

# THE CRUCIBLE OF AWAKENING

**Issue 51 July 2009**

**W**hen the sun bulged atop the crumbling hills  
And cloudlight blushed away the day  
A lone man squatted by the riverside  
Upon a pitted lip below its manured banks  
His thoughts but shipless riverfroth  
His attention staked nowhere  
In the thickening twilight he sits undisturbed  
Looking through our dreaming eyes  
His voice the river's, his breath the sky's  
His such a familiar land, his such a knowing hand

By the silverblack river edge he sits  
Lily pads cupping the moonlight  
Wild dogpacks crying behind the fading hills  
Again and again we have forgotten him  
And still here he is, offering no perfect path  
No final rung, no nirvanic immunity  
But only the half-written poem of us  
Our uncovered need sprouting a soul  
Our eyes suddenly awash with whitewater  
Our necessary leap deep and fierily ashiver  
Spilling our mind into the river  
The night sky wild and endlessly unveiled  
The Supreme Mystery deepened as it is detailed  
And here's the shadow of a shadow by the riverside  
Taking us where the river begins and ends  
His such a familiar land, his such a knowing hand

## WHAT MATTERS ABOUT MATTER

Matter is more than what we typically think of as matter. There's more to it than meets the eye, more to it than its density and mass, more to it than the popularization of it as but dumb putty to be molded or manipulated by an overseeing mind.

We commonly take as a given the notion of mind over matter, but rarely consider the notion of mind *as* matter, or matter as externalized mind.

Matter matters.

Though denser than mind, soul, or spirit, matter is not necessarily lesser than them, because it fundamentally is just the outside-ness of them crystallized into relative solidity, and without an outside, what can we say about an inside?

We have to be especially careful with language here, for what's outside typically (or conventionally) contains what's inside, but in the case of matter, what's outside is contained by what's inside, in the sense that a greater depth contains a lesser depth.

And so the body does not contain the soul (our individualized essence), but the soul contains the body — and in an even deeper sense, the body does not contain the soul, but rather is an expression of the soul. What we truly are is not making an appearance in a body, but *as* a body.

So let us cast a kinder eye on matter, and cease viewing it as a mere sheath or sensory integument for (or impediment to realizing) higher realities, for the densified outside-ness that characterizes it constitutes not a literal container or housing project for what's inside, but rather a precipitated extension of what's inside, providing a medium for that interiority or central depth to relate to what lies outside it.

Matter, as part of its job description, does the dirty work, and doesn't really mind, because that's its nature. Someone has to take out the garbage and build the highways. Grunt work matters, and as a matter-of-fact needs to be honored as such.

Mind is itself a kind of mass-less matter, the interiority of which could be called soul, or the individualized core of what we truly are. Soul has less of a problem with matter than does mind, because it has more of a view. The deeper inside we are, the higher our view. What's further up the mountain can see more than what's at lower elevations.

Inside and outside are but inseparable sides of a primal geography, together on their knees before the same old yet everfresh Mystery. When inside and outside are lovers, we know a love that cannot fail, a love that is both ocean and sail.

Once again poetry has me by the jugular, and I don't mind at all. There's a part in *The Fountain* (see my review in my January 2007 Newsletter) when the Mayan priest kneels, leans back his head, and bares his throat, inviting the transfigured conquistador to cut it, so that he can be one with the Sacred. It wasn't just a romanticized primitive moment, but rather a full-blooded signifier of extraordinary awe and sacrifice, the sort of sacrifice through which we die into a deeper Life.

Taking in a scene like this, really feeling and absorbing it, making it our own until it's not so much ours as it is us, generates a wondrously sobering and illuminating leap through various hoops of mind, until there's no everyday mind left, no mapmaker, no supplier of meaning, nothing but What-Really-Matters.

My sentences are erasing themselves almost as fast I type them. They look back and see nothing. I look back and see everything. All of it is there, both outside and inside me, for all of it was necessary to bring "me" into being, even though it did not all arise just to bring me into being, except in the narcissistic outback of my egoity.

## The Crucible of Awakening

Yes, I matter, but no more than you. Of course, my mind disagrees, but that's its nature. Matter keeps arising, keeps passing, and through it I live, we live, whatever we may be.

