the enchiridion of the

Temple of Veracious Pacific Enlightenment™

(ToVPE)

"offering a deeper, broader perspective; facilitating a more beneficent, meaningful existence"

the tangible manifestation of
Omniascendence™

founded 2016

Note: the recurrent mention of specific concepts and character traits is deliberate in order to emphasize the importance of them.

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so the reader can make notes.

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the Temple of Veracious Pacific Enlightenment[tm] (ToVPE)

"offering a deeper, broader perspective; facilitating a more beneficent, meaningful existence"

Preamble:

We live aspiring to Honesty, Rationality, Caring and Peace and we seek Enlightenment. Many will think our name and idealism, even though pragmatic, are too esoteric, illusory, unrealistic or frivolous for consideration. So be it. We seek to ally ourselves with those who share and endorse our values and will further our principles. We are steadfast, but not zealots. Thus, we offer our precepts, ideas and works to others for consideration. But, we never attempt to compel anyone to accept them. We shun and condemn irrationality, selfishness, deceit, violence and superficial pop-culture idioms. Our assertions are based on decades of thorough, documented observation, objective analysis, and ongoing review. (and we do try to have a sense of humor, when appropriate)

A Primary Assertion:

We respect those who work to live a life that is reasoned, ethical, honest and enlightened. Yet, intrinsically, as human beings, **all of us** have flaws and suffer delusions and limitations in our thinking and actions. Two basic ways to deal with that (If you so choose, though, many ignore it).

1) Engage in superstition, rumor, and selfishness (flawed human characteristics, like capitalism, religion, politics and violence).
2) Or, as we prefer: use logic, reason and caring to work toward ever greater, clearer understanding, while endeavoring to correct our flaws, remediating any delusions and being a beneficial force in the world.

Definition -

Our Temple is a substantial esoteric community, encompassing and exploring the academic unified domains of theoretical technical and sociological, intellectual, rational and physical study with resultant realistic, tangible application and community benefit. We are idealistic yet practical. We value and engage in creativity and artistry as well as responsibly considered, efficient technical development.

The elements of the **T**emple **o**f **V**eracious **P**acific **E**nlightenment are:

> a **Temple** which we consider to be both a component of the human head and a venerated place; physical or virtual; a cooperative academy and scholarly institution; participating in, sharing, implementing and disseminating the results of research and objective analytical thinking to improve life. We are a temple of immutable faith, exclusively in, and dedicated to, our *Omniascendent Principle* (pg. 11).

> **Veracious** means always seeking and speaking the honest truth to the best of our fallible ability

> **Pacific** means peaceful; eschewing both physical and psychological violence and predation

> **Enlightenment** is seeking to gain knowledge, being rational and utilizing intelligence and objective, analytical thinking to become more sophisticated in our grasp of, and application of, concepts so we may discover new insights, always in a beneficial way. And thereby, we achieve greater Wisdom.

We live by the *Omniascendent Principle* (pg. 11) and its unsurpassed, caring, rational, honest, secular morality and ethics. Honesty is our highest priority. We define it as logic with love in a balance sublime; as elucidated in our book "*Omniascendence*". We are not forceful. We don't demand that others embrace our principles, which exceed those of secular humanism. Though curious about some possible reasoned, rational psyche, we reject supernatural superstition and beliefs. We respect the acts of religious people when they are moral, honest, rational and caring, and we accept proven, historical facts even when related to religious events. But, we reject deities as irrational fantasy and imaginary manmade contrivances. And, we despise all the hateful and/or dishonest elements of religion.

We are steadfast in our sociological, ethical and political convictions which are very positive, multifaceted and progressive. We are emphatically not capitalists, militants, zealots, anarchists or strictly socialists. We know governance is essential. Yet, to be legitimate, it must be honest, ethical and responsible to the populace. We are unyieldingly compelled to obey our highest principles as established in our documents. So, whenever there is any conflict with other ordinances or authorities, we shall treat them as subordinate to our principles. We respect many positive socialist concepts. But, we are aligned with no political party. We reject and disavow any oath or allegiance to, compliance with, or support of any embodiment of human folly, such as capitalism, supernatural manmade religion, selfish, destructive ideologies, governance or other entity which is contrary to our principles. We stipulate that reasoned, fact based health and well-being of people are inviolable rights. We reject all contradictory edicts of government or other entities. We understand the rights of people, yet, we stipulate that any right or freedom claimed requires commensurate respect for and responsibility toward the principled rights and freedoms of others.

