



Triangles

BULLETIN

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Millennium: A Spiritual Perspective

Why does the coming millennium hold such a grip on humanity's imagination? One thousand years ago the millennium was not widely celebrated, for worldwide use of the Christian calendar began only in the late 19th century. And because that calendar did not designate a "Year 0" to mark the transition from the period prior to the birth of Jesus to the period which began with his birth, we will not actually enter the new millennium until December 31, 2000.

Nevertheless, the 31st of December, 1999 will be widely celebrated as the entrance into the new millennium. In a real sense, the new millennium constitutes a frontier. Henry David Thoreau wrote, "The frontiers are not east or west, north or south, but wherever a man fronts a fact." Throughout this and the previous century, humanity has "fronted facts" about the physical world, vastly expanding its knowledge of the outer, visible world. Now, as we enter a new millennium, we must use that knowledge to bring about a true and lasting transformation of consciousness.

The structure to effect such a transformation is already in place. Both the benefits and the hardships of modern life are a constant reminder of how interwoven our lives have become, and that is good. The first millennium was a time known as "the dark ages" and justifiably so. Illness came suddenly and without redress. Most people lived their relatively brief lives with little awareness of humanity outside the narrow confines of their communities. Only rare individuals had the opportunity to travel, access to education, or awareness of the immense diversity of cultures that were already thriving throughout the world. Now, at the close of the second millennium, we have mass (though not universal) literacy, expanding healthcare, a communications network that is global, and a growing knowledge of the world's physical composition and of the kingdoms that share the planet with humanity. We do not yet have peace, because there is still hatred and separatism, selfishness and aggression, but the increasingly powerful voice of the men and women of goodwill is demanding right human relations and that will make peace inevitable.

The establishment of a true peace and a just distribution of the world's resources are essential conditions which humanity must effect before the Christ can return, and the millennium has often been equated with the expected reappearance of the Christ. However, nowhere in the Bible is the millennium directly linked to the Christ's return. In fact, we are told, "in such an hour as ye think not, He will come" (Matt. XXIV.44). Yet the Christ did tell his disciples to look for a man, carrying a pitcher of water, as a sign of his returning presence, and the Water-carrier is the ancient symbol of Aquarius, the age into which the sun is now passing.

Before the Christ can return, however, humanity must demonstrate on a widespread level the awakening of the Christ principle within the human heart, under the age-old dictum that "like attracts like". And, increasingly, we can see that the Christ principle is surging to new life in the growing recognition that humanity itself bears responsibility for its fate and for the well-being of the planet, and in the realisation that this responsibility is best expressed through sharing and service.

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In this dawning realisation the service of Triangles plays an intrinsic part, for each Triangles worker's contribution immediately and inevitably radiates throughout the planetary network and thus demonstrates responsibility for the whole. The keynote of the Aquarian age, "Water of life am I, poured forth for thirsty men", expresses the boundless potential for sharing that characterises the radiation of light and goodwill throughout the Triangles network. Light and goodwill are invoked

universally, for the upliftment and well-being of all, and without regard for distinctions of class or religion, race or culture. This expression of impersonal love and universal sharing can also be seen in the increasing numbers of groups and individuals committed to world betterment. This development may stand above all others, when humanity looks back one thousand years from now, as the indication that twentieth century humanity was ready for the responsibilities of the new millennium.

Shamballa: The Holy of Holies

Shamballa, the Holy of Holies, is one of the names of the "centre where the Will of God is known". Here dwells the Lord of the World, Who holds all planetary life in the circle of His divine love. In both the Old and the New Testaments, He is spoken of as 'Melchizedek', "King of Salem, Priest of the Most High God.... Being without father or mother or ancestry, having neither beginning of days nor end of life ... He remains a priest in perpetuity." Gradually, there is dawning in human consciousness an awareness of this 'bright centre', Shamballa, where the mystery and divine Intention of our informing planetary Life will one day be revealed in all its consummate beauty. As we sound the Great Invocation in our daily Triangles ritual, we, too, as a global subjective group affirm this centre and respond to its unfolding, unalterable purpose.

Humanity, today, is awakening to the profound sense of interconnectedness of all life. For we are, in essence, one. We, and all that exists, are indissolubly linked by the beneficent Will of "the One in Whom we live and move and have our being". The intuitive responsiveness of humanity to the impulses emanating from the Kingdom of Souls, the Hierarchy, is evidence of the rapid growth in human consciousness over the past few hundred years, and especially in this troubled century. And it is through the Hierarchy that energy from Shamballa flows to 'soften' or step down its impact on the human family. We understand that only four times in the long history of the race has the Shamballa force flowed directly into the human centre without first being stepped down by the spiritual Hierarchy. Though, it is testimony to the

increasing maturity of the human family that twice this century (during the world war 1939-1945 and in 1975) humanity has been the recipient of this beneficent dynamic energy. Next year also, in the year 2000, we can expect the direct inflow of Shamballa energy to touch all levels of human experience.

Each time the Shamballa energy impacts it strikes deeper into human consciousness, revealing in new and potent livingness the Purpose of Deity. It will, once again, stimulate the developing creativity of the human family to respond to the sacred Call of God, which sounds from the innermost sanctum of the Holy of Holies. It will prepare the way for the renewing of human living, so that a deeper spiritual ethos, morality and sense of values will condition the consciousness of the race. For, inevitably, the effect of Shamballa leads to the clarifying of issues, the presenting of opportunity and the purifying of human thinking. It will, perhaps, above all stretch the human creative imagination to sense the divine unity of all life upon our small planet. The intensive conscious interrelationship of the three major centres – Shamballa, Hierarchy and Humanity – is stimulating the soul of the lower kingdoms in nature. This potent interaction is slowly swinging all of life upon our planet into a cohesive, unified spiritual organism, under the direct impression of the Lord of the World in Shamballa, Who under eternal Law acts as "the Sun and light of the planet until the Day be with us and the night of pralaya¹ descends upon His finished task."

