

ShiningBRIGHT

ONE SPIRIT DIVERSE VOICES

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MIRACULOUS FLOWERS

SPROUT ON A GOLD STATUE
IN SOUTH KOREA

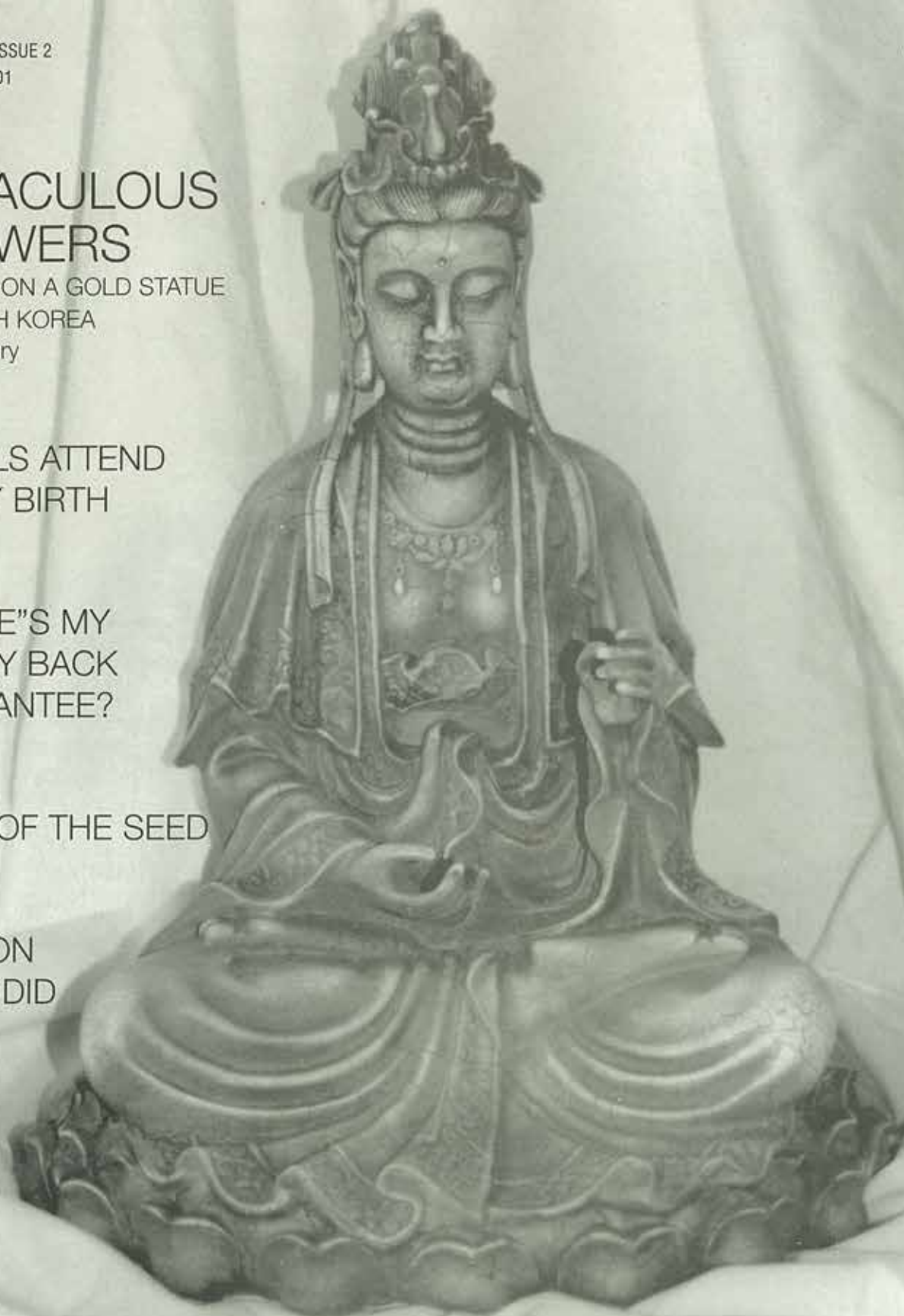
Cover story

ANGELS ATTEND
EVERY BIRTH

WHERE'S MY
MONEY BACK
GUARANTEE?

LAND OF THE SEED

A VISION
SPLENDID



THE SOUTHERN CROSS ACADEMY OF LIGHT

A non-profit organisation offering a support network of loving service physically, emotionally and spiritually for all

THE SOUTHERN CROSS ACADEMY OF LIGHT

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Unity through Love

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the Divine in all of us

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and acceptance

Personal responsibility for
one's thoughts,
words and deeds



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from the EDITOR

Things are happening: Are you being caught up in the currents of change too? Moving house or changing you job? Or is it the old relationship going to make way for the new? Are you feeling the tug to leave the familiar and step off into the unknown? A whirlpool of change seems to be swirling around us, stirring us into activity and sometimes to look at our fear.

2001 is bringing with it challenges - challenges to live who we are. It seems we can no longer stay in denial and pretend that staying small is O.K. 2001 has brought with it energies of self-empowerment.

In my personal practice as a Natural Therapist I am continually seeing people being presented with huge challenges in life, and MEETING THEM. People learning to take responsibility for their lives and STOP playing the VICTIM. People taking their power back. This is the gift that 2001 seems to have brought with it. The energy to allow things to be just as they ARE. By not resisting them, and wanting them to be different, they are keeping their energy. Instead of the usual downward spiral into a state of misery where life is very difficult, I am watching people now move forward, become healthy and happy. In doing this, many have found their true purpose and have begun living it.

