



Triangles

BULLETIN

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INVOCATION: A NEW APPROACH TO GOD

It is a deeply human impulse, in times of crisis, to petition for divine intercession. Sometimes the blows of life can almost overwhelm the human will to survive and triumph over obstacles, and at such moments human beings turn to prayer and worship in the hope that God will hear their cry for help. Often, this appeal is not clearly articulated, but only a vague sense that divine intervention is needed and that God's response must be awaited passively. Yet, as Benjamin Franklin noted, "God helps them that help themselves". In this wry, yet cogent observation lie the seeds of invocation.

Successful invocation depends not only upon a sense of personal responsibility but also upon an intelligent, awakened mind, for the ability to articulate need is the first step in creating the conditions in which invocative appeal can be answered. The creative imagination must also be used with increasing precision of thought and clarity of values to visualise a higher, finer state of being.

"Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you", the Bible says (James IV:8). The Koran (5.105 and 13.11) puts it another way: "O believers! You have charge over your own souls. God changes not what is in a people, until they change what is in themselves." Both scriptures touch upon the divine power that exists in the human soul—the inner compass that leads each human being back to the Source, the Creator of all life.

There is no greater invocative appeal than the desire for the return of the World Teacher to show the way. Such a Saviour is always called forth by the recognised need of humanity, focusing its demand in a massed appeal or invocation. For centuries, the coming of the Avatar, the advent of a Coming One and the reappearance of the Christ have been anticipated by believers throughout the world—not only by Christians but by those who look for Maitreya and those who expect the Imam Mahdi, to cite only a few of the names by which the World Teacher is known.

The Great Invocation is said to be our most important means of preparing for the reappearance of the Christ, the World Teacher. The Great Invocation requires that we use the creative imagination to visualise the conditions necessary for the Christ to reappear and help humanity to take the next step forward in its spiritual evolution. The service of Triangles is an excellent means for co-operating in this preparatory work, by helping to imbue the mental "climate" of humanity with light and goodwill. In this invocative atmosphere the Coming One can return, bringing new revelation to all humanity.

THE SPIRIT OF PEACE

For as long as human beings have walked the earth they have probably felt a deep desire to live in peaceful surroundings. Conflict, violence and war disrupt the peaceful flow of life and produce a state of anxiety, confusion and suffering for the indwelling soul. Peace and harmony is the natural state that beingness desires; conflict is not. Yet for aeons the quest for a true, sustained state of peace has been elusive. When harmony has been achieved, it has always been disrupted eventually by those who want to change the balance. So we lurch forward from harmony to conflict, from peace to war.

We are reminded that peace and war are not true opposites; the true opposite of peace is change. Therefore, conflict seems inevitable in the human kingdom until we arrive at the realisation that change may be, for now, the more natural state for us than a constant state of peace. We haven't yet arrived at that stage in consciousness where we fully understand what peace really means; we are still working towards this revelation.

During the 20th century, with the horrors of two world wars and many smaller regional conflicts, we were faced with the ultimate test: would we once and for all come to understand the true basis for peace? War brought this question to an intense point of tension. It was a test to see if the forces allied on the side of Light could finally bring about a change in human consciousness that was trapped and imprisoned by a pattern of separateness and hatred. A change in human thinking was necessary if the energies of light and love were ever going to manifest on earth, and the Plan of God restored.

In the mid-1930's the condition of human relations in the world was so bad and so uncertain that the spiritual Hierarchy saw the need to call upon great inter-planetary forces for help. At that time there was not sufficient strength and resolve in humanity's will to overcome the growing power of the forces of darkness. In 1935 a six line mantram was given out that when used properly

would invoke, among other forces, the Spirit of Peace. The first three lines of this mantram are:

**Let the Forces of Light bring
illumination to mankind.**

**Let the Spirit of Peace be spread
abroad.**

**May men of goodwill everywhere meet
in a spirit of cooperation.**

The Spirit of Peace invoked by this mantram is actually an inter-planetary Being, an Agent of great potency. It is the same Being with Whom Christ came in touch and Whose influence poured through Christ and gave Him the right to be called the Prince of Peace.

