

**World Goodwill Seminar**  
*Imagination and Social Regeneration*  
**6 November, 2021**  
**New York**

## Reflections on Imagination and Social Regeneration

Christine Morgan

The theme of this seminar, *Imagination and Social Regeneration*, is ultimately about restoring the divine circulatory flow on earth so that humanity becomes directly aware of the essential unity of all things. Circulation and transformation are the essence of life – the air we breathe and the water we drink, the blood that flows – all that sustains life pursues cycles of transformation in response to the divine circulatory flow from which they have emerged. Harmony can only occur when this flow is reflected in human enterprise too: money and provisions, knowledge and information, art and culture – free circulation determines the wellbeing and steady evolution of ‘all things.’ The most important factor in this is consciousness – resonance with flowing change creates an upward spiralling into ever higher levels of synthesis.

Clearly, the divine circulatory flow that should link all of humanity together as one, is blocked by dissonant forces of materialism and selfishness. The regenerative art is to draw upon the imagination and the spirit of goodwill. This is outstandingly illustrated in the work of the New Group of World Servers, who are bringing so many creative ideas into expression at this time. Their creative projects show us that the world doesn’t have to work as it has done and that we can dynamically change it through our collective imagination as we strive to create a new and better reality for all.

Humanity is calling out for a sense of unity, and it is a great irony that, while communication networks span the globe outwardly making the world more physically interrelated, the inner network of consciousness that links everyone together via the divine circulatory flow is not functioning as it should. To refer to the Lucis Trust letter on Freedom through Community: “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.

There is a growing understanding that humanity has to recreate the spirit of community within this rapidly changing world view which is being populated by ever smarter machines and technocratic forms of governance. To this end, one of the most pressing needs in unfolding social consciousness is the developing of a sense of the divine plan and its majestic purpose. Such an injection of meaning could revolutionize thinking and interactions, strengthening the united bridge of consciousness that humanity is building towards the subtle worlds. Many ideas related to the Divine Plan are being imaginatively expressed by the New Group of World Servers at this time, however, it is difficult to make an impression on a public consciousness that is already being constantly impressed from all directions by the image-generating machinery of our modern societies. The role that images and the imagination play in politics features in the works of the philosopher, Chiara Bottici\* and in her essay in the book: *On Public Imagination*, she notes:

“...Images are too many, and they seemingly proliferate without any logic of selection. Audiences, instead, provide the filter: only those images that can capture

people's attention are raised out of the stream. Hence, the predominance of spectacle... This imaginal transformation also explains the paradox of a political world full of images but deprived of imagination. Because we are saturated by the deluge of images and rendered even more cynical by their increasing spectacularization and virtualization, we have more difficulties creating radically alternative images of our present, and future, political life. It is in this imaginal space that appeals to revivals of nationalist sentiments proliferate. But it is also in this space that we need to operate if we want to create alternative views of our future."

If a clear vision of the Divine Plan is to shine through though, the imaginal space defined by Bottici needs cleansing of the glamour and thoughtforms produced by wrong human desires and thinking. Only then can the creative ideas descending into this space attract the attention they deserve. Alice Bailey's book, *Glamour: A World Problem*, describes the techniques that can serve to eradicate these glammers and reorient the public imagination towards these lighted ideas.

The goal of those who serve through meditation is to construct images or thoughtforms that are free from glamour and whose transparency permits clear vision and contact with the inner realm of divine relationships. Freedom from glamour results in an intense spontaneity in a person's creative life as the intuition impresses ideas directly onto the image making faculty. And this is the great future that awaits humanity, a civilization in which the spiritual imagination and intuition can flourish.

This vision was imagined by the economist Kenneth Boulding who wrote about the meaning behind the images of the Twentieth Century. He coined the term, *The Great Transition*, writing:

"This is the transition from civilized to post civilized society. If we look around us at the world today to see what in man's experience looks like the foreshadowing of things to come, we may well find it in the experience of the mystics and the gropings of man in religion...as our knowledge of reality grows so does our ignorance, and it will again be surprising if in this early stage of man's development he has exhausted all his modes of communication with reality. Even though, therefore, mechanism is the midwife of the great transition, the end results may well be a society specializing in spiritual experiences of a quality which we now realize only in rare moments of intuition."

