

The Will

The will is that mental faculty whereby one deliberately chooses or decides upon a specific course of action. The motive behind that action may be good or bad. It may be spiritual or non-spiritual, unselfish or selfish. From the higher perspective, the right use of the will has been described as "the steady effort to stand in spiritual being".

The will can be implemented in a variety of ways. At one end of the scale it can be used with such intensity that exceedingly rapid results are achieved, usually accompanied by certain dangers. There is, for example, the risk of uneven development, the danger of stifling the love aspect of one's nature, or the distinct possibility of developing destructive tendencies which could have disastrous effects.

At the other end of the scale, there are those gentle souls whose will might be regarded as being characterised by a calm perseverance, and who go steadily and undeviatingly forward, but their progress is usually exceedingly slow. There are those within this category who hold firmly and tenaciously to their beliefs and opinions to such an extent that there is sometimes the danger of their becoming perversely obstinate.

Then there are those who are exponents of what might be termed "the middle path". They proceed steadily and moderately, avoiding extremes, working tirelessly and persistently in the effort to impose new rhythms upon the old. They work with patient endurance and their achievements are the fruits of a steady effort based upon a loving, intelligent appreciation of the work to be done and the goal to be reached, and not upon spasmodic enthusiasm.

Whatever technique may be applied, the will can only be used effectively when there is clear understanding of the relationship between **will** and **purpose**. The driving force of the will cannot be fully utilised unless there are guidelines along which it can be projected. There has to be an underlying purpose or objective before it can be brought into play, for **the will ever implements the purpose**.

Here lies the challenge: is the will sufficiently strong in any particular instance to fulfil the individual purpose or objective? Where the will is lacking, the plan dies out and the objective is not achieved, for the will is truly the "life" of the project.

The greater our understanding of purpose, the greater becomes our ability to use the will effectively. By periodically reviewing the purpose behind our actions and activities, we can achieve deeper recognitions and thereby breathe fresh "life" into our efforts. All who work purposefully, persistently and lovingly, in service to others are, in their own way, becoming true exponents in the right use of the spiritual will.

Qualities of the Will

It is widely recognised amongst people of concern that humanity is today facing a crisis of will. Millions of people are experiencing an inner impulse to give expression and form to the principles of freedom, unity and oneness, both in their personal lives and in the wider worlds of politics, economics, science, art and religion. This impulse is drawing forth a new understanding of the higher qualities of will.

Some of the qualities of the spiritual will are listed below. There are many more, such as the

will-to-be and the will-to-cooperate. As we cultivate any of these higher aspects of will in our own lives we contribute to their evocation in humanity as a whole, and play our part in awakening the political, economic, scientific and religious will to express right human relations.

Will-to-Good: This has been called "the basic quality of divine purpose, involving planned activity and a definite goal to be achieved". It is the purified, essential will which finds expression in all other aspects of spiritual will.

Will-to-Love: A quality of will which is found amongst those rare individuals whose lives are guided by an all-embracing love of the greater whole. As with the **will-to-unify and synthesise** this requires a long-range vision and a loving intention to fire the entire world with the spirit of right relationships. **Goodwill** is a unifying energy which draws upon the higher quality of the will-to-love and which can be found wherever there is the intention to create an atmosphere of unity and oneness in which solutions to problems can be found.

Will-to-Initiate: A primary quality of divinity which, for humanity, implies the willingness to take initiatives in action which can lead towards right relations. It is this quality which lies behind the setting up of humanitarian agencies.

Will-to-Evolve: A powerful force, associated with the **will-to-know**, which drives the quest for education and the individual aspiration for spiritual progress. On a higher level this is the **will- to-serve** in the evolution of humanity as a whole. We are one with all life and the evolution of the individual is linked to the growth and transformation of all members of the human family.

Will-to-Harmonise: The one-pointed concern to relate parts of the whole to each other in such a way as to stimulate, in each, a recognition of oneness and of the benefits of mutual interplay. True harmony implies balance and mutual respect. In today's world, harmony between nations, peoples and the environment will be achieved through sacrifice of material interests, willingly entered into for the good of the whole.

