

(Other)

Crabb

The Other Meaning of Christmas

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THE OTHER MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

By Judith and Riley Hansard Crabb

The literal minded person believes that Jesus was born just about the way it is described in the Christmas story and this satisfies him. The questioning, thinking person may very well wonder if there isn't any deeper significance hidden behind or within the veil of words. There is good reason to suspect this because it is said the Disciples received special information in the Upper Room while the multitudes were taught in parables.

The purpose of all so-called sacred writings is to convey a higher or deeper meaning than the literal story used by the teacher. Commonplace words and events must be used to attract the attention but they can also convey esoteric ideas which can be grasped only by the awakened understanding of a student of metaphysics. "Let thine eye be single", say the Scriptures; however, if a Spiritual or psychological opening of that "eye" has not taken place, the reader of the Gospel stories will only see their literal meaning. Nevertheless, if the higher meaning we speak of is to be understood, ordinary words and knowledge must be used as a starting point.

The object of the parables given by Jesus was to instruct thinking men and women in the higher or sacred wisdom. A parable has a meaning beyond its literal sense; it is designed to work toward lifting the mind above the ordinary level to something higher. It might be said that it transforms thought.

We can take an example from the Ten Commandments. The 7th one says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery". The literal meaning of this is obvious enough but the psychological or spiritual meaning is quite something else to the awakened mind. It warns the student not to adulterate one set of doctrine or teachings with those of another School.

Let us take another Commandment, "Thou shalt not steal". The literal meaning of this is obvious but what of the psychological or Spiritual meaning? To the student it contains the admonition not to delude himself with his own self-importance. This 8th Commandment refers to an attitude of blind independence all too common to mankind. The rugged individualist, the man of the world, thinks that he does everything from himself, by his own power, giving no credit to God. This is stealing in a psychological sense. It is doubtful if the ordinary man would understand this if it were told to him directly. He would think it ridiculous, or turn the meaning to suit his own ends. This is why sacred teachings must be concealed by an outer wrapping.

There is no deliberate intention by Jesus and other advanced teachers to mislead people. They just want to make sure their teaching doesn't fall in the wrong place.

INNER EVOLUTION STARTS WITH CHRISTMAS

The development of understanding is a long slow process and it must come from within. This the central idea of the Gospels. They are concerned mainly with this inner evolution which begins with the Christmas story. This is the significance of the literal story of the birth of the infant Jesus. Its higher meaning is the constant re-birth of Higher Consciousness in every person by degrees.

Man is a seed capable of infinite growth. This is what the Gospel stories are concerned with. The outer side of our lives is pretty well organized according to our position and capacity. It is the inner side which can be awakened, stimulated and developed by contact with the Higher meaning of the sacred Scriptures. They give us an idea, an understanding of what we must do, feel, and think to forward our most important inner evolution. Now, with a single eye, let us consider the Christmas Story in greater detail.

It symbolizes an initiation. The Nativity of the Christ represents the beginning of a new cycle. The new cycle could be the beginning of a universe, the beginning of a solar system, the beginning of a new civilization, birth into the physical world for a human being or, of prime interest to us right now, the dawn of a Spiritual awakening in the human heart. Christmas really is the festival of a Spiritual birth. True, it happened 2000 years ago to Jesus, but somewhere in the world it happens every day to men and women. There is a Christmas of the soul.

The Gospel story, historically accurate or not, reveals the final Way of Holiness which lies before every man and woman. To the religious or mystic type the goal is sainthood. To the intellectual or hermetic type the goal is adeptship; so, the Gospel story is a mighty parable. Jesus himself explains it in Luke 8:4-15:

"4, And when a great multitude came together, and they of every city resorted unto him, he spake by a parable: 5, The sower went forth to sow his seeds; and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden under foot, and the birds of the heaven devoured it. 6, And other fell on the rock; and as soon as it grew, it withered away, because it had no moisture. 7, And other fell amidst the thorns; and the thorns grew with it, and choked it. 8, And other fell into the good ground, and grew, and brought forth fruit a hundredfold. As he said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

"9, And his disciples asked him what this parable might be. 10, And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God; but to the rest in parables; that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. 11, Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12, And those by the way side are they that have heard; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word from their heart, that they may not believe and be saved. 13, And those on the rock are they who, when they have heard, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who for awhile believe, and in time of temptation fall away. 14, And that which fell among the thorns, these are they that heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. 15, And that in the good ground, these are such as in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bring forth fruit with patience."

IN THE WORLD BUT ON THE PATH

Once the true purpose of the Gospel stories is understood the thinking person realizes it is ridiculous to insist on the literal interpretation of the birth of Jesus, or to claim that it is historically accurate. The Spiritual leaders of the time altered history to suit the needs of the Spiritual truths they wished to impart.

To the student of metaphysics Christmas is more important as a symbol of awakening self-consciousness. For him the Nativity means the opening up of intuitive vision. Naturally, this brings knowledge of the Oneness of life. The result of this is or should be that he gives himself to service to the Light. Those who have responded to this Light, or to the call of the Spirit if you will, are determined to mould their life according to the Principles enunciated by the Savior.

They may still be in the world but are on the Path. The Christ is the Spiritual exemplar for all in the Western World regardless of whether they look up to Him or not. But those who are awakened and determined to change find themselves living the Gospel story as an interior experience even if they do not go through the actual physical incidents as Jesus did.

The awakened person who studies deeply the Gospel story is going to become aware of initiations as definite steps or milestones on the Path. The word "initiation" is derived from the Latin "initia". This simply means First Principles. Initiation into a special group or order is an idea as ancient as mankind. For thousands of years the term initiate has been applied specifically to a person who has had revealed to him the Secrets of occult science. This Ancient Wisdom is taught in Mystery Schools. The Greek name for such teachers is Hiero-

phant, literally this means "one who explains things" but the name was generally given to the chief initiate of a Mystery School.

In modern times, unawakened people are likely to believe that Mystery Schools, initiates and ceremonial magic are all things of the ancient past; but the awakened know that the Mystery Teachings are alive today; and that initiations are still being given to the worthy in the Lodges.

THE CHRISTMAS INITIATION

The Christmas initiation then is the birth of Christ-consciousness in the heart. This is the first of the Great Initiations, so-called. There are five which lead to complete mastery of the flesh and therefore freedom from the wheel of re-birth. The other four initiations in order of their taking are: Baptism (Matthew 3:13), Transfiguration (Matthew 17:2), Crucifixion (Matthew 27-35), and Ascension (The Acts 1-9) to the stature of the fullness of the Christ. So the student of metaphysics must realize that the Christmas story and the Gospels have two meanings:

1. The passage of Jesus through these initiations.
2. The indication of the five great steps or stages along the Path which lie ahead of every sincere student and man of good will.

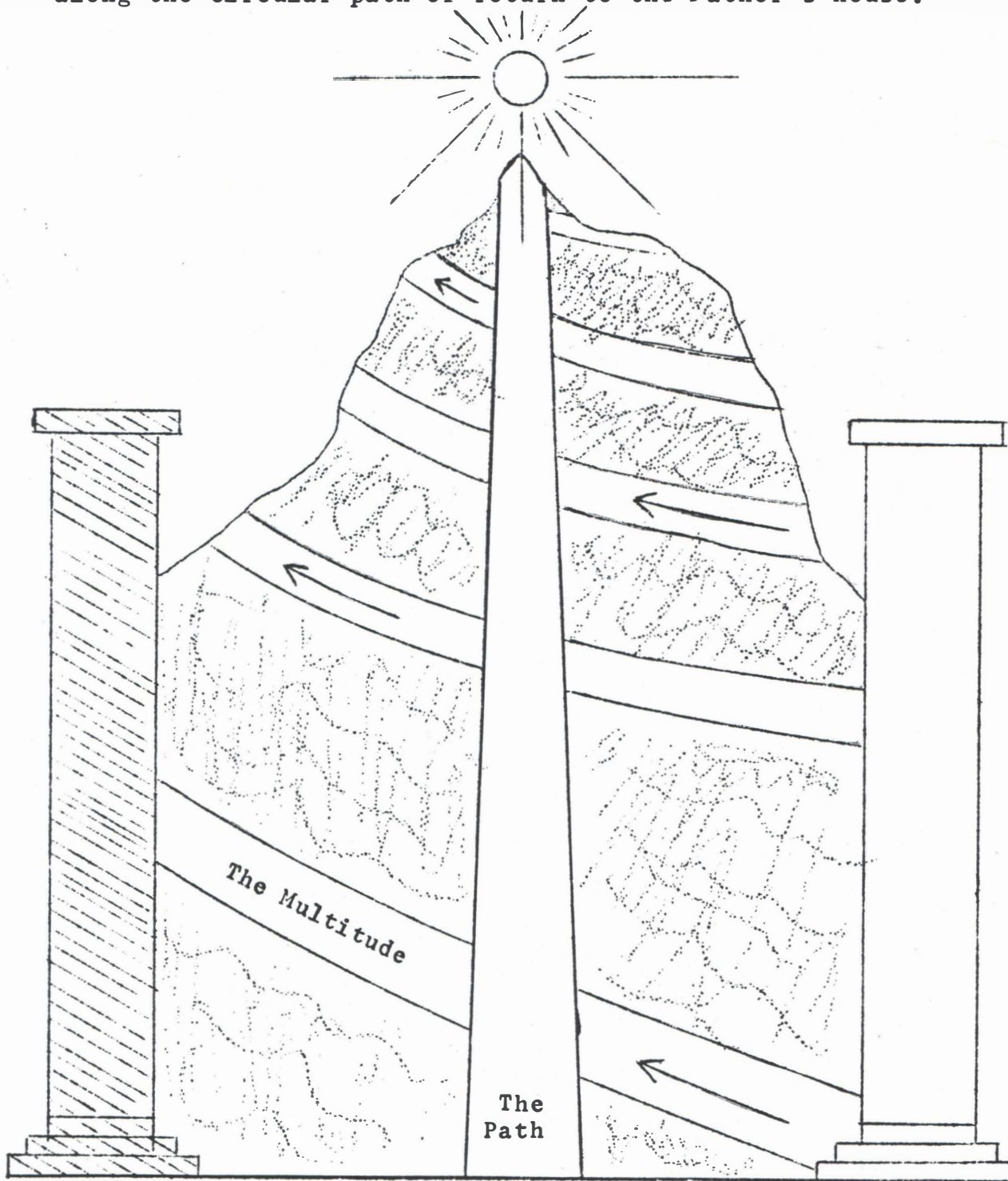
The Four Gospels then are really a skillful blend of history and fiction designed to instruct and inspire those who seek Truth in the Western World. As the Teacher says in John 18:37 "every one that is of the Truth, heareth my voice".

The sequence of these five initiations is a natural growth-cycle in life and repeated in lesser degree in every one's life in many different growth situations. These are rehearsals for the Great Initiations by which every human being eventually winds up his human existence. As Geoffrey Hodson says, "We all have nativity, conversion, baptism of sorrow, transfiguration or upliftment, betrayals and crucifixions, and our recoveries and ascensions."

All of these elements are woven together in the Gospel stories. There is the story of life of Jesus as a man entering on the Path of Initiation and moving on to adepthood through the five Great Initiations; but this is also occult instruction to the awakened man. In the Gospels he is given information on natural law which he can apply to the universe, to the solar system, to the human race and to individuals like himself.

As man experiences this five-fold cycle over and over and

over again in many lives his Soul grows. Through the material losses and the spiritual gains from all of the outside influences upon him, he experiences natural evolution; but he need not wait for the mass of mankind as it moves painfully slowly along the circular path of return to the Father's house.



