

Lucis Trust Autumn 2020

Harmony Through the Heat of Conflict

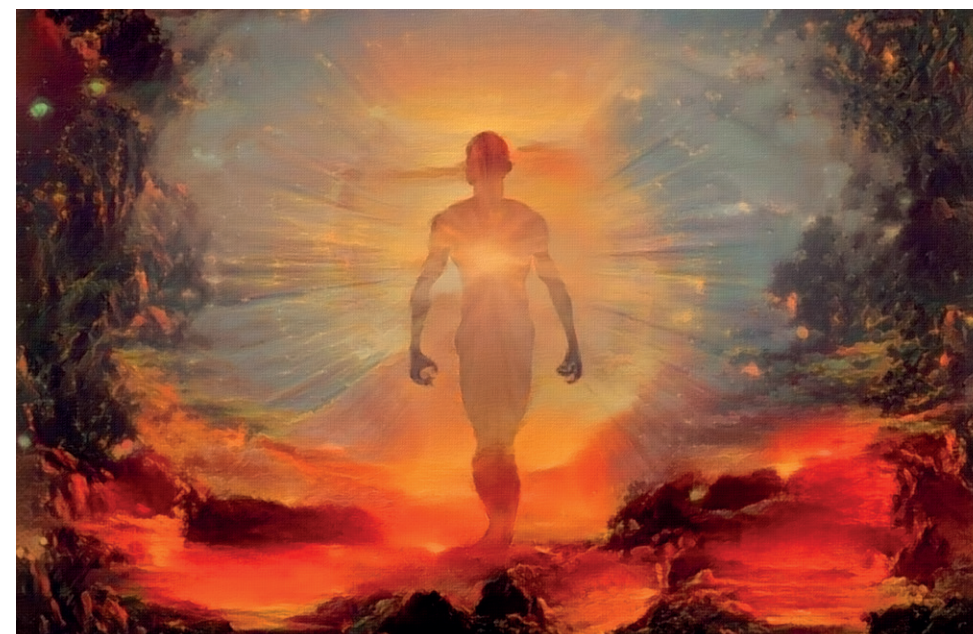


including World Goodwill Seminar:
*The Spiritual Dynamics of Crisis on the
Path to Global Cooperation*
Zoom event, 14 November 2020

www.lucistrust.org/autumn

... remember that all manifestations and every point of crisis are symbolised by the ancient symbol of the point within the circle, the focus of power within a sphere of influence or aura. So it is today with the entire problem of ending the world glamour and illusion which fundamentally lie behind the present acute situation and world catastrophe. The possibility of such a dispelling and dissipation is definitely centred in the two Avatars, the Buddha and the Christ.

The Externalisation of the Hierarchy, p.359



Harmony through the Heat of Conflict

Dear Co-worker,

The Ageless Wisdom teachings are based on the transmuting properties of Fire. They proclaim that: *Fire is the most perfect and unadulterated reflection, in Heaven as on earth, of the One Flame. It is life and death, the origin and the end of every material thing. It is divine Substance.*¹ Fire, of course, generates heat, without which nothing moves. As such, Heat is the history of everything – the driving power behind evolution.

Of all the natural phenomena our senses experience, the feeling of gentle heat, or warmth, is perhaps the most primitive, for it brings a sense of comfort and security. But outside of the narrow temperature range that we define as 'warmth,' lies the experience of pain – either through too much heat or too little. Psychologically, this is equally true as is clear from words such as *temper* and *temperament*, which are directly

related to *temperature*. We use the word ‘temper’ to describe a person’s disposition, often in the sense of overheated emotions; but equally, an ‘even temper’ describes a state of composure. While we would associate the former condition with a state of inner conflict, the latter indicates a state of inner harmony.

Since prehistoric times, the human being has constantly struggled to *temper* things – to bring harmony out of conflict and perpetuate a state of psychological warmth. Indeed, to temper something means “to bring to a proper state through a proportioned mixture of elements.” This endeavour is common to all living organisms, as the educational reformer, John Dewey, points out:

“Every need, say hunger for fresh air or food, is a lack that denotes at least a temporary absence of adequate adjustment with surroundings. But it is also a demand, a reaching out into the environment to make good the lack and to restore adjustment by building at least a temporary equilibrium. Life itself consists of phases in which the organism falls out of step with the march of surrounding things and then recovers unison with it – either through effort or by some happy chance. And, in a growing life, the recovery is never mere return to a prior state, for it is enriched by the state of disparity and resistance through which it has successfully passed... Life grows when a temporary falling out is a transition to a more extensive balance of the energies of the organism with those of the conditions under which it lives.”²

