

# VIRTUAL DAMANHUR

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## Reflections

Every year Damanhur has the pleasure of welcoming thousands of guests from all over the world and sharing with them visions and dreams, and their practical applications for a new future. In order to better meet their needs, we are now experimenting with a new organization of our welcome center, and we hope that all of you that will come here will benefit from it.

Thanks to this, besides the "classic" programs and courses on our philosophy we can now offer new options to our guests: custom made stays and itineraries in the nearby region, business retreats, experiential stays, and a taste of the "flavour of Damanhur" on different subjects such as art, creativity, well-being, community living, renewable energies and sustainable building.

The Temples of Humankind also offer new opportunities to be explored. The Temples represent our heart, our spiritual center and are an extraordinary work of sacred art. Every Hall can be used to meditate, compose, research, write, sing, dance, prepare for giving birth, or to leave this life... For couples who want to celebrate their union in this extraordinary space, it is possible to choose one of the Temple's Halls to get married... Spiritual groups that want to use the Temples for their initiations and their practices are also very welcome.

In Damanhur we believe that working with our hands is a form of prayer. Working together is therefore a very important element in our spirituality, as it is a way to meditate in action, and building or decorating the Temples is a great opportunity to feel and share with others the blissful energies present there. That's why

we now offer our guests new occasions to work with us, as we do traditionally on New Year's Eve. Throughout the Summer, starting on July 3rd, we will organize a series of 'Midnight Action' programs. In this way, our friends can contribute personally and practically to this magnificent underground building dedicated to Humanity, and then enjoy a concert of Damanhurian traditional songs.

In August, in conjunction with Damanhur's school we offer Summer Games for children from the age of six to the age of thirteen years old. The games are an enriching experience that attract kids from different countries. The children are divided into multi age teams and together they playing games, create fabulous arts and crafts, develop friendship and learning about themselves and the world in a very playful way.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Damanhur this summer!

*Love and Light from Goura Loto*



**03/03/2009 - CONFERENCES ON DAMANHUR IN BRAZIL**

Damanhur was presented in two conferences held in Brazil. The organizers: Victor Leon Ades and Rosana Gelerneter Ades, who are from UMAPAZ, the Open University for the Environment and a Culture of Peace in San Paolo, Brazil. The conferences focused on the themes, "The Federation of Damanhur," and "Damanhur and the Temples of Humankind." During these occasions, the DVD on Damanhur was shown with Portuguese subtitles.

Victor Leon Ades and his companion Rosana came to visit Damanhur last year and have remained in contact with Esperide Ananas. Victor Leon Ades was the speaker for the conferences. He is a chemical engineer with a specialization in business administration. Ades is an entrepreneur and activist, and he serves as a member of Gaia Education, Peace Globalnet, and he also serves as a Counsellor of PAZ - Parliament Council for a Culture of Peace in the state legislative assembly of San Paulo. Rosana Gelerneter Ades is a therapist who is occupied with researching eco-villages. She travels with Victor to get to know the communities within Brazil, as well as international ones, with the intention of sharing the experiences of different localities. They illustrated the Federation community organisation, the social, economic and educational activities, as well as the ecological and spiritual principles. In the second conference, they presented the construction of the Temples and their significance, the halls dedicated to different elements, and the artistic techniques that have been utilized to construct the temples, focusing on their beauty and significance in this masterpiece of humanity's creative and artistic expression.

**06/03/2009 - NON-CONVERTIBLE VALUE**

Yesterday evening in the literary café, during the time normally reserved for political discussion,

the "Pensatoio" (Think Tank) took place. During this meeting, Damanhurians discussed the launching of a second complementary currency system, one that is not convertible to Euros. Next Tuesday, a group of 7 people will meet in order to create specific proposals about the new currency.

