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- Astrological Keywords
- Tarot Spread Example
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- Stellanian Honor Guard 1st Quarter 2017

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The Sacred Hebrew Alphabet: Lamed Lord of Lords

Scenza

The twelfth letter of the Hebrew Alefbayt (AB) is Lamed, which stands at the exact center of the Alefbayt (AB), towering above all the other letters. Its height and central position communicate well the primacy of this letter's role in the AB. As denoted by that position, it communicates clearly the principles of balance, harmony, and centrality. This cen-

trality is revealed in myriad ways.

If we analyze the reduction of the number 12, it resolves to 3, the archetypal number associated with balance, harmony, and an equilibrium of forces (i.e., $12 \div 4 = 3$). If we examine the gematria of Lamed, we are led to an identical conclusion (i.e., $30 \div 10 = 3$). This principle of harmony and centrality is

further demonstrated in the articulation and production of the sound Lamed itself. Linguistically, the Ancient Kabbalists classified Lamed as a *lingual*, indicating that it is produced through the use of the tongue. Of the five classes of consonants, namely gutturals, palatals, linguals, dentals, and labials, lingual occupy the most central

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The Sextile: A Golden Opportunity

by Margaret Dissinger

Elbert Benjamin writes in *The Beginner's Horoscope Maker and Reader* that the thought cells mapped by the sextile "...have been built by experiences characteristic of the two planets involved which have entered consciousness together in association with a continuous strong feeling of pleasure. Such thought-cells desire and work to express through OPPORTUNITY." The goal for us as we strive to make this opportunity a work toward a more fulfilled spiritual life is our ability to use the alchemical process with our

horoscope, changing our base energies to spiritual gold.

Because the sextile offers us the chance to make change easily, it becomes truly a golden opportunity. The basic information about the sextile tells us that its influence is like Venus. Venus by nature offers us the path of least resistance, so while we know there will be work involved, there is always work involved. We at least have the assurance that the work

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For the period between January 1 and March 31, 2017

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EDITOR
 Christopher Gibson

COPY EDITORS
 Lara Hill
 Radine Ramsey

PRODUCTION MANAGER
 E. Christina Herr

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Directors:

Christopher Gibson, President, NM
 Margaret Joscher, VP, CA
 Vicki Brewer, Secretary, NM
 Dave Carrothers, Treasurer, NV
 Donald Baker, NY
 Veiga O'Sickey, NM
 Patrick Ramsey, NM

Honorary Director:

Paul Brewer, NM

Please address all communications
 to:

The Church of Light
 2119 Gold Ave SE
 Albuquerque, NM 87106-4072
 tel: 505 247-1338
 fax: 505 814-7318
 Email: churchoflight@light.org

Editorial

Christopher Gibson

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." – Thomas Alva Edison

The word opportunity usually refers to conditions advantageous for the realization of a goal. It derives from the Latin *opportunitas*, meaning "a favorable time". From the astrological perspective, it also means being in the right place (the beneficial environment) at the right time (under beneficial aspects). For opportunities to manifest, there must be a happy coincidence of being in the right place at the right time.

Opportunity is the keyword used to describe the influence of planets that are 60 degrees or two signs, apart in a chart. This aspect is known as a Sextile, which is the theme of this issue of the Quarterly. The dark side of opportunity can be represented by opportunistic diseases: a set of diseases that flourish under the right conditions such as a weakened immune system. Either way, whether one experiences opportunities or is opportunistic, they are both dependent on the proper conditions of the environment.

So often, beginning students of astrology become apprehensive when, for the first time, they discover Squares and Oppositions in their chart. Instead, astrological novices prefer to examine their chart for Trines and Sextiles, in the hopes that good things will come. Our tendency is to expect Sextiles to just drop good things in our lap. The reality is that one must work hard to reap the benefit of their Sextiles. The opportunity of the Sextile comes from selecting the right environment; that is, the setting that is best aligned with achieving one's heartfelt desires.

