

Report of the BK Ecological Retreat for Europe & the Middle East 2017
Germany 15th to 19th June
Now is the time



Brother Robert uprooting the tree of ignorance

On Thursday 15 June 16 people from Germany, Russia, Scotland, England, Holland and Switzerland gathered in our beautiful new retreat center in Moringen for the green retreat. It was a wonderful and appropriate home for the retreat, in the middle of the forest and the hospitality of our host was fabulous.



During the retreat, we had the opportunity for early walks to serve the elements.

On the first day the retreat was dedicated to the spiritual aspect of our relationship with nature. We looked at the nature of the elements and examined the aspects of gyan relating to nature and to Baba's recommendations on how to connect and how to create a new relationship and the consequences it will have in the future.

In the later part of the morning we were able to reflect in groups regarding these

spiritual aspects and the way to apply them in life, in relationships, in our teaching, personal effort and understanding.

In order to go deeper into this investigation we remained in silence and used art and writing to share our experiences and reflections and gave feedback on this process and then had a long meditation to serve mother earth in the evening.

We ended the day with Informal conversations in which people shared their stories



On the Saturday we looked at consciousness and action and observed the impacts of our actions on the mind and the environment.

In the later part of the morning we shared the work the BKs do at the UN.

In the afternoon after lunch some the participants went for a beautiful long walk in the forest near the retreat house.

Later in the afternoon there was a panel on the spiritual and practical understanding of our relationship with nature. Gopi had collected questions from a previous service meeting regarding the COP 23 which take place in Germany in November 2017. Denise and Valeriane answered these questions and other questions from the participants of the retreat on the topic.

We ended the day by participants sharing news of green service happening in their place.



On the Sunday, we looked more at how retreat participants would like to engage in serving nature. We also looked at how each could imagine changing his or her lifestyle.



Group reflection: How best to communicate the link between spirituality and the environment to BKs and others? What's next? What's needed? In the afternoon, our hosts had organised their first public program, taking the opportunity of the 3rd Sunday international meditation for peace and the presence of our brother David from Gyan Sarovar, they organised a coffee and jazz in the afternoon and a concert cum international meditation.

In the evening the group met for the last time to share their experience of the retreat

