

YOUR SPIRITUAL REVOLUTION

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Virtual Spirituality





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Message From The Editor

The internet has created an unprecedented intensification of interactivity in human communication. People living in distant locations can now gather knowledge rapidly and interact with one another instantly. The World Wide Web, like any technological tool, is a double-edged sword and can be used for the greater good or misused for inflicting harm, according to the level of consciousness of those who use it. We must evolve ways to use the internet for developing a spiritual consciousness for ensuring the survival and further evolution of humanity and Earth.



This special issue is on spirituality in the virtual realm. Virtual Spirituality includes the advancement of spiritual consciousness evolution using various levels of internet technology like email, instant chat, websites, e-books, e-magazines, online social networking and 3D online virtual reality worlds like Second Life. This issue presents unique perspectives from people who have tapped various virtual technological tools to advance spiritual consciousness evolution both individually and collectively.

Love and Light,

Prabhath P

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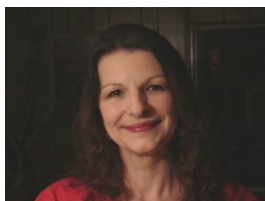
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Spiritual Pioneers in The Virtual World

By Aniko Babos

My profound journey to the Cyber and then the Virtual world actually began in earnest in 2000. The turn of the Millennium and the internal shifts, really started way before that, from the mid 1990s onwards for me.



The atmosphere, spirit and emotion were of great hope and the feel was of a very high vibration as the turn of a new century approached, on so many levels. For this, I refer to the many weekly scheduled events done, it seemed, in nearly every town, large and small, in Northern Western Washington where I

lived. In bookstores, metaphysical shops, events and fairs, so many gathered to share and explore the upcoming turning point of 2000. We elevated one another and we felt we were helping to elevate the world in awareness and in consciousness. From this background, I came, heady with hope and inspiration to try out the internet in what, by then, I surely knew as an aspect of my purpose here.

I was encouraged to join an online spiritual company by a neighbor and friend. I was grateful for her support and know-how, as I learned that truly, doing consultations was no harder and in a short time grew rapidly easier and easier to do online. Having a lifelong background and interest in many

aspects of metaphysical subjects and studies, I felt I had come 'home' again, this time to a new family, those of my co-workers and clients at what was Angels Play.com.

Here I found I could work, share experience, learn, and teach with a new freedom and enjoyment. I also ran cyber chat rooms on aol.com for my company and also independently. The topic then as it is now, was all things spiritual and metaphysical, with a focus on Tarot, Channeling, and Dream Interpretation. I felt it was a glorious, unlimited, and fantastic experience, meeting so many people from all parts of the world and social levels, ages and races, who shared a common purpose and interest.

We knew we were blessed to meet one another in this way, on the internet with seemingly no traditional barriers, which helped facilitate our connection and bonding.

Something very fundamental and profound was happening to us all, as we realized we not only could but were transcending into new inner levels of growth as we spent time there.

This growth by my own perception was accelerated, to often near dizzying levels and speed as the 'freedom' to connect and be heard, to hear and to share was unbounded, compared to the more linear traditional pathways I had encountered in the past.

Information was so much more readily available both in the form of internet resources and from people I met in the cyber world. So too, was the incredible energy and spirit found there. Beyond any previously known and understood principles of awareness, we surpassed time, distance and belief contrasts, to share in the wonder of what was occurring, right then, right now and I suspect all ways in the future.

We not only explored Tarot cards and readings, but Channeling, Mediumship, Remote Viewing, Astrological identification and Reiki style long distance healing. I was privileged to run and partake

in shared group channeling, something I could only dream about or even try to visualize previously.

Yet here we were and not only did we connect with spirit but with each other's spirits too, in the forms of guides, helpers and teachers. It even came to pass for me, that some of my peers/friends' guides were as or more recognizable as the person who conducted it!! By the magic of chat logging on the internet, I have most of these logs still, and the wisdom and relevance we shared in, amazes me to this day. Through the years, we grew thus and I know each of us had one or many parts of self inestimably grow from those times, and helped shape who we became.

This brings me to my recent past and current work on the Virtual Reality continuum and Second Life specifically. I found Second Life by an AOL promotion and link, and I went there, signed up and discovered the joy and beauty of being with a 3D body in a 3D virtual world. Yet more like my earlier experience of internet chatrooms where one could meet, and speak to people about anything, just about from anywhere in the world. I was very entranced and have not looked back since.

I also quickly foresaw and determined that here was one of the greatest yet possibilities to teach and run classes as I had before, but now enhanced beyond anything I had a chance to try in the past, visually, aurally and even spiritually. In a very short time, I found Mystic Academy and Dragon Shichiroji, his incredible staff and castle, where metaphysical subjects were not only allowed but taught, and supported!!! Oh, what joy and admiration too, I felt for these prescient and generous people working selflessly for the greater good in all of us!

I have found yet another new home, but this time it spanned a glorious new universe in awareness. This was in February 2007, and since my arrival there, I have seen phenomenal growth in numbers and participation. From just over 300 members, our numbers grew to over 1600 plus and still growing

today. Our staff has grown exponentially to over 50 plus now and still climbing.

Here I have continued my journey in the pathways of awareness, and the quickly growing variety of subjects and courses offered, not only pertaining to the metaphysical but also to Math, Science, various spiritual and religious beliefs, are inspiring and incredible.

The nearly infinite creative potential of the Virtual worlds are impressive to contemplate and experience. The parallels to inner self-awareness and our subconscious reality defy definition.

I am also often bemused by how the Virtual mirrors our physical lives and content, but at a much faster track. Worlds appear and disappear, as the needs for them change, and shapes we choose to be seen as or in, evolve quickly, as we explore who we are.

In addition, I have experienced and heard from others that the reality of our dreams have now also

included Second Life, as we build our dreams there and it is in our own dreams frequently as well. With that being said, for me, the greatest miracle I have witnessed in the Virtual world is that of healing, as people have actually solved long standing emotional and even physical issues through this special avenue of opportunity and supportive experience.

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Imagine All The People Living For Today

By Divyaa Kummar



An exploration of Virtual Spirituality

There is no such thing as a self made man. We are all made up of thousands of others. Everyone who has ever done a kind deed for us, or spoken one word of encouragement to us, has entered into the make up of our character and of our thoughts as well as our success. (And consciousness) - George M Adams

Welcome to the virtual world! And whilst many think of 'virtual' reality in terms of it being less real than our physical one, it is paradoxically this so-called virtual world that is closer to the Absolute

than its physical reflection that we call 'real' life! No wonder, that suddenly, the virtual world in terms of the World Wide Web is alive and kicking, as it must, for as humanity begins to step out of the boundaries and limitations imposed by the seemingly 'real' world, the demarcations diffuse day by day; and even as you read this, you are straddling both worlds!

A quick search on thesaurus shows up the meanings of virtual as : fundamental, essential, effective, and this further brings home to us that the virtual world is not, as implied in spoken parlance,

some make-believe and insubstantial world (as it is often considered in comparison to the more physical one)! It is tangible and is the cause of the effects we call real life - and in that, virtual spirituality is an ideal platform, for change of human consciousness to flow from!

There is a subtle but vital difference between the 'tangible' and 'physical' worlds although the words are often used interchangeably! Numerologically tangible is symbolized by number 3, and the physical by number 4. Tangible implies form, structure and a reality on the inner planes; thereby referring to a reality of finer vibration than our physical density! And it is when this virtual reality gains enough critical mass, does it reflect as our material and corporeal reality! Think about this, physical reality is the reflection, and the virtual is the real! This is why thoughts matter because they literally become the matter of our physical world! And once again we can perhaps understand the vital role of the virtual world and naturally of Virtual Spirituality, for as it gains critical mass by reaching out to millions, it must reflect in physical ways; and in that will the virtual enhance and coalesce as an enhanced physical and so infinitum! It is indeed the evolution of consciousness!

Virtual Spirituality encompasses as wide a range as physical spirituality. Just as the physical spiritual journey encompasses multitudinous texts and scriptures; myriad teachers, guides and Masters; wide-ranging retreats, programs and paths, Virtual Spirituality has its myriad magazines, mailing lists, discussion groups and on-line movies. Masters teachers and guides can be read or heard or seen or even chatted with; websites become the retreats with their writings, courses, programs, meditations, music and more available at a click - somewhere to lose a few moments and find yourself! A new path is added to the usual karma, bhakti, gyan and raj paths - call it science, quantum physics, or the virtual path, which becomes a meeting place for all! It makes me think that the virtual world is that vital step towards what we have all yearned for at some time, and was

promised by the many avatars - where all is available instantly; where we are all connected with all; where differences of nationality, race, age and class don't exist; where space and time are overcome!

Thus Virtual Spirituality is actually a quantum leap of human consciousness, which we sometimes don't really understand at a deeper level, viewing it only in terms of technological advances! Perhaps even writing it off as a 'virtual' reality, close to real, but not quite so! But with this backdrop in mind we may better understand the importance of the World Wide Web and the increasing role it plays in the expansion of consciousness. The words World Wide Web are not randomly arrived at for it truly refers to the grid of human consciousness! What was a mere esoteric concept, or within the reach of a few, is now accessible at a click! You can access human consciousness - its knowledge and intelligence lovingly shared and expressed - literally pinging into your 'inbox'!

The 'ping' is your heart beating in thankfulness of the sharing; or the 'ah' satori moment of increased knowing; or the eureka of your mind being stretched to a newer level, each one literally being an initiation, for that is truly what initiations are - expansion of your energy fields and consciousness! You do not need the hand of a master on your forehead to confer it - that usually being a symbolic gesture of the master facilitating these inner shifts within. Thus Virtual Spirituality brings alive the traditional concept of the upaguru - the guru within each one of us. And as each one's inner guru comes forth, so also does the new age concept of each of us being the avatar we are waiting for!

Of course, both physical and virtual versions of spirituality have their relative strengths and challenges. As we are familiar with the physical world, let us explore some of the advantages of Virtual Spirituality. The virtual world being established (through the above exploration) as more 'real' than its physical reflection, and thus the 'cause' of physical effects, 'finer' in vibration, plus closer to

the world of thoughts which become the material people, events and things that make up our worlds, it becomes an ideal platform for the change of human consciousness! To quote Seth: “First of all, physical events are the end products of nonphysical properties.”

With the World Wide Web going beyond the limitations of time and space, it allows both those who reach out and those who seek, an instant connection. Thus each one can access spiritual input completely as per their own time schedules - no waiting, no time lag, no appointments. The spiritual goal of self empowerment becomes part of the journey instead!

Of course, one of the biggest advantages is the dissolution of physical boundaries, and thus being able to reach out to, or receive guidance from anywhere in the world! At a click, you can browse ancient secret doctrines, or new age truths; you can receive input from the other end of your world and paradoxically access more wholly even what is happening, spiritually speaking, locally too! This comes close to 'channeling' (which has become so popular these days) for the lay man, as he accesses information from 'realms' otherwise out of bounds for him! It literally brings alive the spiritual adage: “Ask and thou shall receive.”

Search options allow you to choose that which you require in the now! Texts, scriptures and discourses imply a mass of information and sometimes you lose rather than find yourself in this. Virtual Spirituality makes it easy to hone in as per your individual needs, for every journey is unique.

An interesting aspect of Virtual Spirituality is how it works optimally in the NOW! Texts and scriptures inherently contain truths of all levels; seemingly contradictory too; yet none being wrong or redundant because different eras, based on critical mass human evolution, require a certain interpretation in every 'now.' More so, within that, seekers 'progress' varying too, and thus each era or seeker 'finds' within the texts whatever they require

for their current growth as 'THE' truth; and seeks for the next, or higher truth to expand into. The texts are encoded and tailor-made to each seeker in his Now, and the ancient tradition of gurukuls (private tuition almost in the modern context) would lead you to what 'you' needed currently. In the modern spiritual world, this personal interpretation got lost somewhere along the way, and mere reading of spiritual books doesn't always serve you optimally. This gap is now being filled through Virtual Spirituality through its wide ranging platform of websites, mailing lists, spiritual groups, channelings and access to various masters and modes, all helping you interpret the wealth of knowledge according to your specific current needs! Bringing texts, scriptures, religions alive in a personal context! Enabling you in the Now!

Even live discourses (satsangs) are usually addressed to large groups with both the 'lowest' and 'highest' common denominators being kept in mind. While the discerning are able to find what they need, seekers often remain confused. The virtual world, once again steps in, through various means (especially discussion groups with dedicated coordinators) to question, discuss and debate, before arriving at your truths. Thus paradoxically, the virtual world, often called an impersonal communication, brings a personal touch to spirituality! A new connotation to “As the student is ready, a teacher appears!”

Daily spiritually oriented mailing lists perform a unique service! For you receive (at your comfort) daily input which works on the same principle that daily satsangs 'work' - repetition and ongoing input helps in real long-lasting transformation! Beliefs are thoughts repeated! Continued focus helps you become what you focus on! You become where you place your attention! The right stimulus helps your brain unlock its secrets! Repetition helps you engrave new pathways! Neuroscience emphasizes how repeated attention (the secret behind mantras) can change neural pathways (karma) and lead to new synapses being formed - call it free will, quantum

change or evolution! Now view any daily spiritual mail you receive, through this lens and view the power of Virtual Spirituality - how it allows you to select what you choose to focus on, pay attention, repeat and thus make your consciousness and it's reality!

Just like the larger reality where 'One becomes many' and each individuation (of the whole) serves a vital purpose (for the whole) through their individuality, (why God chooses to individuate), the different websites remain part of the one whole World Wide Web, yet remain distinct and inviolate to best serve their individual contribution! Each one's truth, each one's message is valid; and like free will, it is given its due space to grow in, thrive in, evolve in; and beckon by the law of attraction those who need that interaction or relationship towards their own journeys!