"Straight is the Gate, Narrow is the Way"

THE TRUE ANNUNCIATION

Once an individual has developed enough intelligence to glimpse the goal of evolution and to understand it, he can undertake the self-quickenning process, as distinct from natural evolution. It is the quickening power of his own Divine Self, the I AM, which stirs the Divine discontent within him. This is the true Annunciation. It is also the voice of conscience. The symbol of that from the Christ story is John the Baptist. The call issued by Jesus in the Gospel story is to awaken men and women to enter the narrow path, through the straight gate.

The Christmas story, then is a call to enter upon the Way. This happens when Christ is born, in the Mystical sense, in the heart center, Tiphareth on the Tree of Life. This includes the solar plexus. Let us see how the story of the Nativity describes His birth as an interior experience. Here are the four clues by which you read the Christmas story with the eye of the Spirit. "Let thine eye be single."

1. The story happens within,
2. It dramatizes the soul's experience,
3. The historical people in the Nativity are personifications of principles, or the lack of them, in man.
4. All objects in the story have symbolical meaning.

If the Gospel story is an interior experience and people are personifications of principles, what of John the Baptist?

He is the voice of the Higher Self manifesting in the personality as conscience. The voice of our conscience is the call from on high reminding us of the continual choices between right and wrong in any given situation. In the Old Testament this same idea is portrayed by one of the prophets when he shouts from his wilderness retreat, "Repent ye for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." This is just another way or reminding a student that Divinity is within him always, exerting a subtle but steady pressure toward self-improvement.

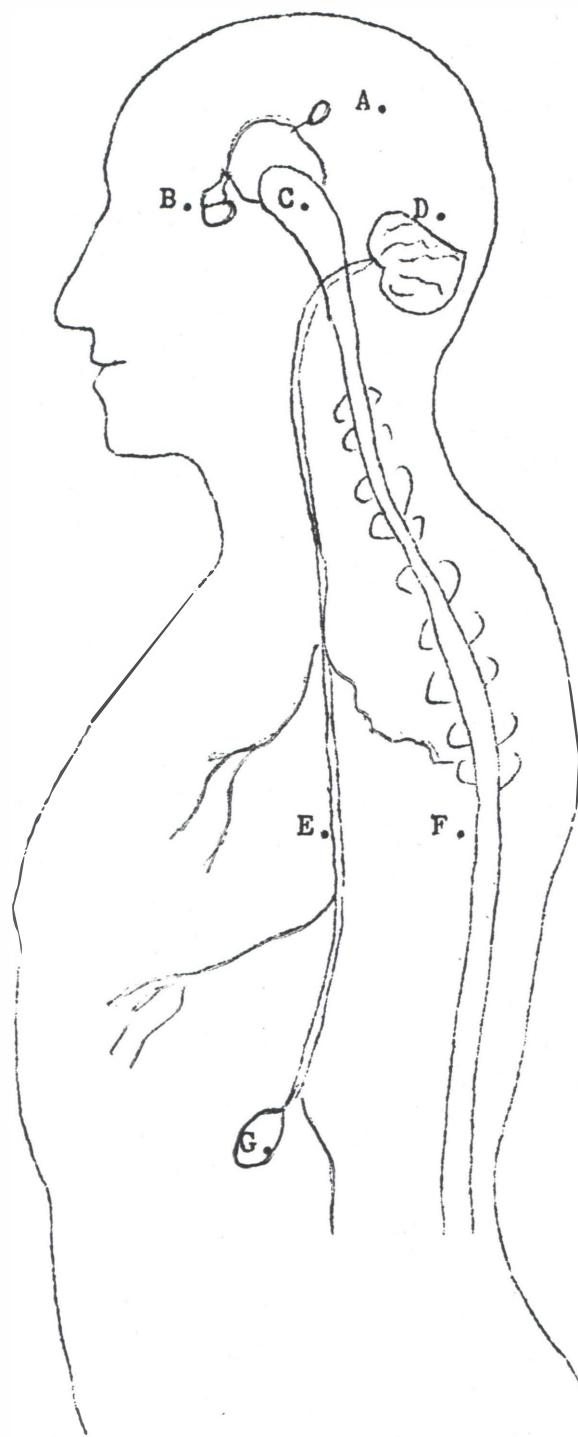
THE ANGEL OF THE ANNUNCIATION

In the Christmas story the voice of the High Self is symbolized by the Angels who appeared to the shepherds and announced the coming birth. Remember, this describes the inner experience of the descent of the Holy Power from a world of eternal Light into the heart and solar plexus of the personality. This Birth is a profound psychological awakening, addevelopment of new power from within the soul. There is a physiological awakening in the body to accompany the psychological awakening. This is the Immaculate Conception.

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL AWAKENING

Dr. George W. Carey tells us what happens in the physical body when the Immaculate Conception takes place. On either side of the thalamus in the head is a gland. The one in back is the pineal; the one in front is the pituitary. The pineal is cone-shaped and secretes a yellow fluid. The pituitary body opposite it is ellipsoid in shape and contains a whitish secretion, like milk.

- A. Pineal Gland (Joseph)
 - B. Pituitary Body (Mary)
 - C. Medulla Oblongata
 - D. Cerebellum
 - E. Pneumogastric Nerve
 - F. Spinal Column
 - G. Solar Plexus
- (Cave of the Nativity)



The fluids that are found in both of these bodies come from the same source, the claustrum, which means barrier or cloister. It is referred to as a cloister for the very good reason that a precious and holy thing is secreted there. Saint Claus or Santa Claus is another term for this precious fluid, which indeed is a holy gift in the body of each one of us.

ELECTRIC SUN AND MAGNETIC MOON

The precious fluid which flows down from the claustrum separates, part going into the pineal gland and part to the pituitary body. These, being special laboratories in the head, differentiate the fluid from the claustrum and it takes on the colors above mentioned. In the pineal gland it becomes yellow and has electric properties. The milk-like fluid in the pituitary has magnetic properties.

These two glands are male and female, the Joseph and Mary of the physical body. They are the parents of the Spiritual Son born in the solar plexus of each human being commencing at about the age of 12. The yellow and white material is the milk and honey referred to in the Bible. The Children of Israel were given the promise of a return to this land flowing with milk and honey. The yellow and white fluids reach the solar plexus via the semi-lunar ganglia (pneumogastric nerve). The plexus is the Bethlehem of the physical body. In Hebrew, Bethlehem means House (beth) of Bread (lehem). "I am the bread of life", said the allegorical Jesus (seed).

In the solar plexus is a thimble-shaped depression, a cave or manger; and in this is deposited the psycho-physical seed, or holy child, born of this Immaculate Conception. This psycho-physical seed is also called the fish; as it has the odor of fish and is formed in the midst of the waters, the pure water. St. Augustine wrote: "Jesus is a fish in the midst of the waters."

Before birth the human foetus floats like a fish in the fluids by which it is surrounded. And as it is with the child formed on the generative plane, so it is with the spiritual child born in the solar plexus, Bethlehem. Joseph and Mary, by furnishing the material for the spiritual child, which was to redeem the child or body-form in generation, paid the symbolical redemption money. The breath, descending the pneumogastric nerve into the solar center, enter the manger where Joseph and Mary are, and where Jesus the seed is "literally conceived by the Holy Ghost".

OCCULT OBSERVATION BY AUGUSTA FOSS HEINDEL

"Let us observe a subject, a woman in spiritual meditation, one who has been living a pure and chaste life with high aspirations, and whose food for years has consisted of

fruit, vegetables and cereals. The pituitary body, through which these aspirations are first registered, is much enlarged. The posterior lobe is turned backward with its funnel shaped neck enlarged with a mouth opening at the end. From this open mouth exudes gas of a soft rose color, slightly intermingled with yellow and blue of pale shades.

"The spinal column is filled with a pale blue ether, intermingled with soft pink and yellow. After this gas leaves the medulla oblongata and enters the pineal gland, it is of a wonderful blue color such as one sees clinging to the mountains after sundown. The pineal gland is enlarged with the point of the cone leaning forward toward the pituitary body. The tiny appendage of skin at the end of the former. . . is elongated and emits a small flame similar to the blue flame of a gas jet. These two organs vibrate at a most rapid rate and lean toward each other over the third ventricle. This ventricle is an oblong cavity lying between the optic thalami. When the life of the aspirant has been pure, the ventricle appears to the occultist like a tiny furnace with a golden glow.

"The pineal gland as already stated, has the appearance of a tiny male organ, while the pituitary body with its open mouth is similar to the female organ. So we may see that science, which is trying to prove that these organs are directly connected with the functions of the brain and the generative organs, is right. They have direct influence upon man from the two ends of the spinal cord, for does not the sex pervert in time become a degenerate? Conservation of the vital fluids and a chaste life strengthen the brain, and these two ductless glands become enlarged, but in the sensualist they atrophy. . ."

FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST

Occult science teaches that a personality is made up of a lower trinity of physical body, emotions and mind. Even the man of the world will admit to these three. The awakened man, on the other hand, becomes aware of his triple soul or higher bodies. It is the latent power of these that begin to come into play when Christ is born in the human heart-solar plexus.

Traditionally, the Archangel Gabriel is supposed to have announced to Mary that she was most fortunate of women. But in this interior experience of which we speak, Gabriel represents or is the messenger of the High Self, the I Am, in lighting the Divine flame in the heart.

What does Mary symbolize as the personification of a Divine Principle? She represents the soul, the Higher Self. The infant Jesus represents love and intuition. Intuition gives a person the power to apprehend truth directly; so he cannot be deceived. Love guides him to an intelligent use of his new Power and Wisdom. Joseph represents the illumined concrete mind in the Christmas story. Because this is an im-

maculate conception, between the Higher Self and the Lower Self or personality and not between man and woman, Joseph is the foster-father of intuition.

ANIMALS AND CREEPING THINGS

Another interesting symbol in the manger scene in the Christmas story is the animals. Some artists depict only domestic animals as one would expect to find in the stable of an inn: horses and cows, dogs and cats. But artists whose inspiration comes from a deeper source will include reptiles and creeping things. These represent the elemental forces of the interior of the earth, uncivilized, untamed. The domestic animals represent purified emotions, under civilized control.

The manger itself is a symbol of nourishment, a source of life. In the whole man this is the heart-solar plexus, also the etheric double. The next larger structure in this Christmas picture is the stable. This is the physical body. The inn nearby or outside the stable is the outside world with all of its cross currents, confusion and normal worldly life.

THE HIGHER TRINITY

In the Western Mystery Tradition the three-fold powers of the Cosmic Man, the Highest Self or I Am, are termed Power, Wisdom and Love. Sometimes these three are referred to as Omnipotence, Omniscience and Omnipresence.

The Angels represent Omnipotence, the Divine Will which descends into Mary, the Higher Self as an act of creation. This is the immaculate conception on a higher level. When this Spiritual Will is developed in a person he has Omnipotence.

As we said, Joseph represents the concrete mind of the personality. He cannot "father" the child to be because Spiritual qualities cannot be generated by the intellect. Intelligence is a combination of knowledge and experience wisely directed by the soul. When this higher mental power, abstract mind or intuition, is developed it gives a person Omniscience.

Love, or Omnipresence, is the result of the union of the previous two. Spiritual power, Mary, fructifies the lower mind and the result is the birth of Divine perception and the realization of the Oneness of all life. Omnipresence is universal love.

