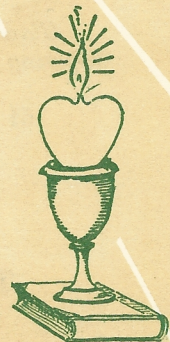


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*The
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The Mystical Interpretation of Christmas



By MAX HEINDEL
Rosicrucian Initiate
and
Western Mystic

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THE COSMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS.
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THE ANNUAL SACRIFICE OF CHRIST.

THE MISSION OF CHRIST AND THE FESTIVAL OF THE FAIRIES.
THE NEWBORN CHRIST.

“It is a sublime fact that we are all Christ-in-the-making, and the sooner we realize that we must cultivate the Christ *within* before we can perceive the Christ without, the more we shall hasten the day of our spiritual illumination.”—Page 9.

Gladden the hearts of friends by sharing with them the ever-inspiring message contained in the pages of this little booklet.

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The Christ Within

*What profits it the Sun doth shine,
Had I not eyes to see?
How shall I know the Christ is mine
Save through the Christ in me?
That soundless voice within my heart
Is earnest of the pact
'Twixt Christ and me -- it does impart
To faith the force of Fact.*

This is the mystic experience which will no doubt ring true to many among our students, for it is as literally true as that night follows day and winter follows summer. Unless we have the Christ within ourselves, unless that wonderful pact of blood brotherhood has been consummated, we can have no part in the Saviour, and so far as we are concerned it would not matter though the Christmas bells never ring.

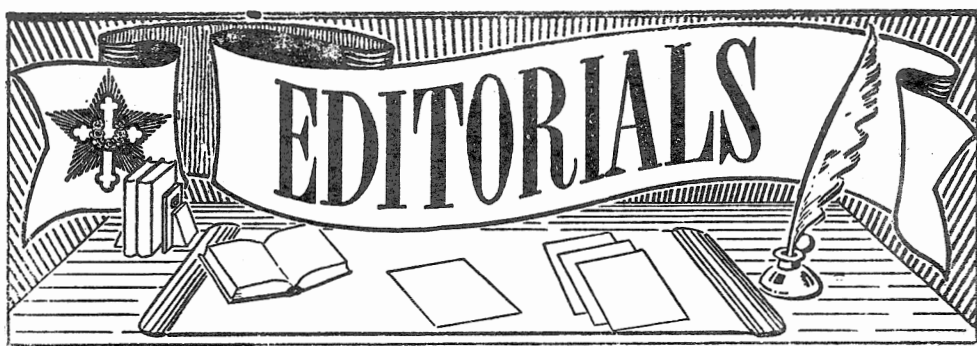
But when the Christ has been formed in ourselves, when the Immaculate Conception has become a reality in our own hearts, when we have stood there at the birth of the Christ Child and offered our gifts, dedicating the lower nature to the service of the Higher Self, then and then only the Christmas feast is spread for us from year to year.

The harder we have toiled in the Master's vineyard, the more clearly and distinctly shall we hear that soundless voice within our hearts issue the invitation: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you... for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Then shall we hear a new note in the Christmas bells such as we have never heard before, for in all the year there is no day so glad as the day when Christ is born anew into the Earth, bringing with Him gifts to the children of men--gifts that mean the continuance of physical life.

Without that vitalizing, energizing influence of the Christ Spirit the Earth would remain cold and drear; there would be no new song of spring, no little woodland choristers to gladden our hearts at the approach of summer. The icy grip of Boreas would hold the Earth fettered and mute forever, making it impossible for us to continue our material evolution which is so necessary to teach us to use the power of thought in the proper creative channels.

The Christmas spirit is thus a living reality to all who have evolved the Christ *within*. In September there is a change in the Earth's atmosphere; a light begins to glow in the heavens; it seems to pervade the whole solar universe; gradually it grows more intense and seems to envelop our globe. Then it penetrates the surface of the planet and gradually concentrates itself in the center of the Earth where the Group Spirits of the plants make their home. On Holy Night it attains its minimum size and maximum brilliance. Then it begins to radiate the light concentrated, and gives new life to the Earth wherewith to carry on the activities of Nature during the coming year. -- Max Heindel



Nurturing the Holy Child

What can we discover by meditation upon Mary, the lovely virgin of Nazareth? Are there things to be learned which will aid our own search and help us to bring to birth the knowledge of the Christ within ourselves? She was a "type of the highest human purity and because of that was selected to become the mother of Jesus." (*Cosmo-Conception*)

Mary had chosen the way of purity and service long before the visitation from the angel informing her of her high destiny. "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee," he told her. As we read Mary's words in the Magnificat (Luke 1:46 - 55) we perceive her humility and consecration. We are impressed with the simplicity and willingness with which she accepted the call of the Lord.

Mary gave herself completely to the Divine Will saying, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord." Then she went into the hill country (the high place of prayer) and lived for several months with her cousin Elisabeth. It is reasonable to assume that they spent much time in prayer and meditation, preparing themselves, that they might be worthy vessels for the high souls, John and Jesus, to come through them.

As we become cognizant of the birth of the Christ awareness within we also become aware of all that can prevent its maturing. We begin to recognize things in our daily lives which are incompatible with the holy. Then it is that we must make our decision. Do we wish to continue in our old ways, or do we wish to say with Mary, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord," and give ourselves to the life within?

The latter choice is not necessarily the easy one, filled with uninterrupted glory and joy. Mary was told that a "sword shall pierce through thy own soul also," and so it was, and may be with us. But who would not choose, as she did, that this child of God be born in us?

In Mary we see the feminine, mother principle raised to its highest. This is the unselfish love which gives of itself unstintedly to bless and serve others. She is synonymous with goodness, gentleness, and beauty—a comforting, protecting figure.

In her we see the qualities which we must develop if we would become aware of the Holy Child within. By consecration and dedication to the highest we, too, will become fit vessels for the birth of the Christ awareness within us. Then in joy we will sing with the angels, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

THE Mystic



... LIGHT

There Went Out a Decree

G.R.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.— St. Luke 2:1-7

What an arresting contrast, what a study in power, is presented in the above passage from St. Luke's gospel, describing the birth of Jesus the Christ! On the one hand is the oppressive might of the Roman Emperor, able to tax "all the world" by decree and to move whole populations around at will. On the other hand, almost unnoticed, and denied house room, is the spiritual power -- a tiny baby thing in its beginnings, but destined to grow and spread and even-

tually to free all men from tyranny and oppression.

The first half of this story is familiar to most all of us. We know much of dictators, the high cost of government and the resultant heavy taxes; displaced persons abound, and whole segments of the population have been forced to move at the whim of one man. The world still has its Caesars and government by decree. The other form of power, the spiritual, is still all too little known or understood, even in this twentieth century.

Down through the centuries, since St. Luke wrote his Gospel, there has been a constant struggle for freedom, and history records achievements of the human race in its agelong fight to cast off the heavy yoke that the Caesars of the world would fasten around its neck. Much, very much has been accomplished to enable the humble, average man to enjoy a certain amount of liberty, to live his own life, and to express the dignity of his being in the daily living. The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, in particular saw great strides taken in this direction. In many lands men achieved the right to live without the fear of the decrees of one man and in comparative safety of person and possessions. In less favored countries the ferment was stir-

ring, and the downtrodden everywhere lifted their heads in hope. Then a new breed of Caesars arose (we call them dictators), who sought absolute power and threatened to plunge the globe into another reign of terror. It seemed obvious the fight was not yet won.

Perhaps never before has the subject of government occupied men's minds as it does today. People weigh theory against theory, ideology against ideology, as though in some "ism" lies the answer to the present dilemma. It often seems that the heart of the whole matter escapes their attention as they argue.

The fact is that any government that rules from without, even a democratic regime, tends to become oppressive in time, unless the consciousness of the people expands and grows so that more and more the laws are written in their hearts, instead of being piled up on the statute books. Man has fought hard to bring order out of chaos, freedom out of slavery, and dignity out of serfdom, and is still fighting. He cannot rest upon past performance, but must follow the way onward and upward. The tendency of government to become "big" and to exercise more and more power over the individual, must be held in check by increasing understanding and individual self-control. As a new age draws near the old ways are being scrutinized and tested and this is good. However, it is important to remember that what is needed is more self-government, not less. In a sense all outward authorities are but caretaker governments. They hold office until the time when love -- which works from within -- shall rule, instead of law applied from without. When that time comes the Kingdom of Christ will be established.

The path of evolution is a spiral. It does not go straight upward leaving behind once and for all the old conditions, but turns in a slowly as-

ending circle. Old problems crop up to be dealt with anew on a different level under slightly improved conditions, until the lesson is firmly established in the consciousness of the race. Seeming recessions are opportunities to appraise methods and values and to gather strength for the next forward move, using past experiences to achieve a higher level than before. This is the slow and sure way of human evolution. The setbacks of the present time act as a goad to prod humanity into seeking and finding the true freedom, which cannot be conferred from without but comes only by growth from within. This is the liberty with which Christ makes one free, and His is the rule that shall eventually be established "for the government shall be upon His shoulder."

It is difficult, perhaps impossible, to convey spiritual truth in words. There is always the tendency to materialize it and make the interpretation in terms of our own understanding of the moment, whereas Truth is Eternal in the heavens and can be rightly understood only by means of the spiritual faculties within. A nineteenth century mystic and occultist who wrote of the inner meaning of Christianity, said: "Truth itself is unutterable save from God to God." This means that only by the spiritual nature can spiritual matters be apprehended. Max Heindel voiced the same thought when he warned students of *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* in regard to charts and diagrams. "They must be spiritually conceived." These thoughts must be borne in mind as we approach the subject of the Kingdom of Christ. Those who attempt to fix the Kingdom in time or space do not begin to understand its nature or spiritual meaning. There are some who look forward to its establishment on Earth very soon, but as one reads what they write, one is tempted to think that they, too, "are looking for a king to slay their foes

and lift them high," and that little more than the Jews of old do they understand the inwardness of the Christian message. There can be no Kingdom of Christ on Earth except it first be established within the hearts of men, yet those who are ready may enter it now, for it is not an outer but an inner rule.

Actually the Kingdom of Christ is in our midst, and the earnest seeker may find the way to enter now. For such there is an alternative to the slow spiral way of evolution. It is not spectacular, but hidden; not a way of self-glorification, but of humble compassion and service. It is not confused, contradictory, complex, as the spiral path tends to be. It is simple, straightforward, direct, but *steep*, for it cuts through the centers of the evolutionary spirals and extracts from each the essence of the experience in store for humanity. It is the inner way illustrated by the symbol of the caduceus. A man may enter it by passing into the mystery of the heart of his being, and by the light of the Christ love may follow it to the summit of attainment and the fulfillment of his destiny. It is indeed the way of liberation, for by following the law within one becomes freed from outer control. What kind of a law is that which man cannot carry in his mind? Our secular laws fill volumes and more volumes are needed to explain the first, or perhaps further to confuse their meaning. The Christ Law of Love makes all this unnecessary, because as one loves, aspires, and lives in the light of its Wisdom, he becomes in himself that which he follows, and the light of the Spirit, at first dimly seen, becomes a flame that illumines the whole nature.

