



Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation Fall 2010

Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation

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Dear Friends of PBPF,

As we're poised for forthcoming holiday seasons, we pause for a moment to think of what the work of the Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation is all about, and to extend gratitude to the vast family of friends who do that work and keep it going.

Paul Brunton (PB) himself uses the philosophic star as a metaphor for the fully developed "Philosopher", and bear with me now, we think it is apt for the aspirations of the Foundation, as well. The five points of the star elucidate the arena a seeker must move through, from egoism to universal perspective. In Perspectives we find that he wrote:

The esoteric meaning of the star is "Philosophic Man," that is, one who has traveled the complete fivefold path and brought its results into proper balance. This path consists of religious veneration, mystical meditation, rational reflection, moral re-education, and altruistic service. The esoteric meaning of the circle, when situated within the very center of the star, is the Divine Overself-atom within the human heart. (p.260)

Here is the Foundation's model for its work. The Ideas in the Star are reflected in book give-aways, both worldwide and very intensely and specifically in the Prison Project. One can see it in recent encouragement to philosophic writers to pursue new projects, and in the selfless work of many writers finally putting out new works about the material. It is apparent in the warm sharing of the philosophic search among lifelong practitioners meeting for the first time, as in the Blair visit to PBPF headquarters.

It shines forth clearly in volunteers working countless hours, often anonymously or with little notice from others, to put forth philosophic ideals to some targeted audience; it burns up cyberspace in all sorts of ways, with words of white magic from PB and other sages, coming from someone's living room. In some other room, another is tucked away studiously transforming all of PB's original writing into digital form to perpetuate a priceless treasure. Someone else clicks away, putting the books on Kindle and similar formats. Another writes reviews for the internet, to inspire new students and old.

For all of this we surely journey through rational reflection; moral re-education and altruistic service; opening the heart in reverence, love and compassion, and for our group, it is largely fueled by mystical meditation.

It is said in Astronoesis: **"The points of the star represent the full unfoldment or transformation of the ego functions into the five wisdom consciousnesses..."** That is really the work we aspire toward. When we participate, we are transforming the ego functions into wisdom – moving from egoism toward the universal. The Divine Overself-atom in the center, it is gratifying to remember, is situated in the *human heart* and beyond.

For more excerpts and commentary on the Philosophic Star, look a bit further into this newsletter...

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the PBPF, I send deep gratitude to the vast network of friends and volunteers who keep this work going, who advance the extraordinary vision of PB and like minded philosophers, shining the rays of this ethereal star into ever new crevasses of our earthly home and human family.

Sending much Love and Light
Martha Cohen
President
PBPF



From left: Edna Blair, Amy Opperman Cash, Paul Cash and Neil Blair. The Blairs were thrilled to dine with fellow vegetarians - a unique experience for them after longer than 50 years of vegetarianism!

Visitors to PBPB Headquarters and WG

The Finger Lakes headquarters of PBPB as well as Wisdom's Goldenrod (WG) were graced with a visit from longtime PB students Edna and Neil Blair from Scotland in early October.

The Blairs came to the States with the sole purpose of paying homage to the place where Anthony Damiani lived and taught. Though they had never met him, it was Anthony, they explained, who helped them understand "the gap", and ultimately deepen their understanding of mentalism. They have read his four books multiple times, and have studied "the Swedish tapes" of Anthony's visit among students in Sweden, repeatedly.

The Blairs began reading PB in the 1950s, and have studied on their own ever since. They've read all PB books published, and are on their third reading through The Notebooks.

One of the things that was particularly inspiring to PB and Anthony students in the Finger Lakes who met the Blairs, was how determined and persistent they had remained despite the lack of any community of like minded philosophic aspirants. They became vegetarians early on, and have remained faithful to the lifestyle these 50 plus years; they meditate daily, staying with various practices that PB recommends; they do yoga, and they speak to myriad philosophic ideas that PB has written about, quoting book and chapter, with an easy and fluid understanding.

The Blairs have also taken it upon themselves to place various volumes of PB's writings in libraries throughout the UK and other European countries, including some full sets of The Notebooks, but not until they secure assurances, in writing, that the libraries will keep the books on the shelves. They have been friends of PBPB since the early 1990s.

