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## Economic Life as a Medium for Modern Initiation

### The Proceedings of the Associative Economics Festival

*A collaboration between*

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*The History and Purpose of Sacred Buildings / Entrepreneur as Neophyte / The Sovereign Individual / Company as Temple / Rehabilitating the Company / Finance as Guardian / World Money...*

The world is falling into a seemingly endless mire of economic problems – failing democracy, poverty, the north-south divide, unstable markets, and wars of all kinds. What is the reality behind this? Is economic life something in and for itself? Or might it be an expression of spiritual conditions? When we find ourselves surrounded by so many negative events, could this be a sign that something fundamental is happening to humanity, but that we have yet to understand this experience? As this above list of themes shows, **Step into Another World!** considered today's economic problems both from an esoteric and a practical point of view. Indeed, one could say that neither is reliable without the other.

This event explored the possibility that today's economic events provide a context and medium for modern initiation. If this is true, and if it could be made a conscious experience, we would have a wholly new perspective on modern life, enabling us to find ways to overcome the paralysis, fear, and sense of impotence that today's conditions are engendering.

We would find, too, that the world we are seeking already exists, if only we could find the words to describe it. This will not be possible, however, without a concrete understanding of the deeper role of capital, entrepreneurship, and modern corporate forms. With themes such as *Entrepreneur as Neophyte, Company as Temple, Finance as Guardian*, this book explores the idea of 'initiation by economics' as it can be illustrated by way of temple or sacred architecture and its corresponding inner processes.

The *Associative Economics Festival* recapitulated this history and then followed it into modern economic life, in order to show the underlying mystery nature of today's economy, why it has this character, and why we are having this experience at this moment in history. The aim was to find a way to understand how 'initiation economics' can lead humanity beyond the ever-darkening situation that otherwise threatens to overwhelm us.

An important postscript is to point out that the word 'company' also refers to corporation. Much of this book is an attempt to understand what lies behind the modern corporation and why, if its deeper meaning is not understood, a kind of shadow nature will prevail.