COMPLIMENTARY COPY

Vol 1 Issue 10 | Oct - Dec 2017



THE CLARION CALL AWAKEN THE PHILOSOPHER WITHIN

Yearning for Change

Life is Changing. What about You?

Movie Review Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring



New Acropolis is an international non-profit organization with a presence in over 60 countries. At its core it is a school for practical philosophy in the Classical style, run by volunteers. Worldwide we have close to 40,000 volunteers, all of who are dedicated to bringing philosophy closer to the society for all people regardless any differences of social, religious, gender or political background.

We came into being 60 years ago, with the aim of bringing universal philosophy and wisdom to life in the hearts of the cities worldwide. Our focus is on philosophy - not just in the sense of the quest for knowledge and ideas, but on how we can use it so it will turn into Experience and Wisdom, thus widening our perspective over life and helping us evolve individually and collectively. We focus on philosophy as a way of life – as practical philosophy.

For more please visit our website www.acropolis.org.in



The Clarion Call Vol 1 Issue 10 | Oct - Dec 2017

Editor-in-Chief Ran Kremer

Editor Anand Baskaran

Design Shashwati Balasubramanian

Production Bhanu Pratap Slathia

 \sim

The Clarion Call is published in India, by New Acropolis Cultural Association. Reprints of individual articles are obtainable on application to the editor. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

New Acropolis Cultural Association (South India)

Ran Kremer, National Director 261, 6th Cross, Indiranagar 1st Stage, Bangalore - 560038 Tel: +91 9663804871 Email: info@newacropolis.in Web: www.acropolis.org.in

 \sim

Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus, referring to the nature of the world and the cosmos, said, "Everything changes and nothing stands still". These simple words convey a profound truth that pervades all of creation and existence. It is a truth that we experience all too often in our own lives, and yet it seems that most people struggle with change, to a greater or lesser degree - whether it is to deal with a change that they resist, or to bring about a change they desire.

This edition of The Clarion Call explores the nature of change, how we can connect to it, some tools from ancient wisdom that we can apply in our lives to bring about change for the better, and looks at the dual aspect of change within and around us.

For the Philosopher, change starts within; And this change within becomes the strong enabler of change in the world around us. It brings to mind a beautiful quote by the Chinese philosopher Lao Tsu:

"If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbours.

If there is to be peace between neighbours, there must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart."

Happy Reading!

Anand Baskaran Editor - The Clarion Call

Life is Changing. What about You?



BY RAN KREMER National Director, New Acropolis South India

Life is always an unstoppable constant change, regardless of the extent to which we are conscious of that... the expansion of the Universe since the "Big Bang" and then eons of constant change in the position of the galaxies rotating around their axis; the planets elliptically orbiting their stars, the seasons of nature, days and nights, the tides of the oceans; life and death for ALL living creatures, their aging process; inhalation and exhalation, joy and sorrow and so many more endless movements and transformations from the gigantic galaxies to the most tiny, almost invisible sub atomic energetical particles. Nature, and us being a part of it, never stops changing in each moment. Change seems to be Life's core principle - without change there is no Life, no movement and no continuity.

"The universe is change; our life is what our thoughts make it." - Marcus Aurelius

So, if Change is perhaps the most natural characteristic of any form of Life, and if our Life is anyway one big movement and change, then why the timeless need to discuss about this? If we are a part of Life, then why is this such a big issue the greatest human minds are dealing with for thousands of years?

If change is a key of life, then the more capable to change we are, that much more alive we will be, and vice versa - being rigid and stuck without freedom to change towards a better version of ourselves might mean we are still far from living our life up to it's maximum potential, marvel and glory.

And if the change we are after is towards choosing a more spiritual or altruistic agenda to balance our Earthly lives, then we will be very quick to find that our Psyche yet strongly clings to the more familiar, secure, worldly, populistic, casual - and in worse times - even brute kinds of engagements, rather than to the lofty and elevated ones of Beauty and Compassion.

Many good thinkers in history must have asked themselves these questions and more, pondering on what it is in human nature that is placing this obstacle between us and Nature.

