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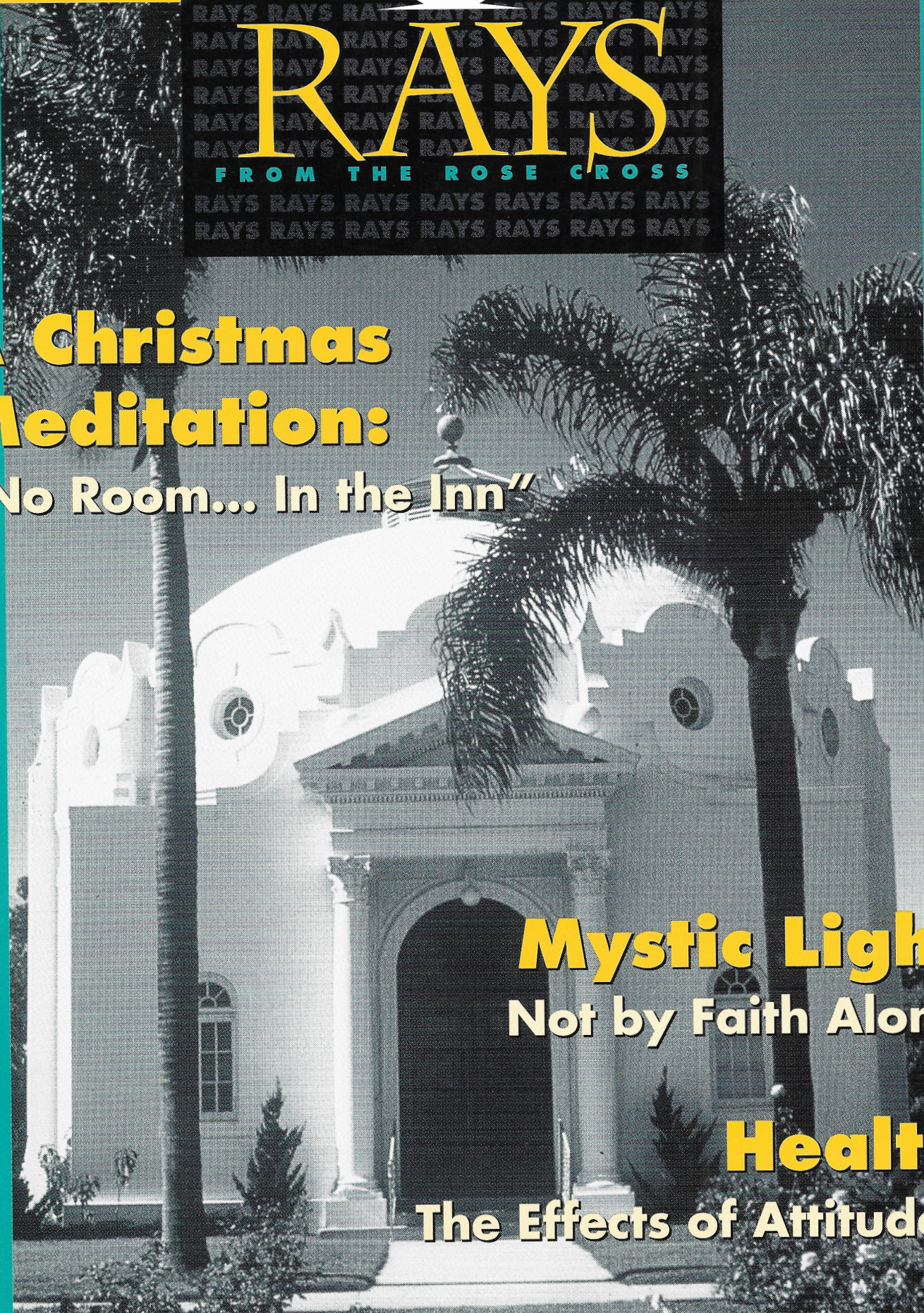
RAYS

FROM THE ROSE CROSS

A Christmas Meditation: **"No Room... In the Inn"**

Mystic Light
Not by Faith Alone

Health
The Effects of Attitudes



HOLY NIGHT

M A X H E I N D E L



Holy night,
darkest on earth
Angels proclaimed our Saviors birth,
Sang of peace and good-will among men;
And each year when that night comes again,
Hear we that joyful refrain.
Hear we that joyful refrain.

Holy night, darkest night!
Shepherds saw a dazzling light;
Wise men also came from afar,
Guided to Him by that heavenly star.
Glory to God on high.
Glory to God on high.

Holy night, Christmas night!
Now as then appears the light;
And it beckons to great and small.
Seek ye the Savior one and all.
Unto you He is born.
Unto you He is born.

Holy night, Christmas night!
We have each a guiding light;
If we follow that shining star,
Though from the path we have strayed afar,
Safely to Christ we shall come.
Safely to Christ we shall come.

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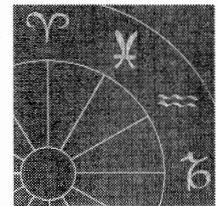
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Oh Wond'rous Babe

Oh wond'rous Babe to be with us
On earth this kindly night.
To shed upon this darkened world
Thy saving Holy Light.

Two tiny hands to bless us all
And save us for all time.
Two tiny arms 'round this whole world
To hold us, make us thine.

Two tiny feet to tread this earth
And walk on Galilee.
One tiny tongue to tell of love
God's saving grace to thee.

One full grown man to die for us
God's call for sacrifice.
One full grown man raised from the tomb
For each, eternal life.

—Lawrence W. Smith



Living Reality

“The Christmas Spirit is a living reality to all who have evolved the Christ within. The average man or woman feels it only around the holidays, but the illumined mystic sees and feels it months before and months after the culminating point on Holy Night.”

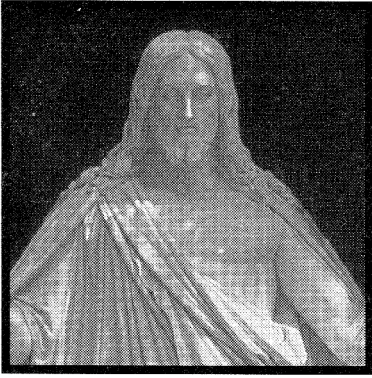
—Max Heindel

The energizing Christ Force begins to draw into the Earth at the autumnal equinox and reaches the center of the Earth at the Winter Solstice. Thus it is safe to say that by late November much Christ Power already has entered the planet, and the Thanksgiving holiday, also, to an extent, is a response to His earthly Presence.

At Thanksgiving we express our gratitude for the harvest, for the meeting of our material needs, and, if we are aware, for our spiritual blessings. Foremost among these is that of Life itself,

the Life which comes from God and without which neither our conscious existence nor our future of infinite and sublime expansion would be possible. Then too, there are the continuing Love and Protection of the Father and the sacrifice of the Son that we might be saved. There are the Christian teachings of love and brotherhood, universal fulfillment of which will be an evolutionary milestone for humanity.

At Christmas, more emphasis is placed on giving: the giving of material gifts and, again if we are aware, the giving of ourselves. Our ultimate gift, to the Deity and to our fellow humanity, is the development of the Christ within.



Our ultimate gift, to the Deity and to our fellow humanity, is the development of the Christ within...

During the coming weeks of preparation for Holy Night, in the context of Thanksgiving as well as that of Christmas, let us rededicate ourselves to the unfoldment of the Christ within.

Each individual has the Powers of the Christ Spirit latent within him- or herself. As Christ comes to Earth each year, we are enabled to respond to His exalted vibrations and unfold those powers. We become more loving, more tolerant, more patient, more caring, and experience more of a sense of unity with other people, than at any other time of year.

As, little by little, each individual thus is freed from the separating propensities of the lower nature, the Higher Self gradually predominates. In time we all will experience total regeneration as Christed human beings.

Until this has been accomplished, however, the Christ

will return to Earth year after year, sacrificing Himself for the redemption of mankind. He will continue to bring us the gift of His Life Force, freely available to all, until our own spiritual maturity is established. Then the centuries of His annual sacrifice and of our earthly existence will have been completed. we will dwell "in the ethers," and He will live with us for an Age, as King and Priest.

During the coming weeks of preparation for Holy Night, in the context of Thanksgiving as well as that of Christmas, let us rededicate ourselves to the unfoldment of the Christ within. In prayer and meditation, in the performance of our work in the world, and in the living of each moment of our

time, let us do our utmost consciously to respond to the Christ Radiations already abundantly available. In that way, the Christmas Spirit will become a living reality to and within each one of us.

**In time we all will
experience total
regeneration as Christed
human beings.**

Not by Faith Alone

by Nadine B de Galzain



In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light...

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness...

And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

And God called the dry land

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let him have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

And the evening and the morning were the third day.

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also...

And God saw that it was good.

And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

And God created great whales, and every living creature

that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let the fowl multiply in the earth.

And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let him have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

The twelve labors of Hercules describe the initiatory progression of the spiritual aspirant as well as the yearly path of the Sun along the Zodiac.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth...

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

And on the seventh day God ENDED HIS WORK which he had made; and HE RESTED on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from ALL HIS WORK which God created and made."

These very first verses of the Good Book not only depict in a strangely poetical way the dramatic scenario of the creation of our world and all the lifewaves it contains, but it makes us immediately aware, at the very beginning of the Bible, that none of this happened by chance, or by wishful thinking in the divine mind, or in a dream-like state, but, on the contrary, by actual toiling, active participation from God who, step by step, conceived, acted, evaluated, conceived again, acted again and evaluated again... until he decided that "it was very good" and could rest from his gigantic labor.

Besides this cosmic illustration of the importance and necessity of work, at the highest level, even at God's level, there are many other examples illustrating the same truth:

The twelve labors of Hercules, which describe the initiatory progression of the spiritual aspirant as well as the yearly path of the Sun along the Zodiac.

The myth of Sisyphus, rolling his stone over and over again towards the mountain top.

The parable of the talents

which reads as follows: (St Matthew 25:14) "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying:

"Lord, thou delivered unto me five talents: behold I have gained beside them five talents more." His lord said unto him, "Well done thou good and faithful servant: Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: Enter thou into the joy of the Lord." He also that had received two talents came and said, "Lord, thou deliverst unto me two talents:

The Freemasons, whose name means the Sons of Light, are also qualified as workers, as active builders of their inner Temple, like Joseph, who is said to have been a carpenter, a tekton: This is why they did not choose abstract concepts for their emblem, but concrete tools such as the ruler, the compass and the square, used since ancient time, to work and build in the physical world. By extension, these concrete symbols become the embodiment of such notions as measure, method, rigor, order, balance, and mathematical precision which are tools also used for spiritual work

behold, I have gained two other talents besides them." His lord said unto him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: Enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Then he which had received the one talent came and said, "Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: Lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, "Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed; thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming, I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents... and cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

We also know that in all the monasteries and convents of all the various faiths, the nuns, the monks, the priests and priestesses had and still have to divide their time between moments of prayer, of mystical life, and moments of hard work in the gardens or in the fields, in the libraries or in the schools, in the kitchens or in the workshops: prayer and work always have to walk together, hand by hand. This is why the alchemists of old used the motto: "Ora et Labora" (Pray and Work). For the same reason, the Emperor Napoleon chose, beside the crown of laurel, the golden bee to be the emblem of his reign, for the hard working bee brings to the hive the golden crop of honey.

The Freemasons, whose name means the Sons of Light, are also qualified as workers, as active builders of their inner Temple, like Joseph, who is said to have been a carpenter, a tekton: This is why they did not choose abstract concepts for their emblem, but concrete tools such as the ruler, the compass and the square, used since ancient time, to work and build in the physical world. By extension, these concrete symbols become the embodiment of such notions as measure, method, rigor, order, balance, and mathematical precision which are tools also used for spiritual work.

This allows us to understand that there is no real separation between the physical and the spiritual, and that the very same qualities we develop on one level are tremendously useful on the other. In other words, if we apply method, perseverance and concentration in our daily chores, there are very good chances that we will apply them also in our spiritual endeavors. And the more talented we

become on the spiritual level, the more efficient we will become on the physical. Of course this requires a certain balance, because if we are overwhelmed by the physical work, there is no time left for the spiritual, but we may also palliate that situation by transforming consciously the physical work in a totally spiritual adventure: to do the house cleaning, to cook, to do the dishes, to tend to the crop, to type business letters, to vote, to drive, to perform: all these humane activities can become actual prayers and actual acts of love, for God and for Man, and allow us to progress along the spiritual path, especially if we apply the following motto: "Anything that deserves to be done, deserves to be well done."

We read in Genesis 3:19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground," and in our Full Moon Service: "Take particular note that the Shew Bread was not the musings of dreamers, it was not the product of speculations upon the nature of God or the like. It was a product of actual toil, of orderly systematic work, and it behooves us to follow the path of actual service if we would garner that treasure which we may 'lay up in heaven.' Unless we really work and serve humanity, we shall have nothing to bring, no 'bread' to 'shew' at the feasts of the Full Moon."

Strengh, whether it is physical or spiritual, is like a muscle: the more you use it, the stronger it becomes ! Exercise cannot waste our strength, it can only increase it. We've all witnessed this during the Olympic Games. All these marvelous athletes are tremendous workers, and in order to increase their endurance, to develop their

muscles, to fine-tune their nervous system, they do not stay idle but exercise very hard, every day and for many hours. The same applies to any of man's fundamental attributes:

The more we love, the more capable of love we become; the more we learn, the more eager to learn we become; the more we create, the more creative we become; the more we work, the more... tired we become... yet the more capable of working!

