

ACROPOLIS

PHILOSOPHY & EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE
Vol 3, Issue 1 | October - December 2018



On the Cover:
'Winter's Landscape'

In this edition:

Living the Spirit of the Mahatma | Pg 4

The Peaceful Hero | Pg 7

In Conversation with the Water Warrior | Pg 10

IN THIS EDITION



PHILOSOPHY

The Power of the Heart | Page 2
Living the Spirit of the Mahatma | Page 4
The Peaceful Hero | Page 7



CHANGEMAKERS

In conversation with the Water Warrior | Page 10



CULTURE

Platonic Solids as Winter Decorations (Practical Activity) | Page 14
The Epic of Gilgamesh | Pg 16



NEW ACROPOLIS

About New Acropolis International Organisation | Page 18
Event Schedule for October - December 2018 | Page 20
Testimonials by members | Page 24

ABOUT

On the cover: 'Winter's Landscape'

Stained glass is an art form that combines shapes with light to create a feeling of transcendence. This custom illustration represents the hues of winter and the warmth of celebration that are connected with the last quarter of the calendar year.

ACROPOLIS
Vol 03 Issue 01 | Oct - Dec 2018

Editor-in-Chief
Ran Kremer

Editor
Anand Baskaran

Assistant Editor
Namrata Shenoy

Cover & Magazine Design
Namrata Shenoy

Production
Bhanu Pratap Slathia

ACROPOLIS is published in India, by New Acropolis Cultural Association. Reprints of individual articles are obtainable on application to the editor. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

New Acropolis Cultural Association (South India)
Ran Kremer, National Director
261, 6th Cross, Indiranagar
1st Stage, Bangalore - 560038
Tel: +91 9663804871
Email: info@newacropolis.in
Web: www.acropolis.org.in



Dear Reader,

Winter is setting in at Bangalore. All of nature is in sync with the change of season, and the farmers and gardeners amongst us will know that now is the time of the year when plantlings and crops with longer cycles keenly grow their roots and strengthen their connection to the soil.

It gives us an opportunity to reflect on how we as people can strengthen our roots too. In the depths of it, our roots all connect to the essential human nature that is beyond any differences of nationality, gender, religion or race. This is connected to the inherent goodness in man, the altruistic and humanistic parts of us that ancient wisdom across cultures says we must aspire to connect to, as a key to individual happiness and social harmony.

This edition of ACROPOLIS contains inspiring articles about the spirit of the Mahatma (2018 is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi); Being the Peaceful warrior; an interview with the refreshingly humble and indomitable Ayyappa Masagi, the 'Water Warrior'; and an artistic-philosophical activity we invite you to take up, of hand-creating decorations for your home or workplace.

A quote by the author-philosopher Albert Camus captures the spirit of this edition of ACROPOLIS: *"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer."*

Happy reading!
Anand Baskaran
Editor - ACROPOLIS



PIERRE POULAIN



© Pierre Poulain - www.photos-art.org



We usually encounter many choices in life, many doors and opportunities - But only one would lead us to the light - the others are just invitations to more confusion and darkness. But following the light may be easier than we think. Yesterday, I was listening to a lecture given many years ago by a great Indian philosopher, N. Sri Ram. He said that the true knowledge comes from the Heart and not from the mind. The mind cannot go deeper than the surface, the appearance... the illusion.

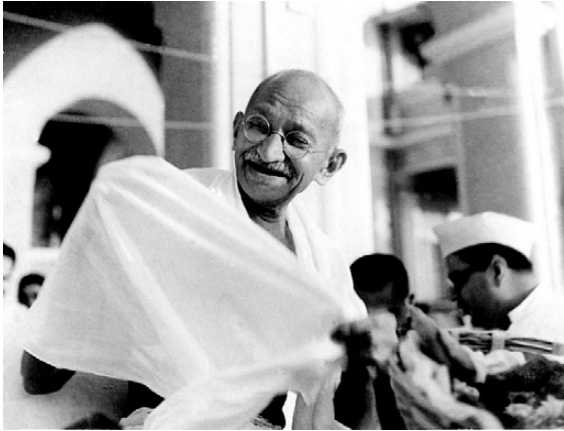
So we should "listen to our heart". The heart is confident, it does not doubt but beats with perseverance, maintaining its rhythm and in the end it will show us the way out, toward the light.

“ True knowledge comes from the Heart and not from the mind. The mind cannot go deeper than the surface, the appearance... the illusion. ”

Pierre Poulain is a philosopher and a renowned international photographer. In 1986 he founded the New Acropolis School of Philosophy in Israel, and later on, in many other countries. Pierre blogs at www.photos-art.org



VIVEK DIVEKAR



“As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world as in being able to remake ourselves.”



- Mahatma Gandhi

Over the ages, many Individuals, even while seeking to overcome their own personal challenges have endeavoured and succeeded in contributing to Humanity. The Greatness of these persons was defined by the spirit of purpose they exhibited during their lifetime. These were common men, who chose to walk in the footsteps trod earlier by Giants. This is a path that leads towards an evolutionary transformation of the self. Each of us must look to these stalwarts, who have lived amongst our midst, to learn from their teachings and to emulate their ideals.

We know that through the untiring and unwavering efforts of Mahatma Gandhi, India, found Independence from colonial rule. He was the inspirational force that stirred an entire generation, to campaign for this just cause. He was committed to struggle for this higher pursuit, beyond thoughts and actions meant to safeguard daily livelihood. He fought against all odds to lead a nation out of darkness and onto a path of new light. He is an international symbol for human rights whose personal dedication to nonviolent resistance continues to inspire many other leaders and generations of people across nations.

