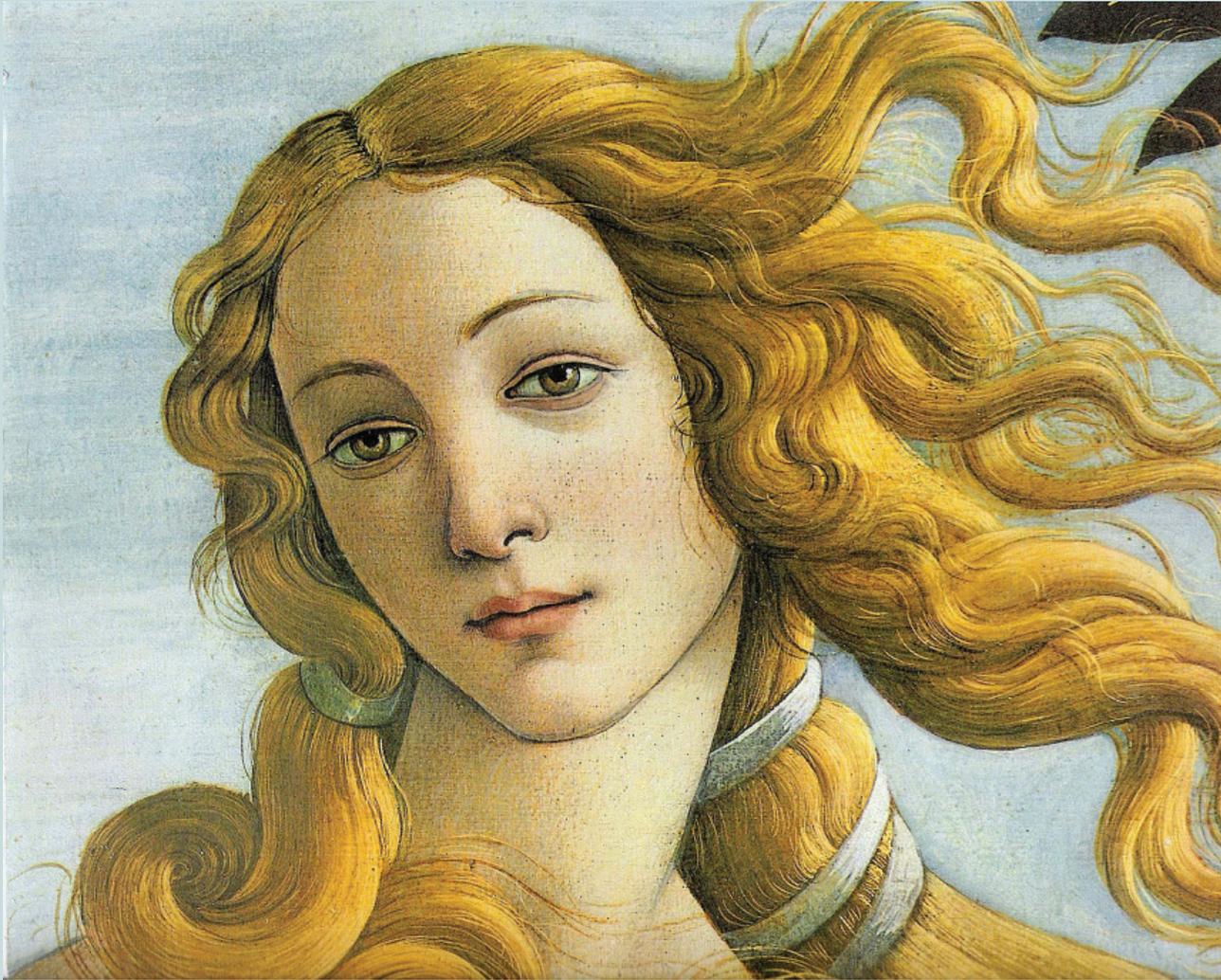


THE CLARION CALL

AWAKEN THE PHILOSOPHER WITHIN



TRUE LOVE AND JOY

LIVING TOGETHER IN HARMONY





New Acropolis is an international non-profit organization with a presence in over 60 countries. At its core it is a school for practical philosophy in the Classical style, run by volunteers. Worldwide we have close to 40,000 volunteers, all of who are dedicated to bringing philosophy closer to the society for all people regardless any differences of social, religious, gender or political background.