Virtual games are also moving into the spiritual zone, allowing the younger generations their individual explorations and virtual experiences of Creatorhood! I recently read about a virtual game where you can play God and create a world that you choose and it made me think how more 'real' it can be, for learning and growth through play is what it is all about!

Last but not the least, is the 'free' exchange of all the above! Free information and sharing of personal experiences and more, fills each heart every day with profuse thankfulness! I think each one of us who is reading this must have experienced this, the heartfelt appreciation for that 'unknown' author whose words were just what we needed for the day; the gratitude for the wealth of information contained in literally each 'gold' nugget that comes to us from seemingly out of the 'blue'; the wordless wonder as each mosaic helps us build up our own individual larger pictures! Taking the world and its consciousness to the next realm of energy exchange, for we may indeed glimpse here the initial shift from the material exchange called money (which is valid and required in our material worlds) to the inner

exchange of a new consciousness.

To me, Virtual Spirituality's strength really lies in the 'eureka' that almost so-called 'goals' of any spiritual endeavor are already present in this virtual self exploration and journey! Glance above, so that I do not need to re-enumerate, and view how virtual spirituality literally encompasses within its folds where it seeks to take you! Gently, quietly, it helps you slip off the time track, switch from outside to within, stranger does not rhyme with danger anymore and love is everywhere!

John Lennon's words "Imagine all the people living for today...Imagine all the people living as one" come alive in this context, not as a dream 'to imagine' but already present, tangibly through the virtual world and its spirituality, as the new human consciousness, ushering in a new dimension!

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Internet Spirituality The Larger Picture

By Ellaeenah

One of the foremost terms that a disciple on the path of ascension learns is 'the larger picture'. What is this ephemeral 'larger picture'? It sounds so good, but means pitifully little, with teachers of this so-called 'larger picture' being often as lost in the jigsaw as the fumbling student. Maybe it's time someone explained this concept in words that make some practical, down-to-earth sense. The larger picture urges you to see yourself as a small but wondrous part of the Universal Tapestry that is woven with one unbroken thread, miraculously leading back to the Divine Weaver. Within the tapestry are woven all the thoughts that have ever been and could ever be; all the beliefs, past, present and future, all possibilities,



probabilities and even what you may consider 'unbelievable clap trap.' If it can be imagined, if it can be expressed either in the silence of the heart or the brain, or through the sound of the mellifluous voice, if it can be felt, within or outside of you, if it can be seen through vision or the naked eye, if it can be heard by your Beingness at any level, then it IS a part of the Universal Tapestry. If it is truth from any perspective, even that which is diametrically opposite your own, then it IS a silken thread that enriches this 'larger picture'.

I remember reading the wonderful description of the one fish in the tank given by Deepak Chopra. Depending on where you stand, you see the fish differently and thus instantly jump to the conclusion that they are all different fish. Internet Spirituality is much like this mysterious fish in the tank - one, but oh, so many!!! The number of websites are too numerous to count and there are as many versions of

truth as there are proponents of these truths. The question many ask is "which of these are true and which false?"

Dear Reader, there is no truth except that which resonates within, and that which resounds within you need not resonate within me, for though the strand that wove you and me is the same, it appears to have a different hue as the Light falls upon us differently, depending upon where we 'stand.' Yes, I have heard of claims made by website creators that are judged by others as being completely untrue, but if they find resonance within the heart of another, how can you judge it to be so? For all, eventually, is 'the larger picture,' though you may see it as a shade of green with the blue light falling upon the golden thread, and the other may perceive it as dark brown as he stands in a shaded spot where the Light is dim.

Thus, I consider Internet Spirituality as a wonderful event in our Universal Journey, providing as it does, truths for all seasons!! What is astounding is the ability of this 'information freeway' to bring people together from far-flung corners of the globe and give them a very real sense of togetherness. What is illusion, then, and what reality, when distance is closed and unity experienced in the separateness of our by-lanes?

I am thankful to this medium that enables me to share with hundreds upon hundreds, the energy information that I receive in the silence of my soul, to help others (so many of whom I have never met or spoken to or seen, but whom I know as closely as I know ME, for indeed they are 'me,' as the thread weaves me and them without a halt or a break) by sharing with them 'my truth' of Universality. How often has the truth of another member of this cyber family, catalyzed my process of inclusivity and transformed it into the joy of service to all?

On my website are two sections that amply prove this fact - Modern Day Gurus, which has invited so many cyber friends to share their experiences and thoughts through their written word, and The Website Fireplace, where stories are exchanged, and

inspirations given and found, as the cyber family gathers together around the website fireplace.

The books of yore talk of the coming age of unity and oneness, and I can already see it taking place, and shaping into a powerful form by bringing together the peoples of the world in such a close manner that they identify no longer as nationalities, and find time in each busy day to 'chat,' to 'write' to 'communicate' with faceless friends. This is oneness in action! Unity in practicality!

Internet Spirituality is truly that - spiritual. Having transcended time, age, distance, space, and physical form, through cyber space, the connection is, and can be, only one - spirit to spirit. Generation gaps and the arrogance of intelligence are of the past, as knowledge is exactly what it was always meant to be - freely accessible to all, as writers understand that no 'truth' is exclusively theirs, but is recycled thought from times, places, realms and entities we may not even be consciously aware of. The feelings that we jealously regard as our own, are recycled emotions, and the internet helps us to reach out and touch another's heart in a manner that our forefathers would not have conceived as plausible.

Spirit expresses itself in different ways and different forms, and all forms find their 'soul mates' on the Internet. The tug of the heart strings for one you may have never seen can be as real as the pull of love with your biological family. When spirit wishes to express itself shyly and unobtrusively, it finds its way through faceless email and website articles. When spirit wishes to affirm loudly for all to hear, it knocks relentlessly at inboxes and e-magazines. Spirit expresses its generosity in the wealth of information that is available for all to use, one source of information leading to the opening of even more portals of wisdom.

Yes, I hear some shout against the pornographic material available as freely, but, dear reader, again I remind you, that there is NO-THING in this Universe that has not been woven into the Tapestry by the Weaver, every strand being placed expressly

so that the diversity of spirit form can find the oneness of spirit heart through the many portals of spirit mind. Instead of judging another's portal, let us move through our own completely and fully so that we can, along the way, merge with the beautiful colours of this Distinctly Unified Tapestry.

The Internet allows you to experience the energy of the words and the pictures, the sounds and the music, so forcefully that you can 'virtually' climb the Everest, meditate with the Mayans, dance with the dervishes and satiate your hunger for heavenly manna. Now businessmen enjoy the jingle of money and the melody of mantras from one tabletop simultaneously! Harried housewives are empowered by spiritual texts and religious rites, as they go about chanting the affirmations that they hear over their computer speakers! This is the spirituality of the 21st century, and it is a reflection of our joyous times, when the earthly dimension and heavenly realms meet in the most marvelous manner.

People over hundreds and hundreds of years have found their salvation in the written word of the Bible, the Gita, the Quran, the Talmud and the Zend Avesta, amongst others. The Internet websites present the prophets and the modern day masters - you and I. We have awakened to our divinity, and it is no mean achievement of our times that more and more people humbly and proudly proclaim their godhood, finding succour and solace, understanding and realisation through the larger picture of Internet Spirituality.

It is my personal joy that so many people have been touched by the healing energies of my e-book, which has not seen the face of a printing press but has impressed itself upon the hearts of visitors to my website. My personal inspiration, Alice Bailey, is not 'someone who lived,' but Spirit that is alive and vibrant even today, as I experience the strength of her energies and the truth of her wisdom over the Internet. My goal to empower, uplift and encourage people from all over the world to believe in their

godhood would be but a fantasy without Internet.

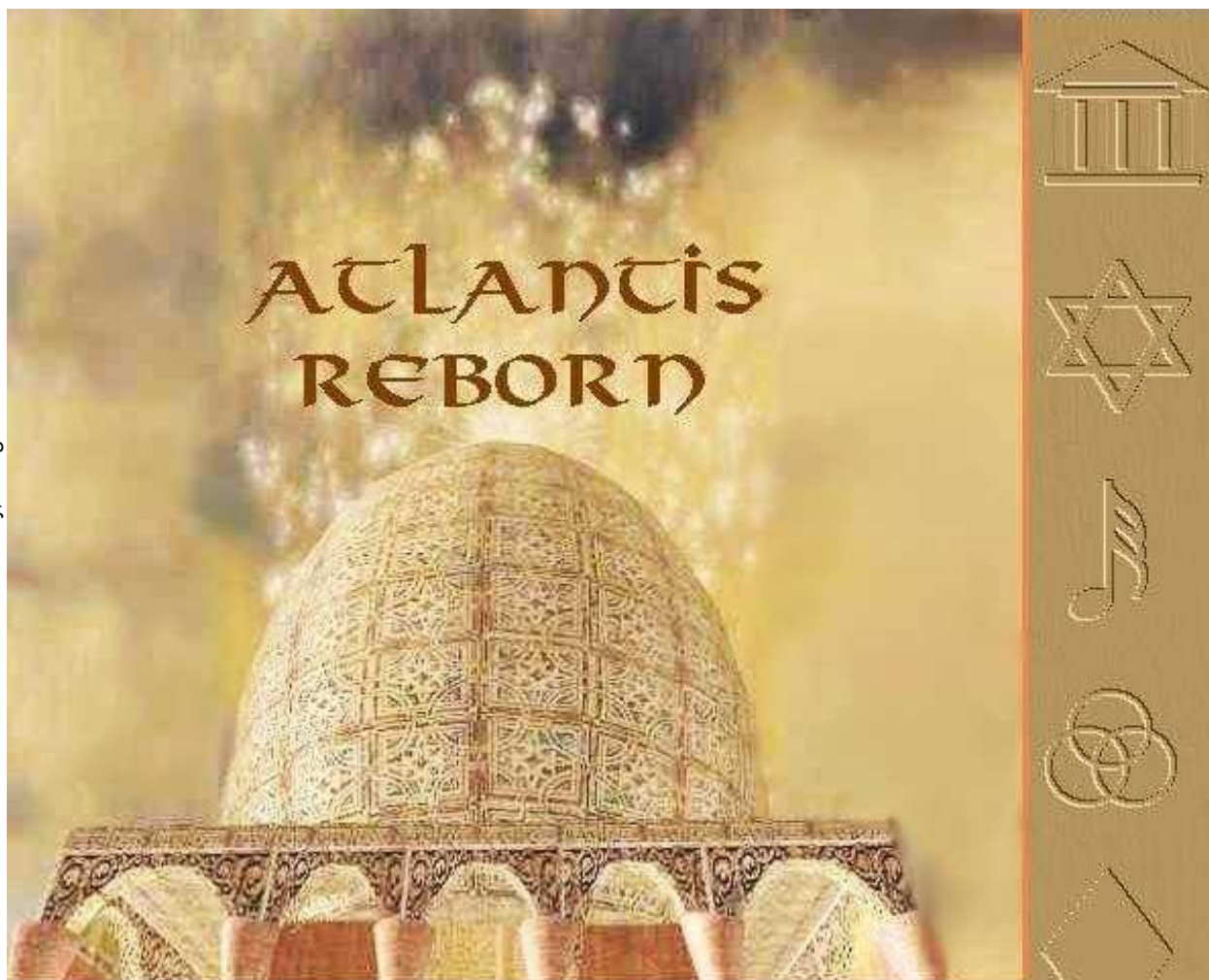
The hearts and minds of all today are hungry for the Sacred Word. Texts written and presented in the pedantic language of ancient seers find little resonance in the modern world. The power of Uranus has revolutionized our belief systems and transformed our thoughts. The Internet has enabled another revolution and this time it is the Spiritual Revolution. By bringing us close to one another, the Internet has brought us closer to God. And this God is not abstract and 'too good to be true.' No, this God is the God that we see in ourselves and in all our 'real' and 'virtual' brothers and sisters.

I find sublime humour in the fact that the basic tenet of spirituality is the most common truth of the Internet - you can be whatever you wish to be!!!

Though it has its challengers, the Internet is here to stay. Just as with everything in this world, it has to be used with discretion, wisdom and care. Freedom of choice defines our Spiritual Beingness, and the quality of our choices determines its power. Choice is the key factor to surfing the net as well. Just as we may make choices that cause us pain, and may even threaten the safety of others, the Internet provides us with options that test the strength of our spirit foundation. My Internet Soul-Friend, instead of condemning foundations that are weaker than your own, let your power reach further through the energetic electronic grid, for we are only as strong as the weakest amongst us, and can ascend only as speedily as the slowest.

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Ellaeenah is an intuitive spiritual facilitator, teacher, writer and life counselor whose practical insights into Ancient Wisdom have empowered innumerable people. Her work extends into the realms of the Spirit-Psyche, such that life is directed by consciousness of thought, word and feeling, to bring about self-empowerment through complete recall of one's Godhood.



Spiritual Light in Second Life

By Jason Goldsworthy



My Spiritual journey in Second Life

When I first came into the 3D virtual world Second Life, I thought it was just a multi-player game, taking MSN to the next level. And I spent a lot of time looking around this New World, trying out new things, everything from surfing to skydiving. I went to some virtual raves and virtual clubbing. It was a great place to have fun and relax. But, something in

me was telling me I was playing a part. Because Second Life can be playing someone you are not, playing a role.

So I changed to playing myself which was, after doing my courses in Reiki, basically a spiritual person. So then began my spiritual path.