These words eloquently describe how the perpetual struggle to bring harmony out of conflict transforms consciousness, over long ages, to ever increasing levels of refinement, and ultimately, into an aesthetic of creative living. For as Dewey surmises: “Art is... prefigured in the very processes of living. A bird builds its nest and a beaver its dam when internal organic pressures cooperate with external materials so that the former are fulfilled and the latter are transformed in a satisfying culmination.”³

According to the Ageless Wisdom, this capacity for creative living is intensified in the human kingdom under the influence of a Divine Life-Force that embodies the qualities of Harmony, Beauty and Art. Paradoxically, the initial effect of this life-force is to upset the equilibrium of consciousness causing inner conflict. But this serves to drive the human being through cycles of experience and growth, into a more extensive balance between consciousness and environment as described by John Dewey. From the esoteric angle, each cycle of conflict results in the attainment of a more dynamic state of equilibrium between *Spirit* and *Matter*. Through the skillful balancing of these two poles of existence, comes the harmony of spiritual warmth and the flourishing of art and beauty.

As “The Lord of Harmony, Beauty and Art,” continues to heat the consciousness of humanity, the Alice Bailey writings predict the gradual discovery of the laws of fire: “*In them are summed up the basic laws of colour and of music and rhythm. When music produces warmth or stimulation, and when pictures, for instance, glow or reveal the subjective within the objective, then will this... Ray of Harmony be coming to fruition.*”⁴ Moreover, the large number of people who will be sensitively responsive to this stimulation will produce “*beauty and harmony in the outer life, so that others can see the achievement,*” and this will inspire many more to follow their lead.

However, as the conflagrated state of the world plainly shows, human consciousness is still consumed in the heat of conflict. Yet this need not be a cause for despair. Although it is an excruciating process, the conflict is serving to loosen the bonds of wrong attachments in the realm of matter. The power to change comes through the application of heat – and herein lies the secret of transmutation. Whether it is a chemical process or a psychological one, the cycle of heat follows three stages: A period of conflict, followed by rejection or renunciation of prevailing conditions, and then liberation. With transmutation

achieved, consciousness moves on to express its freedom through greater acts of creative beauty.

All earthly crises, individual or those related to humanity as a whole, are produced by the Principle of Conflict embedded in human consciousness, which drives it through this process. The crisis points that are currently emerging worldwide therefore hold the potential for accelerated human progress despite outer appearances. Crises hold the promise of imminent transmutation and the acquisition of a harmonizing power with which to create a new world of light and beauty. But this can only transpire if the right choices are made in directing the prevailing energies. This is a subject that will be further explored at this year's World Goodwill online seminar: *The Spiritual Dynamics of Crisis on the Path to Global Cooperation*.

Returning to John Dewey's observations, imagine gathering all the current global crises to one focal point – it is possible to detect a general, underlying cause that is similar to the urge that drives the bird to build its nest, the beaver its dam. Deep down, humanity is feeling homeless and pining for the warmth of security and community. The feeling of not belonging somewhere is a basic human anxiety. Through wrong identification and attachment, this quest to belong has been twisted into a quest for ownership and possessions to construct an artificial sense of identity and belonging. But this only drives consciousness further into the cold of isolation. The discovery of psychological warmth and security lies in realizing our innate connectedness with each other and the environment, and building a lighted home for one and all.

With this objective, the art of creative living flourishes. But that requires no less than “a new conception of human ecology” ...in which creativity is considered as important as literacy and celebrated as “*the process of having original ideas that have value.*” These are the words of Sir Ken Robinson, who was an international advisor on

education in the arts. He was addressing the theme “Do schools kill creativity?” on TED – a platform devoted to spreading ideas in the form of short, powerful talks covering all manner of topics in over a hundred languages. It is the most watched talk ever given on TED and demonstrates how ideas can catch fire in the public imagination when expressed with the harmony of warmth and humour.

As we move through this testing world period, humanity needs inspiration from those who are emerging from the heat of psychological conflict to express the light and warmth of creative living. Heat and light, the familiar effects of fire, condition our everyday lives – for the whole of manifestation is a slow-moving frictional fire and just by being in the world, we are participating in this gradual combustion. This is the way of evolution. The key to harmony lies in more fire not less – the stimulation of the flame of the spirit within. Through it we join the growing number of creative thinkers everywhere to *fire the world with the spirit of relationship*.

