

Lucis Trust Autumn 2021

Freedom through Community



including World Goodwill Seminar:
Imagination and Social Regeneration
Zoom event, 6 November 2021
www.lucistrust.org/autumn

... there is no cause for depression or undue anxiety, but only ardent desire that the transition may be made in due time and order and be neither too rapid – hence destructive to all right ties and affiliations – nor too prolonged and so strain beyond endurance the sorely tried fabric of humanity.

Adapted from Alice A. Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, pp.276–8



Freedom through Community

Dear Co-worker,

We find ourselves in the most organized and interconnected period of human history by far, and yet there is a sense of collective loneliness in the heart of humanity. The new service networks and communication tools of this digital era are having a huge impact on patterns of behaviour, relationships and concepts of identity; and while they have the potential to facilitate new freedoms and further human integration, they also harbour the danger of new addictions and compulsions. The 'online world' is a wonderful medium for promoting social evolution, but it can also erode the traditional sense of community relationships and social values.

As a consequence of all this, the core human need of a sense of 'belonging' and social identity is on shifting ground; and this is compounded by another feature of the digital era – the trend towards technocratic forms of government reliant on the highly educated.

This type of meritocracy has its downside, as the political philosopher, Michael J. Sandel, points out in his book, *The Tyranny of Merit*:

Having well-educated people run the government is generally desirable, provided they possess sound judgment and a sympathetic understanding of working people's lives – what Aristotle called practical wisdom and civic virtue. But history shows little connection between prestigious academic credentials and either practical wisdom or an instinct for the common good in the here and now...¹

Elsewhere in the same book he writes:

Our technocratic version of meritocracy severs the link between merit and moral judgment. In the domain of the economy, it simply assumes that the common good is defined by GDP [gross domestic product] and that the value of people's contributions consists in the market value of the goods or services they sell. In the domain of government, it assumes that merit means technocratic expertise. This can be seen in the growing role of economists as policy advisors, the increasing reliance on market mechanisms to define and achieve the public good, and the failure of public discourse to address the large moral and civic questions that should be at the center of political debate: What should we do about rising inequality? What is the moral significance of national borders? What makes for the dignity of work? What do we owe one another as citizens? This morally blinkered way of conceiving merit and the public good has weakened democratic societies.²

As new, diverse branches of sociology emerge to study all these changes in political behaviour, social relationships and concepts of the self, it is of value to note that Sociology literally means 'the study of companionship'. It is derived from the Latin word *socius*, meaning 'companion', and the Greek word *Logos*, meaning 'word' or 'knowledge'.³ We might, then, call the esoteric dimension of sociology *The WORD of Companionship* – a study of the divine, creative sound as it is unfolding in social groups around the world. Letting our imaginations soar, what would it be like to experience

The Word of Companionship sounding throughout the entire field of human relationships, infusing it with meaning? What might the social structure of planet Earth be like if people everywhere were simply open to the idea of a Divine Plan – the sense that evolution is being driven forward by a majestic purpose, and that the unfolding qualities of every single unit of life, no matter how small and seemingly insignificant, are needed in order to fulfill it?

To this end, unfolding a sense of divine plan and purpose in the social consciousness is surely one of the most pressing needs of our time. Such an injection of meaning could revolutionize human thinking and interactions, strengthening the united bridge of consciousness that humanity is building towards the subtle worlds. The Alice Bailey writings refer to this bridge-building process as the ‘Science of Social Evolution’, predicting that, in the future, it will become part of a great Science of Invocation and Evocation that will be based on the magnetic, arranging power of sound. The beginnings of this science can be practiced by anyone who uses the Great Invocation on a regular basis. The conscious, purposeful enunciation of this mantram in connection with the meditation outline, *Strengthening the Hands of the New Group of World Servers*, sends potencies thrilling through the planetary ethers to amplify and magnetize the spiritual sound that is rising from all individuals and groups whose activities are in musical resonance with the Divine Plan.