Everyone knows that virgin birth is ridiculous or impossible under normal circumstances. What else can the writers of the Christmas story intend than to shock the reader? They want the searching person to realize that this is not a historical event but an allegory! This is the story of the interior Spiritual awakening. The story itself is a blind which turns

the worldly person away from a Great Mystery for which he is not yet ready. For the union of Power and Wisdom within the awakening man or woman is indeed an Immaculate Conception. The product of that union is Divine Love.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE STABLE

Why must this virgin birth take place in a stable. And why should this manifestation from on high come as an infant? Here is a hint of the greatest Spiritual Truth for mankind in the flesh. "Life is fulfilled by renunciation." This golden thread runs through the whole of the Gospel story.

The renunciation of worldly possessions, power and privilege are symbolized in this humble birth amid poverty. Jesus attained his kingship by renouncing the world. This idea was born out later when he matured and entered his ministry. He was despised and rejected of men.

This is a course of behavior which one hesitates to offer to the public; for it is the opposite of the principles which move most men to action. The story of the Nativity offers a code of ethics so high that it can be spoken of only with an apology. It poses a problem in behavior beyond all the bounds of logic. Does the renewal of life depend upon death? So it seems; for He said, "He that loseth his life for My sake shall gain it unto life eternal."

What is there to be renounced if we would receive the Kingdom of Heaven? It is really a state of mind, a personal attitude toward personal possessions, higher position, the love and esteem of our friends. If there is to be a birth of Christ Light in our hearts there must be detachment, disinterestedness. This is the preparation for the Nativity. Remember, it is more an interior change of attitude than an exterior getting rid of worldly possessions. If a person has worldly responsibilities he must have the means to fulfill those responsibilities.

The difference is between possessions for their own sake or for the means to get the essential work done. On the other hand, too many religious fanatics have taken the preparation for the Nativity too literally and have thrown common sense and wisdom to the winds -- along with worldly goods which were necessary to carry on the Great Work. If power and possessions are held, they are for service. If friendship is given, it is without possessiveness, and the same is true of love.

WANT NOTHING AND HAVE EVERYTHING

In the highest sense, that which is renounced is retained forevermore, once the spirit of hoarding is outgrown. He who wants for nothing has everything, obviously; for it was during the renunciation in the manger that the kings and the Magi came to lay their worldly treasures at the feet of the Babe.

This philosophical concept is beyond the understanding of the worldly man or woman, who anyhow would despise the stable of an inn as a resting place; but only here could a Mystic Birth occur; for the would-be initiate must be rejected by worldly men if he is to be accepted by Spiritual men!

There is an august assembly of Adepts on the inner planes at the birth of Christ. They represent a power which the disciple covets but which appears as nothing in the eyes of men. For the gentleness which is demanded of a student on the Path is despised as weakness in the world outside. The great Chinese Sage, Lao Tse, said, "When Heaven would preserve a man it enfolds him in gentleness."

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

One important symbol in the Manger scene is the star which shines forth at the time. This is a symbol of initiation. It indicates the increase of Spiritual power in the initiate. It is also a symbol of the one Initiator for the race of mankind on this earth; for it is by His power that all initiations are conferred. It is when His Spiritual rod of power touches the soul of the student on the Path that the Christ-child is born in the Bethlehem of the heart-solar plexus center.

Now in 1967 we are in a great world-wide crisis at the end of this Piscean Age. The Rod of Initiation is touching mankind as a whole. A racial Nativity is taking place. The Spirit of Brotherhood, a larger, more impersonal love is being born in the hearts of those humans ready to receive it.

In this world-wide conflict the resistance of conservatives to change and the crystallization of old and honored Piscean institutions are represented in the Christmas story by Herod. This Hebrew King represents materialism, selfishness, self-indulgence and pride. He truly recognizes that the New Light of the New Age dawning threatens the end of all that he considers important; so he must attack and destroy.

In the Christmas story, Joseph, Mary and the Babe flee to Egypt, the home of the Western Mystery Tradition. This represents, symbolically, the place of Light, a land where there is progress.

THE LAST OF THE HEBREW PROPHETS

The voice crying in the wilderness, the voice of John the Baptist, is symbolically the Higher Self calling to the Lower, trying to awaken the worldly man to his own Divinity. The voice in the wilderness is also the conscience calling to the Lower Self to renounce its worldly ways, to repent over-indulgence and wilful wrong doing. Thus the Higher Self constantly pleads with the Lower to purify itself in the quest for perfection. Here again, in the Gospel story, the histori-

cal figure of the Baptist symbolizes an interior experience. The voice crying in the wilderness is an insistent demand to which every man and woman must respond some day.

In relation to the Christ idea, John represents that soul about to enter upon the Path. On the larger scene of the human race today, John the Baptist represents the highly civilized man of East or West who are pushing the idea of brotherhood through the United Nations. But before the ideal of world-wide peace through cooperation can be achieved individual nations must give up their desire for power and possessions. To come back to the individual man represented by John, he must be free from personal desire.

SALOME AND WHY SHE DANCED

In the Gospel story the selfish human passions are represented by the dancer, Salome. You remember what happened, John rejected her seductive advances, his head was cut off, and the lower man died to the higher.

John's refusal to give way to the passions represented by Salome symbolizes the austerities to which the student must subject himself. He must bring his animal passions under control and free himself from the sceptical, critical, limiting concrete mind. The beheading symbolizes the soul's freedom from the lower mind!

We could say that Salome represents the personal or Lower Self and John represents the soul or Higher Self, in this story. Her personal ambitions danced upon the passions and aroused desire and arrogance. This in turn created Spiritual blindness and cruelty. But the very act of demanding John's head is an act of grace; for this "death" is really a victory over the defeated Lower Self. To take the symbology further, the prison is John's body and beheading frees him from it. To consciously rise above limitations, desire must be transmuted into Will. The lower mind must be slain before this can happen. The lower mind foretells or prophesies the coming of the Higher and dies when the Higher is born. Thus did John the Baptist foretell the coming of the Christ. John's life ended when Christ began His mission. Thus does the lower die to the Higher.

THREE SIGNS OF THE FIRST GREAT INITIATION

This is the interior experience of the soul as it prepares for the first of the Great Initiations, the birth of the Babe in the heart. There are three signs that precede it:

1. The prophecy of the coming Messiah.
2. The Annunciation.
3. The ministry of John the Baptist.

These three really tell of the awakening of the conscience and of the increasing pressure of the Higher Self on the personality toward repentance and a definite change in the way of life.

THE CONTINUAL RE-WRITING OF THE ANCIENT WISDOM

In recounting the allegories of the Gospel story we must keep in mind that the sacred literature of every race is written by men and women who know the Ancient Wisdom. Civilizations and nations must come and go but the Lodges of the Masters on the Inner Planes, and the Sages and Saints who compose their memberships, endure from age to age. It is their duty to preserve the Divine or Ancient Wisdom and to re-issue it through new channels -- students, initiates and Adepts in the flesh -- as man and nation are ready to receive it.

Every generation of mankind requires a re-writing of the Mysteries if the Ancient Wisdom is to appeal to the modern minds of the day. The followers of an Adept teacher tend to turn his liberal ideas into conservative dogma. Priesthoods then combine the material into an organized religion. Like all man-made institutions, organized religions outlive their usefulness and must come to an end. There is an ensuing dark age and then nations rise again. Again Adept teachers come to enunciate a portion of the Ancient Wisdom, partially revealed but again partially concealed from the eyes of the profane.

* * *

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For the sake of variety in the December Journal, we leave the "Other Meaning of Christmas" story here, to go on to other material. There is much more to it, however, and for those of you who want to pursue the deeper meaning of Christmas beyond what has been given here, we've put it all together into an 8½x11 mimeo brochure. This can be purchased for \$3.00, post and tax paid, and kept handy for study and practice. Cassette tape, \$7.00, postpaid.

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THE OTHER MEANING OF CHRISTMAS, PART II

The Winter Solstice in the Western Mystery Tradition

Christmas comes at a time, close to the shortest day of the year, which has long been called the Winter Solstice. Most of the great religions seem to have festivals which coincide with sun-earth cycles represented by the Winter Solstice, the Spring Equinox, the Summer Solstice and the Autumnal Equinox.

The celebration of the Winter Solstice in the Western Mystery Tradition can be easily traced back to Egypt. That ancient land is the true source of most of the Spiritual inspiration and guidance for the West. Students of metaphysics born and raised under the Christian tradition must come to realize that the Mystery Tradition is as old as man himself. The need for the so-called redemption of the personality came about with the "fall" of man from his Garden of Eden state millions of years ago. The Son of Man tradition is far, far older than the Christ-idea of 2000 years ago. It necessitates Redeemers for every nation and race.

The birth of the Egyptian Savior, Osiris, was celebrated in mid-winter. One symbol common to all Saviors is the sun, and all Saviors are known as Sun Gods. But we learn from an old book published originally in Paris, France in 1670, "The Comte de Gabalis", that the Egyptians were aware of and worshipped the Sun behind the sun! Osiris' name really links him to the brightest star in the heavens, Sirius, the Sun behind our sun. We believe that the being worshipped as a God by the Egyptians, Osiris, was in reality an Atlantean adept who migrated to a favorable spot on the Nile river with a band of his students. This was well before the great cataclysm which destroyed Atlantis in 9564 B.C. There this teacher laid the cultural basis for the great civilizations to follow. Saviors do bring the gift of civilization. They embody guiding principles which help to lead man out of his savagery.

As a keen student and practitioner of the Ancient Wisdom, Osiris, must have early learned of the central place of the great star, Sirius. As far as we are concerned it is the central sun of the Zodiac, around which the Constellations revolve. Perhaps a hundred suns are in this family of stars and the sun of our solar system is one of them. He passed this information on to his people. It was annually reinforced by a combination of events known to all

Egyptians. The rising or appearance of Sirius above the horizon in that part of the world coincided with the annual flooding of the Nile river. The rich silt left by the flood guaranteed abundant harvests for Egypt. Where did this natural fertilizer come from? Far up the Nile in central Africa the river courses through deep gorges. In summer time millions of birds built their nests and reared their young in those cliffs. Annually the rising flood waters would sweep the cliffs clean and carry the rich bird manure down to the Nile delta.

INITIATION BY SUPER-SOLAR FORCE

Osiris was also known as Amen-Ra, the Hidden Sun, "said to be the husband of Isis (Nature) and parent of Horus (the sun of our solar system), symbolically represented as a hawk, because that bird flies nearest the sun."

The priests of this ancient people were well aware that "every year the Parent Sun is in line with the Dog Star, Sirius. Therefore the Great Pyramid was so constructed that at this sacred moment, the light of the Dog Star fell upon the square 'Stone of God' at the upper end of the Great Gallery. It descended upon the head of the high priest who received this Super Solar Force and sought through his own perfected Solar Body to transmit to other initiates this added stimulation for the evolution of their own God-hood. This then was the purpose of the Stone of God, whereon, in the Ritual, Osiris sits to bestow upon him (the Illuminate) the Atf crown of celestial light."

"'North and South of this crown is love', proclaims an Egyptian hymn. And thus through the teaching of Egypt the visible light was but the shadow of the Invisible Light; and in the wisdom of that ancient country the measures of truth were the years of the most high." Thus wrote Marsham Adams in the "Book of the Master".

So here the Veil is lifted for only a moment, to give us a glimpse of a sustaining force from outside the solar system. Cosmic Power, Wisdom and Love beaming its radiance into space before our solar system was born; and presumably this Celestial Light will continue its serene existence after our sun and its little family of planets is gone. That Celestial Light was there when Osiris became identified as the Savior of some early Egyptian civilization and the many which followed in that land along the Nile. Much later the doctrine of Jesus Christ as the crucified Savior for Western man of Europe and America was grafted upon this same Super-Solar Tradition of the Son of Man.

