

TEMENOS ACADEMY

PATRON HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES



LENT TERM

2020

# The Temenos Academy

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Dr Joseph Milne

Dr Jeremy Naydler

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LENT TERM 2020 22 January – 30 March

The Temenos Academy (a Company Limited by Guarantee No. 2994834) is a Registered Charity (No. 1043015) which offers education in philosophy and the arts in the light of the sacred traditions of East and West

[www.temenosacademy.org](http://www.temenosacademy.org)

The Temenos Academy is pleased to announce its Programme for the Lent Term 2020. The addresses of the venues and instructions for booking appear on page 2.

Students in full-time education may attend most lectures for free and should bring their student card with them. If using the booking form they must include their student card number.

This term we welcome Dr Tom Cheetham from the USA, and David Nieuwejaers from The Netherlands, who will join with Sir Nick Pearson in a study day on 7 March on the theme ‘Creative Imagination and Personal Transfiguration: The Spiritual Vision of Henry Corbin’.

We are also delighted to host three lectures by Subhanu Saxena in March under the title ‘The Ancient Tradition of India and the Place of Vedanta’.

The other lectures are ‘Conversations in Arcadia – The Forgotten English Platonists of the 18th Century’ by Andrew Baker, ‘Winter Flowers: The Life and Art of Lorna Graves’ by Clare Crossman, and ‘Cyclical Time & Personal Space – Henry Corbin’s Angelic Psychocosmology’ by Tom Cheetham.

On 18 March, in collaboration with The Prince’s Foundation School of Traditional Art, we will screen the films ‘The Traditional World of Islam: Unity’ and ‘The Art of the Ever-True’. The latter is an illustrated filmed interview with the President Emeritus of the Temenos Academy, Professor Keith Critchlow.

The eighth Young Scholars Day, on the theme ‘Tradition in the 21st Century’, is on Saturday 29 February.

The two Reading Essential Texts courses are William Blake’s prophetic book *Jerusalem*, which will be taught by Dr Susanne Sklar in nine seminars, and the conclusion of the study of Shakespeare’s *King Lear*, followed by some of the *Sonnets*, with Dr Joseph Milne.

For information about becoming a Member of the Temenos Academy please see page 3.

**The website has been re-designed – please take a look!**

**[www.temenosacademy.org](http://www.temenosacademy.org)**

## The Venues

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The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Art  
19–22 Charlotte Road  
London EC2A 3SG  
Nearest Underground *Old Street*

The Royal Asiatic Society  
14 Stephenson Way  
London NW1 2HD  
Nearest Underground *Euston Square*

Rudolf Steiner House  
35 Park Road  
London NW1 6XT  
Nearest Underground *Baker Street*

The School of Economic Science  
11 Mandeville Place  
London W1U 3AJ  
Nearest Underground *Bond Street*

The Theosophical Society  
50 Gloucester Place  
London W1U 8EA  
Nearest Underground *Baker Street*

## Booking

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**PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE by post using the booking form or by telephone or email but PLEASE INFORM US IF YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE YOUR RESERVATION.**

**Please note that a seminar course may be cancelled if there are insufficient bookings.**

## Membership

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Please support the Temenos Academy by becoming a Member or Friend. On joining, new Members or Friends are sent the current issue of *Temenos Academy Review*, and three other publications, *Lighting a Candle – Kathleen Raine and Temenos*, a collection of tributes to Kathleen Raine which also includes many examples of her own writing on the purpose and aims of Temenos, *Ten Basic Principles That Inspire the Work of Temenos* by John Carey and *A Human Approach to World Peace, the 2004 L M Singhvi-Temenos Lecture* by His Holiness The Dalai Lama. The other Member or Friend benefits are:

- the concessionary admission rate to lectures and seminars
- free copies of all new Temenos Academy publications as they are issued

To join, please complete the Membership section of the Booking Form at the back of this programme.

*Thank you!*

## Mailing List & Privacy Policy

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If you wish to join the free postal mailing list, and/or subscribe to the free monthly email newsletter you must give your consent, either by signing and dating the name and address section of the Booking Form and returning it to us, or by making your request by email or letter.

The information you provide will be securely stored, never disclosed to anyone else without your permission, and deleted when you request it. Our Privacy Policy is published on the Temenos Academy website.

