

# Candela



**Newsletter of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc.**

Organisational Details are provided on the next page

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### SEPTEMBER 2024

### ISSUE 117

Photo by Daiga Ellaby on Unsplash



Welcome to this next Spring issue of Candela, and enjoy everything inside it.

One of Swedenborg's graphic images is of the sun in the sky being like God. Just as God seeks to enliven us, bringing us the warmth of love and the light of greater understanding, this is very powerfully seen by us in the great activity of the sun up there in the sky doing exactly that in a purely physical way. It is something we directly experience.

It's at this time of the year that we notice this more completely, as each week the days continue to be light for longer, and the temperature creeps up a degree or two, with temporary falls and re-rises. It's

almost like each spring catches us once again with the surprise and wonder of "springtime".

The other big spring activity, of course, is germination. It's the busiest season for nurseries and planning another display in the garden. But it's happening all around us in the natural world too.

*Continued on page 2*

#### MAIN CONTENT

President's Message	Julian Duckworth	1
Corals, polyps and people	Michael Chester	3
Virtues - Patience	Darren Brunne	4
The Contentious nature of Divine Truth	Joe Vandermeer	6

Please note: the views expressed in this Newsletter are those of each contributor and do not necessarily reflect any particular position of the S.A.A. or its committee.

#### Next Issue – December 2024

Have you ever wondered about Truth? There is a lot to ponder on about truth and Divine Truth within. Our next edition will be December and cover Christmas too. Please send any articles to me by 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Email to [ruth@duckworth.me](mailto:ruth@duckworth.me) or post to the registered office.

*Ruth*



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Membership of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc. is open to anyone who wishes to pursue an interest in Swedenborg, the man, his science and his spiritual teachings.

For details on how to join, call (02) 9416 2812 or browse <https://swedenborg.com.au/contact/>

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Seeds have lain dormant for a good three months and I guess they need to, to mature towards sensing it's getting warmer, and waking up to activity both upwards and downwards. "Okay, Here we go...!"

🌱 Seeds are just magnificent. Tiny, but packed full. Every four-year-old should witness the butter bean inside the jam jar, caught fast on the side with some card or flannel, wetted daily, and watch it swell and bulge as if it had muscles, and finally burst into life. Don't explain it, just watch and enjoy life living.

🌱 Seeds are all potential which of course brings it round to our spiritual lives and everyday living. Little wonder that Jesus spoke such a lot about seeds, which get mentioned fifty-five times in the New Testament. It's so clearly an image of ourselves.

🌱 It is an astonishing parallel, a seed and a truth. We get a thought, a flash, an insight, and we feel this is important for us to have. I want to put this inside me to use

and turn to and follow it till it fulfils its place in me. This is exactly like a seed in the ground. So small but destined to get so huge (in me) that the birds of the air (my whole thought system) come and roost in its branches. How good is that!

🌱 Here, for you to meet and think about, are three quotes from Swedenborg about seeds. Plant them in you... and enjoy the warmth and light of spring.

"God flows into all the members of the plant kingdom. If a spiritual force from the Lord were not constantly acting within the rudimentary forms of those plants when they are seeds, they would never sprout and grow in such an amazing series of steps. As a result of this inflowing from the Lord, they contain within themselves an image of eternity and infinity. This can be seen from the fact that they are constantly trying to reproduce their kind and species in order to live forever (so to speak) and fill the universe. Every seed harbours this urge." (Arcana Caelestia 3648)

"Since the outer plane is further from divinity, it is also more disorganized, by comparison, and does not permit itself to be reduced to order as readily as the inner plane. It is like a seed, which is more perfect on the inside than on the outside. The inside is so perfect that it can produce an entire plant or an entire tree according to plan with all its leaves and fruit. The outer forms of a seed are wide open to all kinds of injury, but not so much its inner or innermost forms, which have a deeper, more perfect nature. This is the same with a human being's inner and outer forms." (Arcana Caelestia 3855)

"A tree keeps its purest sap for the seeds....." (Sacred Scripture 66)

*Have joy in the coming Spring.*

*Julian* 🌸



## Similarities in the life of coral polyps and people

By Michael Chester



Photo by [Milos Prelevic](#) on [Unsplash](#)

I've been learning about corals recently and wished to sense more deeply the correspondences of these amazing creatures. So I went to:

- some recorded programs on Coral reefs, which included their magical timing of spawning on the Great Barrier Reef
- my biological notes and textbooks on corals
- what Dr Philip W Groves said about corals in his spiritual teachings

as a way of preparing the ground for what would arise in my quest for insights about what corals can teach us in regards to living.

