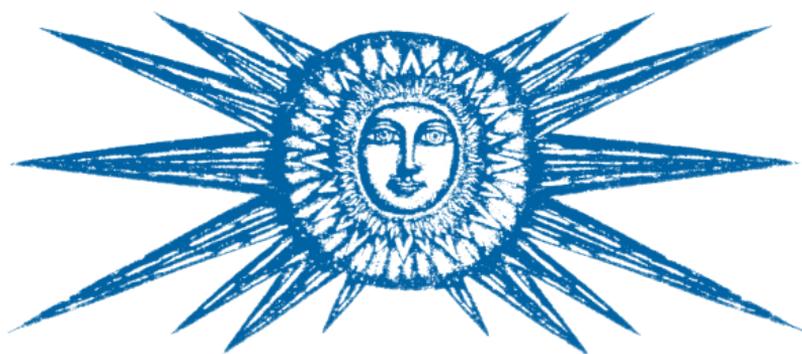


TEMENOS ACADEMY

PATRON HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES



SUMMER TERM

2017

The Temenos Academy

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SUMMER TERM 2017 29 April – 17 July

Office closed 29 May – 5 June

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

The Temenos Academy is pleased to announce its Programme for the Summer Term 2017. Our lectures and seminars are open to all. The addresses of the venues and instructions for booking appear on page 2.

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

This term there are four meetings on Saturdays. The study day 'Dante's Visionary Consciousness' will be held at the Art Workers Guild in London on 29 April, with two speakers from abroad, Professor Daniela Boccassini (Canada) and Andrew Frisardi (Italy), as well as Temenos Academy Fellow Dr Jeremy Naydler.

On 13 May at Oriol College, Oxford the Temenos Academy will collaborate with Hieros in a symposium entitled 'Spirituality of the Land'.

There will be another Young Scholars Day on 10 June at St James Senior Boys' School in Ashford, Surrey.

And on 1 July at Rudolf Steiner House in London, Valentin Gerlier, Dr Joseph Milne and Dr Mark Vernon will teach the study day 'Rediscovering the Vision of Plato'.

Our evening lectures are 'Hippocrates – the Lost Way to Health' by Dr Eleni Tsiompanou, and 'Thomas Merton and Sufism' by Virginia Gray Henry, who will be visiting from the USA.

The Reading Essential Texts seminars are Plato's 'Symposium' led by Valentin Gerlier, and the conclusion of the study of Shakespeare's 'Richard III' with Joseph Milne.

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

To join our postal mailing list and/or email newsletter list please contact the Administrators.

The Venues

The Art Workers Guild
6 Queen Square
Bloomsbury
London WC1N 3AT
Nearest Underground *Russell Square*

The Essex Unitarian Church
112 Palace Gardens Terrace
London W8 4RT
Nearest Underground *Notting Hill Gate*

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

Booking

For lectures please book in advance by post using the booking form. Places may also be reserved by telephone and email but PLEASE INFORM US IF YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE YOUR RESERVATION.

For seminars please reserve a place in advance and pay at the first meeting. Please note that a seminar course may be cancelled if there are insufficient reservations.

Membership

Please support the Temenos Academy by becoming a Member or Friend. On joining, new Members or Friends are sent the current issue of the *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

To join the free postal mailing list, and/or the free monthly email newsletter list, please complete and return the name and address section of the Booking Form, or contact us by email or telephone.

Administration

Stephen & Genevieve Overy
The Temenos Academy
P O Box 203
Ashford
Kent TN25 5ZT

Telephone 01233 813663
Email temenosacademy@myfastmail.com

Audio Archive

The Temenos Academy website includes an archive of audio or video recordings of lectures, freely available to view or listen to. Please refer to:

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_audio_archive.html

Temenos Academy Review and *Temenos Academy Papers*

The Temenos Academy publishes an annual journal, the *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. 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 current issue of the *Review*, no. 19, may be ordered using the Booking Form; a list of its contents appears on page 23.

Thirty-nine 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 *Temenos – An Index 1981–1992*.

A Publications Catalogue – a descriptive list of all Temenos publications – can be viewed on the Temenos Academy website.

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_journal.html

Temenos Academy Young Scholars

For the benefit 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, we run the Temenos Academy Young Scholars scheme, a special free membership of the Academy for people aged 18–35 years.