[www.temenosacademy.org/membership](http://www.temenosacademy.org/membership)

## Administration

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Stephen & Genevieve Overy

The Temenos Academy

P O Box 203, Ashford, Kent TN25 5ZT

Telephone 01233 813663

Email [temenosacademy@myfastmail.com](mailto:temenosacademy@myfastmail.com)

## Archive

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The Temenos Academy website includes a freely available archive of audio and video recordings of lectures, digital versions of all thirteen issues of *Temenos*, and the full texts of seventy articles from *Temenos Academy Review*.

[www.temenosacademy.org/main-lecture-archive](http://www.temenosacademy.org/main-lecture-archive)

[www.temenosacademy.org/temenos-journal-archive](http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos-journal-archive)

[www.temenosacademy.org/temenos-academy-review-archive](http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos-academy-review-archive)

## *Temenos Academy Review* and Temenos Academy Papers

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The Temenos Academy publishes an annual journal, *Temenos Academy Review*, the successor to *Temenos* (founded by Keith Critchlow, Brian Keeble, Kathleen Raine and Philip Sherrard), published in thirteen issues between 1981 and 1992 and available digitally on our website. The *Review* contains papers given at the Academy and new work, including translations, poetry, art and reviews. The editors are John Carey, James Harpur and Valentin Gerlier.

The 2019 issue of the *Review*, no. 22, may be ordered using the Booking Form; a list of its contents appears on page 25.

Forty-three Temenos Academy Papers have been published. They are usually single lectures or lecture series that have been given as part of the Academy's programme. The most recent to appear is *The Temenos Academy Foundation Course in the Perennial Philosophy – An Introduction*.

All Temenos publications can be viewed on the Temenos Academy website.

[www.temenosacademy.org/shop](http://www.temenosacademy.org/shop)

## Temenos Academy Young Scholars

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The Temenos Academy Young Scholars are an informal grouping of young students who are attracted to the Temenos Academy's approach to learning *from*, and not merely *about*, the great religious and philosophical traditions.

The Young Scholars organise Study Days or Conferences of which there have been seven so far:

**Cosmos – the Order of Things and Our Place in the World** (2015)

**Finding Common Ground: Exploring Unifying Principles in Poetry, Geometry, Philosophy and Music** (2016)

**Making A Good Society** (2017)

**Religious Thought in Today's World** (2018)

**The Gift of Language** (2018)

**'Deep roots are not reached by the frost':  
The Inklings and the Western Tradition** (2019)

**Creation and Creativity** (2019)

The Study Days include talks by keynote speakers and contributions from the Young Scholars themselves and are entirely free of charge.

Temenos Academy Young Scholars is open to anyone aged 18–35 years who wishes to take part in the Study Days. Young Scholars may on request receive the Temenos Academy termly programme or monthly email newsletter, and/or join as ordinary Members of Temenos by making a donation (see page 3).

Additionally, for those interested, Young Scholars may propose and submit an *original* paper on a topic of their choice written in a way that emulates the first five of the 'Ten Basic Principles that inspire the work of Temenos'. The subject may be drawn from the Humanities in general – art, philosophy, poetry, religion. For guidance look at the work of the numerous contributors to *Temenos Academy Review* over the last 21 years. The essay should be between 2,000 and 4,000 words in length. Essays will be appraised by the Temenos Academy Academic Board or a Temenos Academy Fellow and if

accepted the author will be entitled to Membership of the Academy and a free subscription to *Temenos Academy Review* until the age of 35. Essays of exceptional merit will be considered for publication in the *Review*.

*For further information and an essay application form please refer to*

**[www.temenosacademy.org/young-scholars](http://www.temenosacademy.org/young-scholars)**

*or contact the Administrators*

The Wordpress Blog for Young Scholars can be found here

**[www.temenosyoungscholars.org](http://www.temenosyoungscholars.org)**



## Foundation Course in the Perennial Philosophy

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### A Two-Year Part-Time Diploma Course

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the universal tradition that is our spiritual heritage, through direct engagement with key texts of philosophy, poetry and mysticism. By exploring perennial teachings, which for centuries have renewed and sustained our culture, it offers a vital counterbalance to prevailing assumptions and values. The expertise of the tutors is devoted to providing the most direct encounter possible with the teachings themselves, which, springing from the love of wisdom and the quest for truth, open up infinite riches for study and contemplation. The authors and texts studied will be: in the first year, Plato and Plotinus, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, St Bernard of Clairvaux and Meister Eckhart; in the second year, the Upanishads and *Bhagavad Gita*, Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu and the *Huai Nan Tzu*, Ibn al-'Arabi, and Attar's *The Conference of the Birds*.

