

TRANSFORMATION INTO WHAT?



LETTERS FROM THE
GOLDEN MEAND SOCIETY

בראשית

The Head in the Temple and the Temple in the Head

(explanation: בית = house and ראש = head)

'Bereshith' (בראשית) is the first word of Genesis



The 'Arcadia'-hallmark (left).

Any publication or work of art bearing this hallmark is a contribution to the blueprint for a new civilization based on abundance, justice and peace, three interdependent concepts. You are invited to join in the work. Help us draw this blueprint.

The underlined 'Y' is a stylized representation of a cup. Whenever this cup has been filled with the spiritual fire of '*synergism*', the resulting creative product will be like a line added to this blueprint. Thus this fire is the real 'entry-key' to Arcadia. The equilateral triangle stands for the synthesis resulting from two opposing forces. In Arcadia the right synthesis between socialism vs. capitalism, globalism vs. anti-globalism, and conservationism vs. industrialism has been worked out in theory and practice.

First published in 2025 by the Golden Meand Society foundation, Seru Grandi #80, Bonaire CN. Tel: 00599 – 7962650

FROM PALACE OF MA'AT TO TEMPLE OF MA'AT

Letters from the Golden Meand Society

This is the third compilation in book-form of 'Open Letters' (i.e. 'letters to public media editors') and sundry Articles published by the Golden Meand Society (GMS). In the past, most of these letters were addressed to the Bench (the Judiciary). Volumes 1 and 2 were published under the Dutch title 'Paleis van Ma'at', meaning 'Palace of Ma'at'. In ancient Egyptian, the word Ma'at means 'Truth and Justice'. So the Open Letters were meant specifically to be taken to heart by all persons working within the 'Palace of Justice', i.e. the Judiciary.

This third volume shifts from 'Palace' to 'Temple'. Both individually as well as collectively we would all do well to live in a Temple instead of a Palace (or House). This is one secret meaning of 'Bereshith', the first (Hebrew) word of the Bible (*cf.* top previous page).



'Ma'at' means 'Balance,
Justice, Truth, Law & Order,
Harmony, Compassion,
Reciprocity'

We relate this idea specifically to the Judiciary. The Judiciary should re-invent itself. Judges should raise their consciousness so as to be able to apply the Rule of Justice instead of the Rule of Law. Pass judgment in the name of Justice, not in the name of the Law. A computer (AI) can do the latter; only humans can do the former.

Most articles published in Volumes 1 and 2 were written in Dutch. This volume will be multi-lingual: English, Dutch, Spanish and Papiamentu. This reflects the reality in the Dutch Caribbean. A reality we encourage. Although Dutch and Papiamentu are the islands' native languages, we must all learn to speak English and Spanish as well. For the islands are located in a region where English and Spanish dominate. Nor is this a disadvantage. On the contrary, it makes us mentally versatile. It broadens our horizon and helps us develop our trade-relations and tourist industry.

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BREVITY IS THE ESSENCE OF WIT

Homo Reciprocans

Yeah, we know. Shakespeare called it the soul of wit. But is it really? Usually brevity is the *absence* of wit. We agree that simplicity is a sign of truth. But brevity in itself is not. 'The Ukraine War is justified'. That's brief. However, both sides say this. So where's the sign of truth? There is none.

And what's wit without truth?

We, the People, do not consider carefully anymore. We tweet and watch Youtube. And we believe that this will change the world. Well, it will. We are tweeting our way to disaster. God forbid that people should *think* and consider carefully! Or, even worse, read a book!

And now that fake news, filtering and censoring has become the 'new normal', we are all very well informed!

Social media brevity will set you free!

Have you noticed how short our sentences have become? Long sentences are out. That would force you to consider nuance. That's the old normal, stupid!

BREV. = NITWIT

Whatever. We go with simplicity. Brevity is nitwit.

So, here is simple truth about man: *Homo Reciprocans*.

We are not 'homo *economicus*', that scheming little man who sees \$\$\$ only. This is what we have been persuaded we are. And we believe it. It says so daily on internet.

And who would dare contradict our Lord Internet?

Well, we do. We insist that \$\$\$-greed does NOT reflect our true nature. Our true nature is benevolent and reciprocal. You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours. You bake bread, I'll sell you flour. We interchange, we communicate, we trade, we respect. Sometimes we even love and hate. But even then, we reciprocate.

So, whether you like it or not, you have to co-operate and reciprocate. Always.

Know then thyself, oh Man! Presume not God to scan;
The proper study of *Homo Reciprocans* is: 'Yes, we can'.

Bonaire, 1 August 2023

TIME FOR A NEW CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM ON BONAIRE?

The question contains the answer. The undertone for a new referendum can already be heard amongst the population. But there is still a lot of confusion and ambivalence. What could we accomplish with such a referendum? What would be our goal?

Is there a solution? If one is looking for a solution, it is certain that there is a problem. What problem? If we ask people what they think of the present constitutional system (the '*Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire*' or 'OLB'), they nearly always answer: 'There are advantages and disadvantages'. If we ask if things have improved, they answer: 'Some things are better, others are worse'. If we ask if they are happy, they answer: 'Yes and no; not really'.



In general, it is recognized that Bonaire has made considerable progress. On the other hand, they feel that Bonaire is not Bonaire anymore. The influence of the 'new European Dutch' (= those who have arrived after '10-10-10'), has become too strong. On the other hand, it is recognized that the educational system has improved a lot. Public health also, that is to say, at the beginning. Afterwards it rapidly went downhill. There are now much more and better health facilities, but human empathy has gone. Patients have become mere numbers.

In short, the time has come to ask constitutional questions again. However, there is no political basis yet for any action in this field. But this will come. We are waiting patiently for a new generation of young politicians to start reading the book '*In Synergia Unanimus*'.

You can find it here (Papiamentu):

<https://www.arcocarib.com/ebooks/in-synergia-unanimus-pap/>

And in English here:

<https://www.arcocarib.com/ebooks/in-synergia-unanimus/>

Suggestion. Instead of watching Youtube-videos for hours on end, why not read a short book for a change? 52 pages, no more.

Bonaire, 13 October 2024

DEMOCRACY vs. AUTOCRACY

Which do you prefer?

The West vs. the Rest? Is this what is behind the Russia/Ukraine war? It is clear that Putin taps into anti-Western sentiment. Except for Brazil, South Africa and maybe Iran, all his allies are autocrats: Bashar al-Assad (Syria), Kim Jong Un (North Korea), Xi Jinping (China), Lukashenko (Belarus), Diaz-Canel (Cuba), Maduro (Venezuela).

Of course, there are nuances. Some are more autocratic than others. Some organize rigged elections (e.g. Lukashenko), some are democratically elected by the only political party in the country (e.g. Cuba). But all hate or despise the West and all of them may broadly be called autocratic. No multi-party free and fair elections, no freedom of speech and association, no credible defense of human liberty rights.

