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Electronic mini-mag distributed every full moon **TRANSCENDENCE** Serious Spirituality for Devoted Aspirants

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Welcome to the December 2012 issue of Transcendence.

As you read this, Christmas has passed and we look with renewed energy towards a new year. We hope that all our readers are having a blessed and restful holiday.

A common theme that runs through this last edition of *Transcendence* in 2012 is that of working in togetherness. In any organisation, be it commercial or spiritual, togetherness is required for success. Wherever there are people, there will be many different cultures, different outlooks, different personalities, and different opinions. All of these differences have the potential for conflict if there is no understanding of, and respect for such differences.

When differences are vast, a common goal or task should be focused upon to build strength in togetherness, and unity in diversity. Members of an organisation are like the many pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, each individual piece is different, but each is also necessary, along with all the other pieces, in order to complete the final picture.

Many organisations fall apart, or come up against ongoing troubles because of members' lack of understanding for each other. Let us make it a goal in the year ahead to cultivate understanding and respect for all others we may have to work with in institutes or organisations and to share that understanding by our own example in action so that others can learn to do the same.

A most prosperous and joyous 2013 to all our readers and contributors.

In Love and Service, always,









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Heavenletter # 4080 - Greatness is Yours

GLORIA WENDROFF

God said:

When you put aside the little smallnesses that occupy you, in contrast, what Greatness would you then be?

I am talking about the thoughts you carry, how this one hurt your feelings, and that one didn't do right by you, and all the echoes that occupy you so single-mindedly. Beloveds, if you would drop all thoughts like that and think about that which holds value to you and look into the eyes of those whom you are presently preved at, what Greatness would you be? What Greatness would the world be?

Energy is not lost, and yet you put your energy on small things, little pin-pricks of society that amount to nothing, and yet you let these pin-pricks occupy your thoughts. If they occupy your thoughts, they occupy your life. So what if everything someone says doesn't suit you? So what if everything some people do doesn't suit you? So what, this and that? A crowd of thoughts mill around you, and you are surrounded by them, and your life feeds on them.

What do you want your life made of? I know you want your life made of Greatness. Let go of those pesky little thoughts, and Greatness will be yours. Great thoughts yield great crops. I know you want to be a great farmer of life.

When you were a gatherer of berries, you didn't look for the sour ones or the spoiled ones. You looked for the berries bulging with juice, the tasty ones, the ones worth gathering and sharing.

Now your mind may travel to thirty years ago or a scene in your childhood that scratched your heart, and you pull it up again and again as if it had value to you when it has no value to you or anyone.

When I say to let the past go, I mean, "Let the past go." Keep your thoughts high, and left-overs from your childhood will be gone from your mind. Keep your thoughts high, and you will have surmounted the past. No longer will it hold you back. Why would you let the past hold you in place when you are far more than you ever were in the past? Let the past be past.

Yesterday, someone hurt your feelings. Must it be a big deal? Your feelings have been a hurt a lot, yet what is the point of it? If you are victim of circumstance, how can you be great? A victim of circumstance is a twig in the water and has no direction of its own.

You are meant to direct your life to Greatness. No one else can do this for you. You can do this. And you can do this simply by letting go of the little thoughts and think bigger thoughts instead. You don't have to be what you have been. You can be what you want to be. You can be what J want you to be.

Will you consider the thoughts I think and think them for yourself? What if you were God, what would you think about? Certainly, you can accept that you are God of your world, that your world, your life, is the extension of your thoughts?

Think small thoughts, and what will you have? Think great thoughts, and what will you be? Never mind what others are. Never mind their foolishness, their tactlessness, their smallness. You don't like



smallness, so why would you let smallness occupy your mind and heart when your mind and heart are made for greater things? Surely, you don't believe that I made you for smallness. Surely, you will accept that I made you for Greatness. Start with great thoughts. Be a poet of a great life.

SOURCE LINK TO THIS ARTICLE: http://www.heavenletters.org/greatness-is-yours.html

Inspirational Quotes

God said:

As you come closer to Me, you become more like Me. That's how it is. When you love, there is nothing to be proven. There is no proof to give, for love is. Be reassured in your heart that you are a being who loves. You know how to love, and you are love.

Heavenletter #4075 All the Good Things



A flower breaks through the soil of Earth, and you are to break through the perceived limitations of Earth. Consider every being on Earth as a flower growing. Isn't it easy in your heart to love flowers? You don't have to pick them all. It's okay to have your favorites. And yet you love flowers. And so you love. Heavenletter #4072 Love, Love, Love, Love



On Earth, where difficulties exist, you may wonder what people or countries are to do when another person or country assaults them. Are they supposed to let themselves be overrun by others as if that were perfectly all right? It is not perfectly all right. Starting now, love, like cream, must come to the top. Starting now, love must be uppermost. Not a pretense of love, but peace in hearts. You can't say what another will do, yet you can say what you will do. Heavenletter #4069 Love, Like Cream, Comes to the Top



You do not have all the say about your life, yet you have a choice to smile. Smile inside, beloveds. Whatever you are going through doesn't last forever. True, a bad mood will go away by itself, and yet you can shoo it away sooner. Heavenletter #4066 Chewy Caramels



What you favor is simply not so important as you have thought. Enjoy that which you do not enjoy! Enjoy that someone served you toast too dark or too light.

