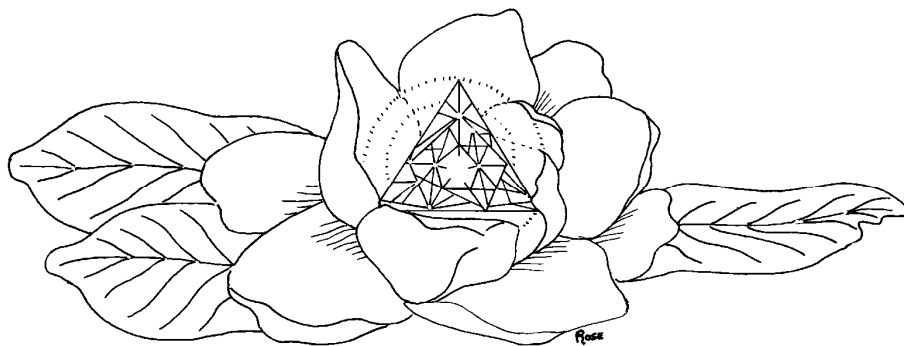


ThoughtLine

August 2007



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✓ In this Issue

Some Thoughts on a Personal Peace Process

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✓ Workshops/Classes Held At Arcana Workshops

Fourteen Rules For Group Initiation - Sundays @ 9:00 AM. (Please Call)

Fourteen Rules For Group Initiation - Tuesday Mornings @ 11:00 (Please Call)

New Workshop: The Nature of The Soul – Tuesday Evenings @ 7:00 PM (Please Call)

✓ Up Coming Events

Community Meditation Gatherings

Leo July 29, 2007 Sunday @ 4:45 pm (Note early start time)

Virgo August 27, 2007 Monday @ 7:45 PM

Libra September 25, 2007 Tuesday @ 7:45 PM

Arcana Workshops, 3916 Sepulveda Blvd. Suite 107

Culver City, CA phone 310 749-3585, 310 545-0910

Group Meditation

New Moon Cycle Seed Thought

July 14 through August 12

Upon the unfoldment of the heart centre, and on an intelligent relation of mankind to the Hierarchy, with the consequent response of man to the energy of love, all disciples are asked at this time to ponder and reflect, for as a "man thinketh in his heart, so is he." 7R4 p.158

August 13 through September 10

Verily, the Era of the Mother of the World is based upon realization of the heart... Let us not forget that for each important achievement the Feminine Principle is essential as a foundation and essence. The heart cannot open to the Subtle World if it is not understood through a special achievement. Heart #68

Some Thoughts on a Personal Process for Peace

There is most definitely a growing realization in our society of the direct link between the present global crisis and the way in which we each choose to live our individual lives. We are all members of one human family living together on this sacred sphere we call Earth. I believe in my heart that we do have a shared destiny and are not just isolated and random parts swimming in a sea of separation. Our collective human experience comprises the aspirations, passions and concerns of over six billion personal lives. It would appear that one of our main tasks this century in building a better world for all, is to create shared meaning from out of this diverse family of voices. There is both a collective and a personal dimension to this task and in our search for global peace and prosperity we are now faced with the unavoidable fact that lasting global change may have to start within the heart and mind of each one of us if there is going to be any hope of success. Life is not a spectator sport!

If we truly desire peace then there is a need for what we espouse to be congruent with how we act. "Walking the talk" is now more important than ever. Let me offer an example. Is it sufficient to join a protest march for an afternoon to voice our horror at oppression in a particular country and then return home via the local supermarket to purchase our favorite brand of coffee that just so happens to be supplied by the state-run industry exploiting the very people for whom we have just voiced our support on the streets? Global issues are now the

politics of place and with the advent of a whole new suite of communication tools and technologies we have instant access to knowledge about what is happening around the world. We can no longer stand in denial or plead ignorance about the fate of our brothers and sisters in other cultures. Our planet has all of a sudden become very personal in size.

So what does it really mean to oppose war? As I reflect on the part that I can play as a social activist in this venture, a number of questions arise that challenge me to look at where I draw the line in my personal response to global issues. How far does my

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particular sphere of influence and power extend and how far am I willing to go? Is the scope of my effectiveness limited only to street protests and letter

writing campaigns or are there other powerful ways in which I can wage peace? Here are some of the initial responses that are emerging from this process of internal inquiry. I am of the firm belief that no longer can I simply sit back and demand that a nation disarm and rid itself of all weapons of mass destruction without a corresponding action on my part that addresses the personal roots of aggression. I cannot in all good conscience insist on nuclear disarmament at a national and international level without first being willing to dismantle my own psychological patterns of aggression and defense. Yes, I too have an elaborate and sophisticated system of reacting to perceived threats in my environment in ways that can cause harm to those around me. Much as I hate to admit to

it, I have even been known to act in a “pre-emptive” manner when feeling threatened by external forces!

The Real Enemies

Fear and ignorance are the real enemies and as long as there are aspects of my own psyche cowering in fear and feeling the need to be defended, I am still subscribing to and investing in the need to maintain and strengthen the larger national and multi-national defense systems. These are not new ideas. As part of a perennial wisdom, Plato, Pythagoras and other great luminaries have offered for our consideration, the axiom that, “Energy follows thought”. If I accept this as a statement of truth then it has strong personal implications. I interpret it to mean that until I am free of fear and able to stop the emission of these war-like thoughts, I am still part of the problem. The peaceful solution that I seek requires that my “energy investment” be focused on creating goodness. Goodness is the currency of true wealth and prosperity. Maybe we should change our metrics and, instead of speaking in terms of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the measure of a nation’s wealth, we should begin to look to the amount of “goodness” generated and distributed by a particular country or cultural region for the benefit of the larger global family as the real indicator of success.