In the light of group creativity, Lucis Trust

1. H.P. Blavatsky, *Secret Doctrine I*, p.121 (Facsimile edition)
2. John Dewey, *Art as Experience*, p.12 (Kindle edition)
3. *Ibid*, p.24
4. Alice Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p.427

The Fourth Ray and the Principle of Conflict

Alice A. Bailey

The Principle of Conflict is the outstanding characteristic of [the] fourth Ray of Harmony through Conflict. This is by no means an easy subject to handle or to make clear, for the correctness of conflict, its naturally separative and eliminative effect and its power to condition not only Humanity but also the Hierarchy, will have to be considered. ...

Fundamentally, this fourth ray is that which is responsible for the strains and the stresses, and for the initial conflict between the major pair of opposites to which we give the name of spirit-matter. It is this fourth ray energy which makes apparent the distinction (so often misunderstood by man) between good and evil. In Atlantean days, the leaders of men, under the influence of this paramount fourth ray energy, made a decision which laid the emphasis upon the matter aspect, according to their desire and their emotional reaction, which is present in the essential duality of manifestation, and thus inaugurated the Age of Materialism. This age has wrought itself out through its accompanying greeds, hate, separativeness and aggression. During the present century, this materialism led to the world war which was in reality the expression of a shifting orientation, and therefore to a certain extent, of a coming triumph of Good.

The balance is slowly, very slowly, swinging over to the side of the spirit aspect of the duality; it has not yet swung, even in intention, completely over, but the issues are becoming increasingly clearer in men's minds and the indications are that man will eventually decide correctly, will attain a point of balance or equilibrium, and will finally throw the weight of public opinion on the side of spiritual values, thus leading to a collective renunciation of materialism, particularly in its grosser and physical forms. The time is not yet, but a great awakening is in process;

men, however, will only see correctly when this Principle of Conflict is properly evaluated as a spiritual necessity and is used by humanity as an instrument to bring about emergence from the wrong controls and principles. Just as the individual disciple uses it to emerge out of the control of matter in the three worlds, beginning with the emergence from the control of the physical body, passing out of the control of the emotional nature, and formulating for himself a spiritual ideology which enables him to pass out of the control of the three worlds of forms, and so begin to function as a soul-infused personality, so mankind also has to do the same in mass formation.

...it is wise to remember that all crises in the material world – individual crises and those related to humanity as a whole – are governed by the Principle of Conflict, whilst crises in the spiritual world are controlled by the esoteric Principle of Decision. ...

The Principle of Conflict has a close connection with the Path of Discipleship, and here lies the reason for the inclusive and synthetic aspect of the present world conflict; though the physical aspects of the conflict are today greatly lessened (but are still present on a small scale in various parts of the world), the conflict is by no means over or yet resolved. It is still being violently waged by advanced human beings upon the mental plane and by the masses upon the plane of emotional reactions; it will be some time before the war truly is brought to a finish. ...

The Principle of Conflict is also active in all institutions, groups and organisations in all lands and in every department of human thought. Its results are, first, the awakening of humanity to certain major human developments and possibilities, and secondly, it will lead to certain basic renunciations, once the issues are clearly seen and the cleavage which exists in reality between the desirable spiritual values and the undesirable material values has been made clear.

Selected from Alice A. Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*, pp.605–610. These extracts were written after the founding of the United Nations in 1945, and before Alice Bailey's death in 1949. The words *man* and *men* were widely used at this time to refer to humans and to humanity.

Meditation: Strengthening the Hands of the New Group of World Servers

I. GROUP FUSION

*I am one with my group brothers and all that I have is theirs.
May the love which is in my soul pour forth to them. May the strength
which is in me lift and aid them. May the thoughts which my soul cre-
ates reach and encourage them.*

II. ALIGNMENT We recognise our place, as a group, within the heart centre of the group of world servers. Mentally extend a line of lighted energy towards the spiritual Hierarchy, the planetary heart centre; to the Christ, the “heart of love” within the Hierarchy; towards Shamballa, “where the Will of God is known”.

III. HIGHER INTERLUDE Hold the mind focussed for a few moments on the planetary role of the group of world servers mediating between Hierarchy and humanity, responding to hierarchical impression and meditating the Plan into existence.