For the great potency of the Spirit of Peace to be spread abroad, however, it needed to be *invoked* by humanity itself. Humanity had to demonstrate a united sense of responsibility. The hope was that the evocation of the Spirit of Peace would bring to humanity that stimulation and active desire to participate in the expression of goodwill which would render world peace an effective outcome of wise action and establish right human relations. The initial outpouring of this stimulating potency wasn't too successful because, as we know, an horrendous war soon broke out. But, notwithstanding the devastation of the war, much good did result from the conflict. Certain fundamental lessons about the nature of peace have finally been recognised—namely that peace comes as a result of first building harmonious relationships between peoples and nations; and that, if the energy of goodwill is the active principle in any relationship, then peace and harmony will be the result. Much of the separateness, suspicion and hatred that characterised human consciousness during the 20th century has been dissipated and the energies of love, goodwill, sharing and co-operation are flowing more freely. This is the legacy of the Spirit of Peace.

THE PLANETARY NETWORK

This year has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year for the Culture of Peace.

All too often images of war and conflict confront us. Yet, contrasting these separative tendencies is a strengthening global aspiration for higher values in all our relationships.

Amongst some of the many groups, guided by these spiritual principles, are those whose primary purpose is to help construct an era of peace and stability impelled by right relationships.

On this page are found some of the many initiatives working to promote peace and co-operation in individual, national and world affairs.

Manifesto 2000

The **Manifesto 2000** for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, was the idea of a group of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates.

The Manifesto aims to communicate, clearly and simply, the resolutions of the United Nations, to make them relevant to people everywhere.

All are invited to support this initiative by signing the Manifesto, which calls upon signatories to:

- Respect all life.
- Reject violence.
- Share with others.
- Listen to understand.
- Preserve the planet.
- Rediscover solidarity.

UNESCO aims to collect 100 million signatures for the UN millennium General Assembly in September.

You can sign the Manifesto 2000 on-line: www.unesco.org/manifesto2000 or write for a form: **International Year for the Culture of Peace, UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy – F-75352 Paris 07 SP, France.**

United Religions Initiative

URI is an initiative promoting “enduring, daily interfaith co-operation, ending religiously motivated violence and creating cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings.”

The vision and values of URI are embodied in the Preamble, Purpose and Principles of its Charter.

URI, along with other groups, is working in close co-operation with UNESCO in the **International Year for the Culture of Peace** and the **Manifesto 2000**.

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Sarvodaya Peace Meditation Programme

The Peace Meditation Programme is a project of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, which for over forty years has worked to foster peace and development in Sri Lanka and in the world.

The programme was launched in August 1999 at Vihara Maha Devi Park in Sri Lanka and about 200,000 people participated.

As part of the meditation programme, participants are asked to focus on loving-kindness to all beings.

One of the aims of the group is to train one million people in ‘peace meditational action programmes’.

People’s Peace Initiative
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A SENSE OF UNIVERSALITY

“To see a World in a Grain of Sand,
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your
hand,
And Eternity in an hour.”

William Blake, *Auguries of Innocence*

In these words Blake expresses for us the wonder that the small objects and everyday happenings of our ordinary existence mirror the higher order of the reality which lies beyond them—the macrocosm reflected in the microcosm. What is embodied in this perspective is a keen awareness of the subtle but pervasive relationships that invincibly hold all within the framework of the universe we perceive. Deep within the heart of this point of view lies the realisation that the divine and infinite exists within the finite, like a seed containing the full potential of the life which created it.

To truly perceive this is not only to realise a deep identification with others but also to dimly sense the heartbeat of the entire manifested universe. While alienation seems to be a familiar theme running throughout modern experience, by contrast, an inner identification spans great distances, bridges individual differences, and relates the past to the future. This perspective adds another dimension to the events we witness. Our actions

reverberate and impact on one another. We begin to realise that, no matter how far removed we are in time and space, we are participants in thought, linked in consciousness.

In a world that is shrinking, we can no longer ignore our relationship to one another. Indeed it might be said that a sense of universality is now almost inescapable. At one time such a world view would have been no more than the vision of poets and mystics, but today we are seeing an increasing awareness of our interrelatedness, and in the most unpoetic of places. We see this borne out in the prominence of many issues, from the raging debate on the environment to the worldwide concern for human rights and justice. These challenges are drawing to us the responsibilities we now need to share as one human family.

Perhaps this awareness is so acute today because we are more willing and able to engage as a group to make this spiritual vision a living experience. What was once perceived by the few has now become the vision of the many and is evoking the will required to express the underlying reality. The inspiration and strength required to find ways of combining our differences constructively is a synthesising power—drawing from each the golden strand that will weave a cloth of our common well-being.

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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