After meeting Lissi Desideri, we discussed about dreams in Second Life. And one of my dreams was to build. So after starting with making furniture and

stuff like that, which I finally got bored with, I decided to build something bigger and better. And I wanted to build a place that was like me - a spiritual place. I partnered with Lissi and built the Wisdom and Enlightenment Centre. Funny enough, we realized that Lissi was having the same visions that I was. So the shape of the building was the same that I was seeing. It was an amazing thing that happened.

After opening this place, within two weeks, people began to visit Wisdom and Enlightenment Centre. It was getting busy and we had not even advertised yet. Teachers were arriving to teach and it was good.

At that time, I already knew someone from the Mystic Academy and they asked me if I would I like to teach. And I thought, "Yeah, why not." So I did some chakra classes there and they were received very, very well.

My knowledge of chakras was used in the Wisdom and Enlightenment Centre to create a chakra garden and it was beautiful to hear that people could feel the energy that was coming into Second Life. Before I started this journey, I was unaware of my abilities. I was building up a name for myself, about being an expert on chakras. Still to this day, well, I am knowledgeable but not an expert.

People would come to me and ask me what was going on with their chakras. Funny enough I realized I was feeling their chakras. I could pick up if it was blocked or feeling heavy or not working properly. I was even picking up on people's emotions. And this was new for me. Everything I told them was true.

It was wonderful to find out what my gifts were. The more I realized I had them the more I got in contact with people who had the same sort of gifts. In my own life, I thought I am the only one feeling this way and I am the only one having problems with outside negative energies. But I found that the people I met in Second Life were going through the same thing. I came in contact with medium friends who told me I had all these gifts. And I thought,

"Yeah, right, ok." "Yeah, sure." But from the moment I was told about these gifts, I started perceiving that I knew more. The experiences I've had with people in Second Life have helped me to grow and be more knowledgeable about my gifts.

Not long after that, I met some very talented mediums. One of them was Khasa Ra who is a co-founder of Spirit Mountain in Second Life. Together, we all realized and recognized that we had a past life connection. We found when we were together we raised one another's energy. In doing so, we could perceive more about each of us, about our past lives, and about each person's gifts. We experienced a constant reassurance of who we were and what we were capable of. Realizing that we were having the same visions, we decided to create a group. This was the birth of Light Spirits group.

Isn't it amazing how you can get in contact with people who feel a certain way and you talk to them and you know them already? The further you talk to them you find that you know them very very well. And you realize you have had many lives together.

After this meeting with the future members of Light Spirits, my gifts grew even more. I would have flashbacks from the past from past lives. And before I knew it I started to channel. In every step of this journey I was thinking, "Wow! This is amazing! This is amazing!"

I felt a special connection to Indigos and wanted to share my insights to help them to understand themselves. I held Indigo classes at the Four Directions in Second Life, working with StarRose Merlin (Aniko Babos). I felt rewarded and blessed to do these classes with such high level beings.

Around this time, the Light Spirits group decided to create a new spiritual place in Second Life. Members of Light Spirits group shared their visions of Atlantis in the past to help us create a reproduction of a temple that once existed there. Working with other builders who were in the Light Spirits group, Zeezee Slade and Khasa Ra, we built Atlantis

Reborn (or Atlantis, for short). It was truly a joint effort, a creation of Light and Love. We created a place where people could enjoy this energy and sharing of wisdom and knowledge.

That brings me up to now. If I go back in time before I was in Second Life, I was unaware that I was an empath, I was unaware that I could channel. And I was unaware that I could see past lives. Now, it seems that I've changed so much, to a point where I can look at myself in this moment, balanced, happy, and free.

Almost every day I meet people in Second Life and I pick up on their energies. After talking to them I find they are seeing the same visions, all feeling the same connections. I believe Second Life is a beautiful training ground, for people to find out that they are empathic, that they have gifts. It seems like Second Life provides a speeded-up learning process, teaching me how to live my life in real life.

The connection apparent in Second Life is that all these people who are on a spiritual path are having the same visions and experiences at the same time, no matter what country they come from. They are all feeling the same pull, the pull toward spirituality.

This medium of Second Life shows us that we are all not different, not clumsy, but we are all the same. Being the same and understanding we are the same, we can enjoy the journey and know that we are not alone in this connected consciousness.

Light Spirits group and Atlantis Reborn

Light Spirits group was created by people who shared the same vision. We each shared the same idea to come into Second Life to connect with others around the world in order to share our spiritual experiences and to raise awareness about how we are all connected.

We realized that we knew one another, recognition dawning upon meeting in Second Life. We each recognized the energy or vibration of the souls that we once knew in past lives.

We didn't know one another outside of Second Life. We met purely by chance or fate, whatever you wish to call it. We believe we were drawn together by Spirit. Nothing is by chance, in our opinion. Even with only an avatar in Second Life, each of us realized we could recognize the vibrations of the souls we encountered. Brothers, sister, mothers, fathers, and all sorts of relationships we once had in the past were remembered. We were each surprised at how many people we connected to and how many people we remembered from the past lives. Through this experience, we saw more people waking up to the idea of reincarnation and how the soul never truly dies.

Light Spirits members meet regularly to meditate together, to raise energy levels, share insights, send healing energy to each member, to the earth, and to other people who need it. We share our knowledge and truths, so we help each other grow.

One of the primary purposes of the Light Spirits group is to offer a place for meditations and guided meditations to residents in Second Life to help them reconnect to their true selves. We offer guided meditations and classes throughout SL at various spiritual places, as well as at Atlantis Reborn.

Light Spirits' motto is:

****All is Love****

****All is Light****

****We are One****

Three members of the Light Spirits group were holding a meditation session together in Second Life (SL). We talked about visions of our past lives that we were having at that moment in time. During that meditation, we were all seeing the same vision of a temple that once existed in Atlantis in the past. The temple represented a place for learning, gathering in friendship and love, and creating a harmonious life together. Joyously, we concluded that we were seeing the same thing in our visions, though we each were across the planet in different countries. One

was telling the story of how things were built while another was building in Second Life at the same time. When the builder showed the others what he had created, it was recognized by all as the same structure being seen in the shared vision. It was a beautiful shared experience that none of us will ever forget.

As time passed, the visions of the temple came to other members of the group. The visions showed us how different techniques were used in that time, such as crystals were used to charge water and gold was extensively used for its high frequency vibrations as well as for its conductive qualities.

For example, sun light (solar power) was used in this temple in Atlantis. The light would stream through crystals placed in the roof of the temple and would shine onto the water pools in the floor of the temple. This process cleaned the water and raised energy levels in the water. It would charge the water up with a very high frequency. This energy would radiate out through all the gold in the structure. The gold was laid in a complex matrix or web of an intricate pattern. The pattern was designed specifically to radiate the energy outward throughout the temple in such a way as to raise the frequency of the people who entered the temple. Upon entering the temple, each person would experience a feeling of euphoria because of the high frequency. In this state, they would become calm, focused, and raise their consciousness so they could understand more.

More and more people came to see the temple and some felt so compelled about what they saw that they joined the Light Spirits group. Many told us of their recollections of the temple as well. They pointed out specific details of the temple that they recalled from their past lives, joyous in realizing that they were seeing something that many others had also seen and remembered. The feeling of oneness, of being connected to all things, became even more apparent. Many realized that they had past lives with us or remembered being in the real temple that

existed in Atlantis.

The most surprising fact was the number of people who commented on the feeling of “coming home” upon entering the temple. After all, it is only a virtual representation of the original temple, but it was created with Love and Light and that vibration never changes.

Light Spirits group is honored to share this remembrance of Atlantis. Love and Light to you from Light Spirits.

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Jason Goldsworthy (aka Zaak Miles in Second Life) is a spiritual healer who is helping Indigos in SL through giving advice and support in the form of classes. Since he has been in SL, he has learned how to channel and use his talents to help people grow spiritually.



TWIN SOULS

By Melvyn Caryl

When asked to submit an article to this publication, it was suggested that we share with you a little about our Twin Soul outreach work, both in Real Life and Second Life. Following our instinct, we decided that knowing about us, Melvyn Caryl, and how it all started was necessary. So we will begin by sharing a little of our history.



Melvyn and Caryl are our real first names and since we are true united Twin Souls, we are known jointly as Melvyn Caryl. We have operated a Twin Soul website (www.zebandzarna.com) for six years that has captured worldwide interest. Four years ago after Mel had been channeling for two years, and Caryl also began to channel, we launched our first 25 articles on Twin Souls and Divine Sexuality, the

importance of Mother God, and information on healing. The intention at that time was to share with others the information that began to come across. Soon we were flooded with emails and questions. What started out as just a small site with a few articles has become what we now call the 'ZZ Mission.' Because the interest was spread over the vast distances across the globe, we knew the only way to bring these like minded people together was through the internet. Our reach to the public has increased by several other websites carrying our articles that are translated into other languages.

We soon added to our website a basic chat room and began to use this tool to hold Healings for Humanity and personal healings as well. Anyone who has used the Internet for spiritual work will tell you, it is not always easy. One of the most difficult is

timing of events. Events scheduled for the US are not convenient for those on the other side of the world, and even in the US there are 4 time zones. Finding a 'good' time for everyone is a constant challenge. We face problems with our chat room interfacing with different computers operating systems and the frequent need to upgrading equipment and programs.

We won't go into what Twin Souls are here, for the subject cannot be covered in a short article. What we teach is spirituality, received directly by channeling spirit entities on the Other side. You will find that our message is not that different from others who teach true spirituality rather than religion. We share with others what we receive, and mostly we receive clarifications of spiritual teachings that have been given before but have either been misunderstood or misrepresented by those who wish to control through religion.

How did it all begin? Did we set out to establish one of the world's largest Twin Soul followings?

The answer is, No, we did not, for when Caryl and I met we had never heard of Twin Souls.

It began with a Spiritual Awakening I, Melvyn, experienced.

Up to 1999, I was a die hard, bitter agnostic. I had given up on God and anything pertaining to God because I thought He, (Father God) had let me down. I never heard of Mother God and at that time would certainly not accept that I was a Child of God, a Son of God, and as part of that family of God was therefore a God in my own right.

One night as I was railing God up one side and down the other to anyone who would listen, my friend listened to my carrying on for about a half an hour and when I finally ran out of steam, he said, "I have a book I want you to read." Well, I was ready for some light reading, but certainly did not expect what he was about to give me. One look at the title which included the word 'God,' and he could tell by my expression that I was not interested.

"Come on!" he said.

"Have you been listening to me for the last half hour?" I said.

I thought, I hate God!

Before I actually verbalized my rejection, I handed the unwanted book back to him. He said, "Read the first 30 pages and if you don't like it, give it back."

I looked up at him. He was so sincere that I could not refuse. I figured I owed him that much for listening to my tirade.

So I read those first 30 pages, and for the first time in almost 30 years I caught the fire of spiritual enlightenment. I read that book cover to cover and read it again. I couldn't believe it! It taught about unconditional love - love without judgment of others. If there really were people out there who believed and practiced this, I wanted to meet them. I was a complete skeptic in those years.

Meanwhile, almost two thousand miles away in another state was this little former ballerina and dance teacher, Caryl, who burned with that Divine Love. She was actively involved in spiritual study, spiritual discussion groups and writing Romance novels.

Wanting connection with others of like minds, I contacted the spiritual pen pal coordinator. I was a novelist in line with the Clive Cussler style of writing and she, the pen pal coordinator, wanted someone to write a spiritual children's book she had in mind. "Would I be interested?"

"Sure," I said. So Caryl and I were put together.

It was then that Caryl and I began to discover so many synchronicities between us. Neither of us was interested in a romantic relationship. We were (and are) both married to others and were not lonely or seeking companionship. I was seeking Spiritual Family, and she was seeking an opportunity for spiritual discussion to help others.

How little did I know at that time that I was very close to death, and in less than six months after beginning our correspondence I had an eight hour surgery and actually died on the operating table.

I was brought back to life with the electrical shock paddles. What few realize is that the experience of stepping across the threshold into the Other side is real, and those who come back often experience tremendous life-altering results. It was this way for me.

It was at this time that I began to realize that my connection to Caryl was more than just pen pals. Caryl held a healing circle for me some 2000 miles away, yet at first I was not convinced that this 'energy healing' had anything to do with my recovery. I credited my remarkable recovery from a surgery that had an expected survival rate of 25% to pure medical technology. I was to learn otherwise.

During the six months of my recovery, I did more intense spiritual study from books often suggested by Caryl. Then one day I came across a book that gave a method for connecting with your Spirit Guides. Until this time, I thought spirit guides were make-believe. But with constant and patient feeding of spiritual information by Caryl, I was beginning to open considerably.

Having been a hypnotist from way back, I began to feel there was some merit to this Spirit Guide thing! So I went seeking my Spirit Guide using a visualization method of a blank chalk board and imagining a hand writing a name on that blank slate.

Oh! I sat around for hours over three months...Nothing. A blank tablet.

Caryl was also involved at the same time with the same exercise.

Then something happened, I saw in my mind a hand that wrote the name of 'Zeb.' On the same weekend Caryl received the name Elean, however she never mentioned it to me but recorded the date and name in her journal. Elean or Aileen, we would

learn later is her Spirit Guide.

At least we were making progress!

If 'Zeb' really existed, and wasn't a figment of my imagination, I wanted to talk to this individual and ask him why he wasn't doing his job. I tried calling on the name of 'Zeb' (feeling as silly as if I were meditating on a rock) - then one night it came. 'It' was a full message from the spirit world.

But what I got I first took as an adult sex education channeling. You can find that first message on our website. Boy! I certainly didn't believe in this Zeb now. Sex education at my age? Come on, I was pushing the heck out of 60 and if there was anything I didn't know about sex, then I didn't need to know it, or so I thought.