I also approached the task by appreciating the principle that spiritual energies underpin physical existence. So, in appreciating what stands behind the coming into being of corals, there would be similarities to what stands behind humans coming into existence.

What follows is a summary of my endeavours.

### Coral polyps

The coral polyp builds up a cuplike calcareous skeleton which is a kind of rock. Over time it can become limestone.

By living their lives in community they build an environment that supports an ecosystem of wonder and diversity.

In building up coral reefs a whole new ecosystem is coming into existence that is recognized as having a variety and abundance of life that possibly exceeds any other ecosystem on Earth. Here is the experience of an abundance of life.

What is at work in building up a reef ecosystem that provides shelter to a multitude of organisms and an abundance of food for their inhabitants? It's an example of Love in action, Charity at work, Divine benevolence on display.

### People

People over a lifetime can build up a body of knowledge which serves as a foundation for their lives.

By people living their lives faithfully and truthfully they help to make the world a better place.

In connecting with celestial beings a heavenly realm is becoming more and more diverse and amazing and is recognised as the closest connection for human beings with the Divine as co-workers. Here is the experience of an abundance of life.

What is at work in a beautiful person's life, people who are recognised for their community work; and possibly nominated for awards like Australian of the year awards, or the Nobel peace prize and so on? It's an example of Love in action, Charity at work, Divine benevolence on display.



Corals can be manifesters of the amazing processes of Divine benevolence at work.

Humans can be manifesters of the amazing processes of Divine benevolence at work.

Followers of Swedenborg such as Helen Keller have acknowledged their indebtedness to his teachings.

"I acknowledge my profound indebtedness to Emanuel Swedenborg for a richer interpretation of the Bible, and a deeper understanding of Christianity, and a precious sense of the divine presence in the world." Helen Keller

Swedenborg provides a body of teaching which is an expression of Divine Truth flowing through him. His spiritual writings provide a haven for seekers after Truth, where they find food for the soul. Early followers of Swedenborg like John Clowes and like-minded people saw the value of his Divinely inspired writings, and decided to dwell in them, be nourished by their content and build their lives accordingly.

In modern times the community centred around the Swedenborg Foundation 'ecosystem' is another example which is flourishing. Likewise with the community centred around Logopraxis.



## Virtues – Compassion By Darren Brunne

Virtues are the essence of our character. Practicing virtues can help open our life to new possibilities and greater joy and fulfillment.



Compassion is a longing and energy to see others succeed and be free of suffering. Compassion flows from the heart of the Divine into our hearts when we view others from a nonjudgmental position and endeavour to understand life from the other person's point of view. Compassion does not always require us to solve other people's problems or even have a solution.

Instead, Compassion requires us to be present with those who are suffering while offering love, inward strength and our prayers.

### **Definition**

*A feeling of deep empathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering*

*Commiseration, mercy, tenderness, heart, clemency*

**Opposite** mercilessness, indifference.

### **Quotes**

*"Love and compassion are necessities not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive."*

— The Dalai Lama

*"The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others."*

- Albert Schweitzer



## Scriptural Quotes

**Matthew 9:36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

**Matthew 7:1-2** Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

**Mark 6:34** When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

**Matthew 5:8** Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

**Deuteronomy 16:17** Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you.

**Zechariah 7:10** do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.

**Matthew 5:9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

**Matthew 7:12** So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

**Galatians 6:2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

**Ephesians 4:32** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

## Secrets of Heaven 351.

Charity means love towards the neighbour and compassion, for anyone who loves his neighbour as himself also has as much compassion for him in his suffering as he does for himself in his own.

## To meditate about

I deliberately pay attention to those who are in need or suffering.

I feel the pain of others and seek to console them.

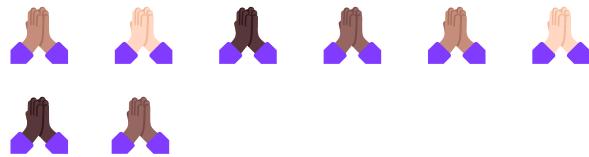
I take time from my own pursuits to reach out to those who are in need.

