



Triangles

BULLETIN

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THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

From the earliest use of fire to the sophisticated manufactured lighting of today and from the first dim stirrings of the human intellect to the revelation of the soul through an enlightened human being, the story of evolution is the story of the unfoldment of light. In the evolution of light the history of life is recorded and its potential future foretold. Christ proclaimed “I am the Light of the World” and it is this sacred light, veiled and hidden in each of us, that is the guarantee of our immortality and evolutionary flowering into the Christ consciousness. More than this, each and every conceivable form is alive with a germinal consciousness that conceals the Christ light to some degree.

But how does this Christ light relate to the purely physical light that surrounds us? According to the Ageless Wisdom teachings, there are great hierarchies of spiritual beings, of which the human hierarchy is but one. Specifically, Rudolf Steiner taught that the hierarchies that have already passed through the human stage to become the angelic host have left us the legacy of their light. For, during the human stage of evolution, a moral atmosphere develops from the conflict of life, of deeds, both noble and ignoble. Over vast periods of time, this moral atmosphere steadily externalises, first into world thoughts, and finally, in a future epoch, into the physical light of a planet. The everyday light that surrounds us is the fossil like remains of an ancient moral world lived by what are now angelic beings. And if what was inner becomes outer, then significantly the light or darkness of the future depends on the inner worlds of thought that our current humanity now nurtures. As well as improving the quality of life for all in the here and now, moral impulses of a high order will later externalise into the light of shining worlds.

From the above it follows that both our registration and understanding of light have changed down the ages in parallel with the evolution of our consciousness and moral development. The quality of forms has become more refined as higher thinking has played upon them, enabling the light from various divine sources to pass with greater ease onto the physical plane, heightening our appreciation of colour and beauty. This developing aesthetic sense leads eventually to an awareness of the ‘self’ as moral light – part of the Light of the World. And each person who learns through meditation to hold the mind steady in a state of interior illumination is a reflector of this “‘Light of the Ages’, which shineth ever more until the Day be with us.”

FESTIVALS OF LIGHT

All who are treading the spiritual path come to know that the outer world in its entirety is a symbol or an externalisation of inner reality. As far as humanity is concerned, we realise that of necessity all the features and events of our inner life tend to materialise in some way or another. A compassionate heart leads to acts of generosity and kindness and the transformation of community life. Pent-up selfish emotional force can easily explode into the physical world as violence, and this shows us a principal cause of war. In contrast, peace is the exterior result of the soothing of emotional conflicts with the energy of enlightened thought. The organised and purposeful activities of the intellect materialise, for example, in the human capacity to anticipate situations and plan accordingly. The United Nations and its specialised Agencies are wonderful illustrations of this developing indicator of human progress.

But behind the activities of emotion and thought lies a realm which humanity has intuitively sensed as an abode that is characterised by attributes quite different from the normal human experience of daily living. It is known as home by the ardent pilgrim struggling with the obstacles of the “far country” of the material world. It is tapped as the source of spiritual strength by the labouring disciple. It is touched as the source of inspiration by the artist, poet and musician. It is the beckoning finger of new knowledge for the scientist. It is the source of the will-to-good and wisely used power for the enlightened statesman. It embodies love, truth, beauty, justice and power. But above all it is the abode of light.

For this reason, the human search for meaning and truth throughout the ages has always expressed itself as the desire and quest for light. The great teachers that have emerged from within humanity have all been described as light bearers, indicating new truths and highlighting the path into this abode. The Buddha is traditionally called the enlightened

one for he illuminated the cause of suffering and taught us how it can be overcome. The Christ, whose keynote is sacrificial service, asked that we should let our light shine and became known as the light of the world. In a profound way these world teachers are our forerunners, for humanity as a whole is destined to become the planetary light bearer and the planetary server.

A wonderful opportunity exists now for humanity to take a major step forward in realising this vision. Human and world problems, and the dual key to their resolution, which is the building of right human relations and modesty in the consumption of material resources, has never been more clearly understood. But what is needed is the intensification of this vision so that it will resonate within human consciousness with ever more urgent and joyful insistence. What better method can there be than the rhythm of the monthly meditation cycle that so many of us participate in? These meditations are in reality new festivals of light that are being established within humanity by soul-infused groups around the world who are developing a conscious ritual for humanity to approach the soul and the Spiritual Hierarchy.

Are we not all becoming aware of the resulting steady accumulation of intuitions and insights and how these are reinforcing the light that is already shining with growing brilliance within humanity? And are we not able to see how the spiritual energies of light, love and the will-to-good are becoming anchored in the multitude of practical service programmes in the outer world of daily living? In themselves these are the surest sign that the heart of humanity is sound and that a great spiritual awakening is beginning to take place before our eyes. When the awakening gathers momentum and sweeps large numbers of humanity onto the destined path, this will embody the greatest festival of light of them all.

THE PLANETARY NETWORK

The planetary network of light, love and service is transforming the mental climate of the planet, reorientating humanity to spiritual attitudes and values. The groups and activities reported in the Bulletin reflect different aspects of the network.