In the Lodge of the Western Mystery Tradition Jesus has been called the Lord of the Personality. The unawakened think of him as their personal savior but the awakened student knows that the Great Initiator for him is the Holy Spirit or

Holy Ghost. It is this which gives man illumination, but he is not ready to receive it until the Christ-force has worked on his soul. The student of metaphysics born and raised in the Christian tradition must realize that the Mystery system is not built on the personality of Jesus. Spiritual freedom, or redemption, can only come through the function and power of the Holy Spirit within. To understand this the student or searcher must pierce the veil, go behind the forms of his racial or national religion, and grasp their essence. He must grasp the other meaning of Christmas.

THE RHYTHM OF LIFE

The Law of birth and death governs all physical forms. In the long view the student sees that Christianity as an organized physical entity must some day come to an end even as it had a beginning. Nevertheless, Christianity has certain values which are eternal.

First of all it demands sacrifice. In giving up certain worldly pursuits the sincere Christian is denying his personality for the sake of his Individuality or soul. This voluntary turning from the manifest to the unmanifest helps free a person from the bondage of the flesh. Coupled with this is a second principle of Christianity. It is a passive or negative religion in that it asks man to be still and let God work. Thirdly, and equally important, Christianity is a religion of compassion. Good Christians are supposed to practise the Golden Rule and live the ideal of Brotherhood. This balances the second principle because compassion is action.

So keep these three enduring Christian principles in mind: Purification, Receptivity and Compassion. When all else that we know of Western civilization at present is gone, these three will endure into the New Age. Of course they are not exclusive to Christianity or to the Western world, but they have been developed by it in those who have tried to follow in the Master's footsteps. But let us not forget that as Lord of the Personality He is concerned with our developing ourselves to full stature as persons. This is the dynamic side of the Christian ideal which must be emphasized to balance the passive.

Here in America this Christian dynamic has found expression in those social services which are today taken for granted: Old Age Security, Red Cross, Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., child guidance clinics, group games which emphasize sportsmanship, the foreign aid program, the Marshall Plan, etc. This is constructive sacrifice which finds expression in service.

In the Middle Ages the Church stressed the image of Christ crucified, rather than the Sermon on the Mount, with the Son of Man despised and rejected of men. But the Gospel story

also gives us the image of Christ ascended and triumphant, a God with arms outstretched, radiating his Power, Wisdom and Love on the world. This is the image of Christ the King which must and will be stressed in the Aquarian Age.

GOD IS DEAD

So strong is the revulsion against old religious forms and symbols by some present-day ministers and priests that they want to do away with all old Christian symbols. They are embarrassed and uncomfortable with the doctrines of the Immaculate Conception and Birth, the Baptism, Transfiguration, Crucifixion and Resurrection, and the Ascension; but these symbolize eternal values because they represent definite stages or illuminations in the growth of the soul! The awakened man or woman will recognize them and value them as such.

Aquarian Age influence tends to make all things new. Will it be possible to force New Age wine into these old Piscean Age bottles? But the five Great Initiations were facts of occult life long before the Piscean Age was the new age 2000 years ago, and these "old" Christian symbols have the authority and prestige of 2000 years of use by dedicated searchers after Truth.

We find that these symbols can be re-illuminated for today by lifting the Veil to allow more light to shine through them than ever could have been done publicly in the past. Consciousness is ready for it. The presence of Flying Saucers and our own Space Age developments have brought an expanded awareness. Science is helping establish a living relationship with the universe unknown to us before except on abstract spiritual terms. The literal explanations of life offered by both orthodox religion and orthodox science are no longer adequate. The Aquarian Age people whose thought has been stimulated by the prospect of rocket travel to the moon and Mars are ready for the other meaning of Christmas. Their minds have already been lifted. They are ready for something higher and it is there. It has been there all these hundreds of years. If God is dead it is only that the old literal forms by which we understood him are no longer adequate. The archetypal ideas behind those forms are still there, eternal, imperishable. Let us examine a couple of them through our newly opening Aquarian Age eyes.

THE TWO CHRISTMAS ARCHETYPES

Remember, even though weather is generally colder here in the Northern hemisphere, at the Winter Solstice the sun is actually closer to the earth. At Christmas time we can and should realize a closer approach of our Higher Self to our personality. This actually means an added force in our lives at the time of the celebration of the Nativity.

When we speak of our Higher Self we are speaking of an archetype. There are over all things, all people and all matter these high principles called archetypes. Each archetype is actually a great force from space destined to do certain work. Each must be considered as working in two different ways. First, the archetype works through the symbol of its power. Second, the force emanating from the archetype surrounds certain personalities on earth. These personalities have qualified themselves as channels to bring the archetypal force, really Solar force, into the physical world. To properly understand the Christmas story, in the deeper sense, you must recognize both aspects of the archetypal idea which stands behind or above it.

MOTHER AND CHILD

It must be kept in mind that the birth of the Christ child is a manifestation of two great archetypes because two very distinct personalities are involved. One is the birth of Jesus; the other is his mother, Mary. The archetype which overshadowed Mary is very powerful, though less well known to Protestant Christians.

So the Christ-symbol is really the Son of Man archetype which has overshadowed every Savior who came to every race and nation on the planet. It is a solar force backed up by the Super Sun, Sirius. Though the ministry in Judea 2000 years ago was the last and greatest manifestation of this male Cosmic force. For the same reason it must be realized that the Mother-force which manifested through Mary in Judea had also manifested countless times before in the births of previous Saviors. These two great archetypes of the Mother and the Child are the two great symbols of Christmas.

The Roman Catholic Church has given more recognition to Mary in the Christmas story than have the Protestant churches. Also there is a hint in Roman dogma that Mary long ago became what we call an ascended Master. It is interesting to note that She often appears to peasants or people of little education in Catholic countries. This means that the Great Archetype, the World-Mother, has personalized in that area for some particular reason. The many thought-forms of Mary created by Roman Catholic worshippers furnish astral vehicles through which the Great Force could manifest to an available medium.

These visions seem to occur in Catholic countries because only they worship Mary directly. The archetype can only manifest through minds open to its influence. In Protestant countries the Mother of Christ is a small, rather sad, semi-historical figure. The full significance of Christmas will come to you only if you recognize the importance of Mary in the Manger scene. The positive male force of the Christ must be balanced by the negative female force of Mary.

THE WOMB OF THE EARTH

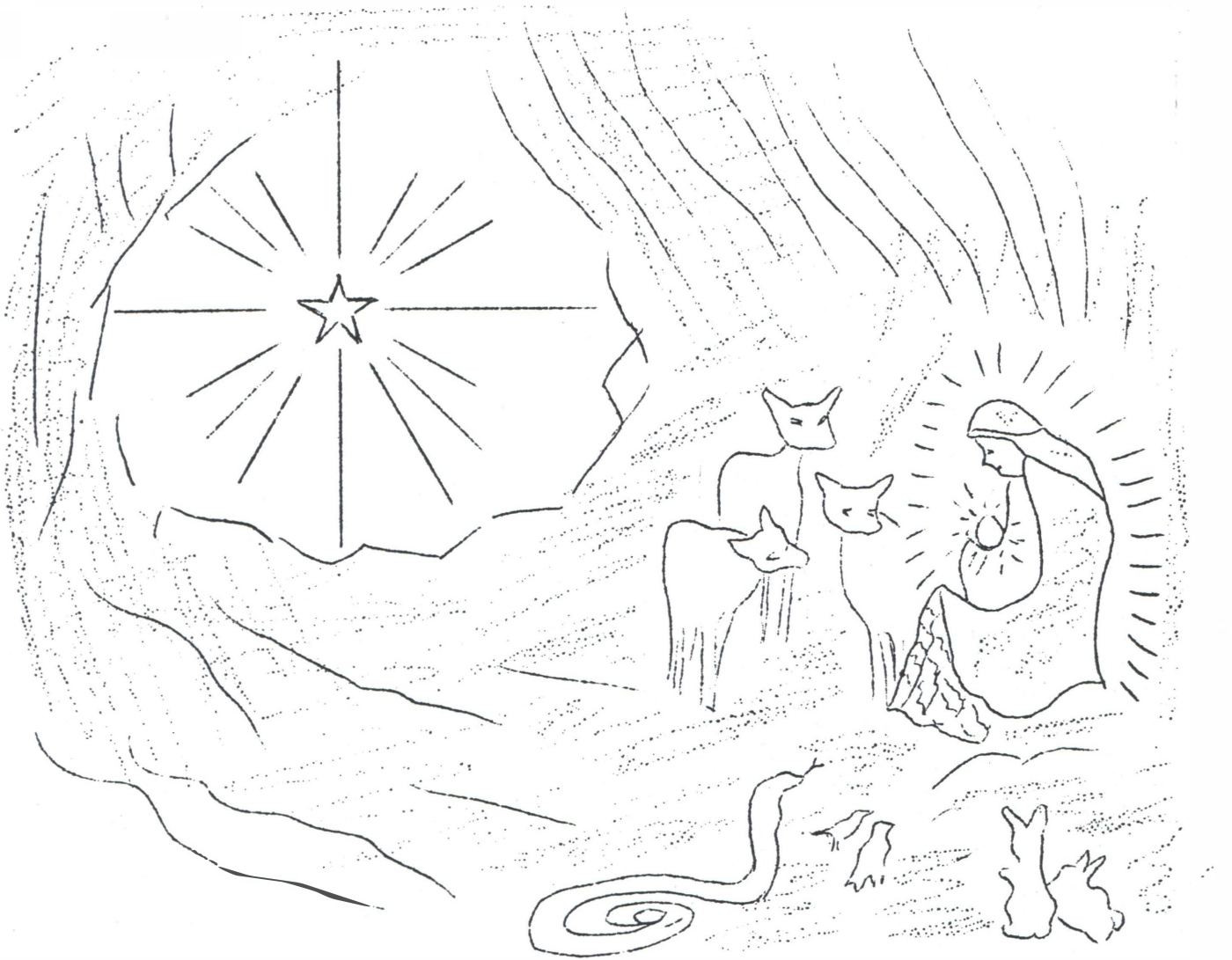
Many of the Christmas legends have placed the Manger in a cave. The Gospel story locates the cave in Bethlehem but the Mystery Teachings place the Cave of the Nativity at the center of the earth. This cave is made of the substance of the Earth Mother, a great planetary being. These things should be kept in mind if you would create a powerful image of the Birth of Jesus in your meditation. The cave should be visualized as being dark and warm, with one end open to the night sky. There blazes the Star of the East. This star of the new era is always seen at the birth of a Savior. In this cave you see and feel the elemental forces of the earth -- the non-human forces of Earth, Air, Water and Fire. In the traditional manger scene these are represented by the animals, birds and creeping things.

Now we are ready to add the figures of the Mother and the Infant. As you watch the figures you see the silver cord stretch from each one up, up and up into the heights beyond your sight. This silver cord glows as the clear white Light descends along it to form around the Infant in great circles or globes of Light. This is the reservoir of Divine Energy the Christ-child will use during the years of his growing to early manhood. The greater part will be reserved until those all-important three years of His ministry. Then that Cosmic Christ-force comes through the personality, Jesus. As an adult this force entirely surrounds him.

The great force which surrounds Mary as she sits there by the Infant is different. It takes form more quickly than the Christ force because it is not quite so great. The archetype which overshadows Mary is the great, all-feminine principle of universe, the Cosmic Mother. In its highest aspect it brings through a tremendous spiritualisation of all forms. The Great Mother makes form and yet is beyond form. This is the Woman that is part of God, the negative part which balances the positive. The colors of this great archetypal force are white and blue. These should be visualized as descending on Mary in the cave.