When I see others in pain, I am quick to listen and slow to speak.

I choose not to judge others but look for solutions.

## Prayer

I am thankful for the gift of Compassion in my heart as it flows in from the heart of the Lord.



## News / Membership

On the SAA website at [www.swedenborg.com.au](http://www.swedenborg.com.au) we have recently added 30 free useful older booklets, leaflets and talk transcripts which we had recently been digitising. To access them, people should go to the menu on the website, select "Resources," then "PDFs," and then scroll to the end (bottom) of the page.

Welcome to our new members:

Warren Reid (COWRA NSW)

And to everyone who renewed or re-joined as a member. We hope you will find that the you benefit from feeling part of our Swedenborg group.



## The Contentious Nature of Divine Truth

By Joe Vandermeer

Here are some questions to ponder.

**What does it mean for something to be true?**

It's real /It's fact/ Reliable/ Consistent.

**What are the effects on us of something that is true?**

It behaves consistently (when tested).

We know it.

We accept it, put our faith in it.

We trust it (eg gravity, sunrise).

We rely/depend on it.

Our experience confirmed it.

We use it.

We no longer question it.

We don't ignore it (although we might ignore the small number of times it fails, eg a clock).

We don't deny it (jump off and hope to fly)



**What are the uses of truth, of the way things are and work?**

We create recipes (eg heat transforms and cooks food).

We can formulate statements of logic ( $2+2=4$ ).

We describe, teach and apply natural laws (eg gravity, sound).

We predict (eg a lawful behaviour: people avoid pain and seek pleasure).

**Are we the authors of truth?**

**Is something true simply because we say it is?**

*An angel leads Swedenborg to observe a group of spirits termed "proof-mongers," who excel at making any proposition appear true through clever arguments. These people, though appearing human, are described as "bestial" because they cannot*



*discern true truth from falsehood: they merely make whatever they wish seem true. Swedenborg asks them to prove contradictory statements, such as the absurd claim that light is darkness. The proof-monger insists that truth is merely what one establishes as true, regardless of contradictions. This ability to argue any position no matter how illogical, reflects a lack of genuine understanding, and a reliance on superficial reasoning. Such individuals lack spiritual insight and rely solely on natural light, devoid of heavenly illumination, so they cannot truly discern truth from falsehood. The lesson is that true intelligence is not proving anything by argument, but recognising and affirming genuine truths as true. The proof-mongers are using merely cleverness, not intelligence.*

Conjugial Love 233

**Who is the author of truth?**

**Who or what makes something true?**

**Is everything we see true?**

**Why isn't everything perceived true?**

It is because of appearances, plus the habits of our thinking when these are still grounded in accepting such appearances as reality.

Appearances are the way things look. They are the container. They are NOT the contents, nature, quality, essence or reality of the contents.

Appearance differs from the underlying reality.

Appearances can mask the underlying reality.

Appearances (eg natural forms and processes) are observed by the senses and confirmed by our natural thinking about them.

Some internal realities can be perceived by the intellect (scientific and reasoned thinking through inferences and deductions). But some people draw the line there (define as "real" only that which the senses and such reasoning from them can access).

There exist deeper internal realities which cannot be known in that way, realities which



must be revealed from a higher, deeper source (their author, God). If we reject God, we will not be open to 'seeing' things inwardly, and things as they truly are will not be seen as such, and so we will remain confused on ultimate matters.

Supernatural (or revealed) knowledge is a way of knowing that is not due to nature or not possible to the natural cognitive power.

*If you observe carefully the thoughts of your own mind, you can recognize that there is a spiritual light completely distinct from physical light. When a mind is thinking, it sees its objects in light, and people who think spiritually see truths as readily at midnight as in daytime. This is why we attribute light to our discernment and talk about 'seeing.' One person may hear what someone else says and say, 'I see that this is true,' meaning 'I understand.' Since this understanding is spiritual, it cannot see by physical light. Physical light does not last, but departs with the sun. We can see from this that our discernment enjoys a light other than that of our eyes, and that this light comes from a different source.*



*Our human mind has three levels: earthly knowledge, spiritual intelligence, and heavenly wisdom. Through these levels, we can rise from basic understanding to a higher level of wisdom that allows us to turn towards the divine and live in unity with the Lord.*



*Among the ancients, brides represented the desire for truth, and bridegrooms, the desire for goodness. They represented the church\*. The church was called a 'bride' because of its desire for truth. A desire for goodness, received from the Lord, was a 'bridegroom', so the Word calls the Lord himself a bridegroom in various places.*

\*Church: people who embody a life of inward integration – or marriage – of faith, love, and charity, living according to God's Word (such individuals were also called a 'church').