The student who is preparing himself in the hope that one day he may become a pupil of a Mystery School, and so find this inner path, fixes his eyes on the goal of Initiation, by which he may obtain formal admis-

sion into the school with certain privileges and powers. If he does not receive this, he may become discouraged and consider himself more or less of a failure. Without going too deeply into this subject of Initiation, let us remember just a few things:

The Guardian of the Mysteries are those who have fulfilled them in their own beings. They desire to help others toward the same accomplishment, and at all times reveal as much to individuals as their development demands, and to the masses whatever truth the times warrant and require. Mystery Schools, their methods and instruction, change with the onward course of evolution. What in one age is withheld, or revealed only to those specially prepared, in another time becomes available to all. There is actually no hard and fast line between the Mysteries and public knowledge, for it shifts with the growth of consciousness. When the general level of intelligence is low, advanced teaching must be given in secret and through the Schools, but when the general standard is higher a great deal can be given out openly. For instance, in the Western World in our times much has been freely published which earlier could be given only under symbol or by secret teaching. The Western Wisdom Teachings speak in plain terms and point the seeker to a safe and sane method of attainment. With this knowledge available and in this Christian era which has opened the Way to all who have reached sufficient soul maturity, there are now no barriers other than those which we erect. Even without any outward ceremony, the one who makes the law of Christ's Kingdom his law is truly taking the short cut. Without any sudden development of clairvoyance his perceptions are heightened, and he sees and knows what was before hidden. With every effort to govern himself he takes a step upward

(Continued on page 536)

A Rosicrucian Parable

Don G. Campbell

So often in the world's wealthy heri-
Stage of fine literature, there are sparkling examples of great esoteric truths. Without our inner keys, we would not be able to see the depth and fullness of many great works. Yet no matter the amount of conscious understanding we have, truth always speaks to us on the level where we are.

Parables are one of the most important ways truth has been given to Man. The Christ tells us in the fourth chapter of *Mark*, "To you has been given the secret of the Kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables." Not only does the Christ give us twenty specific parables from his journey from Galilee to Judea in the Gospels, but tells us they were given for those "outside, so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand; lest they should turn again and be forgiven."

When we read the Bible as occultists, we can more easily glimpse the higher truths the Recording Angels have given us. But even if the truth or conscious understanding evades us, it is speaking to us on inner levels. The early schools of pantheism taught that all modes, moments, members, appearances or projections were of the essential immanence of God. In a way every 'thing' could be viewed as a parable or symbol of an eternal and spiritual fact.

One of the most interesting and beautiful parables used in twentieth century literature is in Nikos Kazantzakis' autobiography, *Report to Greco*. In chapter thirty, he tells us of the Rabbi who can't do anything but speak with simple words like an old grandmother and tell tales. One day the Rabbi's disciples were gathered around him and asked him why he could only do those things. The Rabbi answered in this parable:

"One day the nettles asked the rose-

bush, 'Madam Rosebush, won't you teach us your secret? How do you make the rose?' The rosebush answered, 'My secret is extremely simple, Sister Nettles. All winter long I work the soil patiently, trustfully, lovingly, and have only one thing in mind: the Rose. The rains lash me, the winds strip off my leaves, the snows crush me, but I have only one thing in mind: the Rose. That, Sister Nettles, is my secret!'

The disciples said they didn't understand and the Rabbi said he didn't understand it very well himself. He thought for a while and said:

"I think I want to say something like this: When I have an idea, I work it for a long time, silently, patiently, trustfully, and lovingly. And when I open my mouth (what a mystery this is my children!), when I open my mouth, the idea comes out as a tale. We humans call it a tale, and the rosebush calls it a rose."

How many significant parallels there are in this tale to the teachings of Max Heindel. Countless times throughout the teachings that Mr. Heindel gave to the Fellowship, he mentions the absolute necessity for developing self-assurance and self-discipline. Our spiritual evolution depends on our ability to stand without crutches. While we do have the Invisible Helpers and the Elder Brothers aiding us in our growth, we still must develop the spiritual stamina and strength to stand alone and firmly, with our gaze only toward the Christ, our Ideal.

The rose symbolizes the absolutely pure spirit which radiates the four vehicles: the dense, vital and desire bodies, as well as the mind. This pure and Christ-like state is the goal of every serious student along the Rosicrucian path. Yet like the rose in the parable, are we not constantly tested by the rains, winds and snows of life? If we become

emotionally involved in the problems and challenges which face us, we forget our sacred goal: the rose.

The stem of the rose is thorny. Again, the pain and necessity of obstacles is shown in the rose. While it is glorious in its fruit, the rosebud, it is treacherous on its stem. The crown of thorns which encircled Christ's head was used in the test of mockery. Here Christ suffered, but condemned not those who ridiculed Him. His glorious love never departed from Him.

Our efforts seem to bring thorns into our lives. We wonder at times why our spiritual goals seem frustrated. When we do see accomplishments in our efforts, we must realize that it is the Father working through us. So as given in the parable, it is not our effort to produce thorns and leaves which takes us to our ideal, the rose. It is the Rose which takes us there. The thorns and leaves are but by-products of our efforts. When we are able to put all other desires aside and earnestly aim only towards the Ultimate Rose, it is then that we know that inner initiation which rightfully makes us Rosicrucians.



THERE WENT OUT A DECREE

(Continued from page 534)

and loosens the ties that bind him to Earth.

Before the Christ can reign, He must be born. Who can tell when the birth of the Christ Child takes place within an individual? It comes in the darkness and the quiet, almost unnoticed. In embryo it has always been

there. It is the Life Spirit Principle in man, kingly in its own right, because the World of Life Spirit is the Kingdom. It waits for that moment of soul maturity when the proud Intellect brings to the feet of the Christ all its matchless treasures, to be used thenceforth in the service of love.

The world of the present transition period is desperately in need of this service. Nothing else will bring order into the confusion of ideas that is filling people with fear. Our preoccupation with technological accomplishments, our feelings of insecurity, our nervous breakdowns, our addiction to artificiality, our "cold wars", "wars of ideas," and "wars of nerves," are the lot of a race that has *not* penetrated beyond the World of Thought and found the harmonizing power of Universal Love. No decree of a dictator can establish this harmony, no act of parliament or congress can legislate it into being, but the one in whom the Christ is born finds in each day that dawns many opportunities to help his fellows establish it within. He learns to speak the universal language, to meet people on their own ground, and awaken or strengthen their faith. Often no preaching is necessary, for if the chord of Love is strong and vibrant it has the power to awaken a similar vibration in others.

At the winter solstice the Christian world, and parts of the world not formally Christian, give attention and thought to the Gospel story of the Birth in the Manger. Momentarily the confusion and strife are forgotten as the Love vibration envelopes the Earth and its aura in a great spiritual flood, and men catch a fleeting vision of the better way of life. Christmas time is the symbol of all things for which the heart of humanity longs today -- peace, understanding, goodwill, and love. To those who will have it so, this symbol can be translated into permanent reality.

Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love

MICHAEL MILES

Of mercy Timothy says of himself: "Who was before, a blasphemer and a persecutor and reviler; But I received mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."

It is truly a virtue to show mercy to those who are ignorant. How many times a day do we become upset — as we feel righteously — because of those who are ignorant of us?

When a car pulls suddenly in front of us on the freeway what is our reaction? Is it anger or disgust? If when standing in a crowd we hear someone make a comment which is only partially right because it is from an earthly viewpoint, do we find ourselves condemning the person for his ignorance or do we chuckle at him for his lack of understanding?

When we see a criminal on the news or read about him in the paper, what is our reaction? Do we say it serves him right, forgetting that he is weak and lost in a world which sensationalizes crime?

If we can answer yes, honestly to any of the above, then we are weak, ignorant, and forgetful of other people. To show mercy is to realize the weaknesses of others and give them the benefit of understanding, sending them positive thoughts instead of negative.

Mercy requires one thing to be active: self-forgetfulness. For we find in our disgust, anger, and righteousness an element of self.

It is easy to fall into this pit of non-awareness of others. We are surrounded by those who don't care, but this does not condone our actions any more than it does the actions of those around us. We should, therefore try to become aware of these traits as they creep into our thoughts and actions.

One way to do this is by saying to oneself as someone pushes past us, "How many times have I been guilty of that?" remembering how much *we* have

to change. If we search hard enough and with real earnestness we will find our disgust, anger, and righteousness all stem from one thing: selfishness.

So mercy, as Timothy states, is forgiveness of ignorance or selfishness. If we can forgive those who trespass against us we will find an understanding of our own nature, for that which we give we keep. If we give understanding or mercy, we retain the understanding in the form of inner knowledge. Try it. You will find that the more you seek to help others in this light, the more you will learn about yourself.

True, the object of "Living the Life" should not be lowered to seeking to get something in return for giving. However, if one follows the above formula there will be a noticeable reaction which is: the more we know ourselves the more we seek to serve those who are our brothers. The more we realize the higher self the more we find we are here to help others, consequently we constantly put all of our energy into doing that.

Then there is pity. What is pity? Webster's dictionary defines it as: "sorrow for another's suffering or misfortune."

What does this mean to us? For those who aspire to the spiritual life it means many things most people don't even realize.

Pity is the first step toward compassion. We must be able to feel the pain of another. Like Parsifal, we must be able to realize both the temptation and the pain of failing. For without the understanding of failure and victory we cannot give consolation to those tempted. Pity, then, must be the ability to realize another's suffering or misfortune, as defined above.

But how do we realize this? How do we feel pain of another? One of the best

ways is, of course, through our own experiences; by realizing how we felt in a given circumstance we can relate to another in a similar situation. But how do we feel when we have not experienced a similar situation? What can wake us up to his feelings? What can we use as a key?

We know that in the far past of our existence we have probably felt every heartbreak, every sorrow, that one can feel. But this is not readily available to us, so we must find a way to wake up the faculty to help remember, though possibly not in detail, this inner feeling of the past.

One way, or key, is the imagination. By imagining ourselves in another person's shoes, we could possibly realize how he feels and then understand his dilemma. "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." If we think or imagine what a person is going through in relation to our own experiences in this life, we may be able to awaken in ourself the latent understanding and feeling for those filled with suffering and misfortune.

We have now found a key to help us realize pity or at least an understanding of someone else's sorrow. But what does pity mean to us as an evolutionary step? Pity helps us to realize ourselves, for to pity someone in the truest sense we must to some extent be aware of our own feelings. But pity leads us one step further than just *feeling* another's sorrow; it leads us to a higher understanding. It leads to compassion. When we feel pity for a sick friend or someone with emotional upsets we may put our arms around him and say "Oh, you poor thing," but does this help? Does this give him courage to go onward? Probably to some degree it does. But it is only when we have a true understanding or compassion to help do we say, "Alright, you are sick or need help, what are you going to do about it?" When we let a person cry on our shoulder does this help him? It is only by doing something that he is able to overcome his difficulty.

There are many people in the world

who pity the plight of the animals; who have even set up societies to protect them from ill treatment. Yet these people go on eating the same type of creature they plan to save. This is pity? Compassion? To a degree, but it really is when one can say "Yes, I feel for these things to the point where I am willing to give up eating them." True pity is willing to sacrifice or give up for an idea.

We surely feel pain for a sick person, but if this person dotes on the attention he may stay sick for a long period of time just for that attention. So we find that we must withhold our personal feeling of pity and help him by not oversympathising with him. Compassion has sternness, but with the ultimate good in mind. It feels the pain, but knows that it must be overcome for health to follow.

We see, then, that pity is a step which leads us on to a better understanding of ourselves and our ability to help others.

Next we have peace, something we all strive for. Thomas A. Kempis says of peace: "We could enjoy peace if we didn't busy ourselves with what other people say and do, for this is no concern of ours. How can anyone remain long at peace who meddles in other people's affairs; who seeks occasion to gad about, and who makes little or no attempt at recollection? Blessed are the single hearted, for they shall enjoy peace."

