

VIRTUAL DAMANHUR

Year XXXIV

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2009

JOURNAL

Reflections

Damanhur is undergoing a period of transformation, viewing the crisis that is afflicting many developed nations as an opportunity to bring about positive change.

Although Damanhur and intentional communities in general are suffering less as a result of the economic recession, we believe it is wise to consider the shifts that could also occur in our social, economic, and political structure.

During this time of difficulty, Damanhur is benefiting from the complementary currency system, which is based on real value, such as property and activities, and rooted in ethical principles. Today, complementary currency is demonstrating the significant advantages that it has compared to the virtual economy.

Living together and sharing ideals is one of the most effective solutions to counteract the separation that characterizes today's society, separation within ourselves and amongst one another. A common commitment to our chosen projects, the unity amongst us, and sharing at all levels recreates ancient feelings of brotherhood and solidarity that have diminished in modern times. The break-up of contemporary society is allowing us the opportunity to take our lives into our own hands and to develop a sense of responsibility.

At Damanhur, we are reorienting our priorities and taking action. One of our concerns regards the conscious use of resources. We recognize the importance of conserving as much as possible in all areas, of preventing waste, and of paying ever more attention to self-sufficiency. We intend to continue investing and developing self-sufficient systems so as to depend as little as possible on external sources. As for the world around us, Damanhur needs to radically revolutionize its structures and become quick and nimble, to speed ahead while the system around us is slowing down.

We are investigating the creation of a non-convertible currency system, in addition to the complementary currency. Based on a collective agreement, this new system shall give individuals the possibility of issuing a certain amount of paper value, to exchange services and products with others directly. Each individual can, of course, issue only a certain amount of 'paper value'.

I won't dwell on all the details of this theme that we are discussing in our community meetings. What



seems more interesting to share is that, in applying such a system, we have the opportunity to discover and know all the professions, abilities and passions that Damanhurians have acquired during their lives. This wealth of experience, knowledge, skills and services, combined with sustainable resources, circulating in a community united by common ideals, all this is a true measure of richness that shall become ever more relevant in this time of dynamic change and reorientation.

As all living beings are connected to one another, we should face the current situation with respect for nature and value for human diversity. Otherwise, we and our living ecosystem cannot survive.

**10/01/2009 - VAL RA & WELCOME CENTER
INAUGURATE NEW OFFICES**

Val Ra, Damanhur's publishing house, and the new Welcome Center jointly celebrated the opening of their new offices. Seventy people arrived at 7 p.m. to inaugurate the new site with a toast.

A huge banner hung outside on the terrace to welcome guests and a beautiful buffet dinner was served. The first floor houses a small reception area, the welcome offices, and a colorful multi-purpose room where new ideas are expected to be born, and new visits and programmes to emerge.

The second floor has three rooms dedicated to Val Ra, an audiovisual room, a graphic arts studio and a space for creative meetings.

The house is so large that there are still empty rooms to be assigned. The section that once was the vet's office will become a comfortable space for guests to do art, meditation, or just chill out; and the entire ground floor will soon be transformed into a small conference hall.

**19/01/2009 - THE TEMPLES OF HUMANKIND ON
AMAZON**

The "Good Morning America" special about the Temples of Humankind, aired last December, is now available on DVD through Amazon. The web address is:

<http://www.amazon.com/News-Morning-America-Damanhur-Temples/dp/B001E0TWZY>

**22/01/2008 - VEDIC MATHEMATICS AT DAMANHUR
FAMILY SCHOOL**

More than twenty people participated in a Vedic Math course organized by the DFS and taught by Luca Pinter, a passionate advocate of the subject.

Luca introduced the topic by explaining the ancient Vedic method applied to solving calculations at a glance; the observer needs to recognize similar and complementary patterns. The primary activity of awareness in the human brain is this recognition of similar and complementary patterns, learning and extracting meaning from geometry and connections within forms and their surrounding reality.

Learning to recognize repetitive structures in calculations notably increases speed and encourages ambidextrous development, stimulating logic and intuitive processes.