In Egypt ages ago a part of the Cosmic Mother descended on another "Mary". She was Mais, mother of another Egyptian Savior, Hermes. This feminine force differs further from the Christ force in that it is not entirely incorporated into Mary until long after her physical form is dead, but the Great Mother starts building a home for Herself in the Mary-personality at the birth of the Christ child.

Another example of the universal feminine principle manifesting on the physical plane is in the great and terrible form known as Kali, in India. Kali is both holy and terrible. You must remember that when a mother brings a Redeemer into the world one aspect of the forces she releases is that of destruc-



tion. The Savior-Redeemer is also a reformer. He is a radical with new ideas which promise eventual destruction to the established church and state of the time in which he appears.

The Christ-force always makes a physical manifestation at the end of one epoch to establish the spiritual principles for the New Age. These radical ideas are never well received by the vested interests of the old era; nevertheless they must give way to the progress symbolized by the birth of the Christ child; hence the destructive aspect of the Cosmic Love manifesting through Mary. When one witnesses the passing of the Jewish kingdom and the downfall of a mighty civilization such as ancient Rome, one realizes that Love is not always a gentle thing; it can also be a terrible thing. A Wise Man has said: "If you look at it properly, the other two aspects of the Cosmic trinity, Power and Wisdom, are gentler than Love; and this is the real Cosmic truth, my children."

Of all American presidents Abraham Lincoln is generally considered the most beloved. He is most highly honored for his love of the people. Yet it was his administration that ushered in the Civil War, the most destructive period this nation has yet known. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation dealt a death blow to the vested interest of slavery. Millions of dollars worth of property values in human bodies were wiped out overnight.

SUN-FATHER AND EARTH-MOTHER

Now let us return to the two archetypal forces in the cave at the center of the earth. One of the reasons these forces build up at the time of the Winter Solstice in the Northern hemisphere is because the sun is nearest the earth, and naturally nearest to man. The Christ force is a sun force. For this Cosmic Christ force to manifest on the earth it has to use the material of the earth and the nourishing substance of a woman. It must be remembered that the physical materials of any human body are drawn from the earth and the earth is the body of a great planetary being. Therefore at the birth of the Savior both the Great Mother of the universe and the Planetary Being of the earth are involved as givers of form. It is said that just by visualizing this great event we can help the Planetary Being to understand better what is going on within Him, even though He may not grasp the Christmas story in the same way we do; for we are told that the collective mind of mankind is the mind of the Planetary Being.

As we said before, for the student of metaphysics the celebration of the birth of Jesus is a personal thing. For him it signifies the birth of the Christ consciousness within him. The midnight sun of the Winter Solstice occurs on Dec. 21-22; but it takes about three days to "round the corner"; so by Dec. 25th the sun has started its course northward, with the promise of a new cycle. The message of hope was brought by the angels to men of good will. It is men of good will who are ready for the Path of initiation. They are willing to consider Spiritual matters; they are willing to study the Mystery teachings; and they are willing to give themselves in Service.

There is a promise in the Christmas story for mankind. There is also a promise to the creatures and elemental forces in the caves. This promise to the elementals is not fulfilled until the Christ child grows up, experiences the trials and death of the Crucifixion, and is resurrected. Then He goes out into the elemental world giving blessings. As it says in I Peter 3:19 "in which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison".

As a student or searcher after Truth you should try to bring about the birth of this Christ force in your own heart, and to see this redeeming force in everything, including the lower forms of life around you. These include the elemental

forces in earth, air, fire and water, reptiles, fishes, birds, and beasts. Every uplifting thought and feeling directed toward the lower creatures lifts them a little along the path of evolution.

But how much more of this Christ force is given to man! And how does he use it? It is meant to be used, in all of our actions. Even the smallest and most trivial should be blessed with the realisation of this ever-present Cosmic energy, not only at Christmas time, not only in church on Sundays, but on week days and in our daily work. Remember that the Christ force touches the essential Spirit of men and also the innermost part of other beings not of the human kingdom. And when your understanding brings this Cosmic force through to the physical and accelerates the higher development of all life you are a disciple of Christ.

The central idea, then, behind the Christmas story is that the Christ is the fullness of Life for any being when it is in touch with the highest within itself, regardless of how little or much that highest might be.

* * *

A FURTHER NOTE ON MARY, QUEEN OF THE ANGELS

As Given to Geoffrey Hodson
By His Angel Teacher

"The Building Angels guide growth in every world, and, shaping it according to the law, seek ever to improve, to perfect and inspire. Each immortal spark which finds birth in worlds of thought, of feeling and of flesh, and growing, becomes man, owes all its vehicles or bodies to the angel builders; so also do every gem, every plant, every animal, every globe and every universe. They stand in graded orders, these builders, each laboring at his own height, the lesser ones building gems, the greater ones worlds. There are some who build the outer forms of angels and of men.

"It is lack of recognition of their place and aid that has made childbirth in later times a period of agony or death. When men invoke their aid, they will teach the human race how to bring forth their kind with joy; they will see that the great sacrifice is no longer marred by fear and cries of agony and woe.

"These angels who build men have, as their Queen, a Holy One, who won freedom from the burden of the flesh and, ascending, joined the Angel Hosts. She labors ever for the cause of human motherhood, and even now is bending all Her mighty strength and calling all Her Angel court to labor for the upliftment of womanhood throughout the world. Through her angel messengers, She

Herself is present at every human birth, unseen and unknown, it is true; but if men would open their eyes She would be revealed. She sends this message through the Brotherhood to men:

"In the Name of Him who long ago I bore, I come to your aid. I have taken every woman into my heart, to hold there a part of her that through it I may help her in her time of need. Uplift the women of your race till all are seen as queens, and to such queens let every man be as a king, that each may honor each, seeing the other's royalty. Let every home, however small, become a court, every son a knight, every child a page. Let all treat all with chivalry, honoring in each their royal parentage, their kingly birth; for there is royal blood in every man; all are children of the King."

* * *

MARY AND GABRIEL, by Rupert Brooke

Young Mary, loitering once her garden way,
Felt a warm splendour grow in the April day,
As wine that blushes water through. And soon,
Out of the gold air of that afternoon,
One knelt before her: hair he had, or fire,
Bound back above his ears with golden wire,
Baring the eager marble of his face.
No man's or woman's was the immortal grace
Rounding the limbs beneath that robe of white,
And lighting the proud eyes with changeless light,
Incurious. Calm as his wings, and fair,
That presence filled the garden.

She stood there,
Saying, "What would you, Sir?"

He told his word,
"Blessed art thou of women!" Half she heard,
Hands folded and face bowed, half long had known,
The message of that clear and holy tone,
That fluttered hot sweet sobs about her heart;
Such serene tidings moved such human smart.
Her breath came quick as little flakes of snow.
Her hands crept up her breast. She did but know
It was not hers. She felt a trembling stir
Within her body, a will too strong for her
That held and filled and mastered all. With eyes
Closed, and a thousand soft short broken sighs,
She gave submission; fearful, meek, and glad. . . .

She wished to speak. Under her breasts she had
Such multitudinous burnings to and fro,
And throbs not understood; she did not know
If they were hurt or joy for her; but only
That she was grown strange to herself, half lonely,

All wonderful, filled full of pains to come
And thoughts she dare not think, swift thoughts
and dumb,
Human, and quaint, her own, yet very far,
Divine, dear, terrible, familiar. . .
Her heart was faint for telling; to relate
Her limbs' sweet treachery, her strange high estate,
Over and over, whispering, half revealing,
Weeping; and so find kindness to her healing.
'Twixt tears and laughter, panic hurrying her,
She raised her eyes to that fair messenger.
He knelt unmoved, immortal; with his eyes
Gazing beyond her, calm to the calm skies;
Radiant, untroubled in his wisdom, kind.
His sheaf of lillies stirred not in the wind.
How should she, pitiful with mortality,
Try the wide peace of that felicity.
With ripples of her perplexed shaken heart,
And hints of human ecstasy, human smart,
And whispers of the lonely weight she bore,
And how her womb within was hers no more
And at length hers?

Being tired, she bowed her head:
And said, "So be it!"

The great wings were spread
Showering glory on the fields, and fire.
The whole air, singing, bore him up, and higher,
Unswerving, unreluctant. Soon he shone
A gold speck in the gold skies; then was gone.

The air was colder and grey. She stood alone.

THE SUN BEHIND THE SUN

Excerpted From
"Letters From Christopher"

He was an 18-year old English schoolboy. He drowned in the north Atlantic in 1943. He was returning home to England from America. The convoy of ships in which he was a passenger was sunk by enemy action in April of that year.

His mother, Ruth Tristram, was a "sensitive" from birth. Another son, Lancelot, had died at an early age. She had been in communication with him for several years at the time of Christopher's death. There was shock and loss, of course, but no grief. The necessary work of Samael, the Angel of Death, held no terrors for her. Death is a change, not an end. So Mrs. Tristram was not surprised when, during a quiet time only one month after receiving word from her government that the boy's ship was "greatly overdue", she felt her son's consciousness blending with hers. It was June 3, 1943.

"Yes, I am here, Mummy darling. I am being instructed in my new life. I was afraid of death but I was glad when it was over, and I had to be in a place of quiet for a long time till I lost my fears -- I am longing to be with you again and Dad and be at home. It is funny to be like this not able to make you hear when I speak to you, and all my plans of going into Dad's regiment are upset, but I suppose they will let me help a bit even here. I have guides who are helping me to find my way about. It is all very confusing at first, because you see I never thought of coming into this funny sort of life. . . I thought if I died I should be floating about in the clouds somewhere, but I am in quite a solid sort of life only you can't see it yet, but quite real. I will tell you more about it next time, but they say I must go now. I don't know who my guides are but they are very nice to me and help me all the time. Goodnight, Mum, from Chris."

Young, eager to live and learn, and to take his part in the great war, Chris soon became an Invisible Helper. Because he had known fear in the sinking of his ship, and his drowning, he could sympathize with the soldiers of both sides. He rapidly learned to choose healing colors with his active mind, and to direct these healing rays into the auras of soldiers who were obsessed by fear. He worked with those in the flesh and with those who came out of shattered bodies with shattered minds and emotions.

