

A Festival Week Group Meeting Athens Greece

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2019 was altogether a year of group preparation and gestation, a peak on the 7 year's cycle of the Festival Week and a cutting edge year leading closer to the important date of 2025.

For our group it was the previous Wesak Festival, seven months earlier, that provided a starting point for the Festival Week, in two ways:

- a. co-organizing with other groups a public event for the Taurus Full Moon followed by a second open meeting for the Festival of Goodwill in June – with talks, meditation and printed literature pointing to the perspective of the greater event to be celebrated by the end of the year, and
- b. by looking closer in group discussions and reflection at the unfolding of ideas such as Goodwill, Service, the Law of Group Progress and others, based on the greater group rhythm and demand.

One might say that in general there was a steady group focus and a rather intense orientation towards this significant spiritual landmark of the year, although a great part of the work was subjective, hence sometimes not easily recognized as such based on outer effects.

This seven years' cycle happened also to mark the time since our group was first formed – after the crucial year 2012 and the previous Festival Week – implying the possibility of a deeper review which brought to surface a renewal leading to re-examination of values of group work, qualities of cooperation and service, in other words of the overall group intention.

One great challenge was for our group awareness to open, expand and become more inclusive in order to find a common ground, to keep pace and align with two other groups for our joint purpose of celebrating the Festival Week in Athens through *one* open meeting. This didn't stop us from working ceaselessly and unwearied translating in the Greek language the various and plentiful contributions in the new website of Lucis Trust adding our part to this focalizing of the global group effort.

The connection of these three groups started to take the form of a triangle around October via ZOOM meetings, aiming at thought sharing, congruity and viable suggestions for the realization of the Festival Week. This included the meeting's keynote, the day and date, the invitation, the choice of speakers and other organizational issues. We agreed that a proper motto was “Evoking the Soul of the Nations” which brought us not only in connection with the global group of servers but offered also the most suitable and magnetic idea/platform both for the various speakers and attending participants.

Worth to note that under the pressure of chronos/time we managed primarily to hold the group tension yet showing adaptability and certain fluidity towards what changing circumstances brought about in dynamics and availability.

The Festival Week event took place at a venue called Arcade of Books in the center of Athens on Saturday, December 21 (10.00am-15.00pm) and it attracted the interest of a good number of people (at its peak around hundred), some of them following some parts of it yet most of them the entire meeting. It opened with a talk given by an invited international speaker in English (with translation) followed by six other talks altogether. It's interesting to see at least from the titles how the talks were complementing each other – yet I'm afraid it will exceed the purpose and volume of this review to include them. Nevertheless they are clearly presented on the invitation sent electronically and distributed in printed form – available in Greek! The meeting closed with a meditation/visualization on the global role of the NGWS including its mantram, the mantram of Unification and the Great Invocation.

To add that the entire event has been video streamed and the videos were released on January 13 – on the aftermath of Capricorn Full Moon.

Our group's contribution focused particularly on the printing and free distribution of literature relevant to this 7-yearly event: copies of the newest NGWS booklet were produced, a reproduction of the Silent Minute material bringing attention to this extraordinary global event, a booklet for the 10 Seed Groups, the latest issue of the Triangles Bulletin and the WGWS Newsletter were available, included posters for the 10 Seed Groups, and our yearly FM and NM meditation Calendar for 2020.

At this 'long' first day which seemed to compress the dynamic of the whole week, our group went to a non-stop meeting in order to attend the London Seminar Live Stream and later part of the New York Seminar. In the meantime we have been holding in group formation the Global Silent Minute (at 23.00 EUT) sharing afterwards our deeper impressions referred in particular to the connection of the inner and the outer worlds.

In general the first day of the "Week of Group Impact" was quite powerful, giving inspiration and impetus for the days following of not least importance. We wrote down a schedule pointing out what every next day was holding within in group energies accentuated during this very special Festival Week, i.e. Sunday's Money meditation, Monday's Triangles Webinar, Wednesday's Goodwill webinar – all of which we followed individually yet in awareness of their powerful impact during this sacred period.

At the day of Capricorn New Moon the three groups were connected once again – both physically and ethereally – in joint meditation as part of the meditating worldwide group. All of us felt the importance and the responsibility of laying the seeds of future work in the spirit of goodwill and cooperation.

On the last day of the "Week of Group Impact" members of our group joined the Geneva Webinar and the Ten Seed Groups discussion – an extraordinary experience as we were listening, reading and at the same time translating in Greek the speakers' talks, getting the impression of a new beginning rather than of an end throwing light into future perspectives and into the precipitation of "greater and better things" to come for humanity and our planet.