And as to economic and social human rights? Well, Cuba and Venezuela would claim they have that even better organized than the West. And to some degree this is true. For instance, Cuba has a pretty impressive medical system, accessible by all. But 'the West' usually also covers this reasonably well. So, this is a moot point, really.

Putin has openly stated that his goal is to change the World Order. He talks about a 'Multipolar World', by which he means a 'Tripolar World', i.e. Russia, China and the West. No more domination and 'sanctions' by the USA and its European allies. But he fails to explain why the people would be happier in a Tripolar World? If the West does not dominate anymore, would it make a difference for the people in Chechnya, for instance, where Russia dominates this country? Russia killed +/- 300.000 Chechens during two recent wars.

It is clear what is happening and it could well be that Putin will be successful in destroying the current USA-led World Order. But before we rush in to support Russia in its efforts to blow up the present World Order, what will we get in return?



I never hear Putin talking about that. Is it wise for Africa to allow itself to be guided by Russia, where power certainly is NOT in the hands of the people? Why would you want to emulate that?

Revenge has never been a winning strategy. What will you do after you have had your revenge? By the way, the West might shoot back. That is always the fruit of hatred.

Perhaps some introspection is called for here. Would India's Dalits ('untouchables') be treated like equal human beings after the West has been crushed? If so, why are they still being treated like dirt now? <https://minorityrights.org/communities/dalits/>

China has done a great job lifting its people out of poverty, but would you want to live in China?

I for one would not.

As for Africa. Do the words 'power-abuse, patronage and corruption' ring a bell? Why has Africa not made the same strides forward as China and even India have made? Why is that? Will that change after the Big Revenge?

Big changes in human history always come after war and bloodshed. That does not make it right.

Bonaire, 21 December 2024

DEMOCRACY IS NOT CAPITALISM

Or is it?

The difference is not obvious. Even renowned media-outlets, such as the BBC, often use the words 'democracy' and 'capitalism' interchangeably.

But that's wrong. Democracy is a political system. Capitalism has to do with economics. Democracy is one way to organize and run a state. Capitalism is one way to organize its economy.

There are also other ways to run a state. For instance, there are (political) autocracies, where a dictator or a king rules and dictates its laws. The economy can also be organized in various ways. Socialism is a well-known example of another way to organize the economy.

Can a democratic state decide to adopt the socialist model to run its economy? In principle, yes. Venezuela is trying to do this at the moment. There is only one problem. Socialism is a lousy economic system, because it does not produce sufficient goods and services that people need. Therefore, it did not work in the Soviet-Union and it did not work in China. Only when China (at the end of the 20th century) began adopting capitalism, did it start to rise to the economic heights where it is now.

It is curious that Venezuela does not realize this. But it will, sooner or later. Why can't socialists let go of their beloved economic system? We believe that it is because they see a lot of social and economic injustice in capitalism. And that is correct. Capitalism by its nature does indeed lead to great disparities between the few rich and the many poor. And there is a lot of injustice in that.

Does the Declaration of Independence not say: 'All men are created equal?' So, it should not be surprising why we feel a sharp pang of injustice when we consider Oxfam's assessment that the top 1% own more wealth than 95% of humanity.



We are not defending capitalism. We assert that socialism leads to *everybody* poor. And everybody even poorer than the poor in capitalism. How can that be a better outcome?

So, capitalism sucks, but socialism sucks worse!

On top of that, whenever a democratic country freely chooses to adopt socialism, it tends over time to become autocratic and brutally repressive. Again, Venezuela is a good example. Not only did 7.7 million people leave Venezuela since Maduro came to power in 2013, it basically became autocratic as well.

We are not making this up. The UN confirms the number of 7.7 million refugees (economic or political). View here: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/venezuela-situation#:~:text=The%20outflow%20of%20Venezuelan%20refugees,worldwide%20as%20of%20May%202024.>

It is a bit harder to actually prove that Maduro is in fact an autocrat. It is said that he uses ‘autocratic legalism’ to stay in power (*cf.* the ‘Americas Quarterly’ (article dated 15 August 2024 by José Ignacio Hernández). This description rings true, but it is not hard evidence. It is an opinion.



Such a nice man!
Nicolás Maduro

Wikipedia says: *‘Maduro heads an authoritarian government and has been described as an autocrat and a dictator’*. Okay, this still is not hard evidence. But then the same Wikipedia-page continues as follows: *‘According to estimations by the United Nations (UN) and Human Rights Watch, under Maduro’s administration, more than 20,000 people have been subject to extrajudicial killings’*.

So, the evidence adds up. It is true. Maduro is an autocrat. And violent repression has taken root. View Wikipedia’s page on Nicolás Maduro here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicol%C3%A1s_Maduro#:~:text=Maduro%20heads%20an%20authoritarian%20government,an%20autocrat%20and%20a%20dictator.

Conclusion. Until we have a better pair than ‘democracy and capitalism’, we had better stick to these two.

Bonaire, 7 January 2025

THE STONE REJECTED BY THE BUILDERS

Liberty, Equality and Fraternity

During the French Revolution the triad Liberty, Equality and Fraternity was proposed as the 3 founding pillars of modern society. And at the time the words 'or Death' were added. The complete motto was thus:

Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, or Death!

The triad (*without* 'or Death') has since been incorporated into the French Constitution. But that occurred much later.

It is also the national motto of the Republic of Haiti (art. 4 of the 1987 Constitution). Note that the Preamble of this Constitution echoes the U.S. Declaration of Independence, declaring that Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness are 'inalienable rights'.

An interesting blend of European and American thinking in Caribbean context. Haiti is interesting, for good and bad reasons. Perhaps something for another article ...

Getting back to the triad Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, we must realize that the element 'fraternity' has hardly been developed at all. It is treated as the unacknowledged bastard-son. It is the heart of the triad, but our modern society-builders only pay lip-service to it.

Why is this so? It is because humans are like herd-animals. We live in larger groups than animals (the biggest human herds are known as 'nations'), but, essentially, we are herd-beings. And as such we are both individuals (called 'liberals' in politics) *and* at the same time we are social beings as part of the herd (called 'socialists' in politics).

And as such our minds and emotions are dualistic, in which one is 'good' and the other is 'evil'. We don't think in terms of triads. We only see duads. Capitalists believe in liberty and socialists believe in equality. And both are convinced that the other is evil.

This is our present situation as eaters of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. During the 20th century we saw a spectacular display of this dualistic mindset in the rivalry between capitalism and socialism.

And now slowly, very slowly, the idea is incoming that there must be a third unifying and transcendent factor.