Now what does Saturn stand for ? It is the planet of discipline, of restriction, of hard work. It stands for the things we must face without any possibility of escape and, at the same time, it represents the Initiator, the teacher, which shows clearly that all the processes included in a life of methodical work and achievement lead at the same time to spiritual unfoldment. Even in the realm of art, hard work is required: inspite of their tremendous genius great souls like Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Da Vinci, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Le Corbusier, Eiffel, Frank Lloyd Wright, Carruso, La Callas, Pavarotti have to work hard, to draw many sketches, sing many tunes, open new ways, and chart unknown territories before they can bloom to their full potential.

In order to act of its own will, a living organism must have a desire body. This is the reason why

The more we love, the more capable of love we become; the more we learn, the more eager to learn we become; the more we create, the more creative we become; the more we work, the more... tired we become... yet the more capable of working!

minerals and plants do not act or work: they do not possess individualized desire bodies. On the contrary, animals and men have developed desire bodies which make them capable of acting and working. Of course the approach to work is different and the intensity is not the same, but the activity is of

Note in passing that the same is true of play and this is the reason why it is so important that children play, in an active way, with personal involvement, (not half asleep in front of a TV set), for if they are not allowed or encouraged to do so, they will never learn how to work well. The apprenticeship of work resides in the apprenticeship of play.

the same nature: look at a beaver building his dam, at birds building their nest, at bees collecting honey or tending to their queen. We may also add that the main difference between simple action and work is that work goes always in a predetermined direction, and has a goal. Note in passing that the same is true of play and this is the reason why it is so important that children play, in an active way,

with personal involvement, (not half asleep in front of a TV set), for if they are not allowed or encouraged to do so, they will never learn how to work well. The apprenticeship of work resides in the apprenticeship of play.

So a desire body is needed if we want to work. But among people on the spiritual path we often hear that one should not have desires, that the desire nature should be tamed. Here we have to be careful. If we kill all our desires we become ineffective and

plantlike, living a life of passivity. Rather than killing all desires, we have to transmute the negative side of its nature into a positive force, ready for action.

To illustrate the fact that faith alone is not enough, and that our active participation is needed, we may read the narration of various miracles related in the New Testament:

In Matthew 8/2: "And, behold, there CAME a leper and he WORSHIPED him SAYING, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed."

In Matthew 20/21: "And as they departed from Jerico, a great multitude followed ~'m. And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, CRIED out, saying, Have mercy on us, O lord, thou Son of David. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace; but they CRIED THE MORE, saying, have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said 'What WILL YE that I shall do unto you?' They said unto him 'Lord, that our eyes may be opened.' So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him."

In Luke 8/43: "And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years... CAME behind him, and TOUCHED the border of his garment, and immediately her issue of blood stanchd."

In Mat. 9/35: "And Jesus WENT about all the cities and villages, TEACHING in their synagogues, and PREACHING the gospel of the kingdom, and HEALING every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was

There is no stand still in the universe,

things either progress or regress...

Species which do not adapt to new

circumstances, and do not develop new

skills, face increasing struggles and

ultimately disappear.

on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

The Apostle James in his epistle sums it up: (James 2:14-26) "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can Faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what does it profit? Wilt thou know o vain man, that faith without works is dead?... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

There is no stand still in the universe, things

**"WHERE THERE IS NO VISION,
THE PEOPLE PERISH."**

—Proverbs

either progress or regress. So when we speak of work, we do not mean only the mere repetition of the same tasks, day after day, in a more or less automatic fashion, but also the CREATION of new ways and new methods in order to promote more efficiency and greater progress. Routine maintains the status quo, and standing still ultimately breeds decay and death while creative work promotes life and evolution. Species which do not adapt to new circumstances, and do not develop new skills, face increasing struggles and ultimately disappear. It is the same with every single man or woman, with every group, organization or civilization: when they stop taking on new challenges and refuse to adapt to new conditions, they become lazy and uncreative, they stop evolving, fall by the wayside and die. To work in a creative way requires an inner vision, a projection of the goal to be achieved, and the sustaining force is faith, for faith allows us to know from within that the right action will bear the right fruit. This is why we read in Proverbs 29/18: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." A more modern rendition of this same ideal of a fruitful and courageous life sustained by faith and energized by work is expressed by Rudyard Kipling in the following poem:

if

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;
If you can dream - and not make dreams your
master;
If you can think - and not make thoughts your
aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,

And stoop and build'em up with wornout tools;
If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on;"
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!

Nadine B. de Galzain

**“THE CHRIST WITHIN SPEAKS TO US IN
THE SILENT SOLITUDE OF OUR
INNERMOST SELVES.”**

INNER REDEMPTION AND OUTER SUPPORT

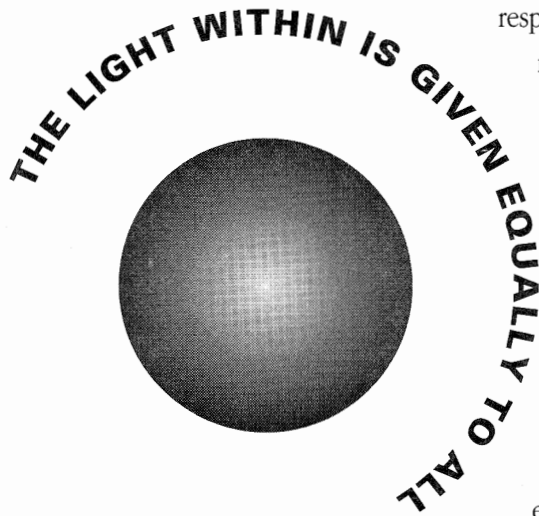
CHRISTINE LINDEMAN

Few occasions generate the widespread joy, good fellowship, and cheer that are experienced during the Christmas season. For children, it represents a time of almost unbearable anticipation and wonder. For families, it means gladsome reunions with loved ones. For those who can respond at an esoteric level to the intense spiritual vibrations now enveloping the Earth, it means a heightened awareness of the cosmic significance of this season of the year. For all humanity, Christmas denotes a time of “feeling good” –whether solely in physical and emotional terms, or also in higher spiritual terms.

For the Christ, however, to Whom we owe this period of abundant blessing, Christmas marks the nadir of incarceration in the material –a period of restriction in which He will literally “groan and travail” for the sake of all mankind until His release from physical bondage at Easter tide. This holy Christmas season, so joyous for us, represents for Him a period of imprisonment that must be excruciating to a Being of His exalted spiritual stature.

And yet, although His suffering during His annual earthly imprisonment must be intense, we know that He returns to us each

year voluntarily, motivated by unfathomable love. Surely, His is the most supreme example of selfless sacrifice of which the human race is



aware, and from which the race has been privileged to benefit.

Our rejoicing, our exaltation during this holy season is occasioned by response to the refined, sublime Christ aura now permeating the Earth and its atmosphere. This life-giving, joy-giving aura comes to us only because He has again returned to His imprisonment.

Because He voluntarily suffers pain for our sakes, we have our season of rejoicing and, far more important, we are given

renewed life.

Eventually, the Christ will be freed from His recurring annual period of agony within the Earth, but this will come about only when men have learned to

respond sufficiently to the redeeming power within

themselves. The

redeeming Spirit

within us –the

Christ Within– is our true Saviour.

The outer

Redeemer points the way and gives of

Himself that we may embark upon that way;

only the inner Redeemer can

carry us along to that point of perfection at which our upliftment will permit the liberation of the outer Redeemer from the Earth.

The Christ Within speaks to us in the silent solitude of our innermost selves, not in the turbulence of the outside world. All too often, we turn a deaf ear to this inner voice, allowing the outer self, the selfish material man, to rule our actions. This selfish, material man will have to become subservient to the redeeming power within before the trials and tribulations of the

world –and the agony of the Christ– finally will come to an end. Man can have no true happiness or true contentment, and make no substantial evolutionary advances, until he, once and for all, learns to assert the divine part of his nature. The Christ, too, will not be freed from His centuries of annual sacrifice until the divinity in man predominates sufficiently.

The Christmas season, more than any other, impresses upon those of humanity who are able to perceive, a sense of the cosmic Source of our being and consciousness. A man who fixes his thoughts on the great Immensity which is God becomes filled with inspiration. The more he draws upon this infinite Source, now intensified for us by the all-pervasive Christ aura, the greater will become his power, his evolutionary stature, and his aspiration to even more lofty spiritual conquests. As he thus grows, drawing more and more upon the redeeming inner power, the narrow material self decreases in authority until it becomes, at last, completely subservient to the higher self.

There is no reason for man

—any man— to dwell in darkness. The Christ Light surrounds us, and the light of our own Spirit, feeble though it presently may be, is but waiting to be enkindled and radiate from us as it did from the saints. The light within is given equally to all. It cannot be otherwise, for we are each a small but vital and beloved Spark of that One Light which is God. The light within is unfailing if we will allow it to shine, but we alone can see to it that it does shine. We alone, also, can so easily dim it with selfish, petty thoughts, unworthy deeds, pride, ambition, and harshness.

Each person, individually, is responsible for his own inner illumination. No power compels us to the spiritual life or forces us to live it. Spiritual living, by its very nature, cannot be based on compulsion. It is effective —it is possible— only when it is spontaneous. That spontaneity occurs naturally when we learn to listen to the voice of the Christ Within, which is ever asking us to go forward. Once we can respond to that call, once we start to live the spiritual life, we take the first steps that will eventually and permanently free both the Christ,

and ourselves, from material bondage.

In order to find our point of contact with God, we must find our point of contact within. Our inner consciousness can and will provide us with the ideals that we must have as standards to live by, if we intend to make spiritual progress. Then, as we apply these standards more and more rigorously to all we think, say, and do, our lives become ever more fruitful. In time we become

completely awakened and completely free in the spiritual sense, and once this occurs, no force, no individual, and no circumstance, can take away our tranquillity.

It has been said that the man who truly knows his divine heritage becomes like unto it in nature. With the renewed seasonal

advent of the Christ Ray into our Earth, we once again are surrounded by the spiritual force that, if we can respond to it, will engender in us a new awareness of that divine heritage. The Christ Spirit is a universal Channel through which flows, unabated, divine blessing, Light, and Love. Through Him, divine beneficence is radiated to all humanity. It is for each of us to use this Christ Light to awaken the recognition of our own divinity, and to become “like

In order to find our point of contact with God, we must find our point of contact within. Our inner consciousness can and will provide us with the ideals that we must have as standards to live by, if we intend to make spiritual progress.

unto it in nature.” The sooner we do this, the sooner will the permanent liberation of the Christ be achieved and the sooner will we, too, be free to pass permanently into the spiritual realms.

Pathway to the Divine

A TALK GIVEN IN OUR
CHAPEL BY E. W.

HOLY scriptures speak with candor to those who have accepted the challenge of the higher life; and they reveal how God, by His grace, is calling us to effect His will. We are being encouraged to apply in our own lives the greatest principle of all: only as we serve our fellow man are we in the service of the Christ. Furthermore, this principle of service to the Christ is in essence a catalyst, making it possible in due time to manifest our own God-given potentials.

In No. 7 of Max Heindel's Letters to Students, he points out how at the time of Christ Jesus the Gospel of Love to our neighbor and forgiveness toward those who trespass against us became the new teaching –a teaching that will in time supplant the rampant egoism of today. When Christ “went under the waters of Baptism,” He there received the Universal Spirit...

Thus He became filled with love, and therefore naturally radiated that quality, as naturally as a stove filled with burning coal radiates heat. We may preach to the stove that its duty is to heat, but until we fill it with fuel, it will remain cold. Likewise, we may preach to humanity that we ought to be brothers and love one another, but until we put ourselves “in tune with the Infinite, we can no more love our neighbor than the empty stove can heat. As Paul says, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal’.”

Apparently we cannot be reminded too often that we should not love in word, or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. Truly, Love never faileth!

The biblical account of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness reveals how man has developed a life pattern of egoism which is foreign to the great Divine Plan of our Creator. As a consequence, when the people entered the Outer Court, they were first confronted with the Brazen Altar upon which the

animals were sacrificed. Let us keep in mind how the sacrificial animals were a symbol of undisciplined desires, passions, and appetites. They represented the products of our own lower natures (from the union of the desire body and the mind).

Furthermore, as the sacrifice must take place on the Brazen Altar

(brass is an alloy of copper and zinc, also made by man) it becomes abundantly clear how we must

repent of our own past un-godly acts and set out on a new course –a new life pattern that is Christ or Divine Love oriented.

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Truly, Love never faileth!

Gaskell's Dictionary of All. Scriptures and Myths defines the sacrifice of animals as “the transmutation of lower qualities (animals, etc.,) into higher qualities, as taught in all scriptures. The qualities are reborn on a higher plane of existence.”

Actually, we see symbolized in the Brazen Altar the results of a life of egoism. It appears to be in keeping with the Holy Scriptures, that we are to be engrossed with these sacrifices until at long last we

come to the realization of the absolute futility of such acts. At that moment, when we can honestly make this decision, and begin to live the life of true altruism (impersonal love), we will begin a new life-experience culminating at the “throne” of almighty God! This is a distinct possibility as outlined in Revelation 3:21. “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am sat down with my Father in his throne.”

Egoism is the doctrine that individual self-interest is the valid end of all conscious action –and isn’t that the cause of most of our troubles?

“Though I speak with the tongues of men” –though I have the mastery of all languages of men with the power and knowledge implied– in the sight of the great God of Love, the great Christ Spirit, I am but sounding brass, polished perhaps, but with a hollow ring and a false light of reflection. The self-interest of egoism will not supply me with an inner light of my own, to light the way for the faltering footsteps of others. Truthfully, there will be

insufficient light to guide my own foot steps.

The people were allowed in the Outer Court to experience justification by the atonement of

Altruism is the regard for and devotion to the interests of others. The true love of altruism to which we must strive to respond is, as stated in the Cosmo-Conception: “that only which is of the soul and embraces all beings high and low, increasing in proportion to the needs of the recipient.”

their sins. Expressed another way, the first step on the Path frees the individual from the guilt or blame for his past sins. Consequently, he has experienced justification.