The ‘magnetic power of sound’ can be sensed behind the work of many intuitive servers today. As students of the esoteric sciences know well however, human consciousness cannot suddenly leap into a sublime state of “identification with the whole”. It has to be steadily nurtured through education and an active participation in the interlacing social spheres that make up that greater whole. This spirit of approach is termed “inclusive localism” by Raghuram Rajan, a former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund as well as a former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

In his book, *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind*, he writes:

Deep down, the vast majority of us recognize the human in one another. Yet we need to come close enough to do that, and all too often, we label at a distance. Understanding and tolerance of other cultures is not a weakness, not a sign of inadequate patriotism, not an indication that we are rootless ‘citizens of nowhere’. In reality, it reflects our preparation for the world of tomorrow, where we will become ever more mixed as peoples, even as we study, value, and preserve our collective cultural heritage. The world is not there yet. Therefore, we need to take smaller, easier steps, where there is room for all as we develop a better understanding of one another. The strengthening of proximate communities [neighbourhoods] will not just allow a diversity of views, including the most tribal and the most cosmopolitan, to exist. It will also allow us to preserve direct social interaction, which may well be where more of the jobs of the future lie, as automation depletes jobs in sectors that produce commercial goods and services.⁴

There is a growing understanding that humanity has to rediscover the spirit of community in this rapidly changing world, populated by ever smarter machines and technocratic forms of government; and we will be deliberating this further in our online World Goodwill seminar: ***Imagination and Social Regeneration***, on 6 November, in Geneva, London and New York. Humanity has to reimagine the principle of freedom and rediscover it collectively in the spirit of community at all levels of human endeavour and intercourse. This is needed to bring humanity into alignment with a great cosmic principle that lies behind the whole evolutionary process on Earth. It operates in every kingdom in nature and “substands or lies under or behind all progress”.

The Alice Bailey writings refer to this energy as the Law or Principle of Freedom. It is variously described as “a leavening energy which can permeate substance in a unique manner”, and a “mysteriously exerted influence” that results in a “pulling away from form”. Paradoxically,

while this great law brings about freedom, it also imposes certain restrictions, and these have apparently led to the informing Life of our planet – the Lord of the World – being known as the ‘Great Sacrifice’. Under the control of this law, “He created our planetary life and all that is within and upon it, in order to learn to wield this law with full understanding, in full consciousness, and yet at the same time to bring release to the myriad forms of His creation”.⁵

At the human level, the path to freedom in a social context involves a steady sacrifice of the individualistic mindset to that of group consciousness. This reflects the spirit of the great law under which the informing Life of our planet functions, and the creative sacrifice he made to “bring release to the myriad forms of His creation”. Humanity’s understanding of freedom is evolving slowly but surely, and the solidarity that has been evidenced in large swathes of the world’s population throughout the pandemic has been encouraging. Insular concepts of freedom have been challenged, and their sacrifice for the greater good of society has been one of the lessons of this period.

The esoteric workers of the world add further to this evolving group understanding with minds and hearts on fire with light and love. Through our skilful endeavours in service meditations and enunciation of the Great Invocation, we can help the Word of Companionship to ring throughout the sphere of human activity, dissipating the veils of glamour and illusion with the inspirational message of *freedom through community*.

In the companionship of the One Work,

Christine Morgan

President

Lucis Trust

1. Michael J. Sandel, *The Tyranny of Merit*, p.90

2. *Ibid*, p.28

3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociology#Etymology>

4. Raghuram Rajan, *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State leave the Community Behind*, p.391

5. Alice A. Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*, p.417

The Right Direction of the Human Kingdom

Alice A. Bailey

The form of humanity is completed. Its right placement within the womb of matter is the objective of the Hierarchy, with all the consequent implications. Note these words. The need at this time is terrific, and the soul is at the birthing in humanity as a whole. Cosmically speaking, if right direction of the forces of the human kingdom is now achieved, there will be manifested on the earth a humanity which will manifest a purpose, a beauty and a form which will be full expressions of an inner spiritual reality and in line with egoic [soul] purpose. Other eventualities can be sensed as sadly possible but these we will not consider for it is the hope and the belief of the watching... [Spiritual Hierarchy]... that men and women will transcend all undesirable eventualities and make the goal. One word here, and one hint. The Hierarchy of the planet constitutes symbolically the head centre of humanity and their forces constitute the brain forces. On the physical plane are a large band of aspirants, probationary disciples and accepted disciples who are seeking to be responsive to the “head centre”, some consciously, others unconsciously. They are gathered from all fields of expression but are all creative in some way or other. They in their turn constitute what might be symbolically called the “pineal gland” of humanity. As in individuals this is usually dormant and asleep, so, in humanity, this group of cells within the brain of the body corporate is dormant, but thrilling to the vibrations of the head centre – the Hierarchy. Some of the cells are awake. Let them intensify their endeavour and so awaken others.