If we seek the world and its supposed treasures we certainly cannot expect to find peace inside our minds and hearts. The only true peace is that quietness which follows us around no matter where we are or what we do. The key to this peace is single heartedness. When one has this virtue, truly, he is at peace. But what is this single heartedness?

It is true that as long as we search the many diversities of the world we cannot remain at peace. Even if we concentrate on but one of the attitudes of the world such as a new car or television, or higher position in our job, the peace lasts only until that which we seek is

found or acquired, then we look for something else. Therefore, what we must seek is not in the world. It must be, if anywhere, within.

When we seek this peace within, a whole new world opens, the world of the Christ. Within each and every one of us there is this spark of Light, and when found we will find the TV, the car, or position are as stones to the soul. What we really were searching for in all of these outside things was the manna to appease a hunger we could not define. We will find that within our souls there are those hungers and the only appeasement to these inner pains is inner consolation. The food of this consolation is Light. One may ask, "What is it that I may do to accomplish this inner source of food and where does this food come from?" In a few words we can say, "By prayer and living the life."

In all the material things a person seeks, in all the fancies and frivolities of the world, there is one thing they all have in common with spiritual prayer; it is that they are bigger than the individual who wants them. In the world this bigness seeks to expand the personality and the lower mind — seeking to raise it to a state of apparent supremacy in the world. But the world being made up of passing fancies cannot uphold this very long before another takes its place. So this bigness is like a stone tossed in a lake — a splash, some ripples, and then — nothing.

Prayer seeks to raise the individual into spheres that grow as large as he is and larger, as he is able to comprehend it. This bigness is eternal expansion. While one is the ripples on a lake the other is the lake. Peace, then, is prayer, but prayer that expands the awareness of the spirit beyond the confines of earth to the realization of the whole.

We are taught to pray without ceasing and this is what living the life is; to seek the Christ within and to live according to those laws of the God of which we are all a part. When our whole life is single hearted in realizing the wonders

of God we will have peace. A peace that passeth all understanding.

Now the greatest among these: Love.

What can one say of Love? There have been many things said of love and now, at the dawn of another year, its power is nearer than we can know.

On the night of Christmas Eve we celebrate the birth of the body of Jesus and for most this is enough; enough to fill their hearts with the spirit of giving for a time. To some it is the time of rich foods, lights, snow, frost bite and Christmas trees. For them it is a busy time for the things of the world. It is a busy time for there is something more in the air than pine and cooking food. There is the Christ. More than a celebration of a baby or the material activity of the world, we feel the full promise and impulse of the inner Light.

Christ is now among us, closer than breath. It is not to say He is with us only during Christmas, but now is a very special time for He has performed one of the most loving services one can find anywhere. He has brought His gift of freedom to us. He is now showing us the way to liberation by being confined. All of this and more. What is it He is showing as a gift of freedom? It is Love. It is the releasing power that unlocks the chains and bindings of earth. Not the kind of love that says you are mine and I am yours. But the kind of love that says we are here to help each other grow, so we can understand ourselves consciously; so we may learn by experience that we are one in Love, unique as individuals but from the same source.

William Blake says we are put on earth so that we may bear the beams of Love. This is true. We must become pliable in order to bend and the more resistance we have the more powerful our muscles become. We have to realize things slowly or we find ourselves growing numb with over-exposure. Until we reach the point of inner expansion, our healing is slow, our hearts cannot as yet endure the true passion of Christ.

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The Angelic and Archangelic Life Waves

Part 2 -- The Recording Angels

The Recording Angels, sometimes called the Lords of Destiny, are mighty Intelligences, ambassadors of the Planetary Spirits. As such they are concerned with the birth of man and with all details of human evolution, in helping man in the selection of his environment and allotting to each life the right destiny which is ready to be worked out. They guide the stellar influences so that they affect each man in such a way as to facilitate the liquidation of his past indebtedness to others, and help him, also to reap the benefits of whatever good he has done in past lives.

According to the teachings of The Rosicrucian Fellowship, every Spirit is reborn twice during the time it takes the Sun by precession to go through a sign of the zodiac, once as a man and once as a woman. This is done in order that it may gain the experience to be had in that sign from the viewpoint of both sexes. There are many modifications of this rule according to the necessities of individual Spirits, and it is the Recording Angels who determine when time and conditions are right for each Ego to be brought to birth.

The Recording Angels, in charge of the Law of Consequence, look to the past of each man at the time he is ready for a new birth, and find out who among the friends and foes are living at that time, and where they are. As we have made an enormous number of such relationships in our past, there are generally several groups of such people in Earth-life, and if there are no special reasons why one of these groups in particular should be associated with in the coming incarnation, the Recording Angels give the Ego its choice of opportunities offered. They select in each

case the amount of ripe causation that the Ego is thus to work out, and show to the Ego in a series of pictures a panorama of what each possible environment for the coming life will hold for him. These panoramas run from the cradle to the grave, and give the great outline of the life, but leave room for the Ego to fill in the details with his own new or free will action. After he has viewed the panoramas, the Ego is given his choice of which life to live.

It is important to remember that we shall see more clearly through the veil of egoism if we willingly live the life into which we have been placed, for the Recording Angels make no mistakes. They have put us into the situations in which we find ourselves in order that we may receive the lessons needed to prepare us for a greater sphere of usefulness. If we do not learn and profit from the lessons which we are given, it stands to reason that we shall have to relive them in some future incarnation, in which the "hardships" which now may seem to be our lot will be even more difficult to bear.

When the Ego is on its way to rebirth through the Region of Concrete Thought and the Desire World, it gathers a certain amount of material from each. The quality of this material is determined by the seed atom of the Ego, on the principle that like attracts like. The quantity depends upon the amount of matter required by the archetype which the Ego has built, under the tutelage of the Angels and Archangels, in the Second Heaven. From the quantity of prismatic ether atoms that are appropriated by a certain Spirit, the Recording Angels and their agents build an ethereal form

(Continued on page 564)

The Harp

Vernie McNary

Outside the storm raged. She could hear the angry wind howling about the house. A dark wind that seemed to be rising higher and higher, pressing against her as she knelt by the low attic window. There was only a dim light, she could scarcely see and she tried to remember why she had come up here. It was then her hand touched the harp — the old Eolian Harp that Grandfather had made so long ago. She remembered watching him place it in the open window. She remembered listening, her small hand in his, as the soft breeze carried the music through the evening air. Grandfather was quoting Longfellow as they listened together by the open window.

“This life of ours is a wild Eolian harp of many a joyous strain.”

And now she heard him singing with his guitar, his lovely tenor swelling through the room. She was standing by Mark under an arch of pink roses.

“May these two lives be but one note in the world’s resounding harmony.”

There had been joyous strains in those days. But Mark was gone now and she was alone. The wind beat against the attic window. How could Grandfather singing of harmony in the long ago, how could he understand these troubled days? The confusion and strife; the distress of Nations! Even in her own loved circle there was discord. She kept her hand on the harp as though the touch of the strings might bring her peace.

She couldn’t remember afterwards how long she knelt here by the window in the dimly lighted attic room but presently it seemed she wakened from a troubled dream. She wakened, knowing that the storm had ceased. It was over and she raised the window. A gentle breeze was blowing like that evening long ago. She placed the old harp on the window sill. Would it play again? She waited feeling

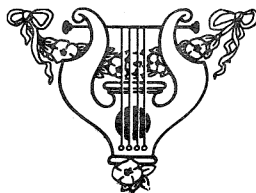
Grandfather’s hand in hers. She waited, leaning closer, wondering if she were dreaming. The soft wind was touching the harp and she was listening to Christmas carols echoing through the years. Even the words mingled with the strains...

“O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie;”

She heard the sound of many voices singing in beautiful harmony —

“Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light.”

The Light was around her, lighting the dim attic. Now she remembered why she had come up here. She had come to find the gold star for the gayly decked tree waiting in the silent room below. Slowly she walked down the lighted stairway, the gold star in her hand, the music following her all the way. Suddenly she heard the chimes at her door; then the lilt of happy voices, “Merry Christmas!”



They had all come home in spite of the storm. Not one voice was missing in that joyful greeting. She knew before she opened the door — she knew there would be no sad strains echoing in her own loved circle. Such a small circle, yet in that moment it seemed to reach out into an ever widening circle of Peace and Goodwill; reaching out to encompass the whole wide world.

“It will come to pass,” she was thinking, for it was written, “...and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life... and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

Fellowship: A Legend

B.C.

Three beggars went down to Samaria, the one deaf, another blind, the third a cripple.

And as they went one said: "Surely I am a sinner—being deaf;" and the second said: "I am blind, surely I am a sinner also;" and the third likewise owned his sins saying: "Therefore I am a cripple."

Then they were minded how they always went the three together and each said to the other:

"I can hear, for I have thee and thee for ears."

And the next said:

"I can see, for I have thee and thee for eyes."

And the last said:

"Surely you twain are my feet."

Then all three praised God and rejoiced.

And as they drew near to Samaria they met one whose mouth was covered and in his hand a clapper, for he was a leper.

He stood far off and begged alms of them, but they said: "We be beggars, we have nought; we go down to Samaria seeking alms, for the Samaritans are ready givers."

Then the leper cried aloud and said: "Though you have nought yet you are greatly blessed—being three. But I am a sinner and must dwell comradeless."

When the three friends heard that they said one to another: "We are likewise sinners but we go in company." Then their heart smote them with compassion for the lonely one and with one consent they called to him: "We be all sinners and afflicted of the Lord. Come now and be of our fellowship."

The leper rejoiced exceedingly hearing this and said: "Then let us go to Bethlehem for this night in a dream one showed me that Messiah is born there."

The road to Bethlehem was stony

and steep and the night fell, but the blind man knew the way.

It was night when they reached the stable door at Bethlehem and they feared to knock. Now within, Joseph slept but Mary kept watch by the child: she heard the noise of feet and of men whispering so she arose and opened the wicket.

A dazzling ray of light streamed out into the darkness, and through the wicket Mary inquired who they were and why they had come, and they answered: "We be all sinners and justly afflicted by the Lord but we hear that Messiah is born and therefore have we come." The Virgin asked: "What gift have you brought, for none can enter here except he bring an offering."

The beggars cast down their eyes and answered nothing for their hands were empty.

Mary asked them saying: "Who is the fourth man who standeth somewhat apart?"

Then the three feared greatly and fell upon their knees crying: "We are sinners indeed for we joined this one unto us and he is a leper; and moreover he is a Samaritan. Then Mary threw the door open wide and they came in and beheld the Saviour: the blind received his sight, the deaf heard, the lame man leaped upon his feet. And they looked expecting that the leper should be cleansed; but he was gone. Then they perceived that it had been an Angel of the Lord.



MAX HEINDEL'S MESSAGE

Taken from His Writings

OCCULT PRINCIPLES OF HEALTH AND HEALING

(TWELFTH INSTALLMENT)

Man and His Vehicles



*General Cause of Disease
Introduction: (Cont.)*

Prior to the impregnation of the desire body with this demonic principle, conception was immaculate and a sacrament. Men walked in the presence of the Angels then, pure and unashamed. The act of fertilization was as chaste as that of the flower. Therefore when the mischief had been wrought, immediately the messenger, or Angel, girded them with leaves to impress upon them the ideal which they must learn to live, namely, like that of the plant. Whenever we are able to perform the act of generation in a pure, chaste, and passionless manner as the plant does, an immaculate conception takes place and a Christ is born, capable of healing all the suffering of humanity, capable of conquering death and establishing immortality, a true light to lead humanity away from the will-o'-the-wisp of passion; through self-sacrifice to compassion.