It is the collective awakening of the spiritual imagination which is what the intuition is in essence, that will bring this new civilization about. And we might regard the work of world goodwill as helping to develop a social imaginary that is *global* – building thought images of a spiritualized world community united by strands of loving, divine energy. This global society to come will embrace all kingdoms of nature too. Rather than regarding lower kingdoms in terms of their usefulness to humanity, the perspective will be more in the spirit of what evolutionary help humanity can give them. And at the Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, we see signs of this inclusive perspective expressed by many groups and individuals whether participating or protesting.

And so, today as we work together with the collective group imagination, let us imagine activating the divine circulatory flow enabling the energies of light, love and power to flow more freely through human hearts and minds. Let us imagine a worldwide social regeneration that is spiritually qualified by intuition akin to Kenneth Boulding's Great Transition. It is a future awaiting humanity, if only it has the imagination to see the

vision, to believe in it, and to bring it down from the spiritual realms into practical expression in the physical world.

## Life as Relationship

Kathy Newburn

It's a wonderful opportunity we have today to work, to generate goodwill, for goodwill brings people together and this is essential in the regeneration of societies. Goodwill is a lighted energy, an active love that flows in from the soul and is distributed through the etheric or energy body and therefore serves to unite people at the fundamental level. As we work with this energy it creates a magnetism that fosters relationships, forges communities and works out in creative activity based on mutual trust and support.

There is much goodwill everywhere and we can see it all around us, it is a major and now well-established part of human nature. However, on account of the global situation and the consequent tension we need to generate more of it, more goodwill, so that the soul can increasingly find avenues to release its lighted love in our world to counter forces that are trending in the opposite direction.

World Goodwill works in support of the Plan for our planet. And while this Plan can seem abstract, as it's a thoughtform held within the consciousness of Those Who work on the subtle planes, it nonetheless has to work out on these dense planes in which we live. Essentially, the Plan is a vibrant energy that tends towards unity and eventually, at some distant time, towards synthesis. Such grand thoughtforms naturally take long, long periods of time to emerge, to work out into physical manifestation. The Plan,, therefore, works out sequentially and that aspect of it that is working out now is encapsulated in a few brief words--"Separation is a thing of the past and....unity is the goal of the immediate future...and goodwill is the touchstone of the Plan.."

So we can see that underlying all social regeneration all ability to tap into the imaginative powers of our minds lies in this fundamental quality of goodwill, hence the importance of coming together and taking the time to foster and generate goodwill so that each of us can then take this energy with us and distribute it more widely to those in our environment.

Small gestures and simple acts of kindness go a long way in helping to ease the many challenges facing people, facing families, communities and nations. And because goodwill is infectious it is the perfect antidote to dispel fear and separation

When considering the nature of goodwill there are two lines from the first version of the Great Invocation that could serve as key ideas that could help us maneuver through the choppy waters of this time. The intention underlying that Invocation was to arrest the forces that were building up prior to the Second World War so that the war would not precipitate onto the physical plane. The two lines run as follows,

"May men of goodwill everywhere meet in a spirit of cooperation.  
May forgiveness on the part of all men be the keynote at this time."

When we move to make these lines a reality within our lives and our world then we will see that social regeneration will be the natural outcome. Meeting cooperatively fosters listening, seeking to understand and be open to different perspectives which naturally leads to forgiveness thereby dispelling polarisation.

PAUSE

Shortly, Leah Walker is going to share with us how relationships can be forged through biography. Learning about other peoples' lives can be revelatory, helping us to see new perspectives, new ways of living and being. Biography highlights the gift that each individual can contribute to the collective experience.

Part of my work in the Arcane School from time to time affords me the opportunity to read brief essays about some of the key, or crisis, moments of peoples' lives. Recently I had the privilege of reading one such essay that took a slightly different approach to the topic. Much of what this student shared focused not on all the many challenges that we all face in our lives but more upon the thread of relationship that guided him along the way.

As he retold some of the key points of his life they were largely lacking in major drama. They were rather simple, quiet, behind-the-scenes events, some with people who passed through his life for just a moment and others of relationships that were forged over decades. He gained so much from each encounter and guided his life by the lessons and opportunities they provided. He showed how what each person shared with him moved him into a more inclusive world view, expanded his consciousness and consequently deepened his ability to serve. People helped him to change the course of his life and as a result his life blossomed into one dedicated to working and serving with and for others.