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





Knowing God - Part 2

ROY EUGENE DAVIS

Most religious ideas and practices are changed as they are interpreted in various ways and adapted to ethnic and cultural environments. Sanatana Dharma, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and other religions have sects with doctrines and rituals that are different than the original teachings. Only a few adherents of a religious or philosophical system are familiar with the beliefs and practices of the others. In our current era there is an increasing emphasis on being spiritually conscious and functional rather than involved with traditional beliefs or practices. More people want to know what is true rather than be told to passively believe what someone else asserts to be true.

Among some materialistic intellectuals, there is an inclination to promote the idea that God either does not exist or is not necessary for us to have a happy, productive life. The kind of "god" they usually deny is a mental concept of a human-like cosmic being that is widely worshipped. Even if a person does not believe in the existence of an ultimate Reality, if desire to know the truth is sincere, spiritual awakening and growth is possible because transformative spiritual enlightenment occurs when innate knowledge of one's pureconscious essence and of higher realities is unveiled.

A sincere truth-seeker who doesn't yet know if an ultimate Reality exists may experience faster spiritual growth than a smug, self satisfied "believer." Illumination of consciousness is not always related to the duration of one's dedication to right living and spiritual practices. A person who is alert and learns quickly, can think rationally, has highly-developed powers of discrimination, can easily rise above conditioned states of mind and consciousness, and "see through" a mistaken sense of self identity, can quickly awaken to Self- and God-knowledge. Some truth seekers endeavor for many years to be spiritually awake; others wake up quickly.

God is one ultimate Reality. Although the pure-conscious aspect is without attributes and cannot be fully comprehended with the mind or intellect, it can be intuitively perceived and directly experienced. Its expressive aspect has influential, constituent attributes used to produce and maintain universes. Individual units (souls) of the pure-conscious aspect of ultimate Reality are produced (not created) by interactions between it and its continuously emanated vibration (Om).

Souls at various stages of Selfawareness exist in physical, astral (energy and life-force), and causal (fine electrical and magnetic) realms. Most of them, even those who don't yet know that they have unique innate qualities and knowledge of their true nature and of higher realities, consciously or unconsciously yearn to realize (experience and know) their true nature and relationship with the Infinite. Although wanting to be Self- and God-conscious is helpful, it is only possible for physically embodied souls when their brain, mind, and consciousness are receptive enough to allow innate Self- and God-knowledge to emerge. (To be continued)

Excerpt from Truth Journal, June/July 2012

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.





CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL AWARENESS AN ENLIVENING POWER IS NURTURING THE UNIVERSE AND WE CAN LEARN TO COOPERATE WITH IT.

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Signs of a New Dispensation

LUCIS TRUST

One of the most obvious signs of an emerging spiritual dispensation is the drastic change occurring everywhere within the fabric of human life due to a shift in human consciousness. What this era will reveal depends very much on the decisions that are made now in the way we respond to the challenges of the early twenty-first century and how we strive to manifest more compassionate human societies.

Perhaps one of the most positive signs is the growth of human planning which indicates that humanity is beginning to develop the rhythmic organisation of purpose upon the physical plane. The use of the Great Invocation is a means of empowering this process and inspiring ever more inclusive planning, releasing the will-to-good through the very simple word – LET. Used correctly, the word LET is incredibly invocative, for it is both a demand and a request. It is made assertively yet with reverence and humility:

LET light stream forth into the minds of men, LET purpose guide the little wills of men, LET light descend on Earth, LET the Plan of Love and Light work out, LET love stream forth into the hearts of men, LET Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

These six 'directives' are all active in the world on a vast scale visible in the work of the new group of world servers, and this is a deeply encouraging sign. The Plan exists and our service, more now than ever before, is to give all we can in our inner and outer lives to assist. In the midst of a planetary crisis of epic proportions we need to learn to bear the load – the pressure of our times, because these are the gates of opportunity. The new group of world servers is striving to touch and evoke the energies required for the amelioration of planetary conditions. New vibrations, new permutations and experiments with lighted substance can therefore be expected.

From an energetic point of view, the new consciousness is forming around the archetype of the triangle, the symbol of the soul. As we find ourselves at a higher level of selfhood – one of group consciousness – the pattern of triangles is being carved in the etheric structure of the planet allowing a freer circulation of energies. The very advent of the planetary service of Triangles is a sure sign that a new dispensation is underway, erecting new pathways of communication between higher and lower, inner and outer, until one day humanity will stand free – free to transcend the personal, separative consciousness and become of "one mind". What greater service can we do to usher in a new dispensation than to simply light up and empower our triangles daily to restore the Plan on Earth?

