

## Sacrifice: Making Whole

Sacrifice is most commonly thought to mean giving something up. However, there is another view which sees sacrifice as the creative process of spiritual transformation wherein the greater is substituted for the lesser. This view, implying to make whole, reflects the meaning of the root word *sacer* which is 'sacred' or 'holy'.

The pilgrim on the Path is one who is responding to the purpose and vision of the higher self, the soul. As soul contact becomes more stable and its vision more compelling, the pilgrim is inspired to take charge of the outer life of the personality. Drawing on the qualities of the will, there develops a determination to remodel attitudes and values in all areas of relationships so that they are in harmony with the higher vision. This realisation, this determination, is the essence of sacrifice as the great labour of redemption. It is the work of uniting our inner and outer experiences in service of the One.

The work is done in time and space. The persistent will, which flows from the realm of the timeless, is not the unloving force we sometimes take it for. It is an understanding, compassionate will, which we learn to apply in our life through the myriad sacrifices with which our circumstances challenge us. It is here, in the opportunities we find all around us to share, to love and to act on soul impulses, that the personality is transformed into its higher potential for service.

Sometimes these sacrifices are experienced as joyful and willing co-operation by the elemental forces of our nature; they may equally be experienced as painful and difficult. For, if it is the will to make whole, or sacred, which is being applied, the choice of right action may be neither automatic nor straightforward. Making our lives more whole will require that we choose to go against some of our most cherished desires. And attachment to those desires may make it very painful to relinquish them. From this perspective, sacrifice is about giving up - willingly giving something up as part of the deeper process of bringing the sacred into incarnation in our lives. Is it not the spirit of sacrifice that humanity is being challenged to express through the resolution of such crises as global poverty and environmental degradation?

It is appropriate for all of us in the Triangles network to reflect on sacrifice. Indeed it is an important subject for meditation and practice for all who work with the Light. Our ability as a species to make the sacrifices needed for world renewal depends, to a significant extent, upon the spiritual vision of humanity's higher potential. Every contribution we make in service helps to nourish the vision of the Greater Good and subjectively encourage human action for its realisation. Every sacrifice we make to become more true to our spiritual vision is a tiny contribution to the 'making sacred' of the human family.

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# Thoughts on Sacrifice

Great sacrifices have been performed for the kindling of the fire. One must revere the memory of such self-sacrificing deeds. Beauty lives on in such calls. Neither time nor human confusion can stifle the calls to self-sacrifice.

**Helena Roerich**

Let the actions of the soul be the motives of my daily life. I am that soul and unto that I dedicate myself. That soul is one in all my fellowmen and I am one with them. The keynote of the action of the soul is *Sacrifice*.

**Alice Bailey**

... we are apt to think that renunciation is the result of the effort to renounce, it is supposedly a form of self-sacrifice. But this is merely a sign of incomplete renunciation; when the latter is complete, there is neither effort nor any sense of renunciation at all .... The Yogi prefers that type of happiness which comes from spiritual contemplation to that derived from the doubtful pleasure of worldly possessions; he renounces what he no longer wants; in the words of the dictionary, he 'casts off or rejects'.

**Cyril Scott**

In the last analysis, what does the word 'sacrifice' mean? Or even the word 'gift'? He who has nothing can give nothing. The gift is God's ) to God.

**Dag Hammarskjold**

He who sacrifices himself for the fusion of the Fire of Space with the planet is confirmed as a link between the planet and the far-off worlds.

**Infinity**

... the man or woman who is placed by Karma in the midst of small plain duties and sacrifices and loving-kindness, will through these faithfully fulfilled rise to the larger measure of Duty, Sacrifice, and Charity to all Humanity ...

**Mahatma Letters**

There are innumerable definitions of God because his manifestations are innumerable. They overwhelm me with wonder and awe and for a moment stun me. But I worship God as Truth only. I have not found Him, but I am seeking after Him. I am

prepared to sacrifice the things dearest to me in pursuit of this quest.

**Mohandas K. Gandhi**

Sacrifice is, technically speaking, the achievement of a state of bliss and of ecstasy because it is the realisation of another divine aspect, hidden hitherto by both the soul and the personality. It is understanding and recognition of the will-to-good which made creation possible and inevitable, and which was the true cause of manifestation. Ponder on this, for it is very different in its significance to the usual concepts anent sacrifice.

**Alice Bailey**

Joy ... lies deeply within sacrifice, which has been defined as the *will to make holy*. Will can bring us to peak attainments on all levels and releases the true joy of the Soul.

**Michal Eastcott**

Let no one think that the birth of humanity is to be felt without terror. The transformations that await us cost everything in the way of courage and sacrifice. Let no one be deluded that a knowledge of the path can substitute for putting one foot in front of the other.

**M.C. Richards**

Nothing of real value in the world is ever accomplished without enthusiasm and self-sacrifice.

**Albert Schweitzer**

There is a power inherent in renunciation and in sacrifice, but it is a power that man has not yet really learned to tap or even to understand, because sacrifice is generally interpreted on human levels as meaning giving something up and is associated with pain and suffering. But if we look at the life of Jesus and of Buddha, we see that in each case what they gave up was hardly anything compared to what followed as a result of that renunciation. And each of us can experience this to some degree when we are faced with an experience in life and through an act of will we overcome a reactive pattern, an emotional pattern, an instinctive physical pattern, a mental pattern which may be moving us in areas that we do not particularly want to go, or which we may know is not for our highest good.