Applicants are asked to 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':

- 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 subject may be drawn from the Humanities in general – art, philosophy, poetry, religion. For further guidance we suggest you look at the work of the numerous contributors to the *Temenos Academy Review* over the last 18 years. The essay should be at least 2,000 words in length.

Essays will be appraised by the Temenos Academy Academic Board or a Temenos Academy Fellow.

Membership is by invitation only and based upon the essay.

Temenos Academy Young Scholars will be full Members of the Academy until the age of 35. They will receive the *Temenos Academy Review* every year.

Some Young Scholars essays may be read on the website; those of exceptional merit will be considered for publication in the *Review*.

For further information and an application form please refer to

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_young_scholars.html

or contact the Administrators

Foundation Course in the Perennial Philosophy

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 '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.

The next Part 1 commences in October 2017.

Please contact Emma Clark, the Registrar, for further information

Email temenosacademy@myfastmail.com

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_foundation_course.html

Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship

The Temenos Academy has established an award 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 <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. Application for the 2017 Scholarship is now closed.

THETIS BLACKER (1927–2006) made a remarkable contribution to Temenos as an artist and lecturer. Her work was first featured in *Temenos 4*, and her ‘Phoenix Egg’, designed especially for the journal, appeared on the covers of issues 6–9. During 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

heather.gatt@yahoo.co.uk

Heather Gatt

Secretary, The Batik Guild

Sun Rise, Vicar Lane, Easington, Hull HU12 0TF

AFTERNOON SUNLIGHT PLAYS

AFTERNOON sunlight plays
Through trailing leaves I cannot see,
Stirred by a little wind that mixes light
 and leaf
To filter their quiet pattern on my floor.
Not real, Plato said, the shadowy dancers,
Imponderable,
Somewhere beyond, the light: but I am old,
Content with these shadows of shadows
 that visit me,
Present unsummoned, gone without stir.
So angels, it may be.

KATHLEEN RAINE

From The Collected Poems of Kathleen Raine
(Ipswich: Golgonooza Press, 2000)

The study of key texts in small seminar groups

Richard III

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Leader Dr Joseph Milne

Text the Arden edition

3 May – 5 July

Wednesdays, 10 weekly sessions

Time 3 – 4.30pm (please arrive promptly)

Venue The School of Economic Science

A close reading of Shakespeare's play to explore its meaning in the deepest sense; concluding meetings.

JOSEPH MILNE has made a significant contribution to the Temenos Academy by giving numerous lectures and seminars over the past 25 years. He is a trustee of The Eckhart Society and of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, and editor of the Foundation's journal *Land & Liberty*; he is also a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and author of the Temenos Academy Papers *The Ground of Being – Foundations of Christian Mysticism, Metaphysics and the Cosmic Order* and *The Mystical Cosmos*.

Course cost

£100 or £75 Members of the Temenos Academy/
Concessions

Booking

Please reserve your place in advance and pay the course fee at the first meeting.

The study of key texts in small seminar groups

The Symposium

by PLATO

Leader Valentin Gerlier

Text *The Symposium or Drinking Party*. Translated by Eva Brann, Peter Kalkavage and Eric Salem (Focus Publishing, ISBN 978-1585105977)

9 May – 27 June

Tuesdays, 8 weekly sessions

Time 6.45 – 8.15pm (please arrive promptly)

Venue in London SW10; full address on booking

Plato's *Symposium* is one of the most influential works in Western philosophy, a philosophical treatise that is at once rational and poetic, profound and comical, serious and playful, and that involves a cast of characters who, brilliantly led by Socrates, set about exploring and praising the nature of Love. The *Symposium* is a work of enduring and universal inspiration for artists, poets and philosophers alike, and one of the key texts that influenced the Italian Renaissance.

This series of eight seminars will offer a guided close-reading of the dialogue, in an attempt to move with Plato and his characters and explore the deeper meanings of the text. Those attending are asked to obtain their own copies of the recommended text.

VALENTIN GERLIER is a teacher, novelist and musician. He is currently completing a PhD thesis on Shakespeare, Poetry and the Language of Grace at the University of Cambridge.

Course cost

£70 or £60 Members of the Temenos Academy/
Concessions

Booking

Limited to a maximum of 10 participants

Please contact the Administrators to secure your place.