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 Hidden Reality Within

(This article is excerpted from a talk in which Swami Kriyananda speaks about how the emerging discoveries of the new age can help us find the hidden realities of our own being.)

We're at a point in our society today where we're beginning to slough off old ways of thinking and enter into a new age. You hear people saying, "Are you a 'New Ager?' "Well, it's not a question of being a "New Ager" — we are living in a new age, and we can't avoid it. What defines this age? Essentially, it is the discovery at the beginning of this century that matter is energy, and that subtle realities exist beyond the reach of our senses. I don't think people realize even yet the depth to which that discovery has taken us already, and is bound to take us in the future.

Look at our definition of institutions, for example. For a long time people thought that dogmas, upheld by institutions, were truth. This is a false assumption, for dogmas are only ideas about truth, not truth itself. Truth is universal. It's a discovery that the soul makes as it evolves in its own self-unfoldment. If you understand the truth deeply enough, you can throw out the definition.

Once St. Francis of Assisi met a blind beggar woman along the road. She couldn't see that he was even poorer than she was, and asked him for money. Feeling badly that he had no money to give, Francis gave her the one thing he did have — his Bible. Later, he felt the loss of his Bible, and prayed, "God, I've given away your Word." A voice within him replied, "Francis, my Word is in your heart." That's where truth has to be. It has to be something we understand from within, not just something we read, or quote, or spout from a platform.

As we move forward into the new age, this way of thinking is gaining strength. Every day, it seems, a new discovery is being made that turns people's minds more towards an understanding of energy and the subtle nature of reality.

There's a principle based on this perception of energy that I've always upheld at Ananda: Don't worry so much about the things you do, but be concerned that your attitude is right. If your attitude is right, if your energy flow is right, it's amazing how everything flows smoothly and turns out positively for you. When you lose touch with the right attitude, the energy no longer flows, and success evades you. Try it for yourself, and you'll find it works invariably.

An example of this took place in 1976 when our community (Ananda World Brotherhood Village) was struck by a forest fire that destroyed almost all of our buildings and burned most of our land. We didn't have any money to rebuild or insurance to cover expenses, and we honestly didn't know where the money was going to come from to start over. Just at that time one of our neighbors, whose property had also been burnt out by the fire, phoned us and said excitedly, "The cause of the fire was a county vehicle with a faulty spark arrestor. Let's all sue the county and get what we can." We easily could have sued for two million dollars and gotten all the money we needed to rebuild our community. But we said, "No, that's not the way to go. We are not here to take from others, but to give." We knew that if we had the right attitude, even if we couldn't raise the necessary funds, God would help us in some other way. In fact, we were able to rebuild through many unexpected miracles and lots of hard work.

Where There Is Truth, There Is Victory

There is another important principle on which Ananda is based: Where there is adherence to truth, to high ideals, there is victory. We easily could have failed at the time of the fire, but we didn't. In fact, some of our of neighbors were still weeping ten years later, while we were out the next day clearing the land and joyfully singing to God.

This is not a boast. I'm not trying to say how good we are. I'm trying to say that these are principles that will work for anybody if he will use them. They wouldn't work if this world were only a material one, and matter were the bedrock reality. But there's a subtler reality that is the basis of matter and of which itself is just an expression. When you can live in that subtler reality, you'll

find things happening in amazing ways to help and support you.

I think we're living through a time in this century where we find ourselves with a complete loss of moral values and of any belief system. Our civilization seems to be falling apart, yet as we enter the new age I think the truth is that we're just clearing the ground so that we can plant true and lasting values. I think we're living in a glorious time, but we have to redefine our directions. We have to redefine our principles in such a way that we can once again bring meaning into our lives. This is something that you, I, all of us need to take a personal responsibility for.

Bliss Is the Source of Our Being

How to get back to that bedrock reality? The French philosopher Descartes said, "I think, therefore, I am." This is a false assumption. The truth is, "I am, therefore, I think." This is the one point of departure for all human understanding. This simple intuition — I am — is the central fact of your being. You are not any outward definition, but simply, I am. When you reach that point of emptiness, not blankness, but emptiness, then suddenly you discover that the source of "I am" is bliss. As this bliss expands, you understand that this is the one thing worth living for.

People tell you there's no God, but I know that "I am" can never be taken from me. People say that there's no truth, but there's at least this that's true: That which makes me happier is good for me, and that which makes me unhappy is not good for me. In this world there are two kinds of influences: One is light and the other is darkness. One is good, and the other is evil. How do you know which is which? You can't call things good or bad in themselves, but subjectively you can say its effect on us is good or bad. We can learn to discriminate in this respect when we open ourselves to the influence of darkness and allow our minds to become negative, pessimistic, doubtful, or cynical, then we're going to suffer. If we attune ourselves to forces of light, and direct our thoughts to be positive, optimistic, hopeful, and courageous, we're the ones who gain. That's what makes an influence good or bad.