We all seem to be being given the opportunity to live in a state of Love not fear.



Rosemary Battenworth

Onwards and upwards - 2001. May Peace and Peace and Peace be everywhere .

Rosemary.

Love and Blessings,
THE SOUTHERN CROSS
ACADEMY OF LIGHT

LONDON ACADEMY.

With Wendy Shotton's inspiration and dedication the London Southern Cross Academy is up and running. Lorna Todd will be their first presenter. Wendy has told us that people are relating strongly to what is happening in the Southern Cross Academy of Light in Australia.

The address of the London Academy is:
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ShiningBRIGHT



FRONT COVER
Miraculous flowers sprout on a gold statue in South Korea.

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update from around the World to the Academy

Hagit in Israel

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH.

It is thanks to people like you that we find the strength and faith to progress with achieving the only goal – the long awaited peace. It is true that sometimes – like now, it appears hopeless, like striving upwardly. Toilsome, but possible though. With your prayers it will be surely much easier.



From left: Hagit and Medva in Jerusalem

There is too much 'justice' while 'Wisdom' is still concealed. People like you can help us

reveal it. God Bless your heart.

Love Hagit.

Past is History – Future is Mystery.

www.mideastweb.org/hagit/gazeng2.htm

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GRAILHAVEN WATER

(This is a follow-up to our feature article in the last issue)

When Richard de Welles and Geraldine Taylor-Wood were asked by Shining Bright for an update on the happenings of Grailhaven Water they replied.



"It has been one miraculous thing after another. Can you believe it – we have just been interviewed by Anuirmeli Lavi, a lovely Finnish woman from Ultra magazine, who wants to write an article about the water so the people of Finland and Sweden can hear

about it. We have had people who have read our story in Shining Bright (Volume 5 Issue 1), come up to Mt. Tamborine, to get water. One couple brought their small son who is suffering from

epilepsy. Just walking on the land seemed to affect the child. It will be interesting to follow his story as he drinks the water. We know of one lady with renal failure who is being helped by drinking this pure water.

Now someone has come to us with a vision. She sees a small pool being built near the rose garden and people being immersed in its water – a little like they do at Lourdes for healing and baptisms.

So we are proceeding with our plans to bottle the water and distribute it worldwide for we feel that Spirit wants us to get it to the world to people who need it and will understand its use, for this water seems to have remarkable qualities for transformation and healing.

Watch our website www.grailhaven.com for news.

PEACE ANGELS UPDATE

Antoinette Blaxland is buzzing with excitement! As the details have not yet been finalised, we will have to wait for the next edition to hear about what the Peace Angels are up to. (Did you know that there is going to be a World Angel Day on the 7th October?)

PRAYER FOR PEACE

The Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred...let me sow love

Where there is injury...pardon

Where there is doubt...faith

Where there is despair...hope

Where there is darkness...light

Where there is sadness...joy

Divine Master, grant that I may

Not so much seek to be consoled ...

as to console,

To be understood...as to understand,

To be loved...as to love.

For it is in giving...that we receive,

It is in pardoning...that we are pardoned,

It is in dying that we are born into eternal life.

ANGELS ATTEND EVERY BIRTH

The Incoming Soul and the Mother's Aura

by Reverend Mario Schoenmaker

Traditional Wisdom has evolved out of the combined experience of generation after generation, and has always taken into account the spiritual dimension of birth. Only recently, with the advent of medical science, has the spiritual element been overlooked. It is astonishing to realize how much spiritual knowledge has been lost over the last few centuries.

Religion has also become an obstacle to a spiritual understanding of birth. The Roman Catholic Church maintains that the soul is created at the moment of conception, a limited view which fails to do justice to the inner spiritual nature of human beings.

What are the causes which underlie the conception and birth of a child? It is the outcome of sex and the laws of biology?

The Soul Already Exists

In my own clairvoyant research, I have found that the soul dwells in the spiritual world prior to the birth. Heaven is another name for the spiritual world into which all souls pass after death, and in which they exist before being born. Our materialist society lacks the

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being born**

concepts to give full expression to such ideas because we think of "heaven", as a place, rather than a state of consciousness. Christ said "the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21), pointing to the fact that "heaven" is a state of consciousness.

Out of the body, the soul lives on a higher level of consciousness but it seeks out earthly existence in order to continue its development. Every soul born into the world enters with definite purposes, some of which are fulfilled while others remain unfulfilled for one reason or another.



The process of being born requires the transition from the consciousness of the heavens to the consciousness of the earth. This is often spoken of as a descent, but this is an inadequate way of describing such a shift. It is a narrowing down and focussing of consciousness, from the infinite to the finite, from eternity to the cycles of time. Consider yourself sitting at home looking out of the window and seeing the garden and the neighbouring houses. Your vision extends into the distance, but as evening falls the outside scene gradually fades and your awareness is confined to the room where you are sitting. Something familiar happens to the human soul as it becomes identified with the embryonic development in the mother's womb. Slowly its consciousness of spirit grows dimmer and dimmer as its life and being enter into the organic process through which the human being incarnates.