Just like in nature when there is stagnation there is also a decay, like when water that is stagnant becomes stale, turbid and eventually even toxic and undrinkable, the same applies for human beings, who are a part of nature. When there is stagnation, there is decay and eventually corruption.



Marcus Aurelius (121-180 AD) was the last of the five good emperors of Ancient Rome Our corruption starts when we stop constantly changing positively. The corruption starts in the invisible moral and psychological levels when we refuse to move, transform habits and get attached or even obsessed with the same things without being able to let go and move ahead.

What is required to lead a positive change?

From my experience of many years as a teacher and practitioner of practical and applied philosophy I can say that the most important thing is a strong Will and the conviction which follows. Where there is a will, there is a way!

The major question one can ask oneself, as a good start towards aligning with the Natural movement of Life and change, is how strongly do I want the change, and why?

The most important realisations in Life come only with a strong conviction about something that becomes too important for us to give up on, or too important to simply replace with a different yearning of the heart.

Once we reach a point when the heart truly yearns the change, then nothing should stop us and then it becomes a question of time till we get there. How to help my heart really want the change? This requires us to go after wisdom for the heart and not for the mind... And this why Philosophy is a key for the awakening of the heart to Life. Philosophy (in Greek): Philo = Love + Sophia = Wisdom, means the Love of Wisdom or Wisdom for the Heart, and that is exactly what we are after.

Philosophy in its ancient origins, whether it is Western or Eastern, is meant for the heart and not for the mind. It is a mistake to relate to ancient philosophy as intellectual knowledge, and not wisdom which is to be experienced and integrated into life. "It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live." - Marcus Aurelius

What we understand with the mind only, we may be quick to forget. But what we experience and sense with the heart, we remember - sometimes all our life.

To sense with the heart does not mean being emotional but to develop our ability to perceive life in a more direct and intuitive way, rather than trying to analyse life like it was some kind of a user manual.

Once we realise that life does not really come with a user manual, then we know that we need to look for answers somewhere else - they lie within.

Tap into the power of Practical Philosophy and bring into life the change you want to see in yourself, and in the world.

Yearning for Change



BY YARON BARZILAY National Director, New Acropolis North India

There are many in the world today who are yearning for change. They want to see the world change, to become capable of addressing the current burning issues; capable not only of spotting the problems, but also to offer valid solutions and, above all, to materialize them.

It really doesn't take much to list the main issues the world at large is facing – today, and those which we may face very shortly. There might be even greater problems which are as yet not so visible, but might be the root for what is more easily seen. Among them we may suggest ignorance and materialism for example.

Global organizations, such as the United Nations with its various dedicated committees, sometimes seem to serve a different agenda than that which they were originally created for, or are simply unable to agree on the necessary direct action. Issues such as the water crises, global warming, the growing number of devastating arms and poverty, to name but a few, are left with no answer at all. We are destroying the world in our own hands, while those who have the power often seem to cynically deny these matters. There are, of course, numerous individuals and organizations that are doing wonderful dedicated work to address these problems, though it often seems that their efforts are not enough to root them out as we continue to face the same issues, sometimes with even greater gravity.

We cannot fall to despair as we simply do not have the privilege to do so. Nor would it be very philosophical to lose hope and faith in the human capacity to grow and overcome challenges. The love of wisdom underlines an everlasting possibility to move forward and upward. Hope forever remains in Pandora's Box, always within man's reach. But hope alone will not redeem the world if humanity remains idle, unwilling to change.

Perhaps the attempt to change the world by forming new frameworks, new global organizations that might agree and act in the right direction, is not sufficient. It is needed, no doubt. But is it enough? Can we really change the world for the better by relying on new agreements to be signed and followed while man himself, who is the very cause of most of the world's troubles, remains the same? Can we really agree to act together as one and implement even the most obvious needful steps? In today's global world, can



"The love of wisdom underlines an everlasting possibility to move forward and upward. Hope forever remains in Pandora's Box, always within man's reach. But hope alone will not redeem the world if humanity remains idle, unwilling to change." a real solution be applied only in parts of the world, while others resist?

