



In memory of a great bearer of Light: André Leites

By Olga Tanaka Boardman

Translated by Judith Gomez de Leon
and Maria Del Carmen Arreola Salazar

André was born in Paris, France in 1934. The Second World War changed his destiny and that of his family, when in 1940 they were forced to flee from the Nazis, choosing to immigrate to Mexico.

Faced with the death threat that Nazi persecution represented, André's parents made the painful decision to separate themselves from their children. They entrusted their nanny with the task of accompanying them on a ship that would transport them to another continent, where they would seek a chance to start a new life. At the young age of six, he began his spiritual journey, motivated by a voyage filled with fear and uncertainty. Because the family traveled on two different ships, he didn't know if he would ever see his parents again. However, after many days of waiting, they all managed to meet in Cuba. From there they traveled to Mexico City, their final destination.

By 1967, although he was already a prosperous chemical engineer, he had a hidden desire to explore himself. This inspired him to establish, together with Dr. Jorge Derbez, the first Human Development Center in Mexico, following the Esalen model from California.

In 1970 he decided to end his cycle of commitment to the business world. He was seeking the world of the Spirit, although he was not fully aware of it. He moved to New York where he started exploring another path: psychotherapy, as a response to his inner call to meet his true self.

In 1971 he studied with Dr. John Pierrakos and simultaneously joined the Pathwork group co-led by John and Eva Pierrakos.

André spent eight years at the Phoenicia Pathwork Center. He attended all the public meetings, had many private sessions with the Guide, and countless unforgettable experiences. In addition to the specific, very concrete and relevant content related to his

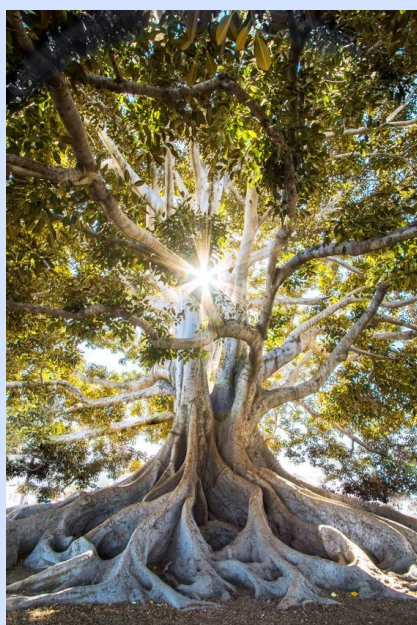
personal life, in these occasions the Guide transmitted to André an energy that was full of love, and so intense that in itself it was fully transformative.

Here is an example of the intensity of his life at that time. One day, when checking his calendar, he realized that during an entire month he only had one Tuesday night off. On all the other days and nights he had commitments, either to receive training from Eva, to offer a private consultation as facilitator or therapist, or to lead a process and/or teach certain groups. This time span was, by far, the most exhilarating and glorious of his life, although unsurprisingly during this period of tremendous intensity, his personal life deteriorated significantly.

The return to Mexico City

From 1987 to 1991, invited by John Pierrakos, André co-led the first Core Energetics group in Mexico City organized by Ilse Kretschmer. Stimulated by that experience, and perceiving the impact of the knowledge and spiritual development offered by the Pathwork, André brought its teachings to Mexico. Like the legendary Prometheus, the titan friend of mortals, he brought with him the omen of the awakening of consciousness, and of the fire of the Spirit. It was the light and fire that represent the Pathwork that André gave to Mexico.

Settling in Cuernavaca with his family, he reopened his private practice, which was now specialized in the Pathwork. Soon, three process groups were formed with a total of approximately 60 participants. Then, in 1993 a large training group was created. For logistical reasons it was divided in two, but it essentially remained one group, constituting the same generation and receiving the same teachings.



Thus began the great sowing of luminous seeds, which now appear as a great Amate tree, one of André's favorites...

Having fulfilled his first objective of bringing the Pathwork to our country, he moved on to achieve his second one: to translate the Guide's lectures into Spanish so that the Spanish-speaking world could have access to them.

Throughout the 90's, André succeeded in getting Pax Publishing House to translate and publish three of the four books that form the main dissemination nucleus of the Path in the world: Fear No Evil, Creating Union, and The Undefended Self.

In 1992 the translation of the Guide lectures into Spanish began. In the first stage, more than 100 of them were translated. These formed the basis for Pathwork teaching in our country, as well as in Argentina and Uruguay. Thanks to the efforts and participation of these three countries, in 2005 the dream of having the 258 lectures translated into Spanish was realized.

In 2007, André resigned as Director of the Mexican Pathwork, and Olga Tanaka took over the reins. Since then, Olga, along with the Executive Committee and the group of senior teachers, has promoted an enormous expansion of the Path. Likewise, a new generation of junior teachers has been trained. There are currently active groups in Monterrey, Culiacán, Cancún, Puebla, Chiapas and Morelos.

Olga Tanaka, current Director of the Path in Mexico, is re-editing all the lectures in Spanish in order to standardize them and to correct the many translation errors that were found in the first versions, with the purpose of putting together an edition that everyone hopes will be the final one. This work has been funded by the entire group of teachers.

Today, the objectives that André set for himself when bringing the Path to Mexico have largely been accomplished, but there is still a long way to go. The seeds he planted are bearing fruit and we can already speak of a Pathwork Community, imbued with a spirit of commitment to continue spreading the wonderful teachings of the Guide.

At the age of 85 André contemplated his life with great satisfaction and expressed his gratitude:

To his Teachers,

To his students, patients and disciples,

To all those who had supported him, had corrected his many mistakes, and had accompanied him.

To Mexico for having welcomed him as a refugee.

To the women in his life who suffered, supported and loved him so much.

To his children, of whom he was so, so, so proud.

As the prophet said "my cup is full; I can die in peace."

André Leites