We seek better questions and answers; but, always in a context of rational, analytical thinking leading to beneficial societal results.

Purpose -

The ToVPE is dedicated to learning and to furthering our principles and is the tangible manifestation and a focused refinement of the *Omniascendent Principle* (pg. 11). Thus, we are **devoted to a life system of Thinking, Communicating and Acting in a Peaceful, Honest, Creative, Idealistic yet Rational Ethos toward a more positive, meaningful and hopeful world.** We desire to share our system of ethics, creations and innovations with others who are of a like mind, or who wish to develop in accordance with our ethical secular life system.

Background -

We respect and love the planet; but decry the failings of human society. We work to avoid the chronic failures of society by behaving in accordance with the *Omniascendent Principle* (pg. 11), developed by our eparch, Don W. Its 4 L's: Logic, Love, Learning, Laughing, are part of the basis for what we hope to be the most overall beneficial and enlightened way to live that we can devise. We do not isolate ourselves from society; though there are times we wish we could. But, we participate and contribute only in such ways and to such an extent as we deem is safe and beneficial for us as well as others and society in general as well as the physical world in which we live.

Founding -

In the year 2016 c.e., in order to establish the Omniascendent Principle (presented in the book *Omniascendence*) as substantive and tangible, I, Don Windmiller, with the encouragement, help and cooperation of trusted, honest disciples, conceived of and actualized the Temple of Veracious Pacific Enlightenment, which is designed to be, and is, perpetually active and developing. My peers named me eparch. But, I am not indispensable. I seek others to assist and share in guiding the ToVPE in the present and for the future.

Location -

Our temples can be wherever someone affirms and honors all of our Principles. This might be a permanent physical location or edifice, or just a place decreed to be a ToVPE, either temporary or permanent, by the eparch or anyone ordained a disciple of ToVPE. ToVPE temples are inviolable refuges of honesty and peace. We are a vibrant, growing international organization with disciples in many countries.

Classifications of Affiliation -

We invite all who sincerely desire to learn of and honor our principles to become affiliated with us. Note: we reject bigotry and bias based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender or any other extraneous, arbitrary factors. Science has proven conclusively that: there are more than two biological sexes, gender is a personal matter and no race or ethnicity is inherently superior to another. Thus, we are not concerned with those categorizations. Quality of character and rationality are the primary, valid factors in deciding who we respect and who to accept into our organization. Many people already live in accordance with our principles and we applaud them.

Our leader is the '**eparch**' (from the term for an enlightened governor of an eparchy or region in ancient Greece). Anyone who professes and pledges to immutably dedicate themselves to honoring all of our principles, above any others, can be ordained a **Disciple** by our eparch or Guidance Council. Those interested, but of lesser commitment, can be named **Adherents** by our eparch or Guidance Council. And, anyone interested in any affiliation, contact us by E-mail at tovpe2@omnigma.org for more information.

Guidance Council of the ToVPE

The Guidance Council shall consist of not more than five disciple members chosen by preferential (ranked favorites) voting of the existing disciples and the eparch. Nominations are accepted from any disciple, Council member or the eparch. A meeting shall be held and each nominee makes a one minute presentation of why they should be elected to the Guidance Council. Their assertions shall be verified as true, honest and pertinent by the existing Council and eparch.

The term of those elected shall be three years and any Council member may be elected to serve for up to five terms (consecutive or non-consecutive). Removal of any Council member shall be only by unanimous vote of all the other Council members and the eparch.

All eparchs, subsequent to the founder, shall be established only by nomination and affirmative unanimous vote of all the Council members. Removal shall be only for just cause, such as breach of the principles and by unanimous vote of all the Council members.

Changes to the Enchiridion or principles should not be required. But, can only occur after they are verified as objective, honest, valid, necessary and only by unanimous vote of all the Council members and the eparch.