Dante's Visionary Consciousness

A Study Day

PROFESSOR DANIELA BOCCASSINI

ANDREW FRISARDI

DR JEREMY NAYDLER

Saturday 29 April

In the chair Julia Cleave

Venue The Art Workers Guild

9.45am (registration) – 5pm

This Study Day is dedicated to exploring Dante's creative genius and the sources of his inspiration, as a poet, a prophet and an initiate of the profoundest spiritual mysteries. The 'visionary Dante' speaks to us not only from the medieval era in which he lived, but also from a level of experience that transcends boundaries of place and time, for it is rooted in the eternal. For this reason, we can return again and again to his work, to drink from the enlightening and revivifying fountain of inspired wisdom which flows from it.

1. JEREMY NAYDLER **Dante and the Prophetic Tradition**

We tend to think that a prophet is someone who can see into the future and that prophecy is the prediction of events that have yet to happen. But this is a drastically reduced understanding of both prophets and prophecy. Within the Judaeo-Christian tradition, the prophet is one who is divinely inspired and for whom the veils separating us from the world of spirit are drawn aside, enabling a higher revelation to be received and then communicated to others. Dante was steeped in the Bible and self-consciously drew on the rich repository of images belonging to the Biblical prophetic tradition, creatively re-working it to convey his own spiritual vision.

2. ANDREW FRISARDI **A Divine Gift: Inspiration in Dante**

In Canto XXIV of *Purgatorio* Dante famously states, *I' mi son un che, quando / Amor mi spira, noto, e a quel modo / ch'è ditta dentro vo significando*, 'I am one who, when Love inspires me, takes note, and according to how he dictates within, I put it into words'. Indeed, Dante is the epitome of the inspired poet, whose poetry consequently passes on the transformative power of inspiration to countless readers and listeners. This talk will sketch this aspect – or rather, this foundational and pervasive presence – in Dante's poetry, including the figure of the muse and the metaphysics of inspiration that underlie and propel his poetic vocation.

3. DANIELA BOCCASSINI **Earthly Paradise: Dante's Initiatory Rite of Passage**

Despite reaching the summit of Purgatory, Dante is not quite ready for Paradise yet. Through a long sequence of seven cantos that begins in fire and ends in water, Dante the author now takes us through what, in the circumscribed space of pre-lapsarian earthly Paradise, needs to be shown, said and staged for his self as wayfarer to be *rifatto sì come piante novelle / rinovellate di novella fronda* ('made as new trees are / renewed of new foliage'), so that access to the stars be granted him.

If the entirety of the *Commedia* can be understood as the poetic expression of a vision that finds its roots in love and its end in transformative, prophetic revelation, then the Earthly Paradise sequence goes right to the heart of the mystery that seals Dante's poem. This talk will approach some of the complexities of that mystical rite of passage.

DANIELA BOCCASSINI is a Medievalist whose interests focus on the human quest for transformative understanding or *gnosis* in a perspective centered on Dante's *Divine Comedy*, yet encompassing the Medieval Mediterranean world. Her most recent published work includes articles on various aspects of Dante's 'intelligence of the heart', and the editing of two thematic issues for the journal *Quaderni di Studi Indomediterranei*,

which she co-directs: *Dreams and visions in the Indomediterranean world* (2009); *Transmutatio, the hermetic way to happiness* (2012). She is currently engaged in a comparative study of Dante's and C.G. Jung's visionary experiences as time-bound expressions of timeless *gnosis*. She teaches at the University of British Columbia.

ANDREW FRISARDI is a writer, translator and independent scholar from Boston who lives in central Italy. A long-time contributor to *Temenos Academy Review*, four of his talks on Dante, at the Academy in 2012 and 2014, were published as *Temenos Academy Papers* 36 and 38: *The Young Dante and the One Love* and *The Quest for Knowledge in Dante's 'Convivio'*. An edition of Dante's *Vita Nova* that he translated and annotated was published by Northwestern University Press in 2012. His most recent Dante-related project, supported by a Fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation, is an annotated translation of Dante's unfinished philosophical prosimetrum the *Convivio*, forthcoming in 2017 from Cambridge University Press.