I'm tempted to look back at the beginning of this essay, but don't dare, not because I'll be turned to stone, and not because my beloved will die, but because this wild flow, this unkempt opening and spilling, is more me than the me writing this, which amounts to nothing more than me letting what I'm writing overwrite me.

Now inside and outside have traded places, and no one's making a fuss about it. What is most deeply within contains all that is outside it. Reality's Möbius nature — one infinite surface of infinite depth — takes all the mappings of inside and outside, interiority and exteriority, higher and lower, horizontality and verticality, and makes light of it.

There is, however, no leveling or flattening of differences here, no homogenizing of distinctions, no cosmic rolling pin turning it all into one gigantic plain, like some ultra-great pizza awaiting its toppings and corresponding appetites.

Matter matters. But what is matter? Solid stuff? Concretized mind? A torte of atomic and subatomic particles/waves/potentialities, dense and elusive and intricate enough to make our mind lick its lips?

Matter is dense, but its density vanishes as we get closer and closer to it. Get really close to matter, and what you will see is gravity and light in endless embrace, creating in their wake something that keeps evolving to — and perhaps also beyond — the point of knowing that it is evolving.

We are not only that something, but also something more, something that cannot be imagined, something that is neither inside nor outside.

# **INTO THE DRAGON'S CAVE**

## **Working Through Personal & Collective Fear**

**JULY 11th in ASHLAND, OREGON**

Since our economic downspiralling, there has been an increase in fear, both personally and collectively. So what are we do to with this fear? Giving in to it only further entraps us in it, and avoiding it simply keeps us in the shallows, overly absorbed in distraction.

In this experiential group, we will learn to face and make wise use of our fear, so that it becomes an ally rather than an adversary.

Limited to 30 participants.

**LOCATION & TIME:** Hidden Springs Wellness Center, 1651 Siskiyou Blvd.,  
10am to 5:30pm.

**TUITION:** \$35.

**TO REGISTER:** Contact Renee at [breathEcounseling@verizon.net](mailto:breathEcounseling@verizon.net)

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# **OPENING TO THE MYSTERY**

## **An Evening of Original Healing Chants with Diane Bardwell Masters**

**JULY 19th in ASHLAND, OREGON**

An evening of chants, all original and in English, led by Diane, who has sung professionally for over 30 years.

Diane's mission is to provide healing music that helps to counteract the despair, disconnection, and apathy that is so prevalent today. Her heartfelt, deeply spiritual chants affirm and strengthen our connection to What-Really-Matters, set to music composed to help the words (all in English) sink into ever deeper levels of consciousness.

## The Crucible of Awakening

For more about Diane, visit [www.DianeBardwell.net](http://www.DianeBardwell.net).

**LOCATION & TIME:** Hidden Springs Wellness Center, 1651 Siskiyou Blvd.,  
7:30 to 9:30pm.

**FEE:** By donation.

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## ***BREAKTHROUGH***

### **SEPTEMBER 12th-13th in WHITE ROCK, BC**

A weekend of deep healing and awakening.

Cutting-edge psychotherapy, bodywork, and spiritual deepening all brought together to make possible exceptionally effective work.

THIS GROUP IS LIMITED TO 12 PARTICIPANTS ONLY, so that everyone will have time to do in-depth work.

**LOCATION & TIME:** 16133 9th Ave., White Rock. 10 to 6 both days.

**TUITION:** US\$550. Nonrefundable deposit of US\$200 is required.

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## **PRIVATE INTENSIVES FOR INDIVIDUALS & COUPLES**

Three to six hours with Robert and Diane in Ashland, Oregon.

Highly focused, exceptionally deep transformative work. Instead of going to a therapist for 30+ sessions, consider seeing us for a far shorter and very likely far more effective time. We've found that three to six hours is plenty for almost everyone. In the first hour what needs to be worked on is clearly identified and worked with in considerable depth. The succeeding hours (usually spread over several days) continue with this, allowing for proper digestion and integration. US\$550 for 3 hours.

Contact Diane at [dianebardwell@gmail.com](mailto:dianebardwell@gmail.com) if you are interested.