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The true love of altruism to which we must strive to respond is, as stated in the Cosmo-Conception: “that only which is of the soul and embraces all beings high and low, increasing in proportion to the needs of the recipient.”

As we learn to respond to altruism and love, we are allowed into the East Room where consecration and devotion to high ideals of brotherhood are practiced. We plainly see how activities there are based on service freely given to our fellow man.

By the performance of the necessary consecration and devotion to others, it becomes possible to detect the pleasant aroma of burning incense –which signifies the essence of our good deeds. The aroma is seen to be drifting up to God for His approval, and we readily understand the rewards of altruism as a way of life.

Our reference to the Tabernacle in the Wilderness need not be an isolated example. As we search the Holy Scripture, both in the Old and New Testaments, frequent reference to a life of altruism may be found. For example:

Love is the supreme commandment.

Love will keynote the coming Age.

Esoteric Masonry reveals a similar message. As the candidate “passes” the degrees, he is indoctrinated with the ideal of love and service to his fellow man. When he has at last mastered these goals he becomes the Master Mason, with the resulting new life and freedoms.

The Master Mason has at last discovered the purpose of one of the important (symbolic) tools of Masonry: the trowel. A statement from Duncan’s Masonic Monitor develops this idea further: “The trowel is an instrument made use of by operative Masons to spread the cement which unites a building into one common mass; but we as free and accepted Masons are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection; that cement which unites us into one sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist...”

Again, we learn how all the great things we might do are done in vain –unless they are done in

love. It is love that becomes the bond that holds our building (or temple) together.

Perhaps the most difficult test of all is how we react to the actions of our enemy. We must realize that he cannot tear down our structure or cause it not to be cemented together. That possibility lies only within ourselves.

John tells us that “God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God; and God in him.” In another place we are told that God is light. It becomes obvious that if God is love and God is light, then love and light are similar, or at least very closely related. Expressed in other terms, things that are equal to the same thing are also equal to each other. If we can accept this mathematical theorem, we may make a further relevant statement: love is light, or light is love.

Conversely, if there is no love to be found in the heart, then there is no light there. The path, the way, is dark indeed. If there is enlightenment, there will have to be love.

Love overcometh all sins.

–Prov. 10:12.

Love worketh no ill.

–Romans 13:10.

The fruit of the spirit is love.

–Gal. 5:22.

Let brotherly love continue.

–Hebrews 13:1.

Love is of God.

–I John 4:8.

God is love.

–I John 4:10.

Thou shalt love thy neighbor.

–Mark 12:36.

They shall prosper that love thee.

–Psalm 122:6.

As students of The Rosicrucian Fellowship Teachings

we say: Love can never conflict with God’s purposes.

We should at all times manifest love for our neighbors.

Love is a creative soul force.

Love is divine.

Love is a creative soul force.

Love is Divine.

We learn in the Western Wisdom Teachings how in the East Room of the Tabernacle the candidate depends upon the external light from the golden candlestick to light his way. As we serve and labor in God's vineyard, we learn to manifest God's love in our hearts. Since love is light, we are in effect lighting the lamps within our own beings.

Remember –God is Light!

The symbolism of the West Room, or Holy of Holies, being of such design that it is completely dark within, is that we may view

The Golden Wedding Garment, that etheric vehicle we must all have to be able to function in the coming New Galilee, contains the golden light of the Christ Spirit.

the interior of this room (the head) only as we develop our own light within. Light, being of a measurable frequency, discloses to us how love should also have a discernible corresponding frequency. The message has become obvious: we are commanded to love because of the extremely high frequency generated by altruistic living. We

realize how love will flood the temple of our own inner natures with light. Only then may we expect to “sit with Christ on His throne” –as promised in Revelation.

Radio stations transmit their programs over a high frequency carrier wave. My radio will not receive one of the thousands of these waves that

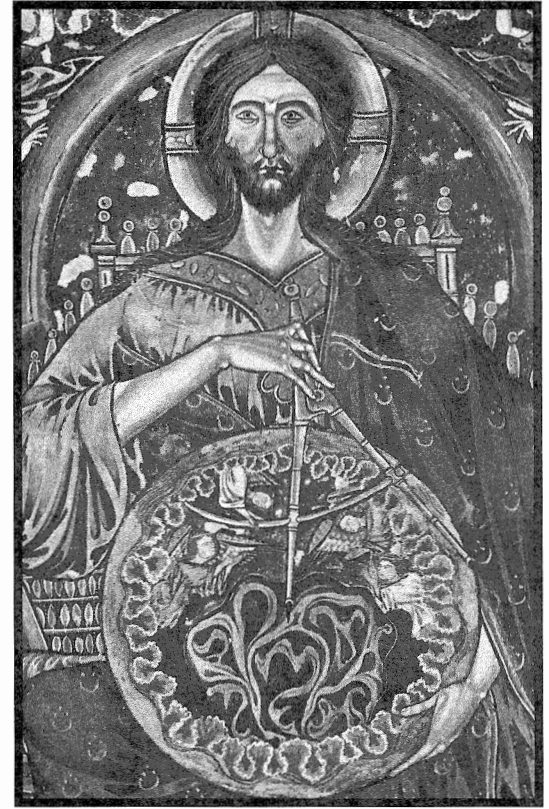
bombard it from all directions until it can maintain a frequency in its own circuits of exactly the same number of cycles as the station frequency I choose to receive. When both frequencies are in step or have the same frequency, a new phenomenon, called resonance, takes place. When the two frequencies are in resonance they are so strongly locked together that the volume of the reception is greatly strengthened. Signals of other frequencies cause oscillations of conflicting frequencies and they

die away.

Isn't this exactly the pattern we are to follow? Only by raising our own frequency by love to that of the Christ will we ever be able to tune in to the higher vibrations of Him who sits on His “throne.”

Recorded in Isaiah is this statement: “I saw the Lord, sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up and his train filled the temple.” Others could not see because they lacked sufficient light within –the proper frequency response.

The Golden Wedding Garment, that etheric vehicle we



must all have to be able to function in the coming New Galilee, contains the golden light of the Christ Spirit. We further contemplate how gold or yellow emits one of the highest vibrations of any color. Furthermore, the creation of objects of form by sound vibration is well known to all of us. We must respectfully acknowledge how there is no way –absolutely no way– to construct the Golden Wedding Garment but by living the life of altruistic service to our fellow man. In essence, the light manifested by a life of service becomes the vehicle containing the necessary vibration (i.e, form) to construct the cherished Wedding Garment. Any other frequency would build a structure of unstable characteristics.

Christ instructs us through His apostle, Matthew, how He has brought the “New Teaching of Love” into the world. Reference is made to the account of the “new wine in old bottles.” A lesser known translation records this event as follows:

“Then said the Pharisees unto Him, why will ye not receive us with our baptism, seeing we keep the whole law?

“But Jesus said unto them, ye keep not the law. If ye had kept the law, ye would have received me, for I am He who gave the law.

“I receive not you with your

who are able to raise themselves to the new higher vibrations of love, and partake of this new wine or teaching, must make of themselves new persons.

We must respectfully acknowledge how there is no way –absolutely no way– to construct the Golden Wedding Garment but by living the life of altruistic service to our fellow man.

baptism, because it profiteth you nothing.

“For when that which is new is come (Christ’s teaching on love) the old is ready to be put away.

“For no man putteth a piece of new cloth on an old garment; for that which is put in to fill it up, taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.

“Neither do men put new wine into old bottles; else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out and the bottles perish; but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.”

The foregoing account identifies the new teaching of love that was being brought into the world to succeed the law of form (not to do away with it). Those

Obviously, this new wine could not be kept in the old containers or old consciousness.

We are being told how the new bottles (higher consciousness with the resulting higher vibrations) are necessary to contain the power of these advanced teachings. The old consciousness is incapable of understanding or containment. Consequently, new wine would destroy the old bottles.

We must graduate from the old Jehovistic regime into the newer regime of love. When this has been accomplished we will have become new men in Christ and will be in possession of the cherished Golden Wedding Garment.

“NO ROOM...

I N T H E I N N ”



Every year at this season Christendom is solemnly reminded that at the Saviour’s birth “there was no room” for the Holy Family “in the inn,” and so the Babe of Bethlehem was “laid... in a manger.”¹ Even as things taken for granted are little appreciated, so words repeated by rote are seldom scrutinized, especially if they seem as simple and clear cut as “no room... in the inn.” Yet actually they do not convey exactly what may appear on the surface.²

The popular impression no doubt is that “no room... in the inn” means the building was just as completely filled as a glass of water might be if full to the brim, in which case there indeed wouldn’t be any more room for anything else in it. But was Bethlehem’s inn that “night of nights” really full in that very literal sense?

Let’s try to picture the scene: father, mother, and newborn Babe in a stable—uncomfortable, unclean, unpleasant. When people entered to feed or check on their animals weren’t there any who were moved by what they saw—moved enough to want to do something to accommodate the Little Family so very much out of place there? Or why couldn’t the inn’s owner share his own premises, or didn’t he really know anyone in town who might have better quarters for that Family in dire need in the stable? Weren’t any of the people living in or crowding into Bethlehem acquainted with such portions of the old Testament as “bring the poor that are cast out to thy house”?³ Isn’t living in a stable being “cast out?”

Another question begs to be asked. Suppose Joseph and Mary had been wealthy, would they still have been unable to do better than the stable in Bethlehem’s inn? Suppose they had offered a big

sum of money for a few days' decent lodging –or even a fraction thereof– wouldn't there have been at least one willing taker? Might there nor even have been something like an auction in reverse if word had gotten out that Joseph was willing to pay someone 1,000 talents for his room for a few nights, wouldn't others have rushed in to offer to vacate their quarters for 900, or even less?

They say that "in New York, everything is for sale."⁴ The same was said of Constantinople during the Crimean War (1853-55), enabling Florence Nightingale to buy supplies for her hospital. Of how many places can it not truthfully be said? Much may have changed during the more than 19 centuries since yon Holy Night, but one thing has not: man's love of money. But Joseph and Mary had no money to bargain with. That was why there was no room for them in Bethlehem's inn or elsewhere in town. Favors weren't being done for free; materialism undercuts human sympathy it was responsible for the birth of that Holy Babe having occurred in a stable with the animals.

Materialism always puts life below the human level. Joseph,

Mary, and Jesus were physically down in a stable on a par with the animals; the materialistic masses in Bethlehem function on that level in a spiritual sense –even as does modern man's materialism which is responsible for environmental pollution that is threatening to turn the entire world into a place as unfit for humans as a stable.

Are we reading too much into the nativity story? Metaphysically, Bethlehem means "house of bread."⁵ And bread, we know from the Master's words 30 years after Bethlehem, represents the material: "Man shall not live by bread alone."⁶ There can be no doubt that it was not literal, physical lack of room, but lack of heart and will due to materialism, that was in the final analysis the reason why the Holy Child made

its debut in a lowly stable.

Alas, it has always been materialism that has been spirituality's great nemesis. For instance, when we read of the seven Churches described in the last book of the bible, we find the True Witness pictured as standing outside only one church, that of Laodicea, the one "increased with goods,"⁷ the one clearly singled out as materialistic.

In his panoramic portrayal of "The Path of Evolution," Max Heindel tells us that "here on earth... the nadir of materiality... was reached a few million years ago. The tendency henceforth will be upward into rarer substance."⁸ But this "tendency" should not be taken as a straight line of uninterrupted progress.

The planets of our Solar

In his panoramic portrayal of "The Path of Evolution," Max Heindel tells us that "here on earth... the nadir of materiality... was reached a few million years ago. The tendency henceforth will be upward into rarer substance." But this "tendency" should not be taken as a straight line of uninterrupted progress.

System, which guide our cosmic unfolding, do not always move forward as seen from our earth. At times they appear to retrograde, which has special significance. When the ocean's tide is said to be "coming in," it actually is also "going out" part of the time in the process. When winter approaches,

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it doesn't steadily get colder; some december days are warmer than those of October, yet overall, it is obvious which way things are heading. Thus also with the "tendency" out of materiality.

One who in his day has been described as "perhaps the greatest living German," Thomas Mann, has written, "Outwardly we live in an epoch of retrograde

civilization."⁹ And a former famous head of Harvard's department of sociology, Pitirim Sorokin, confirms this by dividing the Christian era into three stages. The first he calls the "ideational," spanning about the first 12 centuries, during which the "supersensory," or as we might say, the "nonmaterial," was regarded as "the only true reality and value." Next, for about two centuries, the "idealistic" was dominant, which "blended the other-worldly and the this-worldly." Then, around the 16th century, emerged what he labels the "sensate" or materialistic culture."¹⁰

And let it not be thought that materialism has through the years challenged Christendom only from without. Its influence has penetrated the Church, even disguised as spirituality. We think of colonial America's pious pioneers, the Puritans. Nothing else in their early years occupied their magnificent minds more than how to be sure of divine acceptance. Eventually, based on their study of the Old Testament, they concluded that wealth, material possessions, were a sign thereof; poverty practically portended perdition.¹¹ That

explains to great extent their industry, bound to bring affluence -but also eventually to eclipse the things of the Spirit.

Many have wondered why slavery endured so long (till 1865) in the South, a most religious region. The explanation is simple: the wealthy slave owners almost all were church members; they were largely responsible for providing the clergy's salaries. The men of the cloth knew on which side their bread was buttered, Not only did they not preach against the infamous institution, they furnished books and sermons "defending" its "Biblical basis" -of course the result of misinterpretations.