*The ancient custom of a bride veiling her face on first approaching the groom represents appearances of truth. Appearances of truth are not actually true but only seems that way. A desire for truth cannot draw closer to a desire for goodness except by means of apparent truth, and it does not shed those appearances until the two unite. At that point, truth comes to belong to goodness and when it does it comes to be really true – to the extent that the goodness is actually good. Real goodness is holy because it is a divine quality emanating from the Lord, and it enters us by a higher path or doorway. Truth, however, is not holy in origin, because it enters by a lower path or doorway and is first assimilated into the earthly self. But when it rises up from there toward the rational plane, it gradually becomes purer. On first catching sight of the desire for goodness, it detaches from facts and puts on an appearance of truth, which it wears as it approaches goodness. The latter is a sign that it has this kind of origin and that it would not be able to stand its first sight of goodness that is divine, until it has entered the groom's bedroom, so to speak – the sanctuary of goodness – and the union has taken place. By then truth no longer looks at goodness from the standpoint of appearances, or through a veil of appearances, but is seen by goodness without illusion.*



### Some things said about truth:

Truth is more than fact or law.

Truth and good are a pair.

Truth is the form that good takes.

Truth is as a garment worn by good.

Something cannot be true unless it is also good.

Where there is little good, there is little truth.

Good (love) is the essence of life, and truth (wisdom) is the expression of life that springs from that essence.

Good and truth are seen as inseparable and interdependent aspects of the divine order. Good is the ground into which truths are sown, and the nature of this ground (good) determines how truths are received, grow, and bear fruit.

Truth is the actual essence of good, and without its essence, it is not truly truth.

Truth is the means through which good flows into a person.

Good needs vessels or receptacles to flow into, and truths serve as these vessels.

Without truths, a person cannot receive spiritual life.

Truths are given to individuals based on their ability to grasp them, and are acknowledged as truths because they have the capacity to hold Divine things within them.

Truth is the recipient of life, meaning that it is through truth that life, or good, flows into a person.

Truth is not just a static concept but a dynamic force that allows for the reception of goodness and spiritual life.

### Types of truth

**Apparent Truths:** these truths may appear to be true but are not essentially truths. They can be representative of truth or meaningful signs of truth, but they may also include falsities. Apparent truths can serve as vessels and recipients for deeper truths and can be rendered suitable to convey celestial matters.

**Factual truths:** are derived from the literal sense of the Word or the external person's

memory and they belong to the natural person. Facts are a means of becoming either wise or insane because they either help perfect the rational mind or destroy it, depending on how they are used. Those who solely rely on facts and acquire knowledge without a deeper understanding may not necessarily become wiser but instead might become more foolish, because facts when used to support a life of evil or false assumptions, can lead to insanity rather than wisdom.



**Interior Truths of Faith:** These truths are deeper and belong to – and reside in – the internal person. They are truths of life itself that are inscribed on the internal person but may not always show up in the memory. Interior truths of faith are related to spiritual matters and are connected to a person's faith and belief system.

Real faith is acknowledging something as true because it is true. It's not blind belief but a conviction based on recognizing truth. Faith is rooted in and centred on truth. When a person acknowledges something as true, they say, "This is true. Therefore, I believe it." Faith is rooted in the truth, and the truth is the object of faith.

**Spiritual Truths:** These are truths concerning a person's spiritual life, faith, and relationship with the divine. They include spiritual truths of faith, truths of what is right and honorable in society, as well as natural truths derived from sensory perceptions.

**Celestial and Eternal Truths:** These are the most profound truths that were known to the Most Ancient Church. They include truths about the Lord's governance of the universe, the source of all good and truth, the source of life, and the nature of the proprium. These truths are deeply connected to love and charity.



## TRUTH differs from WISDOM

Truth is the light that shines in the understanding, which leads to intelligence. The more love in a person, the more truth shines in their understanding.

