



TRIANGLES

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Discrimination

At the heart of all spiritual paths lies the requirement to develop certain skills. These are of crucial importance. Properly applied they enable the disciples of truth to transform themselves from self-centred personalities into inclusive, love-bearing, light-giving, heart-serving members of the human family.

One of these crucial skills is the ability to discriminate. The seeds of discrimination are actually sown at a very early age. Our experience in infancy teaches us to distinguish between the pleasant and the unpleasant. Later on, in childhood, we learn the difference between what we, rather simplistically, call right and wrong. And as we approach adulthood and personal maturity, we learn to appreciate that there are finer distinctions still, for example between what is good and right and what is even better.

Throughout history, and especially in our present time, outstanding women and men have emerged. They have found their way through the maze of these finer distinctions, and discovered the higher values of the good of the whole, of love, and of sacrificial living. They have thus been able, often against tremendous odds, to cast light on and bring love to their times and change conditions for the better.

Although outer activity is important in achieving this, and this is what people normally focus on, in reality it is the ability to work with discrimination in the realm of ideas, vision and values that has enabled these people to exert such a strongly benevolent influence.

A very useful exercise for us all to engage in regularly is to take a step back from things, and look with loving detachment at the state of consciousness of humanity and at world events. We then perceive a dual picture. On the one hand we see a bewildered humanity, governed largely by the values of material self-interest, experiencing a chaotic world and evidencing an often heart-breaking anxiety over present conditions and fear for the future. On the other hand we can see a growing number of groups and individuals world-wide who are developing the skill of spiritual discrimination and using this to embody the energies of light and love in new and creative ways. They are reformulating the timeless spiritual values into meaningful signposts on the path that we need collectively to tread in the crisis period in which we are all living.

Let us rejoice at these many and marvellous examples of the potential for good in all of us. Let us also redouble our efforts to achieve a sound sense of discrimination and thus increasingly embody the energies of light and love and spiritual values in our own lives.

Triangles in the Year for Tolerance

There are many thousands who link in thought each day to use the Great Invocation in the Triangles network. It is a joyful task – radiating light and goodwill through the vast field of human consciousness. And, as most of us recognise, it is profoundly significant work. As a planetary network of meditation and prayer inspired by the vision of world service, we are using the power of thought to nourish and sustain all those attitudes and values that lie at the heart of a just and sharing global society.

This year there is a special, added service which we might have in mind as we send loving thoughts to the co-workers in our triangles, and to humanity as a whole. 1995 has been declared by the United Nations as the Year for Tolerance. Throughout this year there will be conferences, publications, discussions, and sharings on tolerance – at a global ‘high-powered’ level as well as a local level in homes, schools, churches and temples. Through this process the quality of tolerance will be held in the light and thereby spiritually empowered. The aspiration for tolerance will be fostered and its practice will inevitably become more conscious. A global focus such as this, involving groups that work with meditation together with service groups in a broad range of activities, strengthens thought-forms and clears away the cob-webs from our collective thinking processes.

The idea of tolerance poses questions. What is tolerance? Do we find a personal challenge in this focus? Surely there is a possibility for learning and deeper understanding here for all of us. To be tolerant is to understand and accept the right of others to hold beliefs and ideas that may not only be different but even opposed to our own.

Understanding and respect for other peoples and their ways should be a major goal in the education of the young for such an understanding fosters wise tolerance. Yet there is also the wrong sort of tolerance. Are we not, in nearly all societies, too tolerant of injustice, exploitation and oppression?

Tolerance has its ‘roots’ in the highest of spiritual principles. With the expansion of consciousness taking place in our world today we are sensing the oneness of life and beginning to acknowledge the profound influence we have upon each other. As love and wisdom more strongly condition the hearts and minds of people of goodwill, we are recognising more clearly the causes of the problems we face. We are seeing that, while we must address the wrongs in our environment, it is equally important to do so with no hatred towards those who have caused them. Tolerance, seen in this light, is a key to service that heals, uplifts and unifies.

As Triangles workers we have our part to play. We know that energy follows thought and we are developing, through experience, skills in lighted, intuitive thinking. There are many ways we can make a point of reflecting on tolerance: meditating on the quality; reading what enlightened thinkers have to say on this quality; looking for evidence of tolerance in our own communities and in the daily events reported in our newspapers and television. We can also involve ourselves in local initiatives to foster tolerance and to deepen understanding and expression of the quality. As we do our daily Triangles link, we can invoke the spiritual potencies needed to release humanity from hatred and prejudice, and consciously create in their stead an atmosphere of tolerance, acceptance and love.