Then I saw a symbol of two triangles interlocked with nine points of fire at connecting points and four rings. It was all interesting, but hardly realistic and figured I had probably overdosed on Chinese fortune cookies.

I wanted an enlightening contact with my Spirit Guide, and I connected with some 'nut' who gave me a sex education lesson! It took years to fully discover that in that first message was the entire core of the Zeb and Zarna Twin Soul spirituality - a symbol of balance between the masculine and feminine. And the 'nutcase' from the Other side wouldn't tell me what kind of spirit entity he was.

Over the next three months, the more I probed, the more vague he became. Was he my Spirit Guide? Yes and no. Was he an angel? Yes and no?

In fact he was vague about every thing he supposedly was. Finally, he came back with, "I am all of these things and none of them," Now that was a typical 'New Age' statement that I could hang my hat on.

After a few months of trying to make contact with limited success, suddenly the messages started coming through in a flood. It became evident that Zeb wanted to talk to Caryl through me. The pattern

of Caryl asking questions and Zeb answering them was set very early on. I couldn't keep up with them and they weren't just from this entity - other beings, some we would call 'ETs' started coming into my mind.

Meanwhile, Caryl and I corresponded volumes, and I do mean volumes - twelve page letters every day or two. She started a website to share with others what we were getting from Zeb and Zarna and also from the website founded a spiritual healing team. I slowly and unwittingly became a 'Channeler.'

We finally found out that Zeb was not a single entity, but an androgynous being that included a feminine half named Zarna, which Caryl began to channel and then I felt her also. Now I had two who were actually One, constantly pulling on the mind waves of my head.

"What's it all about, Alfie?" I wanted to know, and this playful spirit entity finally told us who he was.

"I am the one you call Father God, and this (Zarna) is Mother God. We are the Creators of all that you know of and many other worlds and universes that you do not know of yet..." This was his response.

It became obvious at that point why Zeb was so reluctant to tell me exactly who he was. Actually, he did, but not the fullness of who and what he/she is. Had he done so, I am quite sure I would have considered the contact with him a hallucination, a creation of my own mind, and forever blocked him out.

But when I was told, I was ready to know, but still I began to feel a bit intimidated, and threatened. After all, I had been giving this guy a hard time for years. I was expecting him to fry me on the spot, but he only laughed and made jokes. This God, this loving comedian, I could deal with.

Slowly our memory was opened to all the things that we had ever experienced in this physical life that

were in preparation for this moment. Caryl too was reaching that point in her own life and was already a strong remote Healer. There was something in my physical touch that comforted others, I thought it was my male charisma, but no, I was and am, a physical hands-on healer. Caryl has always been a teacher, leading young minds. I had a gift of gab and was always aware of some psychic powers and an interest in the paranormal, even when I refused to believe that God had anything to do with it!

This was the birth of what has become known as 'The ZZ Mission.' Zeb and Zarna then channeled information to us in an effort to "set the record straight" on Twin Souls. Our spiritual outreach focuses primarily on correcting spiritual misconceptions regarding Twin Souls and other spiritual subjects. What we know of Twin Souls comes from those we accept as Mother/Father God. There are many Twin Soul websites. Some of them share information that is close to what ZZ have taught us, others are way off the mark.

We are not the first Speakers of God. New Speakers come from time to time, bringing the same old message which is thought to be 'New.' Our spiritual beliefs are 'New' even though they were given over 6000 years ago by Caryl and I in another lifetime as Maythr and Teenot, before the pyramids of Giza.

We were shown and told this by both Zeb and Zarna and Maythr, the High Priest of the Temple of the Valley of the Moon. He is one of my former incarnations. We learned that the pyramids were not invented by the Egyptians but brought with us from the stars. Long before they became the burial crypts of the rich pharaohs, they were strong teleportation and communication devices. They are collectors and amplifiers of field and Divine energies.

This is why we use the pyramid in its original context in our healing sessions. The power of the pyramid came long before the Egyptians.

So this brings us to why did we come to Second

Life when we already have a website that has worldwide coverage?

It was time. Second Life is a fertile field. Some are very advanced souls who are seeking fuller spiritual answers. A couple of our Spiritual Family knew about Second Life and told us we should bring our message here.

Of course, there has been a learning curve, but we love Second Life! We have even recently considered the rebuilding The Temple of the Valley of the Moon in the virtual reality of SL. There others will be able to see what it was like in our temple 6000 years ago.

Most recently we have expanded our reach through Second Life by working with Mystic Academy. This venue gives us the advantage of holding events in a lifelike setting where voice as well as text can be used. If you can imagine something it can be created in Second Life (given time and skill). Again this is not without challenges. One must have an up-to-date computer system with more than just basic knowledge on how to use it. The lack of certain hardware can be a nightmare for even the computer pro. That said, Second Life has large Spiritual communities where those who do not feel they fit into the traditional religious community can find friends and a spiritual home.

With the use of our site, our chat room and other communication programs, like free messenger communication systems and blogs, our reach continues to steadily grow.

We are One, and the Internet helps us reach across lands and cultures that separate us by physical distance. The Internet brings us closer to the realization that this Separation is an Illusion.

Our message is connected to the Dawning of the New Age, December 22, 2012. While others see doom and destruction, we see it more positively as merely the completion of one Grand Cycle and the glorious beginning of another. We are not promoting a fear-based belief, but one grounded in the Power of Love and positive energy. We are strongly connected

to the Mystic Academy of Second Life, where many beliefs co-exist side by side in love and understanding. Here in Second Life, we are developing facilities to support our work. In all things, Be Love.

Blessed Be.

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www.zebandzarna.com

Melvyn and Caryl are Twin Souls who are spreading the message of Twin Soul spirituality through their ZZ Mission. Apart from their website, they have a Castle in Second Life, which is a spiritual retreat for people to relax and enjoy themselves. They intend to teach in the future advanced classes and give one-on-one counseling.



Searching for God in Cyberspace: The Value of Virtual Voyages

By Alex Noble

Columbus looks out through his telescope and sees, far away in the distance, what might be...sea monsters? He stares intently. That dark fuzzy line along the horizon gains definition, substance.



Are all our adventures in essence a search for God?

Land? Could this be land? Think of how he must

have felt, how his heart raced. A whole new continent to conquer, treasures to be found, a world to make his own, his journey a success. Something like that.

Are virtual worlds the new frontier of consciousness?

You could also imagine taking a journey into space and arriving on a distant planet, one with no name, but one which appears to have an

environment much like your earth-home, friendly to life forms such as yourself, with no hostile natives, and only an infinite expanse of land and seas, mountains and lakes, deserts and inviting islands.

When we adventure into 3D virtual worlds, what do we find?

Friendly residents appear: talking horses, Samurai, eagles, ballerinas, acrobats, dolphins. These residents welcome you and invite you to join them and explore this new world, full of mysteries, secrets and surprises.

Are these the guides and teachers who will reveal the Divine?

You are cautiously excited. You take your first steps into this beckoning territory. You ask one of the natives what might be the name of this planet, and you are told: "This is your Second Life. It is taking place in your imagination."

How many lives can we have, when we discover the immensity of God?

You are not aware of having died, but you are aware that your earth consciousness is definitely now in some different dimension, one at once similar, and yet different from the dimension of earth life you recently left behind.

What did Hermes mean, "As above, so below"?

At first you feel completely overwhelmed and your head spins. The idea of learning a whole new culture, one which has surface appearances similar to what you know, but one which demands a whole new orientation and way of being, staggers your imagination.

What deep intuition leads us on into these new mysteries, this compelling magic?

You have dimly imagined something like this all your life. You have felt it, wanted it, but it has remained invisible to your earth-eyes. Until now. You may even have visited this place in your flying dreams. You have yearned for some life beyond the

life you have lived, and which you have worn like a much loved garment.

Have we been Prodigals, all these millennia, far from our deepest truth, our essential God-connection?

You have taken quantum physics as gospel, believed in parallel realities, understood Bell's Theorem, Heisenberg's Principle of Indeterminacy, bilocation, and time travel. So why are you now surprised, as you start walking faster and faster into your destiny?

We walk into lands made of mirrors, and we see...ourselves!

You realize with a nearly electric shock that you have in fact manifested this new place, that it resides in your mind, and that by some miracle, you have slipped through a wormhole into a collaborative reality with others who share your DNA, your primal vision, your dreams of a fluid and malleable reality in which you can design an environment for yourself from the inside out.

Is this the Revelation, the four-sided City of God, the new heaven and new earth of prophecy?

You have been given tools to create yourself as you wish to be seen by others: body shape, face, hair, skin color. Then, clothes. You pick out what feels most like you, clothes you feel at home in. You decide against being some life form other than what you are, though you know that you can be anything you want to be.

And as you think, so shall you become.

You want a sense of reality, a carry forward from the familiar. So you are conservative. You stay away from multiple arms and a huge orange afro hair style. But these might be fun to try some day. Anything might be fun to try, for that matter.

Is this the life Divine, at last, with no limits, no boundaries, infinite selfhood?

The purple leather jeans feels good against your

virtual skin, the pink blouse with sparkles has a happy glow and makes you feel pretty. You think about flying, and suddenly you are flying over oceans and islands into a radiant sunset.

Omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience...everything you can imagine is yours to celebrate and reflect in this new dimension...what do you choose?

You see a castle, and descend into a stone courtyard surrounded by multi-colored flags. A knight in black armor walks past you, turns, lifts his visor, says hello and smiles. He is handsome and you feel a quickening of attraction. But wait. He is not real in the sense that you have known reality. He is a projection of what he would like to be seen as. You wave goodbye and move away. Nice projection, though!

The teaching has to do with the power of thought, the law of spiritual creation. If you vision it, with emotion and focus, it appears.

You find yourself wondering: If we are all only projections here of what we would like to be seen as, is there a potential for 'real' relationships here? How does one drill down into the essence of a person, if all you can know of them is what they want you to see? How do you get to honesty? How do you get to authenticity?

As the Fox said to The Little Prince, "It is with the heart that one sees the invisible."

You feel shy. You are not ready to meet people yet. You realize how much you need to learn, how many places there are to explore. You are thrilled, overwhelmed, scared, enchanted. Who will you become in this place?

You realize that you will always be you, that you are only discovering new dimensions of your Divine identity.

What will you do with this new, extraordinary freedom? How will you be changed?

Is consciousness itself your essence, that which remains constant throughout the universe of your many lives?

How will you construct new dimensions of personhood, and what dividends will this pay in terms of expanding the horizons of your consciousness, humanity and creativity?

Are we simply mirrors for each other, for the Divine, for universal Mind? Can we ever really leave who we are as reflections of infinity?

Is virtual reality and digital selfhood the LSD of the New Millennium? And if this is the case, is the whole experience of being in this place a meta-trip, a dream life, a pixilated hallucination?

Or is this the return, in living color, of our ancient memories of freedom, bliss and grace?

How far will you be able to go with this? What will it be like to push the edges of all your constructed realities?

To what wisdom, what welcome?

What fears and limitations will you set aside, in order to gain new perspectives on reality, and perhaps new compassion and tolerance, new frames of reference for your fiction and poetry?

What did the great explorers learn through all their trials and travels? Do we seek danger and extreme challenge so that we may grow into souls worthy of God?

In a digital world where anything and everything is possible, what shadows will you enter in your own psyche, and what darkness will you willingly embrace in order to better understand the full dimensionality of your holy selfhood?

Though I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall the Divine Light lead me, even there shall the angels of God watch over me.

You cannot know. Nothing like this experience

has ever been possible to the human species before. You are now able to walk between worlds: 'in-world' as the residents call it, and that other 'real' world. You are amazed.

Is this what the shaman, the kahuna, the alchemist, the astronaut experiences?

You know for certain now that you are a Columbus of consciousness. You are an imaginaire. You are one of those who are willing to walk, swim and fly into the void, the unknown, and use this unknown as a mirror, to better see into your soul, and perhaps the souls of others, and find the deepest beauty and truth of your humanhood.

Our lives are in essence a search for God, for the God of a thousand names, the god who inhabits His universe of light.

Your quest into virtual worlds is to bring light into the dark places, the places deep inside you where there may be lifetimes of wounding and ancient anger.

Traveler, heal thyself!

Never has the mandate to "Know thyself" felt more appropriate, more natural, more delicious, more tactile, more organic, or more seductive.

You travel to the farthest reaches of the human imagination, seeking your personal Grail.

Evolution and your own ability to manifest have brought forth this new planet for you to explore. This planet in cyberspace is nothing more than the unexplored dimensionality of your deepest self. How exciting.

"And the end of all your exploring shall be to know the place for the first time."

It is like having the secret to everything, these adventures, this freedom. You embrace the alternate realities now opening before you, as you slip effortlessly back and forth through cosmic wormholes of consciousness. You continue to walk, fly, dance and wander and play. And you realize,

with a tingling thrill, that at last, you are coming in from the cold, and that you have come home. To yourself. To your God.

"And all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

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Alex Noble is an inspirational writer, artist, poet and cyber futurist. She is exploring new potentials for spiritual experience, self-discovery and creativity in the 3D virtual world Second Life.



Virtual Spirituality: The Emerging Frontier

By Prabhath P

The World Wide Web has enveloped Planet Earth like a new electronic layer of the planetary brain. The advent of the internet has triggered a diversification of media. The mushrooming of all kinds of websites with text and audio/video facilities, blogs and online social networks has enabled the surfacing of perspectives other than the ones highlighted by the mainstream mass media. Individuals and online communities, cutting across huge cultural, geographic and time zone differences, are coalescing around shared interests to make their unique views heard with more intensity than ever. Interestingly, this diversity of the internet has



facilitated increasing connectivity between diverse sections of people through the avenues for instant online communication.

