

Share International

The Share International Foundation (not to be confused with Share International Inc., a Kenya-based Christian missionary project), is a non-profit organisation registered in Amsterdam with offices in Amsterdam and London. Founded by → Benjamin Creme in 1982, Share International is both an umbrella organisation for individuals and groups that advocate the imminent return of Buddha Maitreya (see → Maitreya-Christ) and the title of a monthly periodical published by this organisation. It goes under different names in different countries, such as Tara Press (UK), Share International USA, Tara Canada, Share Japan, Share International Deutschland, Share Ediciones (Spain), or Partage International (France). According to its main website (Share International no date [1]), Share International finances itself through private donations (80 %) and the sale of books and magazines (20 %).

Apart from spreading the good news of Maitreya's imminent return, the organisation announces and coordinates groups and workshops for "transmission meditation", which is Benjamin Creme's main group practice. As Maitreya's return is only the peak of a global manifestation of the spirit of "masters of wisdom", Share International regularly publishes messages that Benjamin Creme has received from these masters. Inspired by Creme's long-standing dedication to the UFO movement (see → UFOs and Esotericism), the organisation interprets UFO sightings, crop circles, and – since December 2008 – a newly discovered "star" (or rather an unusually luminous light that will be "visible day and night at every spot on earth": *Share International* 3 [2018], 2 [my translation]) as signs for Maitreya's appearance and continues to list such sightings. As it happens, Maitreya may appear in many different forms, for example (1) as shades, colours or handprints on photographs; (2) as crosses or patterns of light on building walls or in open spaces; (3) as a brief appearance (in variegated human forms) to one or several believers; or (4) as a brief public appearance to larger communities of people. Share International collects and lists all these appearances. In a similar vein, all sorts of miracles and spontaneous healings are ascribed to Maitreya's increasing inner-worldly presence and listed accordingly on the website and in the monthly journal. The issues of *Share International* usually provide an amalgamation of all these different appearance types and miracle reports (see, e.g., the various online-versions available on their website). Apart from these religious tenets, Share International also has a social and

political agenda in that it promotes and advertises humanitarian projects all over the world, and advocates "sharing" as a means to overcome global poverty and inequalities.

According to Share International, Creme inspired "hundreds of thousands of people across the world", with over 600 active "transmission meditation" groups and monthly readers of the journal *Share International* in over 70 countries. Even though it is hard to verify these figures, *Share International* is clearly the most prominent esoteric organisation that advocates the imminent arrival of a world saviour. However, ever since Benjamin Creme died in 2016, the organisation lacks a successor who would lead the organisation and provide followers with up-to-date revelations from Maitreya or other "masters of wisdom". . The website and magazine thus continue to publish messages that Creme had received during his lifetime, in an attempt to adjust these to contemporary events (See, e.g., Share International no date [2]).

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References

Share International. No date (1). "About Share International". URL: <http://www.share-international.org/aboutus/aboutus.htm>
(Accessed 18-May-2018).

Share International. No date (2). "Articles by the Master". URL: <http://www.share-international.org/master/master.htm> (Accessed 18-May-2018).

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