

## Discussion Guide

for select articles in

## Western Friend



### Some general approaches to group discussions:

- Choose a text no longer than three pages. Bring enough copies for everyone to share.
- Begin and end with a moment of worship.
- Begin by asking one volunteer to read the whole text aloud. (Having one reader helps people focus on the meaning better than multiple readers.)
- Perhaps simply conduct worship-sharing about the text.
- Perhaps ask people to begin by discussing the text in pairs or triads.
- Perhaps ask different small groups to begin by discussing different sections of the text.
- End by asking everyone to share reflections with the whole group: Which ideas raised earlier were especially surprising or meaningful?

### More Powerful than the Grave

by Michele Shields

What three spiritual needs does the author identify as essential?

How does each patient described in this story exemplify one of those needs?

Which parts of this article might help you support a friend through a hard transition?

### The Light: Then v. Now

by Paul Harris

How does “Inward Light” differ from “Inner Light,” according to the author?

What two trends have caused Friends to develop a “softer” understanding of The Light over time?

How does humans’ desire for comfort shape our sense of the sacred?

### We Are All One

by Maria Arrington

What are some ways that the author finds the ideas behind Therapeutic Touch helpful in her daily life?

How does the story of “Indra’s Net” compare with the Quaker idea of “that of God” in everything?

How well do you think the author’s strategy for staying calm during conflict would work for you?

### Gossip, Friends, and friends

by Collin Boyd

Describe some ways that gossip damages a Quaker meeting.

What reasons does the author give for the persistence of gossip?

What would your meeting need to do to encourage the end of gossip among you?

### Haregewoin’s Wail

by John Heid

Recount the sequence of events that led up to Haregewoin’s wail.

How do bureaucracy and hospitality contrast with each other in this article?

How is the work of Casa Mariposa “not charity, but an investment”?

### A New Story for Earth

by Mary Ann Percy

What is the “dominant paradigm of our time,” according to the author?

How does the author demonstrate that early Friends understood the web of life on earth?

How would a new human paradigm make a difference to the rest of creation?