Why has it taken so long? After all, the 18th century French society-builders knew it already as 'fraternity'. Well, apart from the fact that we are herd-beings who like the toxic fruit of the Forbidden Tree, we don't really know. But the fact remains that up to now this third factor has never been seriously incorporated into our systems of state. At best only partially under the banner of 'solidarity'.

Although the 18th century Church knew that fraternity was in fact the (third) divine factor, it also failed to convince the secular authorities to adopt it. So, purely dualistic thinking has so far prevailed, despite the writings of Louis Kelso & Mortimer Adler (the founders of the theory which later came to be known as the 'Just Third Way').

And also despite Pope John-Paul II's recommendation: *"We can speak of socializing only (...) when on the basis of his work each person is fully entitled to consider himself a part-owner of the great workbench at which he is working with everyone else. A way towards that goal could be found by associating labor with the ownership of capital, as far as possible (...)"* (Encyclical 'Laborem Exercens').

Pope John-Paul II suggested that workers should become part-owners of the companies where they work. This was Kelso's basic idea, the 'missing link' called 'fraternity'.

Notwithstanding all this, 'fraternity' was always squeezed out and since the collapse of the USSR we had to make due with a mitigated dualism between 'left' and 'right'. A really *Just* Third Way has never been universally adopted.

For us as herd-beings who like the toxic fruit of the Forbidden Tree, it is indeed very hard to find a way out of the dualist mindset. But what if we pointed out to you that the third (divine) factor between Good and Evil is 'Justice'. It combines, reconciles and transcends Good and Evil. Likewise, fraternity is the third factor that combines, reconciles and transcends liberty and equality. Cf. picture.

Fraternity is the stone rejected by the society-builders, which will turn out to be the cornerstone.



Bonaire, 19 January 2025

URI AVNERI

You can only make peace with your enemies

We are delighted that finally there is a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas. During the past terrible year plus three months (as of 7 October 2023) it was depressing to see and hear what was going on.

Thank God it has stopped.

People have asked me my opinion on this war and I was unable to take sides. Yes, I think that Israel's reaction was disproportional. And yes, the initially intended total blockade of aid into Gaza, including water, food and humanitarian equipment, would have been a crime against humanity, had Israel not bowed to international pressure to allow aid in. I also believe that the Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal, as confirmed by the Int. Court of Justice in 2024.

On the other hand, it is not as though Hamas had not started this. Hamas is not innocent.

And here we come to the crux. We can analyze and debate the two sides' actions and words *ad nauseam*. But that will not lead to peace. I have always believed that only a Two State solution can lead to Peace. And in this I follow the reasoning of Mr. Uri Avneri, an Israeli writer, journalist, politician and peace-activist (1923 to 2018).



Uri Avneri was a member of the Irgun as a teenager and a veteran of the Palestinian War of 1948. At the time, Irgun was considered a terrorist organization by the British. And by reasonable standards, it was. Later Avneri was active as a 'squad commander' in the 1948 Israeli-Arab war, which culminated in the establishment of the Israeli state. And during this war many Palestinians (some 700,000) fled or were expelled from their lands and villages. Palestinians call this the 'nakba'. The word means 'catastrophe'.

Avneri never denied this. He himself fought on the Israeli side. But he admitted that the nakba had been ruthless and that a grave injustice had been committed against the Palestinians. He always defended the necessity for the

establishment of the Israeli state. BUT after Israel was a fact, he spent the rest of his life promoting peace with the Palestinians, which he considered to be equally necessary. And that a Two-State solution was the only way to achieve that.

He paid the price for his peace efforts. In late 1975 he was a co-founder of the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. Shortly after the Group's founding, he was stabbed several times. During his civilian life he was assaulted three times.

In 1982 he crossed the front lines and met with Yasser Arafat during Israel's 'Siege of Beirut'. This was seen as treason, of course. So, he had to endure a barrage of verbal abuse and social shunning. Some openly called for his assassination. But he never gave in. He kept on calling for peace until his death in 2018 at the age of 94.



And it was Avneri who taught us something which seems so self-evident, but is in reality incredibly hard to do. It is this: 'You can only make peace with your enemies'. Avneri was willing to risk his life to make peace with the Palestinians. He proved this repeatedly. But up to now neither the leadership of Israel nor of the Palestinians have been able to do this. They have waged war repeatedly, but they cannot make peace.

This is the reason why I cannot take sides. Both sides do not understand that you can only make peace with your enemies. In other words, both are to blame equally. If you cannot make peace, you must remain in a state of war.

Avneri used to send out a weekly News-letter via e-mail to anyone who wanted to receive it. We always received it and usually published it in our magazine ARCO, which circulated on Bonaire and Curaçao from 2005 thr. 2009. You can find all issues of ARCO here:

<https://www.arcoarib.com/back-issues/>

Bonaire, 24 January 2025

OSWALDO JOSÉ PAYÁ SARDIÑAS

***No queremos caer de un socialismo salvaje
en un capitalismo salvaje***

***We don't want to fall from a socialist disaster
into a capitalist disaster***

Cuba is collapsing. As it must.

We don't say this with glee. We have a soft spot for Cuba. We don't deny the political repression in Cuba. That is one of its bad spots, although it is not as brutal as in Soviet Russia. Nor do we believe in Cuba's socialist ideology, although it is undeniable that Cuba has set up outstanding educational and health care systems for its people.

Cuba must collapse, because it is too repressive and socialism cannot produce sufficient goods and services for its people. As no socialist country can. So, after a certain amount of time, the people rebel.

Let's compare with the collapse of the USSR.

The Russian Revolution started in 1917. The USSR was formally disbanded in 1991. That's 74 years, roughly 3 generations. The Cuban Revolution started in 1953. Counting from this year, socialism has endured for 72 years now in Cuba. Also, roughly 3 generations.

And all the imminent signs of Cuba's collapse are there. We edit an article on Reddit: "More people leave Cuba (approx. 10% left since 2020; +/- 1 million individuals). The age dependency ratio worsens (fewer people of working age and more retirees). Agriculture and industry degrade; water and electrical infrastructure degrade; buildings and roads degrade. There are many blackouts; there are water shortages. Public transportation degrades, the health care system degrades. Garbage accumulates on the streets. State resources are depleted. The Cuban peso could lose all its value, and vendors will only accept hard currency".

Cuba blames the U.S. economic embargo for this decline. Venezuela blames U.S. sanctions for their decline. But the real reason is that socialism is a lousy economic system. And on top of that, it can only be implemented with state repression, mild (as in Cuba) or brutal (as in the USSR).

Does this mean that all is rosy and cozy when capitalism is the dominant economic system? No, it's not. Capitalism as an economic system and functioning within a democratic state system (as in Europe and the U.S.A.) does produce more goods and services. And, therefore, there is more prosperity. And there is also less repression.

