From the Editor

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Meru's primary website, www.meru.org, was first uploaded to the Internet in 1996.

Over time we've added thirteen years' worth of essays, graphics, newsletters, and links, but structurally it has remained essentially the same website we first created so many years ago – until today.

Thanks to volunteer and new Meru webmaster Amy Mook, www.meru.org has been updated and reorganized, and given a new, modern look that is clean, elegant, and inviting.

Menu bars appear on every page, so the information you're looking for should be where you'd expect it to be – whether it be introductory information on Meru Foundation, our video-clip library, or the essays and posters that have always been the heart of our site.

Here is a screen shot of our new home page:
We plan to add a clickable site map and a site search tool, and will be polishing the presentation of some of the individual articles and posters as well. We'd like your feedback on the new look: Is it easy to read? Can you find what you're looking for? Did you discover material on our site that you didn't know was there? Please send your comments to me at Levanah@meru.org.

Amy Mook, who also redesigned our www.meetingtent.com website last year, is now Meru Foundation's official webmaster. If you encounter any broken links, or other aspects of the site that don't seem to work, please email her at Webmaster@meru.org.

New Meru Foundation Email Addresses
As part of our internet-presence update, Meru Foundation has migrated our email addresses to the meru.org domain. Our primary addresses are:

- General queries, requests for information: meru@meru.org
- Subscribe or unsubscribe to eTORUS: newsletter@meru.org
- Customer service; questions about orders: service@meru.org
- Website issues for meru.org and meetingtent.com: webmaster@meru.org
- Stan Tenen: sntenen@meru.org
- Levanah Tenen: levanah@meru.org
- Bill Haber: bhaber@meru.org

Our old email addresses will continue to work, but we encourage you to use the meru.org addresses in future correspondence.

Meru Book Projects
Stan and I continue to make progress on our full-length book on Meru Foundation research, *The Alphabet that Changed the World*, to be published by North Atlantic/Random House. The manuscript should be ready to send to the publisher in early 2010, with the goal of actual publication by the end of next year.

"Linguistic Cosmology," Stan's chapter for the book edited by Richard Amoroso and Karl Pribram, *The Complementarity of Mind and Body: Realizing the Dream of Descartes, Einstein, and Eccles*, has been withdrawn from MIT Press by the editors due to delays in the publication process. This book will now be published by NOVA Scientific Publishing, and is due out in 2010.

Meetingtent Specials
Our year-end specials at meetingtent.com are continuing until the end of 2009. We are offering our 5-DVD lecture set, normally $119.95, at a special price of $99.95. And from now until year's end, our "Book and DVD Special," the 3-volume *Alphabet in Genesis* books plus our 5-DVD lecture set, will includes a bonus CD of *First Sound™: The Music of Genesis*, at the same price ($199.95). To order, go to www.meetingtent.com, and click on the "Specials" link at the top of the page.

We want to thank all of you who have kindly given us your support throughout this year, even through times that were difficult for many people. Meru is a small 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation, and every contribution helps us continue this work, and present our findings to the public. If you are in a position to make a year-end contribution, you may easily do so through our meetingtent.com website, and also through the new "Donate" menu bar link at the top of any page on www.meru.org. Thank you very much for caring about the work we do, and helping it continue.

—Levanah Tenen, Ed.

Essay by Stan Tenen: A Theory of Healing
This year, while working on *The Alphabet that Changed the World*, we have begun to release new material and ideas that we've developed in process of writing it. One example of this new material is the essay by Stan Tenen, the new web page, and selection of video clips on the Golden Rules which we introduced last month in eTORUS #48, now posted at Meru's *Golden Rules* page. Another example is this month's essay by Stan, *A Theory of Healing*. 
A Theory of Healing

We've speculated broadly that consciousness has to do with the organization of the flow-through of negentropy in the neurons in our brain.

We've speculated that unlike the fact that one rotten apple can cause a barrel of apples to spoil, one (or a few) less-than-perfect people (aren't we all less than perfect?) can be helped to grow and heal by being part of a Bose-Einstein condensate-like assembly.

What we're proposing is, in a sense, that our neuroses and some of our other emotional limitations can be compared to knots in the flow-through of consciousness in our brain, that act as "stumbling blocks" to divert a healthy cascade of consciousness into a less healthy channel. (Even some serious problems, such as some forms of autism, might be accessible to healing.)

So the question becomes, how did these metaphoric (or possibly real) knots come to be, and how can they be released so that our minds can disentangle from non-productive paths and flow back to a healthier course?

Below are a few paragraphs from "Physicists Tackle Knotty Puzzle", a report in "Science Daily" for 8 October 2007, that speaks to how knots can form spontaneously. The complete article is available at http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/10/071003130736.htm

The idea is that all it takes for a length of thread (or string of thought) to knot is to be confined in a box and shaken. (This could have been easily observed in the ancient world.)