IV. MEDITATION Reflect on the seed thought:

*Through the impression and expression of certain great
ideas, humanity must be brought to the understanding
of the fundamental ideals which will govern the new age.
This is the major task of the group of world servers.*

V. PRECIPITATION Visualise the precipitation of the will-to-good, essential love, throughout the planet, from Shamballa, through the planetary heart, the Hierarchy, through the Christ, the group of world servers, through all men and women of goodwill everywhere in the world, and finally through the hearts and minds of the whole human family.

VI. LOWER INTERLUDE Consider the many ways in which the “power of the one Life” and the “love of the one Soul” are working out in the world through members of the group of world servers, so building the “thoughtform of solution” to world problems.

VII. DISTRIBUTION As the Great Invocation is sounded, visualise the irradiation of human consciousness with light and love and power:

*From the point of Light within the mind of God
Let Light stream forth into the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth.*

*From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.
May Christ return to Earth.*

*From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide the little wills of men –
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.*

*From the centre which we call the race of men
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.*

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

OM OM OM

The Spiritual Dynamics of Crisis on the Path to Global Cooperation

World Goodwill Zoom Seminar
Saturday, 14 November 2020

The habit of confronting crises is a long-established one within the consciousness of humanity.

Humanity's priorities are currently in the spotlight as numerous conflicts play out in the individual and mass consciousness. These crises are arising from our increasing interdependence and are producing a tremendous point of world tension.

But within this tension lies a potential point of emergence. In order to grasp this opportunity, it is essential to search for the underlying causes behind world events which requires the ability to penetrate into the realm of meaning that stands behind this world of appearances.

Join us for a day of discussions, reflections and meditations on the interlocking crises which are defining our era, and the positive responses which are emerging.

Link to www.worldgoodwill.org/seminar2020

Geneva: 10am – 1pm CET

London: 2pm – 5pm GMT

New York: 1pm – 4pm EST

London seminar: 2pm – 5pm GMT

Link to www.worldgoodwill.org/seminar2020 for the Zoom broadcast



The Spiritual Dynamics of Crisis on the Path to Global Cooperation. A discussion on the seminar theme

Dr Thomas Burr is Associate Professor at Illinois State University, teaching and researching economic sociology, global historical sociology, and cultural sociology. His main interest is macrosociology, the study of society as a whole over time.



Adventures in Social Architecture
Dr Charika Marasinghe is a Senior Consultant in Human Rights, Child Rights,

Child Protection and Institutional Development, and a Mindfulness Trainer. She has a doctorate in International Law from Oxford University, is closely involved with the work of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement in Sri Lanka, and is a trustee of the Vishva Niketan International Peace and Meditation Centre.



The Spiritual Dynamics of Crisis on the Path to Global Cooperation

Forget not that humanity grows through the presentation of moments of crisis.

Alice Bailey

Today, the conflicts are numerous, vital and unavoidable; they are present in the individual consciousness and in the mass consciousness; they present constant points of crises and are today bringing about a point of world tension which seems well-nigh unbearable. But ahead of the individual disciple and of humanity lies a point of emergence.

Alice Bailey

The whole of humanity is confronted with an intertwined set of crises which, taken together, constitute the crisis of a humanity that is unable to access Humanity.

Stéphane Frédéric Hessel

The crisis is the moment when the old world order is fading away and the new one has to impose itself in spite of all resistance and contradictions. This transitional phase is precisely marked by many mistakes and torments.

Antonio Gramsci

In every crisis, doubt or confusion, take the higher path – the path of compassion, courage, understanding and love.

Amit Ray

Times of crisis, of disruption or constructive change, are not only predictable, but desirable. They mean growth. Taking a new step, uttering a new word, is what people fear most.

Fyodor Dostoevsky

In times of crisis, people reach for meaning. Meaning is strength. Our survival may depend on our seeking and finding it.

Viktor E. Frankl

What if we used this disruption as an opportunity to let go of everything that isn't essential in our life, in our work, and in our institutional routines? How might we reimagine how we live and work together? How might we reimagine the basic structures of our civilization? Which effectively means: how can we reimagine our economic, our democratic, and our learning systems in ways that bridge the ecological, the social, and the spiritual divides of our time?

Otto Sharmer

Organizations and communities do not fail because of their problems, nor do they necessarily succeed because they solve them. Problems will always exist. Communities that succeed open up to the unknown during periods of crisis. We succeed in the grand sense and become sustainable by following the cycle of things. We come together by following the flow – through operating as a community, having trouble, almost going to pieces and then coming together.