Are we to wait until a real calamity hits, a catastrophe, at such a scale that we will not have any choice but to act? Or maybe we shall finally unite to confront some ill seeking aliens, as often suggested by Hollywood screenwriters. Well, such action would result from having greatly suffered; not from our intelligence, our ability to foresee and guide. Yet the urgency to act is actual and real.

It is quite clear that Gandhi's words about being the change we wish to see in the world truly resonates with a solid truth. We cannot demand the world to change, without ourselves becoming the change we seek. Rather than focusing exclusively on external global solutions, we must also pay attention to our own individual ability to change, perhaps giving it even greater importance, because again, what's the use of having a perfect system in place, if the man that runs it remains the same?

It goes without saying that by "to be the change" we mean: for the better...of course, if we want to change the world, unless we are extremely fanatic, it is for the better. Yet, it is important to clarify this for ourselves, because a change just for the sake of change, can lead us to a much worse situation. We must find a direction, forward and upward, and through us, the word around us. In the words of Prof. Jorge Ángel Livraga, the founder of New Acropolis, we seek a new and better world, by new and better human beings.

Can we imagine ourselves better? Not more of the same, with some additional gadgets, technology and stricter laws. But better – with new virtues and abilities, higher awareness, closer to the archetypes of Justice, Truth, Beauty and Goodness, as spoken of by Plato and many other respected philosophers. Are we able to imagine ourselves with the virtues we are yet to awaken? Do we have faith in ourselves, in our common destiny as humanity? Is how we see ourselves today, all we are capable of being? Not to have, but to be...

Can't we imagine ourselves better? If we can, we already perceive what we are to become and, therefore, are linked to it. Our task then, is to walk the path towards it, to act everyday in the light of what we already know to be right deep within, and invite anyone who is willing to listen, anyone who shares in this yearning for change in himself, and in the world. This is not an instant solution, if such a solution exists at all, nor is it easy...but it is a valid solution - maybe the only valid direction to take. It seems that wherever man is, there is a complexity, nothing is really so simple. But there is always reason for hope because essentially Man, as all the ancient traditions explain, is much more than flesh and bones that simply disappear into the void; Man, they say, is also a spiritual being, a transient stage towards unimaginable glory, a bridge between heaven and earth, spirit and matter.

Philosophy, as a way of life, has a wonderful and precious contribution to make. It brings us closer to the eternal archetypes of life and thus makes us more alive. It helps us to perceive in our own capacity, that life has a direction and a purpose...it moves and evolves. One may call it Dharma, another might call it destiny, a meaning, or a path. Philosophy shows us the way which we must follow, the change we wish for. It helps us discover that we always carry with us hope in the box, much more important than all the evils we might be carrying. It is a light that clears all shadows. It is for us to be that hope for the world. To be a philosopher is to be an idealist, a man of virtue.

Some may argue that philosophy is un-practical. Others say that it is the only practical solution. It is definitely a wonderful adventure – one that stands for the banner of change – to change ourselves for the new, and the better...to look upwards for change, as profound change always comes from above.



EVENT SCHEDULE Oct- Dec 2017

OCTOBER



Lecture and Guided Discussion | Free Admission EMBRACING CHANGE

Date: Oct 28, Saturday | Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Venue: New Acropolis

To say "Change is constant" is a truism. While we do want to change the world to a better place, not all changes are comfortable experiences.

At an individual level, coping with change can be disturbing, and sometimes stressful. Can we learn to make it stress-free and harmonious? Can we embrace change, and even control it?

Through this talk and Guided discussion, we explore ideas that can enable making change work for us.

NOVEMBER



Lecture and Guided Discussion | Free Admission LUCK AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Date: Nov 11, Saturday | Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Venue: New Acropolis

It is said that learning to be Lucky requires hard work. Often things just seem to fall into place. At other times, even the most meticulous hard work yields no results. What if there exists a way to communicate with life by attracting luck to come our way? This talk, which will be followed by a guided discussion, explores these ideas through the lens of wisdom from ancient cultures.



