

# 10TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING AT CASA ASSAGIOLI



*Translated by Donatella Randazzo / Gordon Leonard Symons*

The Institute of Psychosynthesis reopened its doors to the International Meeting, hosting the 10th edition from Thursday 28 September to Sunday 1 October 2023.

The following text, rather than a detailed account of what happened during the days of the Meeting, contains my impressions and notes, having engaged myself in the organization of this important event for the first time, together with the Group that created and realized it in previous years.

On the evening of September 27, everything at Casa Assagioli seemed to be in its place: on the first floor, the furniture and furnishings in Assagioli's study and the adjoining rooms were shiny and almost sparkling, with floors and carpets smelling clean. The evocative words set on the table of the central room quiver to deliver their quality to the newcomers. The archive files are waiting to be found, browsed and read in order to offer words

and phrases of wisdom, cooperation and friendship.

On the ground floor, the books of the historical library are eager to share and explain to readers the many interests of the founder of psychosynthesis and pioneer of the psychology of the soul.

A flight further down, on the garden level, the large room is preparing to welcome the group of people who will place themselves in a circle, while the tables await to be opened in the courtyard to offer good vegetarian food to the group. Coffee, tea, coasters, biscuits are arranged on the support tables inside, to cheer up and lighten the tension of the participants' research and study.

We talked about *freedom* in our invitation letter. From what? From Covid, the agent of separation that forced us to suspend the International Meeting for three years, from 2020 to 2022. We reiterated it: *freedom* at the center of our group work, *freedom* to express oneself, to renew, to share.

In the coming days, will we be able to create an atmosphere of *freedom* and thus keep our promise?

On the morning of September 28th, from 9am, on time, our dear guests arrive: some are here for the first time, others are already familiar with the places and rhythms of the house. It is summer-like weather, luckily Florence offers a nice pleasant warmth that allows us to stay outdoors and enjoy the sun and light.

The cheerful voices of the participants spread through the rooms, some already knowing each other, others meeting in person for the first time.

There are twenty-two people, including the last one who arrives at the end of the morning, and they come from all over the world: Belgium, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. Together with the seven of us, collaborators of the Gruppo alle Fonti organizer of the event, we are almost thirty people, united by a passion for psychosynthesis. But also by a common search for the psychosynthetic energy and spirit still present in the small sheets of paper in the archives, full of words of love and wisdom for the human race, in the pages of the books underlined with red pencil, full of annotations and cross-references to texts by other authors, companions of Roberto Assagioli in sowing Good in the hearts of men.

Thanks to these sources, everybody can be inspired and according to their individual note, contribute to composing that symphony for the benefit of humanity, considered so urgent and important by Assagioli himself.

The activities begin, the group is formed, connections are created, everyone introduces themselves, shares the purpose of their presence and also some expectations for the days to come.

The tour of the house follows, once the home of Roberto Assagioli, whose rooms are now entirely destined to preserving and making accessible his cultural and spiritual heritage. Only his studio has remained intact, and on crossing its threshold you have the impression of entering a special place, where the founder's imprint is still vibrant and palpable.

Some friends already know which topics to explore, so they immediately head towards the materials of interest. Others rely on the creative tools developed over the years by the Alle Fonti Group, aimed at facilitating the perception of ideas and inspiration for new personal study and research paths. In the afternoon of the first day, all the participants have found a place where they can read, write, think and meditate, free to sit there through the following days, as well as to take part in one or more of the scheduled activities.

The pleasure of breathing in an atmosphere of freedom is expressed by those who appreciate being able to go, whenever they wish, from the first floor to the garden level, to find comfort with drinks and snacks, indulge in a nice chat with other friends, have some sharing, ask for advice, get clarifications.





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The “declared” quality of freedom is accompanied by a second one, now equally perceptible in the Meeting space: *service*. Having service stratified in the building since the very beginning of the Institute’s life, now, in a “beneficial contagion” manner, it manifests itself: in small daily activities in the form of a joyful offer of help from everyone in washing up, or in spontaneous collaboration when opening and closing tables for meals, as well as in moving chairs from the courtyard to the central room.

In actual fact, the spirit of service had already presented itself during the organizing of the meeting, in the previous months, with the proposal from two participants to lead a free workshop each, as a further stimulus to be included in the program, and later, with the offer by a third one to give an historical/artistic presentation on the occasion of the planned excursion.

The proposals developed in spirit of service do take place: the first workshop, on Friday afternoon, is dedicated to a main theme in psychosynthesis - unity in diversity – and is based on an article by Assagioli. The second workshop, focused on Assagioli and its cultural context, is held on Saturday afternoon. Both are appreciated by a large part of the group, while a few others choose (freely) to continue studying and reading.

Saturday is the busiest day: in the morning the scheduled visit to the Dominican Convent in Fiesole takes place, accompanied by its guided presentation offered as a service, as we said, by a participant. The excursion ends at the tiny Chapel of the Beatitudes, outdoors, at the far end of the convent’s splendid olive grove. Some time for an intimate contact with one’s Self is proposed, inspired by Roberto Assagioli’s words from his spiritual diary:

*[...] always feel and reaffirm your being a Soul, a center of spiritual consciousness [...]*

After lunch, the group meets with Piero Ferrucci who, in spirit of service, had met our request to present Assagioli's vision on various aspects of the future: cultural, religious, psychological, etc. Through a warm conversation much appreciated by the participants, he offers stimuli for an optimistic view of the future in which - this is the hope – the Soul of every nation will be recognized, as a preliminary process to the unification of the human race.