**06/03/2009 - V.C.N.C., THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS**

While searching the Internet about non-convertible complementary currency, the Damanhurian group working on the issue found an interesting experiment that began in Japan many years ago. In Yamato City near Tokyo, citizens invented the "Rabu," which means "Love" in Japanese. With this money, goods and services can be exchanged, and its purpose is to help start a new economy and to reinforce social relations. The aim of this project was to recreate a "body" for money, which has been lost with the use of checks, credit cards, and other things of this nature. Most of all, the Japanese using "Love" would like it create and strengthen social connections, which have been weakened by modern alienation. Japan has many other similar experiments with currencies that are called the strangest of names. Nowadays, "Love," has become a microchip that is controlled with small machines. This currency is used to sustain local economies, rather than spending Yen in supermarkets that belong to multinationals, sending wealth out of the country. This "little game" is currently played by 90,000 people.

**07/03/2009 - ANTI-FREEDOM GOVERNMENT BILL**

The Federation of Damanhur has received various requests to support political petitions. They received two petition requests against government plans and decrees aimed at limiting the freedom of citizens. Damanhurians are taking this as an opportunity to confront these issues, to evaluate the necessity of taking a collective stance on political and social concerns in Italy.

They are also evaluating whether or not to officially disseminate the information to friends and the people we know to ask for their support, or to include links to these campaigns on our website.

The first petition concerns a government bill related to the biological testament which will make it completely inefficient, impeding one's freedom of choice concerning certain therapies (hydration and artificial feeding), without taking into consideration palliative cures, assistance to debilitated persons.

The other bill could involve the censorship of many websites such as Facebook, YouTube, MySpace and any other website, forum or blog, for the offence of "incitement to delinquency". We have been informed that the legislative measure is already in the Chamber of Deputies for a definitive approval. The nature of the Internet makes it technically impossible to limit censorship to a certain content, so the consequence would be censoring the entire website, which goes against freedom of expression and opinion on the Internet.

#### **20/03/2009 - SPONTANEOUS HERBS AND SELF SUFFICIENCY**

Food self sufficiency has been an important goal of the Federation for many years. Herbalist Naiade is now studying the specific possibilities of every Nucleo Community to grow spontaneous herbs for



cooking, and to be used as medicinal plants.

#### **23/03/2009 - THE SPRING CELEBRATION**

In conjunction with the Spring Equinox, the region of Damjil organized a Spring Celebration. They decorated the central area of the Federation, Damjil, with coloured fabrics flying in the wind on the columns of the Open Temple. A lively atmosphere pervaded the territory, cheerful songs were played, many stands were displaying community's hand made objects and products, many wore Damanhurian-style make up... it was a joyful and sunny day!

All the nucleo communities of Damanhur were present with their specialties. The community of



Eco presented their home-made wine and exchanged their nuts with other products. The Porta del Sole community presented shirts and useful objects with the logo of the Temples of Humankind, Ogni Dove offered their traditional cookies and breads, Dendera, their home made vinegar and jams, while Magilla presented the project of the electronic lab set up by one of the new Damanhurian citizen. The Tree Village family played the music of the plants and shared their chestnut-based products, and Tesan sold food in order to raise funds for the future structure of the Literary Cafè. Casa del Lago displayed all the beautiful wild plants they are reintroducing in our territory. Two hundred guests participated in the event.

#### **24/03/2009 - A NEW GROUP OF DAMANHURIAN CITIZENS**

The most recent two groups of new Damanhurians have decided to live together and create a new nucleo family focusing on self sufficiency, integrated with innovative technology. It is a truly international group, with people coming from France, Spain, Germany, the United States, Italy and Slovenia. They are planning to increase food producing capacity also by re-utilizing and re-cycling anything that could turn out to be useful.

#### **06/04/09 - DAMANHURIAN FAMILY SCHOOL**

The School of Damanhur is convinced that learning is most effective while travelling. One of the frequent field trips took the thirteen-year-old kids of Damanhur to Modena. During the trip, Damanhurian students spent a day in a center for disabled children. "What does it mean to live with a handicap, and what other abilities are developed thanks to the apparent disability?" are some of the questions raised during this experience that confronted the teenagers with a completely different reality.

#### **06/04/2009 - DAMANHUR WELCOMES TWO POLITICAL REFUGEES FROM DARFUR**

Some time ago the Federation of Damanhur was contacted by the "Mary Poppins" cooperative, engaged in social services in relation to elders, immigrants and political refugees. They proposed us to give hospitality to political refugees coming from Darfur, as part of an integration program under the organization of the Region Piedmont. The nucleo community of Prima Stalla has gladly offered to welcome them for six months.