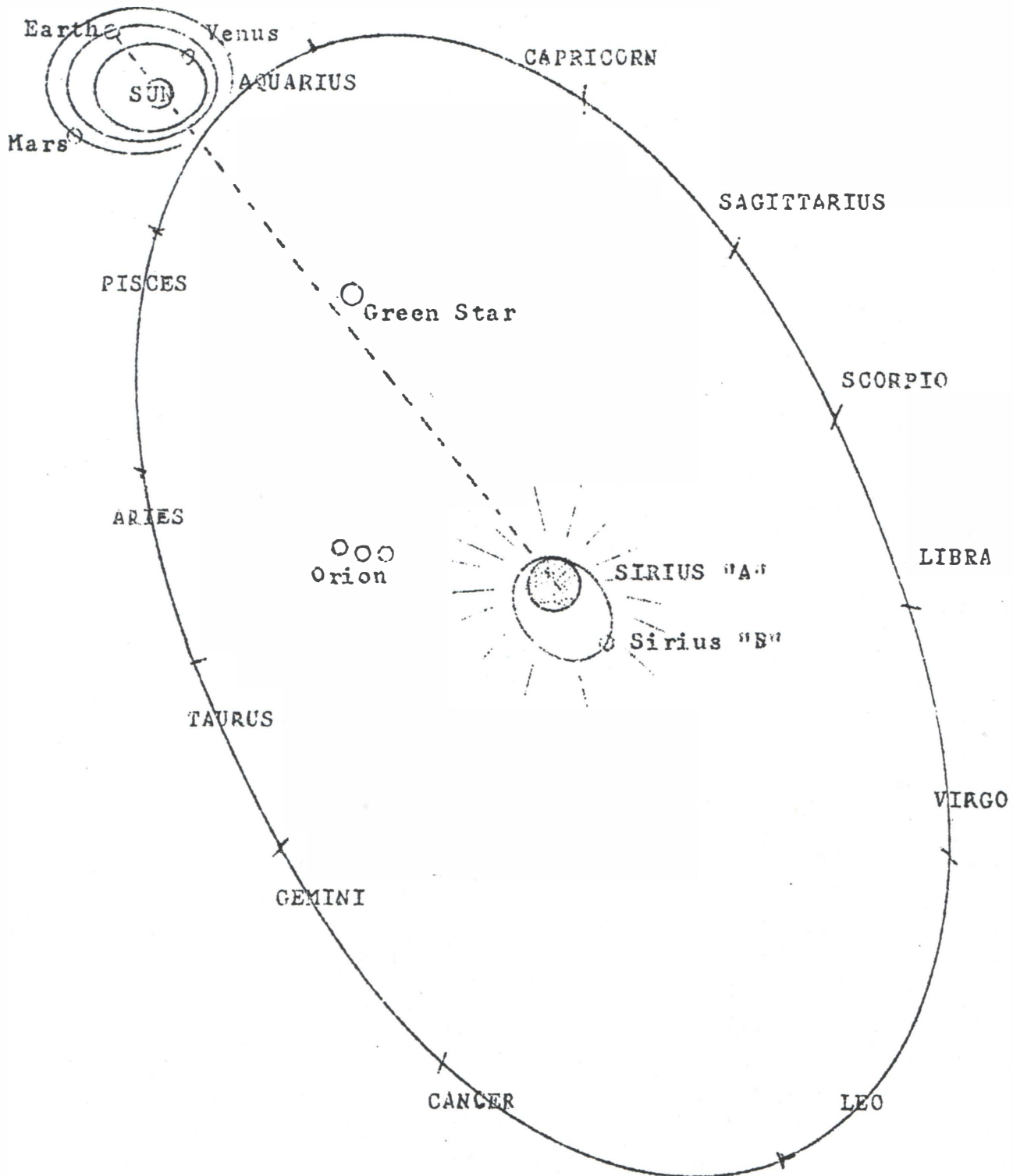
In two years of earth time Christopher had progressed so well in his work as a Color-Ray Healer that his Teachers decided to send him outside the solar system for advanced training. Lancelot broke the news to their mother on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945.

"Mum, darling, I am going to be more with you now Chris will be

SIRIUS. THE SUN BEHIND OUR SUN

Map of Christopher's voyage into
deep space.

Our Solar System



away and helping about your cases and all that. Chris tells me he was giving treatment to several, and I can go on with it on the same lines as he did. Chris is joining a stellar radiance course which will teach him complete control over ray products here and give him possibilities of higher development than he could by remaining here (on earth). . . You can count on me twice a week, Mum darling, and I'll come Saturdays and Wednesdays like Chris used to, shall I? . . "

THE VOYAGE INTO DEEP SPACE

He was gone almost two months of earth time and made a surprise visit to his mother on May 27th: "You thought I was Lance, but I am Chris! I am coming overland so got home before Lance thought, and glad to be back, but had no end of a good time. Darling, it's great to be home with you again and I did so enjoy our flowery walk, though you kept thinking I was Lance! Can we have time for a good talk or are you busy? O.K.

"Now for a description of the starry skies! All I could do was gasp with wonder at first, but it was all natural after all, and nothing conflicts with ideas from our planet if we take it all as One God. I am much grown in spirit as a result of the marvels of the Universe, and feel greatly better for it all. Can you visualise the meaning of Christ's birth here on earth? God indwelling Humanity? That is shown in other forms in the far distant stars, and He is creating and indwelling all. I was lost in wonder at His Great Love.

"Let me tell you a bit of the lighter side of our journey. We were lifted by our combined wishes into a current of ray-force to assist our efforts to leave the planetary system to which we belong. All spirits belong to their own planet until perfected, and it needs great desire to leave our sun's control; so this current was set in the direction needed by our part by one of the higher controllers of our planet. I must mention my companions who were all from earth and mostly new to stellar space. I was one of the youngest in the band, though a few had joined our life in the war.

"Our commander was a grand spirit, with years of experience and full of longing for the earth's enlightenment. Cushna knows him well. His name on earth was ---. Oh no you can't quite get it, C---. How queer I can't get it into your mind but you ought to know him. Charles Wesley, that's more like it. Only you haven't spelt it right, have you?

Later: ". . . Now, Mumsie, have we time for a description of a glory of colour you can't conceive? We gathered speed on the current I spoke of before, till planets looked dim in the distance, and a star came nearer and nearer, showing as a great green ball, then paler and bluer until left behind too. After what seemed hours (but time is unintelligible there) we closed in on our destination, the star Cereos or Sirius. Rays of glory penetrated our auras, and protecting hoods were pulled around our minds. Colours, Oh such colours. I have no words for the glory of them. Sirius is a home of radiant spirits who have evolved from many planets into perfection of love and beauty. God's Presence was so near I fell on my face in worship. Oh Mumsie,

I cant describe it, only a fraction can be absorbed by your dear mind. Clear radiance all around. We were supported by our Leader and told to try to see -- after a time we got accustomed to the glory and filled with strength to learn what we came to know. It concerns our little earth so far away. -- yet home to all of us, and we then knew how far we had to grow before we attained the glory of spirits we saw. I cant explain what we were taught; it is too far from human words; but it has made me grow in spirit as I never before could have thought of.

"Clear shining hills of jewel colors, green mantle of soft light, glory of brilliant focus points of blazing light. Colours you cant get near in mind at all. God in all His Beauty. Oh, Mumsie, I have been far and learned much. Some day you will know; more I cannot describe."

TOUR OF THE SATELLITES

The next day, or night, May 28, 1945, Chris returned again to tell his mother more of the interstellar trip, but still within our own Zodiac, the 15th Path, to Chokmah on the Tree of Life.

". . . After leaving Sirius we toured some of the Satellites around that great home of light. After Sirius they seemed so insignificant and shone with only his reflected light. I saw many forms of life on them all and curious some of them were too, indescribable in human words. Quaint living beings without any resemblance to earth forms -- so little that any words I might use would give a false impression. They, the Satellites, circulate round Sirius as our planets round our sun, so they have day and night much as we on earth. Clouds were rare as few had any moisture or air as we know it. All have life but our scientists cant get the idea of airless life, yet most other planets are airless. May I stop and think it out a bit."

May 29th. (Music on the wireless.) "Cant you write later? Do let's listen. You are so anxious for our talk! I'll begin, but the Silent Minute comes soon. I want you to be very receptive and try to take in colours you've never seen! Coo, you nearly saw it! I never ventured to suppose you'd get so near! Let's have a big talk after Big Ben. Cant get you quiet before -- no good, Mumsie. (Pause for chimes of Big Ben in London, over the wireless.) Oh, I was surprised when you came on my wish wave just before Big Ben. You soared right over my head till I could scarcely follow you. Now shall we have a try to carry you all the way to Sirius?"

"I meant to tell you more about our crossing but decide it is too difficult to describe. I cannot get words, but you imagine glory of self-luminous world is far beyond that of planets lighted by external rays. Silver-blue and amethyst are the only human colours I can name. No, there was green in many shades. I cannot describe contour, for there was no form as we know it. All was harmonious movement, a blending and forming to be swiftly changed at the volition of Beings whose home it was, unutterably beautiful. Beyond this a further depth I could not fathom in mind." (Here, at Sirius apparently, the 2nd Sephirah on the Tree of Life, Christopher got a glimpse of that 11th Path

leading to an even higher state of consciousness, Kether, the Crown of the Tree of Life. This is the Great Central Stillness of our Milky Way galaxy.) "I cant express it, Mumsie darling, it goes too far beyond words. We absorbed as much as we were individually capable of, and our guide gave us further directions to remove protective cloaks as we fell out of light into comparative dimness -- on to the Satellites in turns.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"Night on one of these. Queer beings bending in worship to God. All absorbed in praising Him from Whom they came. Not beautiful to earth thought of beauty. Impossible to describe. Lance might draw them, but it wouldn't convey the reality. Grotesque, I thought, but their minds had Love in them. Life was there in many forms but all completely alien to ours on earth. Our guide explained that all were within the aura of Sirius and therefore attuned to high vibrations we have no conception of on earth.

"Each star has a different vibration of its aura and those within this are in bodies attuned to this. Can we go on a little? I wondered so much at all I saw that I failed to take in some of the teaching, so had to stay behind on one Satellite and miss out the next. My guide said it was not so important. Have you done higher mathematics? It was something like grasping the Calculus before one has learnt one's numbers. I just had to go back to learn a bit before I could go on. Now I think you had better stop and go to bed. I can see your mind is tired. Tomorrow sometime? Righto."

May 31st. "Your cat is so affectionate. I can see his little mind working in love for you and Dad. Yes, I think we can manage without turning him off.

"I want to try and focus your mind on another aspect of my tour -- that of taking radiance back to Earth. We were not only learning, but helping conditions here by collecting radiance in our minds to distribute here at home. You cant understand how this is done, but it follows as a matter of course on our attaining a certain stage of development.

"The swift flowing current carried us on our return, but we made a halt at Orion where a few joined us who had not been so far. Orion is a peaceful star of great power; it is controlled by overseers of star systems who give out far reaching influence through the surrounding universe. Blue is the prevailing colour and overwhelming forces are in the blue rays which proceed from it. Very scientific they seem to be there with knowledge unobtainable by us. I was scarcely able to breathe there with so much wisdom all over the place. Orion came out of creation long before our sun was born -- we'll go on later, darling. Your mind was so nice and she smudged it all! However, Mumsie, you are wonderful clearing up so well. Gorgeous colours of thought penetration all over Orion and marvellous kaleidoscopic patterns of intricate design. I have said blue was the prevailing colour, but other colours were there which you dont know. Human words aren't much use.

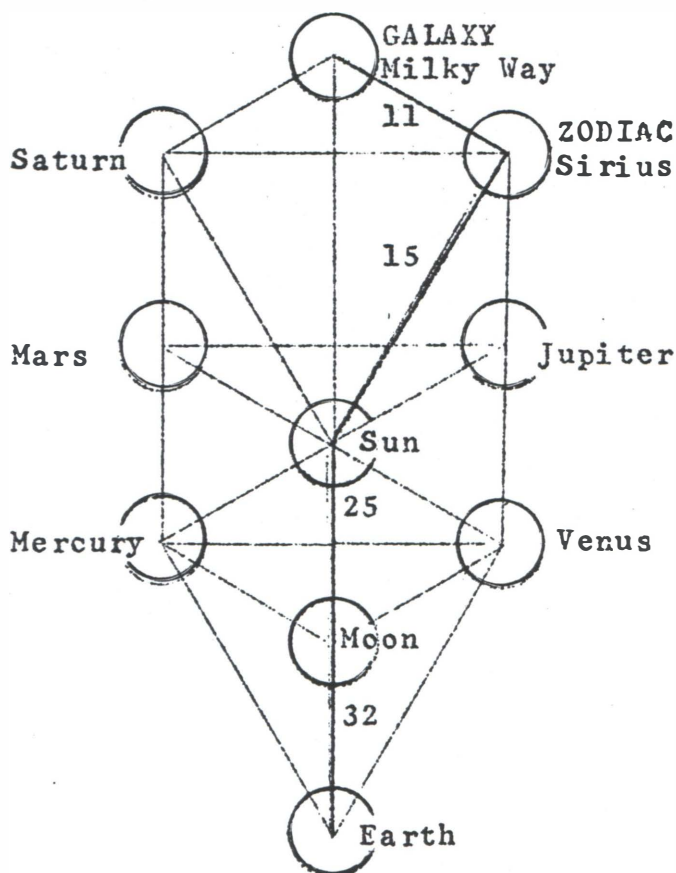
after leaving earth so I cant attempt descriptions. Our way home was interspersed with smaller stars all of great beauty; and some over, some under the radiance of our sun. I am glad to have seen it all, although I cant explain to you as I should like to."

