

SPARKS

SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY, ART, RELIGION and KNOWLEDGE for the SPIRIT and SOUL

A Publication of Education for Enlightenment, sponsored by TRIUNE OF LIGHT

Volume1, Lesson 4



Welcome to SPARKS, an acronym for Science, Philosophy, Art, Religion and Knowledge for the Spirit and Soul. These disciplines have long been recognized as essential to the well-rounded education of children and adults alike. All the articles, poetry, etc. that you see in this mailing are original pieces written by members of TRIUNE. If you would like to comment on anything in this publication or would like to receive these mailings electronically on a regular basis, please send an email to info@triuneoflight.org, with "SPARKS" in your subject heading. We also invite you to browse our website at www.triuneoflight.org to learn more about our work.

This issue, our main article is by Dorothy Pinkett, an American member with a background in social services. Her article illustrates how a seemingly small idea can make an enormous difference in the lives of young students. We also include several items written by other TRIUNE members, such as poems and meditations, which you can use with children and/or adults in academic settings, for religious education classes, or simply for your own enjoyment. Feel free to contact us for permission to photocopy or re-distribute anything you see in this mailing; but please remember that this publication is the exclusive intellectual and physical property of the articles' authors and/or TRIUNE OF LIGHT, and may not be used for financial profit or reproduced, re-distributed or re-posted either in print format or electronically on any website, forum, blog or similar entity without our express permission. If you have questions, send an email to info@triuneoflight.org with "Permission Request" in your subject heading.

Our first contribution is a lovely poem called "Seedlings," written by American, Tasha Halpert, a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who has written poetry since she was a young child. Tasha has also been a professional folk singer, creator of children's programs for cable television and meditation teacher. In what ways are you a "seedling," too?

Seedlings by Tasha Halpert

Where do we come from and where do we go?
Are we like seedlings under the snow
Waiting to blossom and grow in the sun.
Where have we ended and where begun?
Are we like leaves on a mighty green tree,
Growing and changing and fluttering free,
Showing our colors while seasons roll past,
Sharing ourselves with the earth at the last.
Summer and winter are known to us all.
We follow the seasons the spring and the fall,
Turning our faces to seek out the Light,
Closing our petals to sleep for the night.
Children of pasture, of woodland and shore,
Part of the afterward, part of before,
Seed in the blossom and blossom in seed,
All we are given is all that we need.
Where do we come from and where do we go?
Are we like seedlings under the snow
Waiting to blossom and grow in the sun,
Where have we ended and where begun?



An Earth-Based Creed

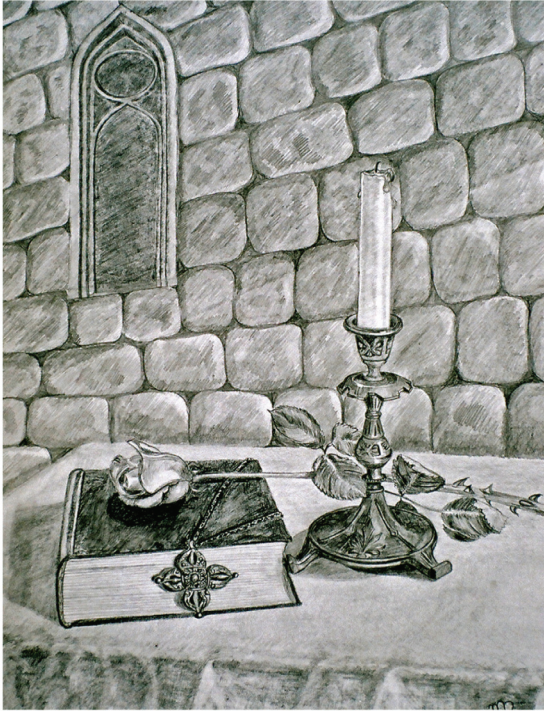
By Heathclyff St. James-Deville

There is a Creed that goes – “An It Harm None, Do As Ye Wilt.” The term “An” here is simply an old word for “if.” The beauty of this saying is that it truly connects us to all other living beings, be they plants, animals, birds, fish and other humans. This Creed helps us to appreciate the concept of “Universal Brotherhood,” Universal Lifehood, (to coin a phrase) like no other. It also can guide us in how we should live our own life in relation to ourselves – not intentionally doing anything that may harm us – such as taking drugs, eating unwisely, ignoring our own physical, emotional and spiritual health.

For me, I think this is a really good Creed to live by as it helps me to appreciate all the numerous life forms that are around me; to “Harm None.” It also goes beyond doing “Good,” simply for my own gain. In a way, it even goes to developing in me an understanding of why there are many people who go well beyond their own “Good,” to sacrifice, as it were, themselves for a higher “Good,” one that can be seen in the ways of the Martyrs of old, or people who risk their lives to help other beings – and not necessarily only people. “An It Harm None, Do As Ye Wilt” is one that I have made my own personal Creed to live by.

Heathclyff lives in Australia with his dascshund, Swizzel, and has been involved with issues surrounding animals for about 35 years. He has sat on various committees and was with the Australian Wildlife Protection Council for 18 years. Heathclyff writes from an Earth-based spiritual perspective and has given many talks at the Theosophical Society (Pasadena) in Glen Huntly, Victoria over the years.

