

## Silent retreat: THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

### The Purpose of Life

The average human being lives his life with little clarity about its purpose, or on the basis of a purely self-centred materialistic understanding. The purpose of life is then limited to procreation and material achievement to ensure happiness in life. Despite the great material progress made by mankind, there is, however, much suffering in the world. This raises a few questions:

Is there a higher purpose evolution intends for all life and what would this be?

Is it possible to lead a more balanced life that would accommodate the material and spiritual aspects of life?

How can greater contentment be realised?

The purpose of this retreat is to explore the questions of the modern materialistic society and the causes of human suffering.

### The Silent Retreat

The object of the retreat is to share a privileged time in the peaceful atmosphere of the Centre, which fosters a quiet mind that is the beginning of right action. While verbal communication during the talks and Meditative enquiry is unavoidable, it is our intention that participants remain silent for the rest of the day. The meals will be taken in silence with practice of mindfulness. After the evening program quiet conversation is possible if desired.

### The Speaker

Bhupendra R. Vora is a member of long standing of the TS. He is a former General Secretary of The East & Central African Section and is currently residing in England. He writes regularly for

*The Theosophist* and other international Theosophical journals. His articles have been translated into many languages including French, Dutch and Italian. He has lectured extensively as the Guest Speaker at Conventions in East & Central Africa, South Africa, Ireland, Slovenia and Finland, and gave the Blavatsky lecture during the English Summer School. He has attended many International Conventions at Adyar, India, and gave several talks there. The East & Central African Section published his book *Healing The Planet* in 2005.

### The Lectures

- Day 1: • The purpose of life  
• The cause of suffering
- Day 2: • Ethical and moral living  
• The pluckig of a flower affects a distant star

### Daily Schedule

- 8.30 Silent meditation  
9.00 Breakfast in silence  
10.00 Talk  
11.00 Coffee / tea break in silence  
11.30 Meditation and enquiry  
12.30 Lunch in silence  
14.30 Talk  
15.30 Coffee / tea break in silence  
16.00 Meditation and enquiry  
18.00 Dinner in silence  
19.30 Tuesday only: Evening Program with Music

### Arrival and Departure

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> afternoon / evening: Arrival and registration.  
Dinner at 18.00, followed by informal meeting.
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> before dinner: Closing session.

### Staying for the European School of Theosophy

We like to inform you that on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> the participants of the European School of Theosophy will arrive at the ITC. Participants of the retreat who intend to join the school can stay overnight on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup>. Meals will be served; see D on the registration form. For the School (10 to 15 October: 'In the Beginning was the Word') please see:

[www.europeanschooloftheosophy.com](http://www.europeanschooloftheosophy.com)

### The International Theosophical Centre

The International Theosophical Centre (ITC) aims to foster the principle of Universal Brotherhood and Peace under the inspiration of the highest human values, with the will to serve the world under the perspective of Oneness of Life in all living beings.

The ITC aims to be an active and inspiring spiritual centre, contributing to the service of the world and the uplifting of mankind in particular. The ITC therefore invites people at the Centre to work on the process of human regeneration through individual transformation.

Any stay at the Center is meant to promote quietness of mind, peace and a harmonious life. Therefore smoking or using drugs on the estate is not allowed; furthermore only vegetarian meals and non-alcoholic beverages may be consumed.

## REGISTRATION FORM

*(Registration for the full retreat only!)*

Name: . . . . . M/F

First name: . . . . .

Address: . . . . .

Postal Code: . . . . .

City: . . . . .

Country: . . . . .

Email address: . . . . .

T.S. member : yes / no

Remarks / Diet requests:

. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .

*(Prices per person for the full retreat)*

### A. Registration fee

- TS-members € 30 . . .
- Non-members € 40 . . .

### B. Vegetarian meals € 60 . . .

### C. Lodging

- Crystal House single room € 75 . . .
- Crystal House 2 pers. room € 57 . . .
- Arundale House € 54 . . .
- Cottage 2 pers. price pp. € 80 . . .
- Cottage, single €120 . . .

### D. Wednesday night + meals € 50 . . .

**Total amount** € . . .

Payment: . . . . . Stichting St. Michael AC  
Bank account (IBAN): NL92 RABO 0132 9370 93  
BIC: . . . . . RABONL2U  
Please mention: . . . Retreat 2014

## Lodging Facilities

The ITC has the following lodging facilities:

- **Arundale House** offers basic lodging; 9 bedrooms, each with two beds, shared showers and toilet blocks.
- **Crystal House** offers 20 bedrooms; 10 single person and 10 two person bedrooms, each with own bathroom.
- **Cottages:** three wooden cottages with own kitchen and bathroom for two persons each.
- **Camping Grounds.**

The ITC is located at approx. 20 km east of Amsterdam, close to the old city of Naarden. Entrance for the activities is Meentweg 9.

## Registration

Please note that the number of places for a retreat is limited. We therefore use the following registration procedure:

- Registration can only be done for the full retreat; please register before September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Reservation will only be made final after payment of the fee.
- Your reservation will then be confirmed by us.
- Cancellation before October 1<sup>st</sup> will result in a refund minus € 50.

**Please send the registration form to:**

Seminar registration ITC  
Valkeveenselaan 19  
1411 GT Naarden  
The Netherlands

Or: [activities@itc-naarden.org](mailto:activities@itc-naarden.org)

For information call: 00 31 (0)35 5417118

Route description and registration form can be found on [www.itc-naarden.org](http://www.itc-naarden.org).

# The Purpose of Life

## Silent Retreat

By **Bhupendra Vora**

**7 and 8 Oktober 2014**

Language: English



**This Silent Retreat is jointly organized by:**

Theosophical Society in Europe (EFTS)  
International Theosophical Centre (ITC)  
Theosophical Society in the Netherlands

**International Theosophical Centre**

Meentweg 9, 1411 GR Naarden,  
The Netherlands

([www.itc-naarden.org](http://www.itc-naarden.org))