

The Power of Permaculture for Personal and Planetary Change

Meru University Course # 1203 Syllabus

Dates: April 1, 15, 22, 29

Times: 9:30-11:30 a.m. MDT

Sponsors: Hierarchs of the Elementals: Oromasis and Diana, Aries and Thor, Neptune and Luara, Virgo and Pelleur

Instructors: Robert E. Beese, Ralph Raaths and David Lewis

Course Manager: Nancy Freaner

Course Objectives

- Develop a closer relationship to the elemental kingdom and nature
- Investigate and share ways of making Permaculture practical in our lives
- Engage in better planning for our future Hearts Center solar communities

Course Description

The course will be divided into 4 classes, each representing an aspect of the elemental kingdom—fire, air, water and earth—in that order.

Week 1, April 1: Fire. We will begin with a general discussion of Permaculture with quotes from the Hierarchs of the Elementals, emphasizing the element of fire with practical examples of how the fire of the sun can be captured to support a splendid garden in a harsh environment.

Pictorial examples include the Commonweal Farm, aka the Regenerative Design Institute, where permaculture is taught with the vision that all people can live in a mutually enhancing relationship with the earth, inspired by nature, and enhance fertility and biodiversity on the planet. Robert will share a personal story about communing with Nature and ask students to also share their elemental stories.

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Week 2, April 15: Air. Aries and Thor, as hierarchs of the air element, will give us a deeper understanding of the role of the sylphs and the constant work that they do for the planet. Nature is holistic/non-lineal and truly a work of love, which we will explore. We will study systems in nature, such as the heart, to learn more about their self-organization, embracing a full spectrum of stimuli and responding to the most subtle vibrations.

We will discuss the opening of the doorway into nature and allowing oneself to experience and develop a heart-connection with plants. An update on the situation with our bees, instruction on the importance of trees in the design of our landscapes, and sharing experiences from our walks in nature will be included in our class.

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Week 3, April 22: Water. We will review quotes from Neptune and Luara, the Hierarchs of the Water Element, and consider examples of water management strategies inspired by the elementals, which have resulted in sustainable, harmonious gardens. Assuaging burdens upon the elementals by applying the approaches outlined in Buhner's book—the development of the heart as an organ of perception and imagination—will be presented. Students will continue to talk about experiences from their interactive walk with nature. He will reveal the inner nature of the etheric sphere of the Earth in relation to the cycles of the day and how the elementals interact with each other every day like a cosmic dance on Earth.

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Week 4, April 29: Earth. Virgo and Pelleur work with the elements of nature on a grand planet-wide scale and with the tiny beings in your own backyard. We will focus on the areas where we can personally be of the greatest impact, including our calls and prayers as vehicles for positive change.

Ralph Raaths will present a segment on ways the elementals fulfill the divine blueprint from the Elohim pertaining to the rotation of the Earth and its seasons and anchoring this light into the tiniest details in nature.

We will examine the principles of Permaculture as they relate to the soil under our feet, the living veneer of our verdant sphere. Examples will be given of the innovative ways gardeners have worked directly with the nature spirits in developing soil fertility without the use of chemicals and poisons.

Course Materials

Required Reading:

- Aivanhov, Omraam Mikhael (2009) *A Living Book, Autobiographical Reflections*
- Buhner, Stephen Harrod (2004) *The Secret Teachings of Plants: The Intelligence of the Heart in the Direct Perception of Nature*

Recommended Reading:

- Hemenway, Toby, (2009). *Gaia's Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture* (Second Edition). White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing.
- Kelly, Penny, (2005). *The Elves of Lily Hill Farm*. Lawton, MI: Lily Hill Publishing.
- Sepp Holzer, (2004). *Permaculture*. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing.

Forum for Posting Assignments

Please post experiences and reflections from your assignments on our MU 1203 Forum. You may also enjoy choosing to reply to one or two other students' posts. You can sign up on the Forum to receive an email when your post is answered by another person, whether that person is an MU student or other interested participant.

In order to receive credit and a class certificate, complete each week's assignment(s) and post your reflections, observations and permaculture land-use plan on the MU 1203 Forum. These answers may or may not be read and discussed during class sessions.

Readings and Homework

Prior to week 1:

- Read chapters 1-6 (pp. 1-116) in *The Secret Teachings of Plants*.
- Read chapter 12 (pp. 257-284) "I Am a Child of the Sun" in Omraam's *A Living Book*.

Class 1 assignment, due prior to week 2 class:

- Read chapters 7-9 (pp. 124-162) in *The Secret Teachings of Plants*.
- Read chapter 15, (pp.333-366) "All Creation Speaks to Me, and I Speak to It" in Omraam's *A Living Book*.
- Take a walk in nature feeling, experiencing, communing, and communicating with the nature spirits. You can communicate to a group of trees, a flower, a body of water, or any other living expression of nature. Record your observations and report back to the forum and be prepared to share with the class.
- Watch video, [A Thousand Suns](#). After viewing, reflect and post your response on the Forum to this question: "In your opinion, considering the 'big picture,' did contact with Western civilization benefit the people of the Gamo Highlands of the African Rift Valley?" Elaborate your response.

Week 2 assignment, due prior to week 3:

- Read Chapters 10-12, (pp. 163-220) in *The Secret Life of Plants*.
- Read Chapter 6, (pp. 125-142) “Into the Heart of the Rose” in Omraam’s *A Living Book*
- Walk your land, home, backyard and listen for inspiration regarding a project that you can do to improve the space for the elementals and the people around you. Ask questions like, what would be the best use of this space; how can I make this a sacred and healing place; how do the elements of fire, air, water and earth combine in a harmonious way? Make a plan and submit it to the forum. You can either draw up a plan or discuss your design in narrative. Comment on one another’s projects and be prepared to share with the class.

Week 3 assignment, due prior to week 4:

- Read Chapters 13-14 and Epilogue (pp. 226-287) in *The Secret Life of Plants*
- Do one or more exercises from the Epilogue and write about your experience(s) on the Forum. Note that Exercise 3 is similar to our Week 1 assignment. For a deeper experience, you may choose to combine Exercise 4 and Exercise 10, bringing your inner child along with you on a journey into nature’s realm.