Panel Discussion | Free Admission RENAISSANCE! ART, PHILOSOPHY & LIFE

Date: Saturday, Nov 25 Time: 4:00 p.m to 7:30 p.m Venue: National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA Bangalore)

Join us for practical presentations and a panel discussion with professionals and artists representing different forms of Art to learn how Art and Philosophy intertwine to inspire beauty and harmony towards personal transformation and change for the collective development of the world we live in. Details on Page 11.

DECEMBER



Lecture and Guided Discussion | Free Admission FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT AND BE RIGHT TO TRIUMPH

Date: Dec 9, Saturday | Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Venue: New Acropolis

Nelson Mandela once said, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us."

Why should we fear becoming powerful beyond measure? This talk will help the aspiring Philosopher learn more about the existence of ancient ways to see better beyond the illusion of the matrix, to look at what was, and possibly still is for some of us, worth fighting for.



19 Week Course LIVING PHILOSOPHY

Free Trial class: Nov 30 & Dec 7 (Thursdays) 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Batch starts: Dec 14, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm (Thursdays) Venue: New Acropolis A 19-week Foundation in Practical Philosophy.

For details, please visit www.acropolis.org.in



Movie Review Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring

Director: Ki-Duk Kim Cast: Yeong-su Oh, Jong-ho Kim, Young-min Kim, Jae-kyeong, Seo Yeo-jin Ha Duration: 103 min A Buddhist monk lives with his young disciple in a floating wooden housetemple in the middle of a lake. As the seasons change and succeed one another, the young student passes the corresponding stages of life to reach maturity.

The movie is a hymn to nature. A poem to the power of life that flows like water, sometimes impetuous, breaking on rocks and falling into waterfalls and at other times peacefully and calmly, forming lakes and small streams. The certain thing is that life is motion; it is rhythm.

This motion is enclosed in the timeless Chinese symbol of Yin-Yang. It is the circle with its two halves, one white half containing within it a seed of black; and one black half containing a seed of white. The two sides embrace within a vortex. It is the symbol of balance, the internal conquest of opposites. These opposites exist in man and his quest to know and control them.

In Eastern philosophy there is no good or evil with the moral connotation that the West attributes to them. Good is alignment, knowledge, balance, enlightenment; while Evil is a lack or moving away from them. The meaning of life is the perpetual attempt to balance the reign of these two forces of creation and destruction, birth and death, action and inaction, masculine and feminine principles, and lunar and solar forces. Through this struggle, the world and its nuances are created.

Man is involved in a game of Maya, as Hindus call it, in order to harmonize the negative and positive forces within him. For the East, an important road of apprenticeship is through traditional martial arts. They have the same principles as those in the physical and mental preparation of the warriorstudent. They are based on the Chi energy, which contains the Yin-Yang symbolism. Because the path of the warrior is the battle between Yin (the infernal, selfishness, passions, disorder, hate) and Yang (the higher, courage, beauty, order) leading to self realization.

On this path, there is always a teacher who guides the apprentice but cannot walk the road in his place. The Disciple obeys his Karma which always brings different battles, but he has the free Will to obey or not to; to be seduced by the powers of Yin and identify with them or to resist by invoking the forces of Yang. Every life is a test and tests are hidden in everything.

Spring... Child. The sweetness of nature enclosed in a child's smile. But spring can be harsh, because innocence is ostensible, not based on knowledge but on ignorance of the laws of nature. To learn, one needs to see the consequences of his actions, and this causes pain. Lesson One!

Summer... Teen. Love confounds everything. It swells and overflows. "Nature is to blame. The passions awaken the desire for power. Power awakens the intent of crime". Lesson Two!

FFATURED EVENT - WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY

But nothing is menacing in the horizon yet, knowledge must be experienced and thus we proceed to the next season.