The course is divided into six modules, or three per year, with weekly meetings in Central London led by the module tutor on Tuesday evenings from 7–9pm. Students will be expected to read approximately 30–40 pages of text each week. Tuition will be conducted by lectures and guided discussions of the content of the previous week's reading. *Applicants must be aged 18 or over.*

The next Part 2 commences in October 2020.

Please contact Emma Clark, the Registrar, for further information

*Email* [temenosacademy@myfastmail.com](mailto:temenosacademy@myfastmail.com)

[www.temenosacademy.org/foundation-course](http://www.temenosacademy.org/foundation-course)

## Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship

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The Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship is an award made in memory of the artist Thetis Blacker to further the study of the art of batik. The award is administered by the Temenos Academy in association with the Batik Guild, a UK-based non-profit organization, which exists to encourage a wider appreciation and understanding of batik as a centuries-old craft which continues to meet the needs of creative artists working today. Thetis Blacker was a member of the Batik Guild. More information about its work can be found on its website [www.batikguild.org.uk](http://www.batikguild.org.uk)

The award, which is made every 2 years, is open to members of the Batik Guild, and other batik artists. Applications are now open for the 2021 Scholarship.

THETIS BLACKER (1927–2006) made a notable contribution to Temenos as an artist and lecturer. Her work was first featured in *Temenos 4*, and her ‘Phoenix Egg’, designed for the journal, appeared on the covers of issues 6–9. In her life-time she was regarded as the pre-eminent batik artist in the West. Her brilliantly colourful and masterfully executed dye paintings were commissioned for and exhibited in cathedrals and churches in the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States. She was also a writer and the author of *A Pilgrimage of Dreams* (1973), an account of her own vivid dreams.

As a Churchill Fellow, Thetis Blacker studied the craft of batik in South East Asia. The purpose of the Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship is primarily, but not exclusively, to support overseas research, study and travel in the field of batik creation.

*For further information, and to request an application form, please write to the Secretary of the Batik Guild*  
[suecowell@live.co.uk](mailto:suecowell@live.co.uk)

## A HEAD OF PARVATI

PARVATI, whose likeness dreaming hands  
    have wrought  
From dried clay of India, who are you, whence  
That beauty, noble and peaceful face of love?  
Whose that serene presence, present  
Here in my room? From what mind,  
    what thought  
That aspect of beatitude? Whose love?  
    For whom?  
Mystery of love we both receive and give,  
That goddess-face comes from high and far  
Still mountain lake reflecting  
Clouds, storms, stars, silences, night – her  
    native place.

KATHLEEN RAINE

From *The Collected Poems of Kathleen Raine*  
(Ipswich: Golgonooza Press, 2000;  
London, Faber & Faber Ltd, 2019)

## Reading Essential Texts and the Art of Study

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One of the principal aims of the Temenos Academy is to rediscover the art of study. It is commonly thought that learning is simply the acquisition of facts, of committing information to memory or, in the arts, making a critical judgement. But this conception of learning leaves out of account its true purpose, which is to come to a new level of understanding and a new order of being.

Here the Temenos Academy Reading Essential Texts seminars have a special place. In them we are engaged in exploring seminal texts which embody the finest thought, reflection and insight of mankind. Works that bear the spiritual and cultural inheritance of mankind require a special quality of study which can penetrate their essence and engage directly with the source of wisdom from whence they came. This special quality of study aims at learning from these works, not simply about them.

Therefore, the first aim of study in these seminars is to apprehend and understand texts accurately. This is the first discipline of learning. The simple discipline of accurate reading is necessary because it brings precision to the mind and opens the way to deeper reading. Without this initial precision, no deeper understanding is possible, because no contact is made with the inner order and working of the text. The mind remains outside the world of the text.

