



Electronic mini-mag distributed every full moon

TRANSCENDENCE

Serious Spirituality for Devoted Aspirants

Issue Thirty-two

29 October 2012

CONTENTS

- 3 **Heaven Letters** GLORIA WENDROFF
- 5 **Rational thinking** ROY EUGENE DAVIS
- 6 **In search of God** LUCIS TRUST
- 7 **Qualities of a magnetic personality** ANANDA SANGHA
- 9 **Illusion** ROD BRIGGS
- 10 **Fourth-dimensional observation** GAYATHRI PEEDAM
- 11 **Spirituality in human development** SUREN PILLAY
- 12 **Educating Children and Youth** BAHAI TOPICS

- 13 **Saving the Planet** SHARE INTERNATIONAL
- 14 **Grow Antennae...** JADATHARAYA INSTITUTE
- 15 **Enlightenment** DR BERNIE SIEGEL
- 17 **The Science of Getting Rich** WALLACE WATTLES
- 18 **Initiation** ECKANKAR
- 19 **Readers' Inspirations**
- 20 **Additional Resources**



Welcome to the October 2012 issue of *Transcendence*.

In order to achieve any goal, a set of steps or a definite formula usually needs to be followed. Mathematics and science are perfect examples. Even art uses specific methods to achieve an evocative end result.

Attaining enlightenment is no different. As in maths and science, sometimes different formulae can be used to achieve the same result - in reaching the goal of self-realisation there are also different methods available to us that we can make use of.

Some methods are quicker and others take longer. Usually the more intense and disciplined a method, the quicker results are experienced, while the easier paths take longer.

The important thing to remember is that to attain our spiritual goal, we should select one formula and stick to that until we succeed. You wouldn't start working on a maths equation using one formula and then half way through your calculations change to using a different formula. If you did, you'd have to start from the beginning again.

This is where devotion plays such an important role on our spiritual journey; devotion to one method or formula until we succeed. Becoming side-tracked by other paths and spiritual systems will serve to slow down our progress. By all means, obtain inspiration from a variety of spiritual writings, but always stick to one method of attainment on your journey.

If you haven't already established yourself in a singular path of devotion, take some time during the month of October to decide which path resonates most with your soul - and dedicate your self completely to regular practice of its methods to enlightenment.

In Love and Service, always,





Transcendence is Published by
the Jadatharaya Institute of Right Living and Yoga
PO Box 2077, Verulam 4340, kwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

ISSN 1815-4425

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Design and layout by Cosmic Creations
www.cosmic-creatinos.net



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Heavenletter # 4082 - All You Have to Know

GLORIA WENDROFF

God said:

If I am God, what are you? Are you a Godling? I think We can call you a Godling. Do you like that? I like that. The Reality is far greater than that, and yet you can do well to think of yourself as a Godling. A Godling is a child of God, and you are certainly that. You are more than that, yet Godling will suffice.

You are My Godling. God loves His Godling. If you will carry that one thought through the day, you will have a different day. Think, "God loves me." That is a good thought. That is a great thought. Watch your posture change. You are loved by God. That is enough to know.

Forget about doubts. Forget about asking: "God, what about that? What about this? How did You let this happen or that happen? How could You?"

Do you really want to remonstrate with Me? Do you really want to point out the error of My ways? Plead ignorance, beloveds, and let it go at that. You don't know what you don't know.

There is nothing you have to know except that you are loved by your Creator. This otherness that you conceive as your Creator loves you. This is how you will come to love yourself. You will stop contradicting My love for you. You will not object to it any longer. You will not look for reasons why I can't possibly love you. You will no longer resist My love. You will take My love for you as your due. This does not make you prideful. This makes you humble. Glad, yes. Happy, yes. God loves YOU.

Of course, there is no you. There is only I, and yet We play this game of tag.

I love you as naturally as you breathe. I don't have to think about it, for I love. You do have to think about My love because you have too often scorned yourself. You did not come up to some standard assigned to you in the world.

Know this: You do come up to My standard. Are you a human being? Well, then, it is inevitable that I love you. I plucked you from the fruit of My vine, and I love you true. I love you. I love you. I love you. I love you as you are with or without freckles. It is My joy to love you when you are happy and when you are sad. It is My joy to love you when you are naughty or nice. It is My Will to love you, yet I do not need to will My love for you. My love for you is natural. It is natural for Me to love you. It is easy for Me. We can't even say it is easy, for I have never known anything that was hard. It just so happens that I love you. It just so happens that I am Love, and I love, and that's all there is to it.

How could I not love when love is all, and I am Love? How could I not love the beauty I see before Me? Never mind any longer what you see. See with My eyes of love. See beyond the nose on your face. See beyond any foolishness. See beyond any inattentiveness. See beyond error. Error is washed away in love. Wash away anything that is not love. Conceive of this. This is what is coming up for you and for the world. Love. Love in all corners. Love beyond love you have known. Love beyond your failings. Love beyond your successes. Love beyond any limits. Love beyond any cut-offs. Love all. Love bigger than life.

SOURCE LINK TO THIS ARTICLE: <http://www.heavenletters.org/all-you-have-to-know.html>





Inspirational Quotes

God said:



Regardless of your choices, however, you are free to experience them in the manner you choose. You can sign for the package you ordered. You can miss seeing the package. You can fight it. You can throw it away. You can do many things. What you do and how you do it is your choice. Even when it seems like you have no choice, you have choice. You can see other possibilities. You can begrudge, or you can move on. You can take it as your share, or you can fuss and scream.

Heavenletter #4076 Choose a Star



Love is not to be waited for. Love is not to be hamstrung. Love is to pulse with every beat of your heart. Love is what you are meant for. Love is your purpose. Love. Love your hands and everything they do. Love your tasks. Love those around you, and love those far away from you.

Heavenletter #4072 Love, Love, Love



When someone hurts you, and you only hurt back, what good is there? If your fist is bigger than another's fist, is that to be proud of? Better to be proud of knowing other ways than using your fist. Better to know other ways to use your mouth and words than to hurt. Use them for upliftment.

