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Roadmap to Harmony

Rediscovering our Divine Nature and reimagining our path to serving our mission entrusted to us by Guruji Victor (Vyasa) Deva Landa

2023—2025

School of Life
with
Shanti Yoga Ashram
The Essene Church of Peace
Spiritual Foods for the New Millenium
Global Coalition for Peace

“We aim to provide an environment where people can work to obtain a true sense of peace...” *Guruji*



New dawn, as seen on the terrace of School of Life, September 17, during waxing moon.

Preamble

We developed a vision and mission statement with input from everyone at the School of Life with the belief that these will serve as a jointly owned ideal to guide our path.

The vision and mission are not intended to replace those of Guruji, summarized as follows:

Preach by example. Worship through service.

Vision

Inspired by timeless teachings, we grow as a center of Light through selfless service, nurturing Divine Love and furthering the transition to the Kingdom of God on Earth.

Mission

Exemplifying the teachings and yoga of Victor Vyasa Landa and the Masters, we accelerate the journey to light, harmony, and global peace, through holistic practices that foster spiritual growth, balanced nourishment of body, heart, and mind, and healing of the individual and the community.

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Summary

Guruji's teachings illuminate the treasures within, prompting an inward quest to reveal Life's wonders. The Roadmap to Harmony is a call to harness this potential. While the **School of Life** provides an environment for this quest, its success hinges on our individual and collective commitment. Every member's dedication elevates both personal journeys and our collective spirit. United in purpose, we pave the way for a future of harmony, peace, and light.

We¹ created this **Roadmap to Harmony** together, with a facilitator, in September, through a dynamic, iterative and collaborative process. The **process** of planning is vital, fostering internal unity and a clear future vision. The roadmap is also a key **communication tool**, enhancing our ties with our friends and prompting introspection on our identity and direction. Finally, the plan guides the mission **implementation** and offers a structured approach to decision-making.

Guided by our **vision** for the School of Life embodying the Kingdom of God on Earth, we unite in light, love and purpose. Our **mission** defines our actions, motives, target audience, and methods. At its heart lie our **core values**: openness, trust, and respect. Every member of the School of Life is guided by values like recognizing the Divine in all, respecting diverse spiritual paths, practicing compassion, upholding ancient teachings, and community service.

Activities are proposed to implement the priority goals. These are based on alignment with the School of Life's vision, impact, feasibility, stakeholder value, and sustainability. From this, we propose certain programs be maintained, modified, or suspended. Along this journey, community feedback is essential for final decision-making. Four **priority areas** or goals have been defined, with several activities **already initiated or even completed**:

A. Enhanced community connections

This section covers priority activities aimed at strengthening community engagement and enrichment of the School of Life's offerings. Included are enhanced communication with the outside world, the creation of a Steering Committee to guide the implementation of this Roadmap, the fostering of communal spaces for creativity, building on "Collective Groupwork" (or Karma Yoga) and other activities that reinforce our broader spiritual identity.

B. Enhancement of Programs and Spiritual Services

This area includes better scheduling, the overhaul and modernization of many programs and systems (Community Supported Agriculture, Mail Order and Store Optimization, revamping of pricing and operations, reassessment of the viability of the Dairy Program, the Homeless Feeding program and others), and refinement of the spiritual programs.

C. Facility improvement

This part is about the physical infrastructure aspects of the School of Life and relates to safety, health, reputation and well-being. The spaces need to reflect the values we all share and develop a welcoming

¹ We deliberated over whether we should define what we mean by "we." Ultimately, we decided against a specific definition, as the context usually makes it clear. "We" could mean the core group of those who live and work at the School of Life (like staff, full or part time). It could extend to Active members of School of Life (Aspirants). In some cases, "we" includes regular volunteers who play a steady or organizing role. In the big picture, "we" could refer to all members of the extended community who are interested and want to participate.

space for everyone we welcome to our School of Life, which is also our home. Primary proposed activities include room-by-room beautification, inspirational murals, essential repairs and improvements, library modernization, better exterior upkeep, office relocations and more.

D. Internal Management

Internal management is being enhanced through various activities. Key actions include clarity on decision making processes, daily spiritual activities, the adoption of efficient meeting practices, and the integration of digital payment systems, clarification of roles and responsibilities, continuing education seminars, and the possibility of consolidating organizational entities.

In sum, this document sets the stage, much like a musical score; it outlines tone, rhythm, and melody but cannot alone create harmony. Realizing a harmonious masterpiece requires diverse voices to infuse the School of Life with **renewed purpose and direction**. Yet, as notes only come alive when the bow meets the viola string and the timpani sounds, this Roadmap to Harmony only comes to life when implemented. May it inspire sensible and caring actions that resonate profoundly and touch countless lives.

Acknowledgements

The time dedicated to the development of the Roadmap and the preparation of this document was constrained, limiting our usual depth of analysis and dialogue, and demanding an expedited writeup. Yet, despite these challenges, every individual contributed with full vigor, enthusiasm, and invaluable insights. The outcome is a genuinely collaborative Roadmap for which we are deeply grateful to each other, including and especially friends in the wider community as stakeholders in the future of School of Life.

Epilogue

If we put aside all our differences and work together, we could make this Heaven on Earth.
We need to build that positive image in our minds to prepare the conditions for us to work together.

Guruji

The way to honor Guruji's teachings and legacy is not by preserving plentiful of wood he sat on,
but by striving to live his example.

A Friend of School of Life

I asked him once what to do when I had a problem.
"Work on yourself, and immediately turn around and love."

Guruji, as told by Manisha

Beauty is the harmony of purpose and form.

Alvar Aalto

I have no reason to come here. But I come here because I like coming here!

A Friend of School of Life

If you want to attract the kindness of heavenly entities
so that they further the realization of your projects, then you must work on harmony.
Wherever they may be, beings of light are attracted by the ambiance
created among those who know how to unite to serve a divine idea.

Omraam Mikhaël Aïvanhov

