



Triangles

BULLETIN

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THE LABOURS OF HERCULES

Most of us, in some way or another, will be familiar with the legendary figure of Hercules, the Sun-God, who aeons ago vividly depicted in his labours or tasks the noble spiritual path of self-discovery and self-mastery over the unbridled personality. Since that time the centuries have slipped by, humanity has moved on. Yet, the unfolding drama that Hercules so richly illustrated is still as vibrant in the 21st century, as in ages past. Hercules, the archetypal symbol of relative rather than supreme spiritual perfection, achieved a stature that most of us still strive towards.

Perhaps, the spiritual message that Hercules imparted through his labours has greater resonance today, because there are now so many more spiritual thinkers in the world, who find themselves at a similar stage of evolutionary unfoldment. And, armed with the accumulation of experience and understanding they have struggled to attain through the rich tapestry of life, they too face the portal admitting them onto the path of discipleship service.

In his monumental labours, Hercules, the incarnated, yet not perfected, Son of God revealed the universal challenges that we all face as we strive towards dominion over the lower self and learn to stand in the clear light of the soul. The twelve labours in the twelve signs of the zodiac symbolise the sublime cosmic impressions that condition our growth and development as human beings. Hercules, the humble aspirant, journeyed from Aries and progressed through each zodiacal sign via Taurus learning further lessons and deepening his expanding awareness. Finally, exalted in Pisces, he became the all-knowing, victorious World Saviour, and entered those hallowed realms to take his stand with all those spiritually liberated visionaries who guide planetary and human affairs.

In celebration of the outstanding spiritual significance of this iconic server of the race, the Lucis Trust is sponsoring *In the Tracks of Hercules*, a multi-media event in December 2005, which will be held in London. Contributions are invited for this event, which will combine talks, discussion, an exhibition of visual and literary art, and live performances in the form of dance, story-telling, poetry and music. The event will stage the premiere of the musical composition *Sidera Herculana*, or the Constellations of Hercules, by Kerry Woodward, a conductor and teacher at the Enschede Music Conservatory in Holland. Plans are also underway to produce a digital book (CD-ROM) of *The Labours of Hercules* by Alice Bailey. For further information, please visit: www.lucistrust.org/hercules/ or write to London headquarters.

This event will be a group effort to explore and express creatively the profound story of the journey of the soul through many facets of human expression, such as literature, art and music. The light, love and power evoked by Triangles co-workers help to provide the inspiration for creative ideas, the love which compels the ideas to be used in service, and the will to bring them to fruition.

THE SACRED IN MUSIC

Is there a particular element in music that makes it “sacred”? Is music written for a religious service any more sacred than music written for the theatre, opera house or concert hall? Is Handel’s *Messiah* more sacred—because its theme is the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ—than, say, Beethoven’s ninth symphony, *Ode to Joy*, glorifying the Brotherhood of Man? Does only religious music define what is sacred in music or is there something deeper and more profound that all music has in common that deems it sacred?

To make sacred is to make of many parts one whole. It is the expansion in consciousness towards synthesis and oneness. The dictionary defines “sacred” as “dedicated to God, hallowed by association with the divine.” Sacred, then, is that element in life that draws many parts together into a complete whole, in the likeness of God.

In a like manner we might ask, what is the element in musical writing (at least in Western traditional music) that gives it a sense of completeness, harmony and beauty? A short answer might be the use of the Triad—a chord made up of a tonic note, a major or minor 3rd and a perfect 5th — as with the notes C-E-G on the keyboard. The inclusion of the major or minor 3rd was of particular significance. It was the introduction of the triad that really revolutionised all musical writing from the 15th century onward. As stated in the Oxford History of Music: “composers had now at least a material which they could treat in an expressive manner... a vehicle for the representation of moods of feeling, and that which belongs to the music of the divine service.”

Throughout the Middle Ages, in religious music, 3rds were used in most contrapuntal and polyphonic writing. But they did not figure in the final chord at the cadence, at the end of the piece. Generally, only the octave and the 5th were used in

religious music at the final cadence. The 3rd of the chord was introduced (or “allowed” by Church officials) around the year 1500. That cadence was even given a name: the *Tierce de Picardie*, or Picardie 3rd. When sounded at the end of a piece written in a minor mode, the major 3rd in the final chord produced an uplifting sense of finality and completeness to the piece. The 3rd has the ability to portray colour and mood and feeling in a piece of music, any music. The 3rd had long been used in secular madrigals which were much more expressive of deep feelings. But when the major or minor 3rd was introduced in religious music, church officials didn’t, at first, approve of the “new” sound; it was considered “too pleasing to the ear” and might detract from the “serious” and somber function that religious music was supposed to inspire. But they also had to admit that the triad did remind them of the divine Trinity, so it was allowed.