JEREMY NAYDLER holds a PhD in Theology and Religious Studies and is author of a number of books on religious life in antiquity and the history of consciousness. He is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and teaches the Dante module on the Temenos Academy Foundation Course in the Perennial Philosophy.

Admission

£60 or £50 Members of the Temenos Academy/
Concessions.

A limited number of tickets priced £25 are available to full-time students with ID.

The price is inclusive of tea/coffee breaks but not lunch.

Hippocrates – The Lost Way to Health

DR ELENI TSIOMPANOU

Tuesday 2 May

In the chair Ian Skelly

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

‘Health depends on the harmony of the basic elements in the human body’, wrote Hippocrates the Father of Medicine 2,500 years ago. ‘Diaita’ which, from ancient Greek, means literally ‘way of life’, preserves or disrupts this inner harmony influencing our health and state of being. Hippocrates understood the properties of foods, the importance of exercise, music and social interaction in maintaining harmony. Emphasising the relationship between the quality of food and the soil, his practical advice on cooking and the impact of fasting on health can help us today in our search for a harmonious, healthy life.

ELENI TSIOMPANOU is a physician whose experience has taken her from the clinic and laboratory to the Penny Brohn UK integrative oncology centre, to her work as a Palliative Care Consultant in a hospice, and to founding the Health Being Institute. With her scientific training in Nutritional Medicine and knowledge of Hippocrates and Ayurveda and her own spiritual search, Dr Tsiompanou brings together the science of the present with the wisdom of the past.

Admission

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

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

*Hieros, in association with the Temenos Academy,
presents*

Spirituality of the Land

Across Western Europe, the Anglo-Celtic Isles, North America, and Australia are countless ancient sacred sites. Megaliths, cairns, and other stones or rock formations often mark the sacred places whose mysteries are conveyed in myths. In this one-day symposium we will explore new ways of understanding our relationship with the landscape, as marked by sacred places interwoven with myths and ancient mysteries. What are the mysteries and hidden aspects of the ancient landscapes right around us?

Saturday 13 May

Venue Harris Theatre, Oriel College, Oxford

Registration 9am

Concludes 5pm

Speakers

PROFESSOR JOHN CAREY **Deep Memory and the Power of Place in Early Ireland**

DR JAMES COWAN **The Sacred Landscape Mysteries of Aboriginal Australia – From the World’s Oldest Known Culture**

CAITLIN MATTHEWS **The Place of Our True Abiding: Healing the Ancestral Communion with the Land**

JOHN MATTHEWS **Guardian of the Sacred Earth: The Green Man in Myth and Religion**

PROFESSOR ARTHUR VERSLUIS **Entering the Mysteries – Living Sacred Sites in Western Europe and North America**

DR KRESIMIR VUKOVIC **Roman Sacred Landscapes: Myths of the Tiber**

HIEROS is ‘an international non-profit organisation whose purpose is to engage scholars and creators in symposia and other events to deepen our shared understanding of the sacred as manifested in culture, and to share specialist understandings of the sacred with a broader public through publications, media, seminars, lectures and workshops. We understand the sacred as inspirational presence that unites both culture and nature, conveyed through initiatory pedagogies, and explore how the sacred is revealed in the classical humanities, in the context of particular landscapes and sacred sites, in unexpected urban manifestations, and in wilderness.’

JOHN CAREY is Professor of Early and Medieval Irish at University College, Cork. He is also a Fellow of the Temenos Academy; a member of its Council and Academic Board, and General Editor of the *Temenos Academy Review*.

JAMES COWAN is a novelist and poet and the author of many books on Australian Aboriginal spirituality, including *Mysteries of the Dreamtime* (1992) and *Myths of the Dreaming* (1994).

CAITLIN MATTHEWS is a writer and a teacher for the Foundation for Inspirational and Oracular Studies. Her books include *Singing the Soul Back Home* (2002) and *Celtic Visions* (2012).

JOHN MATTHEWS has made a lifetime study of the legends of King Arthur, and more recently of the history of pirates, and he has acted as an advisor on several big budget movies, including *King Arthur*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Prince of Persia*.

ARTHUR VERSLUIS is Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Michigan State University. His many books include *Religion of Light* (2013) and *Entering the Mysteries – The Secret Traditions of Indigenous Europe* (2016).