But is the extreme disparity in wealth and income, as we see in Europe and the U.S.A., *just*? We say: No! Consider the following figures for the 2nd quarter of 2024, published on the website of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis:

- *"The top 10% of households by wealth had \$6.9 million on average. As a group, they held 67% of total household wealth.*
- *The bottom 50% of households by wealth had \$51,000 on average. As a group, they held only 2.5% of total household wealth".*



This is why the Cuban dissident Oswaldo PAYÁ SARDIÑAS said: 'We don't want to fall from a socialist disaster into a capitalist disaster'. He called for the peaceful overthrow of the socialist Cuban regime. But he was well aware of the injustices in the capitalist West, which he also abhorred.

We came to know Oswaldo Payá personally. We went to Cuba twice and visited him several times at his home in Calle Peñon, Havana. A very intelligent and amicable gentleman (born 1952 – died 2012). We have planted a Peñon-tree in our 'kunuku' in his honor. We are happy to learn that a monument has been dedicated to him in Hialeah, Florida (see picture).



A devout Catholic, Payá founded the Christian Liberation Movement in 1987 to oppose the one-party rule of the Cuban Communist Party. He attracted international attention for organizing a petition drive known as the 'Varela Project', in which more than 10,000 signatories petitioned the Cuban government to guarantee freedom

of speech and assembly as well as to institute a multi-party democracy. In recognition of this work, he received the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize.

Seeing that Payá was well aware of the shortcomings of 'democratic capitalism', we tried to persuade him to adopt the Just Third Way (which he called: 'la Tercera Posición'). Names for this 'Just Third Way' have since changed. The Center for Social and Economic Justice (CESJ) in Washington now calls it 'Economic Personalism'. We now call it 'Synergism'.

Sidenote. What we used to call the 'Just Third Way' is NOT the same as what Bill Clinton and Tony Blair in their time called the 'third way'. The word 'just' was added to distance ourselves from the 'third way' promoted by these two politicians. The 'Just Third Way' was designed by Louis Kelso and Mortimer Adler. Kelso called it 'Universal Capitalism'. It is a totally new way of political/economic thinking to make 'democratic capitalism' more *just*.

Payá wanted to adopt it, but he was not acting alone. He spoke with his fellow dissidents and he told us he could do no more than follow the line of the 'Varela Project'. Of course, we had to respect that.

During our second visit to Cuba in 2009 we tried to promote the 'Just Third Way' (at the time referred to by us as 'Solidarism') by marching from the village of 'Sante Fé (near Havana) to the city of Nueva Paz'. Yes, the locations were specifically chosen for their names. Only 'holy faith' will eventually lead to a 'New Peace'.

We wrote a book about this March (89 km), entitled: 'Cuba, a New Beginning'. You can find it here:

<https://www.arcocarib.com/ebooks/cuba-a-new-beginning/>

And in Spanish here:

<https://www.arcocarib.com/ebooks/cuba-un-nuevo-comienzo/>

On 22 July 2012, Oswaldo Payá died in a car. The Cuban government stated that the driver had lost control of the vehicle and collided with a tree. Payá's children and one of the car's passengers asserted that the car had been deliberately run off of the road. In 2023, a ruling by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) held the Cuban state responsible for the murder of Payá.

Bonaire, 26 January 2025

FEDERATED STATES OF EUROPE

There is Opportunity in Disaster

Europe will have to step up to the plate. America will no longer guarantee European security. We will have to do it ourselves. At least as far as Europe is concerned.

I write 'we' purposely here. Our islands form part of Europe. In this we must stand with Holland. For good or for bad, we are still one. Our islands have to do what we can to assist Holland.

Although I strongly disagree with the overall agenda of the Trump administration, I cannot deny that Trump is right on this particular point. Europe must accept prime responsibility for its own defense. And to keep on assisting Ukraine to defend its sovereignty.

Europe can do it. And do it for the right reason. Not in exchange for an extortion-like 'rare earth minerals' Trump-deal, but because it is the right thing to do. The 'rare earths' will come when the time is right. But it's not for that. We do it, because democracy must prevail. It is not the best state system, but it is better than autocracy.

Therefore, the first and immediate step must be to set up a united Armed Forces of Europe. The second step is to speak with one voice internationally. So, a mechanism for a united European Foreign Affairs policy must be set up immediately.

We cannot let Ukraine down. Hopefully the U.S.A. will continue its support, but Europe must now do it, with or without U.S.-support.

Of course, a cease-fire is better than a continuation of the killing. And if that means that Ukraine must cede some land for the time being, so be it. But a cease-fire does not end the underlying conflict. So European troops will have to be stationed along the entire Russian border, from Finland all the way down to Ukraine.

De facto Ukraine has already been accepted as an integral part of Europe. It would be dishonorable to turn our backs on Ukraine now.

Now, the Ukraine war is a complete disaster. And Europe's awakening to what must now be done, is very unpleasant indeed. But here we are. We cannot escape. This is not the time to sit down and be miserable. Better gird yourself and get going.

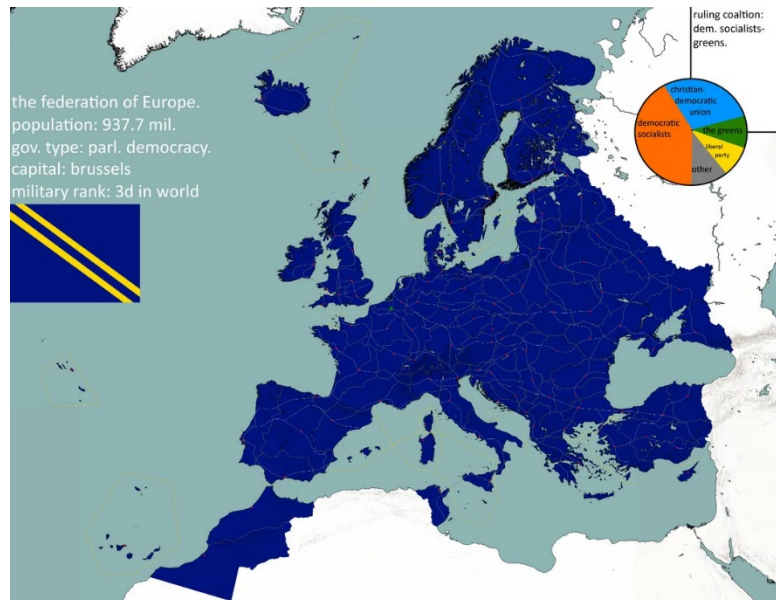
Up to now, the European Union has not been able to integrate. The 2003 draft EU-Constitution never made it after France had rejected it by referendum in 2005. Thus, the EU remains a confederation of individual nation-states, each speaking its own language and insisting on its own national sovereignty.

It is obvious that such a 27-member Confederation cannot function effectively when it comes to supporting Ukraine militarily. And worse, if there is a hot war against Russia.