Heavenletter #4070 A God of Lighting Up the World



Outer space is closer to the Truth, isn't it? There is Vastness. There are no borders. You are souls wandering around in bodies in an imagined land. Often life on Earth doesn't feel real to you, does it? You sense the unreality and artificiality of life on Earth. You observe yourself participating in life on Earth and sense emptiness of it even as you experience the richness of it. What a play on a play of nothing at all but huge Vastness.

Heavenletter #4067 A Dream you Haven't Quite Awakened From

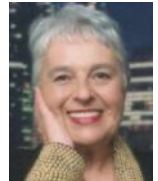


When you feel bleak, you are focusing on yourself. All of life is not about you, beloveds, and you fall back into that slant on life or never get up from it, a slant on life that doesn't really serve even you. You like your eggs this way, your toast like that, and your orange juice in a special glass. You like one thing this way and another thing another way and back and forth with attention on what pleases you or displeases you. Hmm, you may focus more on what displeases you than what pleases you.

Heavenletter #4063 Look Through a Wider Window

Ten years ago, after a spiritual awakening, I started writing letters to my inner self and got answers. After a while, I thought: "Hmm, if I can address myself and get answers, why not with God?" I had always heard to go to the top, so I started asking questions to God, first for myself and later for others, and God answered with a common sense and vision far beyond anything I could ever have thought of. And then questions were no longer necessary because God just started coming in with what He wanted us to hear. One thing about God, He wants His words shared, and so Heaven Letters is emailed out every day.

GLORIA WENDROFF



Everything God says is meant for you, and each day's Heaven Letter contains a new message God wants you to hear that day. For people of all faiths, or of none, Heaven Letters are like a walk you take with God. With each step, you come closer until you find there is no distance between you and God.

Visit www.heavenletters.org





Well-informed rational thinking and spiritual practice

ROY EUGENE DAVIS

Continued from September 2012...

Thinking cannot be rational if your mind is modified with false beliefs and opinions that you consider to be true, endeavor to have and rely on accurate information about what you are examining. Ultimate Reality is nameless and formless. Its absolute essence is pure consciousness; its expressive aspect has attributes. Don't confuse it with names that others use to refer to it, such as spirit, lord, heavenly father, divine mother, love, or bliss. Learn about categories and processes of cosmic manifestation and how souls are individualized by interactions between the radiant or expressive field of ultimate Reality and its emanated vibration (Om) which produces universes. When you are investigating these matters, remember that you already have within you the knowledge of them that you are bringing forth into your conscious awareness.

Well-Informed Spiritual Practice

Don't allow your mind to be troubled by what others do. Don't look back. Don't look to the right or to the left. Look straight ahead to the goal [spiritual enlightenment] and go all the way in this incarnation.

—Paramahansa Yogananda (1893 – 1952)

I can hear my guru's quiet voice as he looked into my eyes and spoke the above words to me sixty years ago in the living room of his desert retreat house in southern California. A few weeks later, he passed from this world. What he advised me to do, I recommend to everyone who is on a spiritual path. Don't dwell on memories of past events or circumstances, allow yourself to be distracted from your spiritual path, or waver in your resolve to be enlightened in your current incarnation. Learn to live effectively, meditate, and remove or rise above all obstacles to spiritual growth. Your divine qualities and innate knowledge of your true nature and of ultimate Reality will then be more quickly Self-revealed.

Calmly view transitory events and situations with dispassionate objectivity. We do not have to assume an other-worldly mental attitude regarding the world in which we live nor think that because events and conditions are impermanent that we cannot live freely and enjoyably. Live in the highest way that you know to live without strong attachments to your egocentric sense of self-identity, people, things, situations, status, or what you do or have accomplished. That is how to freely live in this world, maintain your peace of mind, beneficially contribute to the well-being of society, and progressively grow to emotional and spiritual maturity. Honor the pure essence of all people and forms of life by silent acknowledgment and respectful, considerate behaviors. Your mental attitudes, emotions, states of consciousness, and behaviors can benefit your environment and uplift people with whom you interact. Be a positive influence whose mental states and behaviors others will want to emulate. Expand your consciousness by imagining and meditatively contemplating ('looking at' with alert expectation of discovery) the omnipresence, omnipotence, and omniscience of ultimate Reality until your attention and awareness are fully absorbed in the process.

As a unit of the pure essence of ultimate Reality, all that is needed is to improve your knowing of what you are. What is realized by attentive Self-inquiry and effective spiritual practice is permanent. That is why well-informed rational thinking and spiritual practice has enduring value.

Excerpt from *Truth Journal*, April/May 2012 (pgs 8-9)

Roy Eugene Davis was ordained by Paramahansa Yogananda in 1951 and appointed as the minister of the Phoenix, Arizona, Self-Realization Fellowship Center in March 1952. In 1955 he began his mission as an independent Kriya teacher. Since then, he has taught in more than 100 cities in North America and in Japan, Brazil, Europe, West Africa, and India. He is also the publisher of *Truth Journal* magazine and writes monthly lessons for CSA members around the world.



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Truth Journal Online



God's Governance

LUCIS TRUST

Science has concluded that behind apparent chaotic systems, there appear to be majestic, underlying patterns of order. Complex systems that have infinite detail and geometric shape are known as 'fractals' and are considered to be found almost everywhere in nature, such as coastlines, mountains and even galaxy clusters. Chaos theory attempts to explain the order in disorder and to understand that every subtle change affects everything else. Where this scientific thinking is leading is impossible to determine, but nonetheless science is beginning to recognise the interconnectedness between apparently random events. Up to this point science had predicated a relatively ordered universe where exact physical laws operated universally. Chaos theory was to change this forever. Simply put, modern scientific thinking has evolved from a mechanical, clockwork universe to one that is infinitely complex, yet quite possibly interconnected. The findings of science have provided us with a valuable insight as to the nature of the physical universe. The fact that science has somewhat revealed the nature of light, energy and electricity is possibly indicative that a major breakthrough into the realms of the etheric, of the protyle realms, is not too far away. If so, this will herald a new chapter in the annals of modern science, possibly as ground-breaking as anything that has come before. This discovery will enable science and esoteric philosophy to become more engaged with each other.