It is but natural for the populace to feel sad and be full of grief, at the passing of such a great man, as a loss for the world. Yet, we must recognise that the Spirit of the Mahatma is inextinguishable. For us it continues to exist in the form of his teachings and thoughts. We only need to connect with them wholeheartedly, to find the same Spirit within ourselves. If we do so, with a firm will, we shall discover that the abilities and capacities that can uplift each one of us to become a Mahatma, in our own right, dwells within ourselves. When we remake ourselves, not only would our material life and spiritual growth be positive, but, also naturally the world will be a much better place and the entirety of human evolution will find the right momentum to progress. This is well encapsulated in this quote attributed to Gandhi ‘The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world’s problems’.



We shall soon be upon the 150th birth-year anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. He was and shall continue to be a doyen among Great Leaders, whose endeavours positively influenced the thought that helped shaped our present world. His legacy is of integral importance and pivotal for our generation to understand. On this important occasion, while the whole world unites in remembering the man, we must reflect on how we can show our respects. True homage is presented when we live our lives as per the values the Mahatma espoused.

To do so, first, we must understand clearly the Ideals that the Mahatma embodied. Those most prominent were - Ahimsa (Non-violence), Satya (Truth), Brahmacharya (Self-Discipline), Sarvodaya (Universal Progress), and others practices based on principles, dignity for all humans, simplicity of living and community wellbeing.

When we seek to discover the essence of his teachings, we may look at adapting those ideas we best connect with and practice their principles, so as to realise the Virtues they inherently espouse. Also, when we reflect, it is apparent how the Ideals may be adapted to our present times and personal circumstances.

When I began to read, a few points about Mahatma Gandhi became apparent quite soon during my enquiry:

- He can be perceived as one with a complex personality. It was his commitment to the fundamental aspects and the core principles that allowed him to act in a ubiquitous manner that some people have had difficulty relating to, as they viewed them through the common-lens of societal and materialistic norms.
- He too faced many travails in his personal life, household and family issues. He sought to rise above those and sought the means to continue to dedicate and be able to serve the higher cause he had taken on the mantle of. In such service to Humanity, he remained constantly in motion, even at his advanced age, active till his last breath.
- In no small measure, it is important to rightly acknowledge that Kasturba Gandhi, his wife, was a strong pillar of support. She was, the first individual who was a part of him like none other, like his constant shadow. She was his integral companion, his caretaker and later in life his representative too. This did not come easily though, and the two found an equilibrium of sort as their life unwrapped. It is not to say that she was meek, in fact, she hardly acceded to her husband's wishes easily, and Gandhi's autobiography (The story of my experiments with the Truth) itself furnishes a remarkable testimony to her tenacity and independence of judgement - "According to my earlier experience, she was very obstinate. In spite of all my pressure she would do as she wished. This led to short or long periods of estrangement between us. But as my public life expanded, my wife bloomed forth and deliberately lost herself in my work."
- We may be overawed by the achievement of the Mahatma's during his life, especially the success he delivered with his deep involvement, guiding the struggle for Independence that bore fruit. This understanding though must begin by acknowledging that



Gandhi himself considered his own experiment with non-violence to be a resounding failure! The people of India had not taken non-violence to heart. They had at best practiced passive resistance — which Gandhi rejected because it leaves room for a pragmatic switch to violence.

In closing, here is a phrase, for us to live by: "Watch your thoughts, they become words; words become actions; actions become habits; habits become character; character becomes your destiny" – these words, as common quotes, are attributed to Gandhi, though the most likely source is a verse of the Upanishads, where similar sayings are found. Possibly, Gandhi ingrained such thought from his mother, an extremely pious lady, by whom he was deeply influenced.

Wishing Peace onto All.



Images courtesy Wikimedia Commons

The Peaceful Hero



Excerpt from the book titled 'Perseus – Warrior of Peace', authored by Fernand Schwarz
Compiled by Nikhil Vashishtha and Anand Baskaran

The journey of the peaceful warrior consists precisely of finding within the means to realize this intuition that we all share. The heroic path requires us to take on the trials and challenges to make it happen.

The Greeks defined the hero as the individual who becomes conscious, not only of having a certain life span, but of a destiny to accomplish.
There Is a Potential Hero Within Each of Us...

Each of us is potentially a hero, that is, someone who seizes a destiny, not a destiny that others impress upon us, but our own destiny, a destiny we feel we can accomplish in life. The number one quality of a hero lies in this statement: "I serve something, I have a role to play, a mission to fulfil. I have a destiny."

In this period of anonymity, everyone wants to be like the others; everyone seeks reassurance, and takes as little risk as possible. This is the most efficient way of convincing ourselves that we are insignificant, in other words, of killing the hero within. "I am not useful for anything..." To feel this - not to hear oneself say it, but to believe it - is the worst thing that can happen. The notion of heroism is directly linked to the dignity of the peaceful warrior. To be someone; that is, to become oneself, not to the detriment of others, is every individual's most legitimate right to claim without shame.



The Everyday Hero

The heroism that we are all entitled to entails owning one's responsibilities in life, ceasing to flee, asserting oneself and moving forward. Heroism is not only about finding a new truth, but it is also to have the courage to implement that vision every day. The hero in question is not the hero of the movies or comic books, but a hero formed in everyday life - an everyday hero.

“When we believe our journeys are not important
and when we do not face our dragons or seek our treasures,
we feel empty inside, and that leaves a void that affects us all.”



This mechanism, described by Carol S. Pearson, foments in the young and the not-so-young the pseudo-indifference responsible for the spirit of derision which pervades the world today, as is evident in comic books and TV shows. The more this derision manifests, the more amorphous societies become, and the less individuals are motivated, and able, to take charge of themselves.

