

## **Ritual: An Inner Quality**

Earlier this century it was predicted that the “tide of the new life” would increasingly sweep into the conscious awareness of the human family. Today many people are commenting on the strength of this tide of new spiritual energies, and how profound are the changes that it is producing. Never before has there been a time when the good of the whole has been such an important focus of thought and action for so many millions of people all around the world. There is considerable bewilderment too. For not only is the best in humanity being brought into prominence but the impact of these energies on a developing but still clearly imperfect humanity has also brought into the light of day terrible examples of inhumanity and selfishness.

We need to remember that undirected energies are neutral. They automatically stimulate whatever thoughts, desires and ambitions we have, just as the sun and rain will bring to life whatever seeds are lying dormant in the soil. An awareness of this fact reminds us how important is the conscious use of prayer, meditation and love-infused thought to direct these energies along constructive pathways. They can then powerfully help reinforce what is good and offset what is negative. Indeed, one of the principle characteristics of the new energies is the quality of ritual and ceremonial order, a quality that consciously uses rhythm to ground ideas and impose order on chaos.

What a marvellous service opportunity this presents to an initiative like Triangles, with its rhythmic ritual of creative thought. Many people only think of ritual in terms of a formal outer ceremony, for example in a church or a temple. But we are now learning to focus on and understand the inner meaning behind outer appearances and, when we apply this focus to ritual, we find a whole new world of inner rituals of heart and mind unfolding.

All triangles workers inevitably develop a degree of understanding about the inner significance of ritual. With our daily rhythm of visualising the three lighted points of all our triangles networking into a global activity of undoubted spiritual power, we are actually helping to develop a new understanding of ritual as a ceremony in consciousness. Instead of an outer building, we are creating and beautifying an interior structure of light that envelops the world and helps provide the right atmosphere in which humanity can develop constructive attitudes and make right decisions. We are actually generating a global pulsation of light that daily assists in the process of planting the seeds of right thought and right action in the mind of humanity – seeds which we can all eagerly anticipate growing into sturdy structures that will support the inner temple of our spiritually awakening humanity.

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# Evolving The New Rituals For Humanity

In our modern, materialistic civilisation many of the rituals which brought meaning and inspiration to previous generations seem to have survived as little more than empty shells, often lacking spiritual power. Yet the order, rhythm and symbolism of ritual is needed now as we seek to draw down the archetypal powers of soul and to reintegrate the sacred into every area of our lives. And there is plenty of evidence to suggest that the rituals that can help in this process are emerging.

One of the most obvious areas where this is happening is in inter-faith encounters. When seekers from different religions and spiritual backgrounds come together, as they increasingly do, they are challenged to evolve rituals and ceremonies to express their sense of the One Humanity in service of the One God, and their delight in the diversity of paths leading to Oneness. So new rituals for our time are created. The same thing happens when peoples of different cultures gather for a common purpose and devise ceremonies to develop and enhance their sense of community and unity.

Ancient, timeless rituals are also acquiring a freshness and new layers of meaning as a result of the increasing interplay between different cultures. Thus, for example, the wisdom traditions of Tibet are reaching out to the West, bringing profound approaches to ritual that are surely playing a significant role in the evolution of the new humanity. Perhaps the Western Masonic tradition in its different forms will also in time emerge as a power point of ritual in the evolution of the new humanity?

There are other, less obvious, but no less significant rituals emerging as a central feature of the transformation process. Take, for example, the growing proliferation of 'world days', celebrating particular aspects of humanity's struggle to incarnate right human relations — Human Rights Day, United Nations Day, World Day of Peace, World Invocation Day, etc. These moments of

time in the global calendar are dedicated to the future society that is still in process of being born. They provide an opportunity for focused thought and aspiration (conferences, media events and documentaries, prayer and meditation) and an occasion for local communities to devise ceremonies to impress upon themselves something of the reality of the oneness of the human family, and the challenges facing us on the path to unity.

The thousands running for Africa in the Live Aid event, and the millions watching the Band Aid concert, were participating in rituals that helped to unite us all. The major global conferences which provide a spotlight for world attention on key issues are also emerging as vital rituals in the collective life of humanity. The Earth Summit at Rio in 1992 and The Population and Development gathering in Cairo earlier this year were collective rites of passage in the evolution of a more mature and responsible global civilisation. More than this, they provided an opportunity for the soul of humanity to express itself in a way that could be heard by all who work with the energy of goodwill.

In the evolution of the new rituals, humanity is becoming more sensitive to the rhythm of the planet and of the cosmos. One sign of this is the steady growth of a diverse network of groups working with some form of meditation and, at times, ceremonial, for world service in accord with the rhythm of the lunar cycle. For esoteric groups the full moon marks alignment with the source of life and light — the sun. It is a time to work in group meditation to evoke spiritual energies of light and love and visualise these life-enhancing, redeeming energies empowering all that is good and beautiful and true in the life of humanity.