There is an objective truth, and we must face it as it is. If we were tigers, then I would say it was right for us to kill. But the truth is people like Mafia hitmen who destroy life in others are killing it in themselves. Whatever you do to others, you do to yourself more than to anyone else. When you give love, you have love. When you give anger and hatred, you have anger and hatred in yourself, and you become dark.

We are at a wonderful point in the evolution of our society as we move into a new age. We have a choice before us now — to remain fixed in old ways of thinking and dogmas, or to reevaluate who we are, what we are, and what we're doing here. Because I have faith that what we are is something eternal and good, I think we're on the brink of a thrilling new adventure that will change our world into something that people have not seen for many, many centuries.

I think the future ahead is a glorious one, but that doesn't necessarily mean that we'll arrive at it easily. We're still in a deck — stripping process and may have to face a few hard times. So be it. But don't lose your faith in that simple reality that you can never get away from — the simple truth "I am." On the basis of that single thought, build that "I am" into what you want to become, and shape your life into what you want it to be. Start from the divine reality of your own being, and discover the joy and freedom of the infinite.

SOURCE LINK TO THIS ARTICLE: http://www.crystalclarity.com/content.php?page=skarticle44



Ananda Sangha is a movement based on the teachings of Paramhansa Yogananda that helps you bring God into your life through meditation and spiritual living. visit www.ananda.org



Light of Life

Vitae Lux (Light of Life)

Light of life Strength of life From whom hope thrives Lead during the shade of night May (our) feet be strengthened

IVAR DYRHAU

Bathed in our endless summer, here on the east coast of Africa, it's difficult to believe that those in the far northern hemisphere are locked in months of semi darkness. By December the winter seems to have an unbreakable grip on life with the sun's disc never fully above the horizon. In pre-christian Norway on the 13th of December, every village chose a young virgin who, after initiation and wearing a crown of lit candles, moved past every home lighting a candle in each from her coronet of light. Through those long dark days, candles glowed in the village windows, reminding all that the light kindled in their hearts and homes cannot be darkened. These candles were kept alight until the winter solstice had passed and the Sun, source of light and life, started its return journey.

Over the centuries, the source of this light has been commemorated in the beloved Christmas tradition of the Procession of Santa Lucia — the Queen of Lights. The light and hope she brings symbolizes a greater light — the Light of Life — whose coming we celebrate this Christmas. Although originally a Pagan tradition it works for Christians as well. The followers of the Old Religion see Santa Lucia as a representative of the Goddess bringing *Sol Invictus*, the rebirth of the Sun, after the winter solstice; Christians equate it with the light of Christ. Either way it is a wonderful expression of the divinity of Light, both external and internal and a rare and much needed opportunity to spread that most universal of Christmas message of good will to all men. In modern life this is why we have lights on our trees and sparkles and glitter on our decorations. *Vitae Lux, Vitae Vis, Unde spes vigens...*

There will be a candle in our window from the 13th. Blessed Be. Namaste

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



ROD BRIGGS



Psychic Science

SWAMI MURUGESU MAHARISHI

When we think about anything, our mind exists within our brain, but when we absorb, become one with anything, then our mind will actually be there, in the object with which we are absorbed. For example, if you simply think about your friend, Rama, your mind is combined with your brain. Brain cells are utilised to think of anything, but if you concentrate and absorb within you your friend, then your mind actually is not in your brain, but absorbed in your friend. If you are keenly absorbed in something, and not thinking of anyone, your mind is at that time, not in your brain, but in what you are absorbed with. You should know that mind travels faster than light, and reaches its destination within a moment - almost immediately.

There is a good example of this in Hindu mythology. An elephant's leg was caught by a crocodile. At the time, the elephant thought of Lord Narayana who was in Vaikunta (on the mental plane), a thousand light-years away. The next moment, Lord Narayana was in front of the elephant and relieved it from the clutches of the crocodile. All this happened within a few seconds. What this myth explains is that within one-thousandth of a second, the elephants' mind reached Vaikunta and the God (energy) there, came to him within one-thousandth of a second.

What I want to stress, is that the mind does not function solely within the brain but travels to any place in the universe as willed by us. If we keep that place steadily in our mind, then our mind will also be there at that time. As the mind is the root-source of true vision, sound, etc, it begins to see what exists in that place.

Suppose we focus our attention on any one town in America, with full absorption and concentration, our mind will actually be there and hear all that is there. When we withdraw our mind from there and begin to impose the mind in our brain, then we clearly understand what we had seen and heard there. As stated earlier, dreams are good explanations of this.

Understand clearly that whomever, or whatever place you fully observe, your mind will be there and by your subtle senses you will see, hear and smell all that is there. As it is difficult to remember all that we see in dreams, it will be difficult in the beginning to get a reflection in the brain of what our mind has seen, heard, etc. By sincere and devoted practice we can remember all that we saw and heard in distant places. This is true clarivoyance.