We came into being 60 years ago, with the aim of bringing universal philosophy and wisdom to life in the hearts of the cities worldwide. Our focus is on philosophy - not just in the sense of the quest for knowledge and ideas, but on how we can use it so it will turn into Experience and Wisdom, thus widening our perspective over life and helping us evolve individually and collectively. We focus on philosophy as a way of life – as practical philosophy.

For more please visit our website www.acropolis.org.in

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Editor's Note

Dear Reader

In the words of the Dalai Lama, "Love and Compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive"

In this issue, we touch upon the theme of selfless love. Love that is not limited to the goal of personal gratification but coming from a deep sense of care and oneness. When we place ourselves first and at the center, it forecloses the very possibility of love. Yet there are moments that come to us when we are indeed free from an egocentric love and our heart truly opens up for the other, be it for our family member, our pet or a stranger. I invite you to pay attention and nurture those moments. It might be the very essence of who we are!

Regards,

Ankit Jain

Editor, The Clarion Call

True Love and Joy



BY RAN KREMER
NATIONAL DIRECTOR, NEW ACROPOLIS SOUTH INDIA

What role can Love play towards being truly happy in our lives?

Have we had a chance to seriously reflect upon the different types of Love that exist and what kind of happiness each of them creates for us? This article was written for all our dear readers but this might especially touch the hearts of those who truly see Love and happiness as inseparable in life. This is also for those who are looking for the more sublime, lasting states of Love and Joy, and they will find this writing even more interesting than the usual.

Henceforth, the kind of Love intended to be highlighted here is beyond a strong feeling or a certain sentiment we have but it is made of what we experience in a higher state of consciousness. It is

...Actively developing our
compassionate love can
truly help us to have better
mastery and positive use of our
innermost drives and deepest
motivations

a kind of Love which is not dependant on any other person or circumstances. A purer form of love or the highest form of Love may be connected to the more selfless part of us.

Overall, the experience which was shared by masters of wisdom, from east to west for many millennia, about this lasting, unshakeable and elevated love repeatedly directs us to find the Unity of our heart with what is in our life and our relationships, transcendental and elevated in its nature. When the overall goal and aim of the individual in their Life and in their relationships is more transcendental or altruistic than personal only, I would call this Love "Compassionate Love" – the kind of happiness it evokes can be called a deep joy or "Jubilation"! The state of being Jubilant is considered as the Joy of an individual or a collective which can last for many years and even decades, it is a glorious joy!

The basis of higher love may not be romantic nor with a biological kinship, while the object of this love can be another Individual, a teacher, a whole community of people, the whole humanity or even something far bigger like Nature as well as its divine intelligent creators.

However, before we continue with the idea of compassion, when relating to Love in its highest



forms, one should remember that it can be similarly manifested also as Bhakti (Devotion), Justice and other virtuous forms. Nevertheless, let us deal now with the part which speaks about compassion in this issue of the Clarion call. In the subsequent issues, we will talk about the higher virtues of Devotion as well as Justice.

At this point in time, at the onset of talking about compassion, by being deeply inspired from the teachings of many ancient renowned Eastern and Western sages, philosophers, as well as by sharing from my own personal life experiences of many years as a teacher in New Acropolis, I would like to start with motivating words saying that by actively developing our compassionate love, it can truly help to have better mastery and positive use of our innermost drives and deepest motivations. This is already quite a good reason for us to seriously consider finding ways to further build our active compassionate love!

