



# Theosophical Link Officers and Peace Meditation: An Introduction

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THE work of the Link Officers is a unique and authentic activity of the International Theosophical Centre (ITC) in Naarden, embedded in its statutes:

The object of the 'Link Officers' is to promote the objects of the Centre in the world. They foster Peace and Unity between nations and peoples, with special regard to Europe. In order to achieve this object, they organize meetings and maintain contacts with 'links' in the different countries in the world.

This particular work was started in 1938 by the President of the TS, Dr George S. Arundale, who was much concerned with the increased tensions between nations in Europe. Probably he foresaw the great need of more cooperation and regard between the different nations in Europe in order to prevent the recurrence of catastrophes in the future. This concern for peace is much in line with the aims of the ITC since its foundation in 1925: '... to foster the principle of Universal Brotherhood and Peace.' In those days

the activities of the ITC also included political discussions, with younger members in particular. Arundale then selected a group of Centre Members — Link Officers — and instructed them in this work.

## **The work of the Link Officers: correspondence and meditation**

In the original structure each Link Officer was assigned to a number of countries in Europe. Through correspondence with the national Links they established a close connection with the countries they represented. This connection becomes deeper through understanding of the political, economic, cultural, and theosophical aspects of these countries. Thus they tried to identify with the inner soul of the nation. The soul of a nation is quite different from its outside projections. This brings the Link Officers closer in contact with the *inner side of the work*.

In the Angelic Kingdom there are many different kinds of angels. Each group has its own task. One of these

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groups is that of the National Deva-s, who stand for the welfare of the nations. The work of the National Deva is said to make a blueprint of the qualities and ideals expected from the people entrusted to him and to stimulate positive qualities, and to promote harmony and cooperation. A very important factor is to stimulate the development of the unique qualities of his specific people, as the soul of each people is quite unique.

In the **daily meditations** at home and once a month at the ITC, the Link Officers seek contact with the Angels of the different countries. The Link Officers meet during the larger monthly meditation at the ITC, generally on Saturday, the fourth weekend of the month at 11.00 am. The Angels are saluted respectfully. Thus the channels between the various nations, continents, and Theosophical Centres are strengthened, helping to transmit the living powers of Unity and Peace which are constantly outpoured. The daily and monthly meditations end with the following words:

There is One Life, One Will and One Brotherhood of Nations. May the spirit of Unity and the power of Love, which knows no barriers, make Brotherhood in the world a living Reality.

While the work of the Link Officers was originally established to support Unity and Peace among the European countries, in the course of time members in several countries all over the world have asked to join in this work, since the work of the ITC is not restricted to

Europe alone. With this broadening of the scope of the meditation, the work of the Link Officers has grown into a global network of Unity and Peace among all people and nations of the world.

### **Still relevant today?**

Today communication among TS members, and information about different countries is much easier to realize than in the past. Moreover the creation of the European Union has made it more unlikely that European countries will enter into war again. So, from a superficial point of view, it seems that the aims of the work have largely been realized. Today, however, we see the re-emergence of regional wars, nationalism, distrust, and ill treatment of minorities all over the world. There is still work to be done!

It is remarkable that this line of work was never broken. There has always been a small group of dedicated workers, both at the ITC and abroad, who saw the need for this special and deep work in an increasingly complex world, which is not a 'melting pot', but a beautiful diamond with all its shining colours, representing all the unique qualities of the individual countries.

### **Peace meditation**

The meditation has recently been modified — no longer being Europe-centric, using modern language — while maintaining its core and strength. It has thus become available for all serious TS groups and members interested in being

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involved in this line of work. It is now called **Peace Meditation**. Meditations for group work as well as individual meditations are available. Since the environment — and therefore Angelic Kingdom — is quite different in the countries and regions of the world, some local adjustments may be required. In those countries without, or with a weak, national identity the angels may not yet be functional.

We know the reality of creative imagination and thought power. By seeing

this as a living reality, the participants cooperate in the building of a united world. A network acting on different levels of existence and supporting cooperation, unity, and peace among countries continues to be crucial for the future of humanity.

**A group of like-minded thinkers, such as a group of Theosophists, may do much to spread theosophical ideas in their own neighbourhood by agreeing to give a fixed ten minutes a day to thinking on a theosophical teaching. It is not necessary that their bodies should be gathered in one place provided that their minds are together . . . progress, out of all proportion to the physical agencies employed, is made where earnest men and women combine in this mental propaganda.**

Annie Besant  
*Thought Power*