While in the Finger Lakes, the Blairs stayed at "The Cottage" at WG, where Anthony had taken retreat in the last years of his life, and where many spiritual teachers and others seeking retreat have stayed over the years. They were keen to visit places where PB had slept while visiting, and his previous hosts, Bert and Terry Salmirs, received them with tea and private piano concert.

The "search in secret Hector" continued, with guides Amy Opperman Cash and Paul Cash, proprietors of Larson Publications. The Blairs attended a class given by Timothy Smith on Mandukya Upanishad, and entered into many impromptu philosophical discussions throughout their long-weekend visit. PBPB Board Member Sam Cohen and President Martha Cohen also ushered them about. They were honored to meet two of Anthony's sons, Louis and Anthony, plus several members of the Boards and friends of both PBPB and WG. And for the first time after all these decades, they attended all-vegetarian dinners and luncheons with fellow vegetarians!

Here we all are, those of us who have never met, yet we have been studying this work in the quiet of our own meditations; in the struggle to incorporate concepts as our own. The Blairs' visit showed what a tight bond the study of perennial philosophy ties.

PBPB Book Gift Project

PBPB is very pleased to announce the new incarnation of a previous program. Through the "PBPB Book Gift Project", specially chosen PB books are being given as gifts to spiritual study centers worldwide, to philosophic centers, specialized libraries and other groups with an interest in philosophic matters who agree to keep the books in active circulation.

The program's predecessor, "The World Library Gift Project", was started in 1985. Geared largely toward public libraries, the program enjoyed broad success, and many lessons were learned.

At this stage, we are ready for more refined means of placing the books. Refined, and fun we are convinced! For example, any friend of the PBPB who is visiting a spiritual center, or going on retreat or to a workshop, is invited to bring the gift of a book from PBPB to that center with them. The Foundation will help in advance to ensure that the book will be welcome and kept in circulation. The Foundation also plans to contact various study centers with a quote relevant to their course of study and offer a free book that they might want to place on their shelves.

PB's philosophic writings are so comprehensive in their scope that they provide words of wisdom to spiritual seekers regardless of their orientation or belief system. They are meaningful to the Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, the theosophist, and agnostic as well as others. They are meaningful to individuals who seek for life's meaning, for something deeper... for Truth. The Foundation is deeply committed to making PB's vision widely available to serious students everywhere. The Book Gift Fund is a significant means toward that end.

You may choose to participate in this effort even if you are not going on a pilgrimage and taking a book yourself to a spiritual center. You could make a tax-deductible donation and earmark it for a PBPB book donation to any spiritual study center you wish. You can designate funds for a particular PB book or series from a list of available gift books. Or PBPB will send books to a study center it already has on its waiting list. The Foundation sends only to book display rooms and center libraries that confirm in advance that they want the books and will display them publicly. Think about it!



The Prison Project

In the darkest hour, the brightest vision – that is one side of the Prison Project. When individuals are ready, or perhaps when they don't have an alternative... what will be there for them?

Since 1998 more than 25,000 prisoners have requested and received copies of What is Karma? from PBPF. While requests for the book are often heart wrenching, feedback from those who have read it is heartwarming and very enthusiastic. Often, prisoners request another PB book, and when money permits, these requests are honored. Well over 1,000 such PB books have been sent. Here is a very small sample of requests:

I have been told about What is Karma? by a friend I met here... He told me he was a lot like me. He was very angry, unforgiving and just did not care... he said he loves the book and he has been talking to a lot of men here... I want to change my ways too. I have been checked and I can receive the book.

--Prisoner, Sonyea, NY

Recently, my girlfriend and I were introduced to a few passages from your book What is Karma? I can't describe how the wisdom was so to the point. As young women addressing life's adversities, it's a blessing to receive altruistic knowledge, wisdom and direction.

--Prisoner, Baltimore, MD

I am a Native American (Navajo)... I would love to obtain most or all of [PB's] works, for my desire is to introduce the Wisdom to my people. Your help will not only help me but the Navajo people as well.

--Prisoner, Florence, AZ

Many individuals turn their lives around as a result of the right philosophic material coming their way at the right time. Putting "Karma" in the hands of these prisoners surely has the potential to do just that., and it has been extraordinarily gratifying, on behalf of the entire PBPF community, to read the requests and "Thank you" letters that pour in anew

every week from prisoners. It is a moment when some individuals are actually pleading for philosophic material. And it takes so little from us to respond... just a few dollars.

