

WHY THE WHEEL TURNS

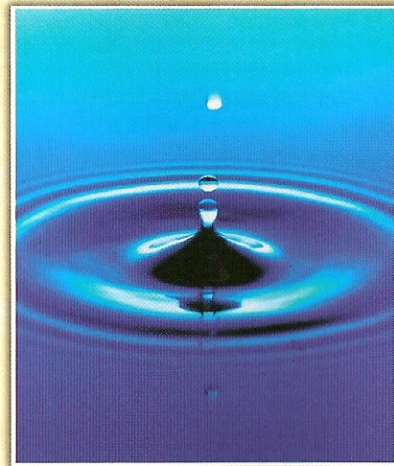
By KAREN L FRENCH

If you throw a stone into the water, it becomes the centre and cause of many circles.

Leonardo da Vinci

Have you ever wondered why we talk about groups of people in a circular context, such as work circles, social circles and the family circle?

The simple circle is the first shape; as drawn by children, the earliest etched prehistoric symbol, in the first ideographic systems of writing and the intuitive way humans arrange themselves in a gathering. Meanings for circles revolve around the way it acts a vessel that contains the entire Universe, bounds it and unites everything within it. Circles represent and organise the eternal movement and progress of life in time, without beginning or end. Notice the prevalence of the circle in motion around you. It is the moon, the sun, ripples in a pool, the ever-turning cycle of the seasons, life cycles and the shape and motion of the Wheel.



When the circle is empty it is still, like the surface of calm water. A 1, the dot in the middle, activates the circle and time starts turning. This dot is the moment in time; the centre of the Wheel. Numerous cultures use the Wheel to describe how you go through life-cycles and experiences as part of your physical and spiritual development. Life experiences have an emotional aspect so that you feel their impact on you, otherwise there would be no point to your life experiences. So when you are in your various circles you are participating in events in time. Each person has a role to play, an experience to be had as part of their own individual growth and development, the development of the group and ultimately as part of the overall Universal scheme.

In each moment events are taking place everywhere. It is a bit like a storm of raindrops onto the surface of water with circles radiating out all over the place, so much so that you can't distinguish one drop from another let alone see the circles radiating out.

In this way the small circular dot at the middle becomes blurred with the vast circle of the whole – they become one and the same.

This is how the Oneness of everything works. As everything is happening in the same moment it means that everything you think, say and do affects absolutely everything else instantaneously.

Each of the circles you are part of needs a centre to turn around. When you feel there is no purpose for you within a circle then it has lost its central point and you will probably leave. Being placed at the centre of a circle is an honour as you have been given the central role. Everything pivots around you and everyone is equally accessible to you at the centre. 'Inner-circles' are close allies who will radiate the intent of the centre and in turn provide stable centres to 'outer-circles'. It doesn't take much imagination to appreciate what happens if the inner core is rotten. Ideally the central figure is a beacon, a light that radiates their strength out to the rim. This is why we used to place fires, clan chiefs or wise-ones at the centre of a circle gathering.

Have you also noticed the sort of energy contained by each of your circles? What binds it? How does it make you feel? Intent generates the power of the circle. Some circles are ring-fenced by fear and/or negative intent. This fear can be generated by an individual who sits at the centre drawing on the energy of the people around them. Such circles are often very difficult to leave. Another fear may be your own fear to leave. Maybe you have outgrown the circle, but it is comfortable to be in? In this case it is not the energy holding the circle together, it is an internal fear about leaving.

Circles containing the energy of spiritual values - love, understanding, mutual respect and compassion - provide the ideal environment for your growth and learning. Supportive circles where you feel protected and valued are invaluable when lessons are especially painful in another circle. Such circles are also easy to leave and are usually there to return to if you need them again.

Circles are there for a good reason. They allow the Wheel of time to turn so that you can experience the moment and learn from it. List your circles and think about them and what they mean to you. Why are you part of them? What is your role? What are you leaning? How do others behave? How do you behave? Most importantly, do you behave according to the qualities of being that you want to see radiated out? Without all your circles you could not develop your spiritual quality of being as quality of being cannot be nurtured through isolation.

Here are some simple exercises to feel the dynamics of the circle.

Stand with straight arms at a right angle above your head, as if they are pointing to the corners of a square. Have your legs apart with your feet in the lower corners of the square. Close your eyes and imagine your hands and feet are attached to the rim of a circle. You will feel as if you could 'roll' away.

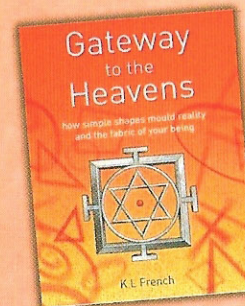
As part of a group, stand in a circle with gaps between each other. Move gradually closer until you are touching, then hold hands. Reverse the process and repeat with your eyes open and closed.

Take it in turns to be in the centre of a circle of people. Try this experience with everyone facing you directing positive thoughts at you, then with everyone turning away and disconnected from you.



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