



Triangles

BULLETIN

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THE FIRE OF DIVINE COMPASSION

There is an undying belief in the loving Heart of God, and the reason for this innate faith is to be found in the nature of Deity itself. The statement that “God is Love” is founded on this most deeply, recognised spiritual fact, which is beautifully expressed in the words from The Voice of the Silence: “Compassion is no attribute. It is the Law of Laws—eternal Harmony...a shoreless, universal essence, the light of everlasting Right, and fitness of all things, the law of love eternal.” To this everlasting Compassion the cyclic appearance of the Sun Gods of the ancient myths, the World Saviours and the Avatars bear witness and are the guarantee.

This is a deeply evocative thought – that the energy informing the purpose for which the worlds were made is compassion. It is the fire of spirit, a divine law as powerful and foundational as any law of nature. Conditions today reflect a failure to recognise the compassionate workings that underlie all evolution and “the happenings of the times”. If we could re-connect with the beauty and power of our higher nature, how different would be our attitude to the opportunity of incarnation, as we accepted the truth that we are, in essence, divine beings who, ages ago, in an act of compassion, “fell” into incarnation in order to redeem substance.

When we look around this little planet of suffering, it seems that the fires of destruction continue to burn fiercely, urging us once more to forge right relationships – the active principle on which a peaceful world will emerge. It is also true, however, that the impact of current events can so easily distort our vision of a world that we know in our hearts is based on the *fact* of Love. Local and world news fails to adequately represent the selfless work of countless numbers who are pouring their energies into re-forming the chalice in which a new and more compassionate world can emerge.

It is enlightening to consider the etymology of the word compassion; “com” meaning to ‘share in’ and “passion” meaning ‘suffering and endurance’. Compassion is then a coming together in a great redemptive effort, where the releasing power of love can lift all who suffer and are imprisoned by wrong identification with form. The original meaning of passion as suffering has become distorted and associated with sexual love, intensity of feeling and enthusiasm. This “enthusiasm” needs now to be re-directed to *touch* the higher, spiritual fires of love and wisdom and so slowly transmute the substance of form into a chalice for divine reception and expression. Triangles and its planetary network form a vital part of that field of action and compassionate thinking so needed in this world where there is so much to be compassionate about.

MUSINGS ON COMPASSION

You may call God love, you may call God goodness. But the best name for God is COMPASSION.

Meister Eckhart

Life is as dear to all beings as it is to oneself; feel compassion for every being, taking thy own Self as the measure.

The Upanishads

How can we little crawling creatures, so utterly helpless as He made us, how can we possibly measure His greatness, His boundless love, His infinite compassion, such that He allows man insolently to deny Him, wrangle about Him... How can we measure the greatness of God who is "so forgiving, so divine"?

Mohandas K. Gandhi

As the bee collects nectar and departs without injuring the flower, or its colour or scent, so let a sage dwell in his village.

Dhammapada

Compassion... is essentially the right use of the pairs of opposites.

Alice Bailey

A human being is a part of the whole, called by us "Universe," a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. Nobody is able to achieve this completely, but the striving for such achievement is in itself a part of the liberation and a foundation for inner security.

Albert Einstein

The purpose of human life is to serve and show COMPASSION and the will to help others.

Albert Schweitzer

Out of COMPASSION I destroy the darkness of their ignorance. From within them I light the lamp of wisdom and dispel all darkness from their lives.

Bhagavad Gita

Wisdom, COMPASSION, and courage are the three universally recognized moral qualities of men.

Confucius

A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair.

Abraham Joshua Heschel

Compassion is the root of religion; pride the root of sin.

Tulsi Das

Whosoever has compassion on the poor, the Holy One, blessed be He, has compassion on him.

Joseph Ben Ephraim Karo

The compassion of man is for his neighbour, but the compassion of the Lord is for all living beings.

Ecclesiasticus

The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another.

Thomas Merton

The monument of a great man is not of granite or marble or bronze. It consists of his goodness, his deeds, his love and his compassion.

Alfred Montapert

THE PLANETARY NETWORK

The Holism Network

Formed by a group of visionary thinkers from diverse backgrounds, *Holism Network* comments “there is substantial research to show that a majority of the population in modern democracies is moving on from traditional faiths to a more general open-minded and open-hearted spirituality”.