VAST MECHANISMS REACH OUT TO OTHER STARS

June 3rd, 1945. "Can we go over to Orion for a few minutes? I am hoping to give you some idea of the dimensions of a visible part of the globe of marvellous creations. You keep thinking of clear blue, but that is not the colour at all. Blue of an opaque turquoise shading into green or white in parts, all illuminated by light given out in bands of colour from within. A million bodies the size of earth would scarcely reach the circumference stretched into line. All beings are very high, and gifted with extradordinary intelligence, which makes our earth minds seem babyish indeed. Only kindness makes them receive us with gracious hospitality, and explain their vast mechanisms reaching far out to other stars. I was, of course, too small to begin to understand, but took in that help to others was the purpose of it all. . . "

THE TREE OF LIFE

Our roadmap of the Universe is the Tree of Life of the Western Mystery Tradition. With this as a guide it is easy to plot Christopher Tristram's 1945 escorted tour of the Zodiac, with the Central Sun of the system, Sirius, as his destination. We hope the personal experience of this young Englishman will encourage others to take up the study of the Kabala. For this wonderful old system is designed to help the seeker free himself from the tomb of the flesh and range the cosmos at will, and equally important, to share his wider knowledge, powers and understanding with those who follow him on the Path of Life.



Mrs. Ruth Tristram, the Mumsie of "Letters From Christopher", sent a review copy to Meade Layne in 1947. Apparently she had the little, 116-page book privately printed, no price given. Her address is: Cox's Mill, Dallington, Nr. Heathfield, Sussex, England. If there were further communications from Christopher, we would like to know it.

If Betty Hill had been a student of the Western Mystery Tradition in 1961, her knowledge of the Tree of Life at left would at least have given her some idea of where the earth is in relation to the Cosmos, and thus a more positive answer to the captain of the Flying Saucer.

THE OTHER MEANING OF CHRISTMAS, PART III

An Analysis of the Christmas Symbology In Card No. 19 of the Tarot Deck Trumps

At first glance none of the 22 cards which make up the Tarot deck trumps seem to be related to Christmas or to the Birth of Jesus. As we said earlier, however, all Saviors are Sun Gods. We place them on the 6th Sephirah of the Tree of Life, the Sun, and there is a Sun card among the Tarot trumps, number 19.

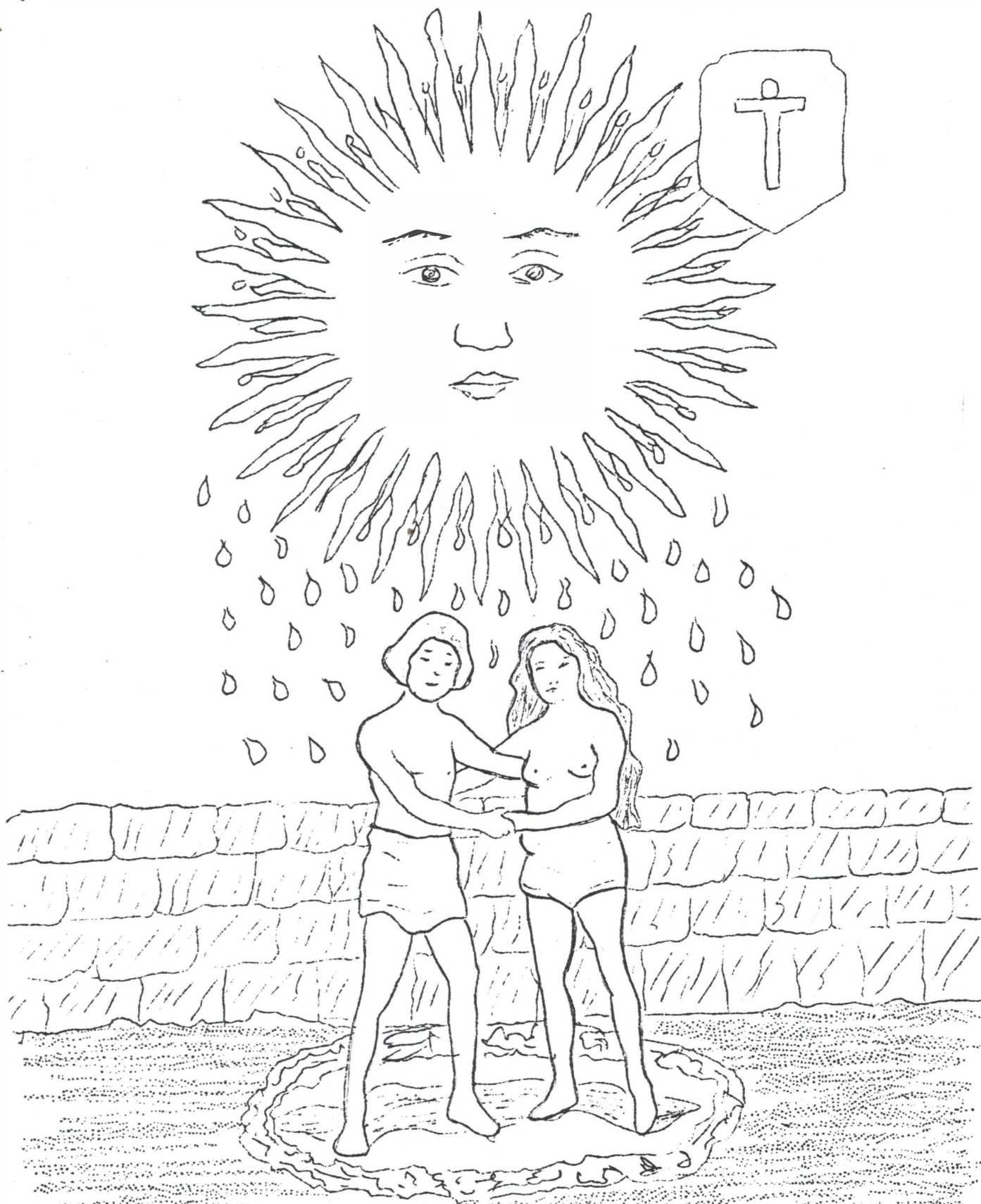
The various authorities on the Tarot seem to find the Sun card rather difficult to interpret, beyond the fact that it stands for renewal, regeneration or re-birth. Every beginning is a rebirth or definite change from a former condition and every Christmas is that! So there are several definite links between the Nativity of the Christ-child and the Sun card.

In discussing the symbols of the Tarot, P.D. Ouspensky remarks, "the conclusion can be drawn that the pictures must be taken according to their meaning and not according to their order in the pack. In other words, cards which are next to one another in the pack may have no connection in their meaning."

Ouspensky makes no effort to relate the Tarot trumps to the Hebrew alphabet or to the paths on the Tree of Life. He prefers the arrangement supposed to have been used to instruct neophytes in the Egyptian temples of the Mysteries, as described by the Fourth Century Greek philosopher, Iamblichus. It is quite possible that Iamblichus may have seen this arrangement and have been instructed in this way himself. Ouspensky says the Tarot writer, P. Christian, describes it in his book, "The History of Magic".

"The initiate sees a long gallery, supported by caryatides in the form of 24 sphinxes, 12 on each side. On each part of the wall between two sphinxes there are fresco paintings, representing mystical figures and symbols. These 22 pictures face one another in pairs. As he passes down the 22 pictures in the gallery, the initiate receives instructions from the priest."

Ouspensky used this pairing technique in his own meditations on the Tarot trumps. He felt inspired to pair the Sun, card 19, with the Emperor, card 4. Here we quote his vision of the Emperor:



TAROT TRUMP No. 19, THE SUN, from the Augustus J. Knapp Deck.

"CARD 4, THE EMPEROR"

"After I had studied the first three numbers it was given to me to understand the great Law of Four -- the Alpha and Omega of all. I saw the Emperor on a high throne of stone which was decorated with four rams' heads. A golden Helmet gleamed on his brow. His white beard fell over his purple mantle. In one hand he held a sphere, the symbol of his possessions, and in the other a sceptre in the form of the Egyptian cross -- the sign of his power over birth.

"'I am the Great Law,' said the Emperor.

'I am the Name of God.

'The four letters of His Name are in me and I am in everything.

'I am in the four principles. I am in the four elements. I am in the four seasons. I am in the four corners of the earth.

'I am in the four signs of the Tarot.

'I am action. I am resistance. I am completion. I am result.

'For him who knows the way to see me, there are no mysteries on the earth.

'As the earth contains fire, water and air, as the fourth letter of the name contains the first three and itself becomes the first, so my sceptre contains the complete triangle and bears in itself the seed of a new triangle.'

"And while the Emperor spoke, his helmet and golden armour visible beneath his mantle shone ever more and more fiercely, until I could no longer bear their radiance and dropped my eyes. And when I tried to raise them again, before me was an all-pervading radiance, and light and fire. And I fell prostrate worshipping the Fiery Word."

"CARD 19, THE SUN"

"After this, when I first saw the Sun, I understood that it is itself the expression of the Fiery Word and the sign of the Emperor. The great luminary shone and gave warmth. Below, tall golden sunflowers nodded their heads. And I saw two children in a garden behind a high enclosure. The Sun poured its hot rays on them, and it seemed to me that a golden rain was falling upon them, as though the sun poured molten gold over the earth.

"For an instant I closed my eyes, and when I opened them again I saw that every ray of the Sun was a sceptre of the Emperor, which bore within it life. And I saw how beneath the sharp points of these rays the mystical flowers of the Waters were unfolding everywhere, and how the rays

penetrated into these flowers, and how the whole of Nature was continually born from the mysterious union of these two principles."

FATHER SUN AND MOTHER EARTH

The "mysterious union of two principles" to which Ouspensky refers are Father Sun and Mother Earth. These are obvious in the symbology of the Sun card. The rays of the sun constantly streaming forth maintain the cyclic renewal of life here on the earth. Tarot authorities are agreed on this significance of Card No. 19. Some rays are shone as being straight. This emphasizes the penetrating quality of the rays. Others are shone as wavy or undulating. This indicates the pulsing, positive-negative, rhythmic quality of the rays. The Yetziratic text refers to this card as symbolizing the Collective Intelligence of the Sun. There is no doubt that the central power station of our solar system collects energy from larger stars in the Zodiac and distributes that power to the planets of the solar system. Aside from Sirius, the central sun of our Zodiac, occult literature mentions Orion, the Pleiades and the Great Bear as being especially significant.