It was possibly Plato who stated that 'God geometrises', that there is a pattern and an order in the universe, and that there is a design in nature, even though the complexities of these patterns seem impossible to interpret. Only the trained eye of the see-er (seer) can begin to appreciate the majestic interrelationship of life, and how universal laws play upon the shifting kaleidoscope of galaxies, solar systems, rays, hierarchies, planets, planes, human and sub-human lives. If, then, we accept that there is a pattern, a governance, an order and a direction in life then we must also accept, if only hypothetically, that there is a central Life that informs the host of lives that embody the manifested universe.

Since time immemorial the esoteric sciences have alluded to an unfolding universal pattern of infinite beauty and governed by spiritual law in which Deity bestows its beneficence through the 'great Hierarchy of Being'. The Ageless Wisdom speaks of the 'great Hierarchy of Being' as a living world of supreme, intelligent, spiritual Lives, linking galaxy with galaxy, star with star, system with system, and planet with planet through the electrical interplay of energy. Christianity, Judaism, and Kabbalistic scriptures too speak of great angelic hierarchies fulfilling certain roles in the heavenly spheres. Through this universal coherency the governance of God is administered within the greater Whole. And, throughout this vast and unimaginable system flows the living Breath of God sweeping all onwards and upwards to ever greater expansions of consciousness. For, ultimately, the law of the universe is to all eternity the good of all.

In truth, there is little that any of us can truly articulate upon such a profound, immense and impenetrable subject as the governance of God. There is much that must remain veiled. The danger of too much knowledge is far worse than too little. But, in the use of the law of analogy, some small faint glimmerings of truth can emerge as to the Godhead and to the universal interrelationship of life. So, as we develop in consciousness beyond the confining walls of the personality, we begin to grasp the concept of group relationships, and from this point we move steadily to an appreciation of our small part within the planetary whole and beyond, until, finally, we 'escape' the solar system itself and move progressively towards a universal awareness. And, like the philosopher-poet Robert Browning in his poem 'Paracelsus', we recognise that: *Truth is within ourselves; it takes no rise From outward things, whate'er you may believe. There is an inmost centre in us all, Where truth abides in fulness; and around, Wall upon wall, the gross flesh hems it in, This perfect, clear conception which is truth.*"

The activities of the Lucis Trust promote the education of the human mind towards recognition and practice of the spiritual principles and values upon which a stable and interdependent world society may be based.

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The missing years of Jesus - Part 2

SWAMI KRIYANANDA

Testimony of a Master

Let me submit, also, what to me is the strongest testimony of all: the fact that Paramhansa Yogananda himself declared many times, as a definite fact, that Jesus Christ did visit India, and that he lived there for some years.

I had been with my Guru for just a month when he invited me to his desert retreat at Twenty-Nine Palms, California, where he was dictating his revised correspondence-course lessons. During one evening's session he stated during dictation: "The three wise men who came to honor the Christ Child after his birth in Bethlehem were the line of gurus who later sent me to the West: Babaji, Lahiri Mahasaya, and Swami Sri Yukteswar." This was heady stuff, especially for a young neophyte!

Yogananda announced to us also, "Jesus, in his youth, paid a return visit to India to study under the 'wise men' who had come to honor him as a baby." People may wonder, as those prelates did at the Council of Constantinople, why an Incarnation of God needed to learn from anybody.

A liberated master, whose mission it is to mix with the public, must comport himself in such a way as not to impose his wisdom on those who hear him. It would be no help to them were he to overwhelm them with his omniscience in everything. He must, for their sake, seem down-to-earth and, in that sense, perfectly normal. Thus, it was perfectly normal for a great master—indeed, for an avatar like Jesus, which is to say an Incarnation of God—to assume for a time the slight veil of delusion, as well as the behavior of a normal human being, in order to help others, later.

The discovery of an ancient manuscript

There are records in India which support the claim that Jesus lived in that country for several years. In 1887, the Russian writer Nicolas Notovitch discovered in the ancient Tibetan monastery of Himis, in Leh, a province of Ladakh in northern Kashmir, an ancient manuscript which detailed the life of Jesus (called Issa in that work). It recounts that Issa had traveled there as a young man, and had later "preached the holy doctrine in India and among the children of Israel." It tells how Jesus (Issa) left home to avoid pressure from his parents, Joseph and Mary, to take a wife. Legend has it that he traveled by camel caravan over the "Silk Road," which was the main passage between the East and the West. Notovitch published a book which became famous in his time, called *The Unknown Life of Jesus Christ*. In it he described Issa (Jesus) spending time in Puri, Orissa, among the priests at the famous Jagannath Temple.

A prominent disciple of the great Sri Ramakrishna, Swami Abhedananada, later (in 1922) went to Ladakh in order to verify the account by Notovitch, and actually succeeded in doing so. Later still, Nicholas Roerich, the Russian artist who was then already well known as a veritable "Renaissance Man," wrote in 1929 of the many legends he had heard in Kashmir about the visit of Jesus Christ to that land, and about the manuscripts at Himis monastery. In 1939, Madam Elisabeth G. Caspari, a Swiss musician, and her husband visited the Himis monastery and also learned about the manuscripts, which were shown to them.

The account of Jesus leaving home as a boy to avoid marriage is very much in keeping with ancient tradition in India. Marriage in Israel, too, was arranged in those days after a boy reached the age of thirteen. Jesus himself explained his return to Israel, after the "lost eighteen years," when he declared that it was his destiny to fulfill his mission in Israel. He therefore returned to Israel.

SOURCE LINK TO THIS ARTICLE: <http://www.anandaclaritymagazine.com/2010/12/jesus-notovich-yogananda/>

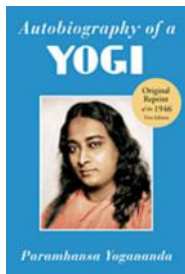


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Paramhansa Yogananda

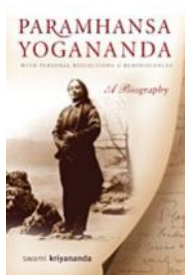
“Lord,” I prayed, “May Thy love shine forever on the sanctuary of my devotion, and may I be able to awaken Thy love in all hearts.”

