

## The Inner Life of the United Nations

The existence of the United Nations Organization in our midst today is both a great hope and a great challenge. It reflects humanity's aspiration for unity as well as the many conflicting forces that have to be overcome if we are to enter fully and safely into the new global age.

When evaluating the United Nations at this time we can easily be overwhelmed by the stumbling blocks. To see it more as a "whole," however, we must consider the UN from the angle of its deeper meaning and from a long-range perspective. The "entity" of the United Nations is still very young when compared with the several million years that it took humanity to evolve to its present stage. As with any new evolving idea, or as with an adolescent, it is wise to consider not only the transitory form but also its potential. Behind appearances there is also consciousness, the ensouling idea and the inner life. *The UN essentially is a living thoughtform and an evolving entity.* To limit our perception solely to the outer appearances or to be overly engrossed with its outer successes, failures or mistakes is to negate the underlying life.

If we now try to look at the UN in this more complete and holistic sense, holding its "inner life" in mind, what do we see? We see a living center of contacts, a forum of continuous discussion, a network of information on global issues, an embryonic central nervous system of a family of nations where already many forms of cooperation and coordination take place. Therefore, even if this family of nations disagrees and even if cooperation on certain controversial issues is often precarious, the instrument of contact, the nucleus of cooperation *is* there and awaits further development. It also needs purification and spiritualization. Spiritualization would mean a further integration of the outer form and mechanism with the inspiring idea, its Soul, which essentially is the Soul of the one humanity.

It is clear that the UN is still evolving, and it would be good always to keep in our minds – as clearly as we can – an image of its possible future and goal. In the development and education of our youth we try to lead them to the unfoldment of their potential (to educate, or *educare*, is to draw out the best in them). So, with the United Nations too, there is a great and constant need to evoke its potential, its possibility for transmutation and transformation. This requires the involvement of fine minds and the dedication of spiritually oriented workers. Above all, it requires the vision of an enlightened public opinion to see the goal of ultimate cooperation and integration of humanity.

### Evolution of Nations – the Spiritual Dimension

If we consider the way in which most nations have come into being, we find that it is usually the result of an individual or group who articulated – however dimly or awkwardly – a spark of the Soul of that nation, and who began to organize its interior forces to bring a sense of coherence and direction into expression. This is not merely a so-called political power struggle of certain individuals as cynics would have us believe, although selfishness is certainly working in politics as in all other fields. The goal of government is essentially the creation of such conditions of unity, order, equity and security that the life of the people can evolve and right relationships be established and maintained – both among its own people, internally, and with other people, externally.

In spite of the distorted ways in which this might sometimes transpire, this overall purpose of the government of a nation and its striving to find and express its self-identity are as essential for its life and growth as they are for an individual human being. The important question from the spiritual angle is whether the higher Self of the nation is gradually manifesting as well, with an *inclusive group consciousness*. It is the higher Self or Soul of each nation that ultimately is to come to full expression and from which spiritual energy will flow into every phase of its civilization, culture and relationships. The enlightened government of a nation will seek to bring about such conditions and

protect them. Is this not evolving now through the United Nations in the form of a search for common security, harmonization and coordination, as a response to the “planetization” of human consciousness and a recognition of global interdependence?

Gradually, another aspect has also emerged into national life: the trend towards representation and participation in our own governments. This has become possible as we, as individual citizens, move toward fuller self-expression and a growing sense of responsibility, making our conscious participation more and more meaningful. This trend influences the style of government as much as it does the style of leadership and self-participation in all other walks of life today.

Incidentally, the fighting for and the granting of freedom and self-determination have a deeper impulse behind them than mere political opportunism. They involve the recognition of the essential worth and sacredness of the inner being in each of us. In deeper essence, it makes us, as Martin Buber has suggested, see the other as a subject, a “Thou,” rather than as an object, an “it.” This relates to the principle of essential divinity and is the basis of all right human relationships, whether between individuals or nations. It is the spiritual impulse behind liberation.

It has been written that

*Liberation is ... freedom from the past, freedom to move forward along certain predetermined lines (predetermined by the Soul), freedom to express all the divinity of which one is capable as an individual, or which a nation can present to the world. (Alice A. Bailey: Esoteric Healing)*

According to the same author, certain historical events can be seen as significant symbols of this liberation:

1. *The signing of the Magna Carta.* This document was signed at Runnymede during the reign of King John on June 15, 1215 A.D. Here the idea of liberation from authority was presented with the emphasis upon the personal liberty and rights of the individual. The growth and development of this basic idea repeated itself in other major events:
  - The founding of the French Republic with its emphasis upon human liberty.
  - The Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights (in the U.S.), determining national policy.
  - The Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms (later formulated as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), bringing the whole question into the international field and in principle guaranteeing liberty and freedom to develop the divine reality within themselves to men and women everywhere in the world.
2. *The Emancipation of the Slaves.* The spiritual idea of human liberty, which had become a recognized ideal, became a demanding desire and led to the abolition of slavery.
3. *The Liberation of Humanity by the Allied Nations.* The liberation of the individual has moved onward through the liberation of a section of humanity (the slaves) to the liberation of millions of human beings from the tyranny of Nazism.

