

**THE DYING OF THE OLD YEAR
AND THE BIRTH PANGS AND HOPES OF THE NEW**

This is the last issue of 1981 and in it we range from life to death and from death to life. The first paper is a fascinating report of John Rowan's search for something else, beyond self-development, beyond self-actualisation, beyond the conquest of the negative programmes. He calls it the Atman Project.* Dorothy Weisser writes most movingly about the death of her mother and her use of the experience for understanding end closure. This is echoed by Yvonne Craig's review of *The Facts of Death*. Jane Allen writes of spiritual disablement and the recreative quality of joy and Sue Patman of the creative use of pain, crisis and failure. Gill Straker describes how she communicated with a very introverted 4-year old. And Wencke Mühleisen talks about a brave new commune where sexual equality is real.

I suppose the reason for this very rare editorial is to persuade you - and me - that there's a common theme. But of course there is always a common theme. Perhaps this is once again the theme of awareness, this is the one great essential quality in human beings. Awareness of death, awareness of suffering, awareness of the quality of life, awareness of the challenge and opportunity in suffering and death and awareness of each other. So, God bless us all and let us look forward joyfully and aware to 1982 and our tenth volume.

Vivian Milroy

(Ken Wilber. *The Atman Project*, A Quest Book 1980.
The Theosophical Publishing House, 306 West Geneva Road,
Wheaton, Illinois 60187, USA.)