Paramhansa Yogananda, from the book *Autobiography of a Yogi*



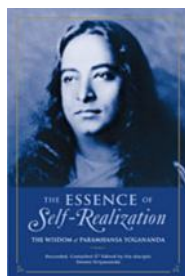
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Illusion

ROD BRIGGS

In over half a century of searching, through every wisdom tradition I could hunt down, occult and mainstream, philosophical and theological, ancient and modern, there are a few repetitive commonalities. Some of these commonalities are also central to 20th century scientific work.

When enough divergent schools of thought agree on a principle it makes sense to give it the attention it deserves. The most important of these, as far as our development is concerned, is the illusion of separation that we all inherently carry; we all feel somehow cut off from everyone and everything else in this rich tapestry we have woven and that we perceive as life.

Inherent in the many lectures I present all over the globe is the exploration of this illusion and the part it plays in our lives. On the courses I present it takes less than half an hour to shatter this all pervasive fantasy but for those not taught how to attack it it remains the source of our all of our suffering; it leads inevitably, to fear. Fear of failure, fear of loss, fear of the future, and fear of death.

The bottom line is very simple. Either the greatest minds of the last six thousand years are all flawed in their thinking or we are all an integral part of the matrix of creation, not just in a passive way, but actual co-creators. There is no third option.

And if they are correct, and all the evidence supports it, it is only a thin veil of illusion that keeps you from experiencing the bliss of infinity, and from the banishing of fear. This illusion is weakened every time you get beyond your sense of self and fully feel into someone or something else.

Don't take my word for it. Try it and see. There is no down side and the benefits are magnificent beyond the telling.

The Mindlink Foundation is dedicated to the emotional, physical and spiritual upliftment of humanity. This dedication finds expression in seminars and workshops designed to integrate both conscious and subconscious as well as the physical and non-physical aspects of mankind. The effects of the resulting balance are far reaching and life changing. On a micro scale this leads to an enhanced lifestyle for the individual. The macro impact is to raise the consciousness of the planet as a whole.

The teachings of Rod Briggs are gentle, fun and informative with entertaining stories, transformational wisdom and insights. His tertiary studies included Science and Theology as well as Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand and the UNISA. He is a frequent guest on local and international talk

shows and when not travelling presenting seminars, talks and lectures, he resides on the Dolphin Coast of Natal.

www.mindlinkfoundation.com





Fourth dimensional observation

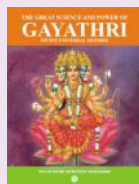
SWAMI MURUGESU MAHARISHI

The first and foremost practice in clairvoyance is inner visualisation. As already said, we do not see physical objects directly. Our eyes simply carry in the light rays of an object to the brain. When the light enters the brain the mind reproduces a subtle image of whatever we were looking at, which we recognize as such-and-such and object.

The first practice in clairvoyance is to keep the mental image steady for a few minutes. In other words, when our mind reproduces the mental image of a cow, for example, we should hold it steadily in the mind for a few minutes. If we do this then we can observe more detail in the image than by direct vision. Usually when we see a cow, the figure produced in the mind fades away in a few seconds. Within that moment we recognise that it is a cow by witnessing the subtle form of it. If we keep the mental figure of the cow steady for a few minutes we are able visualise more physical detail of the cow whose subtle figure we have in mind. For example, when we see the subtle form of the cow only for a few seconds, all we usually retain is the colour and form of the cow. But if we keep the subtle cow's figure in mind for a few minutes, we should be able to see the light and dark patches on its hide, that there's a hump on the cow's back, etc. - particulars which we would probably not have noticed within the first few seconds of observing its form mentally.

If we hold the mental form and figure of any object steadily in the mind for a few minutes, we will understand more about it, which we would not necessarily have known previously. Minute particulars of any subject can be known by visualizing its subtler mental form steadily for a few minutes. You may have seen your friend many times in the physical, but if you keep his mental form steadily in your mind, you will notice more detail like marks on his face, for example, which you may not have noticed before. After 'seeing' him mentally, when you compare his form physically, you may wonder how such details were not observed before, even though you've seen him hundreds of times. As objects are seen more clearly this way than physically, we call this 'clairvoyance', meaning clear vision.

After much sincere practice you will be able to see inside the subtle mental cow, details which you would not be able to see in ordinary life, without surgery. This is fourth dimensional vision. Usually to observe the inner anatomy of the cow you would have to cut open the physical body. But by using subtle fourth dimension vision, this can be done without harming the cow in any way - and the entire inner structure of the cow can be studied. The same can be done with any object, for example a stone or a person. Without having to take an X-ray, you can establish physical conditions of a person, whether they are diseased or have other physical problems.



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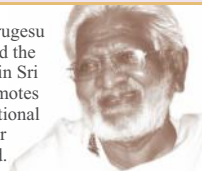
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Swami Dr RK Murugesu Maharishi founded the Gayathri Peedam in Sri Lanka, which promotes the non-denominational Divine Mother aspect of God.





The role of spirituality in human development

SUREN PILLAY

In a world where human development is often seen in materialistic terms, intellectuals might often ask what the role of spiritual enlightenment in human development is. Most countries and people judge the development of a country or population by the standard of their health care, education, and financial power which is, in turn, measured by the rate of unemployment, economic growth and purchasing power of the people. Spiritual qualities such as humility, simplicity, selflessness, truthfulness and purity do not seem to be incorporated into the dynamic nature of a human being. A human being not only has the ability to increase his intellectual, physical, and financial capital but also his spiritual capital.

Indeed, the primary drive for most human beings is to find happiness and contentment in the physical world. This is done by attaining a more secure and comfortable livelihood. However, when one sees the level of stress, health condition and mental state of many of those who have been educated and financially strong in western countries, it is glaringly clear that financial security and a comfortable livelihood, although important, are not determinative in assessing the happiness of a human being.

