



Triangles

BULLETIN

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THE GRACE OF HUMILITY

One doesn't always associate humility with the virtue of grace. Expressions of humility can sometimes convey inferiority, statements of unworthiness and self-deprecation. Such expressions come across as disingenuous, self-serving and an attempt to evoke sympathy. In other words, not a graceful way of accepting praise or thanks for a job well done.

A true expression of grace should convey a natural elegance, beauty and poise—like the graceful line and movement of a trained ballet dancer, or as seen in one who walks with an easy, balanced step. It is an elegance that comes through a person naturally without any outward affectation, without anything false added on.

True humility comes from within; it is one of the virtues expressed through the selfless heart; it is a quality of the soul. For this quality of grace to come through, the personal ego or self must stand aside. A truly humble person will not speak with self-deprecation or with false modesty or express a sense of inferiority. If he is truly humble he will remain silent about his accomplishments, knowing that the work done satisfactorily will speak for itself. True humility comes through as a graceful virtue of the selfless soul.

There is a similar grace that comes through the network of Triangles. In the service of Triangles there is a way of developing an expression of group humility. One of the qualities needed for developing humility is “an adjusted sense of right proportion.” By visualising one's triangle in the vast worldwide network of triangles, one should gain a balanced appreciation of one's contribution in the context of the whole. In this network, one works without recognition, satisfied in the realisation that the individual self is only a willing channel for the divine energies; one is willing to stand aside for the good of the greater whole. This is the grace of humility coming through.

True humility is that steady, quiet strength that comes through when one is willing to stand in one's recognised place in the whole. A particular quality of beauty arises when, say, all members of a group can work this way; when all are detached from their little contributions; when all can lose themselves in the service of the whole, without recognition. Then a new inclusive energy begins to radiate and all are uplifted and the inner intent and purpose of the group work is realised. This is group humility, a rare quality to see these days. There is nothing false—no exaggerated claim—emerging from the group; only its intended purpose is seen. As with the Triangles network, in time, only the divine soul qualities of light and love and will-to-good will be seen, transforming human consciousness from selfishness to selflessness. The natural grace of the human soul will then walk with poise and beauty in the world.

MUSINGS ON HUMILITY

Be modest and circumspect. Regard in silence what cannot be either disproved or comprehended, and humble thyself before the Supreme Being who alone knoweth the truth.

Jean Jacques Rousseau

Humility stems from the inner recognition made in the true Light that being, life, knowledge, wisdom, and power are truly rooted in God, not in the created world.

Theologia Germanica

It is my humility that gives God his divinity and the proof of it is this. God's peculiar property is giving. But God cannot give if he has nothing to receive his gifts. Since I make myself receptive to his gifts by my humility so I by my humility do make God giver and since giving is God's own peculiar property I do by my humility give God his property.

Meister Eckhart

God walks with the humble; he reveals himself to the lowly; he gives understanding to the little ones; he discloses his meaning to pure minds, but hides his grace from the curious and proud.

Thomas A Kempis

Justice always follows Him, and is the punisher of those who fall short of the divine law. To that law he who would be happy holds fast, and follows it in all humility and order.

Plato

All speculation concerning the mysteries of God is a very dangerous thing by which the willing spirit can be trapped. As long as the willing spirit follows the Spirit of God, it has strengths in its resigned humility to see all the wonders of God.

Jacob Boehme

To me it has always appeared best to bow with heartfelt humility to the inscrutable but unerring counsels of Heaven, and to remember that we can only in this life see a small portion of man's

existence, and therefore can form no judgement of the whole.

Wilhelm Von Humboldt

You should practise humility first toward man, and only then toward God. He who despises men has no respect for God.

Paracelsus

Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real.

Thomas Merton

Reverence for the Eternal trains men to be wise. And to be humble is the way to honor.

Proverbs 15:33

Humility, that low, sweet root, from which all heavenly virtues shoot.

Thomas More

The voice of humility is God's music and the silence of humility is God's rhetoric.

Francis Quarles

Humility did not cast down the individual, it raised him up. As it obliged him to respect the presence of God in others, so it obliged him to respect the presence of God in himself, to make himself the messenger of God or the path taken by God.

Antoine De Saint-Exupéry

To pay homage to God by every outward and inward act, this is the first and dearest work of humility, the most savory among those of charity, and the most meet among those of righteousness.

Jan Van Ruysbroeck

Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Isaiah 57:15

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.