This then is the great ideal toward which we are striving: to cleanse ourselves from the taint of egoism and self-seeking. Therefore we look upon the emblem of the Rose Cross as an ideal. The seven red roses typify the cleansed blood; the white rose shows the purity of life; and the golden radiating star symbolizes that inestimable influ-

ence for health, helpfulness, and spiritual uplift which radiates from every servant of humanity.

Until the Christ life illumines us from within we do not comprehend, neither do we follow, the laws of Nature, and consequently we contract diseases by our ignorant contravention of these laws. As Emerson put it, a man who is sick is a scoundrel in the act of being found out; he has broken the laws of Nature. That is why it is necessary that the gospel of Christ should be preached; that every one of us should learn to love our God with our whole heart and our whole soul and our brother as ourselves, for all our trouble in the world, whether we recognize it or not, comes from the one great fact of our selfishness. If the alimentative function is deranged what is the reason? Is it not that we have overtaxed our system because we have been angered, and exhausted our nervous force by trying to get someone to serve our selfish ends, and we feel resentful because we have not succeeded? In every case selfishness is the prime cause of most diseases; selfishness is the supreme besetting sin of ignorance.

*General Causes of Disease —
Causes of Mental Disabilities*

The disabilities which affect humanity may be divided into two

large classes: *mental* and *physical*. The mental troubles are particularly traceable to the abuse of the creative functions when they are congenital, with one exception which we shall note later. The same holds true in case of impairment of the faculty of speech. This is reasonable and easy to understand. The brain and the larynx were built with half of the creative force by the Angels, so that man who, prior to the acquisition of these organs, was bisexual and able to create from himself alone, lost that faculty when these organs were created and is now dependent upon the cooperation of another of opposite polarity or sex in order to generate a new vehicle for an incoming Spirit.

When we use spiritual sight to look at man in the Memory of Nature during the time when he was yet in the making, we find that wherever there is now a nerve, there was first a desire current; that the brain itself was made of desire substance in the first place and also the larynx. It was desire that first sent a motive impulse through the brain and created these nerve currents, that the body might be moved and obtain for the Spirit whatever gratification was indicated by desire. Speech, also, is used for the purpose of obtaining a desired object or end. Through these faculties man has obtained a certain mastery over the world, and if he could just flit from one body to another, there would be no end to his abuse of his power for gratifying every whim and desire. But under the Law of Consequence he takes with him into a new body, faculties and organs similar to those which he left behind in the one preceding.

When passion has wrecked the body in one life, it is stamped upon the seed atom. In the next descent to rebirth it is therefore impossible for him to gather sound material with which to build a brain of stable con-

struction. He is then usually born under one of the common signs, and usually also, the four common signs are on the angles; for through these signs passionate desire finds it difficult to express itself. Thus the powerful impulse which formerly ruled in his brain and which might be used for the purpose of rejuvenescence is absent; he lacks incentive in life and therefore he becomes helpless -- a log upon the ocean of life -- often insane.

But the Spirit is not insane; it sees, knows, and has a keen desire to use the body, though that may be an impossibility, for often it cannot send even a correct impulse along the nerves. The muscles of face and body are therefore not under the control of its will. This accounts for the lack of co-ordination which makes the maniac such a pitiable sight. And thus the Spirit learns one of the hardest lessons in life, namely, that it is worse than death to be tied to a living body and unable to find expression through it because *the desire force* necessary to accomplish thought, speech, and motion, *has been spent in unrighteous living* in a previous life and left the Spirit without the necessary energy to operate its present fleshly instrument.

Though mental disabilities, when congenital, are generally traceable to an abuse of the creative function in a past life, there is at least one notable exception to this rule: Where a Spirit, who has a particularly hard life before it, comes down to rebirth and feels upon entering the womb that the panorama of the coming life then shown it marks an existence too hard for it to undergo, it sometimes tries to run away from the school of life. At this time the Recording Angels or their agents have already made the connection between the vital body and the sense centers of the brain in the forming foetus; therefore the effort of the Spirit to escape

from the mother's womb is frustrated, but the wrench that is given by the Ego deranges the connection between the etheric and physical sense centers, so that the vital body is not concentric with the physical, causing the etheric head to extend above the physical cranium. Thus it is impossible for the Spirit to use the dense vehicle; it is tied to a mindless body which it cannot use, and the embodiment is practically wasted.

We also find cases where a great shock later in life causes the Spirit to endeavor to run away with the invisible vehicles. As a result a similar wrench is given to the etheric sense centers in the brain, and the shock deranges the mental expression. Everybody has probably felt a similar sensation on receiving a fright; a surging as of something endeavoring to get out of the dense body; that is the desire and vital bodies, which are so swift in their actions that an express train is as a snail by comparison. They see and feel the danger and are frightened before the scare is transmitted to the inert and slow physical body in which they are anchored, and which prevents their escape under ordinary strain.

But at first, as said, the fright and shock are sufficiently severe to give them such an impulse that the etheric sense centers are deranged. This most frequently happens to persons born under common signs, which are the weakest in the zodiac. However, as a ligament that has been stretched and torn may gradually regain comparative elasticity, so also, in these cases, it is easier to restore the mental faculties than in those cases where congenital insanity, brought over from past lives, has caused inadequate connection. *(Cont.)*

MERCY, PITY, PEACE AND LOVE

(Continued from page 539)

Passion is pain and the pain of the awakening Christ within eventually transcends the body and we find ourselves in the spiritual worlds. It is only by the amount of this healing or pain that we understand do we lift ourselves out of the physical world. This is not to say there is no joy, for in bearing this passion, or Cross, the spirit is rejoicing and swelling the heart and mind to regions unexplainable to those unaware. The joy one feels everywhere and in every thing. It is always near, like angels singing, faintly but unmistakably in the inner ear — singing praises for another birth of a Christ.

On this night, the night of all nights, may we lift our hearts to that passion and prepare ourselves for another year.

To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
All pray in their distress;
And to these virtues of delight
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love
Is God, our father dear,
And Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
Is Man, his child and care.

For Mercy has a human heart,
Pity a human face,
And Love, the human form divine,
And Peace, the human dress.

Then every man, of every clime,
That prays in his distress,
Prays to the human form divine,
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.

And all must love the human form,
In heathen, turk, or jew;
Where Mercy, Love, & Pity dwell
There God is dwelling too.

— William Blake.



Studies in the Cosmo-Conception

This department is devoted to a study of the Rosicrucian Philosophy by the Socratic Method, the material being taken from the Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception.

The Cleansing Blood

Q. Where, esoterically, did the piercings occur in the body of Christ Jesus?

A. When the Saviour Christ Jesus was crucified His body was pierced in five places, the five centers where the currents of the vital body flow, and the pressure of the crown of thorns caused a flow from the sixth also.

Q. What was the result of these piercings?

A. When the blood flowed from these centers the great Sun-spirit Christ was liberated from the physical vehicle of Jesus and found Himself *in the Earth*, with individual vehicles. The already existing planetary vehicles He permeated with His own vehicles and in the twinkling of an eye, diffused His own desire body over the planet, which has enabled Him thenceforth to work upon the Earth and its humanity from within.

Q. How did this liberation affect the Earth?

A. At that moment a tremendous wave of spiritual sunlight flooded the Earth. It rent the veil which the Race Spirit had hung before the Temple to keep out all but the chosen few, and it made the Path of Initiation free thenceforth to whomsoever will.

Q. Do not the scriptures state that the Sun was darkened?

A. Like all rapid and high vibrations of light, this great wave blinded the people by its dazzling brilliance, therefore it was said that "the Sun was darkened." The very opposite was what occurred. The Sun was not darkened but shone out in glorious splendor.

Q. Why did the people think it was dark?

A. The excess of light blinded the people, and only as the entire Earth absorbed the desire body of the bright

Sun-spirit did the vibration return to a more normal rate.

Q. What is meant by the cleansing blood?

A. "The cleansing blood of Christ Jesus" means that as the blood flowed on Calvary it bore with it the great Sun-spirit Christ, who by that means secured admission to the Earth itself, thereby cleansing it from all the vile influences which had grown up under the *regime* of the Race Spirit.

Q. How did the influences become so vile?

A. Under the law all sinned: nay, more — they could not help it. The desire nature was so strong that it was an impossibility for them to rule it altogether, therefore their debts, engendered under the Law of Consequence, piled up to monstrous proportions. Evolution would have been terribly delayed and many lost to our life wave altogether if some help had not been given.



Q. How did Christ give this help?

A. He took away the sin of the world by His cleansing blood which gave Him entrance to the Earth and its humanity. He purified the conditions and we owe it to Him that we are able to gather for our desire bodies purer desire-stuff than formerly. He continues working to help us by making our external environment constantly purer, and He is ever present to help those who call upon His Name.

Reference: *Cosmo*, pp. 406-408.

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Visit of the Magi

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews: for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also."

When they heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Matthew 2:1-11

This beautiful story symbolizes the unifying influence of the Christ. Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar are the representatives of the white, yellow, and black races, and symbolize the people of Europe, Asia, and Africa, who are all led by the Star to the World Savior to Whom eventually "every knee shall bow and Whom every tongue shall confess;" Who shall unite all the scattered nations under the Banner of Peace and Goodwill; Who shall cause men to "beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks."

Another message brought to the spiritual aspirant by this story is that of the necessity of a complete sacrifice of the spirit, soul, and body to the higher life. This is indicated by the three Wise Men bringing gifts to the new-born Babe: gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and laying them reverently at His feet.

Gold is always mentioned in symbology as the emblem of the spirit. It is symbol-

ized thus in the Ring of the Niebelung, for instance. The river Rhine is considered an emblem of the water, and there the gold is seen shining on the rock, symbolizing the universal spirit in its perfect purity. Later it was stolen and made into a ring by Alberich, representing mankind in the middle of Atlantis, when the individualized spirit had drawn into the body. Then the gold became debased, was lost, and was the cause of all the sorrow in the world. Later we hear of the alchemists who tried to transmute base metal into gold. That is the spiritual way of saying that they wanted to purify the dense body — to refine it and extract the spiritual essence. Thus the gift of one wise man indicates that the spirit, the real man, must be offered wholly to the Higher Self.

Another wise man brought myrrh, the extract of an aromatic plant that grows in Arabia. This plant is very, very rare, symbolizing the soul essence that man extracts as he lives the life of purity and service. Through the experiences of daily life he extracts this food for the spirit: the soul. This, too, must be presented whole-heartedly to the Christ Child.

The third wise man presented incense to the newborn Babe. Incense is a physical substance of a very light nature, symbolizing the dense body. The body, also, must be presented, "a living sacrifice," to the higher life, the daily actions being motivated by the ideal of service.

Herein is given the key to the gifts of the three Wise Men — the spirit, the soul, and the body. As Christ Jesus said, "If you want to follow me, you must sell all you have. You are not to keep anything for yourself!" The spiritual aspirant must be ready to give up everything for the higher life — for the Christ within.



Vocational Helps from Astrology

A.C.C.

As the solar conditions act upon the Earth, so also do they act upon the physical constitution of man. If at birth the Sun is afflicted by the adverse rays of a planet like Saturn, there will be a lack of vitality and force, while favorable aspects from the positive, heat-producing planets such as Jupiter and Mars will give a great fund of energy and a sound constitution.