The story of tobacco is similar. Clergy are funded by growers of the weed. Result: many tobacco auctions, where cigarette producers do their buying, are actually opened by clergy offering invocations, which to many constitutes a sort of seal of approval.

There is the "Gospel of Wealth" teaching, currently quite popular. It holds out wealth as every believer's birthright. According to one of its clerical advocates, "Money is God in

action” and “practicing what she preaches, the pastor lives in a 23-room mansion.”¹² How much room can there be in such “theology” for Him Who was cradled in a borrowed manger, preached from borrowed boats and elsewhere to awaken men from materialism,¹³ ate His last supper in a borrowed upper room, and was buried in a borrowed tomb?

“Today the conventional church is a professional propaganda agency, financed by silent spectators; preachers are hired to preach the sermons; musicians are hired to express the emotions; evangelists are engaged to recruit the members, while the laity simply sits back and pays the bills –and some just sit back.”¹⁴

The irony of ironies surely is that presently the year’s most blatant manifestation of materialism out of control occurs at Christmas. The early Christians didn’t celebrate it till the 5th century, and to their credit it must be added that the Puritans –though as noted, at the end strapped with a materialistic philosophy– did not observe it at all.¹⁵

Nowadays, just a few facts

will show that Christmas has become moribund with materialism’s malodorous miasma. Annually, millions of trees are felled because of it. This is not only an onslaught on the environment (hard to recycle), but also responsible for shortening lives of pets and starting fires –one major reason why more accidents occur at Christmas than at any other time.

Also, twenty million turkeys and five million pigs and cattle have their throats slit, are dropped into boiling water –all part of the “celebration” of the birth of the gentle Jesus. Toys cause an average thirty three deaths and 148,000 emergency room admissions each Christmas. There’s much gluttony, workers’ absenteeism, congestion in travel and the post office, and a plethora of prodigality in general. There’s much forced giving of gifts, much of which is useless and unnecessary. One fourth of all expensive jewelry and watches (the latter \$15,000 or more) are bought at this time. Two fifths of gifts are returned or exchanged.¹⁶

“For hundreds of thousands of men and women, the holidays are a special torment... call them

shopaholics. Society encourages spending. Buying is a national pastime... Credit is sinfully easy... Sprees can be antidotes to depression, loneliness and boredom... Explains Carole Lieberman, a Beverly Hills psychiatrist, ‘People shop to make up for what they don’t have on

For hundreds of thousands of men and women, the holidays are a special torment... call them shopaholics. Society encourages spending. Buying is a national pastime... Credit is sinfully easy... Sprees can be antidotes to depression, loneliness and boredom...

the inside. They’re trying to fill up because they feel empty.”¹⁷

Of the children of Israel after they sojourn in materialistic Egypt it was written, “He [God] gave them their request; but sent leanness into their sou.”¹⁸ To “feel empty,” “leanness” of “soul,” these are the sure marks of materialism.

Every Christmas in many places controversy erupts over nativity scenes in certain places

supposedly violating “separation of church and state.” There is no such thing mentioned in the Constitution; it is an expression taken from a nonauthoritative private letter of president Jefferson.¹⁹ But a strong argument could be made that some of the people seeking to remove nativity scenes might have the commercialization of Christmas in mind. For if people stopped to view and wonder the pitiful condition of Bethlehem’s Babe in that crude manger, and then recall its Occupant later said that “the

foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head”²⁰ –would they really proceed to buy all that stuff on their list?

Real Christ-mas –the mass, or celebration of the Christ– is not the celebration of self, friends, relatives etc., but of Him after whom it is named. It is well to take another look at the scene of the nativity, Bethlehem, the house of bread, symbol of the material. It is in Judah, which means “praise.”²¹ The material is not to be

squandered or looked down upon its Creator declared it to be “very good.”²² And the highest use it can be put to is celebrate –praise– Him with the material; all we are and have is to be dedicated to Him, especially at this season, for

Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born
And not within thyself, thy soul will be forlorn.

The Cross on Golgotha thou lookest to in vain

Unless within thyself it be set up again.²³

–A Probationer

1. Luke 2:7.
2. *The New Age Bible Interpretation, Volume IV, The New Testament, Part I*, Corinne Heline, pp. 99-102 provides illumined insights into this story.
3. Isaiah 58:7.
4. *BusinessWeek*, December 10, 1990, p. 38.
5. *Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*, p.119.
6. Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; Esoteric Bible Dictionary, John P. Scott, p. 14.
7. Revelation 3:17-20.
8. *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*, Max Heindel, p. 199.
9. “Culture and Politics,” *Survey Graphic*, February, 1939, p. 151.
10. *Date With Destiny*, Ralph W. Sockman, p. 22.
11. Deuteronomy 28.
12. *Time*, November 19, 1990, p. 90.
13. *The Four Gospels Esoterically Interpreted*, John P. Scott, p. 160.
14. Ralph W. Sockman, *op. cit.*, p. 29; italics added for emphasis.
15. It was not that they were afraid of materialistic excesses, but antagonistic to what they believed were pagan origins of Christmas.
16. *U.S. News & World Report*, November 26, 1990, p. 13;
17. *Time*, December 26, 1988, p. 82.
18. Psalm 106:15.
19. The Constitution *does* forbid the establishment by Congress of any one single Church –as was Europe’s 18th century custom.
20. Matthew 8:20.
21. *Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*, p. 372.
22. Genesis 1:31.
23. *The Rosicrucian Christianity Lectures*, Max Heindel, pp, 241, 274, 338.

Spiritual Light

It was not by chance that teachers of the Grecian Mystery School thus named that luminous substance which we know as phosphorus. To them it was patent that "God is Light"—the Greek word is phos. They therefore most appropriately named the substance in the brain which is the avenue of ingress of the divine impulse, phosphorus; literally, "light bearer."

In the measure that we are capable of assimilating that substance, we become filled with light and commence to shine from within. a halo surrounding us as a mark of sainthood. The phosphorus, however, is only a physical medium which enables the spiritual light to express through the physical brain, the light itself being the product of soul growth. But soul growth enables the brain to assimilate an increasing amount of phosphorus; hence the method of acquiring this substance in large quantity is not by chemical

metabolism, but by an alchemical process of soul growth, thoroughly explained by Christ in His discourse to Nicodemus:

God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world... He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already... And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light.... For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Christmas is the season of greatest spiritual light. During this age of alternating cycles there is an ebb and flow of the spiritual light as well as of the waters in the ocean. The early Christian church marked the conception in the fall of the year, and to this day the event is celebrated in the Catholic church when the great wave of spiritual life and light commences its

descent into the Earth.

The flood tide is reached at Christmas, which is therefore truly the holy season of the year, the time when this spiritual light is most easily contacted and specialized by the aspirant through deeds of mercy, kindness, and love. Nor are opportunities lacking even to the poorest, for, as so often emphasized in the Rosicrucian Teachings, service counts more than financial assistance, which may be a detriment to the recipient.

From those, however, to whom much is given, much will be required, and if anyone has been blessed with an abundance of the world's goods, a careful dispensation of the same would necessarily accompany whatever physical service he may render. Let us further remember the words of the Christ: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Thus we shall follow Him as burning and shining lights, showing the way to the New Era.

—Max Heindel.

Spiritual Aspirant and Duty

THIS DEPARTMENT IS DEVOTED TO A STUDY OF THE ROSICRUCIAN PHILOSOPHY BY THE SOCRATIC METHOD, THE MATERIAL BEING TAKEN FROM THE ROSICRUCIAN COSMO-CONCEPTION.

Q. How ought spiritual aspirants to regard marriage?

A. Aspirants to the higher life, filled with an earnest desire to live a noble spiritual life, often regard the sex function with horror, because of the harvest of misery which humanity has reaped as a result of its abuse. They are apt to turn in disgust from what they regard as impurity, overlooking the fact that it is precisely such people as they who (having brought their vehicles into good condition by means of proper sanitary food, high and lofty thought, and pure and spiritual lives) are best fitted to generate the dense bodies essential to the development of entities seeking incarnation.

Q. How does this affect incoming Egos?

A. It is common knowledge among occult scientists that, to the detriment of the race, many high class 'Egos are kept out of incarnation at the present time solely because parents cannot be found who are pure enough to provide them with the necessary physical vehicles.

Q. Are such aspirants shirking

a duty?

A. Persons who, for reasons above mentioned, refrain from doing their duty to humanity, are magnifying the Sun spots to such an extent that they forget to see the Sun itself! The sex function has its great place in the economy of the world. When properly used there is no greater boon to the Ego, for it then provides pure and healthful bodies such as man needs for his development. Conversely, when abused, there is no greater curse, for it is then the source of the worst ills to which flesh is heir.

Q. How far-reaching might be the effect of our conduct?

A. "No man liveth unto himself. "By our words and acts we are constantly affecting others. By the proper performance or the neglect of our duty we make or mar the lives, first, of those in our immediate environment, but ultimately of all the inhabitants of the Earth, and more.

Q. To what extent ought an aspirant to consider his family?

A. No one has a right to seek the higher life without having

performed his duty to his family, his country, and the human race. Selfishly to set aside everything else and live solely for one's own spiritual advancement is as reprehensible as not to care for the spiritual life at all. Nay, it is worse; for those who do their duty in the ordinary life to the best of their ability, devoting themselves to the welfare of those dependent upon them, are cultivating the essential quality of faithfulness.

Q. How important is this?

A. In due time they will certainly advance to a point where they will become awake to spiritual necessities and will carry to that work the faithfulness developed elsewhere.

Q. What can the aspirant who neglects his duties expect?

A. The man who deliberately turns his back upon his present duties to take up the spiritual life will surely be forced back into the path of duty from which he has mistakenly diverged, with no possible means of escape until the lesson has been learned.

Reference: Cosmo-Conception, 468-470.

Christian Precepts

SEE THAT NONE RENDER EVIL FOR EVIL UNTO ANY MAN; BUT EVER FOLLOW THAT WHICH IS GOOD, BOTH AMONG YOURSELVES, AND TO ALL MEN. 🌿 REJOICE EVERMORE. 🌿 PRAY WITHOUT CEASING. 🌿 IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS; FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING YOU. 🌿 QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT.

—I THESSALONIANA 5:15-19



The mystic, who follows the path of the unquestioning heart, responds to such lofty precepts as these given by St. Paul simply because of his complete faith in the divine Source from whom he believes the sublime ideals of the New Testament came. To the occultist, who follows the dictates of the reasoning mind, these admonitions appeal only after they have been shown to be based upon scientific law. Each must eventually come to the point where he combines the faculties of the head with those of the heart and subsequently is able to express in a balanced manner all the unfolded powers of the individualized Spirit.

For those primarily on the head path occult philosophy explains the teachings of Christ Jesus and His disciples as spiritual laws which may be used to bring about definite soul growth in the complex human being. Thus the Ego, having satisfied the questionings of the intellect, is able to live the devotional life and unfold the qualities of the heart in an equal measure with those of the head.

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good. It is a spiritual law that we attract to ourselves conditions in harmony with the vibratory rate of the thoughts and emotions which make up our aura. Consequently, when we "ever follow that which is good," we build so strong a positive vibration within ourselves that we do not respond to "evil." We are then in accord with St. Paul's further injunction, "Be not overcome of evil, but

overcome evil with good." Also, by constant repetition of acts of love and service to others we attract the two higher ethers which form the soul body, that ethereal garment in which we will function during ages to come.

Rejoice evermore. Joy is a high rate of vibration which causes the vital body to well forth with such power that in harmonies are eliminated and health and well-being are invited. Every true Christian radiates a quiet cheerfulness and optimism. Indeed, how can he do otherwise if he really believes in the actuality of God's love and wisdom?

Pray without ceasing. Prayer is not only "the most powerful method of soul growth known," but it is also the surest and quickest way to commune with Divinity and manifest Its blessings upon Earth. Repeated scientific prayer affects the subconscious so that the aspirant comes to "pray without ceasing" in the sense that he may be said to live "in the presence of God" and unconsciously endeavors to do His will in all things.

In everything give thanks. An attitude of thankfulness to our Creator, for ourselves and others is a vital factor in making soul growth. "When we offer thanksgiving and praise we put ourselves in a favorable position to the Law of Attraction, a receptive state where we may receive a new downpouring of the Spirit of Love and Light."

Quench not the Spirit. The promptings of the Higher Self, the Spirit, are always unselfish, urging us to love and serve our fellow men. The more we heed these promptings, the more "soul" or food do we garner for nourishing the Ego toward perfection.

CLINTON



GORE

That's what the media named them when they became a team in July 1992. After all this would be the youngest executive team ever.¹ Also, never before had the American public seen its top leaders jogging together. Political cartoonists have been capitalizing on Clinton's powerful jaw; do they know that according to physiognomy it tends to "sheer dynamic power"?

AMERICA'S "DYNAMIC DUO?"

Astrology confirms the perceptions of strength. For “an abundant fund of vim and energy” it is best to be born “when the life giving Sun is in its exaltation sign Aries or Leo, its home,” and “about sunrise, or during the forenoon from 8 to 12.”³ Clinton was born under Leo at 8.51 A.M.; Gore under Aries at 12.53 P.M. Admittedly, that’s not forenoon, but the 9th house, in which his Sun is located, bestows on planets “a higher vibration than when placed in any other area.”⁴ Too, by mutual reception dynamic Mars joins the solar orb which receives additional power by being the most elevated planet, conjunct the Part of Fortune, and trined by powerful Mars, Saturn, Pluto.⁵

Decades ago, a secret service agent, escorting the President in a walk through Washington, was asked by a friend, “Who’s that little fella with you?” Clinton or Gore will never be referred to as “little fella.” With dynamic Pluto in the sign of Leo the lion conjunct the Sun (Clinton) and conjunct the Ascendant (Gore) both project

robust physical vigor.⁶ Of course more than mere physical prowess is desirable in the nation’s executive team, also of will and mind; Clinton and Gore are not lacking.