Triangles workers are invited to contribute to a special booklet being prepared by World Goodwill for the Year for Tolerance. The booklet will contain a selection of quotations and writings from co-workers on the themes: tolerance; goodwill; peace. Please send contributions to your nearest Triangles headquarters – to arrive by April 30, 1995 at the latest.

The Planetary Network

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.

The Center For World Thanksgiving

The Center For World Thanksgiving is dedicated “to exploring the healing and uniting powers of thanksgiving”. It celebrates “humanity’s oneness in expressing gratitude to God”.

The Center’s vision is of a coming world community which can “rightly find, at significant moments, its hope and renewal in gratitude as in the past, but now on a global scale. We may find, not enemies, but a world of friends on a deep and sacred level – united in thanksgiving”.

Thanksgiving is fostered as a simple yet profound technique to re-connect humanity with the Divine – “Thanksgiving to God for Life Itself.” And “when we learn that we are not alone in our thanksgivings – that in all the great religions, gratitude is a sacred obligation – then thanksgiving will not be a barrier but a joyous bond”.

The Center for World Thanksgiving is located in Thanks-Giving Square, Dallas, Texas USA and its meditation garden and Chapel of Thanksgiving provides “a common place of world gratitude”.

All are invited “to share in and contribute to this work of world thanksgiving to God”.

- Center For World Thanksgiving at Thanks-Giving Square, Post Office Box 1770 Dallas, Texas 75221 USA
Tel: 214/969-1977

The Silent Minute

An initiative is underway to restore the ‘Silent Minute’ established in the UK by Wellesley Tudor Pole during the second world war.

In December 1917, W. Tudor Pole and another British officer were discussing the war. His colleague informed Tudor Pole of the war that was to come (the second world war), and of the need to link people throughout the world in silent thought “to create a channel between the visible and the invisible worlds”.

The ‘Silent Minute’ became a living reality “in the dark days of Dunkirk” when “men and women of Goodwill” devoted “one minute of their time at nine each evening to a prayer for peace”. It was observed by many millions and received the warm support of H.M. King George VI, Winston Churchill and other leaders in the Church and State.

Now, over fifty years later, individuals and groups are invited to participate in the ‘Silent Minute’ at 10.00 pm sounding the following prayer: “*We pray thee, O God, to bring Peace and Goodwill amongst men.*”

The focaliser for the initiative writes, “Let us start a ‘ground swell’ of a cry for peace and use the power of universal prayer to restore the equilibrium of World Peace.... It is our intention to link with other Peace movements so that, together, we can strengthen the call to peace and goodwill right across the globe”.

- D.H. Forster, PO Box 6046, London W2 6GB, UK

More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of

Tennyson

Three Spiritual Festivals

It becomes more apparent day by day in the light of world events that the message of the three Spiritual Festivals answers a growing human need. More than ever before a uniting of the faiths of the East and West, a synthesising of the ways they represent, is a pressing necessity for the human family. The Festivals of Easter, Wesak and World Invocation Day offer just such an opportunity. They form what could be the basis for a new world religion acceptable by all as it can be conceived on many different levels and expressed with many different symbols.

As the conviction grows that there is an all pervading Life, and religions have evolved as ways of realising that Life in consciousness, more and more people are beginning to open up to ways which were known but closed to them because of the strict conditioning of their religious environment. For instance, Buddhism is expanding in the Western world and Buddhist temples are flourishing everywhere. The re-appearance of the

Christ – Maitreya – Messiah – Imam Mahdi is being evoked all over the globe with an intensity never before known as humanity seems to be running out of ideas for managing a world in accelerating flux.

All great changes in civilisation have been preceded by a divine messenger bringing revelation for the next stage of the divine Plan. Usually this brings order out of chaos as more valid forms which reflect a higher spiritual vision are created.

Easter can be seen as an expression of the spirit of resurrection and renewal – The Festival of the living, risen Christ. Wesak traditionally celebrates the birth, enlightenment and death of the Lord Buddha. It is a time when the quality of enlightenment is potent. World Invocation Day, the Festival of the Christ is said to be a time when the energy of goodwill is especially active – the focus is on humanity's conscious efforts to build an outer world that is in conformity with the Will of God.

Easter Festival

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Saturday, 15th April

Wesak Festival

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Sunday, 14th May

Christ Festival \ World Invocation Day

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Tuesday, 13th June

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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