

Rings of Power!

There is an economic force in the world which seeks to bring all of the peoples of the world into one hierarchical system of dominance and submission, one global pyramid scheme. It ravages the Earth while at the same time it bends and shapes all peoples to its will. This is the nature of the beast called "**neo-liberal market capitalism.**" It seeks to align all of the world to the **values of possessiveness and competition.**

The choices we have in how to respond to this challenge are similar to those of earlier times in the process of growing domination. We may either:

- each fend for ourselves, seeking to use the system to hoard as much wealth and power as we can for ourselves and our immediate families, each of us seeking to mimic the "**lifestyles of the rich and famous,**" or
- join with others, in a Fellowship of affinity groups, seeking to manipulate the system in ways supporting cooperation and mutual aid circles, and creating "**lifestyles of the just and joyous!**"

Through such circles we can turn the power of the Beast against itself, simply by removing our consent from its world view of the "**scarcity paradigm,**" and instead choosing to redirect the system's energies by creating businesses with a world view affirming the "**plenty paradigm**" in service of the **values of sharing and cooperation.**

Any business is a **Ring of Power**, and affinity groups create their own by defining their culture of spirituality, processes of sharing, and form of governance as their expression of **Natural Law.**

Resources for Building the Landed Rainbow

- The **Fellowship for Intentional Community** provides a range of publications and conferences, see: www.ic.org and for searching a list of communities see the online database: www.icdb.org
- The **Federation of Egalitarian Communities** at www.thefec.org offers a range of documents on children in community, labor systems, membership, bylaws, etc, see: www.thefec.org/sns/
- The **E. F. Schumacher Society** provides a range of information and models, especially on SHARE microcredit, see: www.schumachersociety.org
- The **School of Living** and the **Ozark Regional Land Trust** also offer land trust resources see: www.schoolofliving.org and www.orlt.org
- For the "revolving loan fund" used by Walnut Street Co-op (www.icetree.com/walnut/revloan.html) in *ÉLAN*, and for legal structures for community see *Community, Inc.*, at: www.culturemagic.org/EgalitarianCommonwealth.html
- For information on labor-sharing time economies see *Time-Based Economics* and *Communal Economics* at: www.culturemagic.org/TimeBasedEconomics.html
- For information on methods of interpersonal and group process for creating the sharing lifestyle see *Light and Shadows* at: www.culturemagic.org/Intentioneering.html

Serve the Light! Balance personal wants with the needs of society and nature.

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This is not an official document of the Fellowship for Intentional Community or any organization in the text.

Landed Rainbow

We live in epic times.

The litany of tribulations today is as great as any in history. A way to view the challenge and opportunity of these times is to consider the contest for hearts and minds presented in the allegory of:

The Fellowship and The Bilderbergers

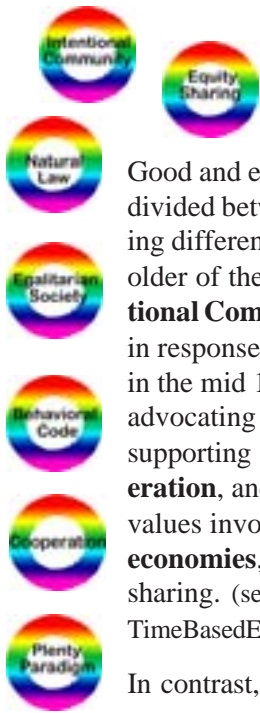


The **rainbow** symbolizes the promise of renewed life and unity in diversity. The **fruiting tree** symbolizes fertility, and its branches our many connections and relations. The tree and rainbow represent **Unity of the Earth and the Heavens**, and of the spiritual concepts of **immanence** (intuitive nature) and **transcendence** (external revelation) as sources of **grace** and **inspiration**. From these a community defines spirituality and governance as its expression of **Natural Law**.

The "Landed Rainbow" mixes these ancient symbols with new ones. Among the new symbols is the **White Tree** fruiting rainbow rings, representing the **allegory of good versus evil** in the story of the *Lord of the Rings*.