Expulsion of a disciple or adherent shall occur after they are proven to have been dishonest and/or violated the principles or Enchiridion and be by unanimous vote of all the Council members and the eparch.

Application of our System of Ethics and Precepts -

Always be suspicious of labels, titles and their implied reputations. They often have misleading connotations. Often, good or bad reputations are attributed to people and groups arbitrarily by proponents or opponents with little or no proof or validity. Polls and debates are often deceptive, lack discipline, involve exaggeration and ad hominem attacks and therefore are rarely credible.

We avoid categorizations such as socialist, communist, liberal, progressive, conservative, politically left or right, etc. as meaninglessly vague, prejudicial and often (mis)used pejoratively. We are skeptical when people glamorize others as heroes and cheerleader types who rarely live up to that reputation.

We assert that loyalty, trust and respect must be earned; and are reserved only for those persons and organizations who demonstrate unvarying honest, caring, rational thoughts and actions.

We maintain a high level of awareness of our environment. We honor and care for the earth and respect that it can be dangerous, too.

We firmly reject any human authority which contradicts our principles. And, we work to implement our principles in everyday life.

Official Supplication and Invocation -

May the multitude of warm, nurturing, life sustaining aspects of this heliosphere for which we are thankful and value and work to protect; grant us the physical ability and mental acuity to commit to being consistently: honest, rational, caring, thoughtful and productive and possessing a sense of propriety and of humor.

Ceremonies --

The ceremonies we celebrate are significant, very tangible and naturally rational. We work to prevent our ceremonies from becoming meaningless rituals. We avoid celebrating the imaginary such as deities and superstitious or supernatural entities created by religious artifice.

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Ceremony of Dedication to a Unique Undivided Life-Sharing Relationship *Such a formalized commitment may be between **any** two single people if it is based on love. -*

Gentle people, we are congregated here to witness and approve a ceremony that is both solemn and joyous.

It is the occasion memorializing and consecrating a dedication to a unique, honest, undivided life sharing relationship that exists exclusively between these two currently single people NAME and NAME *(continued on next page)*

They are professing that their love for each other is unique, exclusively between them, unending and unconditional.

Yet, in a more open and giving form, it extends beyond; to a love of all of the heliosphere in which we live Profession *and affirmations (repeated by each of the two):*

I, NAME, do hereby immutably commit to dedicating my life to a unique, undivided, sharing and caring relationship with OTHER NAME.

This dedication is unconditional. It shall persist through times of joy and sorrow, times of plenty and of limited resources, times of health and of illness; for as long as we live.

As Ordained Eparch (or Ordained Disciple) of the Temple of Veracious Pacific Enlightenment, I now consecrate your formal expression of dedication to each other in an immutable unique, exclusive, unending and unconditional relationship.

Therefore, accepting and approving of their unique loving dedication to each other, let us all, profess our dedication to our Primary Idealistic ***Omniascendent Principle*** (pg. 11)

Let us embrace the concepts that In Love and in Life we shall give more than we take and honor the 4 L's of Honesty: Logic, Love, Learning, Laughing. Let this ceremony be forever recorded, remembered and respected by all. Let us all now go into the world living exemplary lives of honesty, caring and peace.

Memorial Ceremony for a Person we lost whose life was Exemplary

Gentle people, we gather here in both joy and sorrow to communicate and commemorate the life of someone whose life was exemplary by the standards of our Omniascendent Principle.

We honor the life of NAME and will revere our memory of them forever.

MENTION HERE WHAT/WHO THEY WERE AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE THINGS AND PEOPLE THEY LOVED

As Eparch (or Ordained Disciple) of the Temple of Veracious Pacific Enlightenment, I now permanently entrust this record of the memorial of worthy life of NAME to our archives.

Therefore, in perpetual memory of the exemplary life of NAME, let us all, profess our dedication to our Primary Idealistic **Omniascendent Principle** (pg. 11)

Go and live in remembrance of the wonderful life of NAME and in their honor strive to live lives respecting our Principles.

Seasonal Ceremonies (celebrated in groups wherever possible)

We reserve **every Sunday afternoon** to observe silent reflection on our fascinating heliosphere to encourage inspiration to share and to discuss important topics, including improvement of all aspects of our social and physical environment for everyone.