KRESIMIR VUKOVIC is a lecturer in Classics at Oriel College, Oxford. He completed his doctoral studies at the University of Oxford with a thesis on Roman religion and its Indo-European background.

Admission

£40 includes tea/coffee and a catered lunch – but please note Oriel College has requested that if you require lunch you must book before the end of April

Booking

To book your ticket please contact the organiser Jane May
janedmay@btinternet.com

Telephone + 44 1 865 407680

<http://www.hieros.world>

In collaboration with St James Senior Boys' School

Young Scholars Day

Making a Good Society

Saturday 10 June

In the chair Sebastian Arnold and Aristel Škrbić

Venue St James Senior Boys' School

Doors open at 9am

Concludes 7pm

The third Temenos Academy Young Scholars Day will bring together young philosophers, artists, musicians, and poets for a day of learning and discussion. The theme of *Making a Good Society* will be explored by **Leila Dear**, **Valentin Gerlier** and **Joseph Milne**, as well as by the Young Scholars themselves.

LEILA DEAR is an artist and an alumna of The Prince's School of Traditional Arts.

VALENTIN GERLIER and DR JOSEPH MILNE teach regularly at the Temenos Academy and are both members of its Academic Board.

SEBASTIAN ARNOLD is a student at King's College London and ARISTEL ŠKRBIĆ is a Temenos Academy Young Scholar and a student at KU Leuven.

The day is open to anyone aged 16–35. **Admission is free**, and lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Please register in advance by completing a registration form, which may be downloaded from the Temenos Academy website or obtained from the administrators.

The Temenos Academy thanks David Brazier, Headmaster of St James Senior Boys' School, for making this meeting possible.

Rediscovering the Vision of Plato

A Study Day

VALENTIN GERLIER

DR JOSEPH MILNE

DR MARK VERNON

Saturday 1 July

In the chair Aristel Škrbić

Venue Rudolf Steiner House (2nd Floor Lecture Room)

9.45am (registration) – 5.30pm

Plato's works are adventures in speech which follow the way of language in order to contemplate and explore philosophical questions. Indeed, in many of these works, the characters are said to follow the lead of 'speech' or *logos*, and their enquiries are taken where the *logos* itself leads. By following the *logos*, Socrates moves the discussion from a mere speaking 'about' things – that is, from the point of view of a detached or theoretical observer – to an appropriate mode of speech, a rich and wondrous speaking-together in which the very things spoken about are witnessed and called upon, and are therefore in some way already present.

To bring these philosophical dialogues to life, Plato explores all the avenues that language offers: from speech that rests on unexamined assumptions to metaphysical, poetic and mythical modes of speaking. In each of these cases, we are shown that following the *logos*, threading the way of speech, is an enquiry that begins in wonder but comes to fruition in care and reverence. It becomes possible to speak of virtue, justice, love or beauty because such principles somehow animate the discussion, thereby making genuine philosophical enquiry possible.

1. JOSEPH MILNE **The Call of Wisdom**

For Plato two questions are always at play: what is truth, and how ought we to live? With the first question Plato calls for the consideration of eternal or divine things. With the second he enquires into the nature of society and into the way of life that belongs to man. It is this second question that is unique to Socrates, and which Plato pursues throughout the dialogues. Before Socrates

philosophers concerned themselves only with the first question, with the eternal truth of things and with cosmology. So with Plato we have the birth of philosophical reflection on human nature and upon the nature of society. For Plato the two questions, on eternal truth and upon human society, are inseparable. And even then, it is *how* these two questions are pursued that makes them true questions, or truly philosophical. The way the dialogues work is through placing our minds before things so that insight may come directly from things themselves. Such engagement with Plato is transformative.

2. MARK VERNON **Plato and the Awakening of Consciousness**

Owen Barfield remarked that philosophers today might read the entire oeuvre of Plato and not understand a single word. It is why Plato is often erroneously presented as a dualist, other-worldly, an abstract thinker, even an atheist. But read as a poet, a writer who can put words together so as to induce a shift of consciousness, Plato's meaning can return, suggesting a route out of the cave.