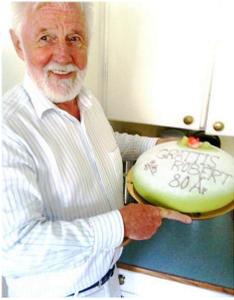
Our overwhelming thanks to those of you who have given one-time generous contributions and our special gratitude to those who **give monthly donations through your credit cards**. Your generosity has kept this program afloat and enabled these legions of prison inmates to begin to learn how to take responsibility for their actions as well as find guidance and inspiration to change habits, thoughts and lives.

Thanks to the generous support of volunteers, especially Peggy Fry Keating and Marie Holmes, who do all of the labeling, packaging and mailing, and Paul Cash who is right there with them, our costs are low.

Nevertheless our funds are running out and we need your support at this critical time to continue this vital program. Please see the enclosed form or send a check to:

PBPF, 4936 Rte 414, Burdett, NY, 14818, USA.





Daily PB quotes on line – multi lingual - from Robert Larson

The Foundation salutes Robert Larson of Sweden for his wonderful initiative to post daily PB quotes on line and organize many sensitive translators in advance, so the quotes appear in several languages. If you haven't already, look to paulbruntondailynote.se to see his terrific choice of inspirational thoughts, chosen from The Notebooks of Paul Brunton.

Robert is still looking for translators in Arabic and Hebrew, plus there is always a wish to have more than one person working in each language, and comparing notes, so if you feel competent in this field yourself or know someone who is, please let us know and we will forward the info along to Robert.

We would also like to send out a warmest Happy 80th Birthday to Robert, who celebrated the milestone this year. Robert, as a founding member of the Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation Board of Directors, and the founder of Larson Publications, was instrumental in publishing "The Notebooks" and in preserving and publishing much of PB's post-humus work. He remains close to the hearts and minds of all of us.

Happy Birthday, Robert !

I could do that,5 for \$15

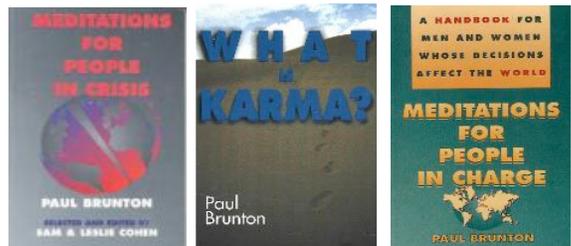
For a year now, there has been a way that any of us can literally bring a touch of the philosophic vision into a surrounding where we see the need – even a dire need - in a simple way. PBPF has made the small PB books available at cost so that members and friends can distribute them, in number, in whatever settings we choose. This can be extraordinarily meaningful, and can do so much for others – *just by offering the right word at the right time*.

Think about leaving a book where the *right person might find it at just the right time*. Maybe – when a dear one is in the hospital, you might leave a copy of "Crisis" in the waiting room or anywhere there might be a need – surely it will find its way into the hands of an appropriate reader. The "Karma" book has been found to be invaluable to groups associated with personal growth and/or substance abuse. Who knows, leaving "People in Charge" in the libraries of community centers, political party headquarters, or with political action groups might just be a gift that makes a difference!

So for \$15, \$30, \$45... \$90 or so on, and that slight bit of effort on our own part (i.e., choosing, ordering and distributing the books) there is so much we can do that is in keeping with our highest ideals. The three small books, selected from The Notebooks of PB, that are currently available at the cost of 5 books for \$15 (which is below normal wholesale price) are:

- Meditations for People in Crisis
- What is Karma? and
- Meditation for People in Charge

A book on Grace and another on Non-Duality, both within PB's overall vision, are on the way. The books can be purchased in any configuration, so they can be made available for all sorts of readers.



Finally, for those who think it's a good idea but don't wish to give out books themselves, PBPF will do the distributing to an appropriate audience for those who make a donation to "5 for \$15". The "Prison Project" is actually just such a dedicated project. You can read about that elsewhere in this newsletter!

