



Behind all this some great happiness is hiding.

— YEHUDA AMICHAÏ

It may be difficult for us to imagine that the universe is an expression of joy. There is so much evidence to the contrary, here on earth, where suffering and death are inescapable. How could the nature of the cosmos be joyous, when every day we witness meanness and violence rampant in the world, or experience anxiety, pain, and loss in our own lives?

Our view of what is “true” is limited by the way our bodies and minds perceive and interpret reality. There are, of course, good evolutionary reasons for these limitations — we have survived (so far) because of our ability to judge and discriminate, to differentiate polarities such as self-other, safety-danger, like-don’t like. But this skill comes at a great cost: our dualistic view prevents us from experiencing the “great happiness” Amichai is referring to. It is a happiness, a joyousness, and a peace that is infinitely greater than these small words can suggest. It is only because we cannot open ourselves to this primary nature of reality that our world continues to be defined by fear and struggle.

The intention of this Open Path retreat is to provide a space in which we can experience directly, beyond words, the intimate bliss that pervades all being. To be blessed, even briefly, with an intimation of the underlying joyousness and safety of the cosmos can

transform our lives. There is trust where before there was fear, steadiness where there was unease, and love where there was judgment. Blessed like that, our relationships are enlivened, our commitment to serving others and the earth is deepened, and our lives can be of benefit to all whom we touch.

This Joyous Cosmology retreat is intended for those who have participated in an Open Path retreat or training, or who are familiar with other nondual approaches to spiritual awakening, such as Advaita, Zen, Dzogchen, Sufi, Christian or Jewish mysticism. Newcomers are also welcome, but should be prepared to “dive into the deep end of the pool.”

The retreat will be held at Sparjeburd, a beautiful retreat center near Heerenveen, Holland. For directions, visit Sparjeburd’s website: <http://www.sparjeburd.nl/en.html>



The 4- day retreat will begin with lunch at noon, Thursday, October 20, and conclude after lunch on Sunday, October 23, 2016.

Tuition for the retreat is: 500€.

Room and all meals (lunch Thursday through lunch Sunday):

Double room: 270€

Single room: 320€

Scholarships

A scholarship fund has been established through the generous donations of past students; it is our hope no one will be prevented from attending Open Path programmes for financial reasons. To apply for a partial scholarship, write to openpath@sufiway.org, describing your financial circumstances and the amount you feel able to pay. If you can contribute toward the scholarship fund we would be most grateful.