New Environmental Awareness

As we look with an inner eye at the meaning of our times we see that the whole human family is undergoing a profound transformation, vitalised by new visions, thoughts and responsibilities. Central to all the changes that are taking place is a complete reorientation in attitudes towards the environment.

For much of this century main-stream Western scientific, philosophical and religious thought has reflected humanity's isolation from the rest of creation, our separation from the greater whole in which we live. A great divide was seen to exist between us and the cosmos, between God and our own individual psyches, and between the human kingdom and all the other kingdoms in the natural world.

That divide is today being bridged by thinking which is rooted in ideas of wholeness and interdependence, and by revelation of the Oneness of Life. The environment is coming to be seen as the whole tapestry of creation in which we live and move and have our being. Contemporary thinkers emphasise that we are a part of, and inseparable from, our environment.

For the first time, humanity is beginning, as a global family, to feel kinship with the stars, the sun, animals, plants and the sub-atomic realms. The whole environment, inner space and outer space, is coming to life within the consciousness of people everywhere, awakening new sensations of awe and intimacy.

Consciousness always evolves from one realised integration to another, higher and more inclusive integration. That is the way of things. The new attitude towards the environment is a sign that, as a species, we are drawing upon insights from the soul. For it is only from the wider vantage point of the soul that we are able to perceive and feel the unity of life, and to recognise the subtle links which connect all individual units within the living whole. The new vision of the environment brings with it a sense of responsibility and a willingness to serve the needs and well-being of the greater whole. It inevitably takes time for spiritual vision to work itself out in the details of human organisation) science, economics, government, law and so on. We should recognise, however, that the process of working out the vision into a transformed culture and civilisation is the way that integration is achieved.

Through our triangles, we are making a potent contribution to this process. Together with other groups we, in our network of meditation and prayer, invoke the light and goodwill which is the substance of the transformation taking place. The new ideas, visions and responsibilities are humanity's response to these spiritual energies. But more than this, the Triangles network is itself a substantial energy field which links humanity with sources of light and love in the greater environment. It is a conscious endeavour to bridge between the human and super-human kingdoms.

The essence of living green, of being a citizen of Gaia, is not a fretful puritanism. If we can think of ourselves as a part of a giant organism and perhaps even a cause of its indigestion, then we may be guided to live within Gaia in a way that is seemly and healthy. Even thinking this way is an antidote to the fatalism of accepting the earth as dead with life as just a passenger.

James Lovelock

The belief that "energy follows thought" is central to the work of Triangles. Until fairly recently, it was uncommon for people to think in global terms. It was only when the pictures from space began to appear that we could with ease create an image in our minds of the planet as a whole. This was a revolutionary development. As our minds opened to greater global awareness, fresh, exciting opportunities for new concepts to develop were generated within the collective thought-life of humanity. It was in 1965 that James Lovelock first experienced his personal revelation of 'Gaia'. Many readers will be familiar with this term. The word 'Gaia' comes from the name the Greeks gave to the goddess of the Earth.

In his latest book, "Gaia: The Practical Science of Planetary Medicine", James Lovelock describes how "Gaia became visible through the new knowledge about the Earth gained from space and from the extensive investigations of the Earth's surface, oceans, and atmosphere during the past few decades". Because we could see and experience the world in a new way, from a global perspective, new ideas could take form. One such idea has been that of 'Gaia'. The Gaia hypothesis was first described in terms of life shaping the environment, rather than the other way around as had been postulated last century by Darwin. Today, the Gaia Theory views the physical world as self-regulating in a way that involves the whole planet. Everything interacts and therefore has some effect upon the whole system.

Writing as a scientist, James Lovelock describes the planet as a living system, but makes it clear that he does not mean it is living in the sense that human beings have life. He sees self-regulation as rather like a thermostat on an iron or oven. We are part of a planetary feedback loop which seeks to maintain the physical world within certain thresholds allowing life as we know it to continue.

Whilst aware that Gaia has become, for many, a "poetic metaphor", Lovelock emphasises that it is also "a hard science theory of our planet that came from a top-down view from space". And he adds that "the top-down view of the Earth as a single system, one that I call Gaia, is essentially physiological. It is concerned with the working of the whole system, not with the separated parts of a planet divided arbitrarily into the biosphere, the atmosphere, the lithosphere and the hydrosphere". The fundamental fact of Gaia is that it requires the planet to be seen and understood as a WHOLE.