**Wisdom is the fire and source of illumination.** Wisdom is the fire of life burning within a person and is the source of the light of truth that shines in the understanding, fueled by love and union with the Lord. Wisdom is union with the Lord, since the Lord is wisdom itself. This union with the Lord is achieved by banishing hell from oneself, and the degree of this union is proportional to the extent of this banishment.

### Wisdom:

- ultimate knowledge concerning how things are.
- ultimate knowledge concerning how we should act, the goods we should pursue, and the types of persons we should strive to become.

Wisdom is depicted as a palace with twelve steps, symbolizing the ascent towards wisdom through the union with the Lord. As one climbs higher, they realize that true wisdom comes from the Lord, and their own knowledge is limited compared to the vastness of divine wisdom.



## DIVINE TRUTHS

- originate from God and are beyond human comprehension.
- are considered to be wholly Divine, flowing from Divine Good.



- are seen as the foundation of the Word, which is the Divine work for the salvation of the human race.
- hold all power within themselves, so much so that they are power itself.
- are essential for spiritual life and understanding.
- are given to individuals in a way that they can grasp according to their ability.
- are represented in the Word, which is considered holy and divinely inspired, down to every tiny letter (the internal sense of the Word reveals celestial and spiritual matters that can bring more delight to the internal person than worldly ones do to an external person).
- are seen as the means through which all things were created and are kept in being.
- are the essence of truth that goes forth from Divine Good, uniting all truth from God.
- are so powerful that they can provide strength against evils and falsities, even in the spiritual world.
- are the ultimate truths that come from God
- serve as a source of enlightenment, spiritual life, and power for those who receive and understand them.
- Angels and individuals who possess Divine truths from the Lord are said to have great power, being able to overcome adversities and negative forces.



## Divine truths include laws of divine providence

The laws of divine providence are considered to be deeply connected to the divine truths that underlie the spiritual fabric of existence, guiding and shaping the course of human life in alignment with the Lord's divine plan. These laws are:

**We should act in [spiritual] freedom and in accordance with reason.**

In the privacy of our own minds, we can think and feel just about any way that we like, i.e. we can choose to inwardly embrace thoughts and feelings that are either good or evil.

**We cannot be compelled to think or believe in a certain way**

Nobody can be reformed by threats and punishments, or even by miracles and visions of the afterlife. In order for faith to be real, and for reformation to be actual, we have to examine ourselves in the light of our highest values and see if we are living in accordance with them. It is only when we choose to act consciously in accordance with our faith that the process of reformation really begins.

**We are taught and led by the Lord, although it may appear that we are acting independently.**

All life comes from God, and his love, wisdom, and energy flow into everything. If God withdrew from anyone, even for a moment, that person would cease to exist. God never stops trying to lead people to do good things and to love each other, and as long as we are on earth it's never too late to change. (Although the longer we wait, the harder it gets!)

**We will not feel the workings of divine providence in our lives.**

We are not allowed to see God at work in our lives for the same reason that we can't be converted to faith by miracles: we have to choose to do good because we truly believe it is right, not because we are forced to or because there will be an immediate reward for doing so. That's why some people choose to abandon their belief in God.

**What is so contentious about truth?**  
(What does it mean to be "contentious")

Causes arguments / controversial / disputable /unsettling.



Contentious ideas cause us to:

- doubt or mistrust it, regard it as suspicious or false,
- not (immediately) accept it, only perhaps gradually or reluctantly,
- intellectually accept it, but not wholeheartedly.

*If you consult your rational mind about divine truth, you will never accept it, because it lies completely beyond the rational mind's grasp. AC1935*

*Humans, spirits, and angels have no life at all in themselves – only the Lord does; and the life they do have merely seems to be theirs.*

*The rational mind fights this idea, judging as it does on the basis of illusions. Yet it ought to be believed, because it is true.*

AC1936

*Every word of Scripture holds within it an unlimited number of ideas. Even though the Word appears to us to be so uncomplicated and unpolished. In fact, every word embraces the whole of heaven and more. The mysteries hidden in it can be presented to the view of angels by the Lord with unending variety forever.*

*This is so unbelievable to the rational mind that it is totally unwilling to give credence to it: and yet it is true.*

AC1936



## Conclusion:

These show that the rational mind deserves no trust. Our rational mind latches on to illusions and appearances and therefore rejects truth that has been stripped of illusions and appearances. The more wrapped up we become in self-love and selfish urges, in rationalisations, and in misguided assumptions regarding religion, the more we reject such truth.