Secondly, we can take also a good example from no less than nature herself, while seeing how actively

compassionate she is – what we all call Karma, nature's giving hand - one can observe and learn how nature and the Karma give us again and again, day after day, month after month, many opportunities to improve by learning about ourselves and others, pushing us to be better, correcting our ways. Karma should not be seen in an external manner which is too simplified/superficial like good or bad things, rewards & punishments... Karma could be one of Nature's major manifestations of Compassion, and the best Master of Wisdom we can find to teach us is possibly nature herself. Karma is ever compassionate, sensitive, blindly just and never getting tired of generously giving each one what he truly deserves! Therefore, we can learn from Nature that Compassion is more about actively doing Justice and being Generous rather than just feeling mercy or pity about someone.

One more significant practice for developing compassionate love can be found in trying to be more sensitive towards what the other truly needs, and then by practically connecting sensitivity to generosity, we

can learn how to give generously to the other what they really need in order to be a better person! The just form of giving, which is the compassionate one, is maybe not about giving away what is comfortable for us, nor about giving only what we currently feel like giving, even if this is not the most needful... This might not be true compassion as it could be driven by ego and might also expect something in return... conditional love is not compassionate.

Another very encouraging and motivating point for us to understand better about the practice of compassion is related to the fact that if we give love compassionately, we will not be left with less for ourselves! We may find that a glass with pure water of selfless deeds will be magically filled up again right after it was emptied while sharing it kindly with the one in need. In other words, the one that learns to compassionately give the right thing to the one who needs it, will experience that all that he gave and so called "sacrificed" will not empty his own resources; vice versa, it will help one to rejuvenate and be filled up again and again with even more fresh and vital resources than ever, like a magical pond of goodness that we share which never dries out but only grows stronger, and the water of which is just getting purer and sweeter time and again. What a real Joy!!!

We see compassion as a virtue that protects us from being ignorant about others, it slowly purifies us

from the dangers of too much egotism, we see it as an opportunity to be attentive to the needs and challenges of others. It will help us become more sensitive, enable us to know more intimately the soul and the heart of fellow human beings, thus allowing us to be truly close to them, strengthening our relationships for them to become unshakeable friendships of soul mates, based on lasting compassionate love.

What is the best way to practice compassionate love, then? It is as Plato said- To wisely share with the other what he truly needs in order to be a better person as per one's true nature. It is by learning how to serve others in the light of higher values and by sharing the needful without being afraid that we will be left with less...

Love helps us to be victorious over the separating forces of selfish and ignorant materialism which causes all blind suffering in this world, and collectively it has great power to help us become truly committed to be better and better towards the other. And this change in ourselves will bring the change in the world for the better. True Love makes Joy prevail over Sadness and with such Love it will be a real Joy for us to commit to lead the change.

Karma is ever compassionate, sensitive, blindly just and never getting tired of generously giving each one what he truly deserves!
Therefore, we can learn from Nature that Compassion is more about actively doing Justice and being Generous rather than just feeling mercy or pity about someone.

Living Together in Harmony

BY DELIA STEINBERG GUZMÁN
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT OF NEW ACROPOLIS
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION



Those who are incapable of living in harmony with others are also incapable of living in harmony with themselves.

What they can't achieve when working with others they won't achieve for themselves either.

~ Delia Steinberg Guzmán

Human Unity

It is our conviction that the human soul is essentially one, so we cannot establish distinctions based on the external appearance of people and things. It is rather a question of working for the development and expression of the soul, which often lies dormant when incarnated in bodies that are attracted to or repelled by one another according to the circumstances.

Against disunity: trust

The word "unify" comes from the Latin unus and facere, meaning "to make one"; that is, to bring together several different but coherent parts and combine them to achieve a harmonious and homogeneous unity. It is an act of coming together, of connection. If this connection didn't exist, each part or each being would follow a different path, which is not a bad thing in itself except that they would be divided, disunited and in opposition to one another. Without this movement

towards unification, we would live in perpetual chaos and it would be very difficult to find meaning in life and its changing circumstances.