The Great Science and Power of Gayathri, Divine Universal Mother by Dr RK Swami Murugesu Maharishi has just been republished in English.

Click here to download the first four chapters for free.

Click here to purchase a copy of the book online.

Please visit our website at www.gayathripeedam.com for more information.



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





Improving Spiritual Organisation

SUREN PILLAY

I cant help but think of the importance of spiritual team work if we want to further the mission of a Guru or Master. In my experience, most people leave a spiritual environment not because they were unable to practice the spiritual sadhana, but because they couldn't get on or live in harmony with their fellow spiritual sadhakas. In business, family life and spirituality, conflict is almost inevitable as we always have present people at different levels of thought, perception and spiritual maturity.

Maturity has been defined as the dividing line between courage and consideration. A person is mature when he is able to stand up for what he believes in yet, at the same time, have consideration for the beliefs and feelings of those around him. Many conflict-type situations could have been avoided if people adopted a more mature level of thinking. Two important disciplines are necessary for more mature actions to take place. Firstly, awareness of people's feelings and beliefs around you and, secondly, the ability to control speech.

In many instances conflict arises as people are simply unaware, or do not consider the sensitivity of the feelings of others in regard to certain issues, and this causes pain or hurt in another, resulting in retaliation and then conflict. Even if one thinks a negative thought, or one that would be painful to another, it should not be said as it will pollute the environment and hurt others, leading to more negativity.

Spiritual teamwork is most efficient when we have a greater degree of spiritual maturity amongst the members of the organisation. Communicative skills also play a pivotal role in determining the efficiency of the spiritual group in achieving its desired goal of spreading a spiritual message. It's not just what we say but how we say it that is critical when we speak to people. There is an old saying that goes, 'If you want respect, give respect', and I couldn't agree more. How you treat people will eventually result in how they treat you. If you treat them with the highest divinity and respect, you will receive the same treatment back. This is the law of karma in one of its most expressive forms.

Another important determinant in the success of a spiritual organisation, is the degree of cosmic awareness within the organisation. As long as the vision within the individual members remain limited, narrow minded, selfish and egoistic, a conflict is bound to arise in the team. People who deliberately put personal and egoistic needs ahead of that of the organisation are bound to cause chaos within an environment, as the internal design of a spiritual organisation is to achieve a selfless goal. One of the ways to achieve better cosmic awareness amongst the members of an organisation is to keep re-instilling the purpose of the spiritual mission, and get the members to absorb that teaching and mission internally. It is only when a selfless goal is internalised and appreciated by a devotee, that it is able to transform a devotee toward positive selfless action.

My message to you this month, dear readers, is to embark on a programme of spiritual excellence in maturity and behaviour. How we behave can certainly influence others and the destiny of the spiritual organisation we are a part of. Never forget that your actions can not only change the world but enhance the future spiritual life of everyone around you.

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

Human rights as God given rights

FLORA TECKIE

As we celebrate the Human Rights Day on 10 December, let us remember that human rights are an expression of our God-given rights, which are now universally recognized.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations, is a significant step towards aligning the work of governments with the principles of justice. This Declaration, which was adopted on December 10th, 1948, has inspired over 60 international treaties and conventions. However, although these treaties are endorsed by most governments, social injustice, economic disparity, violence and prejudice continue to be significant features of most societies and the cause of chaos and crises.

According to the Bahá'í Writings: "an equal standard of human rights must be recognized and adopted. In the estimation of God, all men are equal; there is no distinction or preferment for any soul in the dominion of His justice and equity".

Recognition of oneness of mankind is the most potent means of emancipating humanity from oppressive forces that have made human rights a universal longing. A right formerly was a defence against an invasion; a right today is a accepting our oneness and sharing of the same social status.

In order to apply equal standard of human rights, there is need for a profound adjustment in humanity's outlook, guided by the spiritual principles in addition to belief in oneness of humanity. In the Bahá'í view: "The principle of the oneness of humankind lies at the heart of the exhortation that we should treat others as we ourselves would wish to be treated. To establish justice, peace and order in an interdependent world, this principle must guide all interactions ..."

The laws that govern the field of human rights, in the Bahá'í view, should be based on the core spiritual teachings such as justice -- not the limited or regional justice, but international justice. Presently, however, there is inconsistency in our norms and practices when it comes to application of justice and human rights. For example "If a man kills another, no matter what the cause may be, he is pronounced a murderer, imprisoned or executed; but the brutal oppressor who has slain one hundred thousand (in a war) is idolized as a hero, conqueror or military genius."

No matter from what nationality, race, religion or ethnic background they may be; we need to apply justice equally to all. At the same time, it is the Bahá'í view that, there is need for a new more just world order that would promote an atmosphere of international cooperation founded on the mutual interests of mankind. Gender inequality and the persistent gender based violence -- the theme we have been actively reflecting on for the past 16 Days -- is another serious area of concern. It is an injustice and abuse of human rights and one of the hindrances to peace.