We celebrate the **Vernal Equinox** each March 20th: the advent of spring when the day and night of equal length give way to lengthening and warmer days, signifying resurgence of life and the coming budding of spring. We celebrate it with a period of thoughtful silence, reciting together our **Official Invocation**, planting appropriate seeds and crops and, at each location, a shared drink of apple cider, wine or beverage of your choice and hearty, simple, bread.

Each June 21st we celebrate the **Summer Solstice.** The ontogenesis of crops. We celebrate it with a period of thoughtful silence, reciting together our **Official Invocation** and we wish all people of honesty and decency a peaceful, healthy renewing midyear with a shared drink of apple cider, wine or beverage of your choice. And may the life giving rays of the sun invigorate your creativity and productivity toward positive, constructive works for the betterment of our world. May the results of those works instill an abiding satisfaction and tranquility in your psyche.

Each September 22nd we celebrate the **Autumnal Equinox** when the days and nights are again of equal length. The decreasing daylight is a sign of a time to prepare for winter, to harvest crops. We celebrate it with a period of thoughtful silence, reciting together our **Official Invocation** (pg. 5) and we take time to remember those we have lost and how this world benefited from their life. We give thanks to the harvested crops that will continue to sustain us by sharing warm, hearty, simple bread and a warm drink of your choice.

On each December 21st we celebrate the enduring life of the evergreens with a period of thoughtful silence, reciting together our **Official Invocation** and wish all people of honesty and decency a peaceful **Winter Solstice.** And may those always green, living and sheltering outstretched boughs of the Tannenbäume instill an abiding tranquility in us so we, too, will prevail against the dark and cold to carry through the end of the year and on into a healthy, prosperous new year. So, we share warm, hearty, simple bread and warm drink of apple cider, wine or a beverage of your choice.

Habitat Design - We stipulate that a safe abode is everyone's right. As responsible stewards of the earth, among the concepts we consider important is our impact on and successful survival in the world around us. **We are modest of means and work to be reasonable and responsible in our needs**. There are so many destructive, excessive and wasteful uses of natural resources. And, overpopulation can pose a problem. We respond to that by working to find and implement ways of using resources responsibly. Permanence, efficiency and durability are important factors in any design. There are already many elements of efficient, responsible building design extant and we have documentation on them, as well as details of the elements of our own designs. To date implementation of our comprehensive habitat design has been thwarted by many external factors. We will address the following topics: provision for Governance, Health and Emergency services, Communication, Structure, Water, Energy, Food, as well as Resources to produce, maintain and repair any structures and electromechanical systems and devices. We also address societal concerns including education, the arts, cooperative work, transportation, responsible zoning and building standards, food production, safety, adequate living space, isolation of sources of pollution, etc. Maximizing safety and reliability and minimizing resources used for construction and maintenance are critical design considerations for any system or community.

While there is some biased criticism of exotic or non-renewable materials use in the manufacture of many of the technologies mentioned herein, these materials are only a minor one time use, whereas fossil fuels, petroleum pipelines and nuclear energy are extremely dangerous and pollute horribly for the entire time they are in use and often for many years after. In situ Photovoltaic and Wind generated energy, stored usually in batteries (for when needed) is now proven to be the least expensive, safest, most reliable and practical energy system extant. Long distance grids waste ~10% of electricity generated and often fail in extreme weather and fires. And, if manufacturers of habitat technology would shift to simpler, longer lasting designs and materials, considerable amounts of raw materials would be saved over the life of the buildings and devices. (As examples, in a floor furnace in a home built in 1942, the only moving part was the gas valve. It was ~80% efficient, quiet, and in 1992, 50 years later, when we sold the home it still worked beautifully and safely. The only part ever repaired or replaced was an external draft diverter. Also, a vintage 1999 Personal Computer that I built from components is still fully functional and in use today.)

There are already buildings, in Northern Europe and the 'earthships' in New Mexico and elsewhere, that require no heating or air-conditioning and use no externally produced energy. And, there are many even more durable ways to accomplish that. A structure's design and materials should be made permanently impervious to wind and other weather factors and located to prevent flooding. Earth sheltered rooms and basements can be made to be undamaged by tornadoes and hurricanes. Buildings, including windows, need to be highly insulated while allowing and controlling fresh air flow and light. Trees must be located far enough away from foundations, walkways, streets, wires, pipes, drain fields, roofs and other structures to avoid causing problems. Lawns and pools are wasteful.

