



ValuesQuest:

Do we think, or care about what values we hold?

Are the values that guide us today the right ones? Have we lost sight of visionary ideas in favour of a politics geared to managing the status quo? What role could Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, other world faiths or other sources of political and philosophical inspiration play in shaping the future of world culture? Can we find the value of life through rational thinking alone?

14 May 2013, London: These are just some of the questions we often find at the back of our minds, but which we prefer to forget in our pursuit of the banal aspects of everyday life. Now a new project – ValuesQuest - to be launched at the Festival of Art and Ideas (HowTheLightGetsIn) at Hay on Wye 27 and 28 May is raising these questions in public debate. It will be asking whether we need to change our current values and create others to move us towards a more equitable, just and spiritual culture.

Two days of workshops asking fundamental, uncomfortable questions

ValuesQuest is being launched with two days of public debates that bring together the worlds of difference. It is bringing thinkers from the world of data and statistics, economics and politics face-to face with those from the creative and spiritual worlds. Who knows, perhaps they will forge new partnerships.

ValuesQuest is the brainchild of the Club of Rome, the foundation that works for sustainable development and publisher of *The Limits to Growth* and *2052: a global forecast for the next 40 years*, and the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), a charity founded by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to link the secular environmental movement with faith leaders. These two organisations have joined forces because of their concern about the lack of discussion around the values, which underpin changes in behaviour. At Hay ValuesQuest will be asking:

- *Politics, Power and Religions*: what role should world faiths play in shaping European culture?
- *Paradise Lost*: why have Utopian ideas become displaced by politics geared to managing the status quo?
- *The Art of Wisdom*: should experiences beyond rational learning be included in our hierarchy of values?
- *Dreams of Eden*: are humans custodians over, rather than a part of, nature?

Speakers from the worlds of politics, religion and culture

Speakers at the debates include: Marina Benjamin (writer, philosopher and senior editor at Aeon magazine), Phillip Bond (Director of the ResPublica think tank), Jenni Calder (novelist and historian), Simon Glendinning (Director of the Forum for European Philosophy at LSE), Fazlun Khalid (expert on ecology from an Islamic perspective), Martin Palmer (author, broadcaster, translator of Chinese classics, ARC Secretary General), Shaunaka Rishi (Director of the Oxford Centre of Hindu Studies) and Linda Woodhead (Director of the AHRC Religion and Society Programme).

ValuesQuest hopes that these conversations will be the start of a real adventure and will help us understand issues such as how the Enlightenment vision of liberty has become “the right to do whatever I want”. And how, while the major cultures and faiths traditionally have a vision of humans as part of nature, our vision today is of being apart from nature. This is a Quest to find the stories which explain the values we need, and which might just lead us through the crisis we face.

Join us: we promise stimulating and interesting debates that will get people talking.

PROGRAMME

Mon 27

10.30am: Politics, Power & Religion: Shaunaka Rishi/Phillip Bond/ Simon Glendinning/Linda Woodhead

1pm: HowTheLightGetsIn Lunch

4pm: Paradise ... Lost? Ian Johnson/Marina Benjamin/Kim Stanley Robinson/Alex Callinicos

Tue 28

12pm: The Art of Wisdom: Anders Wijkman/Jenni Calder/Marina Benjamin/Paul Rose

4pm: Dreams of Eden: Karl Wagner/Rosemary Burnett/Martin Palmer/Fazlun Khalid

5pm: Tea, Cake and Philosophy Workshop: Martin Palmer and Karl Wagner.

For more information

About **ValuesQuest** or to contact the speakers, please contact:

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To download the latest document on **ValuesQuest**, please go to:

<http://www.clubofrome.org/?p=5821>

About the **Festival of Arts and Ideas**, please contact Bianca Bonomi at

bianca.bonomi@artsandideas.org or visit <http://howthelightgetsin.org>

About the **Club of Rome:** www.clubofrome.org

About the **Alliance of Religion and Conservation:** www.arcworld.org