I will draw an example of the ability to align with the right environment from the earlier years of my life. From 1977 through 1986, I worked in Hollywood, in the film and television industry. I worked in a variety of jobs in the Art Department, and which included assisting with costumes, make-up, sets, and even building special props for feature films. I enjoyed the collaborative creative product of the film industry and the collegial relationships that developed. I worked with known celebrities as well as persons who were later to become stars. Two colleagues who later became stars, were Kevin Costner and Bill Paxton. I cite them specifically as examples of the role of environment in attracting opportunity, for when I worked with them, neither had achieved status as an actor. Bill Paxton was an assistant set-dresser, and Kevin Costner was a stage manager at a Hollywood sound stage. At the time I was unaware that either man was an aspiring actor, so I was pleasantly surprised some years later when I saw them on the big screen in leading roles.

(Continued on page 4)



The Sextile Aspect

Measurement

Sextile, 60° Zodiacal Longitude

The Sextile is formed when two planets are two signs or 60 degrees apart. They are usually found near the same degrees of compatible signs (Fire-Air, Earth-Water). The Sextile is a moderately powerful aspect with a very mid-range orb that extends from 5 degrees for planets in a Cadent House (3, 6, 9, & 12) to 8 degrees for a Luminary (Sun or Moon) in an Angular House (1, 4, 7, & 10). The waves of astral energy that are radiated by planets in a Sextile aspect blend powerfully and harmoniously with one another.

Keyword

The keyword for the Sextile is Opportunity. The areas of the chart where two planets are engaged in a Sextile are strongly harmonious, attracting significant, positive advantages. In Natal Astrology, these are often areas where a person may take advantage of supportive environments and people or display an outstanding ability to integrate ideas from dissimilar disciplines.

Planetary Comparison

The Sextile is comparable to the qualities of the planet Venus; bright, cheerful, and conciliatory. It brings positive benefits to the two planets found 60° apart.

Application

The Sextile is strongly harmonious; however, it does not necessarily represent good things falling in one's lap without effort. For opportunities to be fully grasped when they present themselves, one must be vigilant and prepared to exert effort.

(Editorial continued from page 3)

Each of these men had a passion for acting and the wisdom to place himself in the right environment where he could be poised to act when opportunity knocked. Although, at the time we worked together, he might not have been working in his ideal job, each actor had aligned himself in the appropriate setting. Each was willing to work hard at less-prosperous tasks until his acting career flourished. Both Kevin Costner and Bill Paxton have a significant number of sextiles in their birth-charts. However, rather than waiting for opportunities to drop in their laps, these aspiring actors placed themselves in the right environment and worked diligently until they experienced the proverbial "lucky break". In the world of Hollywood, where there is no shortage of individuals hoping to become stars, this work-ethic is to be admired. Each of these actors is a role model of the way that the Sextile aspect works: have a goal, place yourself in a receptive environment, and work hard until opportunity comes knocking.

An analysis of your natal chart that takes into consideration the number, prominence and location of Sextiles will provide you with insights as to where you can best succeed in achieving your goals. The Brotherhood of Light Lessons, especially Course XIV, *Occultism Applied*, can help you determine the right environments through which to best align yourself for opportunities. Once you have figured out the "right place" to realize opportunities, a review of your progressed aspects can help you determine the "right time." Be careful not to overlook your opportunities just because they come dressed in work-clothes!



"The cosmos is a vast living body, of which we are still parts. The sun is a great heart whose tremors run through our smallest veins. The moon is a great nerve center from which we quiver forever. Who knows the power that Saturn has over us, or Venus? But it is a vital power, rippling exquisitely through us all the time."

- D. H. Lawrence

((Astrology — Sextile Continued from page 1))

will be pleasant. Recall the steps we will take to apply the sextile to our astrological charts for spiritual purposes:

- Get your charts and list the sextiles
- Engage in an activity (writing, art, etc.) to help you see how they manifest in your life
- Meditate on each sextile for more inspiration
- Repeat for each sextile in natal and progressed charts.
- Even considering this process feels harmonious!

The beauty of the sextile is its intrinsic ability to harmonize discordant aspects just by association with one of the terminals of an aspect. It provides the native with an opportunity for a different way with very little effort. Perhaps there is a square that seems to defy intervention as it is between planets which are natural antidotes. If there is a sextile to one of them, this affords the opportunity needed. Look for the sextiles; they are like little saviors in the horoscope.