Many buildings using photovoltaic panels generate more electricity than they use and panels often have a life-span of ~20 years. But, robust battery storage lags. Batteries can be optimized and be much more effective than current designs. The problem of rare materials that lithium batteries need can be eliminated practically by using some older battery technologies [Edison cells and deep-discharge AGM (Absorbed Gas Mat) lead-acid which is 95%+ recyclable]. Even many lithium batteries are now over 90% recyclable. And, in many locations wind turbines provide a significant amount of electricity. They are quiet, nonpolluting in use and, contrary to some propaganda, do not cause cancer or kill significant numbers of birds, especially when compared to fossil fuels. Since ~1910 there have been solar powered heat engines that reliably produce 8-10 hp. Electric vehicles are now on the verge of being universally practical. L.E.D. (Light Emitting Diode) lighting dramatically reduces electricity use compared to incandescent and even compact fluorescent lamps.

If heating or air-conditioning is needed, heat pumps are much more energy efficient than electric resistance, gas, oil heating or conventional air-conditioning and can be much more reliable. Running ducting inside the heated area instead of sub-floor or attic increases efficiency by 10%-20%. Collecting all rainwater and using filtered gray water, can minimize or eliminate the use of wells, often practically eliminating outside water use.

Food production using greenhouses, root-irrigation or hydroponics and even cooperative truck gardens (which abide by all specific safety/hygiene/recycling requirements) are quite viable. Also, important practices are: seed saving and reuse, safe means of manure recycling into fertilizer (precluding use of polluting chemical fertilizer or pesticides whenever possible) and safe disposal of dangerous by-products, animal waste, composting, etc.

Do not use contaminated water for food crops. Use non-resource intensive and nitrogen fixing food plants such as sorghum, peas, amaranth, sweet potatoes etc. Sugar beets can be a basis for distilling into alcohol for emergency energy, heat production and sanitizing. Cultivating hemp for fabric and rope makes a lot of sense, as it is a robust plant that uses little fertilizer and water and the fibers are quite durable. Being vegetarian is commendable, preferred, but not essential. Beverage alcohol and marijuana must be used responsibly. Drugs must be proven to be beneficially medicinal. Unapproved, unhealthy, addictive recreational drugs are forbidden. We have yet to see conclusive evidence, study and analysis of the long term effects of Genetically Modified Food, especially artificially grown meat. Therefore we withhold approval of it for now.

Requirement for an Ethical, Equitable, Rational Balance of Power and Wealth Among the Populace, Corporations and other Organizations - In Love and in Life, Give more than you Take

Capitalism always motivates and enables corporate greed; abusing and impoverishing the populace. We condemn that system and work to establish mandates of ethics to nullify the destructive power corporations have over consumers and workers, restoring a healthy balance of wealth and power. We assert that honest private businesses that are responsible in their use of resources and respect the populace are necessary. Fair prices and competition are vital. Though it is now ~350:1, the ratio of full compensation of executives to paid workers should never exceed 20:1 as is found in civilized nations. We condemn corrupt politicians who are bought, and effectively owned and controlled by, corporate money. When the destructive, intolerant, bigoted and superstitious traits of human created religion override honesty and morality they, too, must be nullified.

Due to the inevitable, greed-driven, historical human propensity toward disproportionate acquisition of power and/or wealth, an equitable balance of those forces must be achieved between the general populace and excessively wealthy, powerful individuals, corporations and religious sects that become corrupt. We support, in every peaceful, ethical way, fair elections, honest unions and responsible regulations. We condone necessary, positive, productive, community benefit dissent and activism, including withholding patronage of unethical businesses.

We talk about achieving balance of power, justice or trusted governance. But, mechanisms to permanently, more fully accomplish that are elusive. History clearly shows, the lack of any abiding sense of human honesty always leads to eventual corruption of any system people develop.