#### **08/04/2009 - VIDRACCO: INVESTING IN A NEW TECHNOLOGICAL PROJECT**

Vidracco, the village administered by Damanhurians, is investing in an innovative technology to transform biomass into bio fuel, that could become a flagship project for Italy also. The power station will occupy five hundred square meters, and the project will include the construction of a photovoltaic power station, an indoor swimming pool and a playground. The project will make Vidracco an energy self



sufficient village.

#### **13/04/09 - DAMANHURIAN SCULPTURER**

Damanhurian sculpturer Cobra has been commissioned by the administration of Vidracco to apply his art to a very urban subject: tags of street names and house numbers handmade in clay. All tags will include the logo of the town of Vidracco, the 46 street names and the flag of the European Union. The valorization of craftsmanship and old trades is a shared goal amongst Damanhurian politicians - why not make it literally visible at every corner?

#### **18/04/2009 - A NEW DAMANHURIAN BOARD GAME**

In collaboration with Capra Carruba, Elefantina and Coyote, Damanhur's Pathway of the Word has created a new board game. A few days ago, the group experimented with playing the game for the first time. The board has a colorful double square with the infinity symbol in the center, an image that resembles the flag of Damanhur.

Playing the game involves selecting a card and answering a question, with themes such as Spiritual Physics, the Temples of Humankind, and the History of Damanhur.

Each player throws a die and moves a placeholder forward or backward, depending on if the answer is correct, like in the game Snakes and Ladders.

The questions are still being improved, although the group enjoyed playing the game very much!

### **21/04/2009 - DAMANHUR AT THE MEETING OF THE ITALIAN ECOVILLAGES NETWORK**

Macaco Tamerice travelled to Tuscany as a representative of Damanhur for the Italian Ecovillages Network (Ri.Ve). The purpose of this meeting was to organize an assembly that shall be held this summer at the Elves Community in the Italian Apennines. At this assembly, the participating communities will simultaneously hold workshops about specific themes that characterize their ecovillages.

For more than a year, Conacreis and its associates have been advocating a law to officially recognize intentional communities. This law has gained the attention of the Radical Political Party and the director of a well-known ecological magazine.

### **23/04/2009 - DANISH STUDENTS VISIT DAMANHUR**

A group of nine high school students and two teachers from a Steiner School in Silkeborg, Denmark came to visit Damanhur. The director of the school, Jes, suggested to the teachers Niles and Tina that they bring their class to Damanhur to show them a different kind of society.



The visitors were impressed by our alternative social models, and they noticed many similarities between the Damanhurian and Steiner philosophies. The students and teachers appreciated the commitment of our community members and the spiritual dimension that they sensed here.

The Danish visitors attended an art workshop with Cobra and Opossum, two Damanhurian artists, and they learned how to produce herbal cleaning products.

During a visit to the teenagers' nucleo family, the Danish students and Damanhurian teenagers shared their experiences with each other.

### **26/04/2009 - ENHANCING CONNECTIONS!**

The town of Vidracco organized the annual "Art and Peace" cultural event, which involves many local artists. Alfredo and Amy from the Bagnaia Intentional Community lead an event on Popular and Ethnic Traditional Dances at Damanhur



Crea that pleased many people.

For several years, Alfredo and Amy have been living at Bagnaia, a community of 21 people based on ecological ideals and principles. Bagnaia has joined the WWOOF Association (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms), and thanks to the work exchange program, many visitors have helped to work on the organic farm while experiencing the community. Bagnaia currently serves as the head office of the

Italian Ecovillages Network (Ri.Ve) and is also a member of the Global Ecovillages Network (GEN).

The goals of Bagnaia are basically civic in nature; the community members share progressive political ideals without belonging to a specific party. Their main activities are organic farming, renewable energy, food self-sufficiency, and preservation of traditional music, dance and singing.



## COURSES CALENDAR

MAY AUGUST 2009

### 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)

ENROLMENT  
OPEN

Information and booking:  
OLAMI DAMANHUR UNIVERSITY  
seminars@damanhur.it, dhcorsi@damanhur.it  
+39 0124512236 / 05