Each step of the way of his life he went beyond the surface encounter and found the deeper meaning of that which was transpiring and being offered. It seemed he was able to see each encounter as a directive from his soul. One wonders upon reflection how often we can easily miss the soul's guidance in our rushing about. Perhaps we don't know what an encounter with the soul looks like because we fail to sense or follow the current or flow of energy that underlies what is happening externally. We're like Hercules in the Gemini labour--rejecting the true teacher and the simple lessons standing in front of us and being taken in instead by the fancy gurus promising short-cuts to spiritual enlightenment.

This student, on the other hand, demonstrated a thoughtful, clear-sighted approach to life. He chose to model good behaviour and to give back in like manner, sharing the path with and for others. Opportunities recognized and grasped demonstrate the importance of right choice in life--seizing the soul's offers and, as a result, moving forward from growth to growth, despite whatever may be happening that attempts to impede the way.

The student concluded his essay by stating "Crises or growth patterns, they are in many respects related, if not the same. Sacrifice is intrinsic if we are to expand; we need to form, then break the shells of our prior understandings. Hopefully, this brief traveler's log can serve as a useful guide for other seekers." Because of these concluding words I took the liberty of sharing these words with you today.

As we reflect upon our lives we, too, will realize how much they have been shaped by the people who have crossed our path and who have helped forge the pattern of our lives. It's said that the keynote of the Great Life in Whom we live and move and have our being has for his keynote "relationship." As cells within that life relationship is our keynote as well. All things are linked one with the other in a great chain of Being. As we each mirror this chain and forge in our own lives, repairing the brakes and

mirroring the spider weaving its web, we will be playing our part in regenerating this new world that is seeking to be born within our midst.

## **The Imagination as an Agent of Social Transformation**

**Michael Galloway**

Today I'd like to speak briefly on the role that imagination plays in the spiritual life of Humanity. The imagination is often considered from the standpoint of the creative life of the individual, but it plays a major role in the group life of Humanity as well.

Imagination, briefly defined, is the power to form a mental image of that which has never before been perceived. It thus requires the employment of the mind, for the mind is always the organ of sight, but it also requires the ability to creatively employ the astral (or desire) nature and the brain as well. The imagination links and integrates all three aspects of the personality. The mind perceives that which can and may be and forms it into a clear image. The astral body qualifies it with color and magnetism in any of its many grades. The qualified image is then registered by the brain which anchors it onto the physical plane and translates it into words or other forms of artistic expression.

The imagination also bridges between the personality and the soul, and is a well-known tool employed on the spiritual path. When vices or bad habits exist, we are advised to imagine the opposite. Right thinking in time cultivates whatever quality one seeks to embody. Energy follows thought, and the right employment of the imagination directs all of one's energies towards the desired goal.

Imagination implements desire; and as evolution proceeds, the desire nature is gradually transmuted. In the early stages of the human experience, desire is selfish and colored by the many glammers of human living. As one matures, the desires of the soul replace those of the personality. The desire to aid others and humanity in some way becomes the impulse which directs one's daily consciousness. As alignment proceeds, the will of the soul begins to work out within and through the personality, and the two become one. The creative faculties continue to develop, and one learns to bring into the world of human thinking ideals and thoughtforms of a high order, embodying some measure of the divinity which it is humanity's destiny to reveal.

Later on the spiritual path, once the soul manifests through the personality and the powers of the mind are well developed, the imagination becomes the means of bringing into functioning activity an even higher faculty—the Intuition. The Intuition sees truth as it is in its unmanifested state, free from all distortion and illusion—it is therefore Pure Love and also Pure Reason, for it is a perfect expression of the principle of relationship. The imagination is the seed of the intuition and is key to its awakening. The mind plus the imagination, when utilized by the soul, invoke higher spiritual potencies. This builds a two-way bridge whereby the ascending radiance of the human and the descending illumination of the Intuition can pass. It is via this bridge that matter is raised upwards and the light of divinity descends on Earth.

Within the group, humanity, the creation of civilization and culture has always been a product of the group imagination. However, we rarely reflect on how to consciously direct the group imagination in this process. The production of culture of course occurs very gradually and over many generations by groups of people who often have diverging ideas about what is right and wrong, what is beautiful or offensive, for their particular time and place. Today, humanity is more intelligent and more closely related

than ever before. Both the diversity and the power of human thinking have grown to levels unimaginable 200 years ago. At the same time, the content of human thinking has gradually become more altruistic, increasingly reflecting its highest ideals some of which are goodwill, compassion, right relationship, sacrifice, cooperation, sharing, responsibility, and freedom among others. There is, of course, profound disagreement about the way that these ideals should work out, but this is part of Humanity's creative process. The Plan must work out through the medium of humanity and in all of its profound diversity, and today there is a real need for those who can see the way through embattled ideologies and consciously wield the energies of fusion and synthesis thereby charting the way forward.