By the way, the draft of the rejected 2003 EU-Constitution with all Protocols and Declarations is 100 pages. The USA Constitution is 18 pages. This fact may appear trivial, but it shows the complexity of the EU.

A Constitution must be clear and concise. If Europe is to defend itself credibly and take a leading role, it must now make that scary step to become one country in the form of a Federation. Including Britain.

This is the moment.



In 2022 the Federal Alliance of European Federalists (FAEF) drafted a new Federal European Constitution. You can find it here:

www.faef.eu/en_gb/federal-constitution-introduction/

The text itself is 23 pages. The book, including a Memorandum of Explication (price: € 52.50), may be ordered here:

<https://www.iustitiascripta.com/product-page/the-making-of-the-constitution-for-the-federated-states-of-europe>

This new European Constitution even thinks beyond Europe. Article 1, section 7 reads:

“The Federation will promote a higher degree of World transnational cooperation and may, on conditions of equality with other countries and regions and on the basis of the values expressed in the Preamble to this Constitution, accede and adhere to a World Federation, based on a democratic Earth Constitution”.

In other words, the Federated States of Europe basically lays the foundation for a future World Federation. We know, this may take another 75 years. But the suggestion has been made. If Europe can do it, eventually all countries can.

A grand opportunity for Europe ...

Bonaire, 22 February 2025

A NEW SCIENCE OF HEAVEN

by Robert Temple

My first and only book review

The Void (0) becomes Plasma (0 = 1), which begets Liquids (2), the two giving rise to Gases (3), all of which finally congeal to form Solids (4).

Now, we do not pretend to have any evidence that this is a correct account of the appearance - or should we say *creation* - of the four alchemical elements of matter out of Nothing. As a matter of fact, creation out of Nothing is impossible, as Nothing cannot give rise to Something.

Unless 'Nothing' (0) is the purest All-encompassing Consciousness. Or Cosmic Consciousness. If that's what the Void is, then the Void could indeed become Plasma etcetera

And, then, Plasma, being nearest to Cosmic Consciousness, would itself have a higher form of consciousness than the other three elements. But for self-consciousness to emerge, a highly evolved living entity is required. They are known as Humans. And it turns out that these humans have even become capable of Self-consciousness, i.e. consciousness of Cosmic Consciousness. One such human was crucified for this attainment ...



Robert Temple

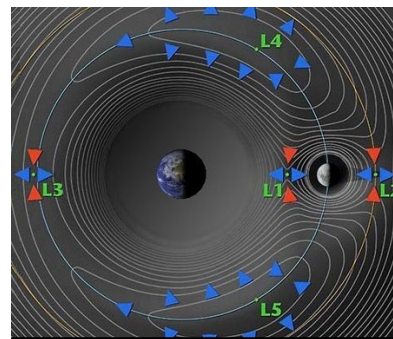
If you think that Robert Temple's book cannot possibly be about the above 4 paragraphs, then you are quite right. He never specifically mentions anything like this. His book starts with the description of 'plasma', an invisible form of matter, which was first discovered at the end of the 19th century and was at that time called 'radiant matter'.

Temple's approach is scientific. So, no God-nonsense. The book has just over 50 pages of notes referencing scientific source materials. Of course, a number of Temple's own speculations will be found in the text, but none as wild and unsubstantiated as my own in the above 4 opening paragraphs.

Why then open this review in the speculative way as we have done? It is because of what Robert Temple does *not* say. Nor even (purposely?) implies. We suppose his adherence to science prevents him from saying or suggesting such 'esoteric' things. But what he does *not* say is like the silences between musical notes. Every scientific fact he quotes is followed by a silence, which loudly rings out the kind of esoteric 'non-facts' as mentioned in the first 4 paragraphs. These silences cannot be unheard.

Which, by the way, is another piece of non-sense. You either hear something, or you don't. You cannot 'unhear' anything ...

The book begins by describing the 'Kordylewski Clouds', first discovered in 1961 by the Polish astronomer Kazimierz Kordylewski. There are two of these Clouds hanging in between the Earth and the Moon, just where the gravitational pull of the Earth and the Moon equal each other out. That is why they don't 'move', i.e. they don't move between the Earth and the Moon. They just 'hang' out there. Of course, they do move with the Earth and the Moon around the Sun, but their position in relation to the Earth and the Moon is more or less 'stable'.



Wikipedia: *Kordylewski clouds, also named 'ghost moons', are concentrations of dust that exist at the L4 and L5 Lagrangian points of the Earth–Moon system. They were first reported by Polish astronomer Kazimierz Kordylewski in the 1960s, and confirmed to exist by the Royal Astronomical Society in 2018.*

They consist of space-dust and, you guessed it, Plasma. So, what is plasma?

Plasma is not 'matter' as we know it. Matter consists of atoms and molecules. Plasma, however, consists of subatomic particles, i.e. electrons, protons and ions. Free-floating in space and elsewhere (whatever 'elsewhere' means in a boundless and time-less Cosmic). In the Cosmic more than 99% is plasma. Less than 1% is 'matter' as we know it.

Plasma can cluster onto (space-)dust. If many of such tiny plasma/dust-clusters group together, a dusty-plasma cloud is formed. These may be small or huge. They may be called 'dusty complex plasma clouds', like the Kordylewski clouds. The latter are about 9 times the size of the Earth.

Robert Temple claims that such huge 'dusty complex plasma-clouds' have enormous computing intelligence, trillions of times more than our best AI quantum computers. He claims that these clouds are 'conscious'.

That's why he is mad. For how can subatomic plasma clustered onto space-dust particles (or space 'grains' as they are called) be conscious? That is as nonsensical as saying that a dead stone in one's garden is conscious. In fact, Temple is as mad as those Qabalists, who indeed do claim that a dead stone has consciousness.

The Qabalists reason as follows. How could a human, who evolved from sub-atomic matter to a complex cluster of atoms and molecules, be *conscious*, if the atoms and molecules which form his body, are completely without any kind of consciousness? No doubt, the consciousness of a stone differs from our own complex consciousness, but a stone cannot be without any kind of consciousness.

The more so, because the Cosmic itself is conscious. It is 'omnipresent and omniscient'. In other words, the Cosmic's consciousness is everywhere and in everything.

We agree with the Qabalists. But, we insist that Robert Temple is indeed mad. That is to say, he is mad to openly say that the highly complex Kordylewski Clouds are conscious. However, it is the kind of madness we very much like and respect.

So, there are two highly conscious Kordylewski clouds hanging out there in space observing and computing us. What does this mean? We will not be as mad as Robert Temple to answer this question. We can only say that between the two Clouds, there must be a Third force. Like the Middle between Good and Evil is Justice

'A New Science of Heaven' is a wonderful book. It will make you think deeply. We highly recommend it.