Luca said "When we talk about Vedic mathematics we talk about the one who is going up to the 'Vedas', the sacred texts of Hinduism, a spring of knowledge transmitted orally through the Sutras".

Damanhurian teachers and tutors are busy perfecting the technique and this new subject will soon be included in the Damanhur Family School curriculum.

23/01/2009 - THE RISIKO GAME

Since 1977 a unique version of the traditional Risk game has been played in Damanhur. It is a peculiar version, where the world map is much bigger and the aim is not to defeat your enemies but to simulate past or present activities as realistically as possible.

The rules have been developing since the game began in 1977 so have become quite complex and take many different factors into account. The elements a player needs to consider are: morphological conformation of territories and how they influence the movement of the troops, technological development of the people, their natural resources to produce income, weapons at their disposal, diverse governmental systems, demographic growth, food production, philosophical and moral systems, mafia and corruption, environmental pollution, inventions, world economic systems, bank loans, etc.

The Damanhurian Game of Risiko, with all its elements, allows players to understand that each action undertaken, even if it seems apparently insignificant, has an impact and can transform life up close and at a distance. But above all, for Damanhurians, playing Risiko is really entertaining!

**04/02/2009 - DFS FUNDS SECOND SCHOOL IN
NICARAGUA**

The Damanhur Family School is an affiliate of the



Foundation del Rio, an association that raises funds to build useful structures in Nicaragua. A few years ago the DFS helped raise funds to purchase land in the rainforest and subsequently to build an elementary school on the land.

The DFS is now assisting the foundation to raise money for a second school on Maccarroncito Island, a nursery for young children. Damanhurian and Nicaraguan children are selling hand made earrings, made from recycled and sustainable materials, to help collect the money needed to construct the new building. The Artisan Centre producing the earrings is located in San Carlos, the capital of San Juan, Nicaragua. The Centre offers vocational training in local handicrafts, sustainable tourism and nature guides.

16/02/2009 - JPIAL BECOMES A CHIANTI!

Jpial is a red wine made by the Damanhurian Community Centre in Florence. The community has been working hard to create a superior red wine made exclusively from San Giovese vineyards, using biodynamic growing techniques and produce 'Chianti'.



They are happy to report that beginning with the 2008 vintage the wine will be denominated, 'Chianti'. They invite everyone to have a taste; it will surprise and

delight your taste buds!

17/02/2009 - MONETARY SOVEREIGNTY

Amerigo Festa, president of the United Beings Project, a member of the Conacreis Network, is one of the Italian experts on 'monetary sovereignty'. Mr. Festa visited and explained how currencies work, the cracked banking system, and the 'signoraggio', the bank's share from the difference between interest on loans and earnings on deposit accounts. 'Monetary Sovereignty' reveals who is holding the money. Since 1971 Italian currency is no longer backed by gold, therefore money is merely a virtual commodity driven only by profit and the laws that govern it. Banks accrue profit from interest on all the currency that passes through their hands.

Complementary currencies are one real answer to this problem because the money has real value supported by property.

Damanhur's complementary monetary system, the 'Credit', has been used for almost twenty years. It was developed to form a new kind of economy based on ethical values of co-operation and solidarity.

High ideal is to return money to its original intent as a means to facilitate an agreed upon exchange between the parties. This is why it is called 'Credit'; to remind us that money is only a tool through which one gives, in fact, 'credit', that is to say, trust.



23/02/2009 - AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY FAITHS

'Around the World in Eighty Faiths', a BBC television program, aired a show about Damanhur that was filmed a year ago. Pete Owen Jones, a Vicar of the English Church, took one year to travel around the world visiting and learning about many different faith cultures still intact on our planet.

"In the final episode, Pete, completes his journey by travelling across his home continent. He finds also a stunning underground New Age Temples in Italy, the Temples of Humankind".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/80faiths/locations/europe.shtml>



Dear Friends, we shall be very pleased to welcome you to Damanhur!