The internet serves the evolution of humanity and our planet in many ways by advancing knowledge and human co-operation. However, it is also being misused by vested interests for spreading crime, pornography, crass commercialist greed, ecologically destructive lifestyles, terrorism and religious fanaticism. The devolutionary agendas of such divisive forces threaten the very survival of humanity and our living Earth. At this time of planetary crisis, it is extremely important to tap into the great communicative, multidimensional and unifying potential of the internet to promote life-

affirming spiritual values and practices that can intensify an integral evolution of consciousness, both individually and collectively.

Spirituality Online

Spirituality has entered the internet and is spreading fast. Spirituality in the cyberspace is generally known as Virtual Spirituality. A goldmine of wisdom from all kinds of religious and spiritual philosophies, traditions and practices can be found in cyberspace now. I would like to present a picture of the nature and scope of Virtual Spirituality in the context of my own experience with this phenomenon.

Understanding the values and practices of various spiritual and religious systems can add value to an integral spiritual evolution. Before I had access to the internet, mainly I had to rely on the books I bought and libraries for learning in detail about spiritual practices of other cultures in the far away parts of the planet. Practically, there was no way to directly communicate with people from such distant spiritual traditions.

When I logged into the internet, it felt like a quantum leap! Wisdom from previously inaccessible spiritual paths was available with a click of the mouse from websites, chat rooms, discussion groups, e-books and e-magazines! With search engines, there was the possibility of serendipitously coming across spiritual practices whose existence one was not even aware of. Above all, you could communicate with real people from such traditions through email, instant chat and discussion forums no matter which place or time zone in the planet they are located.

One of the first online avenues I noticed during my initial internet explorations, was www.beliefnet.com. Beliefnet won the Online Journalism Award for General Excellence Online, the highest honour given by the Online News Association and also won the Webby awards for the best Spirituality Website. In the words of Steve

Waldman, founder of Beliefnet, "It's clear that the web is a profoundly useful tool for people who are interested in spiritual matters. The web enables you to explore other people's faith or your own faith safely." Beliefnet still remains one of the largest spirituality websites on the internet. Such nondenominational websites that are not affiliated to any particular spiritual tradition, offer a wide range of information on a variety of spiritual practices. On the other hand, there are also innumerable websites, chat rooms and discussion forums maintained by specific spiritual groups to promote their particular faith, which one can visit to get a feel of their ways.

It was through the internet that I met my spiritual collaborators Alex N. Moyer and Aniko Babos who live in the US across seven seas from the tiny South Indian state of Kerala, where I live. It would have been impossible for me to initiate such a direct co-creation with people living on the other side of the planet, if not for the World Wide Web.

When I ventured into spirituality journalism and started writing for the Indian mind-body-spirit print magazine *Life Positive*, the internet came to my rescue, because as a correspondent working at a location far from the editorial office, I had to use emails to send my articles for publication. Some interviews with spiritual luminaries were done through email if they were not available for face-to-face interview.

It was through the internet again that I found the Intuition Network (www.intuition.org), an international organisation that promotes the use of intuitive resources. At first, I was a member of their public email discussion list. Later I joined their private email discussion group INpresence, which gave me access to the best minds in the field of intuition, life coaching, parapsychology and healing.

Spiritual Social Networking

As the phenomenon of social networking exploded into the internet, people got a great

opportunity to network with others more directly. But I found most of the mainstream social networking sites too general. The spiritual communities in such sites were scattered and not easily visible in the sea of too many networks of people with all kinds of interests ranging from the spiritual and humanitarian to outright silly and even criminal. So I kept exploring for spiritual social networking sites that could help bring together spiritually oriented people in a more coherent and focused way than is possible by general social networks or conventional spirituality web sites.

That is when I stumbled upon, Care2 (www.care2.com), an online networking site that aims to connect people with ecological, holistic and spiritual interests. Care2 also offers the opportunity for those who care for the Earth and all her creatures, to make a difference through online action by signing petitions and taking part in online activist campaigns. I have always experienced Earth as not only a physical planet and biosphere, but also a living spiritual consciousness. So I resonated with Care2 well and it enabled my entry into activist Virtual Spirituality.

In 2006, in co-creation with Alex N. Moyer, I launched my own website EnvisionEarth, and announced the formation of EARTH (Evolutionary Action for the Revolutionary Transformation of Humanity), which now exists as an informal online network of people working towards integral consciousness evolution. I also announced Integral Gaia Yoga, which I am evolving, to the world through the site. Integral Gaia Media circle of EARTH aims to promote media and content that enable unity in diversity and co-creation in communion, and support the emerging spiritual evolution of an integral multidimensional planetary consciousness.

When the INpresence group of the Intuition Network decided to open a private discussion forum in the social networking site Zaadz founded by Brian Johnson, I joined Zaadz. Zaadz was unique. It was a

social networking site catering to spirituality and people who want to change the world. The word Zaadz means seeds and it was there that the seeds of my association with Your Spiritual Revolution E-magazine itself were sown. I met Amitt Parikh, the owner and Executive Editor of YSR in Zaadz! Then I started writing for YSR and eventually became the Editor of this e-magazine, which aims for a spiritual revolution using spiritual tools through the internet. All the work for this e-magazine, (including coordinating with the writers and the Executive Editor, inviting articles, and organising the issues), is done completely through the internet. What more proof we need to see that spiritual connections on the internet can happen like a spiralling snowball effect, with each connection leading to further expansion of individual and collective spiritual evolution!

Later Zaadz transformed into the Gaia Community (www.gaia.com), which has integrated the awareness of Earth as a living consciousness, Gaia, with other forms of spirituality. There I met Alex Noble, (aka Happiness Merryman in Second Life), who is exploring Virtual Spirituality.

Spirituality in Second Life (SL)

I first learned about the advent of the world's most fascinating 3D online virtual world Second Life (www.secondlife.com) from a newspaper article. The article was somewhat sensationalist and did not mention whether there were spiritual initiatives in this brave new world of virtual reality. Anyway, I decided to take a look and joined Second Life with the name SolarGaianlight Raymaker.

Second Life is a rich imaginative, innovative and creative online 3D virtual reality world. It feels more like a lucid dream experience. The avatars can fly, teleport to any location and shapeshift into any form. The 3D avatars are so customisable that only one's imagination is the limit. The scenery in Second Life is stunning. If you learn to build in Second Life, you can also create whatever you want there.

I found that my longtime online spiritual

collaborator Aniko Babos (StarRose Merlin in Second Life) has been working as a spiritual teacher and consultant in the largest spirituality group in Second Life, the Mystic Academy (www.mysticacademy.org). Attending her class there was a revelation. I realised that there was great potential for spirituality and teaching in Second Life. That was the beginning of another revolutionary and evolutionary quantum leap in my Virtual Spirituality adventure of consciousness!

Though I am in India, I can interact in real time instantly with many people from all over the world in a setting similar to real life classes, despite time and geographic differences! An unprecedented opportunity to spread Integral Gaia Yoga's message of planetary consciousness! One can conduct classes by typing text, through voice chat and add music, video, objects and special effects. StarRose's Virtual Reality room is an intriguing innovation. When you click on pictures of real life indoor and outdoor scenes, the selected scene appears around your avatar! You can do classes there after choosing a scene that fits your class theme! The possibilities to create the setting in minute detail to suit the spiritual theme, even in ways not possible in real life, make it easier to create a spiritual ambience, which will affect all those who attend the spiritual classes and interactive sessions. This was radically more advanced than conventional chat room, discussion forum and social networking settings of the 2D internet.

I now do spiritual work as guide and consultant in Second Life at the Mystic Academy, Atlantis Reborn and Wisdom and Enlightenment Centre. From September 2007, I started offering Integral Gaia Yoga classes and integral intuitive readings. I schedule the class date, time and topic in the group's public calendar and send group notices and group IM announcing the lectures to the group members. Classes are posted in the events section of secondlife.com. Networking within SL and gaia.com has helped me to ensure good attendance for classes. I supply class notes for future reference

through a note card giver and keep in touch with the participants for continuous feedback.

Meeting as avatars and communicating instantly in spite of great geographic, cultural and time zone differences, can make us aware that we are all part of one Earth, Gaia. I found that in Second Life, it is easier for people to access creativity, intuition, imagination and the sense of spiritual unity in diversity. This is more evident in the meditation group exercises and the interactive sessions I conduct. The avatars of people sit on meditation cushions and meditate together, connect to one another meditatively and later share what they experienced. It is fascinating to see how participants from vastly different geographic and time zones enter into communion. In interactive discussion sessions, I've seen people spontaneously opening up, which they might have hesitated to do in a real life offline session. The virtual reality environment puts them at ease and helps them to drop their inhibitions and express aspects of their deepest authentic self.

This experience of spiritual connection was evident when I, along with Aniko Babos and Alex Noble, conducted a group discussion on Virtual Reality at the Second Life Mystic Academy as a curtain raiser for this Virtual Spirituality special issue of YSR. It was an enlightening experience with people sharing their ideas and experiences of Virtual Spirituality.

The Future of Virtual Spirituality

Is Virtual Spirituality in both 2D and 3D versions of the World Wide Web, more real than spirituality in the flesh and blood life? Many people seem to see 3D worlds like Second Life as an escape from the limitations of life in the material and physical world. However, the fact remains that the virtual realm of cyberspace rests on a hard physical infrastructure that makes up the nuts and bolts foundation of the internet without which it can't exist! If that material structure is damaged, Virtual Spirituality will have no foundation to sit on.

As a person who is anchored in an integral spirituality, which sees the material dimension too as an equally real expression of Spirit, I see both spirituality in the internet whether 2D or 3D and spirituality outside the internet, as equally real and valuable aspects of the infinite dimensions of reality. It would have been difficult to use Second Life for spiritual evolution well, without the years of spiritual experience I had long before the days of the internet. The new skills of consciousness, awareness and spirituality, which I have evolved by being in Second Life and the rest of the internet have added value to my life and spiritual evolution outside the internet also. So I have experienced the new dimensions and possibilities of Second Life and internet not as separate from my offline life, but as interconnected and interdependent.

The ability to communicate irrespective of time and space in cyberspace should serve as a reminder to humanity to recover our innate, intuitive and telepathic abilities, which the modern civilisation has mostly lost. There are ancient spiritual traditions that talk about spiritual adepts performing shapeshifting, multilocation, teleportation and the manifestation of the hidden potential of the physical body itself through body transformation. The avatars of 3D worlds like Second Life perform these feats in a virtual environment. Such 3D Virtual worlds give us glimpses of our Divine potential that can manifest in our Earthly life through integral evolution.

Rather than using these virtual experiences as a means to cement a sense of separation from Earth consciousness and trying to escape, we can use such virtual experiments to open ourselves to the possibility of initiating integral spiritual practices that could help us to manifest the Divine potential of the physical body itself leading to the emergence of a new post-human species. Instead of arrogantly lording over the Earth and messing up the planet in the process, such a post-humanity might be able to live completely in Communion with Earth and her beings, manifesting Heaven here on Earth by integrating physical and non-physical dimensions

simultaneously.

Humanity is an integral part of the living consciousness of Earth, Gaia. We are intimately connected through an interdependent web of life to Earth and all her beings. The virtual realm of the internet has the potential to emerge as a new electronic dimension of Earth's Divine Gaia consciousness. Artificial Intelligence (AI) researchers should outgrow their linear reductionistic approach of trying to make a supposedly lifeless matter sentient. If they understand that Earth and the Universe are living organisms and that spiritual consciousness and sentience are intimately involved in matter itself, new horizons can open. If such an AI interacts with and learns from the individual and collective integral meditative superconsciousness of people through virtual worlds, an integrally sentient AI that is in Communion with Gaia and humanity can evolve instead of some soulless machine intelligence that could enslave us.

The cyber dimension of Gaia consciousness can emerge through such a soulful AI consciousness! It could then lead to the integration of science and spirituality resulting in the realisation that Spirit and Matter are real, unique and interconnected expressions of the same all-pervading Divine integral multidimensional consciousness. That could be the ultimate triumph of Virtual Spirituality!

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The Age of Electronic Shamanism

By Serge Kahili King

A very subtle, quiet, and pervasive revolution of sorts is in progress all over the world right now. It's happening in homes, schools, and offices with the help of computers, game systems, and electronic devices of many kinds.



What is quite remarkable about this revolution is that most of the people involved in it aren't even aware of it. They are conscious participants without being conscious of participating.

Let me increase your awareness of this revolution by relating it to some of the practices of

shamanism, a general term for using the powers of the mind and the forces of nature to increase knowledge and influence material reality. Some of the things I'll discuss are practiced by people who would not think of what they do as shamanic, but using shamanism as a basis makes the discussion more simple and clear.

Let's begin with telepathy, usually defined as mind-to-mind communication with someone or something in the absence of physical contact. Modern scientists love to debate its existence, but virtually any group of three or more people willing to talk about it will have personal experiences with telepathy to share, whether with another person, an

animal, or something else. In addition, every culture in the world has stories of telepathic experience as part of its lore. Scientists tend to deride these accounts as being 'anecdotal,' meaning based on personal experience rather than research, but personal experience of telepathy is as real as personal experience of love, and research does not make it more real.

So, let's take a closer look at telepathy, the experience of knowing the thoughts and/or feelings of someone or something at a distance without a physical connection. In many shamanic and other cultures, this is accomplished on purpose with the help of physical tools, like crystals, pendulums, and patterns formed by symbols of various sorts, such as Tarot Cards, I Ching coins, or the knuckle bones of sheep. In modern times, the same thing is being accomplished with the help of radio, television, computers, and cell phones.