This precise and accurate reading is greatly facilitated by carefully reading aloud. Language is a spoken medium and the printed word comes fully alive and reveals all its subtleties only when spoken. Until a text begins to render up its own inherent meaning, until it begins to speak directly to us, it will only call to mind associative ideas and opinions – meanings imposed upon the text from outside. All too easily this can pass for interpretation.

Ideally, a seminar is an exploration between students in a common search for new understanding and insight. The seminar leader has the task of focussing and guiding the study towards this object. Working together in harmony is the second discipline of learning. A seminar works at its finest when it works with one mind.

Unity of purpose and unity of mind go together and create a propitious atmosphere for study. This unity arises quite naturally through the love of the work being studied and through the common quest for understanding. In true study the heart and the reason work together. Through love of a great work the heart embraces its fineness and beauty, and this fineness and beauty is an aspect of its truth, while through careful exploration the intellect discerns its wisdom. Love moves naturally to the essence of the text, while intellect naturally discerns its parts, coherence and implications. These two actions of heart and intellect are mutually reciprocal and sustain one another. Together they lead to deeper engagement with the text, and open the way to insight.

When this deeper engagement is established significant questions spontaneously emerge from the text, and these are the appropriate questions to pursue. Such questions always illuminate the text being studied. These questions lead, in turn, to a contemplative reading in which the text comes alive and its meaning becomes actually present in itself; this contemplative reading represents a higher order reading than 'critical' or 'comparative' readings.

Given this process of full engagement with the text being studied, of learning directly from the text, scholarship then finds its natural place. Learning and research may then be called upon to facilitate penetration of the text. This is the rightful place for previously acquired knowledge. Temenos seminars are not concerned with disputations between different schools of thought about the work being studied. These are matters for lectures or private study. Yet seminars ought to lay the foundations for good scholarship. For it is only through a deeper reading of the text being studied that useful and pertinent scholarly questions arise.

In summary, true study arises by three stages: accurate reading, reflective engagement, and contemplative insight.

DR JOSEPH MILNE

The study of key texts in small seminar groups

## ***King Lear / Sonnets***

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

*Leader* Dr Joseph Milne

*Text* the Arden edition

**22 January – 25 March**

Wednesdays, 10 weekly sessions

*Time* 3 – 4.30pm (please arrive promptly)

*Venue* The School of Economic Science

The study of *King Lear* will conclude during this term. The remaining meetings will consider several of Shakespeare's *Sonnets*.

JOSEPH MILNE is an Honorary Lecturer at the University of Kent where he taught on the MA course in Mysticism and Religious Experience until his retirement in 2013. He is the editor of *Land and Liberty*, the journal of the Henry George Foundation, and the author of several Temenos Academy Papers, including *The Lost Vision of Nature* (2018). He is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and a member of its Academic Board. He teaches the 'Mysticism' module of the Foundation Course in the Perennial Philosophy.

### **Course cost**

£100 or £75 Members of the Temenos Academy/  
Concessions. Full-time students and Temenos Academy  
Young Scholars, £40.

*Those attending must be aged 18 or over.*

The study of key texts in small seminar groups

## ***Jerusalem***

by WILLIAM BLAKE

*Leader* Dr Susanne Sklar

*Texts* *William Blake: The Complete Illuminated Books*  
ed. David Bindman (Thames & Hudson)  
is the preferred edition.

**23 January – 19 March**

Thursdays, 9 weekly sessions

*Time* 6.30pm for 6.45 – 8.30pm (please arrive promptly)

*Venue* Rudolf Steiner House (First Floor Conference Room)

Blake told his patron Thomas Butts that he had been inspired to create ‘the Grandest Poem that this world contains’. Many readers remain baffled by *Jerusalem*, a poem consisting of 100 beautifully illuminated plates, but when placed in the company of other non-linear productions its story can unfold. Blake says he writes to ‘rouze the faculties to act!’. His poem seeks to inspire a culture of peace, a heaven on earth.

SUSANNE SKLAR, a Blake scholar, teaches and writes about religion and the arts in Oxford. She is presently condensing her book *Blake’s Jerusalem As Visionary Theatre* (OUP) into a guide to Blake’s epic for non-specialists. She has also worked in public radio and television, and as a peace researcher/activist, a social worker, an actress, and a cowmaid.

### **Course cost**

*Please book in advance.*

£90 or £72 Members of the Temenos Academy/  
Concessions.

