



The Search for Goodness in Being: Practical Work With the Ideas of Meister Eckhart and Gurdjieff

It seems as though there is great trouble in the world today; yet we are not so special in this. In fact it has always been so.

Yet since ancient times, the inner being of mankind has forever been located at a juncture between earth and heaven that opens on to a new potential.

A potential for goodness to flow into Being.

There is a deep and mysterious connection between goodness and being. Meister Eckhart, above almost all other historical authorities, speaks often of goodness and its connection to the root of the soul.

Gurdjieff spoke of developing a higher being-body, and a soul. This aim was deeply rooted in the development of a practical connection to joy and goodness; and inner development cannot take place without a connection to that energy.

How does this relate to Meister Eckhart's teachings?

In this retreat, participants will be introduced to and examine various features of Eckhart's sermons on goodness in conjunction with practical work on spiritual sensation and inner prayer drawn from both the Gurdjieff approach and Lee's personal practice.

The premise of investigation will be that Goodness is a substance.

Yet it does not begin that way; for in its essence it is divine and lies entirely outside of time and creation. Its essence, in other words, begins in God and is rooted there; yet we never see it there in place from which it draws its nourishment, for it is hidden from us in the same way that the roots of the oak tree cannot be seen.

This substance, which is the material vehicle through which the quality of goodness (its action) is expressed, is a necessary part of any material creation; for creation and the material themselves cannot come into being unless goodness causes it.

Modern science doesn't view goodness as a material thing. It understands it as a subjective property; and this is patently false, for goodness is among the *most objective* qualities of creation, if it's properly and practically understood; and every created thing that manifests in the cosmos ultimately arises from it. It is moreover an *inner* or metaphysical substance – which means it is one of the many spiritual elements that cannot be detected or measured with ordinary instruments.

In this gathering we'll explore various questions about the root of goodness from a practical point of view.

What is its nature?

How do we sense its nature?

Can we open more to it?

How and why do we gather this substantial presence within us and concentrate it?

Where is it deposited in us, and what purpose does it serve?

What is its nature in today's ordinary world?

Mr. van Laer is from the Welch line of the work. He has been a member of the Gurdjieff Foundation in New York for over 40 years and has studied under numerous people who knew Gurdjieff personally. He is a former board member and Senior Editor at Parabola Magazine and is the content creator and publisher of the [Zen](#), [Yoga](#), [Gurdjieff](#), [Morning Five](#), and [Inner Christianity](#) substack sites.