Institute for Global Ethics

Founded in 1990 in Maine, USA, the Institute for Global Ethics (IGE) mission is to promote ethical behaviour in individuals, institutions, and nations through research, public discourse, and practical action. Reflecting upon its remit, IGE writes: “[Our] research has made it apparent that, wherever you go in the world and ask, What are the most important moral values for you and your future? You’re apt to hear the same five answers: compassion, fairness, honesty, respect, and responsibility.”

IGE helps individuals and organizations to put these values into practice through its various Programs and Services:

Corporations: to strengthen the ethical culture of corporations by highlighting the client’s corporate values, identifying employees’ personal values, and welding the two together. IGE can then help the corporation to use these values in a practical decision-making framework for people at all levels;

Education: to offer critical support to educators, students, and school communities seeking to improve the ethical climate. From curricula for students from kindergarten through college to workshops for the wider community, the Institute has a number of tools to help put ethics into action;

Nonprofits: to provide customized services for nonprofit organizations that recognize the value of integrating ethics into their everyday culture – at all levels;

Individuals: to offer tools that can help individuals tackle the ethical issues they face daily – at work, at home, and everywhere in between;

Foundations: to help meet foundations’ needs, the Institute offers training, workshops, motivational speakers, and specially crafted products;

Government: to work with government at both federal and state levels.

The Institute has offices in the USA, UK and Canada.

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Institute of World Culture

The aim of the Institute of World Culture (IWC) is to promote universal brotherhood and foster human fellowship among all races, nations and cultures. IWC offers a congenial environment for the contemplation and enjoyment of the rich heritage of human culture.

The Institute presents a range of seminars and cultural events highlighting classical and contemporary themes. It also sponsors discussion groups on the sciences and philosophies, ethical and psychological perspectives and the arts and crafts of past and present humanity.

IWC has drawn up a Declaration of Interdependence, which lists ten aims. Some of the aims are:

- to explore the classical and renaissance traditions of East and West and their continuing relevance to emerging modes and patterns of living;
- to investigate the imaginative use of the spiritual, mental and material resources of the globe in the service of universal welfare;
- to assist in the emergence of men and women of universal culture, capable of continuous growth in non-violence of mind, generosity of heart and harmony of soul.

Interestingly, the Institute’s seal incorporates the symbol of the triangle signifying “the triadic relationship – conception, growth and regeneration – in man and nature”.

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TRIANGLES: THE MANIPULATION OF ENERGY INTO A DESIRED THOUGHT PATTERN

The eminent American philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson, once wrote that “thoughts rule the world”. Other great thinkers and luminaries since time immemorial have also alluded to this truth. Indeed, our present world is truly a reflection of the impact of ideas on human thinking throughout the ages and their anchorage on the physical plane. By the same measure, the destiny of future generations will be determined by our responsiveness to the higher impressions precipitating today.

The worldwide system of education; easy access to vast databases of knowledge, such as the internet; and unprecedented facilities for travel and the exchange of ideas have all contributed to the rapid development of the mind. The thought life of humanity is awake to the vast vistas of knowledge circulating the ethers and it is awakening to the subtler impressions emanating from the lighted realms. In response to these impressions, a new progressive era is emerging, built on the edifices of the old.

In the last century, Alice Bailey, an esoteric philosopher, suggested that “ideas are simply channels for new and desired divine energies”. Certain profound ideas for human welfare, embodying great archetypal energy patterns, are slowly emerging in the affairs of humanity. Whilst

the new forms to express this emerging spiritual order are embryonic, receptive human minds nevertheless are responding, to further carry these ideas through to practical implementation in the outer world. The current global unrest and turmoil is only a reflection of the interaction of the new spiritual ideals and the old outworn ideologies working out on the world stage. Even to the casual observer, it must be apparent that the direction of human thinking is slowly shifting from a purely separative and nationalistic outlook, to a more inclusive and balanced perspective.

As meditators, we recognise that all, in essence, is energy in constant interplay, juxtaposition, relationship and cyclical activity, moulded and directed by thought. Working with specific types of energy – light and goodwill – and directing them through the power of focused thought lies at the heart of Triangles. Each time we engage in our work, we help to draw these magnetic, visionary ideas closer to the realm of human thinking, to reveal the emerging beauty, order and synthesis of the unfolding divine pattern. The manipulation of energy into a desired thought pattern is underway, and in truth “nothing can prevent the appearance of the expected results, for the eternal law holds good”.

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.

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