



Meru Foundation eTORUS Newsletter

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From The Editor



A Makeover for Meru's Meetingtent Website

Visitors to Meru Foundation's secure-server website, www.meetingtent.com, will notice that it has been completely redesigned – inside and out. Thanks to web designer *Amy Mook* who contributed her skills to this project, Meru's Meetingtent is easier to navigate, and its underlying structure is much more compatible with "click-through advertising" such as is offered by Google, Yahoo, and other search engines. The more compatible the website, the more effective our search engine ads for Meru Foundation products will be. Our research is supported solely by sales and individual contributions, and reaching more people is vital – and those people need to find what they want on our websites quickly and easily. Our thanks go to Amy for her time, expertise, and patience, and for a Meetingtent website that works.

As part of this makeover, www.meetingtent.com now has a streaming video section featuring our *First Light* introductory video sampler (in three parts, as posted by Meru President Bill Haber, a.k.a. *YouTube's filmguy2121*, – see *Meru eTORUS #41*.) The *Video Excerpts* link on every page of meetingtent.com takes you to our embedded videos – and from there, you can navigate directly to our entire YouTube library of video shorts (41 clips so far) by clicking the link to www.youtube.com/user/filmguy2121.

Bill has also started his own Meru Blog, at meruwest.blogspot.com with Bill's own choices of introductory Meru essays. Please visit Bill's blog and add your comments and questions; when the subject is of general interest, we'll respond on the blog, and hope to get a conversation started.

We want to create a "buzz" around Meru Foundation research. Please help Meru go "viral"! Send our video clips to anyone you think might get excited about them; visit Bill's blog, and post it as a favorite. And if you have experience in generating Web 2.0 publicity, and want to help Meru Foundation – we want to talk with you. Please contact Bill Haber at bill@haber.net, or Levanah Tenen at meru1@well.com.

Updated Meru Reading List with Amazon Links on www.meru.org

Our recommended reading list at www.meru.org/readlist.html includes books whose subjects range from traditional Jewish material and Kabbalah, to modern popular physics (from David Deutsch to Lisa Randall), mathematics, and history. Each of these books has been important in some way to the development of our ideas. We've recently updated our recommendations, and added direct links to amazon.com, where you can purchase these books and help Meru at the same time. Meru has become an "Amazon Associate" – which means that when you purchase these books from amazon.com by going through the links on our page, Meru Foundation receives a percentage of the purchase price. So if you are ready to purchase one (or more) of our recommended books, please come back to www.meru.org/readlist.html and use the links on our site! The more people do this, the greater a percentage Meru Foundation will receive.

Essay by Stan Tenen: *Peace with Justice*

The Meru Project began in 1967 at the Western Wall in Jerusalem with a prayer for peace. (Stan recounts this story of his first visit to Jerusalem on several of our DVD presentations.) It has always been part of our vision for Meru Foundation that our findings, and even our speculations, can offer out-of-the-box tools for living together on this planet. (Our website section, *Making Peace with Geometry*, has some samples.)

Meru Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which means we are not engaged in political advocacy of any sort. However our charter calls for education. During the course of our research, we have come upon traditional



physical and biological models of how Mother Nature keeps the peace, which we find are echoed by our spiritual traditions. In this spirit, we offer Stan's essay below, *Peace with Justice*.

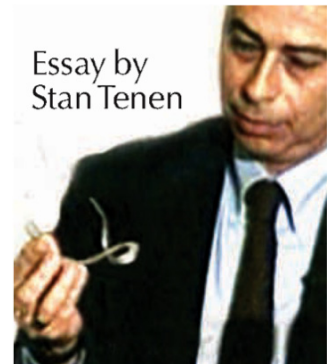
We invite your comments and questions on this essay. We also ask, if you like what you read here, that you pass this essay on to your friends, family, and mailing lists. We encourage you to post it to your own blogs, and to draw others' attention to it – particularly those who might be inspired to use ideas in *Peace with Justice* in their own good work. It is our deepest hope that the ideas we have uncovered in the depth of our own traditions can help to seed a future with room for *all* our children.

—Levanah Tenen, ed.

Peace with Justice

January 2009

Essay by
Stan Tenen



- A plan to provide full security for Israel
- A plan to resettle Palestinian refugees
- A plan to connect separated Jewish and Muslim communities
- A plan to display the greatness of Islam
- A plan to promote peace and the science of peacemaking
- A plan to promote the ecology, energy independence, and sustainable agriculture
- A plan to provide full employment and communications skills, and
- A plan to engage a global Hajj Road to extend the obligation and the peace of the Hajj to the world.

HOW MOTHER NATURE KEEPS THE PEACE

We know not to touch our camera lens because it is coated so light can move smoothly from air to glass to air. Air and glass treat light differently, so they must stand apart, but still shake hands.

Organisms at all levels make use of the same principle. Our liver and pancreas are next to each other, but they have different functions and needs. Each has its own boundary, and there is a region of connective tissue and nutrients flowing between them.

In physics and in life, we find a double border when two different regions or two different organs with different needs are adjacent.