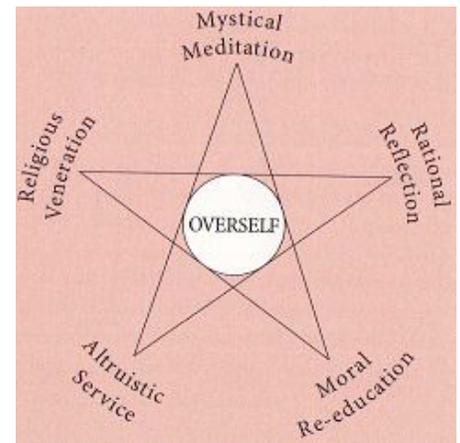
To order books, see the order form in this newsletter or send a check to:
PBPF, 4936 Rte 414, Burdett, NY 14818, USA.

The Philosophic Star

The specific constituents between the Neoplatonic path of Plotinus' Enneads and the five Dhyani Buddhas are correlated in Astronoesis. They are common to what the philosopher must move through and work on and expand according to either system of learning. Always the movement is away from egoism and toward the universal.

In Astronoesis, the five points of the star, the five wisdoms, are commented upon:

- Through *opening the heart* in reverence, love and compassion, self-centered feeling is transformed in the recognition that "each separate life lives by the Soul entire." (v.1.2) This *wisdom of equality* sees all beings as divinely interrelated, recognizes a sympathy with all life, maintains equanimity, and lives in harmony with all.
- Through *reason and intellection*, limited understanding is transformed into the power of *dialectic*: that which discerns reality from appearance. Dialectic brings with it "the power of pronouncing with final truth upon the nature and relation of things." (1.3.4) this is equivalent to discriminative wisdom.
- Through *mystical meditation*, relative consciousness is transformed into *universal consciousness*. The soul sinks all its being into the Intellectual-Principle, and thus participates in Intellectual-Principle's vast contemplation. "All its content, thus, is perfect, that itself may be perfect throughout, as holding nothing that is less than the divine, nothing that is less than intellective....this is pure being in eternal actuality; nowhere is there any future, for every then is a now; nor is there any past, for nothing there has ever ceased to be; everything has taken its stand for ever, an identity well pleased, we might say to be as it is." (v. 1.4) Through this participation, soul attains the *wisdom which cognizes the essential nature of all things*. (This wisdom is referred to in Buddhism as the Dharmadhatu Wisdom.)
- Through *moral re-education and purification* our finite sense of embodiment is transformed into a sacred place to reflect all things as they are. Soul becomes a *mirror* of the Divine: "When there is peace in that within us which is capable of reflecting the images of the Rational and Intellectual-Principles these images appear. Then side by side with the primal knowledge of the activity of the Rational and the Intellectual-Principles, we have also as it were a sense-perception of the operation." (1.4.10) [30, p.326]
- Through continuous remembrance of the divine in



the midst of *altruistic service*, egoistic volition is brought into conformity with the divine will. "The Reason within it [soul] becomes Act in virtue of its contemplation of that prior; for its thought and act are its own intimate possession when it looks to the Supreme Intelligence; those only are soul-acts which are of this intellective nature and are determined by its own character..." (v.1.3) Thus the soul attains to *all-accomplishing wisdom*. [pp.155-156]

Anthony Damiani completes a commentary on the philosophic star in Living Wisdom, with word about the center:

"Under the auspices of the Overself, the person has been put through a program of moral re-education, mystical meditation, religious veneration, rational reflection, and altruistic service. One, two, three, four, five. The Overself atom is in the center. This five-fold path is something which is brought to completion by the radiation coming from the Overself. The completion will not take place without that. Without that higher point of view, the relativity of morals is obvious; anyone who studies any anthropology will see that. And it's hardly likely that you'll know what religious veneration truly is or mystical meditation unless the Overself guides you in these things." (p.14-15)

Anthony tells us that, "...The esoteric meaning of the star is 'the Philosopher'".

"There's not only precision and accuracy in PB's writing," Anthony said, "but there's beauty in what he's saying. You see the doctrine has to be beautiful also. It can't be only good and true; it must be beautiful." (p.14)

Sharing the Vision

How do you share your gift of philosophy from the privacy of your own home?

This is a call to any and all students of Paul Brunton and / or Anthony Damiani, asking you to write reviews of any books by them or like minded philosophers, on Amazon.com or other vendors who carry reviews.

Amazon and other vendors have a spot for reviews right on the site for each book they carry (specific instructions below).