Will-to-Cause: Everything we do causes ripples of effects. Those who work with the mind can consciously set in motion causes which are in line with the Plan.

Will-to-Express: This is the anchoring of energies in the outer world and the ability to carry an idea, impulse or insight through to physical action. The will-to-express, like the **will-to-act**, involves every part of our being as we take steps to express our higher values and purposes in relationships and in thoughts, words and actions. All these qualities of will require some element of the will-to-express and the will-to-act.

Will-to-Beauty: An aspect of the will-to-harmony and the will-to-express, this is the work of beautifying the outer world of form and the inner world of emotions and thought.

Triangles workers have a special role to play in the evocation of the will. We are a group experienced in subjective service. By clarifying our understanding of the higher qualities of will and cultivating them in ourselves, in our individual triangles, and in all our relationships we can help awaken these qualities in humanity as a whole. We can also consider every action we take to help establish right relations as a contribution to this greater awakening of the will.

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.

Earth Chant Day

On the 8th of June this year, while the Earth Summit was in progress, a new annual day of chanting and listening to chant was initiated. Groups participated from a wide range of countries, including Argentina, Australia, India, Ghana, Uruguay, Russia and the USA. In addition to the chanting the Day was also celebrated with 8 minutes of silence at 8 a.m. Rio de Janeiro time.

Every year the Day will be celebrated on June 8th. "Earth Chant Day will be a day for chanting and listening to chant throughout the world, dedicated to the health of the planet and justice between people.... Chanting and listening to chant is therapeutic: it helps to bring about reconciliation and it connects us with the Earth and the Universe. During chant the mind can dwell on the sacredness of everything and the interdependence of all life.... The knowledge that people in many parts of the world are chanting on the same day should help to strengthen the recognition that we are one global family and that the Earth is the home that we all share."

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Earthmother Marine Meditation

What began as a regular cycle of group meditations to coincide with the spring and autumn equinoxes at Moana Beach in South Australia has now become a global network of meditation for the healing of the oceans.

Focaliser's 'Earthmother Therapy Centre' report that "Too often ignored as spiritual or sacred places, the oceans of the world cry out to us for help. Their need for loving healing energy is as great, if not greater, than the mountains, forests and wilderness that we normally focus world attention on. For the oceans are the healing, nurturing mantle of the Earth, lifegiver and protector, the quintessential EARTHMOTHER. Daily we despoil her beauty and destroy her balance, and in doing so we despoil and unbalance ourselves, for we are one with all that is, one with EARTHMOTHER. Join with us and let the oceans vibrate with our love, with our caring, with our optimism, with our determination that we can and will create the balance needed for the well-being of this planet".

The next meditation is to take place on 23rd September 1992 at 8 p.m. local time at beaches and sacred sites. "This will be a 'wave' meditation circling the Earth Planet for a full 24-hour period. The "wave" begins in the heart of each person participating. This meditation seeks to empower with love - as an act of human will and caring - the circle of healing which already exists and embraces the globe. Each individual tunes in and shares [his/her] wave of love. Each location is but a **tuning-in** point to a circle of oneness, a circle of healing, a circle of love. The

time, the date, even the oceans themselves, only provide a focus: a means by which the power of love and divinity within each one of us can be harnessed for the higher global good on the physical, spiritual and soul levels. For a full 24 hours, the oceans will "glow" with the energy of the global heart of humanity pouring forth through the circles of infinity, its compassionate, joyous, lighted love. For this is to be not the **spark of moment** but the **glow of eternity**".

Earthmother Therapy Centre, P.O. Box 111, Old Noarlunga, South Australia 5168. Tel. (08) 386 3706.

Thoughts on Will

Clearly all the symptoms of an overburdened planet are there for us to see.... There is much information about them and more is continuously being accumulated. What we do not have in plenty is the human will. The will to abandon our selfishness both individually and collectively.

Wangari Maathai

God appears to you not in person but in action.

Mahatma Gandhi

The central core of modern man's "neurosis," it may be fairly said, is the undermining of his experience of himself as responsible, the sapping of his will and ability to make decisions. The lack of will is much more than merely an ethical problem: the modern individual so often has the conviction that even if he *did* exert his "will" - or whatever illusion passes for it - his actions wouldn't do any good anyway. It is this inner experience of impotence, this contradiction in will, which constitutes our critical problem.

