



# CHRYsalis READER

## THEMES & COPY DEADLINES

### Bridges

*Publication Date: September 2010*

A bridge connects worlds and expands boundaries. It transports the commerce of spirit and the mingling of cultures, people, and the interchange of creativity and inventiveness. Some bridges span an impassable morass, making it easier to traverse difficult terrain. Some extend an easy pathway while others negotiate sloping stretches.

Swedenborg understood the profound value, the absolute necessity, of an intimate connection between the spiritual and material worlds. This interdependence connects our worldly lives with our deepest feelings and thoughts.

Most of us treasure objects that symbolize something special to us and build bridges to meaningful experiences and concepts. How might an artifact, such as a cross, beads, Star of David, or a sacred book, be a portal to something much greater than itself?

What types of bridges construct a correspondence between worlds? There is a natural connection or bridge between people whose paths cross. What experiences bring their lives together—family? work? similar interests?—and what experiences set them apart? When we form relationships, what is it that draws us to certain types of people?

Once a bridge is made, are its effects everlasting?

### The Marketplace: An Exchange of Desires and Intentions

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Marketeers close to the Rialto Bridge—fishmongers and green grocers, florists and artisans—display their wares inside the centuries-old pescheria, “the place of fish.” The market’s ancient arches and red bunting announce to water taxies and working gondolas, to people crossing over the bridge, that the marketplace is open for business.

More than money changes hands here. Among the open stalls, with an abundance of colors, aromas, textures, and sounds, life is nurtured and enriched. Individuals thrive on interactions with familiar faces and with strangers, hungry for the exchange of news, ideas, and opinions. It was at just such flash points that civilization began.

Why do we need to exchange our wares and resources? What draws us together so that we can do that? Somewhere deep within, we know that we cannot stand alone: to thrive, we must interact. Perhaps embedded in the human genome is that unique trait to meet and greet, to network.

Nature hosts an exchange of light, organisms, and nutrients that transform life, perhaps the ultimate networking environment. Humankind in the mix introduces a unique spin to the ever-evolving matrix. We cast out and pull in our fishing nets. On some days, over the gunwales come beautiful cod and exotic starfish. On other days, nothing—a sign that the exchange is out of balance.

Humans are citizens of both the spiritual and natural worlds. Our response to these worlds makes all the difference. As we sally forth, mindful of our effect, hopeful of encounters, and joyful for the bounty around us, we move toward life’s touchstone where all paths cross. The world is a marketplace. How we will delve into the multi-faceted world of choice depends on our values, motives, and desires. Birds of a feather flock together. Our paths cross because of our interests, which leads to an opportunity for exchange and growth.

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### Kaleidoscope: Lenses on Reality

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