*Those attending must be aged 18 or over.*

Limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

## **Conversations in Arcadia**

The forgotten English Platonists of the  
18th Century

ANDREW BAKER

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### **Monday 10 February**

*In the chair* Julia Cleave

*Venue* The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

Eighteenth century England is often seen as a time of questionable enlightenment and growing materialism. This lecture will give an account of a forgotten group of philosophers, artists and patrons who stood against the prevailing ideas of the time in the search for Virtue, Beauty and Truth in Nature and whose ideas stand behind the Greek Revival in architecture and gardens. The story begins with Thomas Anson and the mysterious Shepherd's Monument in the grounds of his home, Shugborough Hall. The circle of quiet Platonic revolutionaries includes the philosophers James Harris and Floyer Sydenham. Sydenham, whose translations of Plato were appropriated by Thomas Taylor at the end of the century, will emerge as an original and eccentric visionary in his own right.

ANDREW BAKER is a composer and retired librarian based in Stafford. He has investigated Shugborough Hall and Thomas Anson for over thirty years. He is particularly interested in the theology of music and Spirit of Place and makes short films exploring Place with music. He has recently made a film of the medieval poem *Pearl* with marionettes.

### **Admission**

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE



# Winter Flowers: The Life and Art of Lorna Graves

CLARE CROSSMAN

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## Monday 17 February

*In the chair* Professor Grevel Lindop

*Venue* The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

Friends in life and in correspondence with Kathleen Raine, among many others, central to the work of the artist Lorna Graves was her love of those things which are timelessly central to the arts in all their forms – the importance of the transformative power of the imagination, mythology, philosophy, history and gods, and the need for beauty. She held true to these ideas in her aesthetic, looking at the landscape of Cumbria through their lens and finding it luminously charged with an ancient elemental power to which she always had to return.

Clare Crossman knew Lorna Graves for the fifteen years before she died; just before her death Graves asked Clare to write about her. Based on the memoir *Winter Flowers*, this talk will be about her aesthetic, her influences, the community of artists in the landscape, and Graves's preoccupation with spiritual themes in her sculpture and paintings.

CLARE CROSSMAN was born in Kent but lived in Cumbria for many years. A playwright and poet, her poetry collections include *The Shape of Us*, *Vanishing Point* and *The Blue Hour* (Shoestring Press, Nottingham). She is the author of *Winter Flowers: The Life and Work of Lorna Graves 1947–2006* (Bookcase, Carlisle).

## Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

## **Tradition in the 21st Century**

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This Young Scholars Day will explore the idea of tradition and its place in the contemporary world. Should we speak of a tradition, the tradition, traditions? In what ways can the philosophical, theological and literary canons of the past be read in the present, and what problems might arise? How can they help us find our places today? We look forward to another event full of inspiring conversation and inquiry.

### **Saturday 29 February**

*In the chair* Adele Guyton and Aristel Skrbic

*Venue* Rudolf Steiner House (First Floor Conference Room)

### **Keynote Speakers tbc**

The day is open to anyone aged 18–35. **Admission is free.**

For more information, and to register, please contact Adele Guyton

*Email* [adelemguyton@gmail.com](mailto:adelemguyton@gmail.com)

# Creative Imagination and Personal Transfiguration: The Spiritual Vision of Henry Corbin

DR TOM CHEETHAM

DAVID NIEUWEJAERS

SIR NICK PEARSON

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**Saturday 7 March**

*In the chair* Julia Cleave

*Venue* The Theosophical Society

9.30am (registration) for 10am – c.5pm

DR TOM CHEETHAM **Becoming Capable of the World**

In a long footnote in his great book on Ibn 'Arabi, Henry Corbin expresses his debt to Étienne Souriau, a contemporary at the Sorbonne. Souriau is the source of the felicitous phrase 'the angelic function of beings' as well as the assertion that it is up to us to 'become capable of God.' Corbin's radical theology, which is, as he often says, a 'psycho-cosmology,' may seem to center on the possibility of individual transformation as *angelomorphosis*. But we should give equal emphasis to the cosmological pole of this dialogical process. We simultaneously have to learn to become *capable of the world*. The deep significance of Corbin's rejection of the doctrine of the Incarnation of God in Christ is that it transfers that awesome responsibility from the single person of Jesus to each and every one of us.