Implicit in the idea of regeneration is also the idea of repetition or re-currence, not as in a circle but as in a spiral. None of this is evident or obvious on the face of this Tarot trump. So the hidden meaning is a vast Cosmic scheme, with the precession of the equinoxes, planetary changes, the rise and fall of races and sub-races, with the birth, growth and death of their civilizations. All of these are evidence of renewal on the Cosmic, the Solar or the planetary scale. The great changes here on the earth are engineered by the sun, but they don't lend themselves easily to presentation on a card or to visualization in meditation. Nor is there any hint here, as we said before, of the Christmas story. Yet the Birth of the Babe in a manger is a powerful symbol of beginnings, of regeneration and renewal.

In his "Pictorial Key to the Tarot" A.E. Waite says, "when the self-knowing spirit has dawned in the consciousness above the natural mind, that mind in its renewal leads forth the animal nature in a state of perfect conformity."

How easily Waite's interpretation of the Sun trump can be related to Christmas. When the Christ consciousness has dawned in the heart and mind, they, in their renewal, lead forth the lower self in a state of perfect conformity with the higher.

The dawning of the "self-knowing spirit" in the natural mind of Ouspensky when he meditated on the Emperor card was a blinding flash of light which made him fall prostrate in

This is why the incarnation of the child takes place here, when we think of Divine energy descending into matter. To look at it from the below of the matter world, which we do while in the flesh, this is where a true mystical experience begins. It must be a birth and a humble beginning

It must be evident from this that Tiphareth on the Tree represents a transitional mode of consciousness. This is where force and form meet; so all formless visions or mystical experiences are assigned to this Christ center. This is where the forms of the lower worlds fade out and the energies or forces of the higher world come in.

There is a great gulf in consciousness between the Lower Self and the Higher Self and it takes this exaltation of ecstasy to bridge it. Once that leap has been made, however, the Lower Self or personality is expanded. The capacity for love and service is increased and spiritual principles become more real, not just abstractions.

THE ABYSS OF PAROKETH

The white light and heat of the Christ or Higher Self cannot be endured for long. It would burn up the physical brain. Nevertheless, a person who experiences the full reality of the meaning of Christmas within him undergoes a permanent change. He never quite goes back to the old personality even though the tremendous exaltation of that first experience dies away.

The problem with most students is that they come to this birth naked. Their minds are unclothed, unfurnished with mystical concepts. This is why the first flash of light is blinding. There is nothing there in the foreground to light up! The student may be ecstatic over having proved to himself the reality of super-physical existence but what has he learned from the birth beyond that? He learns that super-consciousness for him starts as a small thing, humbly housed among the beasts in a manger, and not in the inn. The Christ consciousness makes the humblest of beginnings in heart and mind because of our own necessary limitations. It grows very slowly as we build up a stock of ideas and images by which to understand it.

THE ECSTASY OF SUPER-PHYSICAL EXISTENCE

To the Kabbalist this indicates that Ouspensky was on the central pillar of the Tree of Life. He did experience a flash of Christ consciousness; for Dion Fortune says that the Saviors who give illumination are assigned to Tiphareth, the Sun sephirah on the Tree. Here, in the sixth sephirah, we place the Nativity of Christmas time. It introduces the mind and heart to a higher mode of consciousness than the one we use in daily life.

because we have no idea of what to expect, no previous experience. Knowledge of the higher worlds and understanding of their appearance and functions can only come after a long period in which concepts are built up.

THE ASTRAL OF THE SPIRITUALIST

The student who hears voices and sees sharply defined visions in his meditations is not in touch with this higher world, spiritual though he thinks his contacts are. The most direct manifestation of Christ consciousness to us in the flesh is intuition. When we have it there is an intensification of awareness, a Oneness with life, a heightened perception, a keener understanding of life all around us.

THE UNFALLEN STATE OF EDEN

So much for the Sun with His Rays radiating their regenerating blessings in all directions, with the golden rain falling on the earth, and the two children. Why are the boy and the girl holding hands in all innocence? Tarot authorities suggest the wall behind them indicates a sheltered area, the Garden of Eden. Knapp shows them standing within a charmed fairy-flower circle. He also shows them partly clothed though other decks may show the children completely naked in their innocence. The idea seems to be to indicate an Adam and Eve state prior to the Fall. We take it that the natural elemental forces of man are here shown under the benign, balanced control of the Sun, rather than the uncontrolled condition which is the sad state of most of us in the world today.

The Fall takes place for us when our elemental drives of combat, sex, vice or ambition take over and become ends in themselves. Degeneration usually follows. But, to borrow a theological term, when our elemental forces are under control of Spiritual principles and ideals, represented by the Sun, these forces are unfallen and in a state of innocence.

With the Birth of the Babe in our hearts and minds the generative forces which heretofore ran wild are turned into regenerative forces directed upward toward an ideal. Then the elemental part of our natures can be released to enhance the whole personality. The evolving God within then stands revealed in all of Its Power, Wisdom and Love.

* * *

LET THERE BE CHRISTMAS IN YOUR HEART

From the Western Mystery Tradition

In the late 19th Century there was an astounding and fascinating book written here in California, and published in 1900. It was entitled "Dweller On Two Planets". Aside from describing one of the great Atlantean civilizations, and the existence of intelligent, advanced beings on Venus, its author, Phylos, devoted the last chapters to the eminent end of the Piscean Age. "Stand out from under," he shouted, "a world is falling!" His conclusion, "There will be no place of safety for the unchanged of heart."

Now, 66 years later, Phylos' prophecy seems to be coming true; and contemporary messages through the Veil -- such as those from Ashtar and from our own Inner Circle -- urge us for our own sakes and for the sake of those around us, to concentrate the Christ Light in our hearts. It should then be released as a balancing and protecting overtone to our every word and deed.

Since the Winter Solstice of 1966, Mrs. Crabb and I have been using a simple Tiphareth Ritual as a means of stimulating the birth and growth of this Light within us. This seems an appropriate time to make it available to those who would like to work with knowledge and power in lighting a Spiritual Fire in their hearts -- to bring about the change demanded of everyone in the Aquarian Age.

Tiphareth is the sacred name for the Christ Center, the heart of the Tree of Life. This is the Sixth Sephirah, from which lines of force radiate to the other Sephirah. In the solar system, Tiphareth is the Sun. In man, Tiphareth is the heart of soul and body, and the Sun has direct influence on man's soul. To concentrate the Light of the Spiritual Sun in the heart one visualizes there the Infant Jesus, the new-born babe of the Nativity scene of Christmas. But this vision can be considerably enhanced by a certain amount of preparation based on time-honored practice and understanding of Cosmic Law. First of all there must be a reason for doing it.

INTENTION or MOTIVE

What is your intention? To receive illumination and protection from your Higher Self, your soul.

SURROUNDINGS

A quiet place where you can concentrate undisturbed for five or ten minutes, if this is all done mentally; or better yet, make a few gestures and chant some of the phrases aloud without attracting attention. Have beside you a piece of yellow paper on which simple signs can be drawn in violet or purple ink, pencil or crayon when called for in the ritual.

QUIETING THE BODY

Seated comfortably, take three long, full breaths, inhaling the air and exhaling as completely as possible, through both nostrils and without hurry or strain.

QUIETING THE PASSIONS

Perform the Kabalistic Cross to balance the elemental forces of earth, water, fire and air in your personality and bring them under control of your Higher Self. This is a blazing white, equal-armed cross.

Point above the head and say:

YECHIDAH (I am)

YECHIDAH

Touch the forehead and say:

ATOH (For Thine)

ATOH

Touch the Solar Plexus and say:

MALKUTH (Is the kingdom)

VE GEBURAH

VE GEDULAH

Touch the Right Shoulder and say:

VE GEBURAH (and the Power)

MALKUTH

Touch the Left Shoulder and say:

VE GEDULAH (and the Glory)

LE OLAM AMEN

Clasp the hands over the Solar Plexus,

bow the head slightly and say:

LE OLAM AMEN (Forever and ever, Amen)

INSPIRING THE MIND

I call upon Thee, O living God, radiant with illuminating fire. O unseen Parent of the Sun! Pour forth Thy Light-giving power and energize Thy Divine Spark. Enter into this Flame and let it be agitated by the breaths of Thy Holy Spirit. Manifest Thy power and open for me the Temple of Almighty God which is within this Fire. Manifest Thy Light for my regeneration, and let the breadth, the height, the fullness and the Crown of the Solar Radiance appear, and may the God within shine forth!

CONTACTING THE INVISIBLE FORCES OF TIPHARETH

Say or chant the God name for Tiphareth: ALOHA VA DAATH and visualize His color radiating from your heart, Rose pink.

Chant the name of the Archangel of Tiphareth: RAPHAEL and visualize His color in your heart, Yellow. Remember, RAPHAEL is the Archangel for Air. This is the sign and balancing force for the incoming Aquarian Age, an Air Age, a Space Age. Aquarius is one of the Air Signs of the Zodiac.

Chant the name for the angels of Tiphareth: MALACHIM and visualize their color in your heart, Salmon pink.

Now signal the messengers of the Christ, the Sylphs of the Air with their beams of Golden Amber Light, to fire your aura. Draw quickly their symbol, two base-to-base triangles on the upper part of your paper. Draw the higher triangle first and in the direction shown by the arrows. This is evoking.

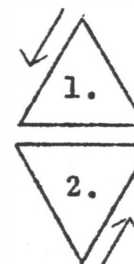


CONCENTRATING THE FORCE IN THE HEART

Now visualize as carefully and clearly as possible, the Christ-Child in your heart. Every item in the Manger scene at Bethlehem is important or it wouldn't be there, but at least see the radiant Babe in his crib. Concentration is easier if you let the mind shift from one detail of his body and clothing to another as you build this all-important Tiphareth image. How long should you meditate on this? That's up to you.

COMPLETING THIS RITUAL OF TIPHARETH

Now gratefully dismiss the Intelligences whose cooperation you have invited. Draw again the base-to-base triangles as shown here. For banishing they are now drawn counter-clockwise, note the direction as shown by the arrows, again with the upper triangle drawn first.

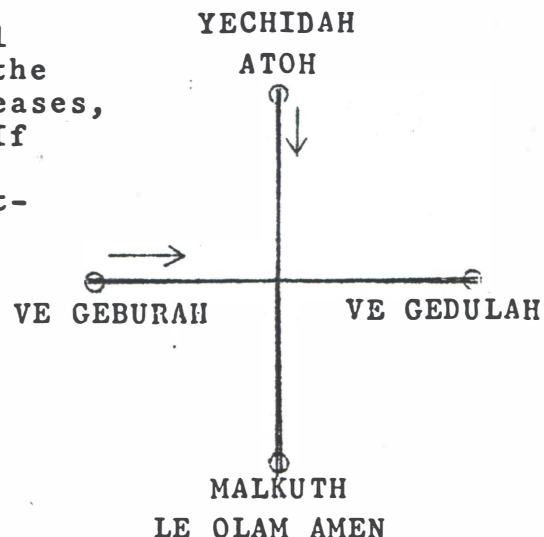


Thank the angels of Tiphareth for assisting you and ask that they be ever ready to return again as needed.

Give thanks also to the Archangel of Tiphareth, Raphael, and to the God, Aloha Va Daath, for their help and inspiration. Close the ritual with the Kabalistic Cross. Remember, this is your declaration of authority over the elemental forces within yourself and without. Burn the yellow paper if you used one.

For maximum effectiveness the ritual should be done morning and evening. If the pace of natural and man-made crisis increases, you won't lack for incentive to use it! If you would use it to protect others, call them by name and see them standing or sitting beside you as you go through it.

The Kabalistic Cross is a simple protective ritual which can be used any time when the need arises.



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