It obviously wasn’t just by chance that the use of the triad occurred during the 15th century. The latter part of that century marked a great awakening in culture and the arts. This awakening followed—and is likely a direct result of—the Hierarchical conclave in 1400 and in 1425. From this point on, a new wave of highly enlightened souls came into the world bringing fresh creative energy to the fields of arts and culture. The musical scales, that are still used today, became organised and equal tempered and universally accepted for the first time, thanks largely to the presence of the triad. Ultimately of course, the main element that gives music its “sacred” quality is the presence of the soul itself as it works through each artist. It is the middle principle of the triad—the uplifting major 3rd of the soul—that gives expressive quality to human consciousness. And it is the same creative force that enables us to build a network of lighted triangles around the world, drawing it together in a complete, sacred whole.

THE PLANETARY NETWORK

International Day of Peace Vigil

In September 2001, the United Nations General Assembly decided that an **International Day of Peace** be observed on 21 September each year and that “this date to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace”.

The General Assembly invites “all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire.”

In celebration of this day, the International Day of Peace Vigil, an initiative representing a number of religious and spiritual groups and a broad segment of civil society throughout the world, welcomes further support.

The Vigil is “a grassroots effort to bring a ‘spiritual dimension’ to the peace process. As such, there are no sponsors of this movement. Instead we have asked groups, organizations, religious traditions and individuals to participate in the Vigil by meeting certain criteria”. Amongst these criteria are “[to] promulgate the Vigil idea among its membership and encourage individual participation” and “[to] promote the idea to at least one additional organization/group.”

International Day of Peace Vigil encourages “worldwide, 24-hour spiritual observations for peace and nonviolence on the International Day of Peace, Tuesday, 21 September 2004 in every house of worship and place of spiritual practice, by all religious and spiritually based groups and individuals, and by all men, women and children who seek peace in the world.”

Amongst some of the groups supporting this initiative are:

- ArtSpirit
- Centre for Peace through Culture
- Global Renaissance Alliance
- Initiatives of Change
- Intuition in Service
- Millennium World Peace Summit
- Pathways to Peace
- Peace One Day
- Religious Science International
- Temple of Understanding
- World Conference of Religions for Peace
- World Peace 2000
- World Peace Prayer Society

International Day of Peace Vigil
866 United Nations Plaza
Suite 575, New York, NY 10017, USA

Website: www.idpvigil.com

Email: info@idpvigil.com

The Temple of Understanding

The work of the Temple of Understanding (TOU) has two main strands:

Interfaith Education: TOU offers ongoing programs on this theme for adults, seminarians, college students, and youth. TOU believes that “religion is one of the most profound and intimate aspects of culture and that interfaith education is essential to the task of creating a culture of peace.”

United Nations: TOU supports the aims, principles, and activities of the UN by encouraging the development of religious, spiritual and ethical values in UN documents.

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VAST IS THE FIELD OF LABOR

Throughout the ages humanity, by creative labor, has achieved much that has uplifted the human spirit. Through striving and struggle, through upheaval and chaos, world servers functioning as beacons of light have radiated inspired ideas illuminating the way out of the tomb of selfishness. Through striving and through the creative use of body, mind and soul, through contemplation, meditation and prayer, human understanding moves towards greater light. In this never-ending upward struggle consciousness is transformed. So it is said that “Only through conscious striving can human evolution be advanced.”¹

Ultimately each human being is an embryonic Hercules destined to transform the lower nature into a suitable vehicle of transmission for the light of the soul. Our quest, even if we are not consciously aware of it, is to discover our true humanity by striving to overcome the inevitable tests and trials of life. This quest requires strenuous effort, earnest endeavour and the ability to persist in the face of discouragement, as well as patience and endurance. Such qualities are characteristics of the soul which is essentially “the force of evolution itself...”², a force which enables the human being to persist and keep steadily moving forward in the face of

discouragement. Through strenuous, persistent and rhythmic labor on the mental plane Triangles workers are helping to restore the free flow of divine energy on earth.

According to the esoteric teachings, that which leads us on to a fuller expression of our divine potentialities is achieved by steady, persistent and rhythmic effort. Each individual human being has the potential to strive towards that which is higher and in so doing also contributes to the general good – for all life is interrelated. Nothing stands alone. Striving, at all levels, contributes to the spiritual upliftment of communities and nations, whilst haphazard, unco-ordinated and isolated endeavour, unconnected to a sense of community sounds a discordant note. Working from a high point of spiritual tension, Triangles workers radiate light throughout the planetary network illuminating the darkness, enlightening the mental atmosphere and transforming human consciousness. Through the right circulation of energies and forces light and goodwill will descend on earth, planetary substance will be redeemed and spiritualised, and human thinking and relationships will be transformed.

¹ Fiery World 1, para.178 Agni Yoga Society.

² A Treatise on White Magic, p.35

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, 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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