

SACRED SERVICE -- ITS PURPOSE AND MEANING

What does it mean, “to serve?”

Sacred service is our way to respond to the desire we feel deep inside to lose ourselves in total divine Love. It is the path to living through our Higher Self rather than through ego. When we discover and step onto the path of Sacred Service, we generally experience an “Aha” breakthrough, based on the intrinsic joy it brings us. Sacred Service is a path to oneness with all creation, as we join with many others to shower our earth and all its inhabitants with Divine Love that flows through our physical heads, hands, hearts, eyes, ears, and actions.

Service is transformational. It causes us to question ego-based internal tendencies (those of self-indulgence, of selfishness, of self-preservation) and the resulting shifts in our perspective can be startling. As our inquiry deepens, we realize that, in helping others, we help ourselves. The Dalai Lama once said, *“The intelligent way to be selfish is to work for the welfare of others.”* To contribute to positive social change is to truly transform our own inner journeys.

An important inner transformation occurs in each of us when we rearrange our priorities to act on instincts of generosity rather than those of self-centeredness. We become more attentive to the interconnectedness and interdependency of our world, and therefore act with greater mindfulness and compassion. Instead of moving through our daily lives indifferent to our surroundings, we become more attuned to the magic and the beauty that are inherent in the most prosaic scenes. We grow in sensitivity to the circumstances, desires, and needs of the people whose lives touch ours, however incidentally.

Above all, service has a way of producing humility. When we honestly seek no reward for our gifts - not even so much as an expression of gratitude - we act with true selflessness. We set aside our own circumstances, redirect our personal desires, and offer ourselves to the greater whole to which we belong. We lose ourselves in something more vast than ourselves. In so doing, we begin personally to experience the infinite inner peace and joy that every human is seeking during this life. Sacred service is a soaring royal entry to a well-lived, joyful lifetime.

As a vital spiritual community, UCP supports you, as a member, in discovering your own inner Divine Self, as you move from self-focused anxiety to the infinite inner peace of Oneness with all, and as you realize how deeply the Love you share intensifies the Light you experience as a joy-filled ray of light in the divine fabric of creation.