Folklore mentions invisible beings which work in nature and in the womb, assisting in building the body under the guidance of the soul. These builders are spoken of in the wisdom of fairy tales as fairies, goblins and elves. These nature spirits can be linked to tradesmen who work with the raw material of the body, under the architectural direction of the soul. The soul knows what kind of body it needs, and it works to manifest "the blueprint" within the limits of heredity.

The Heralds and the Star-Filled Aura of the Child

The incarnating soul draws its aura from the higher planes of consciousness. The aura is the expression of the soul, not of the expression of the physical body. The

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

aura of an incoming soul is a swirling conglomeration of colours which is studded with stars. The stars signify that the incoming soul's consciousness is still more heavenly than earthly. The soul is imbued with the powers which stream from the planets towards the earth. The gospels record that angelic beings and the star of Bethlehem heralded the birth of Jesus, but what is not often recognized is that angels and stars accompany every human birth.

Every time a baby lies in the crook of a mother's arms, we know that the angels have been attending, caring and guarding until the child is handed to its mother and becomes her responsibility. The angels are present every time a baby is born. They open the path that lead from the cosmos into the darkness of this earth, and they place every single baby that is born into its mother's care.

All of this spiritual activity can have a marked effect on the consciousness of the pregnant woman. During pregnancy the mother's aura expands because she has to carry the auric field of the soul of her baby as well as

The aura is the expression of the soul, not of the expression of the physical body

her own. The aura expands, especially in the pelvic area where it can bulge out as far as three metres due to the tremendous radiations from the heavens working to shape the new body. This concentration of spiritual forces is particularly strong in the last three months.

The mother's aura changes colour due to the presence of the incarnation soul. For example, if the mother's main colour is a light red, and if the main colour of the incarnating soul is light brown then the brown will enter into the red and a red-brown aura will result while the mother is carrying the baby. This will affect the mood of the mother, causing her to be irritated for no apparent reason. Something has changed in the consciousness which will affect the mother's mind and emotions.

These changes also account for the irrational cravings and desires that a woman experiences during pregnancy. Often these desires do not come from the mother herself, but from the incoming soul which can satisfy certain desires and needs through the mother's experiences.

The Mother's Influence on the Unborn Child

If the soul is spiritually minded, then it will probably choose nurturing parents who have some understanding of the great responsibility of bringing a baby into the world.

In the prenatal phase, the soul is still under the protection of the higher worlds. However the mother's

mental, emotional and physical well-being will, of course, affect it. When a woman is pregnant, her activities and attitudes will have beneficial or detrimental influences on the unborn child. The purpose of prenatal preparation undertaken by the mother should be to assist the soul to enter harmoniously into the life forces which shape the physical body.

In the early months of the pregnancy, the mother can assist the soul on the feeling levels through establishing and maintaining a joyful mood within herself. Such a mood can be created through the mother's sensual appreciation of classical music, painting, and the practice of prayer and meditation. Sense perceptions and higher emotions, taken into the mother's consciousness, then play upon the life forces of the unborn child and make the task of the soul and higher powers easier. Rhythm in the daily routine and harmony in relationships are essential to the activation of the life forces in the best way possible.

The aura is the means by which the soul becomes conscious. By about the seventh month, the baby's aura has developed sufficiently for the soul to hear certain things and to share in what the mother experiences. In the last two or three months, the emotional experiences of the mother and her state of being have a profound effect on the soul. If the woman has a traumatic experience, for example, then that will be reflected in the nervous system of the baby as well as having psychological implications in later life.

The psychic connection between mother and child is further strengthened after birth when the child has to be nurtured and fed, preferably with the mother's own milk. There is no real substitute for mother's milk, in medical, and spiritual terms. Something of the mother's consciousness flows from her into the child, and this appears later as imagination. Many of us did not receive enough imagination in this way and that is why, at times, our minds cannot perceive the spiritual panorama which lies behind the physical world.

Let us remember the wonder of the human birth itself and the miracles of the heavens which take place when a child is formed in the womb and eventually is born into this world.

This article is reproduced by permission of Rev. Antoinette Schoenmaker, Meritus, Independent Church of Australia (© Independent Church of Australia, 1993). Rev. Mario Schoenmaker, Meritus and Metaphysician (1929-1997) was the founder and spiritual leader of the Independent Church of Australia, the Institute of Metaphysics and the Order of the Mystic Christ. For further information please go to our website on www.ica.org.au or contact our Headquarters on (03) 9728 5022.

The angels are present every time a baby is born



MIRACULOUS FLOWERS SPROUT ON A GOLD STATUE IN SOUTH KOREA

by Bruce Stephen Holms

Buddhist priests in South Korea "say the legendary flowers blossoming on the forehead of Kuan Yin the Compassionate" only appear "when the 'Sage King of the Future' (also known as Maitreya, the future Buddha) comes into the world," which one Buddhist leader called, "a delight that gives joy beyond description."

"The Miracle of the Flowers", as it's now being called, happened in the Chonggye-sa Temple, in a suburb of Seoul, the capital of South Korea. Tens of thousands of pilgrims are flocking to see the white blossoms on the tip of the eyebrow of the shining, gilded statue of Kuan Yin."

"Kuan Yin is a gentle Buddhist deity who refused to enter paradise (Nirvana) because she heard the cries of suffering humanity," says religious expert Dr. Kenneth Ireland. "She is acknowledged to be committed to save the soul of everyone on Earth, turning her back on none."