Almost every day, we hear about people who live in areas of the world which are experiencing wars, famines, disease outbreaks and other troubling things. TRIUNE member and radio personality, David Hauenstein, suggests using the following meditation, which he wrote to help bring more Light, Love and Joy into our world. In particular, you can send good thoughts to those areas where people may be suffering from man-made or natural disasters. To perform the meditation, sit quietly, clear your mind and follow David's instructions.



Visualize and send energy to the now suffering children and see them as well-fed, happy, creative and loved. See them as free to grow and become. See them flying kites of joy. And see their mothers as being able to provide food, nursing, comfort and guidance to their children. See the aid workers successfully entering the camps and distributing the food and medical attention that provide the underpinning the children and mothers need to attend to, becoming free to discover the beauty of life. And see the fathers, not as destroyers of humans, but as men returning from war, dropping their weapons, frustrations and hate for a return to loving and learning from their wives and children, and the waiting wise ones. This is an expression of unconditional love.

Drawing by **Margarita Riaikkenen**, *Still Life with a Candle and Rose* (copyright 1998)

A Leap of Faith

By Dorothy Pinkett

When Dorothy was asked to chair the Literacy Enrichment Achievement Program (L.E.A.P.) in Philadelphia 21 years ago, computer technology wasn't as widely available as today and "desktop publishing" of documents was still a fairly new concept. It certainly took a leap of faith for Dorothy and her co-workers to implement the L.E.A.P. project; but Dorothy, her team, and the students who came to the program persevered, proving that even small beginnings can yield great accomplishments.

With a group of others, I developed a demonstration project to introduce desktop publishing to students in 1994. I became the President of the project, which was called the Literacy Enrichment Achievement Program or L.E.A.P.

Our team consisted of an experienced teacher, a very good friend of mine who taught in the Philadelphia school system and then retired early and traveled to Germany to teach students of

families that served on an Army base there. She taught there for eight years. Other persons interested in L.E.A.P. included a young lady who had experience working with children and a person who published a local newspaper using desktop publishing. My experience was working in day care with children aged three to eleven.

It was the experience of the person who circulated a newspaper using desktop publishing that gave us the idea of using it as a model for students. We developed a demonstration project for desktop publishing to present to public schools. After the guidelines for the project were completed and we obtained permission from a high school to present it, we obtained funding. We formed a Board and eventually got funding from a Philadelphia newspaper group.

The duration of the project was one school semester. The school selected students who would participate from tenth and eleventh grades. The unlikelihood that some of them would stay in school and graduate was the concern of the Principal. That was her reason for selecting them. Some were from broken homes and had no interest in attending school. The member of our team who was an educator knew the Principal of the school we selected. Both were very dynamic educators. The Principal offered one credit for each student who would attend to the completion of the program. We had 10-15 students to attend on a regular basis.

We invited speakers to come and talk with the students. One was a female judge. She was delighted to see a program that engaged students. She had seen so many young people incarcerated due to lack of education and concern of the community and family.

Our students learned how to use the computer to produce their own newspaper, with stories and poetry written by them. They personally distributed the papers to other high schools in the city. The group was invited to the Board of Education and spoke with Administrators who were impressed enough to include them in a Board of Education magazine article about student achievement.

My friend who had taught in Germany arranged through their counselor to have their students meet our students when they came here to America to apply for college entry in our country. It was an exhilarating experience for them as well as for us.

One of the most important aspects of the project was that we had a student win a "Ronald McDonald" essay contest. All the students graduated from high school, and a number of them went to college. At the State level, the group was given a favorable review when my friend the educator and I went to Harrisburg, our State Capital, to discuss the group and the project.

This experience showed us how truly engaged students become when they know that others are interested in their success.

Dorothy's experience proves that ordinary citizens who have ideas about change can make a big difference in the lives of others. We never know just how much we can accomplish unless we take that first step and TRY. We encourage readers to contact us with stories of your own projects which have helped make a difference in the lives of other people, animals or the environment.

We close with a purifying prayer, written by Joann Monaco, who is also the head of our healing network. If you need healing or know someone else who does, you can send names to us for inclusion in our distance healing rituals. You might want to use the following prayer in your own periods of quiet reflection, prayer and meditation.

God of our Hearts,
In pure humility, we invoke Thy Celestial Altar
where shines the All-Pervading Greater Light
and undying fire of Truth, Wisdom and Understanding.
This Sacred Light illumines eternally undimmed
through the receptive hearts and souls of those who gather now at this,
Thy Sanctuary, in Unity and true fellowship.
We now attune with this all encompassing Divine Essence of the Cosmic,
that it may infuse our Being,
enfold us
and shine forth ever brilliantly out to all the world,
that Thy Will transmute, harmonize and heal humanity.
For the Greater Good of all,
may Thy pure and perfect Love radiate forth,
bathing the souls of our world in Thy Eternal Light,
blessing us with Peace Profound.
Creator of All,
may Thy Holy Spirit purify and protect us, our work, our planet and the life
sustained therein.
It is the true and pure Christos,
Thy Light in our hearts,
emanating from each and all,
that we honor in gratitude and stand as One.
AMEN
OM MANI PADMI HUM
May the Greater Light sanctify this attunement for the Greater Good of All.
So Mote It Be!