“Opportunity knocks” is a common saying. In our spiritual lives we move from event to event striving to keep ourselves on an even keel. As we progress in our journey with The Church of Light, we are hopefully passing courses and working toward the goal of Hermetician; but the journey must not end there. Following the 21 Degrees there is so much more. What comes beyond is a real understanding of how we apply what we have learned as we begin our journey toward completing the 21 Lucidic Degrees. Doing this work provides us with the OPPORTUNITY to grow in harmony by association with others through The Order of the Sphinx and the Lucidic Degrees.

Soon we will have our Semi-Annual Convention. This article will come to you just about the time that the con-



vention will take place. On the first night of the convention The Order will sponsor formal initiations into the various degrees. It is a beautiful and moving ceremony in which the room is full of members of The Church of Light. The energy is palpable, and the Brethren on the Inner Plane are as close as they ever get during these ceremonies. You have the opportunity to join us by passing courses. You have the opportunity to take part by declaring your intention to live a spiritual life by Contributing Your Utmost to Universal Welfare. You have the opportunity to join us by actively using the tools of astrology, alchemy, and magic in everyday life. We do this work together, and we need your help. Active participation in The Church of Light asks that we promote the teachings and that we provide service to the organization and to others in our lives. By becoming actively involved, members become living sextiles in the organization, providing opportunities by association with others.

Once upon a time, The Church of Light was a huge and vibrant organization. Those of us who know the content and power of the lessons represented by the 21 Courses understand how important dissemination of this material is. I personally ask you, “What have you done recently to share what you have learned with one other person?” I can make a promise to you about what you are learning if you are reading this article. I promise you that you are on the path to a beautiful spiritual life. This path is far more interesting when it is crowded! Each of us must do our part, which demands that we give our energy to the growth of the entire organization.

For those who devote themselves to progression through the degrees, The Order is an active and vital arm of spiritual progression. The Order of the Sphinx has wonderful activities through social media for advanced growth and knowledge. We want more of you to join us, and we want you to bring more people along. Headquarters is providing workshops, *The Quarterly*, mentors, on-line support, and a staff of people who work tirelessly so that the rest of us can reap the rewards of The Religion of the Stars. Be a sextile in this work personally, and bring one person into our circle of friends. There is no more wonderful spiritual work than encouraging this gift of Life, Light, and Love for another soul.

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Suggested Reading: Elbert Benjamin, *Beginner's Horoscope Maker and Reader*



Tarot Correspondence — The Horseman of Cups



Divination

“The Horseman of Cups denotes thoughts of love or affection. Right way up they are sincere and to the client’s advantage; reversed they indicate deceit or opposition to the true affectional desires.”

From *The Sacred Tarot* by C. C. Zain

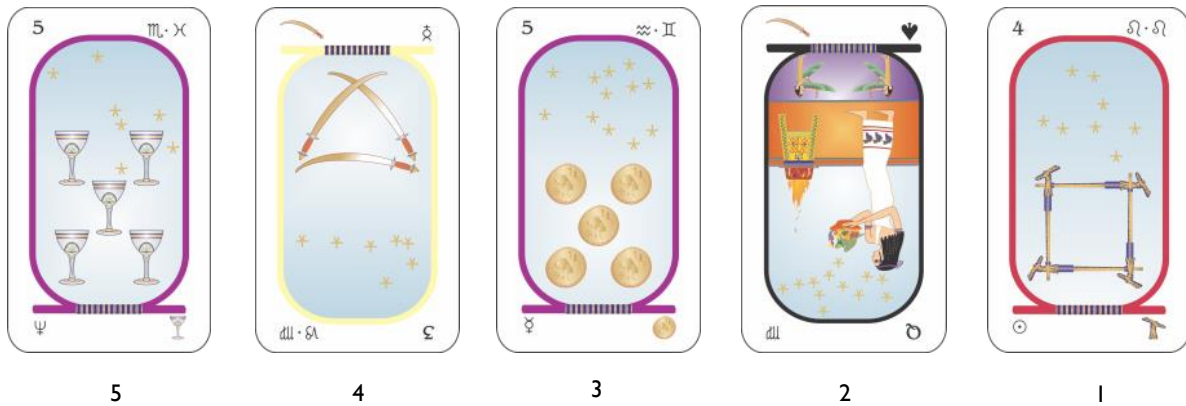
Interpretive Notes

In the Hermetic System, the tarot represents a synthesis of the universe based on astrological symbolism.