"Many are now saying that the monastery of Chonggye-sa could become the Buddhist Lourdes because many cures are being performed there."

"According to the monks, 21 thread-like stems are growing from the statue of Kuan Yin, each with a tiny white flower 'no bigger than the tip of a ballpoint

"Flowers that bloom only once every 3,000 year are budding on the head of a sacred Buddhist statue."



pen'. This is the first time in the 1,000-year history of the monastery that the flowers have blossomed."

"Buddhists say sighting the flowers is like witnessing the birth of Buddha," he added. "Experts say it's unthinkable that the 500-year-old statue of Kuan Yin, gilded every three years over the (original) woodwork, could produce growing flowers without divine intervention."

"Botanically, the flower is related to the Ficus," says botanist William Grant, "There is just no way it could take root in the statue." Dr. Ireland says the flowers are regarded as divine in India, Japan and China and are believed to bloom only when a momentous event is about to happen.

Buddhist monks are currently keeping a prayer vigil at the statue, waiting for the event that will change mankind's future forever


Bruce Stephen Holms
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<http://www.timelessvoyager.com>
(via Simon Peter Fuller)

21 thread-like stems are growing from the statue of Kuan Yin

Kuan Yin the compassionate Saviouress

Kuan Yin is the compassionate Saviouress of the East. Throughout the Orient, altars dedicated to this Mother of Mercy can be found in temples, homes and wayside grottos and prayers to her Presence and her Flame are incessant on the lips of devotees as they seek her guidance and support in every area of life. Still very much a part of Eastern culture, Kuan Yin has awakened interest in her path and teaching among a growing number of Western devotees who recognise the powerful Omnipresence of "the Goddess of Mercy," along with that of the Virgin Mary, as an illuminator and

intercessor of the Seventh Age of Aquarius.

The long history of devotion to Kuan Yin provides insight into the character and example of this light-bearer who has not only laid down her life for her friends but taken it again and again as intercessor and burdenbearer. For centuries, Kuan Yin has epitomized the great ideal of Mahayana Buddhism in her role as "a being of bodhi, or enlightenment," who is destined to become a Buddha but has foregone the bliss of Nirvana with a vow to save all the children of God. 

Pocket Angel

*I am a tiny angel
I'm smaller than your thumb:
I live in people's pockets
That's where I have my fun.
I don't suppose you've seen me,
I'm too tiny to detect:
Though I'm with you all the time,
I doubt we've ever met.*

*Before I was an Angel...
I was a fairy in a flower:
God, Himself, hand-picked me,
And gave me Angel power.*

*Now God has many Angels
that He trains in Angel pools:
We become His eyes, and ears,
and hands
We become His special tools.
And because God is so busy,
With way too much to do;
He said that my assignment
Is to keep close watch on you.*

*When He tucked me in your Pocket
He blessed you with Angel care;
Then told me to never leave you,
And I vowed always to be there.*

Anon

Think Serendipity

The faculty of making
happy discoveries
by accident

A GnB incentive 0409619203

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**"Resolve the Past, Invest in the Present,
Secure the Future"**

Where's my Money Back Guarantee?

by Joanne Turner

At Civic Video, they guarantee I will like my video or they will swap it for free. At the Queensland Tourist Bureau, they guarantee it won't rain all week or they will give me a free holiday. At Oz Design Sofas, they guarantee my bottom won't sag for at least ten years. So why then after two long years of chemotherapy, do I sit in my doctors office without a money-back guarantee?

It is the same office that I first heard the word "Leukemia", well in relation to my own body that is. The paint is still peeling off the walls. The carpet is still brown and musty. The doctor is still tall, skinny and at the other end of a long wooden desk. Yet somehow everything has changed.

I remember bouncing in , young and naive. Life stretched beyond the horizon and my biggest concern was whether to have a cappuccino or a latte. I listened to the doctor's dull dreary voice but heard no words. Without warning, 'D Day' began to take on a whole new meaning (from diagnosis to death and everything in between).

After a few quick forms, I was signed up for the experience of my life. My Quicksilver skirt and favorite

tri-colour flip-flops were exchanged for a pink gown (that provided ample opportunity to moon those behind you) and matching pink fluffy slippers. I gave up my Queen sized bed with the finest linen and a mountain of goose-down pillows for a room with a view (pleasant brick wall). But who is complaining after living in my flat that overlooks Sydney's Middle Harbour? Friday night drinks became the odd visitor with a half-dead carnation or two. Best of all, I no longer required a dancing partner as I had been granted a

twenty-four hour IV pole to drag around everywhere I went.

I quickly realised the reason I never followed in my Mum's footsteps as a nurse.

No episode of the X-files could have hoped to cre-



ate stuff as disgusting as some of the lovely treats my body created. Chemo drugs appeared in all PowerAde flavours and you could imagine how well they contributed to my athletic performance. On a few occasions, I was lucky enough to receive a drug in a glass container as compared with a plastic bag. Being the inquisitive junkie I am, I questioned this change and was very relieved to hear that the drug would disintegrate plastic. Oh the joy of chemo!

The simplest of life's activities became a full-on adventure. I knew it is bad when I could not even go for a pee without bedpans, pH sticks and measuring cups. And of course, I would not have even dreamed of having a bowel movement without alerting the entire staff of the hospital. I thought I could simply take a medication to relieve a symptom, but it did not take long to learn that nothing in medicine is simple. I may have alleviated one symptom but a whole host of other dramas would have been created in its place. The vicious circle of tablets, needles and tablets went on and on.