So what is it that drives inner bliss? This is the key question, since we know that most people who are financially and intellectually strong are not necessarily happy due to a stressful lifestyle. The sages of wisdom do not say that one cannot work hard in life. In fact, laziness on the spiritual path is abhorred. The answer is: mental attitude when working, and the depth of concentration on the work at hand. A person's ability to focus on a specific task is dependent on his conscious ability to go beyond the fluctuations of the human mind. Mental fluctuations manifesting as thought in the mind of a person, known as 'vrittis' in the *Yoga Sutra*, are an impediment to both meditative success and material success, as they distract the individual from his or her chosen objective. The attitude of an individual is also important. The more an individual adopts the attitude of surrender to God and that it is all his work, the more stress free the action is likely to be. One should also be grateful that one has the opportunity to actually perform work without disability.

Two remedies are particularly effective in lowering 'vrittis', or fluctuations, to a minimum in life. The first is experiential through the practice of meditation, by repeating mentally a mantra such as 'so hum'. By synchronising the mantra with inhalations and exhalations, a quiet state of mind can be achieved since the rate of breath and the speed of thought are directly correlated. A second approach is to listen to music that is extremely relaxing and let the music take you to stillness. The after-effect of music which alters the mental state of an individual to what scientist call an 'alpha state' can be phenomenal both in terms of mental peace and productivity.

My message to you this month, dear readers, is to always consider growth as an integrated concept, with spirituality being a priority in your development as a progressive individual in society. The more you are able to focus and concentrate and remain inwardly tranquil, the more you will be of benefit to society in more ways than you could ever know.

Surendran Pillay is a Chartered Accountant and a motivational speaker and lecturer at the University of South Africa, author of *The Art of Intelligence: A practical guide to igniting the Power of Mind*, and a composer of meditation music, keyboardist and tabla player.

<http://www.surenpillay.com>





Educating Children and Youth: A privilege

FLORA TECKIE

The *World Teachers' Day* on 5 October is a reminder of the significant role teachers play in our communities. In the Bahá'í view: "Among the greatest of all services that can possibly be rendered by man to Almighty God is education and training of children..."

Those who undertake the education and training of young minds must see themselves, as rendering a most valuable service to their community and to society as a whole. Their task is no less than regarding each student as one full of potential and talent of great value, and to help each to discover this potential and to develop it. Through their love and understanding and by treating each child as a unique creation of God, hence, assisting in developing his/her potentials, best results can be reaped from education.

Teachers, in addition to imparting academic knowledge and skills, must become role models and the transmitters of morality and builders of character. According to the Bahá'í Writings: "The proper education of children is of vital importance to the progress of mankind, and the heart and essential foundation of all education is spiritual and moral training" and "Knowledge is praiseworthy when it is coupled with ethical conduct and virtuous character.... A physician of evil character, and who betrayeth his trust, can bring on death, and become the source of numerous infirmities and diseases".

An education which can enrich the mind and the spirit should try to develop the moral attributes -- including truthfulness, courtesy, generosity, compassion, justice, love, and trustworthiness. Acquiring such qualities will also bring about harmonious and productive families and communities. Such education, at the same time, should help to instill in every individual the awareness of the oneness of humanity.

Besides, education provided in schools should be relevant to the true needs of a community and contribute to the unification of mankind. Service to humanity, including to one's family, neighbours, community, and nation; be considered an essential component of education and there should be practical means for its expression in the education process through service-oriented programs.

Teachers must give up all prejudices -- be it racial, religious, gender or occupational -- and treat all children as equals. They need to have a full understanding of the role that a child's self-esteem plays in determining school success and should create a climate of encouragement in the classroom. While teachers are normally well equipped to teach, there is always a great deal to learn during the process of conducting their important responsibility. By forming a partnership with their students in a shared learning process, they can demonstrate that they, too, are learners. This will help students realize that learning never ends, take ownership of their learning and determine the course their own life will take. Education as envisioned in the Bahá'í Writings should make the child a collaborator both in his own growth and in the development of his community. Teachers must enjoy the support of the community and respect, which results from their sacrificial services to the community and as role models for the younger generation.

The Bahá'í Faith is the youngest of the world's independent religions. Its founder, Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892), is regarded by Bahá'ís as the most recent in the line of Messengers of God that stretches back beyond recorded time and that includes Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Krishna, Zoroaster, Christ and Muhammad.



Bahá'í Topics

*Religion bestoweth upon man
the most precious of all gifts.*
-BAHA'U'LLAH-

AN INFORMATION RESOURCE OF THE BAHÁ'Í INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

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Maitreya is the World Teacher, the Master of all the Masters, the Head of the Spiritual Hierarchy of Masters, the Embodiment of the Christ Principle on our planet. He holds the office of the Christ and worked through the Master Jesus in Palestine for the last 3 years of Jesus' life. He is the Teacher or Avatar awaited by many faiths under different names; He is here for all humanity, not as a religious teacher, but as a spiritual teacher to uplift and bless all humanity, to heal and inspire us to make the needed changes in the world. His social concerns are reflected in His priorities. As He Himself says: "The problems of mankind are real but solvable. The solution lies within your grasp. Take your brother's need as the measure for your action and solve the problems of the world. There is no other course." Maitreya's message can be summed up in a few words: "Share and save the world." He has come to teach the art of Self-Realization. He comes to offer the love that he is, so that we may know the love that we can be.

Saving the Planet

BY THE MASTER through Benjamin Creme

When mankind realises how serious is the ecological imbalance of their planetary home, they must take the steps so urgently needed to remedy the situation. If men were to fail to respond with sufficient resolution they would be guilty of surrendering the planet to slow but inevitable destruction. What, then, the legacy to hand on to their children? That this self-destruction should not prevail all must act together, and make the necessary sacrifices. This will entail a complete change in attitude to the integrity of the planet and what are seen as the needs of men today.

It will not be easy for some to countenance the changes needed but only by such change can the life of the planet be assured. Already, deep inroads have been made into the essential stock of trees on Earth. Deforestation has caused a growing loss of oxygen and the rise of carbon gases. This is now at a critical stage and requires immediate action.

Dawning

The reality of global warming is now dawning on the minds of millions, yet, despite the overwhelming evidence some still deny the actions of men are the cause. We, your Elder Brothers, can say with full conviction that the actions of men are responsible for eighty per cent of global warming.