Bonaire, 18 April 2025

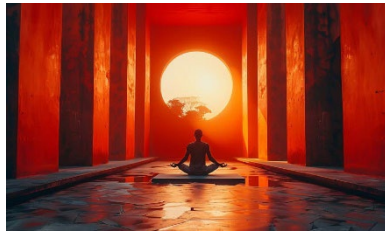
WHO ARE THE 'INVISIBLE MASTERS'?

Do they exist? Where can they be found?

In his book 'Cloud upon the Sanctuary' Karl von Eckhartshausen claims that there is an Inner School, a Sanctuary, that from the earliest ages has been occupied in building the Grand Temple to the regeneration of Humanity.

Worldly intelligence seeks this Sanctuary in vain. In vain also do the efforts of malice strive to penetrate its great mysteries. All is indecipherable to him who is not prepared. He can see nothing, read nothing in the interior.

He who is ripe is joined to the chain, perhaps often where he thought least likely. And at a moment of which he knew nothing himself. Seeking to become ripe should be the effort of him who loves wisdom.



There are methods by which ripeness is attained. There are schools which prepare the student. One of these schools is AMORC, the Ancient Mystical Order

Rosae Crucis. Others in the West are Freemasonry, Martinism and BOTA. There are more. In the world of Islam there are also schools. In India, China, Japan and in other regions.

Be careful. Some walk the dark path ...

In the holy communion of the Inner Sanctuary is the storehouse of the knowledge of the human race as well as the mysteries of all science. It knows the center and source of nature and creation. It is a society which unites superior power to its own power and includes members on all earthly continents and is present even in other worlds.

It is the society whose members one day will be the Regent Mother of our world.

However, note one thing: It is extremely interesting, but not easy. And it is not a quick fix.

Bonaire, 10 April 2025

WE CAN STILL OPT FOR NEUTRALITY

There are precedents

What about our islands after the US-strike on Iran's nuclear facilities? It is a fact now, whether you agree with it or not. And we do not yet know what the effect of this will be for our islands.

Irrespective of your opinion about the strike, we must now consider again what international posture our islands should adopt? A posture which would be both beneficial to Holland and to our islands.

We have long advocated that our islands should opt for neutrality in international affairs. It



should technically be possible. There are precedents:

1. The Finnish archipelago of Åland in the Baltic Sea is demilitarized. It has been declared neutral territory;
2. The Norwegian Svalbard Islands (formally known as 'Spitsbergen') are demilitarized (but not strictly neutral).

Via the U.N. or a special Treaty, it should be possible to gain official recognition of our islands as neutral territory. Especially since our islands are NOT part of NATO-territory.

This may be surprising for many, since Holland is a NATO-member. But art. 6 of the NATO-treaty is clear. It reads:

'For the purpose of Article 5, an armed attack on one or more of the Parties is deemed to include an armed attack: - on the territory of any of the Parties in Europe or North America, [...], on the territory of Turkey or on *the Islands under the jurisdiction of any of the Parties in the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer*'.

Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire are situated way south of the Tropic of Cancer. So, officially, our islands do not form part

of NATO-territory. Read Chapter 11 of a short book about the future relationship between Holland and our islands here: <https://arcocarib.com/ebooks/in-synergia-unanimus/>

When we wrote the book '*In Synergia Unanimus*' we were still convinced that the NATO-treaty would not be interpreted so strictly that NATO-allies (especially the USA and Holland) would refuse to come to our aid, if we were attacked. Unfortunately, this is not so certain anymore.

US President Trump's 'strategic ambiguity' is strategically unreliable.

So, our case for political neutrality has become stronger. And now also much more urgent.

Bonaire, 22 June 2025.

M. Bijkerk

WE CAN STILL OPT FOR NEUTRALITY (2)

Promoting Justice and Peace

The first article on this topic caught the Press's eye. Both in Curaçao and on Bonaire. We also received meaningful comments on facebook.

So, we delve deeper.

Neutrality would be beneficial for both Holland and our islands. This is an important starting-point, for without Holland's support it would be impossible, or, at least, inadvisable.

But first, we ourselves must understand and want it. And we must know *why*. And we would need the people's support by means of a referendum on Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao (ABC-islands). So, we have to make the case to the people and see what they want. What they believe in.

We purposely exclude the Windward Islands from this discussion. Not because we don't care about them. It is because we feel that after the final dismantlement of the Netherlands Antilles in 2010, the Windwards have to determine their own future. The Windwards are located in the USA influence sphere; the ABC-islands in the Latin sphere. For more reasoning on this, we refer to the Introduction to the free e-booklet 'In Synergia Unanimus' (find it here: <https://www.arcocarib.com/ebooks/in-synergia-unanimus/>).

First question. Would it be prudent or cowardly, if the ABC-islands were to opt for neutrality? Let's compare with Ireland, which stayed out of WW-II. England knew the answer: Yes, cowardly! The Irish, however, argued that for a new nation, too small and ill-equipped to defend itself, neutrality was simple prudence.

This Irish counter-argument seems conclusive for the ABC-islands. We are too small and totally unequipped to defend ourselves. Against Venezuela, for instance. So, for us,

neutrality is prudent. However, this argument needs more substantiation. After all, defense of our islands is a so-called 'Kingdom-affair'. The Kingdom of the Netherlands (*read: Holland*) is responsible for our defense. The Kingdom is a NATO-ally, so we cannot argue that we are totally unequipped to defend ourselves.

But it is not as simple as that. Formally, our islands are not NATO-territory (*cf.* our first fb-article on this point). In other words, there is ambiguity. And in matters of defense, one cannot rely on ambiguity.

So, let's remain moot on this first question. For us, neutrality is neither cowardly, nor prudent. Although we might rely on Holland, in practice it would be very difficult for Holland to come to our rescue, if Venezuela did something stupid, for example. If that happens, we would have to rely on ourselves, for which we clearly are not equipped at all. Also, our population does not have a military history. Nor a military propensity.

This is the practical reason for Holland to support our choice for neutrality.

So, then the second question arises: what is real neutrality? One comment on our first article was that if you are neutral in situations of injustice, you choose the side of the oppressor. This is the argument of negligent complicity. By not siding with the oppressed, your negligence makes you morally complicit with the oppressor.



This argument is cogent. Yet, it excludes the possibility of there being a third intermediate point of view. Especially in wars and conflicts there is always a JUST third point of view that will lead to Peace. Usually, both sides are to blame and only a third and just solution can solve the conflict.

Peace is not the absence of war. It is the presence of Justice.

So, the neutrality we promote is not passive. It is not just a matter of not choosing sides. If our islands should choose neutrality, we should understand this to mean that we would always be active and articulate on all wars and conflicts, especially those in our regions. But we would always remain objective and impartial, promote justice and peace. And always invite both parties to the mediation table or even summon them to the judicial bench, if one such bench could be established on our islands.