“The Horsemen do not represent people, but thoughts or unseen intelligences. As thoughts are ruled by Arcanum I, each Horseman has a numerical value of 1. In divination they are read as thoughts or intelligences that have an influence upon the life of the client. The one who thinks the thoughts is indicated by the Court Card nearest whom the Horseman is found in the spread.”

From *The Sacred Tarot* by C. C. Zain

The Yes or No Spread



Tarot Spread Interpretation

The question was asked, "Will _____ sell his truck and purchase another car this year?"

Card Spread

The Distant Past: Four of Scepters. "The divinatory significance of the Four of Scepters is a legacy; its inner interpretation is RULERSHIP."

The Recent Past: The Queen of Swords (reversed). "The Queen of Swords signifies a person ruled by the sign Virgo: studious, rather even tempered, ingenious and witty. Right way up it denotes a Virgo woman; reversed it indicates a Virgo man. The dominant idea is I ANALYZE."

The Present: The Five of Coins. "The divinatory significance of the Five of Coins is abundant wealth; its inner interpretation is INSPIRATION."

The Near Future: Trey of Swords (reversed). "The divinatory significance of the Trey of Swords is a lawsuit or a divorce; its inner interpretation is IDEALISM."

The Distant Future: The Five of Cups. "The divinatory significance of the Five of Cups is good fortune in love; its inner interpretation is RESPONSIBILITY."

Summary

The querent inquired about a friend who had begun to have mechanical problems with his 16-year old pickup truck.

The Distant Past: Four of Scepters. The subject of the question had received the truck as a gift four years ago. Due to age and wear, it has begun to incur expensive maintenance charges.

The Recent Past: The Queen of Swords (reversed). The subject of the question is a Virgo (Sun-sign) male.

The Present: The Five of Coins. Chances are, the subject will need to save a significant down-payment for the new vehicle.

The Near Future: Trey of Swords (reversed). When the time comes, the subject will probably have a hard time letting go of the old truck.

The Distant Future: The Five of Cups. Chances are, the subject will fall in love with a new vehicle.

Summary

The subject of the question, a Virgo male, had received a 2001 Ford F-150 as a gift from a benefactor. This pickup model, a preferred target for theft, has been broken into on several

occasions by would-be thieves. Due to age and mileage, the vehicle has begun to require costly maintenance. He will need to plan for a deposit or down payment. The truck has proven to be a good workhorse for the subject, family and friends and will be sorely missed when it is gone. However, the subject will more than likely be delighted with a new vehicle.

The "Yes or No" spread has five cards that are dealt in a row from right to left. The middle card is valued at 2 points, and the other cards each have the value of 1 point. A majority of the cards right side up (as in the case of this reading), indicate a yes answer. If the majority of the cards are reversed, it is a no answer.

Three of five cards (including the center card) are right side up giving a "yes" answer. There are no Major Arcana in this spread. Two of the cards are swords, and there is one card of each of the suits of cups, scepters and coins. The predominance of swords can represent the hardships and difficulties that are prompting the subject to either sell or trade the vehicle. Two of the cards are fives, which promise a fortunate outcome.



(Sacred Hebrew Alphabet Continued from page 1)

position. Furthermore, according to the Sefer Yetzirah, an ancient Kabbalistic text, in terms of the linguals, which are already the central-most consonants, Lamed, is listed as the central-most of this class:

Twenty-two foundation letters,

He engraved them with voice,

He carved them with breath,

He set them in the mouth in five places.

Alef, Chet, Heh, Eyin, in the throat,

Gimel, Yud, Kaf, Kuf, in the palate,

Dalet, Tet, Lamed, Nun, Tav, in the tongue,

Zayin, Samekh, Shin, Resh, Tzadi, in the teeth,

Bet, Vav, Mem, Peh, in the lips.