In this modern, uniform world, psychologists have a definition for the rare case of a person who is suffering from “illusions of grandeur”, but not for the most widespread illness: “illusions of uselessness”. We can live great lives only if we are willing to grow up and abandon the illusion of impotence by becoming responsible for our lives.

Feeling Legitimate and Rooted

Because of its linear view of time and its cult of novelty, modernity has brought about a perpetual change in ways of life, relentlessly destroying the points of reference formed by these ways of life. This resulted in the perception, both among individuals and in the collective subconscious, that actions have no substance or roots. Thus, the exaltation of one moment is often succeeded by a strong depression, as one realizes that the reference points of contemporary fashion are hollow and do not bring sufficient depth to generate a consistency of events.

Carol S. Pearson explains that in order to transcend this state, we must feel ourselves legitimately rooted both in history and in eternity. It is the only way to avoid falling into the blindness of action for action's sake or into escapism. The hero's quest is both rooted in the eternal principles of existence, which are reflected in myths and tales, and in a struggle that is taking place here and now. Structures, myths and stories are eternal. But the battle takes place in the present.

This implies, therefore, the need for understanding and accepting the world as it is, and at the same time the need for a solid awareness of the eternal roots of each person's narrative. This alone allows us to live authentically.



All images taken from the book 'Perseus - The Warrior of Peace'

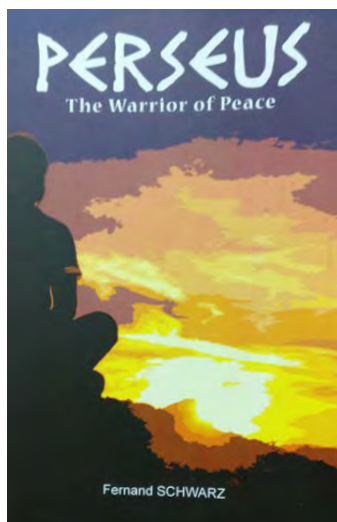


Rediscovering the Other Who is in Us

One of the major problems of contemporary societies is the individual loss of confidence, whatever their age and condition. Are these individuals really worse than their ancestors? We don't think so. Today, most psychologists try to help people adapt to their feeling of impotence, which in the long run will only make them apathetic and passive. They are not encouraged to undertake the voyage to discover what they could be, to become that peaceful warrior we all feel we potentially are, the true protagonist within us. This implies a revolution to reveal the existence of other needs, deeper and more permanent, situated at the level of being, and not only of having and appearing.

The role of genuine psychologists and educators is to teach people about the existence of those other needs. By rediscovering them, they would gain access to a dimension of consciousness in which they would find respect for themselves and an awareness of their own legitimacy. This is not something that society or other people can give us. It leads to a true affirmation of ourselves, thanks to which our unique qualities can benefit the whole, without us becoming prisoners to validation from others.

The more we are ourselves, the more we can respect others and be useful to them. Constant imitation condemns us to mass culture and uniformity. The quest of the peaceful warrior leads us to free ourselves from inauthentic forms of life and to become real human beings who can let go of the artificial and superficial, and bring out our qualities so we can live our destiny.



The author, Fernand Schwarz, is a philosopher and anthropologist. For the past 30 years, he has shared his teachings through practical workshops across Europe and America. He is passionate about the philosophical roots of the East and the West which enable today's philosopher to construct his own inner rebirth. In 1973, he founded the French branch of New Acropolis and acts as its current president.

Limited copies of 'Perseus – The Warrior of Peace' are available for purchase at the centre of New Acropolis, Bangalore. Refer to the rear cover of this edition for contact and address details.

In conversation with the Water Warrior – Ayyappa Masagi



Based on an interview conducted by Nikhil Vashishtha and Anand Baskaran



Image courtesy Facebook - 'Water Literacy Foundation'



Soil is the greatest reservoir of water by far: greater than all the lakes, streams, rivers and all the dams, if properly treated.

- Ayyappa Masagi

On a visit to a permaculture-based organic farm in Andhra Pradesh, we learnt about Ayyappa Masagi, who had helped the farm in one of the most rain-deficient areas in South India, become water-sufficient. A man-made lake abounding with blooming lilies and lotuses, and the tender green leaves amidst the surrounding dry soil stood testimony to the impact of the water sufficiency project.

The team at ACROPOLIS contacted Mr. Ayyappa Masagi, who readily agreed to an interview at his office in Sahakaranagar, Bangalore. Our research prior to the meeting showed him to be a man of many achievements and much renown, both in India and abroad – earning him the epithets of Water Warrior, Water Doctor and Water Gandhi, among others. The Water Warrior we met however, struck us as down-to-earth, humble and at the same time, as a man of great conviction and strength.

The edited interview with Mr. Ayyappa Masagi follows.

The Water crisis

ACROPOLIS: While at a larger scale – national and global – there is talk of a water crisis, many in Bangalore and in numerous other locations in India experience a shortage of water, or intermittent water supply. Common perception is that factors like changing rain patterns are contributing to this shortage. What is your perspective on the “water crisis” in India?

Ayyappa Masagi: People say that the water crisis is because of erratic rainfall or shortage of rainfall. But in my observation, the rain pattern and amount of rainfall is more or less the same – the only thing that is changing is the days on which rainfall is received. There is an old Kannada saying that goes “If the shepherd puts on his shawl, rain will follow soon”. This is to indicate how closely in tune with nature people were, they understood the signs and subtle changes in nature. This sensitivity is absent nowadays, particularly in urban areas.



India is an environmentally rich country, and a water crisis can certainly be averted here. Whether we face a water crisis, or experience water-sufficiency and even water-abundance is down to the mindset of people. With the right awareness, we can bring a shift in mindset, and by equipping ourselves with the right knowledge, we can win the War on Water crisis.