After dinner, having received various inputs during the day and perhaps requiring quietness and time for processing them, most participants prefer silence and meditation to the celebrations scheduled in the program. Only a small contingent stays longer to socialize, dance and have some light-hearted time.

On Sunday morning the time for farewells and final sharing arrives: the group members generously express the thoughts and emotions they carry in their heart. Many feel a sense of gratitude for the experience, together with the awareness that Assagioli's legacy held in the house is like a box yet to be explored. For some, being at the Institute means returning to their roots or realizing to be in the right place and time to intuit new paths to pursue.

Others share their coming out of curiosity, and letting the words, yet to be understood, found in the *assagiolini*,<sup>(1)</sup> resonate in their minds; or state how strongly they felt the call of the House, after decades of practicing psychosynthesis, to set out with courage on a journey despite their temporary disability. And still someone who, in a silence devoid of expectations, perceived Assagioli's spirit and the heartfelt connection with the companions of a group that had operated exclusively online; other participants said to have received new ideas from the esoteric and transpersonal sector of the library, in a flow of love and joy; or expressed their having enjoyed the company of the group sharing the same interest in psychosynthesis; or gave voice to their will to keep alive the fire found in the words "Power, Love and Light" of the prayer of the Great Invocation; or perceived how being is more important than doing,

while feeling the qualities of generosity, creativity and harmony vibrate strongly. Someone speaks of generosity, accompanied by gratitude, in the glory of interior action, while another underlines the nourishment received from library books, as a stimulus for research and writing. And finally others recalled the word freedom, or underlined their finding a treasure chest made of trust and beauty, or appreciated the privilege of being able to find themselves in this place.

For the Casa Assagioli staff the experience was deep: the exchange with our friends strengthened the group's spirit of service and the motivation to continue the work of spreading and making available Roberto Assagioli's heritage.

My brief notes on the 10th International Meeting end with the words written by some participants in the visit book held in Roberto Assagioli's studio. The original sentences are all signed, but here they are reported as anonymous:

- Thank you Gruppo alle Fonti, for opening the doors to this house, Casa Assagioli, with all the treasures that you have made available to me and so many others in the worldwide psychosynthesis community. For me, it always feels like I'm coming 'home' to Psychosynthesis when I'm here. For you, I brought a blessing from the book *To bliss the space between us* by John O'Donohue:

- "To come home to yourself  
May all that is unforgiven in you be released  
May your fears yield  
Their deepest tranquilities  
May all that is un-lived in you  
Blossom into a future  
Graced with love."  
With much gratitude and love.

- So here I am, in the office of R. Assagioli, writing how grateful I am to be here, to read here, to meet other beautiful souls in this spiritual and amazing surroundings, creative and soulful jam in the middle of Florence. Thank you for this opportunity and privilege to

get in touch with the Source! Love and Will is definitely the Way.

- My soul led me here to bathe in the wisdom of Roberto and all the teachings that he shone the light on are refreshed here in the Welcome and generosity of you all. Thank you for the experience. Joy, enthusiasm and love. Grazie.

- Thank you Gruppo alle Fonti for this unique and visceral experience, for the love and dedication infused in keeping this place alive and vibrant, and the joy you express in welcoming new visitors hungry for truth. We will have to come back because this can only be the beginning with so much material!

- Sifting through the snippets and bits of paper that are held with such care in this place, I can feel Roberto Assagioli is very much alive. In the connections between souls and the synaptic leaps to meaning that this archive and Institute enable, the universal evolutionary principles of synthesis continue and coalesce in each of us! I feel renewed by my experience here and reconnected to a spirit that lives through me. *Grazie mille a tutti per questa esperienza.*

- To be given the honour and privilege of entering this one of a kind sacred space, and to be allowed to work with the materials of the archives is a once in a lifetime gift. My soul is alive and fully nourished. Thank you!

- Roberto, I love seeing the twinkle in your eyes and your beautiful smile! Thank you so much for such an enjoyable and beautiful space. Warmest wishes.

- Signor Assagioli, to spend time in your beautiful space is such an honour and a privilege and to meet you all at the source inspires and enlightens my soul. It's my first visit and I know it will not be my last. Thank you for awakening my soul and leading the way ... on this beautiful life journey.

- Roberto Assagioli Thank you from the bottom of my heart and the depths of my soul for leading me here ...

(unfortunately, the handwriting is illegible)

- Thank you Casa Assagioli and AlleFonti Staff to have made it possible to look at all these writings, the snippets, the bits of paper as well, lesson notes and libraries. It feels like doing archaeology into the mind of Roberto Assagioli and it stirs my own mind.

*Mille grazie.*

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## Notes

1. *Assagiolini = Small piece of paper hand written by Roberto Assagioli.*