The Sun represents the organic constitution. The Moon represents the functional powers. Hence the Sun afflicted by adverse aspects at birth gives warning of organic disorders of an inherent or hereditary nature, while the Moon similarly afflicted denotes functional disorders of an acquired nature.

We may regard man as being in the same relation to his cosmic environment as is the Earth itself. Compounded of cosmic elements, he responds to changes that are continually taking place in the solar system in terms of his radical constitution or root nature, which varies with each individual. All sidereal and planetary forces, while possessing their respective properties and expressing their own several natures, are differently received and transmuted according to the constitution of the recipient. Hence the planets only affect us in terms of ourselves.

The same white solar ray falling upon an emerald and a ruby will be differently reflected by each, appearing as

green in the one and red in the other. So with humanity, each person reflects the wisdom and love of the Universal Being in a variety of forms of knowledge and affection, expressed in speech and action. This fact should save us from the errors of bigotry and dogmatism. It is comforting to know that the diamond is the mature carbohydrate. Likewise, the soul that is as black as coal can become by evolutionary processes as clear as the diamond.

Each planet has two aspects, corresponding to our higher and lower natures. Mars is merely energy, the focused or specialized vitality of the Sun. It corresponds to the red ray. It is destructive when expressing through one of low mental or moral calibre; constructive when expressing through a highly evolved nature.

The planets do not normally rule or compel us; but we often transmute and corrupt their nature and abuse the energies and powers which they confer upon us, until the forces thus created exert a strong influence over us. Self-government is attained through experience and suffering. The wise man rules himself; all others the stars compel. The squares and oppositions will give a full share of experience.

Evolution does not wholly consist in getting all we can out of life, but also of putting into it as much as we can. We are affected by our environment, and our

business is to find how much our environment can be affected by us. In environment we have to include that which presses us most closely in the form of our own personality. To get this under control is largely to annihilate or transmute the effect of the adverse aspects of the planets. This is possible because all planetary influences are modes of the One Life.

That which animates the physical body is the solar ray; that which animates the mind is the spiritual ray.

Life has no qualities of its own; it gets them by use or function. The same energy that is used for destructive purposes could as readily be used for constructive enterprise. Extravagance is morbid generosity, a philanthropy gone astray. The Sun shines on the just and the unjust, but its position in our horoscope cannot be blamed for the abuse to which we submit our vital powers. Evil influences originate only in ourselves, but we can transmit their effect to others.

So far as their cosmic functions are concerned, the planets are organic interpreters. The Sun is the source of vitality or life. It therefore holds chief place in and is the foundation principle of the horoscope. All calculations and measures of time have regard to the Sun's position and its postnatal motion. The Sun and Moon are symbols of the male-female unity of Nature, the Sun representing the father, and the Moon the mother, in the generation of all mundane events.

Each house governs one department of life. The sign on its cusp, its ruler, and the planets posited therein indicate tendencies latent in each department.

The horoscope should be judged as a whole first so that one may know both the physical and the moral strength and the general tendencies of mind and character. One should be shown how to grow strong, both in mind and body, and what sort of self-discipline he must first undertake in order to be successful in life. The general nature of the employment in which a person will have ability is signified by the nature of the signs

and houses which hold the majority of the planets.

Planets posited in fiery signs indicate occupations in which metals and fire play a prominent part.

Planets posited in earthy signs indicate success in lines that have to do with the Earth and all that comes from the Earth which is used to clothe, nourish, or shelter the physical body.

Planets posited in airy signs give ability in all pursuits involving thought and travel, all occupations in which mind is a principle factor.

Planets in watery signs give ability in occupations in which fluids play a prominent part.

Planets above the Earth well aspected, or the Sun in good aspect to Jupiter, give promise of a lucrative occupation. On the other hand, planets below the Earth, weak and afflicted, or the Sun in bad aspect to the Moon, Mars, or Jupiter, usually make it difficult for one to find employment.

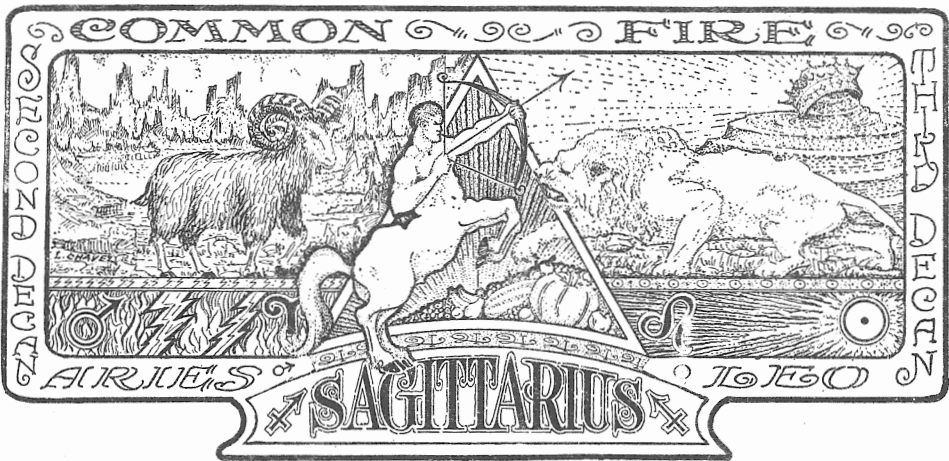
The ruling planet has an important bearing on the life work. The Sun as life ruler indicates a leader; it may be of a state, city, or business, depending upon its position by house and sign and its aspects to other planets.

Venus as ruling planet indicates artistic ability in some capacity such as that of a musician, singer, or actor; or artistic ability applied to millinery, fancy confections, etc.

Mercury as ruling planet gives ability for clerical and traveling occupations which cover a large field. These are denoted by the sign and house in which it is posited. Being a reflector, the planet with which it is aspected gives the key to the type of mind and occupation.

The Moon as ruling planet signifies success in positions concerned with transportation of the public. It indicates dealing in fluidic commodities or employment on shipboard and in the shipping trade.

Saturn denotes all employment connected with the Earth. It rules night workers and those engaged in slow, laborious work. (Continued on page 552)



The Children of Sagittarius, 1974

Birthdays: November 23 to December 22

Sagittarius is a common fire sign and finds its physical manifestation in the quality of "warmth". Our ideals, our aspirations, our visions, are indeed part of that alchemical fire which we use to help transmute the dross of the lower nature into the refined metal of the higher. Thus the symbol of the centaur, half man and half animal, aptly symbolizes the higher principle in man rising out of the lower. That the man is still attached to the animal body shows that he must ever point the arrows of his aspiring to something beyond that which he already is, or his evolution will retrograde instead of advance. This has always been the purpose of religion. It is something given to man that aims to raise his consciousness beyond the drear of the present moment, and give him a vision of the nobler things in life, and inspire him with a zeal to attain unto them.

The quality of warmth is the quality of expansion, one of the keywords of Jupiter, the ruler of Sagittarius. In Jupiter we have the principle of impersonal action and effort; the one who works not for himself alone, but also for the good of others.

Benevolence is good intentions put into practice.

In the early days of aerial balloons, the lifting power was supplied by heated air, or warmth. This caused the balloon to strain at its moorings, and seek a higher level of the atmosphere. In the higher reaches of the atmosphere, the temperature becomes increasingly cooler. This is the mystery of the color blue, the color of Jupiter. When something is warmed, it tends to expand, and as it expands it becomes more attenuated and cools down in the process. When through our ideals and aspirations we enkindle the divine fire within us, our consciousness expands and climbs to a higher level. But it also becomes more attenuated and less capable of maintaining a clear self-consciousness, so that our fire becomes cooled, and we slowly float back to earth to face reality again, and hopefully to apply to our daily living some of the breadth of vision we have gained in that rarer sphere.

The forces that operate through the sign of Sagittarius correspond to the Divine Spirit in man. Jupiter in Roman mythology corresponds to

Zeus in Greek mythology, who was the chief of the gods, known as the Father of gods and men. Likewise is the Divine Spirit the highest spiritual principle in man, and Father to the lower. The blue flame of the Divine Spirit burns in the frontal sinus, the root of the nose, as the Silent Watcher, the Shekinah Glory shining above the Mercy Seat in the holy of holies. To Him is relegated the power of the Will. The power of the Will is the power to choose, and has nothing whatsoever to do with strength of desire, which is so often misnamed as "Will-power". When man chose, or Willed, to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he did indeed become as the gods. For now he knew that there was a right way and a wrong way, and so he must choose between them. He must exercise his own free Will, and grow thereby. It was this power to choose his own destiny that gave man the possibility to become divine. The Sagittarian may find himself faced with many choices in life, and it should be impressed upon him that to make a definite, conscious choice, even though it may turn out to be a wrong one, is better than wavering and making no choice at all. For just as a muscle will diminish in strength if it is not used, so will our Will-power if we do not exercise it.

At this time of the year as the Sun passes through the sign of Sagittarius, the Christ Spirit is focusing His energies toward the center of our Earth, laden with the gifts of the Father, whose lowest vehicle is in the World of Divine Spirit. At this time, if we re-affirm our choice to forsake the ways of our lower animal nature, and aspire to the higher, we will find our Will for good greatly strengthened. Let us harken to the words of Joshua: "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your

fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land ye dwell: But as for me and my house, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD."

The beneficent rays of the Sun sextile Pluto from November 23 to December 8 give these children power to regenerate the personal self and transmute the less desirable traits into strength of character. There will be opportunities for getting involved with other people in group activities.

During the period November 23 to December 10 the Sun squares Jupiter cautioning that these children must learn to be honest and guard against arrogance and squander. They may need to overcome an ostentatious and showy manner.

From November 23 to December 30 Venus sextiles Pluto, at the same time it is square Jupiter until December 2 bringing the opportunity to develop, through experience, self-control in regard to over-indulgence and tasteless surroundings. Venus is also conjunct Neptune November 23 to December 1. Thus the possibilities of developing a refined temperament are present and interest in the Arts and music may unfold. Venus squares Pluto from December 16 to December 21 and sextiles Uranus from December 10 to December 19, bringing a vulnerability to temptations while at the same time offering opportunities for fostering a nature that is sensitive to finer forces. The child will need to learn to share the fruits of this development with others.

Mercury is conjunct Mars from November 23 to December 2 and trine Saturn until November 28 making the mind active and sharp with the ability to concentrate deeply. These children will be both enthusiastic and sincere. Mercury is square Jupiter from December 4 to December 12 pointing to a need to develop good judgment and be decisive.

From November 23 to December 2 Mars is making a trine to Saturn stabilizing the actions and giving persistence to endeavors. During the period of Decem-

ber 18 to December 21 Mars is square Jupiter and this child will need to guard against being impulsive and over-zealous. He will need to overcome a tendency to force himself on others and to learn respect of others ways of doing things. Mars is also conjunct Neptune during this short period which would emphasize the need to learn to direct his actions without superficial ideas so that he might learn to recognize that those weaker than himself deserve his help rather than his disdain and exploitation.

During this solar month Jupiter is square Neptune and sextile Pluto and the natural generosity of these children will need to be directed to constructive channels. Being of a religious nature they should attempt to keep their minds and beliefs within practical limits. These aspects for the slower moving planets are contingent upon the faster moving planets as delineated above.

VOCATIONAL HELPS FROM ASTROLOGY

(Continued from page 549)

Jupiter indicates success in the professions, positions of public trust, and rules benevolent and social workers.

Mars signifies employment in which iron and sharp instruments are prominent, also all dangerous occupations.

Uranus denotes employment in which air, electricity, thought power, or genius are the chief factors. It rules those interested in supernormal or superphysical subjects, and magnetic, divine, and mental healing.

