

I am thrilled to be able to announce that the Institute for Sacred Activism will be conducting a 6 day intensive retreat here in Oak Park IL from October 1-7, 2011. I had a kind of vision in which it became clear to me that it was necessary to create an initiatory template for all those who long to be Sacred Activists. This template should be grounded and rooted and inspired by the form the ancient mystery schools such as Eleusis in Greece of which Socrates and Plato and the great historian Plutarch were members.



Fundamentally the initiation of the mystery schools was divided into 3 sections; the first section involved a glorious presentation of the divine truth of life and the universe. It was accompanied with sacred practices of all kinds to give participants as much passionate holy inspiration as possible. The second section involved a descent into the shadow; the underground and underbelly of reality and a profound exploration of the powers of the dark feminine. The third section celebrated the integration of light and dark, chaos and order, rapture and agony, desolation and hope in a mysterious marriage of opposites that birthed the empowered, radiant and committed divine human being.

I want to follow this magnificent rhythm in a 6 day intensive that would begin by a celebration of evolutionary mysticism, the sacred marriage, and the divine bliss and ecstasy that are the creative forces of the universe. This would be followed by a descent into the difficulties and chaos of our time and into our own personal and collective shadows and into a vision of the dark feminine the Kali force that I believe holds the key to the secret of our time and the transformation it is asking of us. The third part of the intensive will integrate the glory of the vision of the marriage with everything we have made conscious of the darkness and the shadow to birth the mystery of the complete divine human Sacred Activist committed to work with humble and passionate compassion in the core of a reality recognized as wholly divine.

Saturday October 1, 2011 - I will present what I consider a mystical overview of the world crisis as the birth canal of a new divine humanity. This will draw not only on my book *The Hope*, but on my 30 years experience of evolutionary mysticism and my own growing experience of the birth of the divine in my heart mind and body. The role of Sacred Activism is to birth the new world; specific practices will be experienced to help you fuse together in your being the fire of the mystic's passion for God with the fire of the activists passion for justice so you can experience the birth in you, your illumined mind, compassionate heart and body of what I call the third fire; the evolutionary fire of love and wisdom in action.

Sunday October 2, 2011- Karuna Erickson and I will present our vision of the sacred marriage between yoga and mysticism that we have presented in our book *Heart Yoga* which will be out with North Atlantic books on May 4, 2010. This vision is one of radical embodiment. What we hope to give you through the marriage of simple yoga asanas and mystical teachings, sacred poems and essential mystical meditations on the heart and on the light body is the most vivid experience imaginable of your divine identity and of the presence of divine love and energy in the cells of your body.

Monday October 3, 2011 - In the morning I will teach on the wisdom of the heart; describing in detail the power that the mystical traditions resides in the heart center and sharing 3 great mystical practices that illumined and strengthen the sacred heart and make available its radiant passion and sensitive, tender, enlightened intelligence. In the afternoon Diane Berke of One Spirit Interfaith Center will teach on forgiveness and unconditional love as the sources of the enlightened understanding and energy that Sacred Activists will need to do their great work.

Tuesday October 4 and Wednesday October 5, 2011 - Armed and inspired by the mystical teachings of the birth, the grounding teachings of heart yoga and the illumined wisdom of unconditional love, we will take together a pioneering journey into the shadow. Shadow work of the deepest kind is essential to the Sacred Activist because it gives him or her profound access to the most complete self knowledge, the most all embracing compassion and the calm skillful means that are born out of the two. On Wednesday, Diane and I will focus on the collecting shadow of our collapsing civilization. On Thursday we will explore our personal shadows and the ways in which they relate to and keep going the collective shadows that are now threatening humanity and nature.

Thursday October 6, 2011 - We will bring together the joy of the ascent of the first 3 days with the grief and painful knowledge gained through the descent into the shadow in a marriage of spirit and matter, light and shadow, body and soul, profound inner joy and committed outer action. I will teach the 7 laws of Sacred Activism in rich detail for I believe these to be the laws that govern the sacred action of a divinely embodied human being committed to being an instrument of God's dance of opposites in reality.

Friday October 7, 2011 - We will end at 2pm and the time we share together will be devoted to deep personal testimony of what has happened to you during the initiation to prayers we do together for the transformation of the world, and to a closing ritual in which we all commit ourselves to use the powers opened in us by the initiation to act with deeper peace and greater passion as midwives of the birth of divine humanity.

Class will end everyday at 4 pm. There will be ample time for questions on every day and group participation is absolutely essential. We want to encourage everyone to establish deep spiritual friendships with everyone attending as this is a journey we are all in together. And I, Jill, Karuna and Diane will all be available for dinner who want to be with us. An initiation of this scale works best in a spirit of mutual equality, respect and profound give and take.

We want to begin with a group limited at 45 so please if you want to join us sign up as soon as you possibly can as the interest aroused by my book has brought the vision to thousands of new people.

Love always,
Andrew

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For additional information on the Institute [Click Here](#)

Where: Carleton Hotel of Oak Park, October 1-7, 2011

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708.848.5000

www.carletonhotel.com

Price: \$995. Airfare, hotel and meals are not included.

Realm Registration: [+ Add To Cart](#)

Cancellation: All cancellations are to be in writing. From registration date until 2 weeks prior to course date 50% (\$250.00 fee). Less than 2 weeks prior to course date - no refund.

For any questions email jill@instituteforsacredactivism.org