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REBUILDING THE SHRINE OF HUMAN LIVING

At first glance, it might sound like a misnomer to designate the Earth as "the shrine of human living." What is so sacred about what humanity has done to itself, say, over the past two hundred years? Or the past two thousand years, for that matter? It has been a period of brutal warfare and cruelty. Yet, in stark contrast, outstanding spiritual visionaries from all walks of life have come and gone, leaving a legacy of beauty. Their inspired work has helped to awaken human consciousness to a higher ethos and a way of living. With all that has happened both profound and profane, why is the Earth a "shrine" that must be rebuilt?

A shrine is defined as "a case, a box or receptacle for sacred relics. A place hallowed from its associations." In other words, a place made holy or sacred by its past history; a place where human life was lifted up and redeemed; a place where life has triumphed over death.

We are told in the writings of Alice Bailey that the Earth is not yet a sacred planet, but that it will be so in the distant future. Other planets in this solar system have already achieved this status. So, from the standpoint of our planetary Logos or Creator, we are still a 'work in progress'. We are slowly building upon the foundations of the past a new sacred Temple that will eventually be as divinely expressive as all the other sacred planets. This is, in the final analysis, the great Plan of God. And it is incumbent upon humanity, and its major responsibility, to build this sacred Shrine.

The remainder of the above quote on "the shrine of human living" reads: "...to reconstructing the form of humanity's life, to reconstituting the new civilisation upon the foundations of the old, and to the reorganising of the structures of world thought, world politics, plus the redistribution of the world's resources in conformity to divine purpose. Then and only then will it be possible to carry the revelation further" (Alice Bailey). Humanity's immediate objective, therefore, involves rebuilding, reconstructing, reconstituting, reorganising and redistributing. To fulfill these objectives, humanity must express more sensitivity to divine purpose and make the world a more sacred, integrated and unified place than it was in the past.

Since the middle of the 20th century much new building and reconstructing has taken place. The founding of the United Nations reflects a greater universalisation of political thought. It is demonstrated also in the willingness to form the European Union. International trade agreements, while not perfect, reflect a new thinking in world trade and economics. Human consciousness has become much more universally responsive due to the ease of travel, to television and to the internet. There is a definite increase in the willingness—the present Middle East conflict notwithstanding—of individuals, corporations and nations to share, co-operate and serve—reflecting the initial impulse of the newly emerging Aquarian spirit. That spirit is the note of universal, group service. As this impulse takes hold in human consciousness, the next two thousand years will see the Shrine take on a new splendour, revealing, eventually, a closer association with the Will of God.

NOTES ON THE NETWORK

Last year a number of new initiatives contributed to widening the outreach of the work with many new triangles being formed throughout the world.

At the beginning of the year **Triangles on-line** was launched, which is a web-based initiative providing facilities for people of goodwill to register and form triangles on our website. At the moment there are over 110 people listed on the Triangles Bulletin Board to link with others in forming triangles. Co-workers from over 25 countries are using this service. Presently, this service is available only to English-speaking co-workers. There are plans to expand it soon to Spanish-speaking coworkers, and other language versions will follow in due course. We will keep you informed on developments. Another feature of Triangles on-line enables people to share their thoughts on Triangles for possible inclusion in the Triangles Bulletin and/or on the 'Sharing Group Thought' page of our website. Also, the most recent and past editions of the Bulletin in English can be viewed on the website. And, of course, co-workers are able to register their triangles on-line.

For several years we have corresponded with a co-worker in Sri Lanka who has been instrumental in developing Triangles there. A selection of Triangles and World Goodwill literature have now been translated and printed in the Sinhala language. A growing number of Triangles are registered each year from Sri Lankan co-workers.

Also, a co-worker in India is helping to expand the work there. Some of the basic items of Triangles literature have been translated into Hindi and Gujarati. And three co-workers in the Czech republic have also started to translate and distribute Triangles literature.

At the end of the year we sent out the first electronic Bulletin in English by email to those coworkers who asked to receive the Bulletin in this way. To date, over 160 people receive the e-Bulletin and no doubt this number will increase.

In the last year or so, 5000 Triangles leaflets have been sent out to individuals and groups in Europe and Africa. It is encouraging that a number of new triangles have been formed as a result of this initiative.

In the March edition of the Bulletin we featured reports of Triangles meetings organised by groups around the world who linked up at the time of the three Triangles Seminars in New York, Geneva and London at the end of last year. We recently learnt of another Triangles meeting by a group in Nigeria -'Benin Unit of Service'. The programme included talks, discussion periods and group meditation. After the welcoming address, Mrs. Isoken Ogboro talked about Triangles: An Emerging Pattern of Light and Goodwill. This was followed by a talk on How to Form and Maintain Triangles by Francis Ugiagbe. The last talk, by Nathaniel Ogboro, focused on Purpose and Co-operation in Triangles. The group reports: "After the presentations there were discussions, a question and answer session.... The seminar experienced calm, love and very impressive interactive sessions".