Over the last 30 years, I have built my knowledge, and developed, tried and tested various techniques and technologies connected to the conservation and right utilisation of water. I am confident that given a chance, in just 2 years, I can help the whole of India become water-sufficient! I cannot do it alone, of course – I will require support, and I will train many more water warriors who will make this possible.

Approach to Water conservation

ACROPOLIS: What is your approach to water conservation and what you have called the war against water crisis?

Ayyappa Masagi: I co-relate all my life experience to the Environment. My intention is to protect land, water and people – I've written a book in Kannada about this too, it is titled Nela, Jala, Jana (Kannada for Land, Water, People). This book was published in 2003-04, and is now a fairly famous book – thousands of youth are motivated by it. My intention is to work continuously – While I have received awards, recognition and support, I do not work for awards. My vision is to make this country a water-sufficient nation. It is also important that after my death, my concepts should be alive – my aim is to train more and more water warriors, educated farmers, and towards this, to demonstrate more and more projects that are successful.

My concept is to put more [water into the groundwater reserves], and take less. Unfortunately, people tend to follow the opposite – they draw and consume a lot of water, but little or no water is fed back into the ground water reserves. Rainwater and Greywater alike are channelled to the sewers. Did you know that the increase in sea levels in the last century is also because we are letting so much of our water into the seas and oceans, instead of into the ground?

At the same time, people complain of water shortage – In Bangalore for instance, with the amount of rainfall we receive, if rainwater is harvested on the streets, 1 kilometre of road can collect as much as 3 crore litres of water annually! At a national level, if we harvest just 30 – 40 % of the rainwater that India receives, the nation can be water-sufficient.

Formally, my work is in four streams - Industry | Urban | Rural | Agriculture. Across these four streams, with the same common principles, I have developed and successfully tested over a 100 different techniques, and apply these as a 360 degree pilot : pioneering in the four sectors and directions.

Financially, I work with a cross-subsidy business model. I charge those who have money and land (Industries, Companies through their Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, individuals), and to those who do not, I am able to benefit them by subsidising charges. I charge for my expertise and workshops, so that it is the serious ones who take it up.



I have observed others who have worked in the social field, and learnt from them. For instance, the cross-subsidy business model falls in between the approaches of Rajendra Singh in Rajasthan who received a lot of foreign funding and worked with that alone; and on the other hand, Anna Hazare whose development initiatives utilised government support.

I also work to create awareness about the need and ways to work with water (I apply the 3 R's - Rebranding / Repositioning / Renewal). This is important, as generally speaking, there is a large gap in awareness among people about water-related issues and solutions. Perhaps only 10% of the people are really impacted by such awareness initiatives, and only 2 – 3 % will actively take the cause up immediately – this is good too, it is them that I work for.

Motivations and early beginnings

ACROPOLIS: As you've mentioned, for the last 3 decades you have been very active in the field of Water conservation. Could you tell us about how this journey began, and what motivates you to be a Water Warrior?

Ayyappa Masagi: My drive to work in the field of Water conservation was triggered very early on, in my childhood. I couldn't pursue it as a field in a full-time role until over two and a half decades of work in the manufacturing industry, but the vision was there, and it was triggered at the tender age of four! In our village in Gadag, Karnataka, we had a problem with drinking water – there was no shortage of water per se for domestic usage, but because the water was very hard, and hence not suitable for drinking.

Consequently, my mother had to bring water from the stream every day, which was situated at a distance. And I would go with her to help – as a four-year old boy! And this had to be done early in the morning, at around 3:00 or 4:00 AM. We would have to walk 1.5 km to the stream, and then walk back the same distance bearing the weight of the water. That made me determined, even at that age, that I will bring a solution for the shortage of drinking water. I decided along the way that once my education is completed and my family is set up, regardless of my job, I will come to the field of water and find a solution. So you could say that my journey to being a Water warrior started when I was still a child.

In 1994 I purchased 6 acres of land – this is because in my childhood I saw the landlords tormenting my father. So I had decided it was important to have my own land to cultivate. I started working the land, and was successful in the agricultural venture. Seeing this success, I decided to spread the word of the practices I was applying – hence I started the Water Literacy Foundation (Jala Shikshana Aandolana). Then, there was a cyclone and resultant floods, and my hut was destroyed. I had to spend a whole night taking refuge on a tree! Looking down at the torrent from the tree, it struck me – there is so much water, but it is just flowing away. Why should I not direct this water to my borewell so I can use it? I took this spark of inspiration while atop a tree and it directed my work!



What can we do, at the individual and community level?

ACROPOLIS: For someone in the city who is eager to start taking steps to conserve water, what would you advice? Where can one begin?

Ayyappa Masagi: At the individual level, I recommend incorporating techniques and practices connected to roof rainwater harvesting, and greywater harvesting. There are good, simple techniques available that require a small investment. One can adopt simple practices – for instance, replacing regular sinks with shallow-depth sinks that make one more conscious of the amount of water that we are using or wasting when we open our taps. And to become aware of water leakages, and fix them immediately – a seemingly small leakage of 1 drop of water per second leads to a loss of 60 – 70 litres per day!



At the core of it,
Water conservation should come from the heart.

Looking ahead

ACROPOLIS: What is your outlook for the future of the war on water crisis, and what are your plans?

Ayyappa Masagi: I am optimistic. Water awareness is growing – everyone is afraid of running out of water, so awareness is picking up. To further increase the awareness, we need multiple efforts – I recommend that water literacy be included in the curriculum at schools and colleges. And individuals can play their part too – wherever there are opportunities, where people are gathered – in celebrations, functions – any of us who have equipped ourselves the knowledge, and have the opportunity, we can spread the word, so that more and more people will learn about it.

