

**The New Frontier in Global Spirituality**  
**GLOBALIZING SACRED SPIRITUAL SPACE:**  
**The challenge for all spiritual Communities**

As we now enter the 21st Century, humanity has crossed into an unprecedented global age that has brought our diverse worldviews, religions, cultures, ethnicities, ideologies and forms of life into heightened interaction, confrontation and even violent collision. If we can stand back from the privileged stance of our more localized cultural or personal perspectives, and expand our vision into a more global perspective across and between diverse worldviews, certain dramatic disclosures and patterns become evident that are not as readily accessible in our localized views.

We humans are raised and live in cultural or religious ecologies that shape the lens through which we experience our selves, our lives, our world, and others, even those who inhabit very different worlds from us. Most of us are not even aware that the living realities that appear to us are shaped and processed through our mental lens or worldview, and that we play a direct role in co-creating our world and our experience. It can come as a shock when we first realize that people inhabit and live in very diverse worldviews from our own, and that how we have been seeing them through our personalized lens may be doing violence to their form of life, and their Otherness.

So one of the great challenges for all people in our global age is to become more awakened and mindful of the need to critically step back from privileging our own worldview and learn the skills of expanding and shifting our lens into the perspectives of others. We would thus expand our capacities to process Reality in diverse alternative ways and to creatively negotiate a multiplicity of diverse perspectives and worldviews in one integral consciousness. This self-expansion into global consciousness would be nothing less than our maturation as a whole, integral human being.

Humanity has been in a deep and challenging struggle to make this shift from more "egocentric" or "monocentric" patterns of being a human to more integral, holistic and dialogic patterns of global consciousness. Through this global lens we experience common ground, deeper interconnections with all people and with our wider ecology of Nature even as we cherish and celebrate our sacred diversity and individuality. Indeed, our great spiritual and philosophical traditions across the planet and through the ages concur that this awakening of the global heart and mind is the very core and essence of moral, spiritual and rational life.

It has become clear that the more limited egocentric way of being in the world, whatever our worldview may be, has been the very source of chronic and intractable forms of violence to self and others. It is responsible for the diverse forms of human pathologies and dysfunctions that have afflicted humanity through the ages and into our present time. The global perspective reveals that all worldviews, cultures, religions and forms of life co-originate from the same primal Infinite Source that has been differently named in our diverse traditions. The deeper consensus of global consciousness, of global spirituality, is now a highest imperative for all humans if we are to make this crossing from egocentric patterns of being in our worlds to the dialogic patterns that foster mutual respect, care and compassion across the borders of our minds and worlds.

Our Quaker Tradition has been exemplary in moving towards an open global sacred space. And as the attached call to cultivating a "Global Quaker Meeting" suggests, the untapped resources and potential of this tradition are enormous as spiritual communities self-evolve to this next inevitable stage of spiritual awakening for our global age. This call to an unprecedented spiritual experiment is designed to meet this urgent need and to open sacred space in which diverse people across our different worlds, perspectives and orientations may come together in deep dialogue and celebration to discover and co-create the power of global sacred space.

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