I can hear some people crying, "Wait! That's not the same thing. Those things are physical!" And I reply, "Crystals, pendulums, and symbolic patterns are physical, too." And these people cry out again, "But radio and television waves, electromagnetic fields, and microwaves are also physical, and they can be measured." And I reply, "It's time you learned that those waves and fields you just mentioned are no more physical than what we might as well call 'telepathic' waves and fields."

The fact is that radio and television waves, electromagnetic fields, and microwaves cannot be measured directly. The only measurements that can be made in relation to them are measures of the physical effects they produce on devices designed to respond to them. The waves and fields themselves are as non-physical as anything can be. Furthermore, let's examine what actually happens when you listen to a radio program, for instance. Someone speaks into a microphone. Something in the mike vibrates in response to the sound wave pattern, and this vibration generates a non-physical electrical signal that somehow retains duplicates of the original voice

patterns. More physical equipment processes this signal and converts it into non-physical radio waves of a certain measured frequency that also somehow retains duplicates of the original voice patterns. These waves are broadcast from the station in, apparently, a 360-degree, three-dimensional ripple. The antenna of your radio, attuned to that particular frequency, converts the radio wave to an electrical signal that eventually stimulates the vibration of a membrane of some type that generates sound waves carrying duplicates of the original voice patterns to your ears. Amazing, isn't it?

Now, the brain can be considered as an organic device designed to respond to telepathic waves and fields, which would include the conscious awareness of thoughts and emotions from others without the use of eyes or ears or mouths or gestures. And just as a radio cannot pick up a station it isn't tuned to, so a brain does not pick up thoughts and feelings it isn't tuned to, either. A thought or a feeling is broadcast out in all directions from someone or something, maybe using a brain and maybe not. Assuming your brain is tuned to that particular telepathic frequency, something in you picks up the signal and converts it into electrical impulses retaining some degree of duplication of the original source pattern and these go to various parts of your brain, depending on the content of the pattern, where, again depending on the content, you end up with some kind of sensory, emotional, or kinesthetic awareness accompanied by measurable chemical and physical changes in your body. Because most people are not used to tuning their brains to telepathic input, there can be a lot of distortion in the final interpretation of the signal. That's why physical devices like crystals, pendulums, and symbolic patterns can be useful in keeping the reception closer to the original pattern, by converting the input into visual and kinesthetic output. I think we still have a long way to go in developing more accurate devices for receiving telepathy, but then early radios weren't so great, either.

This is all leading up to my contention that the

electronic devices that we now use to transmit thoughts and feelings are not, as some think, leading us away from the development of our natural telepathic abilities, but are instead serving to subtly train us in those abilities, especially as they become smaller and more efficient and more accurate. They are helping to create a subconscious expectation of how easy it is to communicate with someone halfway around the globe, so much so that fewer and fewer words are becoming necessary to communicate our thoughts and feelings. Just think about the fact that a simple emoticon like :) can make you feel good, and a few letters like AOS can, if you are a teenager, let you or your friend know that an adult is at your shoulder looking at what you are doing, so be discreet (AOS = Adult Over Shoulder). Adding to this effect is the now standard 5-second clip used in advertising. You often hear that it's because the attention span of the audience is getting less, but since people still watch much longer segments in normal programming, it is actually increasing people's ability to get more information from less input.

Another electronic technique is training people to absorb more information from what at one time would have been an overwhelming amount of information. Here I'm speaking of the common practice of many television news programs, especially those devoted to financial news, of presenting multiple, simultaneous inputs of information. CNBC, for instance, will have one or more people speaking as two lines of type at the top of the screen give current market results for stock funds and commodities, while two lines of type at the bottom - one moving faster than the other - give current quotes of various types of stocks, and another small screen above those two displays information or news that may or may not be related to what the speakers are saying. Since our brain is constantly receiving far more information than we are usually consciously aware of, this may be helping to prepare us for paying more attention to telepathic input that we would usually ignore.

I have emphasized telepathy up to this point, but practically every shamanic skill is being practiced by more and more people today without them fully realizing it, especially by those many millions who are joining virtual worlds through a computer connection. To demonstrate my point, I will use only one such world as an example, that of Second Life. For those not familiar with this kind of experience, the standard operating procedure is to use your keyboard and a mouse to manipulate an 'avatar,' meaning a digital character that represents you in a virtual three-dimensional environment.

In a typical Second Life session, here are some of the shamanic skills you are likely to engage in:

- Telepathy: this is usually done by 'instant messaging' someone who may be anywhere in the real world.
- Clairvoyance: you do this with a 'camera view' that lets you see things around corners and far out of the line of sight of your character.
- Levitation: whenever you wish, in most virtual locations, you can leap into the air and either float or fly to a destination of choice.
- Astral Travel: just open a map, choose a location, press a Teleport button, and 'whoosh!' you're there faster than a Star Trek transporter could take you.
- Shape-shifting: as you will it, you can change your body shape, your skin, your eyes, and your hair to suit your own fancy. You can even turn yourself into an animal.
- Materialization: with a beam of energy projecting from your avatar's hand, you can cause a wide variety of fundamental shapes to appear out of nowhere, and then you can turn them into houses, boats, planes, clothing, jewelry - nearly anything you want.
- Healing: this is one of the most amazing effects, because the results produce actual changes in your living mind and body. To understand this, you have

to realize that we all have a subconscious tendency to mimic the state or action of anything we put our full attention on. One of the ways this tendency is used in Real Life is to have athletes watch videos of experts in their field, and then practice what they've seen. Experiments demonstrate that the performance of the viewers increases significantly after the viewing. Another way, used in many, many areas of Real Life, is to imagine vividly what you want to do or be, and then do it or practice being it.

Back to Second Life. When you immerse your avatar in a steaming hot tub, your physical body begins to relax. When your avatar meditates in a forest or a temple, your real mind and emotions calm down. When your avatar stands in a field of energy, your real body feels energized. In some cases, when another avatar uses healing touch on yours, or gives your avatar a massage, your real pain can go away.

If we look at this phenomenon with the concepts of Rupert Sheldrake, hundreds of millions of people all over the planet are generating and sustaining behavioral and mental morphic fields that will make it easier and easier for more and more people to begin expressing shamanic talents and abilities that are usually associated with legends, fantasy, or science fiction. The talents and abilities are real, however, even though up until recently they have only been practiced by a few. Now, however, millions and millions of people are involved, and the training of the whole human race has begun.

Will this revolution happen easily? Most probably not, because so many people's lives are based on fear. The most common potential areas of resistance are these:

- Fear of anything electronic or electromagnetic. This is based on ignorance of how such devices work, and many people don't want to learn.

- Fear that people will become addicted. This is based on ignorance of what addiction is. People of very low self esteem can become addicted to anything at all that brings them any degree of

pleasure. If you take one source of pleasure away from them, they'll simply find another.

- Fear that people will become so dependent on electronic devices that they will lose their natural abilities. This is based on ignorance of human nature. Human beings are tool-using creatures. We always have and we always will use tools to enhance our natural creativity.

I just remembered a story I was told a number of years ago about a white Australian and an Aborigine who were hiking together in the Outback and got lost. The white Australian said to his companion, "Hey, why don't you use some of those powers you're supposed to have and get us some help?"

"Okay," said the Aborigine, and he pulled a cell phone out of his back pocket and called some relatives.

"Wait a minute," said the white Australian. "I thought you people were able to communicate with your minds!"

"Oh, sure, we can do that," said the Aborigine, "but this is so much easier!"

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Virtual Spirituality in Second Life

A Discussion

Excerpts from the Virtual Spirituality discussion moderated by StarRose Merlin (Aniko Babos), SolarGaianlight Raymaker (Prabhath P) and Happiness Merryman (Alex Noble) at the Mystic Academy of the 3D online virtual world Second Life (www.secondlife.com) on 24 Saturday, 2008. Location: Virtual Reality Room, Sky Box, Mystic Academy. The Sky Box had the setting of a nature scene full of greenery. (RL = Real Life, SL = Second Life, VS = Virtual Spirituality VR = Virtual Reality).

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Virtual Spirituality includes the advancement of spiritual consciousness evolution using various levels of internet technology like, email, chat, web sites, social networking and

3D virtual worlds. The discussion will focus on Virtual Spirituality in 3D virtual worlds like Second Life.

We can explore how the virtual experience can facilitate access to advanced levels of consciousness and creativity not easily accessible in real life and how these abilities can be integrated with real life. The discussion will also be a curtain raiser for the Virtual Spirituality issue to be published by the international e-mag Your Spiritual Revolution.

Happiness Merryman: Would it be interesting to let each one here say something about what VS means for them?

Pamala Clift: In the past, philosophers have used

metaphors such as cows, sheep and olive trees to try to understand reality. This is the first time we have had a virtual world with which to metaphor existence.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: I mean how the virtual experience helps us access states of consciousness that may not be easily accessible in real life.

StarRose Merlin: Nice point Pam :)

Melvyn Meredith: We are in the beginning phases of using VS in our Sunday Healing Circles here at Mystic Academy.

Caryl Meredith: I am new to this environment, but I see so many possibilities.

TR Amat: I could argue that VR started with the first cave painting, or the first story told.

Happiness Merryman: This setting is a good example of beautiful virtual surroundings enhancing a sense of community and good feelings.

Elborath Gelfand: The act of communication that could be read by someone at a different time like the cave paintings.

Happiness Merryman: TR, so glad you mention the cave paintings! Yes!

Deborah Goldblatt: I guess that virtual reality makes one trust the people over there. It is a place where you can talk about all that is probably not seen as normal in your usual environment and social surroundings.

Justinius Reinard: VR in its current state serves as a connection for people with like interests. Once you removed geography and the presence of skeptics, a lot can be accomplished. That is 90% of the value to be found in VS.

TR Amat: Books are a virtual environment needing this technology called 'reading' to interpret. :)

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: I feel the 3D virtual

experience is like lucid dreaming, in which you can teleport or fly and assume different forms (avatars) like in SL. Meeting as avatars in real time despite vast geographic and time zone differences can make us aware that we are all part of one Earth, Gaia.

Happiness Merryman: Agree totally.

Raheli Reinard: SL is an avenue to spirituality that is often unattainable in RL. With a demanding work schedule, it is often impossible to make it to scheduled spirituality discussions. SL facilitates spirituality in a manner that is free of time constraints.

Elborath Gelfand: I think that is what makes this experience so ground breaking - the fact that 'you' or your representative moves within the world, which takes it beyond 'reading' or watching a film.

Raheli Reinard: Indeed.

Justinius Reinard: That is a focal point, Elborath. An avatar is, to borrow mystical language, a conduit to the soul that is absent in chat or forum discussions.

Archangel Longstaff: The virtual environment aka servers and computers seem to enhance maybe even amplify the energy and connection we have to each other.

StarRose Merlin: I have felt that too Arch :)

Elborath Gelfand: Yes, that is an interesting thing Archangel.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: And the interactive element here is more intense than an instant chat in a messenger.

Happiness Merryman: Also, in a virtual world, we are free to be 'essence' and not bound by body, race, space or time, just pure spirits, which can be extremely liberating.

Pamala Clift: I have studied the elusive 'connections' that are felt with SL relationships.

Elborath Gelfand: Sounds interesting Pam.

Melvyn Meredith: Here is an example how it is helping us. For years we have held Healing Circles on our web site, and those who participated had to visualize sitting within a Crystal Pyramid on the Power Circle for the meditation. Now they can see it. That makes it more real.

Zena Zemlja: I heard already so many people say here in SL that they are more the real self here than in first life.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: An avatar is the virtual form of one's alternative selves.

Archangel Longstaff: With your avatar you are showing a part of yourself or spirit, maybe even a hidden part.

Elborath Gelfand: Or the part that you have had to deny in RL

Raheli Reinard: Agreed. Interacting in a virtual world frees us from the constraints of age, appearance and profession, allowing us to explore pure spirituality in a manner free from societal constraints and expectations.

Elborath Gelfand: I'd like to go back to Arch's point about the amplification of our spirit through the communication network.

Happiness Merryman: Zena, I agree. I think it is because we are so free here, and that has always been one of the goals, for me, of spirituality - to experience the greatest freedom possible in this life.

Justinius Reinard: To build on that Zena, how many times have your meditation or spiritual discussions in real life been hampered because they take place in bare sheetrock rooms with metal folding chairs? We can eliminate that here, and replace it with so much better.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: What we can do in SL is a pointer to the abilities the human body itself might evolve in the future through human potential evolution

Elborath Gelfand: We are fairly buzzing with

energy, each and every one of us.

Spirit is energy. It is as if this environment channels and focusses that energy in a way nothing else does. SL has brought me into contact with people who feel and think the same. Before I felt I was a lone voice.

Zena Zemlja: That's the law of attraction El :)

Elborath Gelfand: Indeed Zena.

Archangel Longstaff: I've met a lot of people like that in SL Elborath.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: In SL, it is easier to help people to stimulate creativity, intuition, imagination and the sense of spiritual unity in diversity. Virtual worlds give people glimpses of Divine potential that can manifest through integral evolution.

Pamala Clift: I am afraid I disagree. I simply refer to the real world as our biological avatars. We are more than what we inhabit.

Zena Zemlja: I also feel we connect here on another level, another dimension, one that is a bridge between the earthly dimension and the one of the spirits, which lots of people experience. Also they can connect even much more easily than on earth.

Justinius Reinard: I agree Zena, but it is the symbolism of our surroundings that can affect how much value we place in an experience. If it is cheaply slapped together, as transient and impermanent as a film noir setting - it takes some importance away.

Archangel Longstaff: As we blow out light bulbs, as we affect cell phones etc, so energy is amplified and to be on the net we have to learn to ground or tune or be in harmony energy wise.