Amongst some of its aims are:

- to help give the new holistic spirituality greater coherence and a more public profile.
- to clarify and articulate its major features.
- to support a network in which there are many diverse and new ways of expressing and representing this spiritual approach.
- to gain status and representation for the new holistic spirituality on decision-making bodies where other faith communities are given official space – e.g. school, hospital, interfaith, local and national government.
- to have Holistic Spirituality listed on the 2011 UK Census as a religious faith.

Holism Network describes the ‘spiritual’ as “experiencing the wonder and beauty of all existence – and wanting to explore it more fully. At the same time we need to wisely guide our own development and to serve our local and global community. This is spirituality free of religious traps, conflicts and rigid belief”.

Holism Network suggests several ways to engage in its mission:

Communications: When asked your beliefs and your interests, you can assert your belief in a holistic worldview and an inclusive spirituality – a spirituality that is open-hearted and transcends the old faith divisions.

Citizenship: Get involved in any area of public life where a holistic perspective would be useful.

Globally: Recognise the effects of your life style and manage it appropriately. Be passionate about the need for change, justice and healing.

In helping to anchor a new spirituality, the group writes: “our world needs to know that there is a spirituality that welcomes diversity, heals conflict and inspires responsible development.”

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Buddhist Peace Fellowship

The Buddhist Peace Fellowship is located in the USA. It has a worldwide network of members who work to promote human rights and democracy. The Fellowship draws on diverse sources:

- the wisdom and compassion of Buddhist tradition and practice
- contemporary North American peace and social justice movements
- other nonviolent, progressive, faith-based movements for social change

The Fellowship writes: “... we try to emulate Avalokitesvara, Bodhisattva of Compassion, hearing the cries of the world, trying to understand our own true involvement in that suffering. Sometimes we can offer help; sometimes we can share information and resources so that others might help; sometimes we just listen.”

Amongst its other activities, the Fellowship publishes a magazine *Turning Wheel*.

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THREE SPIRITUAL FESTIVALS

There are three major spiritual Festivals which form the high point in the annual cycle – **the Festival of Easter, the Festival of Wesak, and the Festival of Goodwill.** Through the steady, persistent meditation work of many individuals and groups in all parts of the world, these Festivals are now achieving a subjective anchorage in the consciousness of the human family.

In the future all people of spiritual inclination will keep the same holy days. This will bring about a pooling of spiritual resources and a united spiritual effort, plus a simultaneous invocation. The potency of this will be apparent. The three major Festivals each year are concentrated in three consecutive months and lead to a prolonged annual spiritual effort which affects the remainder of the year. These are:

The Festival of Easter: This is the Festival of the risen living Christ, the teacher of humanity and the head of the spiritual Hierarchy. He is the expression of the love of God. On this day the spiritual Hierarchy, which he guides and directs, is recognised and the nature of God's love is emphasised.

The Festival of Wesak: This is the Festival of the Buddha, the spiritual intermediary between the highest spiritual centre, Shamballa, and the Hierarchy. The Buddha is the expression of the wisdom of God, the embodiment of light and the indicator of divine purpose.

The Festival of Goodwill: This is the Festival of

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.

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the spirit of humanity aspiring towards God, seeking conformity with the will of God and dedicated to the expression of right human relations. On this Festival for two thousand years the Christ has represented humanity and has stood before the Hierarchy and in the sight of Shamballa as the God-man, the leader of his people and “the eldest in a great family of brothers” (Romans VIII: 29). Each year at this time he has preached the last sermon of the Buddha before the assembled Hierarchy. This is, therefore, a Festival of deep invocation and appeal, of a basic aspiration towards fellowship, of human and spiritual unity; it represents the effect in human consciousness of the work of the Buddha and of the Christ. This Festival is also observed as **World Invocation Day.**

Although they are not yet sufficiently related to each other, these three Festivals are a part of the unified spiritual approach of humanity. The time is coming when all three Festivals will be kept throughout the world and by their means a great spiritual unity will be achieved and the effects of the Great Approach, so close to us at this time, will be stabilised by the united invocation of humanity throughout the planet.

(Adapted from the **Three Spiritual Festivals** pamphlet)

2007:

Easter Festival: 2 April

Wesak Festival: 2 May

Christ's Festival/World Invocation Day: 31 May

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.