Maitreya, you will find, will not be long in bringing this urgent problem to man's attention. He will face men with the alternatives: the beneficial results of action now, on the one hand, and the destruction which would ensue from doing nothing, or too little, on the other. Thus, the decision is man's alone.

Rally

When men understand this they will indeed rally to the cause. They will see that the future for their children depends on action now, and will elicit from Maitreya and His group the necessary steps to take. Maitreya will advocate a simpler form of living, one more in keeping with the reality of the planet's situation. When enough people are convinced that this is necessary there will be a growing movement to simplify throughout the planet. This will proceed with quite unusual speed, so inspired by the need for change will millions be. Thus will the gravest dangers facing planet Earth be somewhat countered. This will encourage many and boost their readiness for further changes.

Faced with the dilemma of necessary change men will come to realise the inevitability of accepting the principle of sharing. Only sharing will make these changes practical and possible. Only through sharing can the bounty of Planet Earth be successfully used. Only through sharing can this bounty be correctly husbanded. Only thus can the Planet itself live in harmony with its environment and with its inhabitants.

SOURCE LINK TO THIS ARTICLE: http://www.share-international.org/magazine/old_issues/2012/2012-06.htm#Mestari

The Master is a senior member of the Hierarchy of the Masters of Wisdom; His name, well-known in esoteric circles, is not yet being revealed for various reasons. The Master dictates messages to Benjamin Creme who is in constant telepathic contact with the Master. Share International is a worldwide network of individuals and groups whose purpose is to make known the fact that Maitreya, the World Teacher for the coming age and his group, the Masters of Wisdom, are now among us, emerging into the public arena gradually, so as not to infringe human free will.

British futurist Benjamin Creme, artist, long-time student of esoteric philosophy and foremost spokesperson for this message, has for more than 30 years been preparing the way for Maitreya's emergence. He is the author of numerous books, translated into many languages, and editor of Share International magazine.

SHARE
— International —
<http://share-international.org>





Grow antennae not horns

SWAMI SHANKARANANDA MAHARAJI

Many of us are growing horns instead of antennae. With antennae we can connect with supreme energies and the outer world. But we are too busy fighting with each other and forgetting where we have come from. We have all that, a journey until this point. For some of you the journey might have been a difficult one; for others, an easier one. Whether difficult or easy, we must all understand that this is the journey. Many of us forget our roots. We forget what we used to do and, above all, we forget the love that was taught to us by those very dear people we call our parents. This is the time to show the love that you have. This is the time to make everybody around you feel as comfortable as possible. This is the time to unite with your maker. Every one of you has a maker within. Try to unite with that maker. By uniting with that maker we can find eternal peace, eternal joy, and states of bliss that you, yourself, cannot explain.

Our journey thus far has made us recognise and know who we are, what we can do, and what we can't do. It has made us know what is to be believed and what is not; that there is an energy out there, a divine cosmic energy whom we so lovingly refer to as God. The time has come for us to continue this union with God, for this union does not just stop here. From here this union takes you to another level. After death this union takes you to a higher level, a higher state, to a place where love, peace, joy, and bliss is so common. That is the place we need to be. This, most beautiful place, is called the cosmic realm. Today is the day, now is the time for each one of you to find within yourself, to dive deep within yourself, and pick up that cosmic energy that rests in you. Enjoy the radiant energy that can be experienced while knowing this cosmic energy. God has given each one of you an intellect, the power to know and to attain knowledge. God has given you the ability to know right from wrong, good from bad, and happiness from sorrow. You know all that, but you only know these things because God has given you the power to recognise them. In the same light, he has also given you the intellect to recall who you are, where you come from, and to recall that inner atmic realm that gives you self-realisation leading to God-realisation. You are unique in your own way, but atmicly every one of you is the same.

There is nothing unique about one person's atmic realm compared to another. All the atmic realms are the same. Therefore, all of you have the power to find this atmic realm and to reside in it, to enjoy states of bliss, happiness, and excitement, by knowing God. For God is the atmic realm and, only by transcending from the physical plane to the atmic realm, can you transcend from the atmic to the cosmic realm, situated in the abode of supreme love. At that time we can make the union with God our father, our maker, our guardian. It is very important that we start recognising and trying to make contact with the inner self or the atmic realm. Transcendence is only possible through that. You are not just a bundle of flesh, bones and organs. You are a bundle of joy, love, and bliss. Every nadi, every organ, every part of your body, works in harmony with each other because you are a manifestation of love. Therefore, stop growing horns and start growing antennae. This is the most beautiful thing you can do.

SOURCE LINK TO THIS ARTICLE: <http://www.fridaysatsang.blogspot.com/2012/09/grow-antennae-not-horns.html>



Swami Shankarananda Maharaj is the founder of the Jadatharaya Institute of Right Living and Yoga. His teachings are scientific but practical. The Institute promotes universal spiritual principles and embraces students of every denomination. One does not have to follow an Eastern religious practice to be involved in the Kriya Yoga classes, though an understanding of universal spiritual philosophies is beneficial. Swami's weekly discourses are recorded on his blog which can be accessed at www.fridaysatsang.blogspot.com. For more information on the Jadatharaya Institute, please visit the website below.

www.jadatharayayoga.com





Enlightenment

BERNIE SIEGEL, MD

Most people I know only find enlightenment through their emotional or physical difficulties. That is a sad statement. Wouldn't it be far better to be educated about life and prepared for its difficulties by the wisdom of others, rather than to need your own break down in order to become strong at the broken places or expand through them. Many painful events become our blessings because of what they teach us and the voids they fill in our lives. I believe it is better to be blessed by wise parents, teachers and spiritual leaders than adversity.

Others learn the hard way that the darkness leads them to the light just as charcoal under pressure becomes a diamond. Again a painful journey through the tunnel of darkness seeking the enlightenment.

My writing and today's books have nothing new to say. We may have new stories but they are only repeating ancient wisdom. So read the wisdom of the sages and learn from those who have gone before us. Which path you take makes little difference. The themes of all the great spiritual leaders of the past have much in common so if you seek enlightenment get started by paying attention to what has been said and don't wait for a personal disaster to bring you the gift of enlightenment. You may know the saying, "If you seek enlightenment, seek it as a man whose hair is on fire, seeks water." It takes that kind of desire to truly face the light.