We live in a time of deep introspection both for individuals and within humanity as a whole. The mistakes of the past, and especially those injustices which persist today, are being thrown before the group gaze, and great light is being shone upon them. Humanity is being asked to face its past while at the same time build for the future—and this naturally produces great conflict. The key to humanity's forward movement into the coming era is the right handling of these crises; the past must be resolved into the present and that must be projected into the future. This requires that these crises be handled with intelligence and with right proportion. Humanity must learn to tread the middle path between the extremities on both sides, and above all to employ the mind to discern the good from the bad with ever increasing degrees of subtlety. Today, good and bad can be found within every ideology and on every side. It requires a keen intelligence and discernment to align oneself unerringly and truly with the good.

What is most important in the right handling of crises, however, is that the ideals which are meant to govern human interaction and relationships at all levels are anchored into human thinking. The imagination is key to the mediation of these ideals and to the production of that vision which will guide humanity forward into its destined future. With right vision, right ways of thinking are brought about, and this gives rise to right norms and social relationships founded upon goodwill.

The New Group of World Servers is a worldwide group that employs the imagination in a group sense. This group has no outer organization, no secretariat, or creed, but is composed of all those men and women of goodwill in whom the will-to-serve humanity is awakened and who have committed themselves to mediating the universal ideals of goodwill and right relationship into human consciousness. To them is given the task of upholding the vision of the One Life before the eyes of humanity—and each, in their own way and in their own field of human living, works, serves, and lives to see this objective brought about.

Employed in this way, the imagination truly becomes the “key to the exteriorization of the veiled splendor,” for it is the creative faculty which makes mass movements in consciousness possible. The imagination reveals the truth and beauty which is hidden within form. It visions, it bridges, and it actuates. It can liberate humanity from the chains of the past and project it forward into the future. The imagination is the agent which will produce social transformation, but it must be paired with right vision and right thought, and all three must be anchored in the world of meaning, relationships, principles, and values. Thus, will Humanity create its lighted future.

## Visualization

Visualize the planet as a sphere of lighted energy.

See within the center of that sphere an even-armed cross. This is the cross of humanity, extending upwards and downwards and from east to west, spanning the whole circumference of the globe.

On the vertical arm of this cross, at its very height, is a point of light which takes the form of a five-pointed star. This is the star of the World Teacher and the Spiritual Hierarchy – that august group of enlightened men and women known as Bodhisattvas, Rishis, Saints, and by many other names. Their light is the light of Pure Love and Reason beyond all distortion, impurity, and illusion.

See now a second point of light at the heart of the cross. This is the light of the New Group of World Servers who have pledged themselves to love and serve humanity and whose ideas light the way forward.

A third light exists upon the face of the globe, this is the light of intelligent goodwill, the manifestation of love in all its many forms – this is the light of Humanity.

Visualize these three lights coming into alignment and interplay: the light of the five-pointed star; the light of the group of world servers; and the light of all people of intelligent goodwill.

See the energy of the highest center descend to the central point and circulate from that point outwards through the horizontal arms of the cross. Visualize this light permeating Humanity and thereby all life forms upon the surface of the globe.

[pause]

As the tide of new life sweeps into human consciousness, visualize human separateness, selfishness and materialism dissipating under the impress of the inpouring light. At the center of the cross the New Group stands – detached, dispassionate and undisturbed by the vicissitudes of human crisis. Visualize the New Group, fixed at the center of the cross, reaching upward to the source of spiritual power and radiating outwards into human consciousness.

[pause]

Visualize Humanity responding to this inflowing Light which transforms its thinking. See Humanity radiate the light of right relationship – of regeneration, renewal, and resurrection. See all kingdoms upon the globe, all forms of life, permeated by the light which humanity now radiates.

[pause]

Finally, see from the higher center, the light of Life flowing forth – a great saving force which will “seal the door where evil dwells” and ensure the inevitable triumph of Good. See this greater Light merging with the light already present in humanity.