Autumn... Man. The teenager seeks his destiny. The forces of Yin win and he returns to the temple. The return is not repentance but one based on trickery and avoiding responsibility. Fury prevails. Passion still governs him and balance is lost. The mind is enslaved by thoughts of madness. His self-knowledge is still far away until... "You take another life easily, you take yours hard". His teacher's voice finds a way to harness the mind again. To work and meditate without being influenced by external circumstances. Lesson Three!

Winter... Maturity now. This return is a true return to the temple, to his roots. Knowledge has now become experience; his repentance a virtue. Obedience to law yields liberty. Man takes his position in the cycle of evolution. The Student is now a Teacher. He has become a link in the chain of giving. Lesson Four!

But this circle is part of a cycle, which is evolution. In this cycle, each form is lost and returns again. Each year, Winter freezes everything, and the sun disappears, leaving shadows to dominate; but Spring will spurt every year with her buds, through the snow; just as the first rays of the morning sun will break out from the darkest part of the night. The spirit is strong and immortal, it uses matter; and when matter is used, it is replaced by other matter. Lesson Five!





enaissance! Art, Philosophy And Life

Date: Nov 25. Saturday

Time: 4:00 p.m to 7:30 p.m

Venue: **National** Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA Bangalore)

Through time, Art & Philosophy have both served as channels for expression of the intangible and the sublime. While the artist weaves a piece of art with imagination and creativity, he brings into form the transcendental wisdom from the invisible into the visible. Thus Art in its true essence, deeply intertwines with philosophy to manifest the virtues of Beauty, Harmony and Unity reminding us to be the artist of our own life. Thereby inspiring transformation of consciousness and heralding the Renaissance of human life.

Join us for practical presentations and a panel discussion followed by a Dialogue with the audience, with professionals and artists representing different forms of Art as they share their inspiring journey on the path to wisdom through the medium of Art and Practical Philosophy.

- Presentations
- Panel Discussion
- Audience Dialogue

Recent Events at New Acropolis, Bangalore

A glimpse into a few activities at New Acropolis, Bangalore, over the past 3 months

PHILOSOPHY



Public Talk - The Key to Happiness A talk Inspired by the book "Nicomachean Ethics" by the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, which examined the nature of true happiness.



Public Talk - Navigating Life: The Inner Compass Audience to the public talk keenly engaged in a Socratic dialogue around the ideas of true freedom, the ethical choice and what forms the inner compass for the right action



CULTURE

VOLUNTEERING



Sacred Symbols - Mosaic Workshop Students and Member volunteers participating in a hands-on art workshop to create mosaic coasters inspired by symbolism from ancient Egypt



Ecology Volunteering Project New Acropolis Bangalore Member volunteers and students of the Living Philosophy course creating a Garden Ecosystem including vertical gardens and a Lily pond



Sacred Symbols - Mosaic Workshop Creating the 'Eye of Horus', the symbol of the wisdom of the 'All-Seeing Eye', and the 'Ankh' that symbolises the 'Key of Life'





Ecology Volunteering Project Potting the beautiful plants to make them ready for hanging, and making the frames of the vertical garden by combining a wooden frame and metallic mesh.



About New Acropolis

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

New Acropolis is an international non-profit organization – with a presence in over 60 countries.

At its core it is a school for practical philosophy in the Classical style run by volunteers. Worldwide we have close to 40,000 volunteers. All our volunteers are dedicated to bringing philosophy closer to the society for all people regardless any differences of social, religious, gender or political background.

We came into being with the aim of bringing universal philosophy and wisdom to life in the hearts of the cities worldwide. Our focus is on philosophy - not just in the sense of the quest for knowledge, and ideas, but on how we can use it so it will turn into Experience and Wisdom, thus widening our perspective of life and helping us evolve individually and collectively. We focus on philosophy as a way of life - as practical philosophy.

PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy, when it is practical, is educational. It helps us to know ourselves and to improve ourselves. To be a philosopher is a way of life committed to the best aspirations of humanity.







CULTURE

The practice of human values is the basis for a model of active and participative culture, which brings out the qualities of each person, broadens the horizons of the mind and opens the human being up to all the expressions of the spirit.









VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is the natural expression of a spirit of union with life and humanity, which manifests in the practice of values such as unselfishness, commitment and striving for the common good.

My Journey

Members of New Acropolis share their experience...



"I am an entrepreneur and run a corporate training company for the last eight years. I came to know about New Acropolis through Meetup and followed their Facebook page for two years before enrolling. I grew up in a spiritual environment and interest in philosophy came naturally. My deep interest in understanding life and the neutral approach of New Acropolis firmed my decision to explore the Living Philosophy course.

The teachings have helped me feel more grounded. My approach towards handling key issues has changed. Today, my overall outlook towards life and happiness has been changing. I wish to implement these learnings in my day to day life. One thing that I like most about New Acropolis is neutrality in teachings. This helps students with larger perspective and allows them to choose what is appropriate for them."

~ Siddharthan V.

"I joined Living Philosophy because I am interested in philosophy and mythology and have asked questions like 'Who am I and why am I here?'

So it felt like a great opportunity to meet and interact with like-minded people who had similar interests. What I found was much more – the depth and commitment of teachers and members was way beyond anything I had imagined. I found the classes and the interactions deeply engaging and thought provoking and there is much emphasis on putting the lessons we study into practice in our daily lives.

So I learn valuable lessons from Plato's Allegory of the Cave and the Mahabharata, among others - these great myths and stories have deeply enriched my life. The Living Philosophy course has definitely fuelled my love for this subject and taught me many practical life lessons."





LIVING PHILOSOPHY

To Awaken. To Transform. To Evolve.

Foundation to Practical Philosophy at The New Acropolis International Organization (IONA) – India

Is philosophy restricted to books and concepts or is it possible to live the wisdom of the ancient masters in our everyday life?

Living Philosophy is the foundation of a journey to discover and experience the deeper esoteric concepts of self, nature and humanity. Philosophy as a way of life begins foremost with an inward journey and when practiced, it finds its true essence of transformation of the self and that of the world around us.

Highlights of some of the themes that will be covered in the 19 session course:



Know Thyself

Different levels of human consciousness with perspectives from the east and the west. What is transient and what is eternal?



The Wisdom of Ancient India

Learn the story of Arjuna, the warrior. The Bhagavad Gita describes the battles of life and tools to help us win this battle. Universal laws of Dharma, Karma and the discernment to identify and implement the Right action.



Life and Teachings of the Buddha

Explore the life of the Buddha and his teaching through the Dhammapada. This gives us practical advice on how to overcome pain and suffering and live a noble life.



The Artist, The In Love And The Philosopher

Who are you? Discover the wisdom of the ancient Romans through the Stoic philosophers. Epictetus, Seneca and Marcus Aurelius teach us simple and practical philosophy, of working with virtues as a path to progress.



Tools For Life From The Ancient World

Explore the wisdom of the ancient Egyptians, the idea of justice. From ancient China comes Confucius' expounding the importance of an ethical social order.



The Light At The End Of The Cave

What is the identity of a philosopher, the true leader and a politician. The metaphor of Plato's Allegory of the Cave, the grand illusion and how we can free ourselves from it. For details of the upcoming batch of **Living Philosophy** refer to back cover.

'Buddha' By Michael Hoefner commons.wikimedia.org CC BY SA 3.0

LIVING PHILOSOPHY



To Awaken. To Transform. To Evolve.

Foundation to **Practical Philosophy**

at New Acropolis International Organization (IONA) - INDIA

COURSE DETAILS

Course Start Date:	Dec 14, 2017 (Thursdays)	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Free Introductory	Nov 30 , Thursday, 7:30 pm	
Session:	Dec 07 , Thursday, 7:30 pm	

Duration: 19 weeks (weekly once) Limited seats per batch | Course Fee Applicable

To register visit www.acropolis.org.in/living-philosophy or call +91 96638 04871 (Last date to register is Dec 14)



New Acropolis, #261, 6th Cross, Indiranagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore 560038 www.acropolis.org.in | info@newacropolis.in | +91 96638 04871