What has helped me most was my search for the answer to why we have a world filled with pain and difficulties. As a physician I saw much suffering that seemed to make no sense. Ultimately I realized it was to give our acts of compassion meaning and that what was evil was to not respond to the person with the affliction. We have free will and when we choose to love it is a choice which makes our love meaningful. The free will allows us the opportunity to become cocreators and, hopefully, some day we will create a family of man and our own Garden of Eden. As a surgeon I know we are one family, despite our actions, because we are all the same color inside.

A veterinarian friend of mine listed five points necessary to train animals properly. As I listened to her list I realize it is what the enlightened give to each other. They are Love, Trust, Respect, Consistency and Commitment. So the enlightened treat people as well as they do their pets.

The questions I would ask you to consider to help yourself awaken and see the light are:

1. What is evil?
2. Who can you hate?
3. Who can you love?
4. Who is the enemy?
5. Who is the Lord you work for?
6. What do you need to say that you haven't said?

I won't answer for you but as you seek enlightenment the correct answers will make themselves apparent.

The last point I will share with you is that when you are enlightened you will understand the power of love. So ask yourself why we say kill with kindness, torment with tenderness, love is blind, love thine enemies and love thy neighbor as thyself. Therein lies the answer to life and enlightenment. Several years ago I fell from our roof, hit my head and developed amnesia, which improved my marriage and family life dramatically, I learned a great deal from the benefits of amnesia. When my memory came back I had a difficult time with my wife and children because now I remembered all their faults. A therapist friend said she could save me from years of therapy. I asked her how. She handed me something and said go home and read this and live what it says. What she handed me was Corinthians 1:13 which describes all the benefits of amnesia and more through love.





I tell you this so that until you are enlightened and capable of loving try amnesia in your relationships and daily life. It will help. Or if that doesn't appeal to you the next time you don't know what to do and seek to make the enlightened choice ask yourself, "What would Lassie do now?" If you prefer denominational or religious figures as choices there are a few I can recommend but choose wisely because animals are complete and man is not. Or so the Bible tells us.

Today's Prescription for the Soul #149 – Stir the pot

*The difference between stumbling blocks
and stepping stones is the way you use them.*

ANONYMOUS

When you experience uncomfortable feelings such as gnawing unrest, sadness, irritation, or depression, do not label them as bad feelings. Our feelings are signs that something is stirring inside of us and seeking a response.

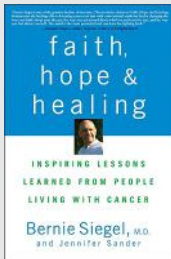
Our feelings aid and protect us. They help us know what is going on inside of us and warn us to respond when there is danger. They are our directors and teachers.

Feelings that bubble to the surface have a purpose. When you remove your judgment of them and follow their direction, they will reveal the underlying issue so that it can be resolved.

Soulution of the Day

*When you stop resisting your feelings,
you will see that they offer you a source of wisdom
and an opportunity for nourishment and growth.*

BERNIE



Faith, Hope and Healing

Bernie Siegel broke new ground with his monumental book *Love, Medicine, and Miracles*, in which he explored the powerful role the mind can play in fighting illness. Sharing stories of seriously ill patients who survived against the odds and those who seemed to give in to their own deaths, the book inspired countless readers to consider the possibilities of thinking themselves well. Siegel believed—and still does—that the power to heal comes from the human mind through will, determination, and love. Over the last 20 years, his philosophy and advice have led many physicians and other healthcare professionals to help patients participate in and influence their own recovery. Visit Bernie's website to buy a copy online.



Dr. Siegel, who prefers to be called Bernie, retired from practice as an assistant clinical professor of surgery at Yale of general and pediatric surgery in 1989 to speak to patients and their caregivers. As a physician, who has cared for and counseled innumerable people whose mortality have been threatened by illness, Bernie embraces a philosophy of living and dying that stands at the forefront of the medical ethics and spiritual issues our society grapples with today. He continues to assist in the breaking of new ground in the field of healing and personally struggling to live the message of kindness and love.

Visit Bernie's web site at www.BernieSiegelMD.com.



How to use the will (continued)

WALLACE D. WATTLES

You can serve God and man in no more effective way than by getting rich; that is, if you get rich by the creative method, and not by the competitive one.

Another thing. We assert that this gives in detail the principles of the science of getting rich; if that is true, you do not need to read any other book on the subject. This may sound narrow and egotistical, but consider: there is no more scientific method of computation in mathematics than by addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; no other method is possible. There can be but one shortest distance between two points. There is only one way to think scientifically, and that is to think in the way that leads by the most direct and simple route to the goal. No man has yet formulated a briefer or less complex system than the one set forth herein; it has been stripped of all non-essentials. When you commence on this, lay all others aside; put them out of your mind altogether.

Read this book every day; keep it with you; commit it to memory, and do not think about other 'systems' and theories. If you do, you will begin to have doubts, and to be uncertain and wavering in your thought, and then you will begin to make failures.

After you have made good and become rich, you may study other systems as much as you please, but until you are quite sure that you have gained what you want, do not read anything on this line but this book, unless it be the authors mentioned in the Preface.

And read only the most optimistic comments on the world's news: those in harmony with your picture.

Also, postpone your investigations into the occult. Do not dabble in Theosophy, Spiritualism or kindred studies. It is very likely that the dead still live, and are near, but if they are, let them alone: mind your own business.

Wherever the spirits of the dead may be, they have their own work to do, and their own problems to solve, and we have no right to interfere with them. We cannot help them, and it is very doubtful whether they can help us, or whether we have any right to trespass upon their time if they can. Let the dead and the hereafter alone, and solve your own problems; get rich. If you begin to mix with the occult, you will start mental cross-currents which will surely bring your hopes to shipwreck.

Up until now, we have come to the following statement of basic facts:

There is a thinking stuff from which all things are made, and which, in its original state, permeates, penetrates, and fills the interspaces of the universe.

A thought, in this substance, produces the thing that is imaged by the thought.

Man can form things in his thought and, by impressing his thought upon formless substance, can cause the thing he thinks about to be created.