Escape from Alcatraz was not common, but savoured like a Tim Tam dipped in tea. Life in my little flat was somewhat different to the good old PC days (and I don't mean politically correct). My favourite hangouts, like the cinemas and crowded cafes, became prohibited germ zones. A whole new dimension was added to getting dressed in the morning. Finding the right hat in a lot of fifty six was no easy chore. My Levi's made me look like I had just escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp. Eye pencil was not only required to darken my eyebrows but actually create them. And the 'piece de resistance' was the new acquisition to my necklace collection, a shoelace to pin up the robot-like tubes sticking out of my chest.

I watched the hours tick by on my trendy scuba diving watch because I could never be too sure when miraculously I would don a wet suit again. Hours turned to days and days turned to months. As one of those natural laws would have it, it is now over two years later.

My pen scribbles in my notebook as I sit at a picnic table overlooking the white sand beach, turquoise waters and the surfies waiting for the big Kahuna. My

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I no longer required a dancing partner as I had been granted a twenty-four hour IV pole to drag around everywhere I went

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blonde hair is back albeit with a little help from the hairdresser. The skin on my forearm is finally lacking in colour, most notably black, blue or purple. My flip flops are on my feet and my perfectly pedicured blue toenails are poking through. I am checking out every cute Aussie bloke that happens to pass my way and I am listening to the magnificent orchestra that the ocean is creating for me. I guess you could say I'm right back where I started.

But am I? Question and doubt have turned to strength and endurance. Naivete and innocence have been exchanged for wisdom and experience. And complacence and ignorance have been replaced with passion and unlimited joy. Each day has significance not because it's pay-day but because I am here on this lovely planet. I know that tomorrow does not stretch forever but in exchange, I have been granted an enormous feeling of gratitude, love of life itself and sheer appreciation for every breath of fresh ocean air that I breathe.

This magic does not come to those who sit back in comfort and safety of an armchair. To achieve pure ecstasy (for those popping pills), it takes the ability to 'walk a tightrope without a safety net'. It takes discovery and imagination. Above all, it takes danger and risk. I am not willing to play the pokies with my life but I am also not willing to sit around and search for my money- back guarantees and second of all, I'm too busy sky diving.

Editor's Note: Joanne Turner then 27, first found the Southern Cross Academy of Light just after she was diagnosed with Leukaemia. She enjoyed being with positive people, being part of meditation circles when her health allowed and coming along to monthly meetings to hear guest speakers speak about healing amongst other things. She found the people and the energy very supportive. Her first article was published in the June/July 1997 issue of ShiningBright. It was entitled "A Journey of Joy" and that was always her approach to her journey with cancer. Her second article for Shining Bright appeared in the Feb/Mar 1998 edition. This one she called "Higher Altitudes". She described her journey as climbing a high mountain, the difficulties of holding on while others 'dropped away' as she experienced the loss of new formed friends who were undergoing chemotherapy also and who had lost the battle. Her difficulty was to remain positive. As described in the following Press extract, she focussed her energies on

helping create inspirational colourful murals in healing rooms at her hospital.

The Sun Herald heard about her and featured her in a two page article on October 3rd 1999. We quote from this article entitled "FAITH HEALS"

Throughout her ordeal, Ms Turner's positivity has amazed everyone around her. Even when she was feeling so ill last year she organized a series of concerts which raised \$60,000 to create "healing" rooms in what became her second home- the haematology unit at Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital. The head of that unit, Dr. Chris Arthur, is one of her biggest fans. He says of her 'Joanne is a remarkable person. When a young adult is diagnosed with cancer, it is a time when they are really just getting their life together, establishing a career and perhaps a family. Despite her own health problems, Joanne worked hard transforming my ward into a bright and cheery place. There is no question that patients who are being treated in a warm and positive environment will have positive outlooks and coping mechanisms'

To Joanne, living now in Canada we say.....thank you for being such an inspiration..... To remind us to be grateful for each new day..... to find at least one moment of pure joy in every day....just as you do.



BUDDHIST Prayer of Peace

*May all beings everywhere plagued with sufferings of body and mind
Quickly be freed from their illnesses.
May those frightened cease to be afraid,
And those bound be free.
May the powerless find power,
And may people think of befriending one another.
May those who find themselves in trackless, fearful wilderness,
The children, the aged, the unprotected,
Be guarded by beneficial celestials,
And may they swiftly attain Buddhahood.*