As PB has told us, “Those who are searching for truth are only a small number but still they are a growing number. Each of us may repay our own obligation by saying the *right word at the right time*, by lending or giving the right book to the truth-hungry person.” (2.8.157)

Here is one important means, responsive to the way our world works today, for us to help put the visionary philosophic ideas which we are so privileged to hold in legacy, in the path of those who may be open to them. It is a select few people who may be open to these ideas, and if people are combing through book reviews online, what a terrific place to contact and hopefully influence potential seekers.

How do I place a review?

· It's a good idea to write a review off-line before you sign in to Amazon.com or a similar site, and copy the text to paste into your review. I lost text the 1st few times I tried writing a review, and finally caught on to doing it this way. **The review should be detailed and specific, and between 75 and 300 words long;**

- Go to Amazon.com;
- Sign in – for this you'll need to create a password if you don't already have one (its free);
- Go to “books” and pick out the PB/AD or other book you wish to review;
- Click in to read the existing reviews;
- From here you'll find a prompt to create your own review;
- Be sure to give the book a 5 star rating!
- Paste in or write your review, and finally
- On Amazon, there is no prompt to submit the review at this stage, but after you **review** your own review, it will give you a prompt to publish it.

A newly placed review might not show up for a couple of days, but do check to confirm that it does. Amazon has a system you can refer to if reviews don't show up (a good reason to keep an off-line copy) and they do get back to you.

And finally, even though we have a “search” function at PBPF that should send us any relevant reviews that post online, it is not flawless, and I would love to receive a copy of any review that anyone writes of any books you deem relevant, for PBPF archives. You can send them to: MarthaPBPF@aol.com, if you would.

Thanks immensely to each of you who takes this on.

Wishing you all much Peace and Light,

Martha Cohen
President
PBPF



Contributing

The Foundation carries work into the future that arises from a profound legacy. It holds the bulk of PB's original works in its safe keeping, plus The Notebooks, and the full body of his unpublished writings. All of PBPF's goings-on revolve around bringing the vision that emanate from these, and from philosophers dear to PB's heart, into the kinds of forms for the present day and the future that PB laid out as his wishes.

There is so much that can be done. It can only be accomplished with your help.

There are several ways to contribute.

An **annual gift** to the Foundation's work is always tremendously appreciated, and allows perhaps the greatest return, as these can be directed to the areas of greatest need at the right moments. Gifts can include Honorary and Memorial gifts of any amount. The coming year's work does, in fact, depend on these contributions, and we count on your generous support in this category, where friends of PBPF have proved so noble in the past.

It is also always appreciated to contribute to a **particular project**, such as the Prison Project, The PBPF Book Gift Project, or to the Reprint Fund.

Funds donated this way will be used

only for the cause specified, and that can be particularly gratifying.

Each program depends on these gifts for its on-going operation.

There is also the very important consideration of **giving for the future**, whether from one's will, trust, bequest, etc. We hope to present a system to help organize ideas for this early in the new year, but it is something to think about even now !

The accompanying contribution form should help target any funds as you wish. Many thanks for contributing and participating in this effort. May it help us all move from the personal to the universal...

Gift to Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation and Order Form

Donation

Enclosed is : _____ a check or money order made payable to *Paul Brunton Philosophical Foundation*
or
_____ please bill my credit card for my
one-time tax deductible donation to the Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation
in the amount of: \$_____._____

(or)
I would like to continue to support the work of the Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation with a **monthly donation**. Please charge my credit card \$_____.____ per month.

5 for \$15.00

I would also like to take advantage of the “5 for \$15.00” offer. Put together sets of 5 from the following:

| <u>Book titles</u> | <u>quantity</u> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Meditations for People in Charge | _____ |
| What is Karma? | _____ |
| Meditations for People in Charge | _____ |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Total number of sets (of 5) | _____ |
| subtotal (#of sets at \$15.00/each) | \$_____.____ |
| New York State residents add 8% sales tax (\$1.20 per set) | \$_____.____ |
| Book Grand Total | \$_____.____ |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Donation Total | \$_____.____ |
| Book Purchase total | \$_____.____ |
| Grand Total | \$_____.____ (one time or 1st monthly donation + book purchase) |

Credit Card Info:

Card Type _____
Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
Security code _____ (3-4 digit number on back of card)

Mail, fax or phone to: The Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation
4936 Rte. 414 Burdett, NY 14841, USA FAX (607) 546-9344 PHONE (607) 527-7342