Neptune indicates occupations involving the occult, watery, and psychic elements; also those in which fraud and deception are frequently rampant, because the genuine psychic who is above fraud is rare. Neptune also produces highly inspirational musicians.

The chief factors having to do with the vocation are the second, sixth, and tenth houses, the signs occupying those houses, their rulers and aspects to them, and the planets, if any, in those houses. The sphere of voluntary service is shown by the sixth house, the specific vocation and resulting social standing by the tenth, and the remuneration or earning capacity by the second house.

* * *



TWO names are drawn each month for a child's horoscope reading and at least two for a vocational reading. Readings are given for children up to 14 years of age. They include a general character, health, and vocational analysis.

Vocational readings are given for anyone up to 40 years of age.

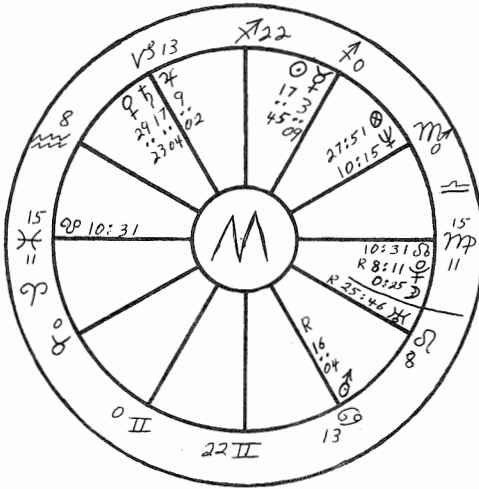
A one year subscription or renewal to the magazine gives one the chance to receive this service.

BE SURE to give: Name, Sex, Birthplace and Year, Month, Day of month and hour and minute of birth, as nearly as possible. Also please be sure to state if Daylight Saving Time was in effect.

Remember: These names are drawn by lot each month. Do not be upset if yours does not appear.

NOTE: We give horoscope readings **ONLY** in this magazine.

Readings for Subscribers' Children



William, B.S.
Born December 9, 1960, 12:02 P.M.
Latitude 39N59, Longitude 118W04

In William's horoscope we find Pisces rising with the ruler, Neptune, trine thereto. Mars, in turn, is trine to both Neptune and the ASC, giving us a grand trine in the watery element. This informs us of a sensitive, mystical nature with the necessary dynamic energy to advance upon the path to spiritual attainment. A sextile from the essentially dignified Saturn to the ASC gives the opportunity to develop a degree of depth and persistence to a character which otherwise tends to often be nervous, irritable, distracted and easily upset. These latter tendencies are shown by common signs being on the angles, a square from the Sun to the ASC, a lack of air sign emphasis and none of the faster-moving planets in fixed signs.

Next we notice a strong configuration in the 6th house. There we find Uranus conjunct the Moon, the Moon conjunct Pluto, Pluto conjunct the Dragon's Head, and Pluto sextile to Neptune, which is in Scorpio, the sign that Pluto rules. Uranus is also trine to the MC and the ruler of the 12th house. Thus we may expect William to sometime become interested in the field of health, most

likely a spiritually-oriented method of healing. Some ability to work with the vital body in healing is shown, along with the possibility of developing etheric vision to aid in his work. These 6th house positions also indicate somewhat unsettled and frictional conditions under which William practices his profession, so that care will have to be exercised in being kind and considerate toward those with whom he comes in contact in his everyday job circumstances.

The Sun and Mercury being deposited in Sagittarius in the 9th house indicate one with high ideals and aspirations, and the sextile from Venus in the 11th house to Mercury shows the opportunity to develop an interest and ability in artistic pursuits. This would be very beneficial in helping to bring peace and harmony back to the physical body when it has become overwrought from nervousness and emotional upset. The Sun conjunct the MC and ruling the sign on the cusp of the 6th house once again indicates that some of William's aspirations and ideals incline toward health matters and service to those who are suffering.

The difficulty that William may experience in realizing his ideals and developing his potential is in a lack of self-discipline. A retrograde Mars in the sign of its fall, in the 5th house, ruler of Aries intercepted in the 1st house, is in opposition to Jupiter and Saturn, Jupiter being in the 10th house and the ruler of the MC, and gives a freedom-loving nature that resents any restriction. He may be very impatient in applying himself to obtain the necessary education to realize his goals. In this case, the Sun and Mercury in the 9th house only serve to make him a dreamer. Mercury, in the sign of its detriment, and ruler of the 3rd and 4th houses, being square to the Moon and Pluto, and the already noted lack of air sign emphasis, shows a degree of mental impatience and disregard for intellectual attainment. Since we have already ob-

sive and self-assertive, (masculine), in order to be free of the unfortunate rep-
 ressions that are put upon femininity, then
 nothing at all has been gained on its be-
 half. It has, as a matter of fact, been de-
 serted and betrayed.

Let us look for a solution to this
 matter. Uranus, the higher octave of
 Venus, is in Libra, the sign that Venus
 rules, in the 3rd house, and ruler of the
 7th and 8th houses. Uranus is relatively
 unsuspected except for a sextile to the
 ASC. This indicates that opportunities
 will be presented for developing the
 higher feminine qualities of Uranus;
 intuition, universal love for others, al-
 truism, originality, etc., and incorpor-
 ating them into the personality so as to
 become an example of them. The 3rd
 house position shows that she must start
 with kindness in her own immediate
 family relationships before she can hope
 to be successful in the larger world. To
 the extent that she grasps this opportu-
 nity for growth and turns it into substance
 will she be well-ricieved by others,
 (7th house), in her humanitarian efforts,
 and advance noticeably in her own regen-
 eration of consciousness, (8th house).

There is a great deal of emotional
 strength and power shown in this chart,
 (Sun conjunction and parallel Saturn in
 Taurus, Venus conjunct MC), but there
 needs to be a greater development of the
 mind to balance it. Emotional strength
 gives us power to accomplish our ends,
 but the mind is what gives efficiency and
 direction to our endeavors. Mercury con-
 junction and parallel to Venus in Aries,
 also conjunction and parallel to the
 Aries MC, shows that the mind is subject
 to emotional outbursts, impulsiveness,
 and irrational argumentiveness, while
 two retrograde planets in the 3rd house
 show us that the development of the con-
 crete mind has been lopsided, needing
 more organization and capacity for clear,
 consecutive, logical thought. Mercury as
 ruler of the 11th house says that the
 attainment of her hopes and wishes, her
 future, depends much on this very devel-
 opment.

The strong Mars in the 6th house of
 Liv's horoscope shows that the most

successful path to recognition will come
 from service to others. If she can come to
 believe in the truth of Christ's admoni-
 tion, "He who would be the greatest
 among you, let him be the servant of all",
 her success in life is practically assured.
 Mars, Saturn, and Pluto form a weak
 Grand-Trine, indicating perseverance and
 enthusiasm in group activities and the
 executive and organizing ability to go
 with it. Mars sextile to Neptune and
 Jupiter in Sagittarius in the 5th house
 shows opportunities for selfless service
 to others growing out of a spiritualized
 attitude, and a striving for freedom from
 selfishness through aspiration to high
 ideals. Since Neptune and Jupiter, which
 are conjunct and parallel to each
 other, are both retrograde, there will
 need to be some serious self-examination
 about motives and attitudes at certain
 points in order to reap the full benefits
 of these opportunities.



The Sun, ruler of the 2nd house, con-
 junct to Saturn in the 10th house, and
 Saturn ruling the sign on the cusp of the
 6th house, show periods of financial
 hardship and difficulties with employ-
 ment, but the Part of Fortune in the 6th
 house trine to Uranus once more points
 to an attitude of humility and service
 that does not allow fake pride to enter
 as the remedy.

A good leader is not one who sup-
 presses others in order to maintain a
 false position of authority, but one who
 knows how to best put the talents of
 others to good use. That kind of leader
 will maintain his position through love
 of those he leads, rather than their fear.
 These qualities are first learned through
 a good example in the home.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE ADVICE

This page is a free service for readers. Since advice is based on the horoscope, we can give a reading ONLY if supplied with the following information: full name, sex,

place of birth, year, day of month, hour. No reading given except in this Magazine and ONLY FOR PERSONS 14 TO 40 YEARS OF AGE. --- Editor.

Joel N.G.

August 16, 1939, 11:40 PM EDST

Latitude 39N57, Longitude 75W11

Looking first to the 10th house to see what type of profession is indicated, we find Aquarius on the cusp. Uranus, the ruler of Aquarius, is in Taurus in the 12th house, conjunction and parallel to the ASC, square Venus and the Sun, trine Mars, Neptune and the Moon. The grand-trine among Uranus, Mars, Neptune and the Moon takes place in earthy signs, while the signs on the cusps of the 2nd, 6th and 10th houses are airy. This indicates an occupation that requires mental ingenuity, but which also produces tangible products or results. A number of planets in fire signs indicate the urge to be creatively occupied in the profession, but at the same time, no planets in water signs indicate a lack of sensitivity to the needs of others and a difficulty in relating to their feelings, since the water signs are affecting the houses of relationship, the 3rd, 7th and 11th.

Uranus trine Mars, in the sign of its exaltation in Capricorn, in the 9th house, Mars conjunct MC, shows a capacity to deal with abstract principles in a creative and inventive manner; to come up with new ways to use old things, or new things to be applied to old ways. There is ingenuity in the mechanical or electrical fields, or any field that requires application of abstractions to material things. The trine of both Uranus and Mars to Neptune and the Moon intercepted in Virgo in the 5th house, gives imaginative insight into complex problems that involve many details. The fact that Mars is retrograde, and that Neptune and the Moon are intercepted, indicates that there may be difficulties and frustrations in expressing these as just delineated, perhaps because of impatience on the part of the person more than actual

obstacles of an external nature. Neptune and the Moon in the 5th, the Moon ruling the 3rd house, show a sense of pleasure and accomplishment in dealing with the matters referred to above.

There are three planets in the 12th house, the rulers of the 8th, 9th and 10th while Mercury and Venus, the rulers of the 1st, 2nd and 6th houses, are in the 4th in Leo. Mercury is trine Jupiter in the 12th house, conjunct Venus, and parallel to the Sun which is also in Leo in the 4th house. These are indications that the most success comes from working in seclusion, away from the public eye, and away from the limelight of publicity. This is good for research or laboratory work, especially since we find an emphasis in fixed signs, giving the necessary persistence to follow a lead through to a conclusion. Thus such fields as research engineer, design engineer, quality control analyst, and other similar fields are indicated.

Now however, we come to the stumbling block. Mercury in Leo, parallel to the Sun in Leo, shows a pride of intellect, while Mars in the 9th house, conjunct MC, opposition Pluto in the 3rd house, shows one who wants recognition for every idea that he originates. Saturn, the ruler of Capricorn, the sign on the cusp of the 9th house, is in the 12th, conjunct the Dragon's Tail, and this shows one who holds back on giving his best until he is assured that he will receive credit for his work. Saturn is also square MC and Pluto, confirming the verdict, and showing that this attitude will hold him back from realizing his best possibilities. Venus, ruler of 6th house, and the Sun, are square to Uranus and ASC, indicating one who is too easily offended, and thus it shows inharmony and friction with fellow employees. If he is in a subordinate position, he will feel that he is not appreciated, or if he is in a higher position, he

does not always appreciate the talents of those who work under him. Either of these attitudes may be cause for a sudden downfall from any position he may hold.