My plans for the future include training more and more water warriors – like I said before, my knowledge and techniques should continue even after I am gone. I also want to produce a film on the War on Water crisis – this way, more people can learn about these matters. I am currently looking for support to produce such a film.

Overall, when I look towards the future, I am hopeful - If we act, we can definitely avert a water crisis. I have learned through my experience that it only seems impossible until it's done! The Youth have a big role to play in all of this. My request to the youngsters is : come to this field. Even part-time. Support villages, support water, support the Environment. Through monetary means, in-kind or through knowledge and awareness. My advice is to start small, and do what you can - spread the message and create awareness, for instance. It can really make a difference. I am happy to say that a lot of youngsters employed in the IT industry are now coming forward to support my initiatives.



MANJU BARHANPURE



The arts quite simply nourish the soul. They sustain, comfort and inspire. There is nothing like that exquisite moment when you first discover the beauty of connecting with others in the celebration of larger ideals and shared wisdom.

- Gordon Gee



Paper Geometrics

Festive lights are symbols of celebration, joy and hope. Paper Geometrics is a simple activity for you to create your own lampshade for the upcoming festivities based on the templates derived from Platonic solids and Sacred Geometry.

Sacred Geometry

Sacred Geometry is a universal language that describes the inner workings of nature and the intrinsic order of the universe. Everything has an underlying geometric template that links it to the cosmos, which shows how the microcosm reflects macrocosm. From the dance of the atoms to spiralling galaxies which are governed by a set of mathematical laws, all are contained in the basic shapes, patterns and principles upon which nature operates. In ancient cultures, people often built their monuments and places of worship based on these shapes and forms.

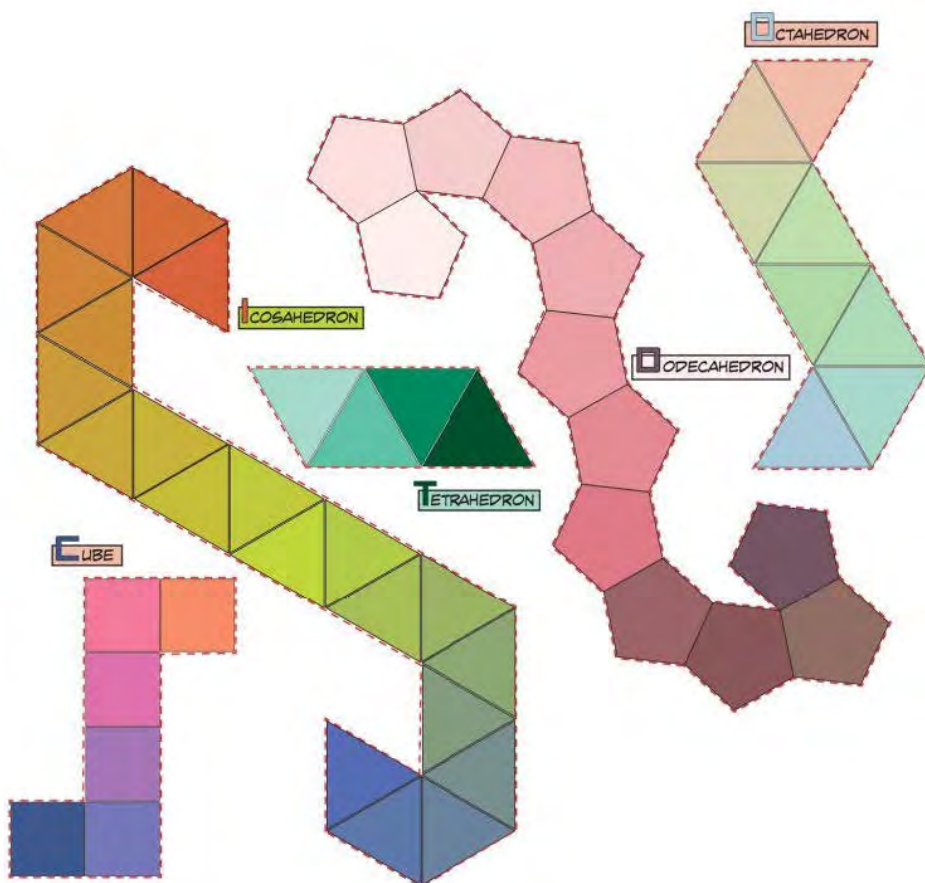
Platonic solids

Platonic solids are three dimensional polyhedrons with a sequential relationship to one another called Duals or Congruency. They are constructed by congruent (identical in shape and size) regular (all angles equal and all sides equal) polygonal faces with the same number of faces meeting at each vertex. They are named after the Greek philosopher Plato who hypothesised in his dialogue, the 'Timaeus', that the classical elements (earth, water, air, fire and ether) were made of these regular solids.

Construction of the lantern

- Draw the template of the platonic solid of your choice on a thin cardboard (you can also recycle thick paper shopping bags). Alternately, depending on the solids of your choice, you can make a cut-out of an equilateral triangle, a square or a pentagon and use that as a unit to create template.
- Cut along the dotted lines, fold along the black lines.
- Use a washi tape to stick the edges. Insert an LED bulb light and finally, fold the last face of the form into place and tape together.

May this process of creation remove the darkness of ignorance while illuminating our hearts with the light of wisdom, love and generosity.



Images courtesy Pinterest & Makezine.com



PINAR KHAN

The Epic of Gilgamesh from ancient Mesopotamia is often considered to be the oldest written story in the world. There are many studies about this story which look at it from an archaeological, literary and historical point of view. However, the aim of this article is to give a philosophical perspective on the story while trying to explore the symbolism behind it.