complacence
and ignorance
have been
replaced with
passion and
unlimited joy

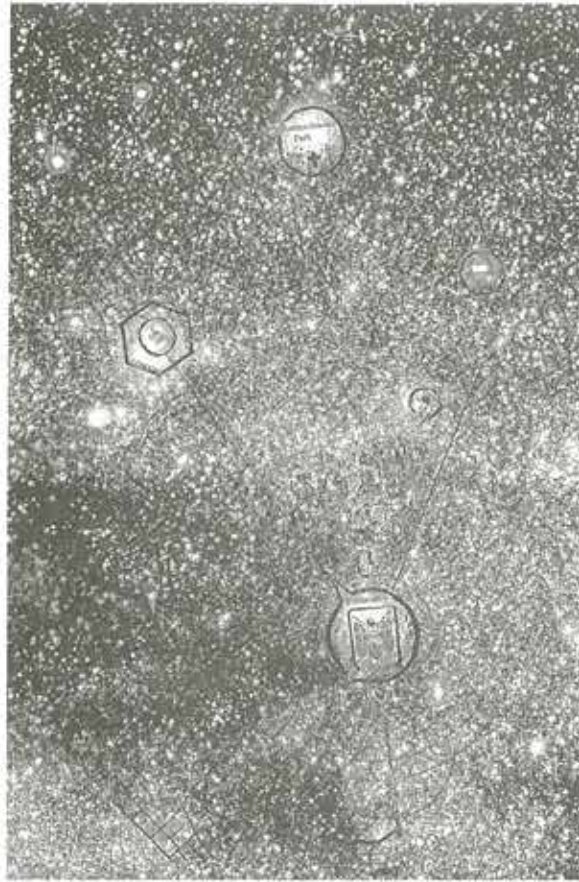
'A VISION SPLENDID'

for the Anniversary year of Federation

The National Capital of Australia - Southern Cross Star Replica

by Judy McConchie

At a Contemplatives Retreat held in Canberra, in the year 2000, an extraordinary revelation occurred for me, a revelation that honours and celebrates the National Capital. During the Retreat, I made a discovery whilst studying a map of the Capital. This discovery perhaps would captivate Walter and Marion were they amongst us today. The layout of Canberra is an exact replica of design as that of the Southern Cross star configuration, both in ratio and position of star to specific national sites and in the size of star to the size of site. In Australia, the Southern Cross is a much-loved star configuration



and is readily recognized. That the national capital layout has the same configuration as the Southern Cross is nothing short of miraculous, considering it evolved to that layout with no deliberate plan for this to occur. Once the retreat had finished, I sourced an image of The Southern Cross taken at Parkes Observatory, had a transparency made the size of a map of the national Capital sites and upon laying this over the map of Walter Burley Griffin's cruciform plan of Canberra, there it was - perfect - the Southern Cross symbol on the design of the National Capital sites.

These sites align with the following stars.

Alpha - Parliament House

Beta - City Hall

Gamma - Remembrance Park, behind the War Memorial

Delta - Peace Harmony Hill, behind the Defence Department

Epsilon - Aspen Island

Three of these five sites are well known - Parlia-

ment House, City hall and Aspen Island. The other two locations are in natural bush and are not so readily recognized, especially Peace Harmony Hill. This hill side, originally designated by Walter Burley Griffin to be the site of non-denominational cathedral, remains peaceful and tranquil behind the Defence Department. Let me begin to explain.

As a landscape artist, I have had a deep fascination for Walter Burley Griffin and his wife Marion's design of the National Capital - the concept of landscape and democracy - the Garden City. The form and balance that is so inherent in the layout of this capital and the position-

ing of these sites and their functions on the form of an equilateral triangle, suggesting all to be equally important, has inspired me with its creative concept. Coming from this view point, it didn't take long for me to decide to participate in the Contemplatives Retreat, held in the National capital in March 2000, that had a focus of harmony between democracy and nature, as expressed in the ideals of the Griffins.

Phillip Simpfendorfer, mystic and custodian of Glastonbell, a bushland retreat in the Blue Mountains, arranged the Contemplatives retreat from ideas and concepts developed from conversations between Steven Guth, author of "Canberra, An Anthroposophical Site"

That the national capital layout has the same configuration as the Southern Cross is nothing short of miraculous

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BEAUTIFUL WOMEN

A little boy asked his mother "Why are you crying?"
"Because I'm a woman", she told him.

"I don't understand", he said.

His mum just hugged him and said, "And you never will"

Later the little boy asked his father, "Why does mother seem to cry for no reason?"

"All women cry for no reason", was all his Dad could say

The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why women cry.

Finally he put in a call to God; and when God got on the phone, he asked, "God, why do women cry so easily?"

God said:

"When I made the woman she had to be special. I made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world; yet, gentle enough to give comfort"

"I gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times comes from her children"

"I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up, and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue without complaining "



"I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances, even when her child has hurt her very badly"

"I gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart"

"I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him unfalteringly"

"And finally, I gave her a tear to shed

This is hers exclusively to use whenever it is needed."

"You see:

The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair."

"The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart - the place where love resides."

Please send this to all the beautiful women you know

today in celebration of Women's History Month.

If you do, something good will happen

You will boost another woman's self-esteem!

Every Woman is Beautiful.



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and James Weirick, Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of NSW, a world authority on the work of Griffins. Another source of motivation for Phillip was

If we aim high, then maybe we'll catch a star

the connection between Canberra and Nara, both first Universal Tenets of Democracy: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity Using a cruciform layout, Burley Griffin positioned the national sites of the capital on this format.

When I recognised the principles of the three tenets of democracy were represented on the three points of the equilateral triangle that lies within the cruciform or cross, I became aware that all are equally important in the functioning of a healthy democracy.

Liberty - The Seat of Protection, Peace Harmony Hill - symbolises the ideal of protection.

Equality - The Seat of Governing, Parliament House,

Capital Hill - symbolises the ideals of wise governing, wise law-making

Fraternity - The Seat of business and Commerce, City Hill - symbolises the ideals of fair trade practices.