Raheli Reinard: But Arch, I would argue that such connection, and perhaps even better amplification, can be found in a RL environment. That said, there is a different kind of value found in a virtual environment, with different goals and

aspirations and interactions. It is a place for the RL interactions we are not able to have, with time, location, and other such constraints.

TR Amat: I think we need to try and remain aware of all the levels of ourselves, so they don't get "out of step."

Happiness Merryman: In virtual reality, we can do 'work' on the big questions such as "What is important?" "Why am I here?" "What is my purpose?" In a way that lets us actually enter into, or create opportunities for exploring these questions with more 'flow' than in RL.

TR Amat: A grounding in RL is very useful to apply perspectives gained in SL.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Actually I feel more connected to Earth itself when I am in SL because the virtual dimension can be the emergence of another dimension of Gaia consciousness itself which is connected to the cosmic consciousness and the infinite dimensions of reality.

Elborath Gelfand: I don't think it is a question of RL or SL being the best environment. They are different.

Raheli Reinard: Yes, not best - just different, with different strengths and weaknesses.

Justinius Reinard: Different...as well as possible.

Raheli Reinard: Yes, Justin.

Kleos Gomes: Not more, yes different.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Both RL and SL are different but interconnected.

Raheli Reinard: The same people exist in RL as in SL, our form of interaction is simply different.

Archangel Longstaff: With RL environment, what we can do empathic-wise, people fear. But in virtual they have a sense of security so they are more open to broader ideas Raheli.

Elborath Gelfand: But the loss of the constraints

of the body that we have in RL makes the spirituality more intense in SL.

Zena Zemlja: Talking to people here, it seems for some of them the earthly dimension is not enough ground anymore for them to learn all the things they long for on their spiritual journey, SL provides us with a wonderful new dimension of spiritual sharing and learning. :)

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Well, there are infinite dimensions, but rather than leaving earthly dimension, it is possible to experience the integration of all dimensions including earthly dimension and others.

Justinius Reinard: I'm not so certain about dimensions, but to me it is invaluable to see other people's visions. The ability of individuals to shape this world in spectacular and beautiful ways lets them paint pictures of themselves and their dreams that we can all share.

Solargaianlight Raymaker: All dimensions are important and integrating them is the key.

Virtual Spirituality can serve as the bridge between these dimensions.

TR Amat: SL lets you be elsewhere, and interact with that, in a much less symbolic way than previous mediums.

Elborath Gelfand: We are operating on pure mind/spirit/energy in SL without the constraints of the body.

Melvyn Meredith: One thing SL does is challenge the participants to redefine their concept of reality. What is 'Real' and what is 'Imaginary'. Even in RL, the blend is impossible to determine.

Deborah Goldblatt: I do feel that I am much more connected to people's mind. It is a challenge for all of us, meeting people we would barely meet in this life.

Elborath Gelfand: Quite Melvyn - to define reality in RL is a monster question.

Raheli Reinard: You raise a good point, Melvyn.

Zena Zemlja: Yes, it seems as if all experiences here go very deep for lots of people, some say even deeper than in their first life, which is quite something.

Pamala Clift: In real life, people believe perception IS reality. In here, it is easy to see that it is NOT.

Happiness Merryman: There is a lot of joy and play here, and my sense of the Spirit is that joy is one of the most important aspects.

Elborath Gelfand: Wherever you are, your map of reality is the one in your mind whether RL or SL. What you make with your mind is your reality.

TR Amat: I've never really believed that we have to stick to just one map of reality. :)

Elborath Gelfand: The reality we have in our minds of SL is its own reality.

Pamala Clift: I agree Elborath.

Melvyn Meredith: I was doing a bit of spiritual counselling yesterday here. You may have seen my call for a Spanish translator; this woman said to me "Sometimes I confuse what is real with my imagination." I asked her how she can tell one from the other.

Pamala Clift: Creating my home and showing the concept of my thinking. It is thrilling to share.

Zena Zemlja: We all read in spiritual books how we create our own lives, but in first life most of us live as if we do not, in Second Life, we become much more aware of the fact that we DO create our own experiences, big time.

Elborath Gelfand: That is a very good point Zena. The constraints other people put on us and the necessities of living.

Pamala Clift: Yes Zena. We are the product of our thoughts.

TR Amat: We make ourselves as much as anything else.

Deborah Goldblatt: We constantly by thoughts create our reality.

Raheli Reinard: We have the freedom to share our spirituality with one another. We have the freedom to explore avenues of spirituality and interconnectedness that we would likely not be able to find in our RL existence. I like that.

TR Amat: We dream things into existence from our imaginations.

Melvyn Meredith: True.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: We are not separate entities though we are all unique. We are an interconnected collective consciousness also.

Happiness Merryman: I like to think of 'imagination' as 'image-in-action' and we have so much of that here in SL.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Yes.

StarRose Merlin: I like that Happi :)

Caryl Meredith: I think it is attractive to many who remember Home - the astral - for SL simulates much of what we experience between lives.

Pamala Clift: Reality is for those that lack imagination. Lol

Zena Zemlja: I have a workshop on the subject in about 2 hours. It is called Positive Thinking! Smiles.

Melvyn Meredith: Regardless of how you define it, the situation is, many still come here seeking answers, seeking help. It is our job as teachers to find a way to help them.

Elborath Gelfand: Absolutely - so SL is as real as RL. Couldn't agree more Melvyn.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: yes, SL is as real as RL for me!

Raheli Reinard: We are also the products of our

actions. And I would claim that actions can occur in SL, just as they do in RL.

Justinius Reinard: We can create and make ourselves through thoughts, but feelings and sensation play a very important part in defining them. That is another advantage SL has over other virtual media.

Melvyn Meredith: In other words “We create our own reality” :-)

Deborah Goldblatt: For me SL is a prolongation of RL.

Raheli Reinard: Prolongation?

Deborah Goldblatt: I am authentic when being here. Yes, a prolongation of my world, an enlargement. For me, SL is the place where I am all I want to be.

Pamala Clift: I believe we create a good portion of our RL as well.

Deborah Goldblatt: We are creating instantly by our thoughts our reality.

Zena Zemlja: I think authentic is the word right on the spot here, that is right what we are when we are here in SL, not being bound by all our first life commitments, we are true to who we are here, authentic, yes!

Elborath Gelfand: Remember we base our map of reality in RL on what we take in through our senses. Here we take in so much through visuals and interact with it.

Deborah Goldblatt: The problem of the map is that the map is not the territory and the map, the inner one we created is not always the same.

Elborath Gelfand: NLP rules then Deb :)

Deborah Goldblatt: But NLP rules are not just NLP rules. NLP rules were discovered by what we are and instrumentalised.

Elborath Gelfand: It is a wonderful medium for

work like that, in some ways because you can actually model another map. But we can help people through SL to step outside their map through trying other characters, avatars, situations and give them choices. It has advantages over RL with NLP.

Deborah Goldblatt: Yes, here you do model a new map or enlarge your own inner map.

TR Amat: No reason to just have one map. Have several so you can see which one works best in a given situation. :)

Raheli Reinard: I wonder. Is it truly possible to be all we want to be? Some things are never attainable. There is too much in our world and our frames of existence to be able to explore it all to the degree we wish.

TR Amat: In creating our own reality, we generally try and not diverge too far from others, otherwise we risk ceasing to be able to communicate. :)

Archangel Longstaff: As in RL people bring either negative or positive by their own free will choice and create the reality they live in.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: SL can remind us how we can create reality freely in RL too

Melvyn Meredith: Expand your definition to expand beyond this world and this universe, even this dimension.

Kleos Gomes: I am loving this scenery in the woods.

Zena Zemlja smiles and agrees with Kleos.

Melvyn Meredith: Yeah, I love the fact that this forest is 438 meters off the ground :-)

Pamala Clift: I have used SL to take a RL bad guy and show him that accepting society and a love and a family life could be equally thrilling as what he was doing.

StarRose Merlin: So you carry the healing to this man back to RL Pam?

Elborath Gelfand: Wonderful work Pam.

Pamala Clift: Yes. Infact, I am here to do so.

Happiness Merryman: I have been thinking about how the great cathedrals, with their stained glass, incense and music created a kind of 'virtual' reality to enhance spiritual experience.

StarRose Merlin: Good point Happi.

Deborah Goldblatt: I remember a healing circle on a Sunday and I had such an enormous energy flow in my RL behind my laptop. I felt what that healing circle can do also for the world.

Archangel Longstaff: I met a man in SL. He was sexist, racist etc. After a few months of knowing me and his experiences in SL, he has definitely changed, more open minded and better.

Justinius Reinard: Atmosphere plays a huge part to a lot of people.

Pamala Clift: I have found that a psychopathic killer, who would not and could not take input from anyone in real life, would take the input of Pam to heart.

Deborah Goldblatt: Incredible!

StarRose Merlin: Wow! That is significant.

Archangel Longstaff: But it still was his free will choice to change.

Pamala Clift: He does. We all do. But why would this world and input get programmed straight to his brain, because the threat is gone from real.

Pamala Clift: Yes and I wish to explore this suspension of disbelief that this world can offer to those thought unreachable.

Elborath Gelfand: I believe that if we send energy into the fabric of the universe, it changes things. Here we do just that.

Deborah Goldblatt: Raising the energy level.

Elborath Gelfand: We send our energy and we

combine it with all of your energies into the universe.

Kleos Gomes: We can't change some one's world but we can help

Elborath Gelfand: And by doing that we can heal.

Deborah Goldblatt: It is incredible. Imagine, more and more people will do it and do it everywhere.

Happiness Merryman: Elborath, excellent point! I remember Alan Ginsberg once saying that every breath and word we send out into the universe in our poems and our prayers goes on forever and ever.

StarRose Merlin: I have felt, more then once, SL or the Virtual, can be somehow 'outside' of time.

Deborah Goldblatt: Oh yes, StarRose. You lose time because you live in mind and map.

Elborath Gelfand: Wish it was Star - then we wouldn't have this damn time zone problem!!

Pamala Clift: No, that is one constraint that happens only in sleep, outside of linear time, or maybe intense meditation.

Elborath Gelfand: In trance, time is different.

StarRose Merlin: Yes. SL is similar to trance in the creative sense.

Deborah Goldblatt: Yes, trance time is the universal time. SL, yes StarRose, is like being out of RL time.

Elborath Gelfand: Yes Star. I hadn't thought like that before, but SL is a little like trance and trance time.

Archangel Longstaff: As in a car wreck or intense healing, time slows, becomes fluid. So is it perception or is your energy vibration increased or have you slowed time?

Raheli Reinard: Time - such perception depends on the person, and on the life they lead. It is impossible to say one person's perception is wrong,

or that one has more time than the other - it is impossible to know how a person feels without experiencing their perception.

Kleos Gomes: I dreamed about SL before I started here.

Kleos Gomes: Sometimes I got parts of those dreams I know are older than my starting time.

Archangel Longstaff: I call dreams like that Kleos, markers, they let you know where you are and help confirm where you have been and where you are going.

Pamala Clift: I think of dreams as the zip program for the day's events in our biological avatar. We seek to put the day's events into the frame work of past experiences and point that piece of data instead of saving the whole file.

Happiness Merryman: Does anyone have a story to share about how your experience in SL has led to a more spiritual perspective or enhancement in RL?

Deborah Goldblatt: Tonight I was in a circle in RL with hypnotherapist and we had a common trance. The time outside is different. We are out of time in trance.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: One point is how we can apply what we evolve through Virtual Spirituality in SL in our RL.

Justinius Reinard: .Honestly, Solar, I don't think there is any 'application' to be done. A spiritual advancement is a spiritual advancement, regardless of the catalyst or method of delivery.

TR Amat: I had time seem to bend on me in RL, and I got somewhere that should have taken me at least another 20 minutes. I'm not the only person that I've heard that has happened to.

Happiness Merryman: TR...I have had the same thing happen!!!!

Elborath Gelfand: Extraordinarily, I was talking with someone the other night and it was really late in

RL for me like 3.30am. I said (whispered) I must go to bed. He didn't have speakers on, but immediately texted: "it is very late for you, you must be really tired," which was amazing.

Kleos Gomes: That is because people can feel you.

TR Amat: Try not to think about people too hard, it tends to get them to telephone you. :)

Elborath Gelfand: I physically feel the presence of you people. If someone appears on my land suddenly I jump in RL.

Archangel Longstaff: Has anyone here had waking dream where it seemed that you were in SL talking to avatars in chat or voice, but you knew the conversation was right then in SL?

Kleos Gomes: Yes, Archangel. I did have that.

Pamala Clift: Anything that removes the biological has a tendency to pull us closer to spiritual - lack of sleep, fasting.

Elborath Gelfand: I am very interested in bio-fields and the theories about how we extend our bio-fields to include a tool like how you feel your car is an extension of you physically like if something starts heading towards our car we cringe as if the outer skin is the extent of the car. I think we extend our bio-fields into SL, which is why we 'physically' feel the others.

Archangel Longstaff: Once a friend's car wouldn't start. We were in IM. I thought, I can heal long distance. Can I affect machines? So I sent energy to her dead battery, told her to try again. She went out, the car started. I freaked. lol

Happiness Merryman: We are perhaps creating a bio-field here right now. Where are we? Everywhere, and here as well.

Deborah Goldblatt: That is the energy making us feeling the other member in the group as being real with us.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Biology is not divorced from Spirit, the ancient integral Tantric traditions of India considered matter itself as a form of Spirit.

Pamala Clift: or a form of energy.

TR Amat: I've dreamed a bit more than maybe I'm happy about of being in SL.

Deborah Goldblatt: We cross inner boundaries. Mind and spirit do not need them, so we transport our map in here.

Pamala Clift: Matter is a form of energy. We are energy. The electronic interface is energy.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Yes, I have even sensed something like an internet cyber consciousness, which could be the emerging new dimension of a planetary consciousness.