The pioneers of the human family, the scientists, thinkers and artists constitute the pituitary body. They express the concrete mind but lack that intuitive perception and idealism which would place them (symbolically speaking) in the pineal gland; they are nevertheless brilliant, expressive and investigating. The objective of the Hierarchy (again symbolically speaking) is to make the pineal gland so potent

and, therefore, so attractive that the pituitary body of cell lives may be stimulated and thus a close interplay be brought about. This will lead to such potent action that there will be a streaming forth of new cells to the pineal gland and at the same time such a strong reaction set up that the entire body will be affected, resulting in the streaming upward of many stimulated lives to take the places of those who are finding their way into the centre of hierarchical endeavour.

The “waters of space”, in which this re-orientation and reversal of tendencies is progressing, are in a state of violent turmoil. The vortex of conflicting desire in which people find themselves is now chaotic and so potent that these waters are stirred to the very depths. Students of modern history and of social order are faced with an unprecedented condition, corresponding in the corporate body of humanity to that upheaval in the life of an individual aspirant which always precedes the passing onto the Path of Discipleship. Hence there is no cause for depression or undue anxiety, but only ardent desire that the transition may be made in due time and order and be neither too rapid – hence destructive to all right ties and affiliations – nor too prolonged and so strain beyond endurance the sorely tried fabric of humanity. All new manifestations in all kingdoms in all ages must come slowly, and therefore safely, to the birthing. All new forms, if they are ultimately to carry weight and gather adequate momentum to carry them through their life cycle, must be built in silent subjectivity, in order that the building may be strong and sure and the inner contact with the creator (human or divine) and true conformity to the pattern may be substantial and unbreakable. This is true of a universe, a kingdom in nature, or a thought-form created by a human thinker.

Adapted from Alice A. Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, pp.276–8. These extracts that were written in the years 1928–1933, before the Second World War, seem particularly appropriate to the themes of freedom and community in our time. They include references to the perennial philosophy’s tradition of the Spiritual Hierarchy as a major link in the Great Chain of Being: the group of spiritual beings on the inner planes who, as the intelligent forces of nature, are actively involved in the spiritual evolution of humanity. A free booklet by Alice Bailey, introducing the Spiritual Hierarchy can be ordered or downloaded at: www.lucistrust.org/hierarchy.

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 creates 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

**Many religions believe in a World Teacher, a “Coming One”, knowing him under such names as the Lord Maitreya, the Imam Mahdi, the Kalki Avatar and the Bodhisattva. These terms are sometimes used in versions of the Great Invocation for people of specific faiths.*



Imagination and Social Regeneration

World Goodwill Zoom Seminar Saturday, 6 November 2021

Now is the time for humanity to rediscover the spirit of community in all social relations.

Sociology literally means “the study of companionship” and we might consider that through a focus on Social Regeneration, we will be evoking the Spirit of Companionship, imaginatively seeing it pouring through the entire field of human relationships, bringing fresh meaning, purpose, and a sense of future possibilities.

During these difficult pandemic times the need to re-imagine social relations in ways that enhance goodwill, sharing and the sense of belonging has become even more urgent. This is the time to call forth the imagination and consider the regeneration and reigniting of a spirit of companionship between peoples, communities and nations; and between humanity and the living earth.

Join us for three events, broadcast from three planetary centres, in a day of online discussions, reflections and meditations. Using the power of the intuitive imagination, we will shine a light on the path towards right relationships with all life.