Of course rights cannot exist without corresponding responsibilities, each member of community has a responsibility to uphold the rights of the other members based on a recognition of their unity and interdependence. When individuals assume responsibility for ensuring each other's human rights, this can empower all members of our society and give them a new sense of purpose and dignity in life.

As stated in the Bahá'í writings: "the honour and distinction of the individual consist in this, that he among all the world's multitudes should become a source of social good. Is any larger bounty conceivable than this, that an individual, looking within himself, should find that by the confirming grace of God he has become the cause of peace and well-being, of happiness and advantage to his fellow men? ..."

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.



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 each 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.

Some thoughts on group work

BY THE MASTER through Benjamin Creme

The wise man is one who studies all sides of a problem or situation before coming to conclusions and actions which could later find him much at fault. The foolish man does otherwise. The type of person who springs quickly to mind in this regard is quick to enthuse and, unfortunately, as quick to deny and reject. They lack patience and consistency of thought. They tend to hold themselves high in serious self-regard which makes them harsh in judgment of others. They are usually completely unaware of the glamour of their actions and decisions.

Such people are not intrinsically useless to a group. Indeed, if events are favourable, they can be useful co-workers in many ways. However, when events run counter to their expectations, they can become very destructive and difficult to deal with. There are many such in the groups around the world who threaten the precious unity of the whole.

A common problem in the working groups is the one who does very little of the group endeavour and for that very reason plagues the group with constant criticism. They feel angry and envious that others do more, and more useful, work but are not prepared to sacrifice their time to do likewise. Their constant stream of criticism, they seldom realise, is deeply destructive of group unity and wellbeing.

Then there are those who promise their time and energy, but find, all too often, that they cannot fulfil their offer after all. Many are the stratagems of such half-hearted, half-involved people who dip their timid toes into the stern waters of true group work. This, ideally, comes from the soul, and where the soul is concerned, the work, however arduous, is welcomed and joyful, not a burden or sacrifice but a simple act of service eagerly given.

SOURCE LINK TO THIS ARTICLE:http://www.share-international.org/magazine/old_issues/2012/2012-12.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.





You can attain liberation now

SWAMI SHANKARANANDA MAHARAJI

There are three important factors in life, on the matter and spirit planes. These are dedication, devotion and love. You need all three to enter the spirit realm and that's where we fall short. Coming and sitting here, singing, is devotion. Yoga is called *bhakti*; Some Christians are happy-clappers. Dedication is 'to be a part of'.

Divide your day into three: eight hours for sleep; eight hours for work; eight hours for God. Coming here on Fridays is your appointment with God. If you don't make that appointment, He won't charge you if you don't arrive, but you'll lose out on a lot. When it comes to love, our love is limited. It's always ... 'I love because ...' As soon as you have a 'because', you have a limitation. Krishna in the *Bhagavad Gita* says, "Surrender to me totally".

I don't call devotees to the temple for me, but because you have a duty to perform. What is the difference between duty and desire? Duty happens from within. It was Arjuna's duty to fight, according to Krsna. Desire is whatever you want that gives you temporary joy. We need to cultivate those three but we worry too much. Worry is like a banyan seed and, once you nurture it, it can outgrow you.

One of the simplest ways to get close to God is to chant, for example chant *Om Nama Shivaya*. I have the children writing a-hundred-and-eight likit japa every day. If they don't, they lose out on something. So I'm asking you to cultivate and nurture these three things: dedication, devotion and love. And you'll find yourself to be another person. Someone asked me why there are so many religions. I asked them why there are so many cars. Each person has a different requirement.

Why wait to attain liberation at death when you can attain it now? It's so easy. *The Bhagavad Gita* gives us one-hundred-and-eight ways to reach God. At the end Krishna says, "Just remember my name, that's all". But all we can think of is money. Where does our misery come from? We create it, not God. We get joy out of it. Can we say we've had enough? No, because we don't know what enough is. We need to know what enough is. Paramahansa Yogananda said that we need to have money in the bank for a rainy day. On the spiritual journey, when you give, you get. Make it God's responsibility to sort out your problems. Each day have a material and spiritual accountability session? Ask yourself: what spiritual thing did I do today? A man who is wealthy, but who has not served humanity is a poor man.

[Excerpt from a talk given in September 2010]

SOURCE LINK TO THIS ARTICLE: http://www.fridaysatsang.blogspot.com/2010/12/dedication-devotion-and-love.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





Letter to God from Bernie Siegel, MD

BERNIE SIEGEL, MD

Dear God,

First I want to thank You for answering my previous letters. When as a doctor I couldn't understand why You made a world filled with disease, war, cruelty and all kinds of difficulties You pointed out to me that a perfect world is not creation. That there would be no need for doctors or anyone else and we would all become totally bored by life and find it meaningless. I remember You saying it would be far worse than a spending a lifetime in Hawaii. But what really made the point for me was your letting me visit the Garden of Eden.