In Clinton’s map, all the angles hold cardinal signs: enterprise, initiative. Only the nodes, Part of Fortune, and one planet are immutable signs. But of these, all but the South Node are in the 9th sector which, as noted above, bestows a “higher vibration.” The Part of Fortune

In Clinton’s map, all the angles hold cardinal signs: enterprise, initiative. Only the nodes, Part of Fortune, and one planet are immutable signs. But of these, all but the South Node are in the 9th sector which, as noted above, bestows a “higher vibration.”

conjunct Uranus greatly strengthens the personality.⁷ And the nodes add to the President’s overall strength in a most desirable way: all planets but one, the Moon, are between them, in the half from the North Node counterclockwise to the South Node, which is “the hemisphere of achievement.”⁸

The lunar orb may be outside the desirable hemisphere yet it

also is a definite boost: conjunct a critical degree, in its exaltation sign, conjunct the energizing North Node of Mars⁹ and equally potent solstice point of Pluto, in the house of which both these orbs are natural rulers. The Moon in Taurus gives determination, patience, fixity of purpose in the 8th house it is enabled to regenerate itself –like in ways to make itself more pleasing to the general public, a valuable asset to all in public life.

Before entering public life,

President Reagan was told actors shouldn’t become politicians. He replied, “All politicians are actors; at least I admit it.” Unless principle is violated or false pretense is made, it certainly is better to project a pleasing personality than one that is not, even if it takes “effort.” And one very pleasing aspect of Clinton’s personality is definitely not “acting,” but completely genuine:

his love for people. His Sun is in the house of friends; those with strength in Leo and Libra develop “a charming, gracious personality” because of their “heartfelt need to reach out to people.”¹⁰ And not just for dramatic effect. His chart is a Bowl pattern; as such he has something to give.¹¹ Some do lack the skill or desire to reach out; some reach-out with empty hands; the Man from Arkansas has a happy blend of reaching and giving.

He also has a powerful Ascendant extra strong because Libra is also his sign signature and there are four planets in it. It is good for an American President at this time to have strength in the seventh sign, for the U.S., as sole superpower, is in charge of building cooperation and harmony. Of President Eisenhower, born under Libra, it was said that his greatest achievement was not anything he did during his eight White House years, but while Supreme Allied Commander in World War II being able to get the various and diverse Allies to cooperate in history’s biggest military operation ever—the liberation of North Africa and Europe. It was also a Libran,

President Carter, who brought about the first Arab-Israeli peace treaty.

No other sign is as well equipped for building harmony. Clinton’s Mars therein can be persuasive; he proved this by unseating an incumbent who shortly before had the highest approval rating of any President ever. His Venus therein adds charm and ability for dealing with large bodies of people;¹² Jupiter increases all it touches and Neptune refines it.

In politics and diplomacy, as in all life, persuasiveness must be backed by unflagging will. Clinton’s Sun is in Leo, whose very keyword is “I will.” Mercury therein adds the mental support; Saturn depth, and Pluto intensity.¹³ The fact that all planets are in the top half and 1st house, and that there are two powerful clusters reinforces all the above.

So do the progressions and transits. To mention just one of each: the Sun, by the former, will spend the current Presidential term moving from Venus to Jupiter in his 1st house is there a more fortuitous location than between the two benefics? And three of the heavy orbs, Saturn,

Uranus, Neptune, will be “moving up” from his I.C. to the M.C., desirable for one in public office.¹⁴

No, Clinton’s chart is not without drawbacks, the most obvious being lack of opposition aspects (empathy) no planets in water signs (sensing other’s feelings). But the Cancer M.C., supported by the strong Moon already referred to in the psychic 8th house, helps him read the public pulse.

This is also where his Vice-President can be of help. His strong Venus “bestows great sensitiveness with regard to both people and things.”¹⁵ Mercury in watery Pisces on the 9th cusp and Neptune in his 3rd also help him monitor the moods of the masses.¹⁶

Of course the vital vortex of his chart is the Ascendant Libra, which is also his sign signature. With the Sun there by mutual reception, he like Clinton has four orbs in that sector. It may be wondered, though, how beneficial it is to have three malefics in that vital area. Very much so: “Mars cannot be lazy there, Saturn cannot be unfaithful,” and Pluto retrograde is an indication of retained psychic powers from

other lifetimes."¹⁷

No less desirable is the fact that both benefics are in the signs of their dignity, and the Sun by progression is coming within Venus's orb. Even the Moon, in its detriment in Capricorn, is a boost! For detriment means a planet cannot easily express its intrinsic nature. The Moon's nature is primarily maternal, but Gore is not a mother; he's a heartbeat away from the world's most powerful office. That calls for masculine traits; Capricorn bestows such on the lunar orb.¹⁸ Jupiter of increase is not only conjunct, but reinforced in this since its solstice point is conjunct the Moon too.

Gore's chart pattern is a Splay, with the planets basically in three grouping:¹⁹ round the top, astride the Ascendant, in or very close-the 2nd quadrant. This makes him a resourceful, rugged individualist, reinforcing the Aries vibrations of his Sun, Part of Fortune, and M.C. Isn't rugged individualism of old (rather than drugged collectivism of the present) what made this nation a world power?

And it has been blessed by having especially strong men at the helm in times of crises. Of

Washington during the Revolutionary War, Lincoln during the Civil War, and FDR during the Great Depression and World War II it can truly be said that they had "come...for such a time as this."²⁰

Scripture also says; "As thy days, so shall thy strength be."²¹ Obviously this can also be read, As thy strength, so shall thy days be. Divine Providence shuns waste: strength is never bestowed for no good purpose but for some very definite need. Getting to 1997 will not be smooth sailing, even though the Cold War is no more. With karmic Uranus and Neptune passing through the sign of government opposite the strong Cancer cluster in the U.S. chart, Clinton and Gore will easily sympathize with a U.S. secretary of state during the Cold War's zenith when he muttered, "It's a good thing one third of the world is always asleep, else I couldn't cope with all the problems!" To no one's surprise, at the end of the first 100 days one party graded Clinton and Gore with A's and B's and the other with D's and F's.²²

The important question of course is: how will the nation and the world grade them 1360 days later?

They took their oaths of

office two days before a New Moon: "Anything started in the 1st quarter, especially the last three days will not have vitality."²³ When time comes to give them their final grade, this fact must be taken into consideration.²⁴ A farmer may have the very best seed and soil, but sowing during a blizzard would not help bring a bountiful harvest. A great many national observances are moved for the sake of convenience; Inauguration Day needs to be moved for success! As Emerson put it "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds."

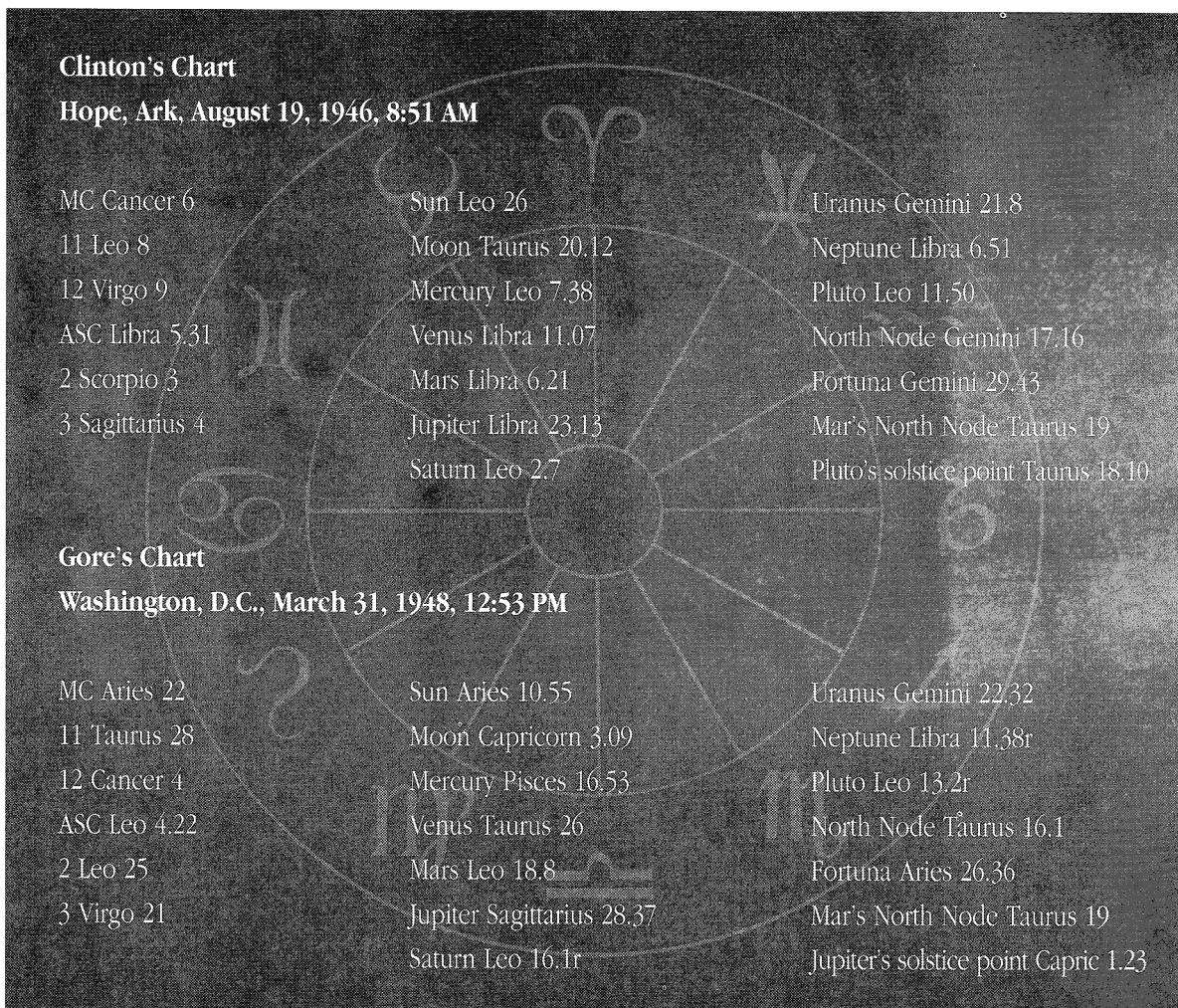
In eventually judging Clinton-Gore, it must also be kept in mind that an astrological chart, an accurate reflection of life, allows for free will. It indicates the quantity of energy not the quality. Our leaders have the free will to channel their tremendous potential in beneficial or baneful ways. When a certain babe was born in Tarsus of Asia Minor over 19 centuries ago, who could have foreseen from his chart that he would grow up to be both Saul the persecutor and Paul the great preacher of the early Christian Church? What would have been abundantly evident is that he

would become a dynamic activist, one who all his life would take very seriously the Biblical admonition, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."²⁵

In-light of the aforesaid, there is another biblical admonition all should presently take very seriously: "I exhort therefore, that... supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of

thanks be made for all men... and for all that are in authority."²⁶

—A Probationer



1. Kennedy at 43 was younger on- taking office than Clinton at 46, but his running mate, Lyndon B. Johnson, was 9 years older. When Theodore Roosevelt first became President, he was but 42, but had no running mate for he had been vice-President of the assassinated William McKinley. On becoming President a second time his team mate, C. W. Fairbanks, was 6 years his senior.
2. *The Psychic Sciences*, Walter B. and Litzka R. Gibson, p. 319.
3. *The Message of the Stars*, Max Heindel, pp.68, 69.
4. *Astrology: A Cosmic Science*, Isabel M. Hickey, p. 196.
5. *The Lunation Cycle*, Dane Rudhyar, pp. 113, 114, His Trine between Sun and Mars, rulers of his 1st and 10th houses, is most excellent for one in public service. All Over the Earth Astrologically, Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson, p 82.
6. "The person with a prominent Pluto must serve the Universe, not his own self." Isavel M. Hickey, *op. cit.*, p. 274
7. Dane Rudhyar, *op.cit.*, p. 116.
8. *Professional Astrology*, Marc Edmund Jones, p.39. Clinton is a "workaholic." *The Saturday Evening Post*, May-June, 1993, p.43.
9. *Here and There in Astrology*, Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson, p. 51.
10. *Astrology, The Divine Science*, Moore and Douglas, p. 550.
11. *The Guide to Horoscope Interpretation*, Marc Edmund Jones, chapter 4.
12. *Heaven Knows What*, Grant Lewi, p. 192.
13. Leo is completely comfortable with power. not all sings are; not all Presidents have been. Once there was a White House occupant who, when in a social gathering someone called for "Mr. President," his instinctive reaction was to look around for his predecessor!
14. *Startell*, Henrietta and John W. Harris, p. 136; *Astrology for the Millions*, Grant Lewi, chapter 6.
15. *Astrology*, E. Parker, p. 16; italics by the author.
16. His Mercury of mind is apex of the destiny-making Finger of God configuration in his chart. His ecological best seller, *Earth in the Balance*, written while he was still senator, had much to do with his being chosen for Vice-President.
17. *All Over the Earth Astrologically*, Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson, p. 81; *A Spiritual Approach to Astrology*, Myrna Lofthus, p. 104.
18. *Astrology for the Millions*, Grant Lewi, p. 110.
19. *The Guide to Horoscope Interpretation*, Marc Edmund Jones, chapter 7.
20. Esther 4:14. "Strong souls are the darlings of the gods." *Letters to Students*, Max Heindel, p.197.
21. Deuteronomy 33:25.
22. CBS' Capitol Ideas, May 2, 1993
23. Isabel M. Hickey, *op. cit.*, p. 205.
24. consideration: *con*, with; *sider*, start! (Latin).
25. Ecclesiastes 9:10.
26. I Timothy 2:1, 2.