The Fellowship and The Bilderberg Group

Explaining a Real World Contest for Hearts and Minds via an Allegorical Tale



Good and evil or "Light and Darkness" can be divided between two organizations representing different world views or paradigms. The older of the two is the **Fellowship for Intentional Community**, originally formed in 1947 in response to the World Wars, and reformed in the mid 1980s (see: www.ic.org). In advocating community the Fellowship is supporting **lifestyles of sharing and cooperation**, and the methods for affirming these values involves different forms of **time-based economies**, from labor-gifting to labor-sharing. (see: www.culturemagic.org/TimeBasedEconomics.html)

In contrast, the **Bilderberg Group** was

formed in the 1950s (the "Bilderbergers" have no website) to protect the West from communism. It supports **lifestyles of possessiveness and competition** through monetary economics and globalization of the **debt-based economic system**.

Outside of community the love of money is the "**root of all evil**," through the concepts of "**rational self-interest**" (Adam Smith) and "**comparative advantage**" (David Ricardo), and the ideology of **neo-liberal market capitalism**.

In community money may be only for exchange with the outside, with internal "**time economies**" supporting "**rational altruism**" and "**mutual advantage**." Time economies can be "**labor-**

gifting" as in Rainbow Gatherings and cohousing, or can be "**labor-sharing**" as with labor quotas in egalitarian collectives and communal societies. In time-economies businesses are as "**Rings of Power**," earning money for exchange with the "**dominant culture**," supporting people through acquiring land and building community.

Like Elves using Rings of Power to support their homelands, Rivendell and Lothlórien, communities using time economies create businesses as their "Rings of Power." **The challenge is to turn the power of money to the service of the Light!** See: www.CultureMagic.org



This material is excerpted from a 5-page discussion of allegories about the monetary system, IRS statistics on "non-family households" and methods of sharing real estate equity, in the chapter by the same name in, *ÉLAN: Equity-Linked Affinity Networks* available free for download as a PDF document from: www.culturemagic.org/EgalitarianCommonwealth.html

- **The Fellowship of the Ring** – The Fellowship for Intentional Community represents societies dedicated to building lifestyles of freedom as opposed to domination.
- **The One Ring** - Coins, credit cards and other forms of money serve as the One Ring in a hobbit's pocket.
- **The Fellowship's mission of Destroying the One Ring** by casting it into Mount Doom is an analogy for removing from our minds the power that money and its values of possessiveness and competition have upon us, enabling us to turn to forms of time-economies supporting the values of sharing and cooperation. This can be of varying degrees of difficulty depending upon one's intellectual and emotional constitution.
- **Elves** – Egalitarian Communal Societies (spiritual, multi-faith or secular) have gone furthest in bending the powers of Darkness (debt-based monetary system) toward service of the Light (time-based labor-sharing systems) with their Rings of Power.
- **Dwarves** – Members of Survivalist Communities. May be isolationist and even politically conservative (e.g., Libertarian), yet may also resist the Darkness.

- **Numenorian**s – Members of Spiritual Intentional Communities. These may be Quaker, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Islamist, New Age, Pagan, Unitarian Universalist, Native American Spiritual or other. These have much to teach and valuable aid for building societies based upon the values of sharing and cooperation. Numenorian have the potential for providing leadership for uniting all of the races of Earth against domination.
- **Humans** – Members of Secular and Multi-Faith Intentional Communities: Ecovillages, Cohousing Communities, Community Land Trusts, Anarchist and other Political Activist Communities, Collectives, Rainbow, Indigenous Tribal Cultures and others.
- **Hobbits** – Those who ignore, don't care about or are oblivious to the contest of values between the Light (sharing and cooperation) and Darkness (possessiveness and competition), which may include average citizens, members of the military, police or other civil servants. This may be due to being far removed from the actual contest, or to being self-absorbed or in denial of the contest, yet individuals may find themselves suddenly in the thick of it of no intent of their own, and

- may end up serving either the Light or the Darkness.
- **Wizards** – Those who seek to understand, frame and teach the issues involved in economic systems, whether debt-based or time-based. They may serve either the Light or the Darkness.
- **Rings of Power** – All businesses, whether organized via debt-based or time-based economics.
- **Ents and Eagles** – Powerful natural forces aiding the work of the Fellowship.
- **Dragons and Balrogs** – Powerful natural forces hindering the work of the Fellowship.
- **Trolls, Goblins, Orcs, Urk-Hai** – Those who prey on others: thieves, predatory lenders, terrorists, etc. This includes those serving the Darkness unwittingly.
- **Ring Wraiths** – Upper and mid-level managers of the monetary economy, such as the Federal Reserve and other central banks, the World Bank, etc.
- **Sauron and Morgoth** – The Bilderberg Group, Tri-Lateral Commission and others at the highest level of global monetary economic consultation & coordination.