[pause]

Visualize the surface of Earth alight with a radiance of brilliant Light, infused with goodwill and Loving Purpose.

Sound the OM.

## Closing Remarks

Steve Nation

Our work together today has focused the group mind and heart on the role that imagination & intuition are playing in the critical work of our Age: regenerating and reigniting a spirit of companionship, belonging and community into all our spiritual, social, economic and political relationships.

The Work began in Geneva at what was around 5 am here in New York! It continued from London ... and just as the London program was ending, we began this final session from New York.

We have been particularly blessed this afternoon with the three sessions:

**Firstly** hearing from World Goodwill with talks by Chris Morgan, Michael Galloway and Kathy Newburn setting the theme within the context of the Ageless Wisdom teachings. And the visualization that used our imagination to work the images of the even-armed cross and the five-pointed star.

**Then** we heard from Leah Walker who drew on insights from Rudolf Steiner's writings to discuss the role that the telling of our individual biographies to others can play in the transformation of community life. I hope it was as much of a treat for you as it was for me to share a biography exercise with a small group during the breakout sessions.

**This was followed** by May East's reflections on insights from her extensive work with regenerative development. She showed us that beyond the ideas of sustainable development widely used in international and government circles, there is a whole body of creative thinking about how to foster deep changes in people and society.

At the heart of the trauma and interlocking crises of our time is a spiritual crisis of meaning and purpose. We have lost our sense of who we are as human beings.

This is essentially a crisis of identity, prompting us as individuals and as groups to re-establish and redefine a relationship with the timeless world and presences of the soul.

At the same time the overwhelming loss of depth, meaning and purpose is reflected in collective crises affecting whole cultures and nations.

Yet this is all part of the role that crisis plays in evolution. Times of crisis are times of spiritual potential. Today the worlds of the True Self, the soul, are presenting us with a wealth of pathways to move out of the depression and despair that come from separation and materialism and into more lighted living relationships of respect, goodwill, and sharing.

The vision of right relations is at the heart of the thoughtform of regenerative development. In Alice Bailey's writings those who find their meaning and purpose in the work of bringing right relations into expression in the world are referred to as the New Group of World Servers. This includes people from all spiritual traditions who are serving others while building right relations within themselves as they actively bridge the divide between their soul and their incarnated personality, between spirit and matter. Countless servers, in every profession, every calling, culture and academic

discipline, are bringing a spirit of goodwill and depth into their work to transform the quality of relations.

Throughout our time together this afternoon – and throughout the earlier events in Geneva and London, we have been using the imagination, the intuition and the creative mind to hold a shared point of tension around this understanding that humanity is in transition towards a new spirit of community in all social relations.

We have been meeting during the COP26 conference in Glasgow which Chris referred to during our opening session and which Kosha Joubert of the Pocket Project brought into the centre of the Geneva event with her presentation from Glasgow. Through COP26 and other events we are on a steep learning curve – as a species and as individual nations, peoples and communities – learning how to respond to the multiple hazards which our economic and social system has created. Many of us here will be working during COP26 with a Cycle of Conferences visualisation to shine a light on the thoughtform of unity and shared stewardship that is at the heart of the Glasgow Conference.

Ideas at the heart of our work today make this gathering, not exactly unique, but significant.

One idea is that we are consciously working as a group with the power of thought – focusing our imagination and care on the thoughtform of social regeneration; giving our support to a thoughtform that already exists; imagining it as a magnetic seed for a future civilization that is being created by human beings responding to incoming forces of light and revelation.

In a sense the work has been about shining a light on the idea of oneness ... recognizing how this idea is transforming human imagination and the human will in ways that are changing the very substance of human communities. Beyond the slogans and marketing language of many public conversations the thoughtform of oneness is generating a vigorous body of wise and creative thought throughout humanity; and it is producing seed communities of goodwill, depth and companionship.

Another idea is that our work together draws on skills of invocation and evocation. Throughout our reflections; through our efforts to sense the spirit of humanity as it is now; and through the meditation we will shortly use we are invoking the higher beneficent powers of the rishis, and masters; of the Christ and the Angelic realms; and looking for the evocative effect these energies are having in human affairs.

And so, as we move into the final meditation may we each take the essence of what has inspired or moved us today and bring that lighted energy into the work of strengthening the hands of the New Group of World Servers.