DAVID NIEUWEJAERS **Spiritual Chivalry and the Battle for the Angel**

According to Corbin, becoming a true human person depends on the reciprocal relationship we have with our celestial twin, the angel of our being. On the spiritual path we are asked to confirm the pre-existential pledge we made to battle for and with the angel, not just to ensure private liberation, but to enable the transfiguration of mankind and the world. This call for spiritual knighthood and the battle for the angel will be illustrated in different wisdom traditions.

*Lunch break*

**SIR NICK PEARSON Creative Imagination in  
Psychotherapeutic Practice**

Henry Corbin's insights into and exposition of the Sufi tradition of Iran, specifically its use and understanding of the Imagination, opens the possibility of profoundly influencing western psychotherapeutic practice as well as reinvigorating the Western Christian mystical tradition. Nicholas Pearson, a working psychotherapist, will articulate the nature and value of the sacred imagination in his daily practice engaging with distress and dis-ease.

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**TOM CHEETHAM** is the author of five books on the imagination in psychology, religion, science and the arts, and one book of poems. Formerly Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at Wilson College in Pennsylvania, he taught natural science and the humanities for 20 years. He is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and teaches and lectures frequently in Europe and the USA.

**JULIA CLEAVE** is an independent scholar. She is a member of the Council and of the Academic Board of the Temenos Academy.

**DAVID NIEUWEJAERS** (a.k.a. David Roef) has been a student of perennial philosophy and comparative religious thought for the past 30 years. His main fields of interest are Christian mysticism and the western esoteric tradition. David was born in Belgium and lives in Maastricht (the Netherlands) where he works as a professor in criminal law.

**SIR NICK PEARSON** was raised on a working farm in the Lake District, served in the Army, had various commercial adventures in Africa and the Far East, stood for Parliament and was Chairman of the Temenos Academy from 1998–2010. In 2003 he finally found his

vocation and trained as a psychotherapist. He runs a London practice based on the Imagination as his principal psychotherapeutic tool.

### **Admission**

Limited to a maximum of 50 participants.

£45 or £40 Members of the Temenos Academy/  
Concessions.

Tea/coffee will be provided; lunch is not included but may be obtained from restaurants and cafes near the venue.

# Cyclical Time and Personal Space – Henry Corbin’s Angelic Psychocosmology

DR TOM CHEETHAM

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## Monday 9 March

In the chair *Professor John Carey*

Venue *The Royal Asiatic Society*

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

Henry Corbin (1903–1978) described spiritual transformation in terms of the *interiorization* of the world and the metamorphosis of things into symbols. He explains in detail that this refiguring of experience requires freeing ourselves from the limitations of both linear time and three-dimensional space. We will explore some of the consequences and implications of this cosmology for everyday experience and for our understanding of the categories of time, space, matter and the person. Corbin was not alone in reimagining the fundamental conditions of human experience in the early twentieth century. The lecture will attempt to situate Corbin’s philosophical anthropology in the context of the thought of some of his contemporaries, and suggest how it might help free our own lives from the ‘mind-forg’d manacles’ of modern life.

TOM CHEETHAM is the author of five books on the imagination in psychology, religion, science and the arts – *The World Turned Inside Out* (2003), *Green Man, Earth Angel* (2004), *After Prophecy* (2007/2019), *All the World an Icon* (2012) and *Imaginal Love – The Meanings of Imagination in Henry Corbin and James Hillman* (2015) – and one book of poems, *Boundary Violations* (2015). He is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy.

## Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

# The Ancient Tradition of India and the Place of Vedanta

Three lectures by SUBHANU SAXENA

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## 1 Introduction

**Monday 16 March**

*In the chair* Ian Skelly

An overview of the Ancient Tradition of India and the Place of Vedanta.

- i Introduction to the Vedas, their content and message
- ii The six schools of philosophy, one of which is Vedanta
- iii An overview and introduction to Vedanta and its place in the tradition

## 2 The Three Schools of Vedanta

**Monday 23 March**

*In the chair* Professor John Carey

An introduction to the three schools of Vedanta and their basic teachings, similarities and differences.

- i Dualism (Dvaita)
- ii Qualified Non Dualism (Vishistadvaita)
- iii Non Dualism (Advaita)
- iv What does Vedanta have to say about modern living?