The wholeness of Gaia has become a major source of inspiration to many people concerned with the environment. It has challenged scientists and environmentalists alike to think globally, to think in terms of inter-connectedness. Indeed, it challenges all of us to think in this way, and this has profound implications. To think in terms of there existing a fundamental interconnectedness within the created world means that we are having to learn to ask new questions of ourselves and of the world in which we live. We suddenly have a new context in which to "live and move and have our being". No longer can we expect to get all the answers from the purely reductionist approach to knowledge. To understand our world we need to recognise the connections and the processes that sustain life on Earth.

Today, this has become critically important, for many of these thresholds are threatened due to short-sighted, insensitive and exploitative human action. We are forced to ask searching questions about our relationship with the natural world. What attitudes and values are maintaining the threat to ecological well-being? What can we do as individuals or groups to bring about change for the better? How might our relationship with the Earth evolve? For James Lovelock, "we are not managers or masters of the Earth, we are just shop stewards, workers chosen, because of our

intelligence, as representatives for the others, the rest of life on our planet".

James Lovelock, Gaia: The Practical Science of Planetary Medicine. London. Gaia Books Ltd., 1991

Notes on the Network

Once again, the year since our last 'Notes on the Network' has seen a good deal of activity by co-workers in publicising the network of light and goodwill. We continue to take inspiration from the news we receive from co-workers who express their joy at sharing in the daily Triangles service. It is always a special joy, too, when co-workers form triangles with people new to the work, thereby helping to expand the network.

1991 was a special year with so many Triangles workers sharing in the celebration of the Festival Week of the New Group of World Servers. From Rome to Rio, from Lagos to Las Vegas, people gathered to celebrate the Festival Week. Special meetings were arranged, publicity material mailed out and media presentations given all around the world. Sydney Goodwill Unit of Service arranged special meetings and reprinted 6,500 copies of the Festival Week folder for distribution. A large printing of this leaflet was also undertaken by the Nigerian Group for Goodwill who this year also launched their own spiritual magazine: 'Relationships) Creating an Enlightened Community'. The Madrid Unit of Service arranged for Radio 3 of the Spanish National Radio Network, which broadcasts world-wide, to devote at least 10 minutes a day from December 1st to the 21st to topics related to the Festival Week.

A co-worker in Eire arranged a mailing around the time of the Festival Week of the New Group of World Servers to 600 people who had undertaken a mind control training programme. Having experienced the training course himself, he described how, as a result, he had become "intrigued by 'the power of thought' and that 'energy follows thought'". He thought that people who had similar feelings might also be interested in Triangles.

These are only a few of the Festival Week initiatives that we received information about. A more comprehensive list of activities is available from Triangles headquarters.

Another theme to emerge during the year concerns elderly or disabled people who have been attracted to share in the Triangles service work. In the December Bulletin we quoted from a co-worker who was bedridden. Just recently we received a letter which read: "as an older citizen who, slowing-down, seems unable to put anything into life, Triangles would fulfil this need and be of service/use to others". Such co-workers are discovering that they can make a potent and dynamic contribution to planetary transformation.

Triangles has also inspired work with young people. In Missouri, USA, The Triangles Center has established what it calls the "Teen Triangle Network") an effort at offering inner city youth an alternative to gang membership by establishing a 'support programme' for existing youth programmes in churches, schools, sports teams and other youth organisations.

Eastern Europe

This past year has also seen a growth of interest in Triangles from Eastern Europe. A representative from Triangles participated in an East-West Friendship Gathering in Brighton, England. As a result, a number of people from Eastern Europe formed triangles. Co-workers from Brighton subsequently travelled to Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary, visiting groups and individuals and, amongst other things, introducing them to Triangles. Another exciting development this year was the transfer of responsibility for translating and distributing the Triangles Bulletin in Polish to a Unit of Service in Warsaw. This is the first time that the work has been focused in this way in Eastern Europe, and we see it as a point of light which we hope will evoke similar initiatives in other countries in that part of the world.

As more and more people are exposed to world events through the media and travel, co-workers have remarked upon how much more meaning they are drawing from their daily Triangles meditation. Being aware that, through the network, they are connected to people in most countries of the world, a real sense of solidarity is evoked. One friend of the work described his experience at the time of the attempted coup in Moscow. He commented upon how, after having just heard of the events that were occurring, he had felt a deep concern and had wondered just what he could do. He decided to link into his triangle. "I just sat down to give what strength I could to Russia through the network." Having linked up with his triangles and directed his thought towards that troubled part of the world, he was "stunned and overwhelmed by the vibrancy of the network. So much light and goodwill flowing and focused over Moscow". He was not alone in remarking on the vitality of the network over this period.

The livingness and increasing interest in the network is also reflected in comments received from co-workers in Denmark. The Dansk Informationscenter for World Goodwill og Triangler reported that 1990 saw "the greatest increase ever of new Triangles workers". Co-workers from this group also arranged popular lectures about the Triangles work.