Indeed, the disease that is threatening to tear apart our present age of history, a disease that we have been carrying for quite some time in a latent state is precisely separatism, dismemberment, an open struggle between increasingly smaller factions, which inevitably ends in conflicts between individuals. We are living this every day in the sphere of politics, culture, religion and art, and in social and family settings; we can see it on the streets of the big cities and its impact is already being felt in small towns and villages. Mistrust is the lord and master of all, resulting in rudeness, abruptness, irritability, unscrupulousness, insincerity and selfishness.

A good dose of unification is what we all need in general and each of us in particular. It would help us to experience once again the sense of being part of that big family which is humanity, the happiness of friendship, of mutual trust, of the desire to cooperate and help, of being able to look each other in the eye again and find shining truths instead of fearful shadows.

Philosophical friendship

What we need and want to recover because we know that it has never ceased to exist is philosophical

friendship; that friendship which is based on a mutual love of knowledge, which can withstand time and difficulties, which creates bonds of true fraternity even when there are no blood ties involved.

That is why we define this kind of friendship as philosophical, even if we may not use that term in everyday life. It is philosophical because there is love and a need for knowledge. It is what makes two or more people try to get to know one another, understand one another, beginning by getting to know themselves. It is the friendship that leads to the birth of respect, patience and constancy, that forgives without failing to point out mistakes and encourages each of us to become a little better every day in order to be worthy of our friend. It is the friendship that awakens a sense of solidarity, of mutual support at all times, that is able to bear separation and sorrow, sickness and hardship.

We define it as philosophical because it is only when we share ideas in common, similar goals in life and an identical spirit of service and self-improvement, that this friendship, which is not a plant of one day or a passing summer cloud, can be born.

Tolerance

Tolerance is indispensable among all human beings; it goes beyond superficial differences and instead is based on the deep qualities of the human being, who is the same in all places, in all physical bodies and under the most varied expressions of existence.

Living in harmony with others begins with ourselves. It's not easy to separate what the body wants from what the emotions demand or what our reason which is not always clear or constant requires of us.

However, this agreement between the constituent factors of our personality is indispensable. It is an essential formula for finding harmony within ourselves, which in turn will allow us to develop that cherished harmony with others.

Bringing peace into our lives

Peace is the result of neutralizing our defects by the

What we need and want to recover because we know that it has never ceased to exist is philosophical friendship; that friendship which is based on a mutual love of knowledge, which can withstand time and difficulties, which creates bonds of true fraternity even when there are no blood ties involved.

strength of our virtues, reducing our negative aspects and allowing space for the potential of the positive but latent aspects to emerge.

It is peace with oneself and with others.

It is the peace of harmonious coexistence, of concord. These are the peaceful victories we can obtain every day, without getting angry with ourselves or with others.

Sharing who we are

It is not possible to live in harmony with others if the generosity of love is lacking and the all-absorbing sense of being unique in the world prevails.

If we are to live together in harmony we need to expand our consciousness and allow space for all living beings, we need to understand the life that is in all things and perceive the infinity of the universe. We need to know and appreciate everything that exists... And have the courage to share who we are with everyone around us.

No one can achieve their own fulfilment if they have no regard for the fulfilment of others.

Recent Events at New Acropolis, Bangalore

A glimpse into few activities at New Acropolis, Bangalore, over the past few months



A volunteering project at a local government school for the beautification of its premises



Public Talk 'The Ethical Leader'



Members and students enjoying a mosaic-making workshop



Wheel of Values on display at the event 'Atta Galatta On Wheels'



Public Talk 'Let the Beauty we love be what we do'

EVENT SCHEDULE

APR - JUN 2017

April



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Based on materials prepared by the AHRC-funded Nimrud project

Public Talk | Free Admission

The Hero in Me

Date: Apr 8, Saturday

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Venue: New Acropolis

Every so often in history, we come across extraordinary individuals who through their inspiration lead humanity to glory and victory. In ancient times, Heroes were considered a bridge between Man and God, or put differently, the energy to bring our true inherent potential to our reality.

Join us for this public talk as we relate to the hero within us, and the effort required to unveil this inner hero.