**David Spangler**

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# The Planetary Network

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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. Please send information on any activities that could be included in a future Bulletin.

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## **Pacem In Terris**

Located in Warwick, close to New York City in the USA, Pacem In Terris has been described as “a huge sculpture ... of wood, stone and earth, a sculpture one could walk into, sit down in, meet oneself, and climb out of, refreshed with one’s trust in life renewed”. Here, in this small retreat centre, buildings and gardens have been crafted to become “a work of art intended to be an oasis of quiet, where self and nature may reconnect”.

Founder and visionary designer of Pacem in Terris is Frederick Franck, a Dutch born artist, sculptor and author of 27 books who is now in his eighty-fifth year. Inspired by Pope John XXIII’s encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*, Frederick Franck together with his wife and friends decided in 1963 to transform the ruins of an eighteenth century watermill into “a sacred place that would speak to the sacred space at the core of the human heart”.

The Centre “is not connected with any religion ... or any sectarian, cultural, political or ideological organizations”. It is “inspired by the great humanness of a Catholic Pope, John XXIII, a Protestant Doctor, Albert Schweitzer and Daisetz T. Suzuki, a Buddhist sage”.

Pacem in Terris is open to the public on weekends from May to October. It is also used for classical music recitals, the exhibition of art and sculpture and the staging of plays and concerts. A hand-printed newsletter, *the Shoestring*, is produced detailing the varied programme of events and keeping friends in touch with the spirit of this retreat centre.

*The creation of a just world order ... is already coming about through the spiritual transformation of consciousness in the mind of humanity in resonance with the mind of God.*

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Frederick Franck has written of Pacem in Terris that it is “an *oasis of sanity*, a tiny sign of hope in the human, in the maniacal dementia of the twentieth century. Here nothing is *designed*, nothing is landscaped, for nothing could be more beautiful than the free designs of nature and of what comes naturally, where no ‘muzak’ ever degrades the rich harmonies of quiet, where there is total trust in nothing except in the presence of the human core in everyone born human. It is not *humanism* of any variety, it is no *ism*, for it has no dogmas. Neither is it a *spiritual Disneyland*. It has grown like a tree ) TREE OF LIFE.”

PACEM IN TERRIS 96 Covered Bridge Rd, Warwick N.Y. 10990 U.S.A.

## **Triangles in Education**

A Triangles co-worker who is a school teacher writes: “This budding unit of service feels that the time is right for individual Triangles members who work in the field of education to begin to co-ordinate their activities so as to promote a greater awareness of the group nature of our effort. The emergence of a coherent group of teachers working in Triangle formation holds interesting possibilities for a lighted contribution to educational progress.” Teachers and educators interested in developing the idea and practice of Triangles in education are invited to write to:

Clarence L. Harvey, Triangles in Education, 5 Flordon, Skelmersdale, Lancs WN8 6PA, U.K.

# Sharing Group Thought

## Triangles workers share their thoughts about the work

Triangles is a sphere of loving protection around the planet. The Triangles structure enables the Hierarchy to gently radiate light and goodwill to humanity, so all may benefit from the developing blanket of love around the planet, bringing to expression the wholeness of life.

**England**

Service is the technique which one should employ in his or her daily life to help in building right human relations, to foster good living among men and women in the world. All human beings can assist in carrying out God's Plan from his or her own level of activity and understanding.

**Ghana**

This is a delightful, simple experience, similar to what I have been doing for several years without knowing there was a foundation to *plug into*, promoting these intentions on an international level. Of course, its wonder-FULL, fulfilling the infusion of love and light in a direct, meaningful way. It is my hope this experience reaches that critical mass of consciousness ) of transformation for all of us.

**USA**

Maintaining a far flung triangle, across the continents, has a quality of its own .... a reassuring link, a participation in unity regardless of time or distance.

**France**

At this time particularly, the Triangles work is a means of guiding all those involved with and participating in the current dangerous conflict in Bosnia in order to give the seeds of right solution a chance to germinate. An appealing idea spreads

like wildfire, so let the idea be in line with the Purpose of God and the Triangles work be a means of implementing it.

**England**

The function of Triangles will help to build and maintain the planetary network of light and goodwill by units of three people who believe in the power of thought and the energy of goodwill. The Triangles work will help to create a right spiritual atmosphere.

**Cote D'Ivoire**

I have felt the energy that triangles reflect as I do my work. I talk with individuals and groups about the work and the benefit of being a part of Triangles. Others that I have introduced are also pleased. When more of us understand the importance of this work we will make great strides towards healing our world.

**USA**

Each time people are told that there is a group which does purely altruistic service, they could not seem to believe it; they always tend to attribute the profit motive. But in the Triangles work, we find the strongest evidence to prove that many people are increasingly working in light and love purely for the sake of Light and Love.

**Philippines**

The Triangles network serves as a fulcrum from which to launch the thrust into a new world order which is characterised by compassion, justice and a sense of inclusiveness, involving ALL mankind.

**St. Kitts-Nevis**

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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 Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish. Triangles is an activity of the Lucis Trust, a non-profit educational charity which exists to promote right human relations.

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