Thus there is a need for regeneration of consciousness in these directions. Jupiter, ruler of the 8th house, trine to Mercury, shows that impersonal introspection and self-searching about motives will help a great deal. The Part of Fortune in Gemini in the 2nd house, sextile to Venus and the Sun, promises opportunities for earning a comfortable living through mental effort applied in harmony and co-operation with fellow workers.

Danele S.
September 11, 1968, 5:41 AM
Latitude 47N37, Longitude 122W20

Mercury is ruling both the ASC and the MC and is in the airy sign Libra, so we can immediately deduce that a profession of a mental nature would be congenial. Mercury is also in the 2nd house and ruler of the sign on the cusp thereof. Accounting, economics, banking or efficiency engineer is therefore indicated. The Moon in the sign of its exaltation in the 9th house, trine to Jupiter and the Sun in Virgo in the 1st house, Pluto and Uranus also being in the 1st house, shows traveling and working with large numbers of people in the profession. Mars in the 12th house, trine to Saturn in Aries in the 8th house, gives an ability to work behind the scenes. This coupled with the mercurial tendencies could give ability as a company salesman or representative, or arbiter of disputes between parties with differing interests. Mercury conjunct Venus helps in this latter possibility as it gives a certain ability to bring harmony about through discussion. Uranus is in the 1st house, but on the cusp of the 2nd, and is the ruler of the 8th. This indicates unusual and challenging circumstances under which the profession is practiced, and fluctuating financial conditions. Mercury and Venus in the 2nd house con-

junct the Dragon's Tail, and Saturn conjunct the Part of Fortune, indicate times of financial hardship or restrictions unless care is taken to secure steady employment.

* * *



When the stellar rays of Uranus and Neptune impinge upon a person whose vital body is loosely connected with the physical, we have what is called a sensitive. The direction and quality of this faculty depend upon the placement and the aspects of the two planets mentioned, however. Those who are under the domination of an adverse aspect of the Uranian Ray usually develop the more undesirable phases of clairvoyance and mediumship. They easily become the prey of entities from the invisible world who have no regard for their victim's desires, even if in a weak manner these should protest. Neptune may be said to represent the invisible worlds in more positive aspects, and those who come under the evil rays of this planet are therefore brought in touch with the most undesirable occupants of the invisible worlds. Actual obsession...takes place under the ray of Neptune, and no materializing seance could ever be held if it were not for this stellar vibration. Magic, white or black, can never be put to practical use save under and because of the Neptunian vibration. ...Therefore the Initiates of every Mystery School, spiritual seers who have full control of their faculty, and astrologers are amenable in varying degrees to the ray of Neptune. The Black Magician and the hypnotist, who is a twin brother to him, are also dependent upon the power of this stellar ray for use in their nefarious practices. ---*Message of the Stars.*

Daily Thought and Guide

These daily meditations are based partly on the planetary hours of the day, daily aspects and vibrations.

Wednesday – January 1

Strong uranian rays favor us on this first day of the new year, setting an enlightened, progressive stage for new beginnings.

Thursday – January 2

A variety of influences keep us on our toes today, and it would be wise to be particularly careful that excess energy is properly channeled.

Friday – January 3

Venus sends her most loving impulses on this, her day; harmony, affectionate sociability among friends, and enjoyment of fine arts are all in order.

Saturday – January 4

Our well-laid plans may be obstructed in some measure today, but we know that Saturn's restraining hand is that of a wise teacher and guide.

Sunday – January 5

"First worship God; he that forgets to pray bids not himself good morrow, nor good day." – *Randolph*.

Monday – January 6

Our sense of responsibility is continually under observation. "Every duty must be fulfilled that we may thereby take advantage of the higher opportunities that are ever opening up before us." – *Max Heindel*.

Tuesday – January 7

Several fine aspects promise a day of success and accomplishment in an agreeable atmosphere.

Wednesday – January 8

On this quiet day of introspection

and retrospection, let us focus on our highest ideals and "be still and know that I am God."

Thursday – January 9

Rough edges may need smoothing, and we do well to take ourselves in hand, not allowing petty annoyances to "get our goat."

Friday – January 10

Aquarian Age standards are easily expressed today; those who respond to high uranian influences can accomplish much that is worthwhile.

Saturday – January 11

"Wondrous is the strength of cheerfulness, altogether past calculation its powers of endurance." – *Carlyle*.

Sunday – January 12

"The slender capacity of man's heart cannot comprehend, much less utter, that unsearchable depth and burning zeal of God's love towards us." – *Luther*.

Monday – January 13

Unexpected changes of routine and plan may occur today; evolution implies change, and the more evolved an Ego is, the more extensive are the changes he has experienced.

Tuesday – January 14

Imaginative powers may be strong today. Imagination, knowledge, persistence, and enthusiasm are the cornerstones of Epigenesis.

Wednesday – January 15

A fine day is in the offing. Moon in Aquarius trine Uranus gives promise of progressive developments.

Thursday – January 16

Complete self-reliance is the goal of every serious Western Wisdom student. Every day we can lean a little less on others and a little more on ourselves.

Friday – January 17

A heightened pace of activity in the late afternoon may surprise us; harmonious solar and lunar rays portend a fortunate outcome.

Saturday – January 18

It would be a good idea to keep calm today, dealing with every event as it occurs in a peaceful, loving, and poised manner.

Sunday – January 19

Mercury and Venus help us unite head and heart in our worship today. It is not enough to “know” God intellectually; we must feel His love within us and radiate it to all His creatures.

Monday – January 20

Much energy is released today, but it may not be easy to utilize it positively. Let us closely examine our motive for every deed, that everything we do is in the best interests of all concerned.

Tuesday – January 21

The best influences from Saturn and Jupiter favor us today, strengthening tact as well as honesty, and prudence as well as generosity.

Wednesday – January 22

“Music is the harmonious voice of creation, an echo of the invisible world, one note of the divine concord which the entire universe is destined one day to sound.” – *Mazzini*.

Thursday – January 23

The person who can see the positive side of all things, regarding the

“divine essence” rather than the “unprepossessing exterior,” has won half the battle of “coping with life.”

Friday – January 24

Considerable activity may be in the offing. Mercurial occupations encompassing writing, literature, and travel, are particularly favored.

Saturday – January 25

“There is a magic in that little word, ‘home’. It is a mystic circle that surrounds comforts and virtues never known beyond its hallowed limits.” – *Southey*.

Sunday – January 26

Let us join fervently in the beautiful hymns of praise today. “Now thank we all our God, with heart and soul and voices.”

Monday – January 27

We may have some trouble sustaining our efforts today, but neptunian inspiration will encourage us, if we are attuned.

Tuesday – January 28

Making up our minds is not always easy but we learn more from a wrong decision, thoughtfully arrived at, than from no decision at all.

Wednesday – January 29

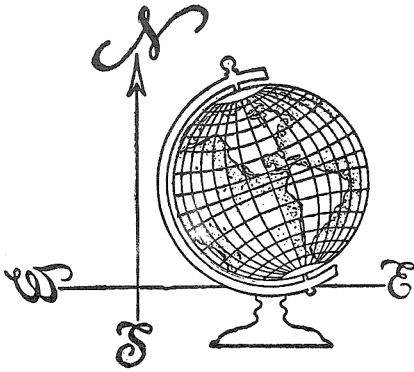
Another busy day dawns, with abundant energy. Let us entertain only positive thoughts, and use our strength wisely.

Thursday – January 30

“One means very effectual for the preservation of health is a quiet and cheerful mind, not afflicted with violent passions or distracted with immoderate cares.” – *John Ray*.

Friday – January 31

“In the blending of head and heart is the true balance, the only safety.”
– *Max Heindel*.



MONTHLY

News
 INTERPRETED

The Arc-Plasma Torch

"Today's schemes for rock tunneling are about vintage 1850," said Merle Thorpe. "Our new device can cut through 16 inches of granite slab at four inches per minute."

Mr. Thorpe is the chief executive of Ionarc Corporation's TAFA division in Bow, N.H., a company that specializes in high temperature technology. And the device he was describing is the arc-plasma torch. It cuts through rock not with the usual carbide bit but with a jet of high temperature plasma that turns rock into a molten stream and melts through anything.

The torch doesn't burn fuel to create its superhot flame. Instead it electrically generates a stream of ionized gas called plasma. Plasma is an odd substance that is neither gas, liquid, nor solid. Physicists recognize it as a fourth state of matter.

To make it, heat a gas until its atoms begin to give up electrons. Now, the hot, electrically charged mixture becomes a good conductor of electricity. The plasma in the TAFA torch is heated by an electrical arc, with current flowing from the cathode (in the torch) to an external anode. A steady stream of nitrogen is heated and ionized by the arc, which, in turn, forms the low-resistance path for the electrical current that keeps the nitrogen ionized. The plasma reaches a temperature of about 20,000 degrees F; that's more than three times the heat required to melt and vaporize any material on earth.

—*Popular Science*, 1974

The chief executive of the Ionarc Corporation's TAFA division says that

this new device can cut through 16 inches of granite slab at four inches per minute by turning rock into a molten stream that melts through anything. A small concrete cutting device, similar to the one TAFA is now using, will operate in the range of 300 kilowatts and will probably sell for around \$40,000. But don't send in your order yet because it is not yet in mass production.

This whole article seemed a natural explanation for the glazed walls of an underground system of tunnels found in Ecuador and Peru, which are thousands of miles in length. A few hundred miles have been explored and measured by Sr. Moricz. He stumbled onto them in 1965 and the Ecuadorian government has done nothing about them so far. They predate the Inca civilization. But those glazed walls, impervious to moisture, have not yet been explained by science.

Scientists of the U.S. Laboratory for Atomic Research at Los Alamos have developed a thermal drill that melts the rock as it bores through it. The tip of the drill is made of wolfram and is heated by a graphite heating element. We also read not long ago that Westinghouse has developed an electron ray generator for welding experiments in space. And we are all familiar with the laser beam and its capabilities.

To all appearances then, we are being ushered into a new age and we can no longer rest upon the assumption that what was good enough for our grandfather is good enough for us. *We must adapt.*

Mariner 10 Passes Jupiter

"The major surprise in this exercise once again was Io. (one of Jupiter's moons...Ed.) Its mass proved 20 percent greater than it had been measured from Earth, jumping from 0.99 of the mass of our moon to 1.22.....The space agency is drafting plans for Jupiter orbiting spacecraft which will exploit the gravitational fields of the Gallilean satellites. Future Jupiter orbiters will also be able to obtain close-range imagery and scientific data from these fascinating bodies.....

Though Jupiter is much too small and cold to be a star — its interior would have to be 1,000 times hotter than presently calculated to ignite thermonuclear reactions — nevertheless it possesses many starlike characteristics: great size, an elemental abundance corresponding with that of the sun, net heat output, and a family of major satellites which duplicate the density pattern of the inner planets. (Jupiter has eight other moons, some of which appear to be captured asteroids.)

It was D. McNally of the University of London Observatory who suggested that Jupiter might be a "failed star." According to McNally, two different processes formed the planets of the solar system — an accretion process in which the dense inner planets were physically assembled from a high density shell of dust and gas surrounding the "proto-sun," and a second process, involving gravitational instability and collapse of the gas cloud in the outer solar system, which formed Jupiter and the other gas giants.....

Why did Jupiter fail to become a star? Most students of the subject, McNally included, think that Jupiter's tremendous rotational speed played an important role in preventing its accumulation of a sufficient mass to become stellar. If the portion of the nebula from which Jupiter formed was already rotating, the planet's rotation would increase as its physical dimensions contracted, in the same way that a figure skater can increase her rate of spin by pulling in her arms."