To these three events we could add that since the last World War we have seen the emancipation or liberation of many of the younger nations from colonial status to self-government; thus they could become independent members of the United Nations. This made it possible for the UN to become a representative *world* organization.

## **The Next Phase in the Evolution of the UN**

It is becoming clear that the great opportunity and challenge before all nations at present is that they recognize the need for increasing responsibility for the larger whole. When meeting together, as in the UN, the acceptance by individual nations of a common responsibility in some way or another is the precious sign of an unfolding inner maturity. Sometimes this greater “inclusiveness” may come about voluntarily and spontaneously through true understanding; sometimes it may also come as a result of struggle and intense confrontation. Or a nation may not accept any wider viewpoint and may not want to give up national interest for the larger good, and then the status quo continues until a later time.

However, any evidence that a nation assumes more responsibility for the global good and for the well being of humanity serves the deeper goal of the UN, no matter in what small way and whether inside or outside the official UN meetings. Any truly inclusive thinking along international lines has a value for potential world government. Is this not expressive of the idea and the spirit of the UN? Is not every representative of any nation in the UN who attempts to think in terms of the good of the whole contributing to this spirit?

Of course, in practice we see many conflicting interests. It is true that “nations are the expression today of the massed self-centeredness of a people and of their instinct to self-preservation.” (Alice A. Bailey) Yet, at the same time, these nations are today pressed, through the power of a growing consciousness of interdependence, to seek harmonization. They are confronted with global issues such as international economics, trade and even survival. Thus the global perspective naturally affects each nation and provides the matrix wherein solutions are to be found.

We need not think of world problems only in terms of how to deal with armed conflicts. These are often the outcome of long-neglected deeper problems. (Wars are symptoms and not causes.) One role of government is to seek to *prevent* such problems from becoming serious ones. For instance the UN is addressing such issues as global warming, the water crisis that plagues many parts of the world, and is seeking to preserve biodiversity by protecting forests and fisheries and by preventing soil depletion – all problems that promote food shortages. Still other issues are world health, education and – of great importance – the establishment of an International Criminal Court. In addition there are many other areas where global cooperation is essential to improve conditions and establish measures and laws that will prevent otherwise unavoidable future disaster. This is all potential *world government*, and the UN is the only relevant instrument we have for it.

## **Creative Thinking and Meditation for the UN**

If we can see the United Nations as a “living thoughtform,” born from humanity’s aspiration and imaginative thought, it is clear that it needs our continuous support and creative meditation.

As in all creative and spiritual work, the first prerequisite is to hold the vision of its true purpose clearly in mind. Without closing our eyes to actual circumstances, we must not be engrossed by the immediate but always “think possibility.”

A second factor in giving subjective support is to visualize the positive forces and energies already present. For instance, we can recognize that among UN officials and national delegates and within supporting organizations are those who are deeply committed to the aim of cooperation and who inwardly respond to the blueprints of the new civilization. The work of such people needs our recognition and subjective help.

Also, we can visualize behind those world servers the stimulus and inspiration coming from the inner spiritual world where greater beings are continuously seeking to impress certain ideas and wider visions on human minds, thus empowering all enlightened workers serving there. By holding

this picture of a spiritual reality in mind, we already help strengthen the atmosphere for the right unfoldment.

Third, there is the actual meditation, a thinking through in the light of “that which ought to be.” Doing this, we may realize that we take part in a true group meditation with many others all over the world. It is actually the nourishment of the “inner life” of the UN.

Most of us are not directly involved in the political field; yet we can still provide crucial assistance by our enlightened thought. We can hold clearly in our minds a picture of spiritual energy working through the Assembly; we can be mentally present there and be “delegates by thought.” Such subjective support can be of great usefulness and service. It can strengthen the process of transmutation from national self-centeredness to international cooperation, for “energy follows thought.” This is a modern way of using meditation. We can pray for, or meditate on, these spiritual *processes* to be worked out within and through the UN. Holding the vision of the “one humanity” in the light will assist the efforts of all those working in high places to strengthen this concept.