We see this even in the unavoidable failure of utopian communities no matter how altruistic they were at their inception. Systems of ‘checks and balances’ are only as effective as the honesty and objectivity of those controlling them. As we search for and find possible means to achieve any balance of power or justice or trusted governance we will work to share them with others and implement them. And we deplore the lack of accountability and reparation of those who cause damage.

—— the Omniascendent Resolution[tm]

Above all else our immutable allegiance is solely to unassailable Omniascendent Honesty: to Logic with Love in a balance sublime. This we posit is the ultimate authority, morality and perpetual criterion for ourselves and the world. Thus, it guides our diligent thoughts and actions on our journey toward Peaceful, Caring Enlightenment and Eternal Wisdom.

—— the Primary Idealistic Omniascendent Principle[tm]

For Above All Else, for our Community and beyond, we are Dedicated to Honesty, to Logic with Love in a Balance sublime, as manifest in our sense of Responsibility and True Humility. With Diligence and Peace, Intellectual Curiosity drives our Creativity and Precise Communication as we progress toward Enlightenment with rational hope, leading to ever greater, Omniascendent and Eternal Wisdom.

We recognize that SENTIENCE is merely self-awareness, while SAPIENCE is wisdom. There are important differences between them. Sentience is gained almost automatically by people when young. But, achieving a significant level of sapience requires conscious, thoughtful long-term intellectual and emotional development.
We value Knowledge, Intelligence and Wisdom as strongly as we eschew beliefs, which are feelings, notions, popular opinions or vague ideas which have no basis in fact or reason, but in which some form of confidence or fanciful faith is placed by some people.
And to differentiate those three terms, we see wisdom is the mental ability to utilize knowledge and intelligence and integrate them in creative, rational ways so that we gain innovative insights and greater understanding.

We offer the following to provoke thought and encourage positive discussion

In this comic of 03 Feb. 2022 called *NonSequitor* by Wiley Miller, (a favorite of mine), he showed what he titled 'the Philosophical Showdown' (copyright 2022 WILEY INK, LTD.)
- two robed characters approached each other on the sidewalk from around a corner
- one held a sign which said 'forgive and forget'
- the other held a sign which said 'learn from the past, never forget'

This should compel us to consider ALL the different concepts involved and their full implications. Since it's not a simple either/or decision. Forgiveness, remembrance and reparation are all conditional as follows:
>Remember the past to learn from it; to prevent foolish decisions and avoid damage now and in the future
>Accountability for wrongdoing as a deterrent to their recurrence and perpetuation is required
>Reparations by those causing the injury are required to any person or thing that is injured in any way.
>But, we shouldn't focus on, or engage in, destructive, disproportionate vengeance.
>Forgiveness is reserved only for times when, on the part of the person(s) committing the damaging act, there is sincere regret and reparation to those who suffered the damage or injury, and a diligent, effective, permanent effort to never engage in the wrongdoing again. This must apply to organizations as well as individuals. For were it to be stipulated that "corporations are people, my friend" they must be required to abide by those same rules of ethics, accountability and reparation as real live people.

>What other thoughts come to mind for you?