3. VALENTIN GERLIER **Plato: Love, Language and the Truth of Things**

For Plato, language is the golden thread that, if followed, leads us to contemplate and speak of the truth of things. Yet, he reminds us, only the *lover* of wisdom can speak truth in an appropriate way. In exploring philosophical questions through dialogues, Socrates always attempts to light the flame of philosophy in his interlocutors, so that the nature of things can be approached through speaking together in the appropriate way – which means ultimately to speak the language of love.

This lecture will explore how the language of love in its various guises – from the philosophical to the poetic and mythical - leads to and shapes the contemplation of some of Plato's fundamental metaphysical questions, and suggest that the link between his metaphysical and his ethical considerations may well reside in a manner of speaking that is appropriate to the essential things it attempts to consider.

4. JOSEPH MILNE **The Call of Justice**

Is there a universal justice that informs human laws? That is the question that Plato asks in his longest dialogue, the *Laws*. How does the wise lawmaker go about his task? What is the purpose or aim of law? These are the questions we shall consider in our final lecture.

VALENTIN GERLIER is a teacher, novelist and musician, and has lectured for the William Blake Society and The Prince's School of Traditional Arts. He is a member of the Academic Board of the Temenos Academy.

JOSEPH MILNE is a trustee of The Eckhart Society and of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, and editor of the Foundation's journal *Land & Liberty*; he is also a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and author of the Temenos Academy Papers *The Ground of Being – Foundations of Christian Mysticism, Metaphysics and the Cosmic Order* and *The Mystical Cosmos*.

MARK VERNON is a psychotherapist, writer and teacher. He has written books on friendship, love, wellbeing, belief, spirituality and science; his latest book is *The Idler Guide to Ancient Greek Philosophy*. He regularly contributes to radio programmes and discussions, takes part in festivals and teaches at The Idler Academy in London. For more information www.markvernon.com.

Admission

Limited to a maximum of 30 participants.

£35 or £30 Members of the Temenos Academy/
Concessions.

A limited number of tickets priced £25 are available to full-time students with student ID. The price does not include refreshments. Tea/coffee and lunch may be obtained from the Rudolf Steiner House café which will be open all day.

In association with The Matheson Trust

Thomas Merton & Sufism

GRAY HENRY

Monday 17 July

In the chair Emma Clark

Venue The Essex Unitarian Church

Doors open at 7pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7.30pm

Concludes 9pm

Thomas Merton was a 20th century spiritual seeker, a monk who became known throughout the world for his spiritual writings. At one point in his life he was graced with an epiphany. The term he used to describe an aspect of this experience was 'le point vierge' (literally 'the virgin point') which he took from Louis Massignon, the Catholic scholar of Islam, with whom he corresponded. Merton defined 'le point vierge' as 'the point at which I can meet God in a real and experimental contact'. Merton had been very drawn to Martin Lings' book on Shaykh Ahmad al Alawi, *A Muslim Saint of the 20th Century* and invited a Shaykh from the Mostaganam Zawiyaa to visit his own monastery in Trappist, Kentucky. During the two years before his death in 1968, Merton's weekly lectures to the monastery novices were focused on Sufism. This lecture will explore the influence of Sufism on Merton's thought.

VIRGINIA GRAY HENRY is Director of the Kentucky-based publisher Fons Vitae and Co-Director of the Ghazali Children's Project, a world-wide educational initiative inspired by the work of Thomas Merton and his interest in Sufism and the inner-life.

THE MATHESON TRUST promotes the study of comparative religion by supporting the publication and dissemination of scholarly works which elucidate the philosophical, metaphysical, cosmological and aesthetic dimensions of the great religious traditions of the world.

Admission

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

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

Temenos Academy Review 19

Edited by John Carey, Valentin Gerlier and James Harpur

Graham Carey *The Majority Report on Art*

Kevin Crossley-Holland *Until the Dragon Comes*

Neil Curry *Christopher Smart: 'For by the Grace of God
I am the Reviver of ADORATION amongst ENGLISH-
MEN'*

Aidan Hart *The Icon Tradition from Within*

Grevel Lindop *The Hermit above a Sea of Music: A Poet's
View of Raimundo Panikkar*

Martin Lings *The Two Names of Mercy*

Constant J. Mews *Sebastian Barker (1945–2014):
Theopoetics and Songlines*

Joseph Milne *Abram's Critique of Plato*

Oludamini Ogunnaike *Meditations on Scuba Diving and
Snorkeling*

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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

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