(Kaplan, 1997, p. 102)

As in the Alefbayt itself, Lamed resides at the absolute center of the articulated consonants. If you require further evidence, also consider that the sign associated with Lamed is Libra, yet another overt symbol of balance and centrality of position.

The letter Lamed begins the Hebrew word “lev”, which means heart. Just as Lamed resides at the exact center of the AB, the heart resides at the core of our being, and provides the nourishment and sustenance that animates



life. Interestingly, the entire Torah is bounded by the two letters which comprise the word “lev”, namely Lamed and Bayt (which, under certain conditions, is pronounced “Vayt”). The first letter of the Torah is Bayt, while the last is Lamed. It is as if the writers of the Torah wanted us to understand that the entire Torah, all of the laws and words of God, can reside in our own hearts, should we be pure and seekers of wisdom. Additionally, it could be seen as an admonition to make the words and teachings of the Torah part of the heart and core of our being, and not just to memorize words or prayers, but to authentically live out the experiences of our lives from this abiding and eternal center.

The letter Lamed clearly occupied a primary role in the minds of the Ancient Kabbalists, and given its core tenets of balance, harmony, and centrality, we would also do well to assign it the same import in our lives.

References:

Kaplan, A. (1997). *Sefer yetzirah: The book of creation*. Boston, MA: Weiser Books.

Munk, M.L. (1983). *The wisdom in the hebrew alphabet*. Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, Ltd.



Convention 2015—Tour of Old Town Albuquerque

Conference: Magic - June 21-25, 2017

Schedule of Activities

Friday June 23, 2017

- 9 - 9:30 AM: Registration
- 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Letters to the Sage - Paul Johnson
- 12:30 PM - 4 PM: Lunch and free time —participants are on their own or with friends
- 4 - 5:30 PM: Business Meeting
- 6:15 - 7:15 PM: Rehearsal for Initiation Principals (Sphinx Section Leaders, Triad, & Initiation guides)
- 7:15 PM: Initiates Gather
- 7:30 - 9 PM: Initiations
- 9 - 10 PM: Reception for Initiates and Guests

Saturday June 24, 2017

- 8 - 8:30 AM: Registration
- 8:30 - 9 AM: Opening Ritual & Welcome
- 9 - 10:30 AM: Religion and Magic: An Anthropological Viewpoint - Christopher Gibson
- 10:30 AM - 12 PM Ceremony, Ritual Magic and Paraphernalia - Neil Cantwell & Yvette Fortin
- 12 - 1:30 PM: Luncheon Buffet
- 1:30 - 1:45 PM: Announcements
- 1:45 - 3 PM: Timing is Everything: the Astrological Planning of Rituals - Adriana Donofrio
- 3 - 3:30 PM: Break and Readings
- 3:30 - 4:30 PM: Mental Magic: The Use of Directed Thinking and Induced Emotion - Paul Brewer
- 5 - 6 PM: Break (must clear room for setup)
- 6 - 7:30 PM: Dinner Buffet and Awards
- 7:30 - 8:30 PM: Entertainment: Chris Zaccara, Magician
- 8:30 - 10:00 PM: The Magician's Ball

Sunday June 25, 2017

- 8:45 - 9 AM: Announcements & Orientation
- 9 - 10:00 AM: Rhythmic Breathing: Vitalizing the Magical Act Margaret Dissinger
- 10:00—10:30 AM: Break and Readings
- 10:30 AM - 12 PM: Rallying Forces: Magnetizing Talismans, Amulets and Charms—Veiga O'Sickey & Christopher Gibson
- 12:00 - 1:30 PM: Lunch Buffet
- 1:30 - 2:45 PM: Defense Against the Dark Arts: What Harry Potter can Teach Us About Psychic Self-Defense - Janet Johnson
- 2:45 - 3:15 PM: Break and Readings
- 3:15 - 4:30 PM: The Path of White Magic: Radiating Life, Light and Love in the World - Patrick Ramsey
- 4:30 - 5 PM: Synopsis and Closing Message - Christopher Gibson
- 5 PM: Closing Ritual
- 5:30 PM: Bookstore Closes



Membership Room



The Beacon

Are you interested in receiving monthly email notifications with up-to-date information about Church of Light activities, classes, events, new bookstore items and special offers?