Gilgamesh, the king of Uruk, is the oldest known hero. Like Herakles in ancient Greece (or Hercules, as the Romans called him), Gilgamesh is also a hero who fights against the forces of darkness.

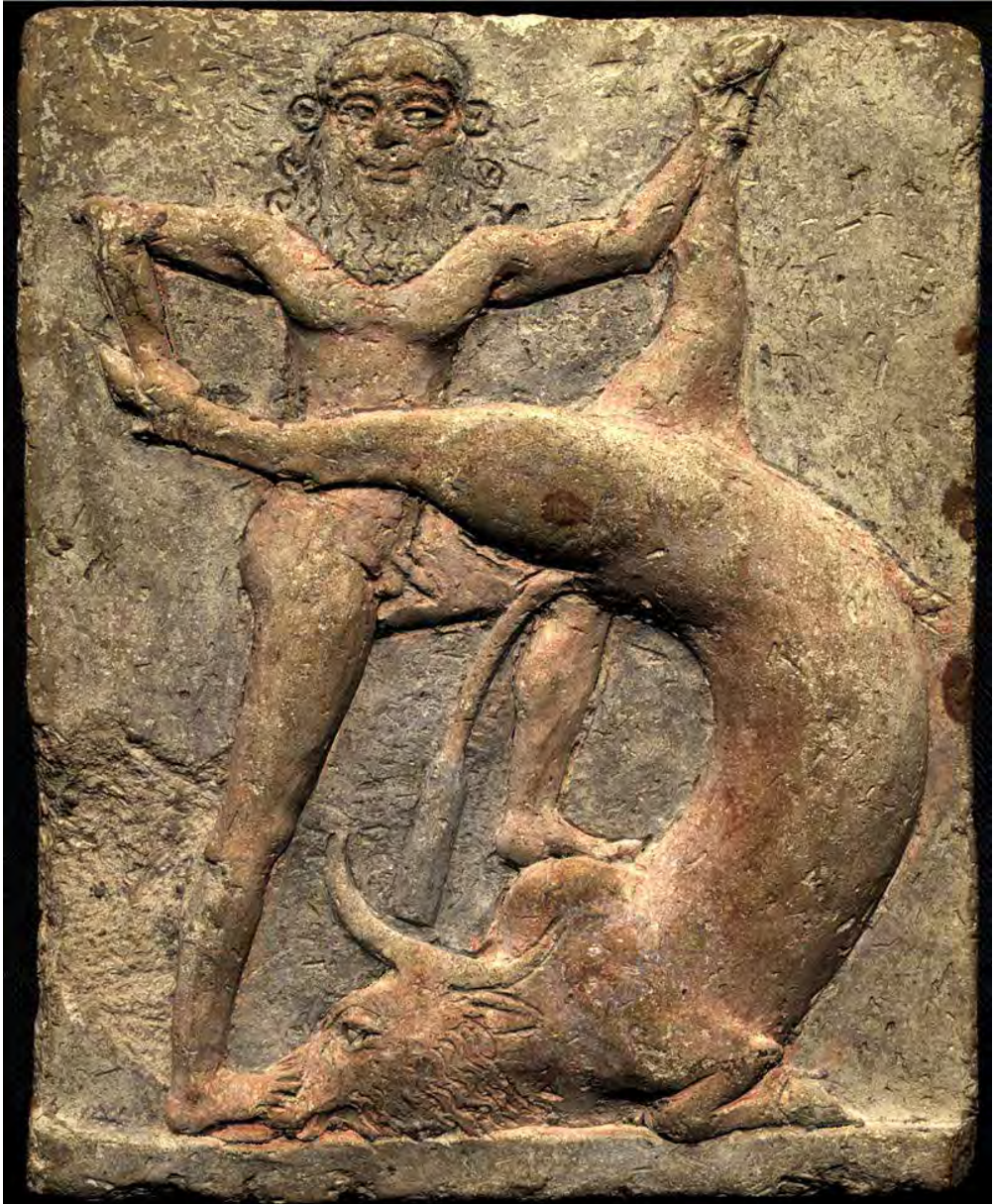
Gilgamesh was the son of Enlil, who was the God of Wisdom in ancient Mesopotamia. The people of Uruk were complaining about Gilgamesh, because he was oppressing them. They prayed to the gods to create a man who could challenge him. In response, the gods sent Enkidu, a hybrid man-animal who ate and drank like an animal and lived with the wild beasts. After a long battle, Gilgamesh and Enkidu became inseparable friends. Together they went on various journeys and passed difficult trials. Their first journey began in the Cedar Forest, where they had to overcome an attack by Huwawa, the guardian of the forest. "Life in the forest" represents our personality which changes depending on our desires. And the guardian of this forest represents our pride which we carry throughout our lives. The first task for Gilgamesh and Enkidu was to overcome pride.

They then continued their journey across rivers, mountains and fields, encountering wild animals, fire and bulls, and overcoming the trials set before them.

At the end of their journey together, Gilgamesh had to face the trial of losing his friend Enkidu. He mourned the death of his friend for seven days and seven nights. When Gilgamesh finally accepted the death of Enkidu, he started to question the meaning of life. "Shall I not die like Enkidu?" He sees that the only way to escape from death is to gain immortality. So he goes in search of the survivor of the Great Flood, Utnapishtim. The rest of the myth tells the story of the flood and the journey of Gilgamesh in his search for immortality.

Gilgamesh is not only a hero from the myths of Mesopotamia but, as in many myths, his existence has a correspondence in each of us. His trials are also similar to our difficulties in life. He tries to teach Enkidu to be civilized; as our wild, animal nature needs to be educated. Finally, his questions about life when he meets the trial of death are questions that belong to any human being who is seeking a life beyond the purely material level.