19 Week Course

Living Philosophy

Free Trial class: Apr 11 &

Apr 18 (Tuesdays)

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

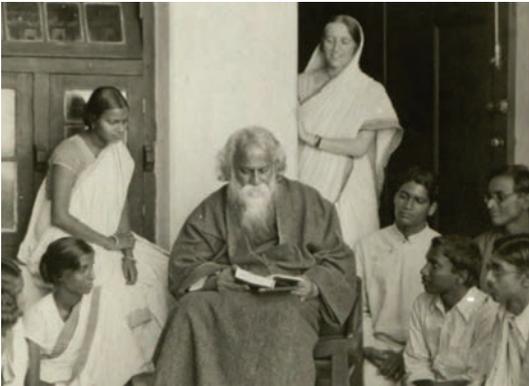
Batch starts: Apr 25,

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm (Tuesdays)

Venue: New Acropolis

A 19-week Foundation in Practical Philosophy. For details, please visit www.acropolis.org.in.

May



Public Talk | Free Admission

Lessons from Tagore

Date: May 20, Saturday

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Venue: New Acropolis

The extraordinary life and work of Rabindranath Tagore, the great Bengali thinker and writer, offers us much inspiration on our own philosophical journey.

Join us as we delve into the legacy of this great master and marvel at the gentle vision of humanistic love and beauty he helps us awaken.

June



Public Talk | Free Admission

Key to Happiness

Date: Jun 24, Saturday

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Venue: New Acropolis

As Aristotle puts it "Happiness depends on ourselves"; is a thought worth reflecting upon. Inspired from the book 'Nicomachean Ethics' by the ancient Greek philosopher, Aristotle, the talk examines the nature of true happiness.

ABOUT NEW ACROPOLIS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

New Acropolis is an international non-profit organization – with a presence in over 60 countries. At its core it is a school for practical philosophy in the Classical style run by volunteers. Worldwide we have close to 40,000 volunteers. All our volunteers are dedicated to bringing philosophy closer to the society for all people regardless any differences of social, religious, gender or political background.

We came into being with the aim of bringing universal philosophy and wisdom to life in the hearts of the cities worldwide. Our focus is on philosophy - not just in the sense of the quest for knowledge, and ideas, but on how we can use it so it will turn into Experience and Wisdom, thus widening our perspective of life and helping us evolve individually and collectively. We focus on philosophy as a way of life – as practical philosophy.



PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy has always been a search for spiritual truth. A process of going deeper into the knowledge of Nature, the Human Being and the Universe. The search is an exercise of fighting against ignorance, confusion and prejudices. To be a philosopher is a way of life committed to the best aspirations of humanity. At New Acropolis we work with Practical Philosophy, which means we do not limit ourselves to reading, studying and theoretical knowledge, but set ourselves the goal of learning to live well.



CULTURE

The practice of human values is the basis for a model of active and participative culture, which brings out the qualities of each person, broadens the horizons of the mind and opens the human being up to all the expressions of the spirit.

New Acropolis seeks to bring a new vision of culture: a culture with practical and living values, which enables its audiences to transform and improve themselves.



VOLUNTEERING

For New Acropolis, volunteering is the practical way of embodying and applying Philosophy and Culture. It is the natural expression of generosity and service to society. It is an active and conscious participation to contribute to the common good. All the activities carried out by New Acropolis in the world, in its different fields of action, are achieved thanks to the work of thousands of volunteers. Volunteering makes us better as individuals and helps to make the world a better place.

My Journey

A few new members of New Acropolis share their experience...



" I am an entrepreneur and run a corporate training company for the last eight years. I came to know about New Acropolis through Meetup and followed their Facebook page for two years before enrolling. I grew up in a spiritual environment and interest in philosophy came naturally. My deep interest in understanding life and the neutral approach of New Acropolis firmed my decision to explore the Living Philosophy course.

The teachings have helped me feel more grounded. My approach towards handling key issues has changed. Today, my overall outlook towards life and happiness has been changing. I wish to implement these learnings in my day to day life. One thing that I like most about New Acropolis is neutrality in teachings. This helps students with larger perspective and allows them to choose what is appropriate for them."