Culture of Peace Initiative

Since 1983, the *Culture of Peace Initiative* (CPI) has advanced peacebuilding activities around the world. The annual highlight in CPI's calendar is the "International Day of Peace" on September 21 each year. The Initiative also encourages "Peace Day is Every Day" in order to build peace initiatives throughout the world.

CPI's goals include:

- To unite the strength of individuals, organizations, and projects into a cohesive movement to make peace a greater reality for future generations.
- To contribute ideas to the United Nations about its evolving role in the 21st century as an instrument for building and maintaining peace. These ideas will be summarized periodically in formal reports to the UN.
- To establish the annual International Day of Peace (Peace Day) as a global day of access and peace leadership for children and youth.
- To expand participation in the International Day of Peace, to celebrate humanity's progress toward peace along its many paths, and create 24 hours of peace worldwide.
- To develop inter-generational decision-making and expand the participation of young people in United Nations conferences, seminars and summits.

CPI also supports *WiserEarth* (www.wiserearth.org), which is a global online community space that enables people and organizations working on a broad range of peace, environmental, and social justice issues to connect and collaborate.

Wiserearth describes itself as "an online community space connecting the people, nonprofits and businesses working toward a just and

sustainable world."

Each year CPI produces an exhaustive report that documents peace initiatives throughout the world.

Culture of Peace Initiative

PO Box 1057, Larkspur, CA 94977, USA

Website: www.CultureOfPeace.org

Email: info@pathwaystoppeace.org

World Peace Gardens

Creating Community, Celebrating Peace

World Peace Gardens is an organisation focused on "creating weekly gatherings, events and building community around the themes of inner peace, oneness and world peace." The idea of *World Peace Gardens* was born in 2007. A few months later the idea became a reality after the organisation received an anonymous donation.

A central theme of the initiative is to work with communities in "creating outdoor gathering places dedicated to world peace. These sanctuaries and gardens will provide gathering places for regularly scheduled discussions and events for personal, community and global transformation."

These gardens will be specifically designed around the theme of "World Peace Begins Within" and each garden will feature an "Inner Garden", a central meeting place inspired by sacred geometric designs. Central to the design of each garden is the circle, which "represents oneness, gathering, sharing and unity."

The organisation hopes that many "World Peace Gardens" will be built in many locations throughout the world – some large, some small - depending on their location and the community they serve.

World Peace Gardens

28 North 150 West, Ivins, Utah 84738 USA

Website: www.WorldPeaceGardens.org

Email: Daniel@WorldPeaceGardens.org

Phone: +1 435 703 0077

PAX PROFUNDA

No one can doubt that the holy grail of peace – *pax profunda* (profound peace) – is a distant goal for us all. Written and commented on by spiritual thinkers down the ages in prose and verse; it is beautifully described in the following terms: “There is a peace which passeth understanding; it abides in the hearts of those who live in the Eternal”. But, this is no cause for discouragement. A world more at peace with itself, built upon right relationships, is not an impossible dream. It is a precursor to those deeper states of peace that we will eventually experience.

Baruch Spinoza, a 17th century Dutch spiritual thinker and philosopher, wisely concluded that: “Peace is not the absence of war; it is a virtue; a state of mind; a disposition for benevolence; confidence; and justice.” For many, this analysis may represent a departure from conventional thinking.

Yet, modern esoteric thinking echoes this proposition and suggests that peace can only be achieved when there is a real measure of understanding and sharing, and that it will not be the cause of them. It is not possible to put the cart before the horse. In this context, we can assume that goodwill is the progenitor of peace. Without this element, all attempts at peaceful

co-existence between individuals and nations will surely falter in one degree or another.

Nevertheless, amidst the turmoil of the outer world, there is a clamour for peace deep in the heart of humanity. The proliferation of peace initiatives over the last few decades is a profound indication of the quest of humanity to find respite from the vexing problems – globally, nationally and individually. The long journey of human unfoldment has been riddled by crisis. The scourge of war and all its attendant ills is a blot on the human landscape. Yet, individual and world conditions are purely the result of human thinking. Acknowledging our responsibility in the world that we find ourselves in – individually and globally, we can begin to become part of the solution as well. One way is through our Triangles work, using the power of lighted thought to propel the weight of goodwill into human living.

And, like Spinoza, we too can assume that when there is a disposition on the part of humanity to express benevolence and justice, then we will have started the long journey to find lasting peace, a forerunner to the sublime *pax profunda* which “passeth understanding”. Right relationships is the key that unlocks the door into a world of peaceful and purposeful co-existence.

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 Czech, 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.

For further information and literature write to Triangles:

Suite 54
3 Whitehall Court
London SW1A 2EF
UK

Case Postale 31
1 rue de Varembe (3e)
1211 Geneva 20
SWITZERLAND

120 Wall Street
24th Floor
New York NY 10005
USA

www.triangles.org