This is where Holland could help. Section 90 of the Dutch Constitution reads: ‘De regering bevordert de ontwikkeling van de internationale rechtsorde’. Translation: ‘The government shall further the development of the international legal order’. In other words, the Dutch government is obligated to further the international legal order. It is not optional. It’s an obligation. And we submit that the translation of the Dutch word ‘rechtsorde’ should be understood as meaning the ‘rule of justice’, not just the ‘rule of law’.

And Holland has long time been very active in this respect. Several international Courts and Tribunals are located in the Hague:

- 1. International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946. Its seat is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).**
- 2. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). Established in 1899 to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between states, the PCA has developed into a modern, multi-faceted arbitral institution.**



3. The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and tries individuals charged with the gravest (international) crimes: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.

And there are many other international organizations located in the Hague. Here we mention just one, namely the Hague Academy of International Law, also seated at the Peace Palace. The **General Assembly of the United Nations** has regularly underlined the important contribution that this Academy makes to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law.

So, Holland's stance as arbiter, promoting justice and peace, as well as its knowledge, experience and reputation in the field of international law is the *spiritual* reason why it would be beneficial for Holland, if we should choose neutrality.

And what about us? Would neutrality be beneficial to our islands? Would we be safer, if we were neutral? Would Venezuela respect our neutrality more than the theoretical combined Dutch/NATO deterrence, which is supposed to protect our islands now? Or would it make no difference?

There can never be a definite answer to this question. We can only point to the fact that Switzerland was never attacked since it decided to be neutral. Same thing for Austria, Ireland, Malta and Costa Rica.

And may we remind the reader of the benefits Costa Rica gained from its neutrality? The Costa Rican budget previously dedicated to the military is now used for (inland) security, education and culture.

We need that.

And to be even more active for justice and peace, we could follow Ireland's example and train some of our people to participate in UN Peace-keeping missions. And train people to be sent out to provide medical aid in war-torn or otherwise troubled regions. In short, promote justice and peace.

The ABC-islands are not a sovereign state. The Kingdom of the Netherlands is. But within this Kingdom, Aruba and Curaçao are federal island-states. So, in principle, they have maintained (in our case have *acquired*) federal sovereignty (cf. Chapters 4, 5 and 8 of the e-booklet 'In Synergia Unanimus', or, more in depth, the essay (in Dutch): '*Het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden is een Federatie*' in the e-booklet: 'De Zon verlicht de Weg' (find it here: <https://www.arcocarib.com/ebooks/de-zon-verlicht-de-weg/>)).

As federal Island-states, it can be argued that they have the legal right to choose neutrality, provided the people express their support for this in a referendum.

We have experience in referendums.

This second article is too long, yet still not exhaustive. It will require at least a third article to cover all important points. It helps if we receive constructive comments on facebook. These may then also be discussed in a third article.

Bonaire, 13 July 2025

Michiel Bijkerk

WE CAN STILL OPT FOR NEUTRALITY (3)

Don't destroy the ground we stand on

What of the contradiction between our call to support Ukraine and at the same time recommending neutrality for our ABC-islands?

A contradiction it certainly is.

We see this contradiction in Holland too. On the one hand Holland supports the Peace Palace hosting International Courts, which dictates objectivity and impartiality. On the other hand, Holland is supporting Ukraine. How could the UN International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague be independent and impartial, if the ICJ were to adjudge a case between Europe and Russia about the Ukraine war?

It would be impossible.

Only if Holland itself were a neutral country, it would be possible. But not now.

As a matter of fact, Holland used to be a neutral country from roughly 1850 until 1940, when Germany invaded. It is probably due to this neutral period that Holland was chosen to host International Courts at the Peace Palace, which was opened in 1913.

By the way, Holland's efforts to promote International Justice and Peace with the Peace Palace at its center, is the most commendable thing Holland is doing internationally.



Inter-American Court of Human Rights in San José, Costa Rica.

BUT, back to our own contradiction. How do we justify calling for support of Ukraine and at the same time promoting neutrality for our islands?

Well, first of all, Holland - together with the USA and Europe - is already at war with Russia. Not directly with soldiers, but indirectly. With weapons and money.

Basically, World War III has started already. Russia, North Korea and more indirectly Iran and China are now actually at war with Ukraine and indirectly with Europe (and still more indirectly the USA). Our islands are not yet neutral. So, at this moment we also are already (indirectly) involved in the Russia-Ukraine war.

Once we are neutral, we can stand aside. Not now.

Secondly, until we have convinced Holland to go along with neutrality for our islands, we owe it to Holland to at least support them morally. Or else we should ask for independence. Which, wisely, we do not do (and we don't recommend it either).

So, the very very least we should do now, is say to Holland: 'We have your back'. But, in my opinion, that is very cheap. To express that we mean it, we should also give some money, even if it is only a symbolic amount.

Thirdly, this impending World War III is about democracy vs. autocracy. Our democracy has many faults. An obvious one is the fact that the rich buy our elections. We have never seen the evidence of that more plainly than during the last American election. Billionaires were invited to the White House to form an American-style 'oligarchy'. A trillionair even joined the Republican campaign.

And yes, after the campaign, this trillionair did give the Hitler-salute. In plain sight.

We are also not denying that some fascist elements have penetrated in Europe as well. Our democracy is in danger. That is precisely why we have to support Holland now. Because, if the Ukraine war is lost, we prove that democracy can be crushed. And then we lose the ground we stand on, which is the only system of government which holds within it a mechanism making internal change for the better possible. Not easy, but possible.

In autocracies such a mechanism does not exist.

To illustrate our last point, let's consider North Korea. Do you think that internal democratic change is possible over there? As a matter of fact, the West should have intervened there a long time ago. We owe that to our democratic conscience. But we didn't, because it would have triggered World War III.

Now that World War III has already begun, there is a chance that finally the North Koreans may be liberated. And that its population may enjoy some freedom, human rights and the rule of justice instead of brutal repression.

And what about Gaza? Don't they have the right to some form of democracy? Are they not being oppressed brutally now? Yes, they are. And it should stop. And a two-state solution should be implemented. We refer to our article on Israel/Gaza entitled 'URI AVNERY: You can only make peace with your enemies'.

All these conflicts, quite a few in Africa too, have contributed to the situation we are in now. Where we are forced to fight yet again for democracy. This time worldwide. It is because we didn't do it earlier out of fear and self-interest. We all knew that the post WW-II United Nations system wasn't working. And it is not *just* either. But we let it go, hoping that somehow it would improve itself. That was naïve. And so now the tension has risen to the boiling point and war is imminent, or has in fact already begun.

Does this mean it is all doom and gloom? No, it's not.

History has shown that since the 17th century there have been a series of 'systemic' wars, i.e. wars that resulted in systemic change for the better. The first one was the Thirty Years' War ending with the Westphalian Peace treaties, establishing religious tolerance and certain basic principles of state sovereignty crucial to modern international relations.