We will become a truly great nation when we acknowledge and honour how truly beautiful and inspiring the national Capital is in form and ideals and its contributions to Australians on so many levels. If we aim high, then maybe we'll catch a star.

Information in this article ©

Excerpt from forthcoming book, "A VISION SPLENDID" Also recently featured in The Canberra Times

An exhibition of paintings will be held in Canberra later this year featuring the sites and symbols that occurred during the Retreat.

Judy McConchie, a noted Canberra-based artist, can be contacted on Ph: (02) 6286 4963



The Land Of The Seed

by Tamayra Hayman



Down Under in Australia it's been a time of preparation. On my return from England in June, I sensed the Centre was calling me again and shortly after, an invitation came to me from Diana James of 'Spirit of the Land' - an Education Foundation. I was invited to travel up to Glen Helen Gorge, west of Alice Springs to join her and some Aboriginal friends, Lee and Leah Brady from the Pitjantjatara lands around Uluru (Ayers Rock). So at the beginning of July, I was back in the Northern Territory. So good to be able to touch base again in Alice Springs, catching up with my earthworking friends. Then later hiring a van, travelling on to Uluru, Katajuta and Kings Canyon, all the time witnessing amazing changes in the Earth's energy fields and a seemingly new, but yet very ancient pulse emerging from the earth itself through Australia traditionally called 'The Land of the Seed.'

Glen Helen is outstandingly beautiful. Mount Sonder 'The Sleeping Lady' is seen in the distance. Resting on her back like the dreaming goddess of the earth. The western Arrente people know this gorge as the place where Itye, the Moon Man, came down to earth to seek a bride. He climbed to the top of the gorge's western side and saw a beautiful woman dancing in the organ pipes (rock formation). He called to her to be his wife., she accepted and they made a camp nearby. So it is a place of the blending of the male and female within the heart. In Diana's words, "We allowed ourselves to dance and blend with the landscape too." Husband and wife Lee and Leah, with Diana sometimes translating from Pitjantjatara, shared Nganyinytya's teachings of 'Tjukurpa' the Creation Law.

The Dreaming that energizes a multi-dimensional web of life, connecting all in relation kinship patterns. Tjukurpa moves between the layers: it is animal, plant, rock and tree. Spirit walks the skies as stars or clouds. Spirit rides the wind. It flows in and with all existence - it tells us "Learn to listen and just be."

In this beautiful setting, we knew something special was brewing. We sat and shared our hopes and dreams for the future with each other. We each shared our own ideas and approaches towards Earth Stewardship. To

learn and to hear more of their stories and traditions was a joy. To wonder at their inbuilt ability to know and to read and accommodate the Earth's needs as well as their own. Each Aborigine knows his country as he knows himself, through his own body and the internalized images of his dreaming place. These are his identity. There is no Aboriginal story that does not make reference to places, and land formations are never discussed without references to their mythological stories. A male Aboriginal may speak of "holding" his country referencing to obligations he has inherited for maintaining certain sites. But he never speaks of ownership. Bill Neidjie says "I feel it with my body. When the wind blows you feel it. Same for country ... you feel it. You can look, but feeling... That put you out there in open space".

They honour our needs too as white folk. They listened attentively to us understanding our desire to remember and to walk our talk. We also discovered many joint concerns. They too are wondering how to preserve their own dreaming in the time of what must still seem a white invasion. How to help their own young ones adjust to the call of materialism and yet at the same time keep their traditional connections to the Earth alive. For several days we sat together by the sandy riverside under the shade of a spreading gum tree. Bright blue sky overhead and huge red rocks all around us. Ever present eagles circling overhead keeping watch on the proceedings.

Us adults shared our stories, and nearby the Aboriginal children and the white children played together squealing with joy when they speared a fish from the

Our Aborigine friends lying full length on the earth to pray as "That way we have more of us in touch with the Spirit"

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Spirit rides the wind it tells us "Learn to listen and just be"

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river, then proudly ran up to show it to us.

We sat in silence too, listening to the sounds of the birds, animals the water and the wind. We held ceremonies. Woman's business and men's business, each around our own campfires. We women got painted up and danced, sang and told stories. I really enjoyed being 'Crow Woman' although the black ochre and ash took some rubbing off!

Finally, men and women, black and white agreed to join together to ask The Great Spirit to please guide us to show us the way ahead. Our Aborigine friends lying full length on the earth to pray as "That way we have more of us in touch with the Spirit". Us sitting crossed legged in the sun.

I had no doubt that all was well and in perfect place for the next step for mankind whatever that may be. To me, it felt like as a race we were perched at the edge ready now for a huge jump in awareness...All of us ready to jump together into the future, the unknown.

Then back to Sydney for the 27th Olympic Games.

We knew the Olympics were coming to Australia and as a nation we knew the eyes of the world would be upon us. It seemed the landscape knew too. The earth Devas were sending messages, "Clear me. Balance me, witness my re-pulsing". Be a part of all that is happening. So Earthworkers over here, intuitively picking up these messages, stepping up their effort to clear and help prepare the way. "We just weren't sure how it would be, but we knew the more prepared the land was the more chance of a successful outcome." Martha Heeren and her Earthworking team here in Sydney, have been working at the Olympic site since since originally it was an Aboriginal meeting place, then a brick pit, an abattoir and an industrial toxic waste dump. The group originally noted the Deva as understandably feeling very confused and unsettled. No wonder, there were huge earthworks, construction and people in committees walking around.