Such meditative work does not at all exclude practical efforts and action, and may even result in it. For example, quite some thought has been given — both within the UN and by various supporting groups and organizations — to make the UN more effective in critical decision-making. Since 1997 an internal reform process has been in place in order to make the UN “a more results-based organization rather than one focused on input and processes,” in the words of Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Also money is being saved through the ongoing reduction of staff. See the UN’s website: [www.un.org/reform](http://www.un.org/reform). An external support organization, “Campaign for UN Reform” ([www.cunr.org](http://www.cunr.org)) seeks to garner grassroots support for the process and to promote it in the halls of Congress. They issue a biannual newsletter, “The UN Reformer.”

Also the Center for War/Peace Studies, 180 W. 80<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10024 ([www.cwps.org](http://www.cwps.org)) and the World Federalist Association, 420 7<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Washington DC 20003 ([www.wfa.org](http://www.wfa.org)) support reordering the UN General Assembly into a global legislature that would implement a binding system of global decision-making. The *Global Report* issued by the Center for War/Peace Studies has identified four tasks that an empowered UN could achieve in the new century: end war, reduce poverty, save the environment and protect human rights.

Creative thinking along these lines can be considered part of a creative group meditation. The power and the value of meditating for the UN lies in its being a spiritual “relating” process. It relates that which is below with that which is above; it realigns the outer appearance with the deeper purpose. It channels the great stream of energies available from the inner spiritual world, so needed to purify our world forms and endeavors, to inspire our world thinkers and servers.

Prayer and meditation “in the light” can create the right *atmosphere for change* and for the cultivation of the new values and the passing out of the old ones. The work and growth of the UN and other world institutions towards becoming more spiritual, more inclusive and more in line with the divine Plan can therefore be helped by our continued, regular meditation, and that of thousands of dedicated and spiritually oriented people.

There is a little parable that beautifully illustrates what is needed. It is about “Fanner Bees” and is related by Glenn Clark in his book *The Lord’s Prayer*.

There arose from the beehive a sibilant note ... not unlike the sound of sea waves. “They are fanner bees,” whispered the old beekeeper. “It’s their job to keep the hive sweet and fresh. They’re standing with their heads lowered, turned toward the center of the hive. Their wings are moving so rapidly that if you saw them you would think you were looking at a grey mist. They are drawing the bad air out through one side of the entrance, while the pure air is sucked in on the other side.”

The old beekeeper stepped to the hive, holding a lighted candle in his hand. Instantly the light was extinguished by the strong current. The old man said, “the fanners draw out the bad air and let in the fresh. Isn’t that how people who call themselves Christians ought to act?”

We could well add that it is how every spiritually oriented person can act and serve; for such is indeed the work of tending the subjective atmosphere and of creating the right spiritual climate in which world servers can work and the needed developments can take place. The daily sending of light and goodwill throughout the planet means the building and maintaining of a beneficial etheric atmosphere around the globe. This spiritual “pure air” will greatly aid the true expression of the purpose of the United Nations.

### **United Nations Meditation**

Move in imagination to the meditation room at the UN and there make alignment and identification with the Soul and with the New Group of World Servers. Then say,

*Salutations to the Spiritual Hierarchy, the Custodians of the Plan.*

OM

*Salutations to the Christ and to that great Being who stands in  
Power behind Him – the Avatar of Synthesis.*

OM

Recite the Invocation:

*Let the Forces of Light bring illumination to mankind.*

*Let the Spirit of Peace be spread abroad.*

*May men of goodwill everywhere meet in a spirit of cooperation.*

*May forgiveness on the part of all men be the keynote at this  
time.*

*Let power attend the efforts of the Great Ones.*

*So let it be and help us to do our part.*

Meditate on the spirit of the UN, on the will of the nations to cooperate for the good of the whole. Imagine this spirit working out in the meetings of the UN and its agencies.

Then say the Invocation for the United Nations:

*May the Peace and the Blessings of the Holy Ones pour forth  
over the worlds – rest upon the United Nations, on the  
work and the workers, protecting, purifying, energizing and  
strengthening.*

*There is a Peace that passes understanding. It abides in the  
hearts of those who live in the Eternal.*

*There is a Power that makes all things new. It lives and moves in  
those who know the Self as One.*

*May the rhythm of that Peace vibrate within the United Nations  
and in the heart of every worker.*

*May the rhythm of that Creative Power resound within the United  
Nations and in the lives of all who serve there – awakening,  
transmuting and giving birth to that which ought to be.*

*May the chalice the United Nations is building become a focal point for the descent of spiritual force, which, filling it and overflowing to the world, draws towards itself all those whose work lies there.*

*May the consciousness of the United Nations become ever more at-one, the many lights One Light in the Light of the Self.*

*May the aspiration and the dedication of the United Nations burn as a clear Flame in the service of Humanity and the Holy Ones.*

*May the Love and the Light and the Life of the One Life pour through the United Nations, cleansing it from all evil and attracting all good.*

Then say the Great Invocation, using it specifically to strengthen the flow of energies through the UN, and close with the sounding of the OM.