At its conception, the rational mind cannot acknowledge intuitive truth (inner, intellectual, spiritual truth) as true, because many misconceptions cling to the rational mind. These include illusions rising out of information gleaned from the world and from nature; they also include appearances rising out of knowledge acquired from the literal meaning of the Word; and none of them are accurate.

To learn about appearances and the role they play among humankind as divine truth, take this example as an illustration: Suppose I said that no idea of place and distance exists in heaven but that the idea of state replaces it. People would never be able to understand this. They would think that nothing was distinct, everything was jumbled together, people were all combined into one; when in reality everything there is as distinct as it could possibly be. In heaven, the places, distances, and space characteristic of the physical world are states. Clearly, then, whatever the Word says about places and space (or in terms of them) is an appearance of truth. If it were not expressed in terms of appearances, it would never be accepted, which means that hardly anything in the Word would be accepted. The notion of space and time enters into virtually all our thinking as long as we are in the world, subject to space and time.

The more the rational mind bases its thinking on facts gleaned from sensory data and on philosophical reasoning, the more difficulty it has understanding these or any other intuitive truths. After all, the more the rational mind thinks this way, the more deeply the shadows thicken around

the mistaken thinking that results. This is why the well-educated have less faith than others.

Since the rational mind is like this at its conception, it plainly holds its owner in contempt, or in other words, despises intuitive truth.

Intuitive truth does not reveal itself—that is, we do not recognize it—until illusions and appearances dissolve, and they do not even begin to dissolve as long as we are wrangling over genuine truth on the basis of empirical evidence and facts. Intuitive truth first reveals itself when we believe in all simplicity of heart that something is true because the Lord has said so. Then the dark shadows of error scatter and there is nothing left in us to cause misunderstanding.



*Sarai, wife of Abram, symbolizes a desire for truth, which is Sarai as wife. The symbolism is of Sarai as truth attached to goodness, and of a wife as an emotion.*

The desire for what is good and the desire for what is true are two distinctly different emotions. When we are regenerating, the desire for truth takes precedence, because we desire truth for the sake of what is good. When we have been reborn, though, the desire for goodness takes precedence, and goodness gives us a desire for truth. A desire for goodness belongs to our will, a desire for truth to our intellect.

The earliest people established a custom of referring to these two emotions as partners in a kind of marriage, calling goodness or the love of goodness a husband, and truth or the love of truth a wife, as if they were people. The practice of comparing goodness and truth to marriage traces its origin to the heavenly marriage.

\*\*\*continued on page 12\*\*\*



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

To become a member of the Swedenborg Association of Australia, check the website at [www.swedenborg.com.au](http://www.swedenborg.com.au) and click "Contact" in the top menu, which has details on benefits of **membership** and an application form listing current membership rates.

Also check the website at [www.swedenborg.com.au](http://www.swedenborg.com.au) for details of **group events** which are held online, but you can also be physically at various locations around Australia. Follow the "about → contact" menu items on the website for a list of locations and contact info of your nearest group convenor, and see the "events" menu item for Zoom links so you can join online events.

Our new website is continually being updated with new study material and latest news and information.

*It is Divinely provided that corrupt inclinations may be rectified, and that a capacity for this is also implanted. Resulting from this capacity are an ability and power in people to mend their habits, under the direction of parents and teachers, and afterwards by themselves when they come into their own right and judgment.*

*Conjugial Love 202*

*The more firmly we believe no wisdom at all originates in us, the wiser we are.  
And the more firmly we believe it does originate in us and so credit our own selves with prudence, the more insane we are.  
The rational mind denies this as well, imagining that anything that does not originate in us is nothing.*

AC1396

## Two trees in the garden

**The tree of the knowledge of good and evil**

### The Tree of Life



See things as they really are

(world of unity: recognising their ultimate source [God – through which they are united] and distinguishing the illusion of their appearance from their principal/essential source reality).



Without recognition of God as supreme source: - mistaking appearances of things as their only/ultimate/final reality

(cause of confusion/dualities/need for validation from external sources, eg science and reason).

Fragmentation and division, confusion, obscurity.