

# writer guidelines for *ascent* magazine 2007

*ascent* is a quarterly journal of yoga and engaged spirituality. We seek writers who have fresh, diverse perspectives on these topics, and a real story to tell. With an emphasis on personal narrative, *ascent's* articles translate the philosophy of yoga and other spiritual traditions into practical realities. Each issue centers around a specific theme (see the editorial schedule at the end of this document), exploring the intersection of spiritual values with social and political issues, art, culture and contemporary thought related to the theme.

## **the query:**

Sending a proposal is more efficient than sending in a pre-written article that we may turn down or ask you to rewrite. PLEASE CONTACT US BEFORE SENDING AN ARTICLE. We very rarely publish unsolicited submissions.

If you have a story idea, please send it to the Managing Editor via email with "query" written in the Subject line. We are able to respond to your query with much greater ease if we are communicating via email, and so this is far preferable to regular post. However, if you are unable to contact us electronically, be sure to include a SASE (US and other international mail must include an international reply coupon as we are in Canada and cannot send mail with non-Canadian postage). Please include electronic or print samples of your previously published or unpublished writing along with your proposal.

Your proposal should communicate a clear story focus, as well as demonstrate your familiarity with the magazine and our style. Please describe what you are proposing, who/what the story is about and why readers would want to read the article. In your proposal, indicate which issue of *ascent* you would like your article to be considered for, and explain how the story relates to that particular theme. An editor will work with you to shape your article for publication in *ascent* once your proposal is received and accepted.

## **style:**

*ascent* appreciates a lively, narrative style article. Often we ask that you base your writing in personal experience, including investigative articles and profiles. We would like you to connect your subject matter back to yoga or spiritual values; often this can be done by asking ethical or spiritual questions about your subject matter that delve beneath the surface.

We try to steer away from purely academic or esoteric articles. We want to keep the magazine accessible and readable. We also rarely publish articles intended to introduce readers to a particular yoga style, meditation technique, spiritual teacher, or alternative health method. We seek ideas and experiences that would interest readers from a variety of locations and spiritual backgrounds, rather than articles about the "next best thing."

## **voice:**

We encourage a unique voice. Atmosphere, personality and a unique tone are qualities of a great article. Please let your voice come through.

**length:**

- \* Our features run from 2000 to 3500 words.
- \* We feature one question-and-answer style interview in every issue which is about 1800 to 2500 words in length, plus a 400 to 800 word introduction.
- \* Other articles or profiles run from 1000 to 2000 words.
- \* Reviews of recently published books and CDs are 300 to 500 words.

**payment:**

Payment will be worked out with the editor, and a contract will be issued. On average, we pay 10 to 20 cents per published word (Canadian funds), paid upon publication. We give a fee of \$50 for book or CD reviews.

**publication:**

*ascent* cannot guarantee publication dates and reserves the right not to publish any article. In this case a "kill-fee" or non-use fee will be rendered.

**rights:**

*ascent* retains first North American rights for 6 months after the publication date. In addition to the print magazine, we may wish to use all or an excerpt from your article on our website. If so, electronic rights will be included in the contract. If you wish to reprint your article in another publication, we ask that you notify us and give credit to *ascent* in all reprints.

**editorial schedule:**

*ascent* is a quarterly magazine, and each issue is centred around a specific theme. For the next year, the editorial schedule looks like this:

*NOTE: We begin brainstorming for each issue about 2 months before the query deadline. The sooner you send your proposals, the more time we have to consider them. We respond to all queries within 6 weeks after the query deadline. Dates and themes are subject to change.*

**#32: Bliss (Winter 2006)**

Deadline for story proposals: July 3, 2006

On newsstands: December 4, 2006

Perfection. Joy. Rapture. Ignorance? What brings bliss and what can we learn from the moments *after* bliss? How can this post-bliss state change the world? How can it change you? How elusive is bliss and where can we find it outside of religious/spiritual experience? Can bliss be harmful?

**#33: The World (Spring 2007)**

Deadline for story proposals: October 2, 2006

On newsstands: March 5, 2007

Globalization (of spirituality, culture, etc), travel, borders, war, peace, human rights, sustainability. Old world vs new world. How do we create our world(s)? How do we integrate our lives in the world? Can technology bring us closer together?

**#34: Vision (Summer 2007)**

Deadline for story proposals: January 8, 2007

On newsstands: June 4, 2007

Seeing, sight, foresight. Dreams, imagination, visual art & culture. The big picture, reality, perception. Why do we see things the way we do? How can our vision be compromised?

**#35: Sex and Gender (Autumn 2007)**

Deadline for story proposals: April 2, 2007

On newsstands: September 3, 2007

Male yoga teachers, celibacy, feminism and the divine feminine. Gay, lesbians, transgendered and spirituality. How has yoga been sexualized in contemporary culture? How do we embody male and female principles in our daily lives? How can yoga heal the gender gap?

**#36: The Elements (Winter 2007)**

Deadline for story proposals: July 2, 2007

On newsstands: December 3, 2007

Earth, fire, water, air. How are the elements present in our daily lives? Look at patterns in nature. How are the elements present in other spiritual traditions and ancient philosophies (First Nations, Chinese, Buddhism, Greek, Hinduism)?

**#37: History (Spring 2008)**

Deadline for story proposals: October 8, 2007

On newsstands: March 6, 2007

Ancient sacred texts, spiritual history, mythology, storytelling. How does history affect our perceptions of the present? Are we learning anything from our past? What role do elders play in understanding where we come from and where we are going?

**please send all queries to:**

Anurag Dhir, Managing Editor

managing\_editor@ascentmagazine.com (email is the preferred method of communication)

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