When I saw all the traffic backed up at street corners because everyone was saying, "I love you. You go first." "No you go first. I love you." Everybody was loving everyone else and no one was going anywhere. I saw what a problem a supposed perfect world would be and got the point.

Then when I wondered why children died and animals didn't live as long as people and all living things didn't get the chance to live to a ripe old age you explained again. It was easy to understand from my experience with our pets that they do not need as much time as people do to learn about love, compassion, kindness, faith and hope.

Understanding that every life is like a candle and the length of the candle isn't about one's age but about how much time we would spend on this planet. And our job was to illuminate the path for ourselves and others and not worry about how much time we had but to get the job done and burn up and not out before our time.

You also agreed with me and explained how disappointed You were with what religions were doing in your name. Instead of living the message they were fighting wars and each one was claiming you belonged exclusively to them. So here is my next question. What is the best way for me to accomplish what You have put us here to accomplish? I know I am here to serve and offer my body for the benefit of others but how do I know I am doing it right? Please be my coach and give me some guidance. You know what that word means to me God U & I Dance. So how do I dance to your music?

I love hearing your voice when I am quiet inside. Thanks, now I see I am to imitate God and use You for a role model and you said if that is a little tough there are two other examples. One is WWLD and the other is WWWD. You know I'm not good at parables please explain.

Oh, I'm to act like a Satellite dish, remote control and TV screen. I get it. I am to choose the channel I tune into and use my mind like a remote to select the proper channel, which is broadcasting your message, and use my body to demonstrate it like a TV screen reveals the program. So what's with the WW stuff?

Oh those are my role models to help me become the person I want to be. I see What Would Lassie Do and What Would Water Do? I get the first one that's easy to understand because animals are complete and man is not. So when I feel aggressive I am to use the energy to play or get some work done and not hurt anyone, but what's with the water thing?



Oh, I am like water and again and again will be born on the wheel of rebirth. Just as streams of water find their way over and around obstacles to rejoin the sea of life I will find my path in life and flow with it and when I become vapor or mist I will come to understand that I will return to earth as rain does and be born again. And if I learn what I am here to learn when I am born again I will help to teach others how to become co-creators of a world filled with faith, hope and love for all things. Thanks again for being my coach.

PS And thanks for teaching me about life being a series of beginnings. To say the beginning instead of the end when I finished my report to you and the board of directors was a unique experience but as you say graduations are called commencements, not terminations and the Bible ends with a Revelation and not a conclusion. So I shall see life as a series of beginnings.

Thanks again.

Today's Prescription for the Soul #330 – Condolences

RARE BUTTERFLY—

Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond. RUMI (13TH CENTURY PERSIAN POET)

One evening I was at a meeting of Compassionate Friends, a group consisting of parents whose children have died. A father came up to me and started to tell me about his deceased son who had loved butterflies.

The summer after his son's death, the father had been walking in the woods near his Connecticut home. A beautiful, enormous butterfly followed him wherever he went. It gave him a wonderful feeling, and he felt it was his son coming back to help him deal with his grief.

When the father got home, he looked through his son's books to find a picture of the butterfly. To his amazement he found that the species that had been his uplifting companion in the woods actually existed only in South America.

We never know where or when a comforting messenger may appear, and what form it will take.

Soulution of the Day

When you are walking through a forest of grief, watch for messengers. BERNIE



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

Your pocketbook is not going to be transformed into a Fortunatus' purse, which shall always be full of money without effort on your part.

This is the crucial point in the science of getting rich; right here, where thought and personal action must be combined. There are very many people who, consciously or unconsciously, set the creative forces in action by the strength and persistence of their desires, but who remain poor because they do not provide for the reception of the thing they want when it comes.

By thought, the thing you want is brought to you; by action you receive it.

Whatever your action is to be, it is evident that you must act NOW. You cannot act in the past, and it is essential to the clearness of your mental vision that you dismiss the past from your mind. You cannot act in the future, for the future is not here yet. And you cannot tell how you will want to act in the future contingency until that contingency has arrived.

Because you are not in the right business, or the right environment now, do not think that you must postpone action until you get into the right business or environment. And do not spend time in the present taking thought as to the best course in possible future emergencies; have faith in your ability to meet any emergency when it arrives.

If you act in the present with your mind on the future, you present action will be with a divided mind, and will not be effective. Put your whole mind into present action.

Do not give your creative impulse to Original Substance, and then sit down and wait for results; if you do, you will never get them. Act now. There is never any time but now, and there never will be any time but now. If you are ever to begin to make ready for the reception of what you want, you must begin now.

And your action, whatever it is, must most likely be in your present business or employment, and must be upon the persons and things in your present environment.

You cannot act where you are not; you cannot act where you have been, and you cannot act where you are going to be; you can only act where you are.