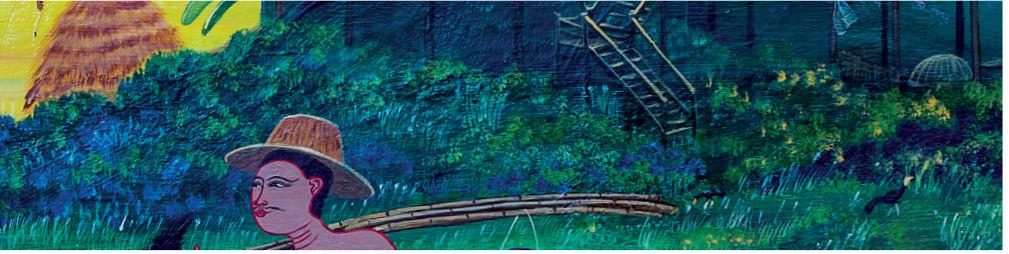
Join at www.worldgoodwill.org/seminar_2021

Geneva: 10am – 1.30pm CET (5am – 8.30am EDT)

London: 2pm – 5pm GMT (10am – 1pm EDT)

New York: 1pm – 4pm EDT





New York seminar: 1pm – 4pm EST

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



Biography Work: A Paradoxical, Transformative Social Practice

Leah Walker

After a brief look at the particular idea Rudolf Steiner had in suggesting biography work—active self-reflection in a social context—we will try an exercise or two, striving to meet our own and each other’s life—experience simultaneously playfully and deeply.

Leah has a deep interest in human development and earth evolution, particularly as described by Rudolf Steiner. She is a biography worker and licensed professional counselor (LPC), as well as a certified homeopath. She is a faculty member of the Center for Biography and Social Art. She holds a Master’s degree in educational psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. She lives in Barrington, Illinois.

www.biographyworker.com



Maximising the Edges Between Social and Ecological Systems Towards Regeneration

May East

A long-time student of the Ageless Wisdom, May has extensive experience working with “compassionate world workers, dynamic entrepreneurs, forward thinking designers and educators, brightest minds, spiritual activists, restless artists and circles and circles of indigenous women and men. Together we have created frameworks of reflection & action sometimes naming them Project-based-learning. Together we wrestle with the quest of re-designing our human presence on Earth.” A musician, writer and researcher May coordinates Findhorn Community’s relations with the UN; and has worked extensively with Eco Villages around the world.

www.mayeast.co.uk

Reflections on: **Imagination and Social Regeneration** in preparation for the online World Goodwill Seminar, 6 November 2021 – Geneva, London and New York.

Humanity is coming of age and needs a ‘new story’ that is powerful and meaningful enough to galvanize global collaboration and guide a collective response to the converging crises we are facing. Transformational responses at a personal and collective level take place when we question deeply ingrained ways of being and seeing and in the process begin to reinvent ourselves. In doing so we also change how we participate in shaping culture through our interaction with the world around us.

Daniel Christian Wahl

re-gen-er-a-tion: Renewal, revival, restoration; spiritual transformation; an aspect of living systems without which there would be no life; a process through which whole new organisms may be created from fractions of organisms; an adaptive and evolutionary trait that plays out at different systemic levels.

Curtis Ogden

If we are interested in effecting change, it is crucial to remember that we are working within webs of relations, not with machines.

Margaret J. Wheatley

... when any civilisation and culture loses its sense of spiritual values and responds mainly to the material values, then it has served its usefulness and must pass away, and this in the interests of life itself and progress.

Alice A. Bailey

The freedom of human beings lies in their ability to imagine another world.

Vincent Claessens

Future consciousness will not bring the future under control but will allow us to develop our capacity for transformational response to its possibilities.

Bill Sharpe

We are at that very point in time when a 400-year-old age is dying and another is struggling to be born – a shifting of culture, science, society, and institutions enormously greater than the world has ever experienced. Ahead, the possibility of the regeneration of individuality, liberty, community, and ethics such as the world has never known, and a harmony with nature, with one another, and with the divine intelligence such as the world has never dreamed.

Dee Hock

Human Progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to work to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation. We must use time creatively in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.

Martin Luther King

As *Homo Sapiens's* entry in any intergalactic design competition, industrial civilisation would be tossed out at the qualifying round. It doesn't fit. It won't last. The scale is wrong. And even its apologists admit that it is not very pretty.

David Orr

Climate change... is perhaps the most important question ever to confront culture in the broadest sense – for let us make no mistake: the climate crisis is also a crisis of culture, and thus of the imagination.