As we look with an inner eye at the process of humanity's initiation into an age of interdependence and right relationships, we see signs of the new rituals wherever we look. These rituals are one significant way in which the forces for good on the planet are concentrated and focussed.

# The Planetary Network

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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.

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## **‘We The Peoples’ Initiative**

The ‘We The Peoples’ Initiative is a “co-operative movement to unite the strengths of existing organizations and projects toward making Peace a practical reality in the 21st century”. The initiative seeks to strengthen the United Nations as “an instrument for building and maintaining global Peace”.

The movement began in 1983 when, in response to a request by the then Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Robert Muller, people from diverse organisations co-ordinated the International Peace Day Project. In 1984 citizens in over 52 countries joined in the project.

The International Day of Peace (World Peace Day) has taken place annually since 1982 on the third Tuesday in September — the day of the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Delegates to the UN stand for a minute of silence at the start of this session and groups around the world join in this silent minute. In 1989 the International Peace Day Project was granted Peace Messenger Initiative status by the UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar. At the same time it was officially re-named ‘We The Peoples’ Initiative — a name which is derived from the opening phrase of the Charter of the United Nations. In 1995 the International Day of Peace is to be held on Tuesday, September 19.

One of the major activities of the ‘We The Peoples’ Initiative is to encourage people throughout the world to stand in silent solidarity with UN delegates at noon on the International Day of Peace. Those who join in this activity are asked to “focus on Peace together, followed by a Moment of Goodwill

Activity”. The initiative also invites people to observe one minute of silence at noon every day “in our common commitment to Peace”. A list of recommended activities prepared by the initiative includes the suggestion that “invocations, such as the Great Invocation or the phrase ‘May Peace Prevail on Earth’” be used “in your Peace practice and your daily minute of silence”.

In addition to the focus on prayer and meditation supporters are urged to become more involved in the work of the UN through such activities as joining the United Nations Association and working to introduce the ideas contained in UNICEF's annual *State of the World's Children* report to local schools. The initiative also seeks to “contribute ideas to the United Nations about its evolving role in the 21st Century as an instrument for building and maintaining Peace. These ideas will be summarized periodically in formal reports to the UN”.

! ‘We The Peoples’ Initiative, c/o Pathways To Peace,  
P.O. Box 1057, Larkspur, CA 94977 USA  
Tel: (415) 461-0500 Fax: (415) 925-0330

## **New Earth Circle**

New Earth Circle, a group based in Turin, Italy, invites individuals to link in thought with a “Tuesday Meditation for World Peace” at 9.00 pm as a “cure for all the ills afflicting Humanity and for the health of our Planet”.

Meditation, the group suggests, is a “spiritual force that can improve us and the world around us”.

! The Secretary, New Earth Circle, via G. Grassi 20,  
10138 Torino, Italy. Tel/Fax. 011 433 12 13

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# Sharing Group Thought

*Please share your thoughts on the work of Triangles by using the reverse side of the reply form accompanying this Bulletin*

Several years ago the concept of Triangles was introduced to a group of children in a secondary school in South America. How pleasing a surprise it was to learn that after over two years – and without any external support from me – at least one of the triangles which pupils had formed amongst themselves was still active.

The youth of the emerging humanity is capable of much more abstract mental work than we sometimes give them credit for. We would surely do well to teach our children the simple, invocative and selfless use of the mind which the daily work of Triangles encourages.

**UK**

In performing our Triangles activities we see and feel light. This light emanates from within and its radiance not only lights-up the individual but also irradiates our whole environment.

**Cameroon**

As a new member of Triangles, I have already seen the difference it has made in my life. I now feel the importance of spreading goodwill and love for world peace. It was my feeling that alone I did not make a difference; however, through the network of Triangles and as part of a group, we do make a difference, collectively. Each triangle shares the same desire to promote Love and Goodwill

through meditation — our positive energy as a cumulative force then becomes impregnable. It is through Triangles that we can “Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.”

**USA**

The intelligent use of Triangles by the New Group of World Servers is, we believe performing a vital task in transforming South Africa into a truly democratic state. The work of reconstruction has begun and we, who work on subjective levels, have an important role to play – an importance which is perhaps more than we can imagine.

**South Africa**

It feels so good to be a part of helping to heal our planet and assist the evolution of humanity. Triangles takes commitment but little time. Most people want to feel they are being a positive force in the world today.

**USA**

Thoughts pour into me, combine with others and lift me up. I chase them, but cannot hold them all, as I glimpse the wonders of the soul's qualities and Being. I move from the individual to the collective in the form of my Triangles group, and I see the same applies. I glimpse the beauty, the love, the light, the stillness and the silence; but it all escapes my grasp and holding, as yet.

**UK**

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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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For further information and literature write to Triangles:

Suite 54  
3 Whitehall Court  
London SW1A 2EF  
ENGLAND

Case Postale 31  
1 rue de Varembe (3e)  
1211 Geneva 20  
SWITZERLAND

113 University Pl., 11th Fl.  
PO Box 722 Cooper Station  
New York, NY 10276  
USA

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