So in terms of “right energy investment”, how much does each of us actually expend each day to maintain our personal defenses and to fuel our petty acts of aggression against other members of our human family? The cost must truly be staggering. In our conversations about weapons of war we traditionally define this arsenal in terms of the guns and missiles held in the hands of the various factions. However, on a

psychological level, the cutting remarks and negative thoughts we aim at each other are equally powerful and are destructive weapons that do enormous harm. Relationships can be destroyed and trust among people can be severely damaged by the launching of these psychic missiles. One could therefore say that, I too am armed and dangerous at those times when I lash out from fear instead of acting from that place of “goodness”. Terrorism and aggression take on many forms. ***Maybe true disarmament begins with a personal peace process in which you and I promise to lay down our psychological arms and agree to live in harmony with each other.*** This first step to global peace does not require a unanimous vote in the United Nations Security Council: all it requires is a deep personal commitment.

The Other war

The other war that is of great concern for many of us is the one being waged on the environment by the forces of greed and exploitation. The effects of this assault on Mother Nature are all too plain to see. As with the conflict between humans, this war is also being played out on a personal and collective level. So if we wish to call ourselves environmentalists and “green peace makers”, then maybe we need to examine our own conduct to locate where the real roots of pollution lie.

There are, of course, obvious culprits in our society who shamelessly exploit the wealth of the planet and their names have been blazoned across the pages and screens of the world’s media. However, the blame for the erosion of the delicate ecological balance upon our planet cannot only be placed upon the shoulders of these petrochemical industries and other infamous toxic waste-producing enterprises. There is

a source of pollution and ecological damage that is much closer to home.

We abhor the noxious waste that poisons our atmosphere, oceans and land but we seldom stop to think of the individual acts of pollution that take place daily. Each derogatory thought or negative emotion we send out is a poisonous release into the ethers and has the same destructive effect as any harmful chemical would have on the physical world.

Whenever our hearts and minds are filled with hate towards others we spew out harmful particulates. The psychological climate of our planet is being adversely affected by these

emissions and if we could scan the mental horizons of our collective consciousness, we would perceive the dark thought-forms and emotionally-charged particles clouding the inner skies. This acid rain-cloud of the human psyche is a powerful corrosive force that is eating away at the social and moral fabric of our world.

We quite rightly demand limits to emissions from automobiles and factories and yet, we fail to understand that the factory of the human mind is churning out pollutants into the atmosphere each time we think in separatist and prejudicial ways about each other or about the many creatures with whom we share this fair earth. We are in dire need of a viable ecology of peace - a way of living together that is inspirational and practical and that will result in this planet becoming a garden of plenty for all. This investment of committed action will be a priceless gift to coming generations while

its absence will be a most costly oversight on our part that could even bankrupt the future.

It is a sad irony to realize that all we have learned from history is that we don't learn from history. I sincerely hope that when it finally dawns on us that we are the ones who have created this inclement weather within the psychic atmosphere of our society it will wake us up to the fact that it is also we who have the power to change these patterns by choosing to create a more life-

enhancing

environment. If our negative emissions caused the dark storm clouds of war we see amassing on our shared horizon, then the release of positive charges

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would go a long way towards dispelling these morbid conditions. It is not too much of a stretch of the imagination to say that we are psychological weather machines who have the power to influence the climate. By how we choose to live our lives, we can either make this planet a hostile or a friendly place in which to live. Are we willing to step up to the challenge of creating the right cultural conditions – the planetary environment conducive to allowing the full flowering of the human spirit? Unfortunately, there is not much time left in which to answer this call.

Many religions and schools of philosophy throughout the ages have taught us that, "We reap what we sow". If this is truly the case, then the process of creating peace in the world is inexorably linked to the choices that you and I make moment to moment. The height of futility and self-delusion is for us to believe that a different and better crop

can be harvested if we continue to sow the same seed-thoughts of negativity in the fertile ethers of the human psyche season after season.

So Much Goodness

There is so much goodness in our souls that has never had a chance to grow because the present conditions are so inhospitable. We have a chance here and now to create those right conditions. We know in our heart of hearts that these are precipitous and pivotal times and, intuitively, we also know that we have the necessary power to make a difference. We are surrounded by images of doom and despair and it is all too easy to give in to the inevitability of our own demise. We cannot afford to surrender to this type of seduction and end up with a self-fulfilling prophecy.

I view prophecy and prediction in a similar fashion to weather forecasting. Armed with charts and statistics about which way the wind is blowing and the pressure of approaching fronts, the weather forecaster

can predict what kind of day to expect. It is my strong contention that we have the power to change the global weather by changing how we think and behave. The "predicted" is changed at the causal level by an act of individual daring and resolve. The true and lasting change that we all seek starts from the deep places within our souls and moves out like rays of the sun to warm and illumine the cold dark places of our collective psyche.

So may we make each moment count and may all our thoughts and actions be inspiring and constitute acts of caring and kindness that bring healing and unity instead of further darkness and separation to our world. This is the time for spirit to be seen in action. After all, the best peace demonstration is the one that shows that we can actually practice what we preach.

Let Peace Prevail on Earth.

Michael Lindfield
March 2003