

## THE CRIER



### DuVersity online

Faced with the lockdown and cancellation of many of our programmes we invested time and energy into creating an online series of events drawing on the technology of Zoom and other software in a way that preserved the essence of the DuVersity approach. A small team of creative people came together including artists and musicians. The result is an approach that is still evolving.

The title for the series – *CRIER* – deliberately harks back to the first book published by Gurdjieff – *The Herald of Coming Good*. The Crier is made of a series of themes each roughly spanning a calendar month with two episodes. So far, we have had:

Invisible Worlds

Language of Reality

Trinities of Meaning

Art of Transformation

The themes are explored in an open-ended free form approach by Anthony Blake. Participants are invited to share observations. An integral part of the presentation is provided by music from pianist Ruben Yessevan – we try as far as possible to be *three-centred* in what we do. Just talking cannot be enough. To deepen the meaning of what we do each session ends with an ‘inner exercise’ which derives from the amazing repertoire created by John Bennett.

Each session is recorded so that people who miss an episode can catch up or new invitees can see what we have been doing. People who want to join in can write to Steven Rhodes [stevenrhodes@me.com](mailto:stevenrhodes@me.com).

### *Some brief notes on events so far*

So far we have had three themes and begun a fourth.

1. **Invisible Worlds.** We hear about ‘higher’ worlds that are ‘invisible’ to our ordinary perception. It is said that to enter into them and participate in their workings matters a great deal. One form of words says it could ‘save our souls’. A lot of the time however, such ideas may seem only ‘rumours of angels’ and lack the reality that

appears so strongly in our lives. How can we become convinced of the reality of higher worlds and learn how to perceive what takes place in them?

2. **Language of Reality.** To see in a different way we need to speak in a different way. Are there different kinds of language? Can changing how we speak change how we think? Can language shape *what we are* or even *who we are*? It is necessary to see how speaking and thinking in habitual ways can keep us enslaved in 'flatland'.
3. **Trinities of Meaning.** We can suppose that everything is related to everything and then contemplate the possibility that relationships are woven from a pattern of threes. Thousands of years ago people came to recognise the stark difference between the world of twos or *dyads* and the world of threes or *triads*. Every culture has its *Trinity*, an iconic form that promises to reconcile laws and freedom and, in particular, how 'the higher and the lower blend together to make the middle', as Gurdjieff would put it.

Each of these had its 'inner exercise' designed to bring about an experience of what otherwise might be simply speculation.

1. The Eye of the Needle. Designed by J G Bennett based on his understanding of the three worlds – of bodies, energies and possibilities – and how we can pass through a set of 'gates' to transit between worlds.
2. Expanded Present Moment. Another Bennett exercise based on the idea that the reality we live in is largely determined by the nature or extent of the *present moment* we can see or understand. We can come to see that *now* can be of various 'sizes' and extended to include our total life-span.
3. No. 39. In this case, I adopted material relating to various exercises as it appears in Gurdjieff's last book *Life is Real, Then, When 'I Am'* and brought it into the 'inner content' of the movement Gurdjieff devised a fortnight before he died. In its physical aspect, this exercise is the simplest there is. However, it appears that the inner work is concerned with understanding the threefold nature of man and can take many forms. I drew, in particular, on the emphasis Gurdjieff placed on the three words CAN, WISH and AM.

#### 4. **The Art of Transformation (Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June)**

The fourth episode of the Crier, titled 'The Art of Transformation', will build on the previous three episodes: Invisible Worlds, Language of Reality, and Trinities of Meaning; but every episode is a new starting point. This not giving systematic descriptive explanation but uses a kind of discourse that may, possibly, evoke subconscious and subtle impressions in you. Afterwards there will be a reading list to help you follow up on the ideas.

The Crier episodes rely very much on two things. One is the music provided by Ruben Yessevan which helps us tune in to more inner impressions. The other is the mutuality we hope will form between us. Speaking together in meaningful way is not easy and something of a rarity. We hope to delve into what is required later in the series.

The episode begins with music and continues with Anthony speaking, then pauses for contributions from viewers. Afterwards we have more music, then turn to working on an inner exercise from the archives of John Bennett.

In this episode we will explore the 'artifice' of spiritual work, why and how it may involve creative solutions. Or, is there a 'formula' for what is sometimes called 'the work'? Does it require genius to master effectively?

We will touch upon Bennett's conclusions on what is needed as well as Gurdjieff's comments on the meaning of art.

Music will include one of Messiaen's *Vingt Regards sur L'enfant Jesus* (Twenty Reflections on the Infant Jesus) and one of the hymns from Gurdjieff and de Hartmann.

#### 5. **Art of Transformation** (2) August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Art of Transformation (2) will be largely taken up with an exposition of the possible meanings of the symbol known as the *Enneagram*. Be warned that this will not include the spurious business of personality types. It will address transformation in nature, art and ourselves.

I will be drawing on the skills of our team – Jason and Steven in particular – to make the process as smooth as possible. Though involving a presentation, I hope it will lead to and involve participation by those who will attend the sessions.

Our previous themes will 'echo' in the background. One aspect, for example, will be the language of symbols, another the significance of trinities. A third, hopefully, will be around the all important question of how the invisible worlds and our apparent one might interpenetrate and coalesce in us.

*For further information contact Steven Rhodes <[stevenrhodes@me.com](mailto:stevenrhodes@me.com)>*