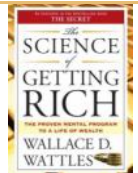
In order to do this, man must pass from the competitive to the creative mind; he must form a clear mental picture of the things he wants, and hold this picture in his thoughts with the fixed PURPOSE to get what he wants, and the unwavering FAITH that he does get what he wants, closing his mind against all that may tend to shake his purpose, dim his vision, or quench his faith.

And, in addition to all this, we shall next see that he must live and act in a certain way.



Wallace D. Wattles (1860 – 1911) was an author and New Thought leader whose influence has flourished recently. His book, *The Science of Getting Rich* is still helping uncountable numbers of individuals achieve spiritual and material wealth. Since we know so little of his life, we have the gift of being able to relate to him purely through the vehicle of his writing which is kept alive by an anonymous organisation who call themselves the TSOGR Team.

Visit www.thescienceofgettingrich.com





Initiations Part One

ECKANKAR

At the time of initiation the chela [spiritual student] is imparted vital secrets, which facilitate his growth and speed up his karma. The highest, perfect directions for the Spiritual Exercises of ECK are given. These help him to unfold his inner hearing and inner sight, and with them he begins his ever growing inward and upward pilgrimage to the Sugmad. THE SHARIYAT-KI-SUGMAD: BOOK ONE

A new ECKist from Australia had been wondering what her First Initiation would be like. When she was ready for it, a Higher Initiate in ECK came to her in the dream state and said, “Come, let us go see the Master”. Together the new ECKist and the Higher Initiate journeyed to one of the worlds of the Astral Plane, chatting as they walked along. Soon the Master appeared in the Light body, and the First Initiation was given.

The individual went on to complete her second year of study, at which time she was ready for the Second Initiation. This one is both an outer and inner initiation. This is where the full linkup with the Holy Spirit occurs. As she sat with the ECK Initiation in contemplation, she became aware that the Initiator was leading her down a beach. The setting was very familiar; she had been there in dreams many times since childhood. Is this real or am I imagining it? she wondered.

All of a sudden her consciousness was fully on the inner plane. She and the Initiator were met by the ECK Master Rebazar Tarzs, who joined them in their walk along the beach. Ahead of them on the sand was a blanket spread with fruit. The Inner Master, the Mahanta, was waiting for them. In his hands he held a goblet made of precious jewels. “This is the water of life,” he said to her: “Take it, and drink”.

The water of life is actually the ECK, which is the Light and Sound of God. Once a person drinks of it, he will never be the same. This is the sort of thing that occurs during the ECK initiation. You become aware that ECK is the path of love. When this connection between Soul and the Holy Spirit is made, it is simply to give the person the best opportunity to live his life in the most fruitful way possible.

Initiation links soul to the audible life stream. The ECK is the essence of Sugmad, or God. It flows from the Creator down into the lower worlds and then returns again to the Source. It supports and sustains all life. Over the centuries It has been given many names: the Holy Spirit, Holy Ghost, Logos, the Word, Divine Spirit, the Bani, and the Vadan, are a few of these names. Many religious traditions refer to the ECK in some way.

Divine Spirit is also called the Audible Life Stream, because It can be experienced audibly, as Sound. It is awareness of this Sound that distinguishes Eckankar from many other religions. When Soul is ready, the Mahanta links It with this Sound. This allows Soul to travel at Its own pace back to God. As individuals progress spiritually, they become eligible for further initiations. Each initiation strengthens the bond of love between the individual and God.

The inability of the mind to comprehend those areas beyond the Soul Plane limits us in our understanding of the various heavens and their corresponding initiations. From the physical perspective, we can identify fourteen levels of initiation. Yet there is always a plus factor in Eckankar. There is no end to the spiritual universe. The God Worlds are not finite areas surrounded by borders.



Harold Klemp is the spiritual leader of Eckankar today. In 1981, after years of spiritual training, he became the Mahanta, the Mahanta, or Living ECK Master and gives inner guidance through dreams, Soul Travel, and the Spiritual Exercises of ECK. Harold Klemp's inspiring and practical approach to spirituality helps thousands of people find greater freedom, wisdom, and love. His teachings uplift and help them recognize their own experiences in the Light and Sound of God.

Visit www.eckankar.org





Readers' Inspirations

Existence

How does one give thanks for existence?

The answer lies in love.

Love in action, rest, stillness, and unconsciousness.

May I generate even more of it everyday as tribute to my existence.

SUREN PILLAY



Lesson

... is a answer to everyone. The purpose we live.

It can be an answer to guide, to focus on the chosen path, advancing to one's goal or aim;
Flushing out or eliminating obstacles. Shadows, blindspots are quickly connected to illusions.

Embrace situations, represent the situation. Symbolise and view it.

A lesson challenging, that can allow you to grow without resistance.

Respond to mistakes, as long as you are sincere by positivity,
then you can bring maturity and enjoy sacrifice, success, prosperity and peace of mind.

ZARINA MALICKSHA



Master's Dream

When I was a kid, I heard the voice of my master speaking of the glories of his master.
In great admiration, in great reverence, I listened to every word, watching every expression,
remembering every feeling.

Master had a dream to build an empire of divinity, to enrich the lives of many
in the energy of Devi Gayathri.

Many made promises. Many lent their hands. Some only gave a word,
while others thought it was absurd.

I promised mentally that I would be all I could be, to be in his divinity.

And to this day I strive to be in his divinity,
even when its only just me.

BAPI



I am not the body

Beloved God, I know that I am not the body, not the blood, not the energy, nor the thoughts, not
the mind, not the ego, not the astral self. I am the immortal soul that illumines all of them,
remaining unchangeable in spite of their changes. Eternal Youth of body and mind, abide in me
forever, forever, forever. More and more I will depend for energy upon the limitless supply of the
inner source of cosmic consciousness, and less and less upon outer sources of body energy.

O Father, Thine unlimited and all-healing power is in me. Manifest Thy light through the
darkness of my ignorance. O Spirit, teach me to heal the body by recharging it with Thy cosmic
energy; to heal the mind by concentration and smiles.

PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA



Index of Resources and Online References

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