However, this was mainly a European War (not yet global).

The first systemic *international* wars were the French and American Revolutions (and sidewise also a peculiar British contribution), which established the principle of people-sovereignty and democracy with periodic free and fair elections, human rights and the rule of law (better: rule of

justice). This resulted in the abolition of slavery and the end of the hereditary rights of the nobility.

And, yes, all you white people haters, it was the white people who ended slavery. We did wrong things, but we also did some good things. Like ending slavery, a system known since pre-historical times on all continents (including Africa). And it was also the white people who fought the wars to establish democracy and human rights.

Following aforementioned Revolutions there were WW-I and WW-II, which should really be seen as one big systemic global war. Autocracy/fascism was crushed and under American pressure colonialism was ended.

So, this is where we are now, at the eve of the third systemic world war (WW-III).

What systemic changes will it produce? We don't know. But we hope the following three main things, provided we succeed in keeping democracy:

1. All natural resources everywhere and the earth itself will be recognized as belonging to all people around the world. Consequently, these assets will be exploited at reasonable prices by a World-Organization for the benefit of all people, i.e. each man, woman and child annually receiving his/her fair share. No more wars about natural resources!
2. All nuclear weapons destroyed. There will be a World Police Force, equipped with simple weapons, to maintain order between peoples and (by then) federal states under the authority of the democratically elected government of the Federal States of the World.
3. There will be democracy the World over, based on people-sovereignty, the rule of law (better: the rule of *justice*), an independent and impartial judicial system, freely and fairly elected government and parliament, respect for human rights everywhere and prosperity produced by 'Synergism, the Just Third Way' (also known as 'Economic Democracy').

If we allow Russia to win the War in Ukraine, we will have none of this. We will be ruled by autocrats and oligarchs, no human rights, no independent judicial system. The democratic revolutions will have failed and we might even revert back to slavery. Why not?

That is why, we hope the governments of our islands will do the least they can do, that is: Express official support for Holland. And if you agree that neutrality in the way that we have described it, is something we should aspire towards, then there is no discrepancy if we (i.e. our people by means of referendums) should choose to work towards that goal, all in good understanding with Holland.

This article is again much too long. Nevertheless, we hope we have been able to make our case.

**Bonaire, 20 July 2025,
Michiel Bijkerk**

THE MIDDLE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

Two Special Trees in Eden

Most people have heard of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (TKGE). But exactly where this TKGE is first mentioned in Genesis 2:9, the Tree of Life also makes its first appearance 'in the midst of the Garden'.

It is not clear where the TKGE was located, but the Tree of Life was in the midst. (*But note the Postscript below*).

In Genesis 3:22 God explains why Adam had to be kicked out of the Garden of Eden, namely to avoid that he would also eat of the Tree of Life. He already knew Good and Evil, thus having become one with the gods. But if he should eat of the Tree of Life, he would get eternal life.

He was thus kicked out and Cherubim were placed at the East of the Garden to keep him out!

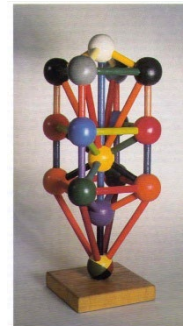
After having eaten of the TKGE he had died (cf. Genesis 2:17). But not literally, because God still saw good reason to kick him out. So, in some sense, he was still alive. So, he was 'living dead', i.e. the body is alive, but the soul is dead. But if he should eat of the Tree of Life, his eternal life would be restored.

His soul would be revived, i.e. he would become conscious of his eternal soul, the divine spark within.

Now that had to be avoided! Why that had to be avoided, is not explained in the text.

Okay, what does this all mean? It means that Genesis points to a Way of Return. Every person can be revived from being 'living dead' by eating leaves or fruit of the Tree of Life. That will revive his/her soul. With that, he/she will get eternal life.

Genesis does not describe the Tree of Life. The context suggests that it was a natural tree. Perhaps it had colorful fruit, so that a stylized artificial representation could develop? We don't know. But somehow, the Qabalists came to depict this Tree of Life as shown in the picture. Usually only one side of the Tree is depicted in 2d print-form. The illustration is a picture of a rare 3d model.



*Qabalistic
Tree of life*

The reader may rightly ask who the 'Qabalists' are? And what 'Qabalah' means?

The word itself means 'reception', referring specifically to the reception of mystical knowledge by studying the various 'spheres' of the Tree of Life. Each 'sphere' (or 'fruit' of the Tree) has a mystical meaning. And by contemplating thereon, it may be said that one is 'eating' of the Tree.

The 'branches' connecting the spheres are called 'paths'. And each branch, each 'path', also has its own special meaning. The meanings of the spheres are more objective; the meanings of the paths are more subjective.

'Qabalists', then, simply are students of the 'Qabalah', which is the Jewish Way or Method of Return. Later the Christian Qabalah was developed on the basis of the Jewish one. A branch of the main river, one could say.

But there are other Ways of Return as well, like Zen, Yoga, Sufism and Christian Contemplative prayer. The aim of all these Ways is to reach spiritual union with God, also known as Unity-Consciousness. In short, Qabalah is one method of return to God. Qabalists do this by studying the inter-relationships between the spheres (fruit) and the branches (paths) of the Tree of Life and by meditating on the deepest meanings thereof.

And as you do this, there comes a moment when the Tree starts 'talking' to you.

And then, slowly but surely, the Qabalistic student begins to understand that he has a soul. And that this soul, implanted within him, forms part of the Cosmic Soul. And that the Cosmic Soul is eternal ...



And then it dawns upon him that there is something in him that is beyond life and death.

It is called 'immortality', the Middle between Life and Death.

Bonaire, 29 December 2024

Postscript

Long after having finished the text of the above article, we found out that from the context in Genesis 3:3, it may be deduced that the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (TKGE) is also located in the midst of the garden.

So, both Trees are 'in the midst' of Paradise.

This new finding does not really change the essential purport of the article. Perhaps the two trees are really just one Tree. And that it only depends on your spiritual understanding, which fruits you choose to 'eat', either the ones of the TKGE or the ones of the Tree of Life.

If this is the correct solution to the conundrum, then you are either a 'living dead' person, who reduces everything to Good and Evil (or God and Devil). Or you understand that in the Tree of Life there is always a Middle third pillar (or a middle 'trunk') between the two branches of Good and Evil, which Middle might be called '(karmic) Justice'.

We do not pontificate here. Our solution to the conundrum may be correct, or it may not be. Rather we suggest the reader make up his own mind.

What we do assert is that the soul is indeed immortal. And that we all have a soul. Which means that the spark of immortality is in all of us. Which you cannot see as long as you see only Good and Evil.



Perhaps this picture solves the conundrum?

Bonaire, 14 December 2025.