We find this in Genesis, where Jacob and Laban produce a double boundary to end their dispute.

From Gen. 31:51-52 (Kaplan translation) --

Laban then said, "Here is the mound, and here is the pillar, that I have set up between us. The mound shall be a witness, and the pillar shall be a witness. I am not to go beyond the mound with bad intentions, and you are not to go beyond the mound and pillar."

In the Mideast, a double boundary can provide a double measure of security. At the same time the area between these boundaries can provide a peaceful corridor for travel and commerce, connecting separated Israeli settlements and Palestinian cities so they can interact freely with each other and with their own.



The principle of a double boundary goes beyond the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but it has a unique potential benefit in this region. Muslims are required to make the Hajj journey to Mecca at least once in their lives. Often, this entails travel over long distances at great expense. It's an obligation for Muslims, and it's an obligation for Muslims to help each other fulfill this obligation. This offers an extraordinary opportunity.

If the land between the U.N. Green Line and the new Israeli defensive fences were to become a zone of peace, it could also serve as a Hajj Road, to enable Muslims to more easily travel to Mecca and Medina.

If the land between the U.N. Green Line and new Israeli defensive fences flowed through Jerusalem and through the Temple Mount area, it could fulfill the dream of Umar and Suleiman that the Dome of the Rock be a point of reconciliation among the Abrahamic faiths.* The defense of the peace of the Hajj Road could be taken on as an obligation by fervent Muslims. It might serve to ameliorate the resentment of the descendents of the original Palestinians who left the area and will not be able to return to what is now Israel. In fact, the Hajj Road double border could provide land to slowly re-settle many Palestinian refugees, and provide them with the training and opportunities to fulfill the mission of peace and understanding that the zone is dedicated to. The only requirement would be maintenance of peace, the elimination of weapons, and the opportunity to teach the methods of peace, the methods of economic independence, the methods of ecologically sound growth, the advancement of medical science, and the means of sustaining our planet.

The area between the two borders could be ceded by Israel to an established Muslim authority, or to the Palestinians, under the condition that it be a zone of peace, and maintained that way with the United Nations and international oversight. The area could become an example of Islamic civilization, accomplishment, and peacemaking, and it could become a gift from Israel to Islam to the UN on behalf of all the citizens of the world.

A double border could go a long way towards giving everyone what they want in the Middle East. But the principle is more general. The double border "Hajj Road" principle of international cooperation and inexpensive and easy travel would spur a social and economic boon in all adjacent nations who adopted it.

The Israelis and Palestinians together could provide the example for transforming the Korean DMZ into a zone of understanding, development, and peace. (This same example could work for Lebanon and Syria, Syria and Iraq, and even – albeit for different reasons – the border between US and Mexico.) The same could be true among the various former Soviet republics and the Russian Bear. Let's do it like Mother Nature does it and separate the smaller organs – like our pancreas – from their larger neighbors, like our liver and intestines, with a double border – a new Green Land – that can deliver nourishment, communication, and access to all.

In the 19th century world view, there was only room for a single winner. When one party got what they wanted, the other could not. The new scientific paradigm includes what the physicists call "superposition". There is enough room in reality for everyone to "win" without the need for others to lose.

Let our boundaries be green and natural. Let us build a new green "fertile crescent" to encompass and nourish all of our diversity and all of our humanity.

Stan Tenen
Sharon, MA





Notes on "Peace": Shalem, Shalom, Salaam/Islam

The Hebrew and Arabic root-words for peace, balance, and harmony are the same and are spelled the same. And the meanings of the letters in Hebrew and Arabic are consistent and complementary.

Hebrew

Shin/Sin: expression, acceptance
Lamed: learn, teach, to, toward
Mem: source, from

Arabic

Shin: acceptance
Lam: benevolence
Mim: sovereignty

The Hebrew root *Shalem* can be read as:

“The expression of the source of learning” or
“The expression of to and from”, i.e., a road, a way

The Arabic root for *Salaam* and *Islam* can be read as:

“The way (the acceptance) of benevolent sovereignty”.

Both describe the same space – an expression of the relationships of learning, of moving to and fro, in a place of safety and responsibility.

The very name of “peace” denotes the sovereignty of the road that connects us, that separates us, and that lets us work, learn, and play with and among each other.

*The paragraph below is quoted from a web page sponsored by students and faculty of American University:
www.american.edu/TED/hpages/jerusalem/muslim.htm

In 638, when Jerusalem was surrendered to the Muslims, Umar (the first caliph), requested to be led to the Temple Mount, an acknowledgment of Islam’s acceptance of the Hebraic prophetic tradition. . . . Umar, out of respect for the Jews, ordered the area to be cleansed, an act which also prepared the sacred Jewish site for Muslim worship.

Thank you for reading this issue of the Meru Foundation eTORUS Newsletter.
Past issues are available online at www.meru.org/Newsletter/journalindex.html.

To contact us,
please email, write, or call:

Meru Foundation
PO Box 503
Sharon, MA 02067 USA
+1-781-784-3462
meru1@well.com
www.meru.org



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