If so, go to our website **light.org**, register as a member or friend, and check the box,

“I would like to be notified of Church of Light activities,”

or

send an email to **churchoflight@light.org** with your request, and you will be added to the Beacon contact list.

In Memoriam: Russ Durocher

August 10, 1951—March 22, 2017

Russ Durocher was a member of the 3rd Grade and 10th Degree, having joined the Church of Light in 1981. He was an Independent Esoteric Catholic Bishop, Gnostic Teacher and Counselor, as well as a highly regarded Hermetic Astrologer with a clientele worldwide. Russ was 65 years old. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Branch Church - Fort Worth, Texas Activities



The Fort Worth Center offers Brotherhood of Light classes on the first and second Tuesdays of the month from 7-9 PM

Religious services are held on the third Sunday of the month at 11 AM

A schedule for the upcoming month is available on their website at: **owlswebnest.com**

All classes and services are held at:

Owl's Clover Bookstore
3037 James Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas

817-921-5809



Paul Brewer



Vicki Brewer



Margaret Dissinger



Christopher Gibson



Patrick Ramsey



Radine Ramsey

Participate with us live at Church of Light Headquarters in Albuquerque, New Mexico

First Sunday Roundtable Discussions

11 a.m. - 12 noon

Third Sunday Religious Services

Join our ministerial team consisting of Paul Brewer, Vicki Brewer, Margaret Dissinger, Yvette Fortin, Christopher Gibson, Veiga O'Sickey, Patrick Ramsey and Radine Ramsey on the Third Sunday of the month at 11 AM Mountain Time for our monthly religious service.



Yvette Fortin



Veiga O'Sickey

Calendar of Third Sunday Services: July - December 2017

Date	Event	Officiant
July 16, 2017	Leo Service	TBA
August 20, 2017	Virgo Service	Yvette Fortin
September 17, 2017	Libra - Fall Equinox	Patrick Ramsey
October 15, 2017	Scorpio Service	Veiga O'Sickey
November 19, 2017	Sagittarius Service	Christopher Gibson
December 17, 2017	Capricorn - Winter Solstice Service	TBA

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Building A Better World With A Better Vision! The Church of Light Vision For the 21st Century

OUR MISSION:

To promote Universal Welfare and the exaltation of human-kind through the teaching and practices of the Religion of the Stars as outlined in the writings of C.C. Zain.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

A loving Cosmic Intelligence, of which we are all a part, whose infinite goodness guides us through undeviating natural law.

A Divine Plan manifests through progressive evolution in which each soul has a unique and important role.

A soul is completely moral when to the maximum extent of its abilities it adheres to the universal moral code: Contribute Your Utmost to Universal Welfare.

The realization of the soul's Mission and the attainment of Self-Conscious Immortality is the goal toward which each soul moves.

Love is the way to life. Unselfish Love alone makes immortality possible.

Through the proper exercise of one's mentality using Directed Thinking and Induced Emotion, it is possible to control one's own life and destiny, both here and hereafter.

Astrology is the Golden Key that unlocks the door to understanding the Soul's true character and potential.

The safe development of extrasensory perception (Extension of Consciousness) is the best tool for realizing each individual's mission in the Divine Plan and for verifying the survival of the soul after death of the physical body.

Religion is the sister of Science, and it evolves by incorporating new information as it is discovered and verified.

OUR VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY:

We are a powerful force for good and for spiritual enlightenment and expand the reach and experience of our members because:

We provide reliable and verifiable information regarding the nature of the soul and its relationship to Deity and other life forms;

We seek out reliable and verifiable information regarding life on higher planes of existence, especially in regard to the transition we call death and the nature of the next life;

We develop increasingly advanced tools and training in astrology, extrasensory perception, directed thinking and induced emotion toward the end of maximizing each person's happiness, usefulness and spirituality;

We promote the importance of the four essential freedoms: Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion;

We build a sense of community and spiritual purpose which uplifts and inspires our members to Contribute Their Utmost To Universal Welfare.