Another group that has been helping to spread the Triangles work through lectures is the Family of Goodwill in Germany. Since 1984 the group has been presenting lectures at various international exhibitions and conferences in Austria, Switzerland and Germany. The lectures have taken the theme of "The Great Invocation and the International Network of Triangles".

Once again, the past year saw a great deal of effort being put into publicising the Three Spiritual Festivals and World Invocation Day. In California, the Long Beach Unit of Service sent mailings to 100 churches and at least 50 agreed to participate in some way. The group was successful in getting the mayors of three cities (Long Beach, Los Angeles and Santa Ana) to issue proclamations for World Invocation Day. Theirs was just one of so many initiatives that were organised by individuals and groups around the world, from small private meditations to large, public gatherings.

We have also learned of people who are seeking to establish triangular links between groups. This initiative, taken by co-workers in Slovenia, aims to help strengthen the support given by serving groups to the world as a whole.

Another co-worker has launched what she calls 'Network Nine', "an experiment in Triangles activity", wherein groups "of nine people, formed into three 'seed' triangles containing three members each ... form the points of a greater group triangle: the Network Nine." The theme for the first year's work for the Network Nines which have been formed was 'Expanding the Triangles Network in the 1990s'.

As always, there is not enough space to do justice to all the wonderful ideas and activities that Triangles workers from all continents have been involved with this past year. We wish to extend our appreciation to everyone who gives of their energy in the form of time and money to the ongoing work of translating and distributing material. It is this selfless commitment which ensures that the work can expand. As we enter the global age, Triangles is playing a significant role in establishing the reality of global connectedness in human consciousness. We hope that the activities described in this Bulletin will help to bring further inspiration to all who share in the work of spreading the network of light and goodwill.

More information about the activities of groups and individuals within the Units of Service Network are contained in the 'Units of Service Forum', available from Triangles.

Sharing Group Thought

Triangles workers share their thoughts about the work

For many years now I have participated in the Triangles work and have found it fascinating and useful as a means of service. Light and goodwill (or the will to do good) are energies that are really needed in the world today. People need to understand (and happily they are increasingly doing so) that despite outer differences humanity is one. Again more and more persons need to develop that will which would enable them always to do what is right unconditionally. So Triangles work is really invaluable, seeking as it does to instil into human consciousness light and goodwill. The more light and goodwill spreads, the sooner the Christ will re-appear.

Nigeria

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I see this work as an ongoing, creative process. Thousands of men and women of goodwill everywhere are multiplying in numbers as others join the ranks of workers. Together we are building a dynamic, ever growing thoughtform through which higher spiritual powers and lives are invoked, and the will-to-good in the race is evoked. The network of light is a vital and strong force which has definite effects on the many sensitive souls on our planet. Each day, more people are stirring to the vibrations produced by this work and are becoming group conscious. This is manifested by a slow and steady expansion of the true understanding of "love of humanity".

United States of America

It seems that the history of mankind may very well be expressed as the history of ideas. When an idea catches fire it is like a diamond, many people see different facets of it and respond to these different facets. Quite often each individual or group that has perceived a facet may feel that what it has grasped of the truth is all of the truth, or at least the most fundamental or the most important part of it. If the diamond is not seen in its totality, then fragmentation can occur

Each of us represents a different consciousness, a different quality of the divine brought into manifestation. As we come together in our groups, drawn together because of affinity, our groups likewise represent different aspects. It is important that this is so for the New Age is not a product that can be created the way someone would turn out a painting. It is the sum total of the creative expression of many, many lives, not only human lives, but angelic, superhuman, subhuman `many levels of consciousness all responding to a divine idea and unfolding to embrace that idea.

I will quote from Dag Hammarskjold, meanwhile, I join you in, hopefully, spreading the Light in the area around me.

You are merely the len in the beam
You can only receive, give and possess the light
as the lens does.

If you seek yourself, "your rights", you
prevent the oil and air from meeting
in the flame, you rob the lens of
its transparency

You will know life and be acknowledged
by it according to your degree of
transparency, your capacity, that is,
to vanish as an end, and remain
purely as a means.

England

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I just wish to let you know that the members of my triangle meet once each month to discuss and

reinforce our commitment to the spreading of peace, goodwill and light in the world, and, whenever appropriate, to spread the word of Triangles in our community. There are signs, I believe, in the midst of such world conflict today, that there is a great groundswell from the mass of humanity towards a desire for peace and goodwill between nations and a willingness to be more accepting of different cultures and ideologies.

United States of America

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