Rollo May

Something is afoot in the universe, a result is working out which can best be compared to a gestation and birth: the birth of a new spiritual reality formed by souls and the matter they draw after them. Laboriously, by way of human activity and thanks to it, the new earth is gathering, isolating and purifying itself. No, we are not like flowers in a bunch, but the leaves and flowers of a great tree, on which each appears at its time and place, according to the demands of the All.

Teilhard de Chardin

You must give birth to your images. They are the future waiting to be born.... fear not the strangeness you feel. The future must enter into you long before it happens.... Just wait for the birth.... for the hour of new clarity.

Rainer Maria Rilke

We ordinary people must forge our own beauty. We must set fire to the greyness of our labour with the art of our own lives. In this kind of creation, every day becomes a pure enjoyment.

It is within our own lives that will has to be awakened and used; it is here that we learn to control and direct it, not in the throwing of our weight about in our environment. For example, if we are lethargic, it exercises the will to take prompt action; if we are vacillating, to make decisions; if we are fluidic, to complete our tasks and maintain stability. In simple ways of this kind we can do much to evoke and cultivate this precious aspect of the self. Only when we have mastery of the will *within* our selves can we be trusted to use it in wider spheres. In *The Dhammapada* we read:

If a man conquer in battle a thousand times thousand, and another
conquer himself, he who conquers himself is the greatest conqueror.

George Eliot reminds us that we do not lack opportunities for this: 'Every morning,' she writes in her *Letters*, 'is an opportunity that one can look forward to, for exerting one's will, ... willing to will strongly.'

Once we begin to think about it, we see the value of this, and reflective meditation on the will is a revealing and helpful preliminary exercise. Through it we deepen our whole concept of this attribute and reach an idea of the *kind* of will which we should cultivate, and also see the areas where we fail because of lack of it.

Michal J. Eastcott

When machinery is perfected, it will be quiet. The flow of electricity, the expansion of steam - these are quiet, but they are the power. The imperfect machinery through which they work, which can scarcely bear their power, makes the noise. He who in his own life, hearing the racket of machinery in motion, thinks that to be the will, has not yet found the will, for the will is the quietest thing in the world.

Ernest Wood

The will is not an effort: it is *purpose*, *choice* and *decision*. In other words it is a power that directs, initiates and orients.

Roberto Assagioli

The *transpersonal will* manifests itself chiefly as moral courage and a readiness and ability to assume responsibility, face dangers of all kinds and risk one's own well-being, reputation and life itself for a worthy cause.

Roberto Assagioli

The loss of religion has shaken the movement forward. Without God there is no path. Call Him what one will, the highest Hierarchic Principle must be observed, otherwise there is nothing to adhere to. Thus, one must understand how the upward aspiration of people's wills surrounds the planet like a protective net.

Agni Yoga

In my last instruction I gave you three hints...The second hint I gave indicated that mankind had evolved so well that today the goals and theories, the aims and determinations now expressed in human thinking and writing showed that the will aspect of divinity, in its first embryonic manifestation, was beginning to make its presence felt. Have you followed this hint? Have you realised that the uprisings of the masses and their determination to overcome handicaps and all hindrances to a better world state are indicative of this? Do you grasp the fact that the revolutions of the past two hundred years are signs of the striving of the spirit aspect? That spirit is life and will; the world today is showing signs of new life. Think this out in its modern and immediate implications and see the way that the world is going under the inspiration of the spiritual Will.

Alice Bailey

Aspirants have to learn the nature of the will by the power of inner illumination and by certain intelligent recognitions. They learn the nature of the self through the aid of the personality, the shadow or distortion of the divine will. They pass from the expression of the will which is purely selfish, self-sufficient and self-focussed, to the grasp of the group will and to the effort to embody that group will. This group will is always concerned with that which is not the will of the separated self.

Alice Bailey

Will is the energy of the soul expressing itself as direction, progress, and conformity to the Plan.

Alice Bailey