

Service: the Natural Expression of the Soul

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We frequently speak about Triangles as a planetary service, but what exactly does it mean to serve in this way? Nearly all spiritual paths advocate service work of one sort or another as an essential part of their spiritual practices. For some it is work with the poor or the homeless, volunteer work, or dedicating their professional lives to human betterment. Increasingly, many consider contemplative practices such as meditation or prayer a form of service, and seek to work in the realm of thought and consciousness for human and planetary betterment.

Subjective service, such as the sort undertaken in the Triangles work, can be described using the symbolism of the cross. That which one receives through vertical alignment, higher contact with the soul and the greater group of souls, must be interpreted and distributed horizontally to one's fellow men. The aspiring server seeks to take their place at the center of this cross and from there to never move. They stand as a bridge between the world of spiritual reality and the worlds of human living.

Subjective service is predicated on the esoteric fact that divinity ever exists within all things—it is indivisible in its essence, yet manifests itself in time and space as a Hierarchy of graded lives. Those higher up on the ladder are closer to the source of that greater life, while lower units of life depend upon the higher for spiritual sustenance. The whole process of evolution is the exteriorization of the higher through the lower. This results in the redemption of the lower, raising it upward; it also brings the higher down into manifestation, thus fulfilling the Plan of life itself.

Subjective service is a way of cooperating with this Plan, of aiding the divine circulatory flow—the exchange of energy between God and his manifested world. To do so, one must begin by learning to manifest the soul through all aspects of their personality—to become the soul in all that they think, feel, and do. For the soul is the mediating principle between spirit and matter—it is the principle of relationship itself and its nature is love.

We are told that the Law of Service governs the activity of the soul on its own plane. To manifest the light, love, and the many powers of the soul, one must therefore learn to become responsive to this law and to allow it to govern one's thinking. The impulse to serve is a natural instinct of the soul, but it is not so natural for the personality. To the personality, service is an ideal or a goal, something to be attained. But to the soul, service is simply an expression of its natural state. It is not an activity which must be initiated, nor is it necessarily something which must be given. True service therefore arises from within the soul itself, for the soul serves by its very presence. This presence is love, light, and sacrificial will. The radiation of these qualities in the world of human living serves the greater good, for it keeps the Plan progressing and moves human consciousness onwards toward its evolutionary goal.

The soul is group conscious; it knows itself to be one with the group. This fact is the reason behind one of the popular definitions of service given by the Tibetan: "Service is the utilization of soul force for the good of the group." Service is the urge to group good—it brings about the fulfillment of group desire rather than personal desire. In this way, the law of service awakens the heart center in those who respond to its influence. The awakening of the heart is the first step towards group awareness. When the awakening of the heart includes also the mind, it brings about a fusion and at-onement between

soul and personality. This soul-personality fusion brings eventually an unimpeded channel for spiritual energies to pour into human consciousness. This naturally drives the incarnating soul into some line of work in the world. This work spans the whole diversity of human enterprise. But in every case, the server is challenged to work in the realm of thought, governed always by truth, with an intelligent grasp of the problems humanity faces, and with a growing recognition of the Plan as the soul perceives it.

This is only possible because the server has one foot in both the spiritual and mundane worlds. They are able to stand at the center of the cross.

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.

Rabindranath Tagore