¹ Pralaya: An interlude between two periods of manifestation.

Festivals of Light

Derived from the Latin word '*festus*' meaning to be joyful or merry, the word '*festival*' conjures up an image of celebration and ceremony. And it is a source of joy that a new religion is being fashioned from an approach towards great spiritual Lives Whose energy we can invoke at the time of each full moon. The countless star systems, suns and planets that populate space are, in reality, but the physical vehicles of these Lives Whose radiatory activity forms a majestic network of light. This approach heralds humanity's coming of age as co-creator in the emerging plan of divinity as we learn to direct their light rays in meditation.

Through rhythm, ritual and a trained sensitivity to the influences of these great Lives, we can all become participators in this monthly approach to divinity. During the earth's annual pilgrimage around the sun, we pass in and out of the influence of each zodiacal sign and can use the opportunity to catch its light through meditation. Together the twelve constellations are said to constitute a "revelation of divinity" – the light of each sign conveying a different aspect of the relationship between spirit and matter. By weaving this light into the fabric of human consciousness, we are building a rainbow bridge towards the spiritual kingdom across which the energy of the Hierarchy can flow. This bridge is also the means by which humanity will eventually leave behind its sorrow and pain on the wheel of rebirth, and enter into a new world of freedom and right relationships.

Although these celebrations of light are often referred to as full moon festivals, it is the sun's alignment with our planet that engages our attention. The lighted orb of the moon is, however, a visible sign to us that a free transmission of energies exists between the sun and the earth, unimpeded by the moon's negative influence. As

we move into the Aquarian Age, humanity's focus is steadily moving away from the form side of things – ever symbolised by the moon – towards the spiritual life and the soul – ever symbolised by the sun. This process is being enhanced by the sense of awe at the vastness and beauty of the living universe which is currently being brought to our attention by the wonders of space exploration.

In time, the twelve festivals will become more widely celebrated, offering opportunity to contact the spiritual Hierarchy of our planet – particularly at the time of the three major Festivals of Easter, Wesak and Goodwill which fall in the signs of Aries, Taurus and Gemini respectively. These festivals of light are not merely symbolic, as amplifications of light occur which the inner senses can register and respond to. Through an inner sensitivity, we can learn for ourselves the truth that the entire solar system is teeming with spiritual energy and expressing itself through the agency of light.

The cycles of the moon have always played an important role in the activities of humanity and will continue to do so, only in a more dynamic way. Whereas, since pagan times, the phases of the moon have been used to time the planting of seeds and the harvesting of crops, we must now learn to plant the seeds of spiritual aspiration between the new and full moons, harvesting their light at the time of each full moon festival. In this way the spiritual hunger which has so characterised humanity can be assuaged, and we can all follow in the Christ's footsteps to become the "Light of the World".

Further details of the Full Moon Work can be obtained from Triangles headquarters.

There is an ebb and flow in all nature, and in the tides of the ocean we have a wonderful picturing of an eternal law.... the idea of a cyclic response to soul impulse lies back of the activities of a morning meditation, a noonday recollection, and an evening review. A larger ebb and flow is also indicated in the two aspects of the full moon and the new moon.

Alice Bailey

Sharing Group Thought

Every year we feature on this page a selection of thoughts on Triangles that we receive from co-workers around the world. Some write about their own personal experiences of the work, whilst others describe how Triangles is helping to re-connect humanity with the divine, and others still articulate their ideas on how Triangles is stimulating the soul of humanity to express spiritual principles and values in everyday life. Perhaps, you have similar or other insights you would like to send?

This sharing or pooling of group thought is significant, since it helps to anchor the work of Triangles in the consciousness of the race. Since the first seeds of the work were planted in 1937, countless thousands of Triangles have been formed by co-workers from almost every country in the world.

In this issue, we are pleased to include three contributions from co-workers in Cuba and the United Kingdom. We hope, too, that you will be encouraged to share your insights on Triangles with the worldwide group.

Through practice, their light glows stronger, their love reaches further. All three points of the triangle fuse and fill a greater space. A progression of light and love is created. Eventually, all darkness will be dispelled. Love and Light and Peace will reign in the Kingdom of the Christ.

“Work while there is yet day”.

UK

The Triangles Web represents for me a possibility to work on subtle levels and to establish goodwill.

Cuba

The Triangles network is a great connector and transmitter. As I align and move into subjective realms, it is a solitary pursuit, even though there is a sense of participating in group work. To connect with two others, initially brings our consciousness into the particular, we then move speedily towards the Network of Triangles and begin to transcend boundaries and reach out to cosmic possibility. Triangles allows us the facility to move through space and enter into or at least conceive of cosmic energies. As we endeavour to invoke the energies of the Christ into our lives, the same creative visualisation of the network into which we have linked is utilised.

As I practice this connection each day the personality intervenes, the practice becomes routine and I can become frustrated when a period of aridity appears to operate. Due to misalignment or lack of concentration and drive, or indeed the play of forces upon my psyche, the whole exercise seems less satisfactory. Of course, the clouds pass and the sun shines once again and connection seems clear, concise and fruitful, and as one bathes in the few moments of heightened awareness signifying a service well done, there is no greater sense of peace and fulfilment.

Jersey, Channel Islands, UK

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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