The archetypal and/or ultimate box is the dimensionality of the space we find ourselves in, namely 3-D. It is activated by repeated shaking.

"Repeated shaking" is one way of describing the beat-beat-beat of the Shefa Tal, the negentropic gradient that fuels our ability to make volitional choices.

From the Science Daily article:

...research initiated by [Dorian Raymer] an undergraduate student at the University of California, San Diego has resulted in the first model of how knots form. [The senior researcher on this study was UCSD Asst. Prof. of Physics Douglas Smith.]

The study investigated the likelihood of knot formation and the types of knots formed in a tumbled string. The researchers say they were interested in the problem because it has many applications, including to the biophysics research questions their group usually studies.

... The experimental set up consisted of a plastic box that was spun by a computer-controlled motor. A piece of string was dropped into the box and tumbled around like clothes in a dryer. Knots formed very quickly, within 10 seconds. The researchers repeated the experiment more than 3,000 times varying the length and stiffness of string, box size and speed of rotation. They classified the resulting knots.

...Rather than getting just a few types of knots, Smith and Raymer got all the types that mathematicians had enumerated, at least up to a certain complexity level. The longer the string, the greater was the probability of getting complex knots.

Based on these observations, the researchers proposed a simplified model for knot formation. The string forms concentric coils, like a looped garden hose, due to its stiffness and the confinement of the box. The free end of the string weaves through the coils, with a 50 percent probability of going
under or over any coil. A computer simulation based on this model produced a similar pattern of simple and complex knots as observed in their experiments.

![Single knot in a box, taken from Science Daily illustration of computer-generated drawings based on mathematical calculations. (Original Credit: Dorian Raymer, UCSD)](image)

Smith and Raymer said that the model can also explain why confining a stiff string in a smaller box decreases the probability of knot formation. Increased confinement reduces the tumbling motion that facilitates the weaving of the string end through the coils...

If this is how knots can spontaneously form, then the question becomes, how can they be un-knotted? The obvious starting place would be to remove the walls of the 3-D box. When we make knots out of (quasi-)1-dimensional lines or threads, they stay knotted in 3-D. But when we move to a 4-dimensional arena, all of our knots (all knotted strings) pull through each other via the extra dimension.

In fact, it’s not possible to form knotted strings in 4-D (or higher). (It is possible to knot ribbon-surfaces in 4-D; it would take moving to 5-D to universally un-knot ribbons knotted in 4-D.)

We have two hands, and we also have two eyes, two ears, and two nostrils. Yet we make (when we’re well) only one conscious choice at a time. The presence of left-right pairs is an indication that choices are a single whole in the next dimension up. A left-right pair of cubes forms one hypercube.

So the fact that we have pairs of hands and pairs of our sense organs, points to the likelihood that our consciousness is unified and operates in a 4-D arena.

When we put all of this together, we’re led to speculate that healing occurs when the individual ego becomes small, and when the consciousness of the individual is raised up (by being carried by the emergent qualities of an assembly of individuals) into a fully 4-dimensional arena, where it is possible for knots in consciousness to simply dissolve. (Flocking and schooling studies tell us that the minimum effective assembly is ten.)

That is, when we make our ego-selves humble, and thus our ego-consciousness is very small in 3-D, we can "slip" into 4-D (where 3-D is naturally infinitesimal) and again, spontaneous healing can take place. Dissolving our 3-D ego-box dissolves the knots in our 3-D body-based consciousness.

It may be that "healing" is "whole-ing" in 4-D, and to carry the metaphor even further, 4-D may be the realm of the "holy" -- at least in some sense. [The effective minimum of ten may be the reason that a traditional minyan requires ten.]

What the assembly does, and what our humility does, is move our consciousness to a place where we can heal and become whole. But without guidance, we would easily slip back into our old ego-consciousness, or possibly even into a more confused state. This is why it’s necessary to be part of an assembly, where
our behavior is lifted up by the sum total of the examples set by the other members of the school we are now newly entangled with.

Sometimes, a truly humble individual can empathize sufficiently with another so as to help to carry them out of their ego-box and into the 4-D arena. (This is a little like a sky-diving expert carrying a novice on their back.) The humble individual also provides the prototype and guidance for proper healing. The two become one in 4-D, and their knots are dissolved together.

This mechanism might also help to explain spontaneous healing, where a person humbly “falls back on their faith” in the presence of others who are healthy, and thus “falls out of ill health” and into real health.

All of this is still highly speculative. There’s a lot more vetting to do, and a lot more explanation required to make this all plausible.