

# *The Cycle of Conferences – The Geneva Accord*

## **Practical Dreamers**

Midst the constant turbulence of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, support for any peace initiative is difficult to assess, and progress is often a case of two small steps forward followed by one large step backwards. Nevertheless, despite the perpetration of dark acts in this troubled land, the flame of hope emerges out of each crisis, refusing to be put out by the revenge mentality of “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth”, that can only lock both sides into escalating acts of terrorism. This bears testimony to the growing number of people of goodwill working both behind the scenes and in the public eye who are feeding a different kind of fire to the one fuelled by hate and anger. Support and inspiration for these people is provided by the spiritual Hierarchy who, according to the Alice Bailey teachings, are “endeavouring to bring about...the stimulation of the flame of the spirit [in the aspirants of the world] so that they may set the world on fire”. The teachings go on to say that “the fires of judgment and of substance, of karma and its vehicle, matter, are raging in the world at this time. Fire must be countered by fire...and to stop the raging inferno of fire which is today devastating the world, the fire of spirit must be...distributed and effectively used...The fire which must, in the final analysis, be used by the disciples in the world is the fire of the will-to-love.”

It is this fiery will-to-love that raises well meaning peace initiatives out of the realm of impractical dreams, makes the seemingly impossible possible, and brings resurrection to landscapes of death and despair. Initiatives such as the Geneva Accord mark the meeting place of both down-pouring inspiration and upward-moving aspiration, and when poised, serene and free from anger and prejudice, they manifest the “thoughts which the soul creates”. Avraham Burg, an Israeli Labour Party Knesset member wrote that a political agreement is not the place where dreams come true, but “a place where dreamers meet and agree the limits within which their dream becomes a possibility”. This is the manifestation of practical dreaming, where hope and aspiration are balanced by pragmatic realism and detailed planning. The exhaustive detail and minutiae necessary to make a realistic agreement requires the patience and perseverance that are themselves, manifestations of the Will aspect – a Will that, contrary to superficial understanding, does not bulldoze its way through to victory, but moves forward steadily and persistently. Those who can exercise this power work tirelessly, adjusting guidelines and proposals to manoeuvre opposing sides towards unity. They adapt to changing circumstances, and demonstrate the strength of flexibility that encourages opposing parties themselves to break free of crystallised thinking and to make those detachments and compromises necessary for agreement. These are the initial manifestations of the will-to-love that are empowered by those who work behind the scenes.

Dreaming has an important place in our hearts and minds, but dreams that are separative and exclude others can never be lasting or peaceful. The pursuit of scenarios that would impose impossible hardships on the other side simply adds to the maze of illusion and delusion. The practical dream begins with an acknowledgement of the present situation and a recognition that historical wrongdoings cannot be undone, for each plaintiff can in turn go back in time to demonstrate his particular rights and suffering at the hands of the other. Although the past should not be forgotten, it must give way to reconciliation and, like nature, whose cycles show us the triumph of resurrection over death, new life and new visions must be allowed to supplant the old. The vision and practicality of the Geneva Accord can bring new life to the peoples of the Middle East, and therefore to all humanity. We can strengthen the vision of this practical dream by keeping the Accord alive in our thoughts, holding in the light the chance for a peaceful coexistence. No matter how dark the situation may become, the will-to-love that circulates through the group each time we link up to energise the thought-form of the Geneva Accord, fights fire with fire and furthers the loving intention to set the world alight with the spirit of relationship.