## 3 The Main Texts of Vedanta

**Monday 30 March**

*In the chair* Vinod B. Tailor

An introduction to the main texts of Vedanta, with examples. What do they teach us?

- i The Upanishads
- ii The Brahma Sutra
- iii The Bhagavad Gita
- iv The great commentaries of Shankaracharya and others
- v What next for the eager student?

SUBHANU SAXENA is a teacher of Sanskrit and ancient Indian literature and has a deep love for Urdu poetry. He is an Executive Committee Member of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, UK and combines this with being a global executive whose experience has spanned markets in Europe, North America, Africa and Asia. One of his many roles is as a Regional Director (Europe) at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford and the Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires (INSEAD), Fontainebleau. He studied Sanskrit under Dr Nandakumara at the Bhavan, London and speaks several other languages. He was born into a North Indian family steeped in classical music and dance and he was taught, and developed a love for, Urdu poetry by his grandfather.

**For each lecture**

*Venue* The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

*Admission*

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE



*In association with The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts*

*Two Films*

## **The Traditional World of Islam: Unity**

Introduced by the director, DR STEPHEN CROSS

## **The Art of the Ever-True**

An illustrated filmed interview with

PROFESSOR KEITH CRITCHLOW

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### **Wednesday 18 March**

*In the chair* Emma Clark

*Venue* The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Art  
(The Gallery)

Doors open at 6.30pm

Films shown at 7pm

Concludes 8.15pm

*Unity* was the introductory film in a series of six short films made for the *World of Islam* Festival in London in 1976, and widely televised by the BBC and in other countries. Its purpose was to present an overview of Islamic civilization to Western audiences which were at that time remarkably ignorant of our great neighbouring culture. It concentrates, not so much on the religion of Islam, as on the broader civilization and culture which grew up around that religion, binding together many diverse peoples and traditions in a powerful Unity. The film seeks to present the Islamic world as it is understood and experienced by those who live within it. Several scholars who played a significant role in the development of Keith Critchlow's thought, notably Titus Burckhardt and Seyyed Hossein Nasr, acted as advisors for the film. 27 minutes.

Written and directed by Stephen Cross.

*The Art of the Ever-True* is an illustrated filmed interview with Professor Keith Critchlow, President Emeritus of the Temenos Academy, made to mark the 70th birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales in November 2018.

Professor Critchlow describes the philosophy underlying the film as follows:

*The authenticity and trustworthiness of all genuine human traditions can be seen to exhibit four levels of Truth or subtle understanding.*

*The Pythagoreans called this the ‘Tetraktys’. Plato throughout his dialogues describes the four ‘Manias’ or Inspirations.*

*Thus:*

*The Musical: inspired by the Muses,*

*The Telestic: inspired by Bacchus,*

*The Prophetic: inspired by Apollo, finally*

*The Amatory (Loving Kindness) inspired by Venus and Athena.*

*For the sacred Semitic tradition of the ‘Kabbalah’ there are four Worlds:*

*Emanational, Creation, Formation and Action.*

*(see the contemporary works of Z’ev Ben Shimon Halevi)*

*For Christianity we have the four ‘Gospels’ of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.*

*In Buddhism we learn of the four Noble Truths.*

*Each tradition has its own version of the four-fold levels of Reality.*

*In the special tradition of Geometric truth we have the four stages of a point, a line, a plane and a solid. This is the art of the ‘Ever True’.*

32 minutes.

Filmed and edited by Yasin Salazar.

Produced by Emma Clark and the Temenos Academy.

### **Admission**

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# Ten Basic Principles that inspire the work of Temenos

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Acknowledgement of Divinity

Love of Wisdom, as the essential  
basis of civilization

Spiritual vision as the life-breath of civilization

Maintenance of the revered traditions  
of mankind

Understanding of tradition as  
continual renewal

The provision of teaching by the best  
teachers available in their disciplines and of  
publications which set the highest standard  
in both content and design

Mindfulness that the purpose of teaching  
is to enable students to apply in their own lives  
that which they learn

To make Temenos known to all those  
who may benefit from its work

Reminding ourselves and those we teach  
to look up and not down

Governance of the Temenos Academy itself  
in the light of the above principles

Cover motif by Cecil Collins