THE DAY THE Earth Shrank

1903-1993
90 YEARS OF AIR TRAVEL

The 1st house of a chart set for an event gives the ambience. The earth sign Capricorn is rising; the area was barren and desolate. Two male planets are also in this sector, in early degrees and close together: the actors were young and close in age and outlook. Mars is strong by dint of being strongly aspected and natural ruler of the 1st house and in a sign of elemental

Who could have thought that the two young men displaying their hobby' that blustery December morning of 1903 in North Carolina's Outer Banks would revolutionize the ways of the world's travel? It was Wilbur and Orville Wright, achiev-ing man's first flight of motor driven plane in record-ed history,² though it was but a paltry 120 feet.

harmony. Saturn is also strong by dint of many aspects, ruler of the Ascendant, and in its sign Aquarius, the New Age sign,³ It is noteworthy that whereas but 19.6 degrees of the all-important 1st house are under the sway of earthy Capricorn, 22 degrees are under airy Aquarius—the important part of the action occurred not on the ground, but in the air!

This was a New Age event. Not only are the two active planets closest the Ascendant (Mercury in Capricorn is but a

reflector) in the New Age sign, but Aquarius' other ruler, Uranus, is closest the Sun, and the Part of Fortune, which generally points out the important area of a chart, is closely conjunct.

This is a Seesaw pattern—two groups of planets facing each other and more than a sextile apart. The impact of each group is equal, and one consists entirely of New Age planets, Pluto and Neptune. The fiery one is in the travel sign Gemini; the event certainly regenerated (Pluto) travel,⁴ the other, visionary Neptune, is the natus' most active orb.⁵ Seven of the planets are in the last four, the “universal” signs, concerned not so much with the individual as with a “higher unity,”⁶ a New Age trait.

There is the testimony of the lunation cycle, which has eight “phases” of 45 degrees each. Since here the lunar orb is so close behind the Sun, it is in the last, the “Balsamic,” “completely turned toward the future,” “possessed by a social destiny.”⁷

That this was a destiny-shaping event is shown also by the fact that the pattern is a

“Finger of God Kite”: one planet, here Neptune, opposite another, Mercury, and quincunx two (here three: one base holds the Moon, the other Mars and Saturn). Meaning: the far-reaching activity (Moon in Sagittarius) and scientific energy (Mars and Saturn in Aquarius) are poured into an ideal (Neptune); mental application (Mercury in Capricorn) helps release this.⁸

The Grand Trine in water, which helps one fathom life's deepest laws, as the Wrights did, is actually a Grand Trine Kite, because one of its members, Neptune, is opposite a planet, here Mercury.⁹ So we have two kites in this map, with the identical apex. This is a rarity, but there are at least two good reasons for it: Neptune rules air travel,¹⁰ and kites certainly are fitting symbols of it.

The Sabian symbols add their ancillary testimony. Airplanes can be compared to birds; the Wrights studied them; no less than four birds are found in the Sabian degree symbols of the chart's salient points:

The Ascendants: “Pheasants.”

The 8th cusp: “Pigeons.”

The 12th cusp: “Pelicans.”

The Part of Fortune: “A bluebird.”

One might add Mercury, whose degree features “an angel”; it too flies through the air!¹¹

In view of the very public nature of Kitty Hawk's most famous event, it might rightly be wondered why the obscure 12th house of “drawn shades”¹² should have the strongest occupancy—three planets plus the Part of Fortune. For the simple reason that at first the Wrights had a very hard time getting credit and recognition for their feat. After having finally, after many years and tears, gotten their “flying machine” off the ground, they telegraphed their Sister Katherine, “We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas.” She took the message to the local papers whose editor mumbled, “How nice. The boys will be home for Christmas.”¹³

What should have qualified as the event of the year—perhaps the decade—didn't even make it into the media! The Wrights had to work about as hard at selling their success as they previously had achieving it.

Saturn of obstruction in the 1st house does not exactly speed rewards on a silver platter. Too, projects “born in the last quarter are lacking in vitality.”¹⁴

Doesn't this contradict what was stated above concerning the

large extent, that the masses are more interested in what's in this for me?” rather than “what's in this for us? Do they not still prefer the old, self-serving way to the new which serve society as a whole more than the individual self?

eastern half, as eight are here, that promises “a rise in life through the native's own energy and enterprise,”¹⁶ And the Moon's last aspect was to Saturn and the next is to Jupiter, another assurance of impending increase.¹⁷

Then, of course, there's the top of the chart; bodies here dominate. We find Jupiter's solstice point, the benign Jupiterian North Node, and benefic Venus. The latter is in its detriment, but being angular it is in accidental dignity, overcoming that handicap.¹⁸ It rules the 4th cusp of endings. How beautifully true the chart!

Saturn in the house of beginnings, a slow start Venus ruler of the area of endings, eventual success. “Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof.”¹⁹

—A Probationer

Is it still not true, to an all too large extent, that the masses are more interested in what's in this for me?” rather than “what's in this for us? Do they not still prefer the old, self-serving way to the new which serve society as a whole more than the individual self?

Moon's position in the lunation cycle's final phase? No; but it reminds us of a vital truth. It was said above that the Moon's position in this chart imparts a spirit dominated by a “social destiny.”

But at the dawn of the century were such ideas warmly received?

Is it still not true, to an all too

But an ancient seer, who even had visions of things flying through the air, asked, “Who hath despise the day of small things?”¹⁵

Nothing is as powerful as an idea whose time has come, or is about to, and the chart shows that despite initial weakness there would be final triumph. When most of the planets are in the

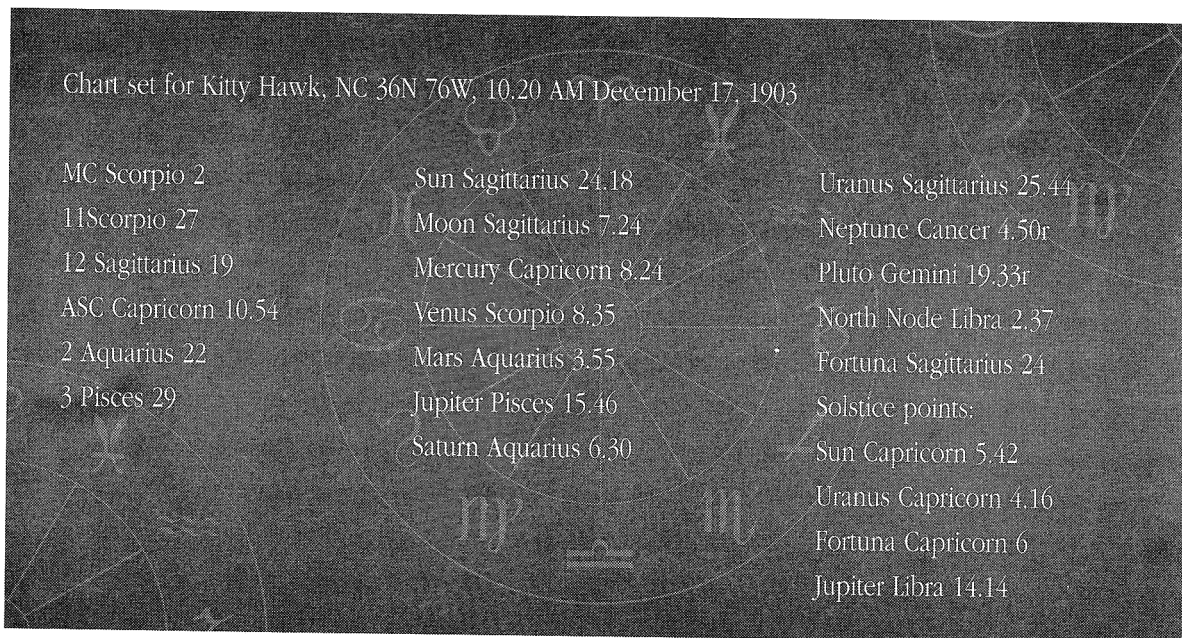
1. How fitting the Sun's Sabina degree featuring “a hobby-horse.” *The Sabian Symbols*, Marc Edmund Jones, p. 235.
2. “The Atlanteans did have airships.” *New Age Bible*

Interpretation, Old Testament, Volume III, Corinne Heline, p. 127.

3. Mars' Sabian symbol's keyword is “Therapy” isn't that what Wilbur and Orville

Wright applied to the travel industry? That of Saturn is described as “self-expression beyond all expectation.” Doesn't this correctly reflect the brothers' effort's result? See

- Marc Edmund Jones *op. cit.*, p. 273; *Astrology of Personality*, Dane Rudhyar, p. 373.
4. The Part of Regeneration (Ascendant plus 8th cusp minus the Moon) sits astride the 9th cusp of distant travel.
 5. Neptune is opposite the solstice points of Sun, Uranus, and Part of Fortune; quincunx the Moon, Mars, Saturn; opposite Mercury and The Ascendant; trine Venus and the M.C. dispositor of Jupiter; square the nodes.
 6. *Astrology, The Divine Science*, Moore and Douglas, p. 428.
 7. *The Lunation Cycle*, Dane Rudhyar, pp. 68, 69; see also *A Spiritual Approach to Astrology*, Myrna Lofthus, p.194. The Moon in a sign's first decan in an event chart, as here is indicative of the event having to do with the inception of a matter. *Here and There in Astrology*, Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson, p. 189.
 8. The tremendous impact of this event can also be seen by noting the many transits over significant areas of the U.S. chart: Mars and Saturn over the U.S. Dragon Tail in its 9th house; Neptune over Venus and Jupiter in its 2nd sectors; Jupiter's solstice point over the U.S. Saturn; Pluto over Mars.
 9. *Astrology Inside Out*, Bruce Nevin, chapter 6.
 10. *Astrology Rulerships*, Doris Chase Doane, p. 8
 11. Edmund Jones, *op. cit.*, pp.251, 290, 229,233, 249.
 12. *An Astroanalysis of Jacqueline Onassis*, Moore and Douglas, p. 18.
 13. *Our Daily Bread*, December, 1991, p. 23.
 14. *Astrology: A Cosmic Science*, Isabel M. Hickey, p. 205.
 15. Zechariah 4:10; see also 5:1,2.
 16. *How to Judge a Nativity*, Alan Leo, p. 327.
 17. Alan Leo, *op. cit.*, p. 64.
 18. *Simplified Scientific Astrology*, Max Heindel, pp. 93, 111, 112; *New Dictionary of Astrology*, Sepharial, pp. 23, 24.
 19. Ecclesiastes 7:8.



Higher Education's

C O M I N G " H I G H "

Come 1994, the SAT (scholastic aptitude tests), since 1926 an integral part of the U.S. collegiate entrance screening process, will raise their requirements on the "more than 1.3 million" high school graduates currently undergoing the 2½ hour ordeal annually.¹ The biggest change is in the mathematical questions; there'll be no more multiple choices to pick from; in other words, no more rewards for lucky guessing.²

Perhaps the major surprise is that the new SAT "will not include a mandatory written essay question."³ The greatest shock, surely, is that many "leading educators" for various reasons oppose the change, despite the fact that American students have not done well in competing with their peers from abroad, and the crying need; for improvement is indisputable. For instance, nowhere else in the industrial world is the use of the mother tongue still part of regular college curriculum; that is supposed to be taken care of in grade and high school.⁴

The extent of the opposition to the 1994 innovation should not come as a total surprise; America has long had a love-hate relationship with higher education and often it is difficult to tell which part thereof is ahead.

The first European settlers were giants of the intellect.⁵ Within 16 years of landing at Plymouth Rock, they founded Harvard College, primarily because of their deep spiritual convictions: they wanted a school to train ministers. Occasionally one still hears of their Puritan work ethics but hardly ever of their equally ingrained study habits. Both were equally basic to their overall Puritan discipline. And the reason one hears so little of the Puritans—they have practically been excised from some school history texts⁶—is because America by and large has rejected their ways, which included constant culture of the mind.

The Founding Fathers, though technically not Puritans, continued their mental habits, "No subsequent era in our history has produced so many men of knowledge among its political leader as the

age of John Adams, John Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, George Mason, James Wilson, and George Whyte.”⁷ Jefferson was one of the founders of the

University of Virginia and Library of Congress; his Northwest Ordinance of 1787 made ample provision for the establishment of education in areas to be added in the future to the republic.⁸

But the frontier atmosphere was anything but conducive to mental culture; bullets whizzing by distract one from book! Too, there were several denominations “competing” for the soul of the emerging West in the early 19th century. Some had a highly educated clergy; more did not. The latter, more aggressive and numerous, naturally won; this encouraged anti-intellectualism. Of course the disappearance of the frontier changed this.

But later in the 19th century pragmatism took powerful hold on America, “If it’s useful, it’s good,” was the general idea; if

not, not. So it was easy to convince a great many people that beyond the most basic rudiments, education was a waste; even some in religious circles concurred. Too, in an egalitarian society, where

No subsequent era in our history has produced so many men of knowledge among its political leader as the age of John Adams, John Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, George Mason, James Wilson, and George Whyte.

crowd culture is king, anti-intellectualism can easily gain the ascendancy. People “knock” what they lack.