Link to article: <https://library.acropolis.org/the-epic-of-gilgamesh/>



Representation of Gilgamesh, the king-hero from the city of Uruk, battling the 'bull of heavens'; terracotta relief kept at the Royal Museums of Art and History, Brussels

Image courtesy Wikimedia Commons



PHILOSOPHY

CULTURE

VOLUNTEERING

New Acropolis is an international non-profit volunteer-run organization, having a philosophical, cultural and social approach. It was founded in 1957 as a school of Practical Philosophy in the Classical Style, to promote the ideal of timeless values towards human development.

In over 60 countries where New Acropolis is present, this vision is implemented through an eclectic range of teachings, practices and activities, inspired by Classics of both Western and Eastern global cultures and ancient civilizations. Our programs, based on philosophy that is practical and active, combine theoretical and practical education with expressions in the fields of Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering. With over 20,000 volunteers of all ages, cultural backgrounds, and social levels, New Acropolis emphasizes principles of Coexistence, Fraternity and mutual collaboration beyond cultural, sexual, or religious differences.

We at New Acropolis all over the World are greatly Inspired also by the timeless principles of the Ancient Classical Indian Cultures, Arts and Philosophies. New Acropolis in India, same as in all our centres worldwide, seeks to take inspiration, knowledge and best practices from the rich artistic, Spiritual and cultural human heritage in order to enhance both individual and collective human development.

PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy, when it is practical, is educational. It helps us to know ourselves and to improve ourselves. To be a philosopher is a way of life committed to the best aspirations of humanity.



The Secret Gardener

A philosophical and practical workshop on the wisdom of the garden.



"Strength to Love": Celebrating Martin Luther King (Boston, USA)

An interactive event about the life, ideals and legacy of this inspiring individual.

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.



Hunt for the Good deed!

Celebrating the 61st anniversary of New Acropolis International organisation through a Treasure hunt of acts of service.



"Movuntu" Dance Performance (Tel Aviv, Israel)

Special artistic performance based on the South African concept of "Ubuntu".

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is the natural expression of a spirit of union with life and humanity, which manifests in the practice of values such as unselfishness, commitment and striving for the common good.



In collaboration with SignLab, an initiative to promote the awareness of Sign language amongst the public.



Watch the video here, and feel free to share it amongst your circles to spread awareness about the importance of more people learning sign language to create a more inclusive society.



Blood Donation Camp (Tirana, Albania)

In collaboration with the Red Cross, to support children suffering from anaemia.

Schedule of Events at New Acropolis, Bangalore



October to December 2018

OCTOBER



PUBLIC EVENT

Butterfly Effect : The Freedom to Change

Date: 2nd Oct (Tuesday)

Time: 11am to 12 noon - Talk and Discussion on "Freedom to Change"

12 noon to 2pm - Interactive Art Installation

Venue: Rangasthala, Rangoli Metro Art Center, MG Road

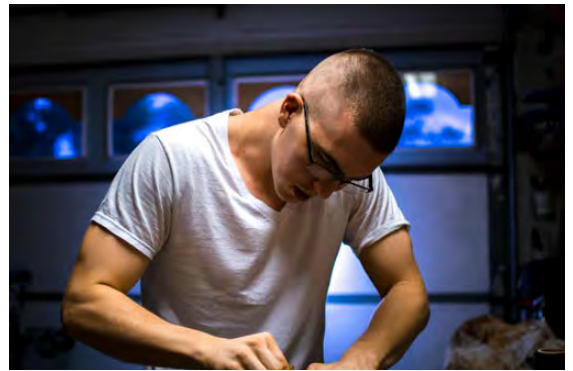
Celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

While change is constant, often it is a single spark that triggers a movement of change that transforms our lives and our communities.

Every small act of positive change in one part of the world carries with it the ripple effect to make a significant impact in another.

Just as a butterfly symbolizes transformation, the journey from the cocoon to the freedom of the skies, the butterfly effect promises the possibility of this fascinating journey towards bringing collective change around us.

This Gandhi Jayanti, come be a part of The Butterfly Effect, an interactive Public Art installation to spread the message of Hope and Fraternity as we celebrate the spirit of transformation, with a creative art activity for all to enjoy.



PUBLIC TALK

Working Wisely: The Simple Magic That Changes Dreams to Reality

Date: Oct 13th (Saturday)

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Venue: New Acropolis, Bangalore

As human beings each of us is engaged in many different activities daily in relation to the different aspects of our life, and the different roles we play. We have our careers to build, our families to take care of, our studies to complete, our interests to nurture.

Work is a channel by which we express ourselves in this world and bring our own special essence to life in it. Any activity can become either a burden or a way for us to build our inner capacity, inner strength and our wisdom. What makes the difference is the inner mental attitude we develop towards it.

In this talk we will explore how to work wisely and discover the simple magic that changes thoughts to actions and dreams to reality.

Schedule of Events at New Acropolis, Bangalore



October to December 2018

OCTOBER



PUBLIC TALK The Wisdom of Socrates

Date: Oct 31st (Wednesday)

Time: 7:30 to 9:30 PM

Venue: New Acropolis, Bangalore

"The secret to happiness is not found in seeking more, but in developing the capacity to enjoy less." - Socrates

One of the most recognisable names in Philosophy, and at the same time very enigmatic, the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates brings many profound teachings from what he said to the way he lived life which serve as valuable lessons for us in the 21st century. While his wisdom and methods of enquiry have greatly influenced western philosophical thought and inspired many down the centuries, he himself wrote nothing and not much is known about him as an individual, other than from the writings of his disciples. Join us as we explore the life and teachings of Socrates in our universal quest for happiness.