Damanhur is a living laboratory, and it is a pleasure for us to share the results of our 35 years of experience in spirituality, art, research and community living.

The presence of plentiful visitors every year is always a precious opportunity for mutual exchange and spiritual enrichment, building a new future for humankind together.

Damanhur is situated at a very active energy point on the planet, as four Synchronic Lines come together in the valley of Valchiusella. The Synchronic Lines conduct cosmic energy around our planet and connect it to the universe, transporting thoughts, dreams and ideas. Staying on the territories of Damanhur, dreaming and meditating here, offers a reservoir for inner transformation, amplifying the direction of the path that each person desires to follow.

The Temples of Humankind, a treasure of art and knowledge, have been built in the heart of this energy node, which can be contacted for individual and spiritual growth.

The communities of the Federation and the Temples of Humankind are open to visitors and friends for short periods and long stays of study, vacation, wellbeing, art and work-exchange.

It is possible to visit Damanhur throughout the year, by prior booking.

Our Welcome Center will be happy to assist you in choosing the right program, activity or course to meet your needs and make the most of your stay.

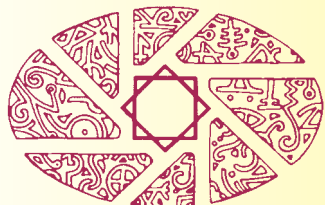
At the Solstices and Equinoxes, as people and civilizations of our planet have done for thousands of years, Damanhurians celebrate special moments of communion with nature. The Day of the Dead is celebrated at the beginning of November and the Rite of the Oracle takes place every month at the full moon. These seasonal events are open to all by prior arrangement, and you can participate in moments of preparation to tune into the significance of the celebrations.

In addition to the courses scheduled by our University, we have art programs throughout the year, as well as courses on renewable energy, all of which are based on the direct experience and research of our citizens.

During the Summer, there are work programs for adults and in August, the Summer Games for children.

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Olami Damanhur University



COURSES

CALENDAR

MARCH

AUGUST

2009

MARCH

- 1 - 2nd Galactic Civilizations and Atlantis (Ita/Spa)
- 7 - 8th Astral Travel 2nd level (Ita/Engl)
- 20 - 21st Re-awakening the Inner Senses (Ita/Engl)
- 21 - 22nd Contacting the Cosmos (in the Temples)
- 28 - 29th Past Life research, 5th level (Ita)

APRIL

- 4 - 5th Transformation of Memories (Ita/Engl)
- 6 - 7th Past Life research (enrolment open until March 5th) (Engl)
- 8 - 9th Re-awakening the Inner Senses (Ita/Engl)
- 10 - 11th Development of paranormal faculties (Ita/Engl)
- 12 - 13th Contact with the Green World (Ita/Engl)
- 14 - 15th Galactic Civilizations and Atlantis (Ita/Engl)
- 16 - 17th Galactic Civilizations and Atlantis, 2nd level, (Ita/Engl)
- 22 - 24th Spring Festival
- 25 - 26th Contacting the Cosmos in the Temples
- 24 - 25th The Dream Path (Ita/Spa)
- 26 - 27th Past Life research (Spa)

MAY

- 2 - 3rd Contact with the Green World (Ita/Engl)
- 10 - 11th Recognize & Interpret your Inner Answers (Ita/Engl)
- 12 - 13th Contact with the Green World (Ita/Engl)
- 14 - 15th Esoteric & Spiritual Physics, 2nd level (Ita/Engl)
- 30 - 31st Past Life research (enrolment open until April 30th) (Ita)

JUNE

- 6 - 7TH Recognize & Interpret your Inner Answers (Ita/Engl)
- 18 - 20TH Re-awakening the Inner Senses (Ita/Engl)
- 20 - 21ST Contacting the Cosmos in the Temples
- 27 - 7/11th School for Spiritual Healers (Engl)

AUGUST

- 19 - 20- 21st Summer Festival (Ita/Engl)

Information and booking:
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