Even public figures have been known to encourage all this, obviously to gain votes. An occupant of the White House and former president of an Ivy League university, running for reelection said: What I fear is a government of experts. God forbid that in a democratic country we should resign the task and give the government over to experts.”⁹ He knew, as did his listeners, that by

“experts” he meant the products of higher education. Being a sort of “big business” in America, it has been lumped at times with its corporate counterpart, distrusted by many because of its wealth and proclivity at times to flaunt it. There were also cheers when a senator declared that “admission into the kingdom of heaven does not depend upon the result of a competitive examination.”¹⁰

True, but fact is, proper mental culture has very much to do with progress on the spiritual path. The Apostle Paul not only called on believers “that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service,” but also that they be ‘transformed’ by the renewing of your mind.”¹¹ And the “great commandment” says, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind,”¹²

Astrology, the great mirror of all life, confirms this. Mercury is planet of the mind, and “for a relatively high degree of evolution

to have taken place," it must be "reasonably strong in the horoscopes."¹³ Too, there are four triplicities, fire, earth, air, water. Air is the mental one, and we find that its symbols alone do not contain animals, denoting the lower nature. All the others do.

Gemini is the sign of the twins; Libra, the scales; Aquarius the man, the water bearer. It is further noteworthy that the only other sign not animal is Virgo, the

virgin, ruled by Mercury of mind. And the one half-animal-half-human, Sagittarius' centaur, is the logo of the higher mind. Would it not sound logical then that to hasten one's spiritual evolution, one can do no better than to make mental culture –systematic reading, study, meditation– an integral part of one's routine?

It is really part of worship. According to a former Archbishop of Canterbury, to worship means to:

Quicken the conscience by the holiness of God
Feed the mind with the truth of God
Purge the imagination by the beauty of God
Open the heart to the love of God
Devote the will to the purpose of God.

–A Probationer

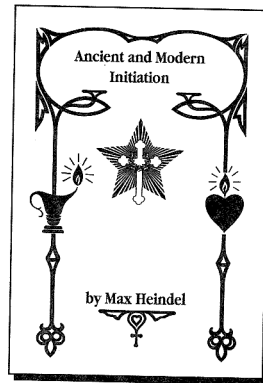
1. *Time*, November 12, 1990, p. 93. Newsweek of the same date has "more than 2 million."
2. *Newsweek*, November 12, 1990, p. 88.
3. *Ibid.*
4. America is the only country where illiteracy is on the increase, Radio Talk Show Host Barry Farber, December 28, 1990. Yet America spends more on higher education than any other of the 35 members of the UN's Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. *The Christian Science Monitor*, May 28, 1991, p. 6.
5. That fact has even been

- blamed for the difficulties faced by them upon landing: too much book learning, not enough of the practical skill indispensable for survival in a wilderness.
6. According to the April 17, 1993, issue of *World*, page 32, one public school history textbook states that "Thanksgiving was when the pilgrims gave thanks to the Indians"!
 7. *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life*, Richard Hofstadter, p. 145. See also "What Jefferson and Lincoln Read," *The Atlantic*, January, 1991, p. 51.

8. *America: Changing Times*, Charles M. Dollar, General Editor, p. 148.
9. Richard Hofstadter, *op. cit.*, p. 209. *A Crossroad of Freedom*, John W. Davidson, Editor, pp. 83, 84.
10. Richard Hofstadter, *op. cit.*, p. 183.
"Men draw blueprints of their own desires and try to conceal their autographs under the initials of divinity." *Date With Destiny*, Ralph W. Sockman, p. 13.
11. Romans 12:1, 2.
12. Matthew 22:36, 37.
13. *The Astrology of Human Relationships*, Sakoian and Asher, p. 40.

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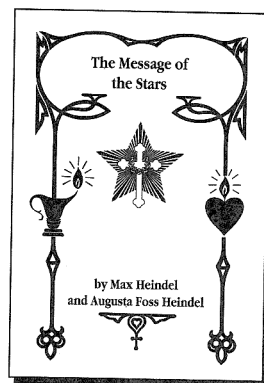
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Empty Harvest

DR. BERNARD JENSEN AND MARK ANDERSON. AVERY PUBLISHING GROUP INC. GARDEN CITY PARK,, NEW YORK, 1990. 188 PAGES.

American agriculture is fast approaching a terrible crisis, and not just financial. The soil, the nation's greatest natural resource, is rapidly deteriorating, and it is what produces the plants which feed man and beast. Almost every civilization that has ever fallen did so as the result of the subversion of its soil. The authors cite Isaiah 5:16 to prove that a nation's health is inseparably tied to the state of the soil whence it derives its food.

In some regions of the U.S., topsoil which once was a foot or more is now six inches or less, and its quantity and quality largely determine what the harvest will be. The government estimates that a six-inch loss of topsoil can reduce crop yields by 40%. It gives the current size of productive U.S. farmlands as 421 million acres, of which 89 million are presently eroding at one to two times the "tolerance level," and 97 million are doing so at more than twice that rate

In 1988 North Dakota alone lost 3.5 million acres of soil to the

wind. Nationwide that year, 12 million acres (19,000 square miles) were severely eroded by wind. Much of this is due to deforestation; 260 million acres alone have been axed to further meat production. The authors lament the destruction of trees at Christmas; artificial ones would do just as well for the occasion, without hurting the environment.

Much has been heard lately about deforestation. North America's rainforest, stretching from California to Alaska, is being cut down at the rate of 60,000 acres annually, mainly for export. Rainforests not only counteract atmospheric pollution, but also erosion, floods, mudslides, and even earthquakes, according to a U.N. Economic and Social Commission report, all usually and erroneously labeled "natural disasters." P. 94.

Jensen and Anderson note nostalgically that there was a time when a squirrel could travel from the Atlantic to the Mississippi without touching the ground. The Indians knew how to live on the land. 20th century society could learn from them.

Chemical fertilizers have massively contributed to the problem, killing the various microbes in the soil that constantly work at enhancing its productivity. One teaspoon of non-chemically treated soil hosts more creatures than the entire earth's population! P. 32.

The minerals which chemical fertilizers supply are not in the right balance, neither can they be integrated into the soil the way bio-organic minerals can. If a given mineral is lacking from the soil, it will not be in the food grown thereon, with potentially disastrous results. For instance, if the body lacks zinc and chromium, the pancreas cannot manufacture insulin, causing diabetes.

Even more important, soil ruined by chemicals is murder for the production of enzymes, those precious protein molecules laden with vitamins, amino acids and trace minerals. Enzymes lacking in the soil will also be lacking in the foods grown on it.

What should one do in view of environmental excesses? Go organic, even if it costs a little more. Dr. Jensen, who has studied

and practiced health for six decades and is internationally recognized as an authority with numerous books to his credit, tells of a man who came to him with ulcers of the eyes. All the doctor did for him was put him on an organic diet and the ulcers vanished –until he returned home, went off organic fare, and they reappeared. Only after Dr. Jensen persuaded him to plant his own organic garden at home, the problem stayed solved

Truly the authors are not exaggerating in comparing a diet devoid of nutrition –the fruitage of empty harvest– to one who sends blank checks to his bank to augment his account! They're also convinced the AIDS crisis would be much smaller if people's immune systems were in better shape which could only be achieved by optimum nutrition.

They especially single out commercial grain products for their criticism, Before the refining of flour was introduced, heart attacks were rare. Bleached flour has 30 nutrients removed and four synthetically added. But the synthetic cannot do for the body what the natural does, because in nature the whole –in this case–

the B complex vitamins– never acts like its separate parts. Thus water, H₂O, is useful in putting out fire. But hydrogen and oxygen separately are among the most flammable and explosive substances known.

The minerals which chemical fertilizers supply are not in the right balance, neither can they be integrated into the soil the way bio-organic minerals can.

Commercial cereals also are a tragedy. One of them, claiming to contain all the vitamins, is said to cost 65¢ more because of this. The actual truth is 1.5¢ of synthetic vitamins are sprayed on, giving the manufacturer an excuse to make an extra big profit. Not only are synthetic vitamins far less effective, they alone can be toxic if taken in megadoses; vitamins in organic foods never are.

Another sad chapter in the history of the nation's health practice is the antacid story. Recommended widely as antidote for indigestion, heartburn, sour stomach, etc., antacids may deliver temporary relief, but at the cost of long-term trouble. The main reason is that digestion can only occur in an acid environment, the human stomach is said to be

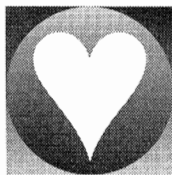
basically a machine that manufactures hydrochloric acid. Sometimes for various reasons, it is unable to come up with sufficient for its needs, producing digestive problems. Introducing antacids diminishes what little

there is, compounding the crisis.

A meal is not complete unless it contains something to encourage the production of hydrochloric acid, like citrus fruit or apple cider vinegar. It is the absence of HCL that creates heartburn, sour stomach, and such. Without it, the food cannot be digested. And the stomach being dark, 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit, and wet, the undigested food starts to ferment especially in the absence of enzymes. This lends all the more urgency to another health rule, don't fortify before you detoxify.

The information served up by this team of experts, only a fraction of which has been touched here, will add even to the knowledge of longtime health aspirants.

–A Probationer



Effects of Attitudes on Health

A powerful molder of the body is the attitude with which we go through each day. Medical science recognizes this when it cautions people to stay calm, warning them that the risk of heart attack is increased by anger and that the tension of constant hurry and pressure is not only detrimental to health but can actually be fatal.

In *Occult Principles of Health and Healing* by Max Heindel we find this statement: "A hopeful mind is the greatest of all medicine, and a constant reiteration of a resolution to overcome the present ills is better than all the medicine in the world."

At times we may find it difficult to express joy and optimism, but if we allow ourselves to remain in a state of depression for long the result will inevitably show in the physical body. It is a matter of self-preservation to change our

attitude. We can if we try!

Here is where knowledge of spiritual laws can come to our aid. When we see and even partially understand the beauty and wonder of Creation, we know that "all things work together for good to them that love God." We realize that we are not helpless pawns of fate, but gods-in-the-making. We have the option of deciding how we shall conduct our lives and how we shall act or re-act to any given situation. An attitude of calm optimism pays gratifying dividends in physical health.

Learning to change an attitude of gloom to one of joy, or of tension to relaxation, may seem, difficult. However, when we realize that boundless love is forever working with us to help and heal, we have further encouragement to express optimism and gratitude. In time we will bring our attitude into such harmony with God that we, too, will be able to work in Christ's vineyard, helping and healing others.

—C. R.

Visible helpers are just as necessary as Invisible Helpers, and our friends and patients may share in a high privilege, as well as add much to the power of liberated healing force, by joining us in prayer for the sick. Our Healing Service is held every evening in the Healing Temple at 6:30, and in the Pro-Ecclesia at 4:45 P.M. when the Moon is in a cardinal sign on the following dates:

November Healing Dates:
4, 11, 17, 24

December Healing Dates:
1, 8, 14, 21, 29

Relax, close your eyes, and make a mental picture of the pure white rose in the center of the Rosicrucian Emblem on the west wall of our Pro-Ecclesia, and concentrate on Divine Love and Healing.

For
Children



Melissa Follows the Star

IT had been almost a year now since Melissa had come to live with Miss Abby Wintler in her big house on the hill. It was the only real home Melissa had ever known—poor little Missy who came straight from an orphans' home and could not remember her father or mother. Now, of course, there was Miss Abby, who was quite hard of hearing. In fact, she could scarcely hear a word anyone said. It might have been very lonely if it hadn't been for Chris—dear Chris, with his little furry face and emerald eyes! He had been such a comfort to Miss Abby, and now even more so to Melissa. She could tell him everything and always he seemed to understand with his little cat mind.

Dear Chris! Perhaps it was because he, too, was an orphan. He had come several years ago, Miss Abby told her. He had come on Christmas Eve when the snow was falling fast. He had come to sit on her window sill and to peer into her parlor where she was decorating her Christmas tree. She had carried him into her candle-lit room—and he had stayed. He had stayed like Melissa, happy and content with Miss Abby in her big white house on the hill.

In the months she had spent with Miss Abby, Melissa had learned to make ginger cookies and lemon pie. She could fix eggs just right for the dear lady—poached as she preferred. She could make floating island dessert and wonderful sponge cake. Melissa loved it. She loved to work in Miss Abby's big kitchen and cheery pantry. It was much easier and more fun than learning fractions and decimals down in the village school. And always there was Chris for company. They sat together under the big cedar tree where the violets, blue and white, nestled in the springtime. On summer evenings they watched the stars, sitting on the steps of Miss Abby's wide veranda.

"Chris, dear," Melissa would whisper through the shadows, "shall we go wandering up there sometime?" She felt his furry cheek against hers. "You could play up there in the soft clouds. And the Milky Way—you would love it, wouldn't you, Chris? You would love it very much."

The days had a way of flying by when she was busy in the kitchen, sweeping the rooms and dusting. And the autumn days

were lovely. She and Chris walked through the crackling leaves. They watched them falling—sailing away in the wind.

"Come. Chris," Melissa would cry, "let's go sailing!" And so it seemed they went drifting far away. Chris rubbed his white whiskers against her hand. "Away we go, Chris! Away we go!"

Sometimes old Peter Turner came up to see them. He mowed the lawn for Miss Abby and did little chores about the place. He was friendly and often played his harmonica for them. Even Miss Abby could hear the music. Chris listened, staring with his solemn green eyes.

"That cat is a smart one," Peter said, "and he likes music. You can tell the way he listens."

Miss Abby nodded. She knew he was talking about Chris. "Bring some of your ginger cookies, Missy," she said. She never said Melissa, but always Missy.

As the days grew colder and shorter and the evenings longer, Miss Abby taught Melissa some beautiful feather-stitches. She sat in her big rocking-chair and Melissa sat very near on the little green velvet foot-stool. Chris watched close by; he watched the

colored thread, and when the thimble sometimes tumbled from her finger, he scampered across the flowered carpet to find it.

At Christmastime when the snow fell softly over the hillside, draping the lilac bush by the front gate and the big cedar tree, it was then Peter brought them a Christmas tree.

"Best I could find over yonder quite a ways," he told them proudly.

"It's a beautiful one, Peter!" Melissa cried. "Oh, it's the most beautiful one there ever was!"