Amitav Ghosh

The massed power of goodwill, the dynamic effect of intelligent and active understanding, and the potency of a trained and alive public opinion which desires the greatest good of the greatest number, are beyond belief. This dynamic power has never been employed. It can, today, save the world.

Alice A. Bailey

To see without the interference of the past is to look in complete silence. Out of this silence a transformation arises that is not conceived, not planned and not conditioned. Only such a transformation can bring order to the world.

Krishnamurti

... we cannot address climate change globally unless communities claim their power to implement solutions – and creative solutions – on the ground.

Christina Figueres

Imagination is often misunderstood, defined as a fanciful flight away from reality – and sometimes it is. But there is another kind of imagination, one that is based on deep inner listening, with a quality of calm presence and a curious, open-minded focus. When ideas, images or symbols arise into that kind of spacious awareness, imagination is tapping into a source of wisdom, a type of intuition that puts us in touch with *more* of reality, not less.

Leslie Davenport

Regenerative cultures are co-created by people who have become conscious of the way their participation activates certain possibilities...

Daniel Christian Wahl

... the true life-theme of humanity,... is brotherhood, founded on divine origin (equality) and leading to a free and true expression of divinity (liberty).

Alice A. Bailey

I believe our task is to develop a moral and aesthetic imagination deep enough and wide enough to encompass the contradictions of our time and history, the tremendous loss and tragedy as well as greatness and nobility, an imagination capable of recognizing that where there is light there is shadow, that out of hubris and fall can come moral regeneration, out of suffering and death, resurrection and rebirth.

Richard Tarnas

... to understand true self – which knows who we are in our inwardness and who we are in the larger world – we need both the interior intimacy that comes with solitude and the otherness that comes from community.

Parker J. Palmer

Anyone who thinks consumption can expand forever on a finite planet is either insane or an economist.

E. F. Schumacher

There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it is going to be a butterfly.

R. Buckminster Fuller

There are three stages on the path leading beyond ordinary perception of the world. The first kind of knowledge accessible to man can be described by saying: he beholds the world through his senses and assimilates what he perceives by means of his intellect and the other faculties of his soul. Beyond this, there are three further stages of knowledge, of cognition: the first is the stage of Imagination, Imaginative cognition, the second is the stage of Inspiration, and the third is the stage of Intuition – but the term ‘Intuition’ must be understood in its true sense.

Rudolf Steiner

Our mainstream worldview has expired. What will replace it? A world of deep interconnectedness.

Jeremy Lent

Regenerative development is as much about an honest give-and-take between humans and nature as about reviving human communities at the local level.

Herbert Girardet

The [human] 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 A. Bailey

Cultivating ecological imagination has a powerful role to play at this pivotal time in human history, as scientists around the world continue to report the accelerating impacts of climate change. Imagination is a gateway to wisdom, and wisdom is an essential foundation for right action, an internal shift that can steer us towards eco-harmonious living. The stakes have never been higher.

Leslie Davenport

We are living on the planet at the time when the evolutionary dynamics are changing. And the simple way of saying it is that they're changing from genetic determination to cultural determination... That is an amazing new power that's taking place on the planet. We, then, have to confront the fact that this planet is evolving according to our decisions... Our responsibility is to structure the human presence on the planet so the fundamental conditions of life are strong and vibrant, and carry into the future.

Brian Swimme

The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We require more than ever a social imagination capable of mediating between these two separate realms of past and future. The tension between tradition and utopia must be maintained, but in such a way that the momentum of the possible is retained.

Bernard Lategan

What we need is an education for collective living rather than for individual success.

Brian Goodwin

So blind are men and women that when a civilisation comes to an end, when the familiar mode of cultural expression is brought (as is usual) under the hand of the destroyer, humanity regards it as a major disaster and dreads and fears the ruin which usually surrounds such an event. But from the standpoint of the world of significances, progress is seen and the day of fulfillment draws much nearer.

Alice A. Bailey

Despair shows us the limit of our imagination. Imaginations shared create collaboration, collaboration creates community, and community inspires social change.

Terry Tempest Williams



866 United Nations Plaza
Suite 482
New York, NY 10017
USA

Suite 54
3 Whitehall Court
London SW1A 2EF
UK

Rue du Stand 40
1204 Geneva
Switzerland

www.lucistrust.org

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