Arnold Mindell

Can the 1945 multilateral order be reforged to confront the deeper level of interdependence we now face? The crucial tests ahead include finding solutions to urgent problems concerning financial market regulation, global economic imbalances, climate change, the prevention of nuclear proliferation, and investing in capabilities more broadly to cope with global goods and bads. These tests are for the here and now, not some remote future. We face a choice between an effective and representative rule-based multilateral order, or the further development of gridlock and descent into negative scenarios ...

It should not be forgotten that the international order has been rebuilt before. The codification of the United Nations was the first step in the creation of a framework of rules embedding rights and responsibilities in the international order, as were the Bretton Woods institutions, and their successors. These developments were the result of crisis and can be thought of as “crisis innovations”: international institutions and governance preceded by devastation and human destruction. Here and elsewhere one can observe that some of the most violent and catastrophic moments of human history have been followed by transformative institutional developments.

Thomas Hale, David Held and Kevin Young, Gridlock, p.306

...to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning.

Nelson Mandela

More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that is why we have the United Nations.

Kofi Annan

For the first time in human history, the lines of demarcation between that which is right from the angle of the spiritual values (the essential freedom of the human spirit) and that which is wrong (the imprisonment of the human spirit by materialistic conditions) are clearly perceived by the majority of the nations of the planet. Within the United Nations is the germ and the seed of a great international and meditating, reflective group – a group of thinking and informed men and women in whose hands lies the destiny of humanity.

Alice Bailey

Without trust there's no cooperation. And without cooperation there's no progress. History stops.

Rick Yancey

Peacebuilding requires an eternal belief in the creative act, the building and coaxing of imagination itself. Creativity moves beyond what exists toward something new and unexpected while rising from and speaking to the everyday. This is the role of the artist and why it is that imagination and art are at the edge of society. I believe that the primary role of the moral imagination is to provide space for the creative act to emerge. Providing space requires a predisposition, a kind of attitude and perspective that opens up, even invokes the spirit and belief that creativity is humanly possible.

John Paul Lederach

Destiny is something not to be desired and not to be avoided. A mystery not contrary to reason, for it implies that the world, and the course of human history, have meaning.

Dag Hammarskjöld

The difficulty is that, so long as unreason prevails, a solution of our troubles can only be reached by chance; for while reason, being impersonal, makes universal co-operation possible, unreason, since it represents private passions, makes strife inevitable. It is for this reason that rationality, in the sense of an appeal to a universal and impersonal standard of truth, is of supreme importance to the well-being of the human species.

Bertrand Russell

The race faces a new crisis of opportunity wherein new values can be seen as important, wherein the establishing of right human relations will be deemed desirable, not only from the idealistic point of view but also from the purely selfish angle. Some day the principles of cooperation and of sharing will be substituted for those of possessive greed and competition. This is the inevitable next step ahead for humanity – one for which the entire evolutionary process has prepared mankind.

Alice Bailey

Love is wise, hatred is foolish. In this world, which is getting more and more closely interconnected, we have to learn to tolerate each other, we have to learn to put up with the fact that some people say things that we don't like. We can only live together in that way – and if we are to live together and not die together – we must learn a kind of charity and a kind of tolerance, which is absolutely vital to the continuation of human life on this planet.

Bertrand Russell

When faced with a radical crisis, when the old way of being in the world, of interacting with each other and with the realm of nature doesn't work anymore, when survival is threatened by seemingly insurmountable problems, an individual life-form – or a species – will either die or become extinct or rise above the limitations of its condition through an evolutionary leap.

Eckhart Tolle

Throughout the ages, humanity has been advancing on a winding path towards higher degrees of maturity. The well-being of humankind is not static; it requires ever greater degrees of commitment to fulfilling ever increasing ambitions. At each stage, even significant advances may prove inadequate. And it is in these moments of great crisis when humanity is called on, by virtue of the prevailing circumstances, to reconsider its trajectory. Largely, though not exclusively, driven by enormous tragedy, these moments are significant in the narrative of human progress.

Daniel Perrell

Every test successfully met is rewarded by some growth in intuitive knowledge, strengthening of character, or initiation into a higher consciousness.

Paul Brunton

A crisis gives us the opportunity to practice our creativity, for it makes us think outside the box.

Abhijit Naskar

I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.

Abraham Lincoln

At critical moments the veil between the little-self and the deep self thins and a meaningful self-adjustment becomes possible. If a person does not become paralyzed with fear or frozen in hatred, the wise self hidden within will rise to the occasion.

Michael Meade

A crisis is a terrible thing to waste.

Paul Romer

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- 2021 Meetings Schedule
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