Miss Abby brought out her box of Christmas ornaments. "I've had them over fifty years," she told Melissa, and for the moment her eyes held memories of many Christmas nights. She took them out, lovingly, one by one, and handed them to Melissa. Long sparkly chains. The shining gold star. The little white winged angels, the shepherds in their flowing robes, the tiny manger with the Christ Child.

It was so very lovely in the candle-lit room. Chris thought so, too. He reached up and patted the glittery chain on the tree with his little furry paws. Some tiny bits of sparkly gold fell on his white fur.

Peter came with a small straw basket filled with red striped candles and Melissa was happy she could give him the box of ginger cookies Miss Abby had asked her to bake especially for him.

Melissa sat on the little green velvet foot-stool, looking up at the lovely tree. She was holding the book Miss Abby had given her, the book of Bible Stories with beautiful colored pictures. Peter played for them on his harmonica, and there was one melody Melissa especially loved. Peter told her the words, and she sang them softly to herself

“Star! Star! Beautiful Star!
Travelers, weary we are,
To Jesus! To Jesus!
We follow Thee from afar.”

The words and music kept ringing over and over somewhere deep, deep within her heart. When Peter had gone and she had kissed dear Miss Abby good night, Melissa tiptoed softly to her room just above the stairs. Chris followed, for he always slept in his basket beside Melissa's small white bed. Tonight she knelt for a moment by the low window and looked out upon the frosty night

and the bright stars shining in the heavens above.

“Chris dear!” she whispered. “How very bright the stars are tonight!”

And later—when her eyes were closed—even then she was still looking up at the stars above. It was so strange, for the next moment she was up there among the stars! She was floating on a soft white cloud—and Chris was with her as always. “Chris!” she cried. “Oh, Chris! Do you see that one Star? It's brighter than all the others.”

Presently they were floating away—she and Chris. The Star that was brighter than all the others was moving, and she and Chris were following. They floated on and on, over fields and meadows, over forests and rivers, over the great wide ocean. And the star shone brighter and brighter.

“Chris! Oh, Chris! It's the Shepherds with their flocks. Do you see them? And the beautiful Angels—do you hear them singing?”

The Star moved on. Now it was shining over the stable and Melissa looked down upon the tiny babe in the manger. She

looked down upon Joseph and Mary bending over the Christ Child. She saw the Three Wise Men kneeling beside His bed. And the brightness was all about them.

“Chris, do you see them all? Just as the Bible tells us. It's the little Lord Jesus asleep in his little manger bed!”

It was then that she slowly opened her eyes, her heart filled with joy. But she was in her small white bed and Chris was sound asleep in his basket. She reached down and touched his soft white fur.

“Was it long ago, Chris dear?” Melissa whispered. “Was it really long, long ago?” For the brightness of that one Star seemed to be shining all about the room. Downstairs she heard the big grandfather's clock striking the midnight hour, and she knew Christmas Day was dawning.

“Listen, Chris!” Melissa said softly “I can still hear the Angel voices singing; ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!’”

—Vernie McNary

STUDY WITH US

The Rosicrucian Fellowship is an association of Christian men and women banded together for the purpose of helping to make Christianity a living factor in the world. Its teachings give a definite, logical, and sequential explanation of the origin, evolution, and future development of the world and man, from both the spiritual and scientific aspects. The Fellowship has no connection with any other organization.

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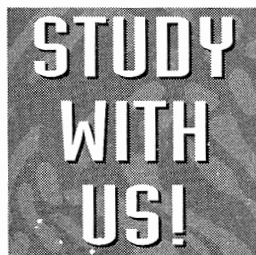
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Q/A

QUESTION: What are some of the most common problems encountered in the process of installing RBBS-PC?

ANSWER: IT CONTINUALLY RECYCLES! This can have several causes. RBBS-PC requires that a modem be attached to your communications port. Therefore:

- Check what communication port is being used.
- Verify that this communications port exists.
- Verify that your modem is attached to it.
- Verify that your modem is powered up.
- Verify that your modem is configured properly.
- Verify that CONFIG knows what kind of modem you're using.
- Verify that the modem cable supports all ten signals required by RBBS-PC.
- Verify that DTR (Data Terminal Ready) and CD (Carrier Detect) are set to "normal" rather than always "on" (sometimes called "true" and "forced" instead).
- Verify that each DOS subdirectory referred to in CONFIG exists.
- Verify that RBBS-PC runs properly when set up to use COM0 (i.e. a local workstation).

Internal modems, which are not recommended for running a BBS, can sometimes cause a special problem with the communications port. An internal modem is its own communications port. Setting it to the same communications port as one already installed on your

computer can cause unpredictable results. Realize that many motherboards already have com1 and com2 on them. Make sure your internal modem is not set up in conflict with another part of your computer —either trying to use an interrupt already in use or set to the same com port as one already there. Usually a jumper or switch on the internal modem lets you select an interrupt and the com port number. If you use com3 or com4, you must use a Fossil driver with RBBS-PC. In extreme cases, you may want to disable a com port on your motherboard and set the internal modem to com1 or com2.

If, after all of the above has been attempted, the problem still persists, try deleting your MESSAGES and USERS files and re-run CONFIG to create new ones.

Finally, having exhausted all the above remedies, the system continues to continually re-cycle, you may have an incompatible “clone” PC, incompatible DOS, incompatible modem, and/or a bad copy of RBBS-PC.EXE.

IT WON'T ANSWER THE PHONE! This also can be caused by one of the following things:

- Phone line is not plugged into the modem.
- Modem is not powered on.
- Modem is not connected to the communications port that RBBS-PC was told to use.
- You have two com ports set to the same number.
- Your com port is using an interrupt (IRQ) being used by another device on your computer.
- Your modem switches or firmware is not set (see CONFIG parameter 231).
- Your modem is not “Hayes compatible” enough to handle the modem commands described in section 11.
- Your modem cable does not have Pin 22 connected.
- Your modem requires CTS flow control to be enabled. In CONFIG, set parameter 244 to YES.

There are two conditions under which RBBS-PC does not require Pin 22 in the RS-232 cable to reflect the status of “ring”.

RBBS-PC does not require Pin 22 to be hooked up on the RS-232 cable (that's the cable which runs between the modem and the computer, by the way), if you specify in CONFIG that RBBS-PC

is to answer the phone on zero rings, and that it is not a “RING-BACK” system. In this setting RBBS-PC will initialize the modem so that the modem AUTOMATICALLY answers the phone.

RBBS-PC also does not require Pin 22 to reflect the status of ring when your modem returns the result code “RING” as the phone is ringing. The default setting for RBBS-PC is that it depends on either Pin 22, or the modem result code “RING”, to know when the phone is ringing. This is because RBBS-PC, and NOT the modem, answers the phone. When RBBS-PC is informed by the modem that the phone is ringing, it counts the rings by issuing the “ATS1?” command. When the number of rings has reached the number you told CONFIG you wanted to answer after, RBBS-PC sends the “ATA” command to tell the modem to answer the phone.

If your modem does NOT send the characters “RING” each time the phone rings, you will need a cable with Pin 22 connected. Some computers (such as the PCjr's external RS-232 interface) and some modem

cables don't have a "ring-indicator" signal. Pin 22 is the ring indicator coming from the modem going to the computer. And just because you bought an RS-232 cable, don't assume that it has Pin 22 connected. This is often not the case.

IT LOCKS UP THE SYSTEM!
This may be caused by one of the following things:

- The .EXE file generated by the BASIC compiler is incompatible with either the DOS that you are running (i.e. it isn't generic MS-DOS or IBM's PC-DOS), or other software you load into the system prior to running RBBS-PC (such as a device driver loaded in CONFIG.SYS, or a TSR program loaded in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file). Remove all non-essential memory resident software.
- You indicated in CONFIG that you were running one of the supported networks (i.e. CORVUS, MultiLink, Orchid, etc.), but you aren't.
- You are running on a COMPAQ DeskPro, or using an add-on board that uses the unused DOS interrupt 7F hex, and should have used CONFIG parameter 29 to indicate you are using a

COMPAQ PC.

- Your modem isn't set up correctly, probably not supplying us with "true" carrier detect (i.e. the modem tells us that a caller is connected when that's not true). Try selecting "Hayes 2400 compatible" as the modem type in CONFIG, and use parameter 231 to re-program the modem's firmware.
- RBBS-PC is trying to log to a printer that does not exist or is not turned on, or out of paper, and no error condition is ever being returned back to RBBS. In CONFIG, tell RBBS-PC to turn the printer off after each recycle (parameter 52).
- Your system does not support standard DOS system calls for screen writes. Try setting CONFIG parameter 39 to use BASIC for screen writes.
- Your system is not as PC compatible as it should be and may use strange interrupts. Try turning assembler routines off (parameter 38).

QUESTION: What are specific hardware and software requirements to run RBBS-PC successfully?

ANSWER: RBBS-PC is designed to run on an IBM Personal Computer, or compatible, running MicroSoft's Disk Operating System (DOS), communicating via an asynchronous communications adapter (aka a "COM" or "serial" port), and using a Hayes Smartmodem, or compatible modem. The following equipment and software is the MINIMUM and the recommended configuration for running RBBS-PC:

ITEM:

MINIMUM:RECOMMENDED:

- System IBM PC or compatible IBM 80386 compatible.
- Monitor 80 column monochrome 80 column color monitor.
- COM port RS-232 adapter with an Intel RS-232 adapter with an Intel 8250 UART chip 16550AFN UART chip.
- Modem Any Hayes Smartmodem 1200, A USR Courier HST dual or 100% compatible modem standard 9600/v.32bis modem.

-Robert H. Jacobs

Please send your questions to:

Modem: (602) 984-8342, U.S.A. or

CompuServe ID: 76347,1707

DECEMBER 1993

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AUDIO TAPES FOR THE SPIRITUAL ASPIRANT

Christmas, Christ and Christian Mysticism: The Twelve Nights of Christmas

by Richard Koepsel

The Christ Mystery is the most significant factor in modern human evolution. The term "Christ Mystery" signifies all of the spiritual activities initiated or transformed by the great spiritual being representing the second attribute of the godhead called Christ during the three year ministry in the body of Jesus between the baptism by John and the crucifixion. During that period the composite being Christ-Jesus initiated a new way to supercede but not nullify the religion of the law, under which we were foundering in selfishness, with a religion of love, light and life beyond self.

The act of nascent humanity (represented biblically by Adam and Eve) called "The fall of man" was an unprecedented act of freedom. In that act humanity willfully evoked the possibility of sin (working out of harmony or rebelliously against the divine plan) by selfishly using the creative power at our disposal for an apparent immortality through the generation of new bodies and for other selfish material ends before we had the love and wisdom to use that power concordantly with divine intent. That act (the "fall") bought us freedom from the direct influence of the divine creative hierarchies who cannot comprehend sin, but it also bought us exile from the spiritual worlds (Eden) and eventually brought us to a dangerously disease prone estrangement from nature. We sold ourselves into slavery to our own desires under the law and bound ourselves to a materialism which, ironically, we fear losing in death.

The act of Christ is also an act of unprecedented freedom. Christ, acting not out of necessity but in loving volition, took on the severe limitation and confinement of our earthly life (including the suffering of sin without having ever sinned) to share as one of us the love, light and life of the world of Life Spirit—a realm beyond the law and beyond self. If we accept that offering (in our free state we are not obligated) we have not only a means to freedom from our self imposed bondage and exile from direct conscious experience of the spiritual worlds, but we also receive an opportunity to express a

positive, creative freedom within and beyond nature. From that love-light-life profound mysteries have issued which have the capacity to completely transform every aspect of human endeavor.

These talks are offered as a modest attempt to begin to explore the most rudimentary of the multitude of facets of the Christ Mystery so we can work with its intent and hasten the day of the liberation of Christ when we also will no longer "see through a glass darkly", no longer live in a fallen and darkened condition of materialism, no longer live in selfishness and fear—when Life shall overcome death. Intentional emphasis has been placed on the transcendental aspects of the Christ Mystery as an antidote to our materialistic myopia. However, great pains have been taken to present the transcendental realities in a way they can be experienced with our present understanding—the experience of Christ, not just the idea of Christ, is what is important. These talks are anything but final statements on any of the subject matter. They are intended as beginnings or openers, not ends, to awaken new inquiry among fellow christian mystic aspirants.

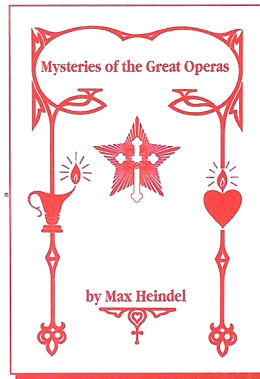
Christianity in its foundation did not work through either the official church or state and history has shown that any attempt to apply the materialism it was sent to heal to its volatile life by means of formalization has miserably failed the purpose of Christ. Bearing this in mind these talks were presented as informally as possible and the speaker inserted some things to promote informality whenever that seemed appropriate. Unfortunately, there are no humbling boos, guffaws or outspoken objections on these tapes as one would expect in an attempted reliving of the life of Christ in one way or another. For this reason, and especially relative to the best laid plans, the speaker considers the talks an unqualified failure missing many of the ideas and most of the spirit intended. But that does not mean these talks are without helpful spiritual content for we know that as the world judges success even the very life of Christ would seem a failure.

—Richard Koepsel

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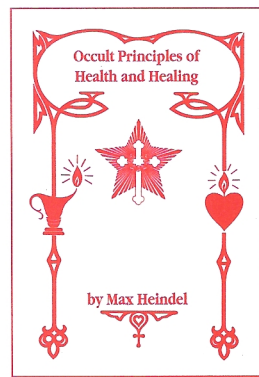


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