Do not bother as to whether yesterday's work was well done or ill done; do today's work well. Do not try to do tomorrow's work now; there will be plenty of time to do that when you get to it. Do not try, by occult or mystical means, to act on people or things that are out of your reach. Do not wait for a change of environment before you act; get a change of environment by action. You can so act upon an environment in which you are now, as to cause yourself to be transferred to a better environment. Hold with faith and purpose the vision of yourself in the better environment, but act upon your present environment with all your heart, and with all your strength, and with all your mind. Do not spend any time in daydreaming or castle-building; hold to the one vision of what you want, and act NOW.



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.





The ECK Masters Part I

ECKANKAR

These ECK Masters are also on every plane and planet in the universes of God. Their work is to help forward the evolution of humanity, to find and train disciples. They see that these disciples come to the Living ECK Master so that he can take them under his charge to bring about the qualities of love and wisdom in this world. [THE SHARIYAT-KI-SUGMAD, BOOK TWO]

Much has been written about guardian angels. In fact, there have been so many reports of angelic visitations that national research groups have been formed to record and investigate the phenomenon. Sometimes these angels appear physically during a life-threatening episode, then disappear. Other times, accompanied by blue or white light, they appear in the inner vision or a dream. Sometimes they appear as invisible friends to children. One common thread in all these appearances is that, through the experience, people's lives were changed for the better.

In Eckankar, these angels are ECK Masters. Eckankar literature is rich with the stories of people who were helped by the ECK Masters. They include inner healings by Lai Tsi, an ancient Chinese ECK Master, and help during hardship by a female ECK Master Kata Daki. And accounts of animals or favourite pets being protected by Prajapati, another ECK Master. Their appearance makes an impression that lasts a lifetime. Often these occurrences took place before people discovered Eckankar for themselves.

Probably the most common occurrence is the appearance of the 'man in blue' or the appearance of a blue light. This is the Living ECK Master.

The Living ECK Master belongs to the order of the Vairagi, providing guidance home to God. When the Living ECK Master steps down from his position, he usually takes on a different mission in the heavenly hierarchy. Shamus-i-Tabriz, who served as the Living ECK Master over four hundred years ago, now teaches in a wisdom temple on one of the other planes.

The brotherhood of ECK Masters are members of the Order of the Vairagi. The Sanskrit word *vairag* means, 'detached'. These Masters are detached from the passions of this world. Their only mission is to guide Soul home to God. They do not have a social agenda and usually stay away from political and other causes. Through the Spiritual Exercises of ECK, many ECKists work with some of these ECK Masters. The present Living ECK Master, Harold Klemp, studied under Paul Twitchell, who studied under numerous teachers, including the Tibetan Rebazar Tarzs. This unbroken chain reaches back through time. There have been countless ECK Masters in this lineage. Some have been historical figures, but most have worked silently or with small groups.

A common expression in Eckankar is that the Master is always with you. The Mahanta gives spiritual protection in a number of ways. Just like on earth, the inner heavens contain both good and bad elements. Some of us stumble onto certain areas of the Astral Plane and become frightened. Without knowing why, other people are plagued by fears throughout their life. And still others, particularly in the developing nations, have serious concerns about witchcraft and voodoo. The Mahanta provides a cloak of protection for his students so they can grow and learn spiritually without fear.



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

Inspired Gratitude

In a world of grief and pessimism,

I come out of the nest and say hello to sunshine and infinite smiles!

Rays of a violet rainbow pierce my skin, to make me more more grateful of my existence.

Beauty exists not as is it but as we are.

May I remain evermore in inspired consciousness of bliss and perfection!

SUREN PILLAY

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Forgiveness

In faith, I have received healing, my profound failures have magnified. The immense of pain and destruction is healing. My reflection, my choices, immaturity and emptiness. These are choices that pre-determine life, changing from day to day. Responsibility has choices, to illusions and fulfillment...being malicious, senseless and selfish is unacceptable. Prayer can not forgive but one soul can. To betray family or children - it's pain from within that breaks one's spirit; to equally compare revisiting wounds that are inflicted of forgiveness. The fibre of our being is God. Forgiveness and compassion comes from within. To inherit that ability is to forgive and be forgiven.

A change from negativity to positivity and fervently hope, that's an accomplishment. ZARINA MALICKSHA



On Humility and Pride

All my powers are but borrowed powers from Thee. No one else is greater than Thee. O, my Father! I would cease to live and express without Thy wisdom and strength. Thou art so big; I am so little. Train me not to be proud.

Thou art the Guru-Preceptor, teaching in the temple of all souls.

I bow to Thee at the feet of everyone.

I will conquer pride by humility, wrath by love, excitement by calmness, selfishness by unselfishness, evil by good, ignorance by knowledge, and restlessness by the ineffable peace acquired in the stillness of inner silence. I will take pride in being humble.

I will feel honoured when chastised for doing God's work. I will rejoice for any opportunity to give love for hatred. PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA



If you learn to see God in all things you will learn to love them according to God's will, not your own will. If you see things in eternity, you are less a prey to their passing, and so you can learn the more easily not to clutch at them as they pass. GERALD VANN



Index of Resources and Online References

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