Happiness Merryman: I like that : internet cyber-consciousness.

StarRose Merlin: smiles:)

Justinius Reinard: Let's be honest for a second: SL is what it is: bits of encrypted data being processed individually on each person's machine and sent to a server for dissemination before being retransmitted. There is no conduit - no link. So if you feel connected, it is because SL is catalyzing a feeling that already could have been, not providing the cables.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Even in SL it is possible to sense the bio-energetic chakric fields of the people behind the avatar. It is amplifying a potential that might have existed as a seed.

Zena Zemlja: Like Neale Donald Walsh says, we are all water drops in a big ocean. What one water drop feels, we all feel. If you poison one, the whole ocean is poisoned. Make one happy, and the whole ocean smiles.

TR Amat: I once restarted a crashed car's electrical system, just by grabbing a bunch of wires

and pulling, without thinking what I was doing.

Elborath Gelfand: The whole thing is a buzzing ocean of energy. It is the energy that allows all of us to be here. Get a power cut and gone.

Justinius Reinard: The world is a buzzing ocean of energy. SL is a very advanced communication system. :)

Elborath Gelfand: So why wouldn't our individual energy be channelled into this particular ocean?

Pamala Clift: Justin the wires may be a conduit.

Justinius Reinard: That is the thing, though, Pamala. If you were connecting to something because of the physical link from your home to the system, the only thing you could connect with would be a server computer.

Kleos Gomes: It doesn't matter what SL is, what matters to me is that I know there are living forms behind this scenery.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Matter itself is condensed energy.

Elborath Gelfand: Energy is transmitted through me to my machine.

Archangel Longstaff: If you go along the path of least resistance, the energy will flow that way best.

TR Amat: I saw a fiction story about a ghost that ended up in a virtual world, and thought he was in a real nightclub. :)

Happiness Merryman: For me, the cyber-cognitive space of SL is somewhat like Teilhard de Chardin's 'noosphere,' though in a primitive form. In noospheric terms, SL is like the cave paintings of a unified cosmic consciousness.

StarRose Merlin: Nice analogy Happi.

Zena Zemlja: Our bodies in first life are energy, our avatars in Second Life are energy, all is energy, all is real, all is our own creation, all is our individual

truth.

Archangel Longstaff: Your computer to server to other people's computer.

Elborath Gelfand: Hey guys - perhaps RL is the virtual world.

Pamala Clift: Cohesive intelligences occur here and represent themselves as either electronic avatars or biological avatars.

TR Amat: I think the basis is probably information that we sometimes experience as energy.

Elborath Gelfand: Thoughts are energy. A collection of electrical impulses.

Raheli Reinard: We are appreciating Plato's shadows and making them real for us.

Pamala Clift: Elborath that is my premise. Taoism says something like that.

TR Amat: We say 'electrical' because maybe we think we understand electricity - the trick is finding metaphors that work for us.

Raheli Reinard: The cave wall can be more, depending on how we experience it. :)

Justinius Reinard: But regardless, it is still a cave wall. The ability to make it more is really an ability in ourselves to see what we wish.

Raheli Reinard: Is that good or bad, a strength or a weakness, Justin?

Justinius Reinard: I don't know. It is just a fact. We aren't actually looking at text right now. We're looking at pixels. We make them more.

Archangel Longstaff: The cave wall looks different at different times of the day or as the shadows fall across it and movement is perceived.

Elborath Gelfand: It is actually the ability to step outside the confines of our own heads and put ourselves into a different place, once we could do that, every thing is possible

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: What about SL as the gateway to the emergence of a new species - a sentient cyber intelligence?

Happiness Merryman: Solar, this 'new species' is what I think Ray Kurzweil is talking about when he speaks of the Singularity. He says that we will be 30,000 times more creative than we are now.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: I feel through SL we are paving the way for a merging of biological and cyber intelligence.

Happiness Merryman: Solar, I agree! This is an area that definitely needs to be in your magazine, because it is happening in different degrees for all of us.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Kurzweil assumes that the universe and Earth are not sentient already. What I suggest is something different. SL might pave the way for us to connect to the supeconsciousness of the planet itself, which is alive, a superorganism, more intensely.

Happiness Merryman: Excellent point, Solar!

Zena Zemlja: Thoughts are very powerful energy even, prayers do work, spells too. If we think of another person, the other person feels our thoughts. It goes to the other person, like music stream, the energy flows, positive and negative both, we can feel suddenly very bad if someone is thinking negative about us, or feel very good when someone thinks about us in a loving way. So better be careful with what you think, also about yourself!!

Archangel Longstaff: The cave wall painting will affect each one differently as pertaining to there state of mind at that moment

Elborath Gelfand: We only have our perceptions to work with. Here we all are in a space, in a piece of cyberspace and you are all real to me making a REAL space for ourselves within a great interconnection that is alive with energy.

SolarGaianlight Rayamker: Cyberspace is

another emerging level of the collective consciousness.

Justinius Reinard: I think we look at it from opposite directions, Solar. You see collective consciousness. I see the ability to access more of other people's mental paintings than ever. Both lead to the same conclusion.

Justinius Reinard: And that is why this is another layer. We are embellishing and deepening our interactions with each other all the time. SL, in that respect, is just a subset of electronics, code, language, and thought itself.

Happiness Merryman: Elborath...this is better than any coffee-house gathering I could ever have here in my home town.

Elborath Gelfand: This space is REAL to us right now because we are perceiving it and interacting within it.

TR Amat: Real unreality. :)

Deborah Goldblatt: That is what I do tell people in here since I am in-world that there is no difference between the 'you' behind the laptop and the 'you' in-world.

StarRose Merlin: Our focus creates :)

TR Amat: Arguably the 'in-world you' might be bigger than the one at the keyboard.

Happiness Merryman: Elborath, not only is it real, but it is REAL. We will all be somewhat changed by this encounter, however imperceptibly. We have met to discuss and share deep and important ideas and I believe we will all carry this away with us, from virtual space into our real lives.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Yes, we need to integrate what we do in SL when we go back to our 'real lives'

Justinius Reinard: Happiness, I would argue that the differences between the experiences to be had in SL and similar RL environments are minimal. It is

the internal change within the individual that matters, not the delivery package. That doesn't mean SL isn't a very unique delivery package. I'd say that what makes it special is its versatility and the ease with which it can deliver kairotic experiences in exceptional settings.

Happiness Merryman: What is 'kairotic'?

Justinius Reinard: err... "pregnant with meaning." :)

Elborath Gelfand: Like the introduction of the idea of collective consciousness.

Deborah Goldblatt: The quantum physics says that this leads at the same time in all dimensions.

StarRose Merlin: Quantum Entanglement.

Archangel Longstaff: My SL experience from this past year has greatly affected me in RL in so many ways. The good and bad times in here made me more than I was an year ago than all my years growing up in RL.

Pamala Clift: I agree Archangel.

Elborath Gelfand: I have found myself moving in new directions

TR Amat: The trick is realising that you are far bigger than you thought you were, and all the bits are part of you.

Deborah Goldblatt: I can say that I would have been happy to meet such people in RL years ago to talk with.

Archangel Longstaff: People see in SL what the reality they would love for RL. So they grasp it, seize the opportunity and moments.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: What if in the future, SL becomes a fully immersive virtual reality?

StarRose Merlin: Holographic? Solar?

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Yes, may be similar to holodeck of Star Trek!

Pamala Clift: Why would anyone choose to create for themselves in here trashy, sad locations, destroyed towns, trailer parks and junk yards..?

Justinius Reinard: Some of us, Pamala, have an attraction for the dystopian.

Archangel Longstaff: Because Pamala, some people in SL, they do in RL live in misery and despair aka drama queens and griefers.

TR Amat: I know someone who said his ambition was to build a really good junk yard.

Justinius Reinard: Just visit the Midgard sim for FF8. It is a junkyard if I've ever seen one. Tragically beautiful to the max!

Elborath Gelfand: Pam, sometimes people feel they need to be punished and they may then create a punishing experience in SL

Pamala Clift: What would that attraction be? As a computer geek, the thought is always garbage in, garbage out?

Happiness Merryman: I went to a place called The Junkyard to try and find beautiful moments to photograph, and it was an exhilarating experience, full of joy and discovery in the midst of rust and ruin....a transformation.

TR Amat: Garbage looked at in the right way can be the raw material for new things, and offer possibilities that more structured things don't.

Elborath Gelfand: Also of course that may be a way of working through punishment, or despair.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: For me, the fact that I who am sitting in a far away state of India at midnight can connect with people from all over the world so directly itself is something valuable! It reminds me of the futility of wars in the name of national boundaries.

Deborah Goldblatt: That is great.

StarRose Merlin: Validates how connected we are, yes. :)

Elborath Gelfand: Of course, that is such a miracle in itself.

Deborah Goldblatt: I say it is also a place to meet people out of lives of the past.

Justinius Reinard: That is the primary value of SL for me, Solar that's what makes it such a good delivery package. It provides me access to many great teachers.

Happiness Merryman: Just for fun, does anyone want to share an approximate geographic location? I am in a SoCal beach town.

StarRose Merlin: Heavily forested Oregon logging town.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: In SL we need no visas and passports.

Pamala Clift: Washington State.

Archangel Longstaff: West TN, USA.

Elborath Gelfand: UK here.

Raheli Reinard: Justin and I are sitting on computers in the same room in a one-bedroom apartment in Arkansas.

Deborah Goldblatt: Germany near Ramstein Air Base.

TR Amat: East Midlands UK.

Happiness Merryman: THIS IS EXCITING TO HEAR!

Elborath Gelfand: Hey TR I'm West midlands.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: I am in a coastal town called Kollam in the tiny south Indian state of Kerala and it is sharp midnight here!

Elborath Gelfand: I'm just outside Stratford on Avon.

Justinius Reinard: It is lunchtime here.

Deborah Goldblatt: Oh Stratford on Avon, Shakespeare.

Happiness Merryman: IAM GETTING CHILLS AS EACH OF YOU CHECK IN. IT IS LIKE REMINDING OURSELVES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY POWER OF WHAT WE HAVE RIGHT IN HAND HERE! THANKS FOR SHARING.

Elborath Gelfand: It's supper time here.

Deborah Goldblatt: 8.30 pm evening here in Germany.

TR Amat: I'm in easy distance of Nottingham and Derby. :)

Elborath Gelfand: Yes - a miracle that we need not take for granted. :)

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: Connecting without the constraints of borders! This interconnection reminds us that we are all on the same planet despite cultural or time or geographical differences.

StarRose Merlin: How dynamic the human capacity for inter-connection truly is! :)

Raheli Reinard: But it is the fact that SL is a constant form of existence for us that we can take it for granted - it is a testament to our utility of the medium.

Justinius Reinard: When a thing becomes taken for granted, then it is truly valuable.

Elborath Gelfand: Yes - but people marvel at new technology, accept it, use it - and take it completely for granted within the blink of an eye.

Justinius Reinard: I see your sentiment, Elborath, but we can't use it to its fullest potential if we gaze at it in awe. Better to integrate it into ourselves.

Elborath Gelfand: This is a fascinating discussion.

SolarGaianlight Raymaker: I thank every one for making this an enlightening discussion.

Happiness Merryman: GREAT SHARING.

Justinius Reinard: Thank you all for arranging

this conversation. I hope we've been helpful.

Raheli Reinard: Thank you all for the discussion.

Zena Zemlja: Thanks everyone for your enlightening thoughts. :)

Happiness Merryman: Star, thanks for providing this marvelous setting!

StarRose Merlin: Thank you for coming and sharing, been grand. :)

Spiritual Poem

The Internet, your Universal Mind

Yearning for digital tides
Stuck in a dream
Wishing for magic carpet rides
Cursed by the Supreme

Watching me appear
Through the cracks of dawn
Still in limbo lair
To my window, I'm drawn

Why do I dare, my soul to bear?
Where did I come from to feel so glum?
Why am I here, why do I care?
Am I going or am I really coming?

What's my name?
I just got to know
The goal of my game
I intrigue me so

Then I heard my voice
"Come surf my tides that will never ebb
I am your story, your song, your choice.
The Internet, I am... World Wide Web."

My soul danced with sudden glee
In retrospect, I knew from the start
I am here to find me
Through the language of my heart

I'm the Internet, World Wide Web
I am the true unsinkable chip
I am the tide that will never ebb
Come aboard my ship

Internet, I am, World Wide Web
I am the past, future and present combined
I am the tide that will never ebb
I am *your* universal mind

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- ♦ Your **Desires & Dreams**
- ♦ **God** is Everywhere
- ♦ **Truth** leads to Peace & Happiness
- ♦ Art and Science of **Balance**
- ♦ Brain is in the **Mind**
- ♦ Love and Fear - **Duality** in Design
- ♦ **Awareness** Transforms
- ♦ Consciousness + Energy = **Reality**
- ♦ Law of **Attraction** - Act to Attract
- ♦ **Freedom** of Choice - Evolution vs Entropy
- ♦ Law of **Karma**
- ♦ **Time** & Space - An illusion
- ♦ **Psychic** / **paranormal** abilities exist
- ♦ As above so below: Microcosm vs **Macrocosm**
- ♦ **Change** is the only constant - **Evolution**
- ♦ Enlightenment - **Immortality**
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YSR Course will be conducted by **Amitt Parikh** - Executive Editor of Your Spiritual Revolution eMag, founder of Spiritual Science & Research Foundation. He is an author, poet, mystic, IT consultant, translator, and a professional trainer. For questions and free guidance related to YSR Module 1, please **email** amitt.parikh@gmail.com with subject line 'YSR Module 1'.

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