On World Invocation Day this year – 14 June – the 'South African Goodwill Association' organised a programme on Triangles. A presentation was given on the Great Invocation and on Triangles as a method of service. The group comments: "After a bring-and-share lunch we had our Full Moon meditation. We gave away free posters on *Goodwill is Love in Action* and *The Great Invocation*, as well as back copies of *Triangles*. The response was remarkable. Not one person left without forming a Triangle."

Through the selfless work of the international team of translators, the quarterly Triangles Bulletin is now published in twelve language editions: Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. Their work enables the note of Triangles to be heard by many language speakers throughout the world.

These are just some of the new and ongoing initiatives that we are pleased to share with you. If you are involved in a project helping to focus the Triangles work in your area; or, if you would like suggestions on how to help promote the work, please contact headquarters.

THE PLANETARY NETWORK

International Society for the Study of Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine

ISSSEEM: International Society for the Study of Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine describes itself as "an interdisciplinary organization for the study of the basic sciences and medical and therapeutic applications of subtle energies and energy medicine".

Founded in 1989, one of the goals of ISSSEEM is "to study systems and energies that interact with the human psyche and physiology, either enhancing or perturbing health".

The group sees its role as "a bridging organization for scientists, clinicians, therapists, healers and lay-people" and by extension "to interconnect persons who work with or conduct research about subtle energies".

During the week of 19 - 25 June 2003 in Boulder, Colorado, ISSSEEM held its Thirteenth Annual Conference on **Return of the Sacred Science, Celebrating the Mysteries of Healing.** This event seeks to advance the "potentials beyond the physical plane" and "honor the diversity of paths that lead to healing".

ISSSEEM issues a trimester "peer-reviewed journal" Subtle Energies & Energy Medicine, as well as a quarterly publication Bridges, which aims to be "a professional resource for practitioners and other individuals". It embraces "diverse opinions and explorations of cutting-edge therapeutic approaches...".

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The Association for Global New Thought

The Association for Global New Thought's (AGNT) vision is one of planetary transformation based on the belief that there are "universal spiritual truths which represent the emerging spiritual paradigm for the new millennium". Since its founding in 1997, AGNT has worked "to represent a strong effort at collaboration among interfaith, intercultural and multi-racial centres".

Throughout the summer of 2004 in Barcelona, Spain, AGNT will contribute to an international coalition to create "a gathering of cultures, nations, and religions for a world-class summit". The key event of this summer-long gathering in Barcelona will be "A Parliament of the World's Religions", which will take place between July 7-13, in a 100-acre public park overlooking the Mediterranean sea. It is anticipated that 10,000 social activists, religious and spiritual leaders, educators, and performers from over 85 countries will attend.

Between September 17-21, this year, AGNT in collaboration with the 'Institute of Noetic Sciences' will co-host a conference on **Awakening a Global Vision: Collective Wisdom and Spiritual Activism**. The conference will be held in Palm Springs, California, USA.

Since 1998, AGNT has sponsored "Gandhi & King: A Season for Non Violence", a 64-day peace campaign. The season commences January 30 and lasts until April 4 which are, respectively, the memorial anniversary days for these two icons of non-violence: Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King. For the past 5 years this event has successfully grown and contributed to "an awareness of non-violent principles and practice as a powerful way to heal, transform and empower our lives and communities".

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COURAGE IN SERVICE

Courage is defined as "a quality that keeps one going in the face of opposition or danger; firmness of mind or purpose and the casting aside of fear". From a spiritual perspective we could say that courage helps create those conditions within consciousness that facilitate alignment with the soul. Gradually this alignment extends to include and permeate all corners of life as the soul begins to control "the life and all events". But this process is not always pleasing to the personality and often creates crises in its wake. These crises naturally upset the established order of things, the predictable patterns of behaviour and life, and that is clearly why so many people seek to avoid them at all costs. It is the quality of courage that gives one the requisite strength to take the necessary action despite the inevitable challenges that will result. The experience conferred gives strength for the future as one grows to trust the wisdom of the still small voice that lies within.

Courage casts aside fear—a condition that is responsible for so much that is left undone in life. Fear generates the veils of glamour that hide and shield the light. Therefore we can see how the service work of Triangles, which works to dissipate both individual and planetary glamour as it lets in light upon etheric levels, creates those

conditions wherein the soul qualities of courage and strength can flourish. This magnetised etheric network, as it precipitates onto the physical plane, better enables the spiritual workers of the world to take those difficult steps to help forward the Plan for humanity. To make spiritual decisions and abide by them, takes courage; to adjust our lives to the need of the hour and the service of humanity, on a daily basis, takes courage. And as our steps are taken in courage we become "relaying channels and not delaying points of selfish interest" in the divine circulatory flow and this is what is called for at this time. Courageous service obliterates the predilections of the personality, as its wants and needs fade in the face of the overwhelming emergency of world need. This means that we will frequently find ourselves running counter to the world's opinion as we grow to depend upon ourselves and the conclusions that we have come to in our moments of spiritual communion. And yet it's said that it is precisely here that we so often fail-we do not listen to that inner voice and we leave undone those things that we are prompted to do in our moments of meditation. And "...in the aggregate of these unaccomplished details...the big failures are seen" (Alice Bailey). So, it behoves us to listen and to act accordingly, with courage.

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.

For further information and literature write to Triangles:

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