Image courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

NOVEMBER



PUBLIC TALK Inner Leadership- Lessons from Marcus Aurelius, the Roman Caesar

Date: Nov 21st (Wednesday)

Time: 7:30 to 9:30 PM

Venue: New Acropolis, Bangalore

"You have power over your mind, not over outside events. Realise this, and you will find strength" - Marcus Aurelius

In a world of rapid change and constant ethical dilemmas, decisions and choices to be made at every turn, have we almost given up hope for a leadership that will enable us to build a better tomorrow? Perhaps we need to ask ourselves, who is a true leader and where will he/she come from?

Or maybe the answer lies closer home - maybe that leader is us!

Let us look at what practical wisdom the Stoics, and in particular the great noble Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, has to offer us about inner leadership to bring necessary change in our life and in the lives of others.

Image courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

Schedule of Events at New Acropolis, Bangalore



October to December 2018

NOVEMBER



PUBLIC EVENT

Philosophy Utsav - celebrating World Philosophy Day

Date: Nov 17th, Saturday

Time: 1.30 PM to 9 PM

Venue: New Acropolis, Bangalore

Come November, the World Philosophy Day, as established by UNESCO is celebrated around the world to mark the enduring value of Philosophy in our lives and in our societies. New Acropolis Bangalore marks the occasion with a special series of events and activities that explore the various expressions of Philosophy through the channels of Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering. Join in the celebration to participate in exciting sessions, workshops and performances that enable us to recognize and work with the spirit of philosophy in our contemporary lives.

Image courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

Schedule of Events at New Acropolis, Bangalore



October to December 2018

DECEMBER



14 WEEK COURSE Living Philosophy

Course starts: 19th Dec (Wednesday)
Intro sessions: 28th Nov and 5th Dec (Wednesdays)
Venue: New Acropolis, Bangalore

A 14-week Foundation course in Practical Philosophy that brings philosophical teachings of the major ancient civilisations from east to west- from Confucius to Plato, from Tibetan Buddhism to Ancient Egypt.

Aimed to foster an active philosophical approach to our daily life, the weekly once classes will uncover the keys to inner growth and wisdom towards leading a much more meaningful and significant life.

For more details on the course, please refer to the back cover.



PUBLIC TALK Bushido - The way of the Warrior

Date: Dec 8th (Saturday)
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 PM
Venue: New Acropolis, Bangalore

"While life is a call to duty... this code, is a guide for the right passage across life's challenges."

Bushido (Japanese - the way of the Warrior) encapsulates the right way to live. It calls for an appreciation of life and teaches us to lead by example. Over the ages, it crystallised into eight virtues that constitute the path of the warrior. While originally practiced centuries ago, the wisdom of the Bushido can provide the individual of today with a means for transformation into a chivalrous person of strength, civility and politeness. The lecture, which will be followed by an Open house, will seek to find the right expression of the code for the modern world of today.

Image courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



Members of New Acropolis share their experience



Shweta Hegde

I joined the Living Philosophy course at a time in my life where I was constantly battling with various forms of inner conflicts. I was seeking a door that would welcome me and help me understand myself, my conflicts and the tools to deal with them.

The living philosophy course was that open door - the environment at New Acropolis was a combination of discipline and freedom. Here I felt the essence of a rooted tree which keeps it grounded and yet has the freedom to grow outwards as well as inward. I had initially come seeking a way to understand the self, but it was not the only thing that I received. I understood that everyone has a path which would ultimately lead them towards the divine within but not everyone recognizes this purpose.

It is a very experiential journey that I've just embarked on and being a part of New Acropolis gives me the support and encouragement to acquire more knowledge and derive the wisdom out of it to choose and become a better person every day.



Nikhil Vashishtha

I came to know about New Acropolis while roaming in Marine Drive, Mumbai serendipitously when I was handed a copy of The Acropolitan (the quarterly magazine of New Acropolis -North India). At that time I was in college, so after I graduated and joined a job in Bengaluru, I joined the Living Philosophy course at New Acropolis, Bangalore.

It was one of the first fulfilling experiences I have had, both in intellectual and spiritual terms - the way people different in almost all conceivable ways, unite and together we work for betterment of the soul of ourselves and the society. Here, it is both about the place and the people.. I have since continued my journey at New Acropolis.

LIVING PHILOSOPHY

To Discover. To Awaken. To Transform.



Foundation course to Practical Philosophy at New Acropolis

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

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.

Some of the themes that will be covered in the Living Philosophy course include:



Know Thyself

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



The Peaceful Warrior

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.



Liberation - Inspiration from 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.



Ethical Leadership

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.

Register for the upcoming Living
Philosophy course at

www.acropolis.org.in

Course starts : Dec 19, Wednesday
Duration : 14 weeks (1 class per
week, 7:30 to 9:30 PM every
Wednesday)

Free introductory sessions:

Nov 28 and Dec 05, 7:30 to 8:30 PM

LIVING PHILOSOPHY

A Practical Philosophy Course To Discover. To Awaken. To Transform.

A foundation course in Practical Philosophy that brings philosophical teachings of the major ancient civilisations from east to west- from Confucius to Plato, from Tibetan Buddhism to Ancient Egypt.

Aimed to foster an active philosophical approach to our daily life, the weekly-once classes will uncover the keys to inner growth and wisdom towards leading a much more meaningful and significant life.

NA
PHILOSOPHY · CULTURE · VOLUNTEERING
NEW ACROPOLIS



Course Starts: December 19, 2018, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM, (Wed)
Free Intro Sessions: Nov 28 & Dec 05, 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

To register please visit www.acropolis.org.in/living-philosophy
Course fee applicable

www.acropolis.org.in

info@newacropolis.in | +91 96638 04871

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