~ Siddharthan

Member of New Acropolis, Bangalore



"I am an entrepreneur by profession and a passionate mother of a teen. I believe, life is a gift and it needs to be loved, savored, relished and shared. Every challenge is a stepping stone to something bigger and better while joy comes in making a difference. New Acropolis was introduced to me by a very good friend. As a seeker of the subtle and profound, I was deeply moved by the introductory class which spurred me to join the Living Philosophy Course.

The key takeaway for me so far is the need for introspection on self at all levels and the need to practice balance and harmony. The tools for practical action shared by the teachers at New Acropolis are something I enjoy to grapple with. One thing that I love about NA is the pure welcoming energy that each individual brings to the table – be it a teacher, a volunteer, a student. To have so many likeminded people in one forum is truly a find!"

~ Christina Mitali Ghose

Member of New Acropolis, Bangalore



"An engineer by profession, having worked in the Middle East for a couple of years, I am at the moment aiding the family business. It was while frequenting Alliance Française, picking up a new language, that I chanced upon the Living Philosophy poster and visited IONA for the intro session. It seemed like just the right fit. Continuous course correction is something I strongly endorse, be it by religious inputs, or a feed of inspiration every once in a while from great lives, thoughts and so on.

Given my passionate stints in volunteering earlier, I was all the more delighted to see the multitude of ways in which the organization engages itself on very practical grounds, both within and outside of it; not to mention the plethora of cultural activities it partakes in.

As a member, with each passing meet, I am steering on the road to self-mastery, and wish for the path to be ever onwards and upwards."

~ Arjun A. K.

Member of New Acropolis, Bangalore

LIVING PHILOSOPHY

To Awaken. To Transform. To Evolve.



Foundation to Practical Philosophy at The New Acropolis International Organization (IONA) – India

Is philosophy restricted to books and concepts or is it possible to live the wisdom of the ancient masters in our everyday life?

Living Philosophy is the foundation of a journey to discover and experience the deeper esoteric concepts of self, nature and humanity. Philosophy as a way of life begins foremost with an inward journey and when practiced, it finds its true essence of transformation of the self and that of the world around us.

Highlights of some of the themes that will be covered in the 19 session course:



Know Thyself

Different levels of human consciousness with perspectives from the east and the west. What is transient and what is eternal?



The Wisdom of Ancient India

Learn the story of Arjuna, the warrior. The Bhagavad Gita describes the battles of life and tools to help us win this battle. Universal laws of Dharma, Karma and the discernment to identify and implement the Right action.



Life and Teachings of the Buddha

Explore the life of the Buddha and his teaching through the Dhammapada. This gives us practical advice on how to overcome pain and suffering and live a noble life.



The Artist, The In Love And The Philosopher

Who are you? Discover the wisdom of the ancient Romans through the Stoic philosophers. Epictetus, Seneca and Marcus Aurelius teach us simple and practical philosophy, of working with virtues as a path to progress.



Tools For Life From The Ancient World

Explore the wisdom of the ancient Egyptians, the idea of justice. From ancient China comes Confucius' expounding the importance of an ethical social order.



The Light At The End Of The Cave

What is the identity of a philosopher, the true leader and a politician. The metaphor of Plato's Allegory of the Cave, the grand illusion and how we can free ourselves from it.

For details of the upcoming batch of **Living Philosophy** refer to back cover.

LIVING PHILOSOPHY



To Awaken. To Transform. To Evolve.

Foundation to Practical Philosophy

at New Acropolis International
Organization (IONA) - INDIA



COURSE DETAILS

Course Start Date: Apr 25, 2017 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM
(Tuesdays)

Free Introductory Session: Apr 11, Tuesday, 7:30 pm
Apr 18, Tuesday, 7:30 pm

Duration: 19 weeks (weekly once)

Course Fee: Rs. 4500

Limited seats per batch

**To register visit www.acropolis.org.in/living-philosophy
or call +91 96638 04871 (Last date to register is Apr 25)**



New Acropolis, #261, 6th Cross, Indiranagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore 560038

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