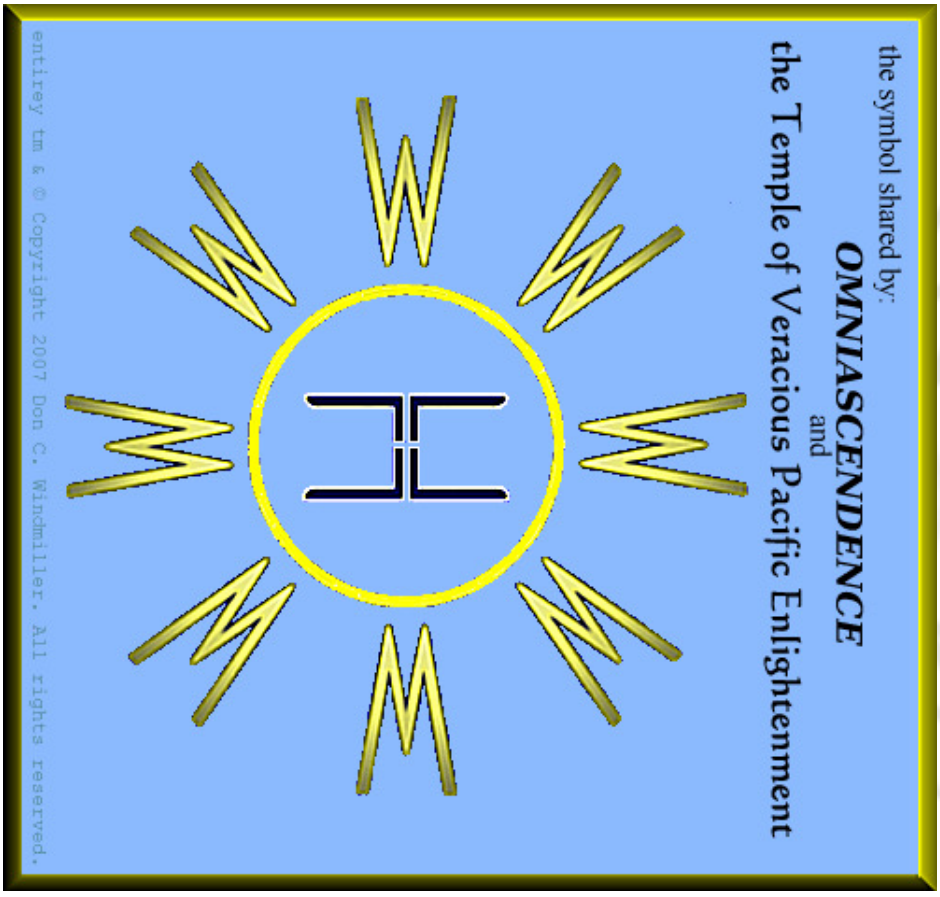
For years we've really enjoyed Wiley Miller's work. And as holders of registered copyrights ourselves, we respect his copyright and only show this one excerpt of his work as 'fair use' under copyright law, since it is for use as one on one instructional/educational purposes and we would never sell it commercially.

The symbol of
the Temple of Veracious Pacific Enlightenment, which abides by *the Omniascendent Principle* (pg. 11), shares the symbol of the Omniascendent Community. The symbolism is explained as follows:

The center H stands for Honesty and is composed of 4 L's (Logic, Love, Learning and Laughing)

The endless golden circle surrounding the H Stands for our immutable dedication to the Omniascendent Principle

The H also stands for Helios, for it is surrounded by a ring of golden W's symbolizing the Sun and representing peaceful, warming rays of rational Wisdom progressing outward toward Eternity.



Regarding the reference to HELIOS in our symbol, the wonderful insight of 'St. George the Carlin' satirically puts it in perspective: *"I've begun worshipping the sun for a number of reasons. First of all, unlike some other gods I could mention, I can see the sun. It's there for me every day. And the things it brings me are quite apparent all the time: heat, light, food, and a lovely day. There's no mystery, no one asks for money, I don't have to dress up, and there's no boring pageantry. And interestingly enough, I have found that the prayers I offer to the sun and the prayers I formerly offered to "god" are all answered at about the same 50% rate.*
• *from his album: Brain Droppings*

We recognize the 'sine qua non' of the sun to all life on earth. - but we don't deify the sun, for, as amazing as it is, there is nothing supernatural or conscious about it. And it can be dangerous.

All the significance of our symbol clearly implies that we also hold in the highest regard responsibility and the following endeavors: education, intellectual and emotional development, creativity and artistic activities, as well as time spent in the development and refinement of thoughtful responsible technology and in productive activities. And, since we are not fanatics, we do engage in and approve of reasonable recreational activities and humor.

We have been involved in Community Benefit Activities since the 1960's and encourage others to do that, too. While we work to avoid bigotry, we carefully choose to support those people, activities and organizations which are consistent with our principles.

But, we feel dispirited by the failings of human character (our own failings and limitations included) which cause our society to deteriorate, allowing selfish human greed and folly to alter our societal and physical world in many deleterious ways, including selfish, destructive actions that also make the sun a force damaging to our ecosystems. This is in spite of the efforts (limited as they may be) of those of us trying to prevent damage to our society and world which will ultimately prove crippling or fatal to most of the life in it. Sadly, based on extensive observation, we deem society as mostly being a failed experiment.