I am told that the clearings went well and groups moved to clear the Airport and many associated systems, food, luggage, customs and communications and even the flight paths in and out of the airport!

To be in Sydney at the time was a privilege and joy. First stop was Bondi Beach to see the Olympic flame

being carried ashore by surf boat. The fantastic Opening ceremony, featuring a live corroboree with Aborigine dancers smudging and blessing the stadium. The Olympic torch carried by seven women surely represented the return of the feminine impulse to the Games. The narrator Ernie Dingo then said, "and now the new awakenings begins". And there was a tidal wave: Nostradamus had been interpreted as having predicted that the games of the Millennium would be a slaughterhouse and that a tidal wave would occur. Both were true. The site had been a slaughterhouse of cattle



Nganyinytya - Senior Elder

Photo courtesy of Desert Tracks

and abattoir. The tidal wave came as a cloth totally covering the stadium, onto which a dove of peace was projected. Those in Europe visualizing four pillars of light and a dove of peace over the stadium saw it in physical manifestation. Current Olympic champion Cathy Freeman, did the final lighting of the torch. A magnificent archetype. She is a champion. An Aboriginal woman, but also with white blood. Her name is 'Freeman' what we all aspire to be. She stepped into the water and lit a Ring of Fire.

A complete balancing of polarities and then the flame rose like a great chariot of fire into the night sky.

The seed of new awareness that the Aboriginal people had been nurturing deep in the earth for thousands of years had finally birthed, pushed its way up into the light of day, sprouted for all to see and wonder at.

Extraordinary possibilities lay before us now, what an example that small sprout represented. The Games had been inspiring in sharing, caring, unification, joy and excellence. These Olympic Games were, I believe, the vehicle for the final act in a drama that has been unfolding before our eyes and one that that we have all been working towards. Now it's up to us all to take hold of the inspiration and live it day by day. If we so choose this new awareness can help us to understand the ancient spiritual Aboriginal message of 'Kinship'. Firstly kinship to oneself, then to the land, then to our family and then to the rest of man and womankind. We still have a way to go. But then so do all newborns

**Now it's up to us
all to take hold of
the inspiration and
live it day by day**



How philosophy can help to resolve many personal life problems and also social and political issues

by Jim Scarano

On what do you base this philosophy?

On the Absolute Truth, that is, that truth does not change with time, race or circumstance.

Could you give some examples of this Absolute Truth that does not change?

All that which is born dies

No one possesses anything except one's own conscience

Attachment leads to suffering

Desire contains the energy necessary to accomplish any aim.

How is this philosophy different from, say, psychology or religion?

Psychology addresses the mind, thought, emotion.

Philosophy addresses the absolute existence of the individual, his/her true identity and his/her own sense of being.

And compared to religion?

Religion addresses faith, credulity, and the assumed impotence of the individual to resolve his own problems.

These differences could be expressed in belief as follows:

The followers of psychology think

The followers of religion pray

The followers of philosophy try to know and understand.

So, what sort of problem could be solved by the means of philosophy?

Nearly all.

There's someone who has been trying to give up smoking but all methods have failed.

This someone, first of all, appears to be playing the game of "I win, you lose". He seems to be saying to you; "look at me, I am so invincible that no method is stronger than me!".

In the second place, maybe this person should find something to do which is more important than spending this time smoking. Or maybe he has disconnected so much from his own personal sense of existence that he is not even aware that he is totally engrossed in an unconscious activity when he smokes. The solution to



this problem is first of all to have the desire not to have this problem. No one has given him the problem and no one can remove it. That which has been acquired can also be rejected or renounced. As the axiom says: *what is born will die*. The habit is born (acquired), so it can also be destroyed (terminated). Again, as the other axiom says, the energy required to achieve any aim is contained in the desire to achieve that aim. No desire, no energy. No energy, no achievement.

Many have problems regarding their relationship with their spouse, their children, etc.

This philosophy says that no one actually absolutely possesses anything or anyone except their own conscience. So no one possesses another person. Even if they get married, or live together, or have children. At no time does the other person become "mine" by such procedures. Therefore, if someone thinks that this is "my wife" or "my husband" or "my children" the problem starts here.

The true philosopher does not see it this way. The philosopher understands that "this person who has agreed to live with me has been given to me by the grace of the common law (or by the grace of God, if this person wants to think in religious terms) however this person never actually becomes MINE to control, abuse command etc. Nor should I ever expect that this person should do as I want. Rather since he or she has agreed to live by my side, it will be my duty to do every thing in my power to make her or his life more comfortable or more pleasant. I ask myself what I could do for her or him instead of what he or she can do for me"

And in regard to children. This child has issued from our bodies but his/her soul does not come from us. We therefore respect his/her needs in the physical and emotional planes, realizing that his/her own Self has absolutely nothing to do with us.

Social problems are many and varied.

For example, should corporal punishment be rein-

This child has issued from our bodies but his/her soul does not come from us

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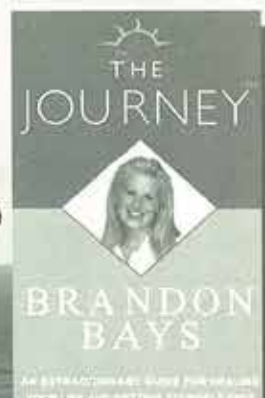
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