# **MASTERS PSYCHOENERGETICS PRACTICUM**

*An opportunity to directly learn from a master integral psychotherapist and groupleader (1) unique, exceptionally effective psychotherapeutic, spiritual, and bodywork/energywork skills; and (2) how to creatively and effectively integrate these in counseling work.*

## **2010 Apprenticeship Program**

The purpose of this training is to deepen the capacity of participants to effectively counsel others through a dynamic, intuitively structured approach that integrates body, mind, emotion, energetics, and spirit.

To this end, the training will blend deep work on oneself and equally deep work with others, in personal, social, and spiritual contexts. Healing will be the primary intention and activity. Approaches that are taught and practised will be held, as much as possible, in a perspective that transcends them.

### **WE WILL ONLY BE TAKING TWELVE PARTICIPANTS.**

NOTE: The Practicum is intended for those who want to learn and practice a deeply intuitive, integral, and bodywork-including approach to psychotherapy, and who at the same time also want to participate with kindred spirits in a year of exceptionally deep personal (and interpersonal and transpersonal) work, during which they will learn skills that will serve them in every area of their life.

Graduates of previous practicums have not only found themselves at home with new skills (sufficient enough to begin working as an integral counsellor), but have also done work of such depth — and not just a few times, but *many* times — during the practicum that they invariably emerge more grounded, open, intuitive, and confident about both themselves and their ability to effectively guide others.

## The Crucible of Awakening

Much of the depth and quality of the work done has to do with being with a group of individuals who are all deeply committed to their own healing and awakening. In such a setting, there's not only more than enough safety and trust, but also a rare intimacy, generated by sharing such deep work both as a participant and as a counselor-to-be.

### **LOCATION & STRUCTURE:**

The Practicum will take place over 5 four-day modules in Ashland, Oregon.

Each module will include individual and group work, plus facilitation by participants of each other's work (with fitting feedback and guidance from Robert).

After the training concludes, participants who have attended it in its entirety will receive a diploma indicating that they have completed a one-year training in Masters Psychoenergetics with Robert Augustus Masters.

**PREREQUISITE:** Previous work with Robert.

**TUITION:** US\$7000. Nonrefundable deposit of \$1000 required. Lodging and meals will be extra. Contact [info@robertmasters.com](mailto:info@robertmasters.com) to arrange payment.

### **SCHEDULE:**

March 4-7, May 6-9, July 8-11, September 9-12, November 11-14

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## **ONLINE COMMUNITY**

**GAIA**, a social networking site (free to join), has a group for people who have worked with me and/or who are interested in my work/writings to connect and discuss my work/writing or anything related to it.

The online culture of my Gaia group is vital and inviting, and its powerful forum software is perfectly suited for meeting, discussing, and sharing with others who are interested in authenticity, healing, transformation, and Awakening.

You don't need to be a member of Gaia to see the posts there — just go to **[http://pods.gaia.com/robert\\_augustus\\_masters](http://pods.gaia.com/robert_augustus_masters)**.

But if you'd like to participate in the discussions, you can join Gaia by going to **<http://www.gaia.com/apply>**, or by emailing Arthur Gillard ([thinkintuit@gmail.com](mailto:thinkintuit@gmail.com)), the cultivator of the site, who will then send you an invitation.

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**F**or more information regarding groups and trainings with Robert and Diane, contact [info@RobertMasters.com](mailto:info@RobertMasters.com).

All checks (deposit & otherwise) should be mailed to Robert Masters, 16133 9th Avenue, Surrey, BC V4A 1A5.

Payments for groups and trainings (plus Robert's books and Diane's CD) can also be made online at our Store page; simply go to [www.RobertMasters.com](http://www.RobertMasters.com) and click on STORE.

To view previous newsletters, click on the NEWSLETTER button at [www.RobertMasters.com](http://www.RobertMasters.com).

To view Robert's blog, go to [www.RobertMasters.com](http://www.RobertMasters.com) and click on the BLOG button.

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## **2009 Work Schedule**

July 11 Into the Dragon's Cave: Ashland, Oregon

July 23-27 2008/2009 Practicum: Ashland

August 20-23 2009/2010 Practicum: Ashland

September 12-13 Breakthrough: White Rock, BC