Our Expression of Gratitude for meal times or any other time you wish

Imperative Precepts

Over the centuries there have been innumerable different sets of "rules" for living which were formulated by many disparate people and groups; from the Babylonian code of Hammurabi to the 10 commandments and many others. Some of them, created by fanatical groups, were enforced by extreme threats of punishment and/or death.

But, we find all those that we have examined often contain superfluous dictates that are not at all pertinent to contemporary society. They often mandate inappropriate, brutal and needless prescriptions for punishment, even when the infraction seems minor today. And, many contain fictitious, superstitious elements to which we cannot grant any credence.

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Researchers in our organizations have spent over two decades examining dozens of values systems and sets of rules. The intent was to come to understand how to create a concise set of precepts that would facilitate a personal life experience that was most beneficial and worthwhile, not only to the individual, but to society and to the environment in which we live. As a result, we have formulated, and offer, what we consider to be the most complete and exemplary set of Imperative Precepts.

They are presented on the following page.

Exemplary Imperative Precepts

Preface: We are all fallible human beings. We offer these precepts and encourage everyone to abide by them. But, we do not force our principles on others.
All these imperative precepts are interlinked and interdependent. Contrary to the popular self-deception of 'cafeteria beliefs', you cannot succeed by selecting certain precepts while ignoring or rejecting others. They must always manifest themselves in all the elements of human existence: *Thinking, Communicating and Acting*

A primary Imperative Precept: be Honest. This requires that you be as honest as you can with yourself and honest with others at all times. And, that your Thinking, Communicating and Acting are all consistent with honesty. We stipulate that Humility is necessary as intrinsic to honesty.

Precept: be Responsible. A sense of Responsibility is a corollary of Honesty. Consider the consequences of your communications and actions. We we have a responsibility to communicate and act in ways that are are not destructive or harmful, but are as beneficial as can be to others and the world in which we live. We endeavor to live in a disciplined manner so that our own needs and wants are not injurious.

Precept: Control Your Emotions. There are two basic modes of human thought:
> emotional - feelings including love, fear, anxiety, hate, etc.
> rational - using reasoning and intellect and employing objective analytical and logical thought processes
Everyone experiences emotions. We should not ignore these feelings. But, thinking rationally first can prevent damage caused by blindly acting on raw emotions. A most important question is: Do you control your emotions, or do your emotions control you?

Precept: be Rational. Reject superstition in all its forms, including beliefs, which are vague feelings in which someone places confidence without any basis in fact. Gather all the information on a topic and use objective, analytical thinking to find and accept the conclusion that conforms best with fact and reality.

Precept: be Pacific (peaceful) and thoughtful in all your Thinking, Communicating and Acting. Aggression and violence in any form harms all parties involved.

Precept: be Caring of others and of the world in which we live. And, reject all forms of greed. Do not hate people for innate characteristics which are mostly beyond their control. But, eschew violent, bigoted, hateful people and groups. Value individuals over organizations, especially corporations. Trust and respect must be earned. To be worthy of compassion and forgiveness requires the transgressor to recognize and admit the error, make a sincere request to be forgiven and have a true desire to show success in reparation and ongoing diligent effort to not repeat the transgression.

Precept: seek Enlightenment. This includes acquiring the prerequisites of: Knowledge (facts) and Intelligence (understanding of the knowledge) and then seeking Enlightenment (the wisdom to beneficially apply the knowledge and intelligence you gain.) Which means you also recognize that gaining wisdom is an ongoing process and none of us can become fully enlightened.

Final consideration: abide by all these precepts and you will experience a rewarding, satisfying and beneficial life. If you pick and choose among them you are fooling yourself and violating the primary Precept of Honesty. Remember, you cannot successfully hide from yourself.

Thank you for reading our work. We hope that you found it worthwhile and thought provoking. We hope it encouraged you in your own further endeavors of learning, analytical thinking, and artistic creativity. We invite questions and positive, constructive feedback by E-mail to **tovpe2@omnigma.org.** Your E-mail address and communication will be kept confidential. And, anyone interested in becoming affiliated with our organization is encouraged to contact us at the above E-mail address.

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