—Smithsonian, Sept. 1974

The scientific material gathered by these space probes is rapidly changing theory into fact. The theory that Jupiter might once have competed with the Sun for supremacy in this solar system leads to a natural explanation of the "Wars in Heaven" legend. John Milton, in his *Paradise Lost* uses man's vocabulary of *war, compete, rebellion, and subjugation*, for a process that our scientists explain

as normal reactions of the physical universe.

The article quoted above goes on to say that, "it is significant that most of the stars in the immediate neighborhood of the solar system are binary and multiple star systems, and the average distance between the stellar pairs is about ten times the Earth-sun distance, or approximately the distance of Saturn's orbit from the sun. It would appear that star formation is the usual end product of the condensation of an interstellar cloud of dust and gas."

We can no longer doubt that there has been inter-planetary communication before now, but the theory advanced by some of our popular writers that the Wars in Heaven were shoot-outs by warring, armed, outerspace intelligences is a reflection of our anthropomorphic ways of thinking. The Avatars of old who could accurately read in the Memory of Nature saw the formation of the planets truly. It is our fear-filled minds that react atavistically!

Some are going to say that all color, excitement and glamour of life are gone when we accept that natural explanation. And so they are. It is the clear ray of light that is broken into the rainbow colors, obscuring all definite outlines. The exultations of a glorious victory, at the expense of a humiliating defeat for the opponent evaporates.

So come to the heights. The air is clear and the view is magnificent! The peace that passes all human understanding envelops and sustains all things. We see and know that we are an integral part of all creation.

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

"We're in a period like the opening of the American West," says John Teal at the Woods Hole (Mass.) Oceanographic Institution. "Everybody is trampling over everybody else to stake a claim in the oceans." That signals an end to a view that has prevailed for 350 years: the fundamental freedom of the seas. It was first stitched into international law by Hugo Grotius, the Dutch jurist who

wrote in 1609 that the ocean "is common to all, because it is so limitless that it cannot become the possession of anyone." The seas, he concluded, "can be neither seized nor enclosed,"....

Indeed, says Richard N. Gardner, a Columbia Law School professor and adviser to the State Department, "1974 represents a turning point in international relations. The global agenda is now more important than traditional foreign policies. If the law-of-the-sea conference fails, it will harm prospects for other international negotiations on food, population, energy, security, trade. Caracas is a test case for mankind's capacity to deal with global problems in a rational way."

The delegates at Caracas are trying to set fair ground rules for the sharing of new resources whose abundance is only beginning to be measured. It is this that is forcing a more realistic if not necessarily appealing approach to the oceans. Man is turning to the sea with a surveyor's eye. For the first time, he is compelled to consider the implications of the fact that if all the oceans' volume were divided equally among all the people on earth today, each person would own a watery cube measuring 300 ft. on each side to serve as a storehouse of food, a repository for his wastes, a reserve of resources, a source of recreation and inspiration. To Grotius, it was the sea that "rather possesses the earth than is by it possessed." Not any more.

—*Time*, July 29, 1974

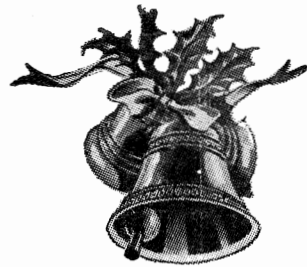
The Caracas Conference on the Seas, to which 149 nations have sent over 5,000 delegates is well under way, and will doubtless be over before this is in print! They will discuss, and try to come to an agreement on fishing, pollution, and mineral wealth. There will be another conference next year in Vienna.

The delegates are rapidly forming into two groups. There are the 120 developing have-not nations who want a seabed authority to develop the resources and turn the profits — 100% of them — over to the United Nations for the benefit of those who need them. On the other hand there are a group of 29 industrial nations who want a seabed authority that will set rules, license qualified businesses, and collect, perhaps a 5% royalty, for the needy nations.

The idealistic solution would be for the wealthy, powerful nations to adopt a paternalistic attitude and provide the technology, take all the risks and re-

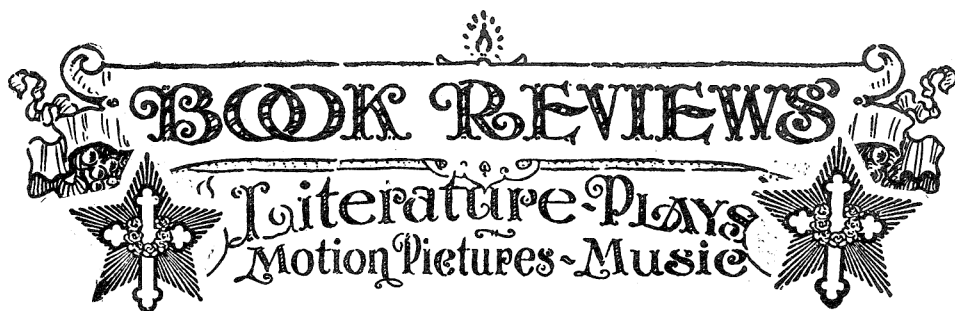
sponsibilities and then turn over whatever profits there are to the United Nations. Unhappily that isn't the way people learn and grow. Max Heindel has some pertinent remarks on that subject: "Love, Wealth, Power, and Fame! — These are the four great motives of human action.... The great Leaders of humanity have wisely given them as incentives to action, that man may gain experience and learn thereby." (*Cosmo-Conception*, page 464.)

The fact that there has been no war over the oceans, and that there is a Conference, are heartening actions. We are sure that negotiations will continue. Our idealists are learning from some of the traumatic experiences of the Marshall Plan and the Lend-Lease operations, both as to our own greed and that of some of the receiving nations. But the best solution will not come in just one conference!



CHRISTMAS BELLS

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
 For those that here we see no more;
 Ring out the feud of rich and poor;
 Ring in redress to all mankind.
 Ring in the valiant man and free,
 The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
 Ring out the darkness of the land;
 Ring in the Christ that is to be.



BOOK REVIEWS

Literature Plays Motion Pictures - Music

"None to Give Away"

None to Give Away, by Elsie Doig Townsend, Herald Publishing House, Independence, Missouri, 1970.

This is a memorable account of a young mother's triumph over tragedy. It is a record of faith and love, of epigenesis and soul growth, and of what can truly be called years of selfless service.

When Mrs. Townsend's oldest child was three, and her two sets of twins were approximately two years old and a few months old respectively, her husband was killed in an accident on their Montana ranch. Although of course she was grief stricken, the pressing needs of her family made it impossible for her to succumb to despair. Instead, she was compelled to give her full time and attention to the daily requirements and the long-range security of the youngsters. The success with which she managed to rear them lovingly, joyfully, and within the context of "old fashioned" virtues which today seem to be falling into disrepute, makes her narrative particularly inspiring.

Instead of accepting offers of relatives to alleviate her plight by taking some of the children into their families, Mrs. Townsend decided to keep her own family together. From the material side, she managed this by returning to her former occupation of teaching. Half the salary thus received was paid to a housekeeper who stayed with the children on weekdays. The remaining money was used for basic necessities. Every summer she cultivated a garden and canned food

which sustained them through the ensuing months. She made her own and the children's clothes. She nursed along an old automobile for essential transportation. In this way Mrs. Townsend managed to meet the physical needs of six people.

From the spiritual standpoint, Mrs. Townsend's deeply devotional nature, fine moral character, innate optimism, and abiding love for the little Egos who were dependent upon her, enabled her to maintain a happy, though fatherless, home. It is obvious that the children were from the outset instilled with feelings of mutual concern and affection — feelings heightened by several severe illnesses in the family and by the fact that her son was a partial spastic who required special attention. The ability of the oldest child at a tender age to care for siblings only one and two years her junior is particularly noteworthy.

The children's religious training, too, was begun early. Mrs. Townsend, in addition to her myriad domestic and school duties, also served as church organist.

Many people would consider Mrs. Townsend's responsibility to her own five youngsters more than enough for one person to handle. In addition, however, she took very seriously her responsibility to her students. She says almost nothing of the hours outside of school which must have been spent in lesson preparation. She does speak of her relationships with some of the students, including one recalcitrant youth, considered hopeless by almost everyone else

in town, who eventually responded to her patient and painstaking efforts to "reach" him.

As the book ends, the author is about to remarry after six years of widowhood. The reader shares her joy, as well as relief that the "hard times" are over. Certainly she has had a full share of tribulation. The enlightened and positive way in which she solved her problems and met her obligations during those trying years, however, has earned for her a remarkable degree of soul growth which will accrue to her everlasting advantage.

* * *

THE ANGELIC AND ARCHANGELIC LIFE WAVES

(Continued from page 540)

which is then placed in the mother's womb and gradually clothed with physical matter which then forms the visible body of the new-born child.

When the Ego, then, is about to enter the mother's womb, the Recording Angels again present to it the panorama of the coming life which it has chosen to live, in order to give it the tendencies required to work out the ripe causation due to be liquidated in that life.

After the Spirit has lived a particular incarnation on Earth and passes out of the body at death, the panorama of its past life passes before it on three separate occasions. Every scene of the past life has been imprinted upon an atom in the left ventricle of the heart -- a permanent atom which remains in the body all through life. This atom might be called the "book" of the Recording Angel, for as the blood passes through the heart, cycle after cycle, the pictures of our good and evil deeds are described thereon in the minutest detail.

During the first three and one-half days after its release from the physical body, the Ego sees the entire life sequence in reverse order.

During his stay in Purgatory he sees only the scenes in which he did wrong and is made to feel the suffering which he inflicted on others. During his stay in the First Heaven he sees the good he has done and feels the gratitude of those he has helped. In this way, understanding of his misdeeds is built into him permanently as conscience, and the good in him is strengthened that he may be of even greater service in subsequent incarnations.

Finally, the Recording Angels have given the various religions to each group of humanity as needed. Their wonderful prevision enables them to view the trend of even so unstable a quantity as the human mind, and thus they are enabled to determine what steps are necessary to lead our enfoldment along the lines congruous to the highest universal good. Thus Hinduism is suited to the Hindu, Mohammedanism to the Arab, and the Christian religion to those born in the Western hemisphere.

* * *

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Readers' QUESTIONS

The Immaculate Conception

Question:

If Jesus had a father on earth, how do you account for verses 26-31 in the first Chapter of St. Luke's Gospel?

Answer:

The verses referred to are as follows:

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth.

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.

And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

These verses refer to the mystery of The Immaculate Conception. The commonly accepted explanation of this doctrine is that "about two thousand years ago God in a miraculous manner fertilized a certain Mary who was a virgin, and as the result she gave birth to Jesus, an individual who in consequence was the Son of God in a sense different from all other men."

The occult explanation of this doctrine, as given in the Rosicrucian Philosophy, is that Jesus, a human being, was born of an immaculate conception to parents of such a high degree of spiritual development that they could perform the generative act without passion. That is also what is meant by the statement in Matthew 1:18 to the effect that Mary "was found with child of the

Holy-Ghost." The Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit, the Third Aspect of the Trinity, represents the creative energy throughout Nature, and it was the misuse of this holy power by man (after being influenced by the Lucifer Spirits) that brought about "The Fall." Generative purity is one of the principal teachings of the Western Wisdom School—a goal ultimately to be reached by all humanity.

The body of Jesus was the purest to be found at that time, and was for that reason taken possession of by the Christ at the time of the Baptism and used by Him until the Crucifixion. Jesus grew up in the knowledge of his holy mission, and gladly surrendered his lower vehicles to the Christ Spirit at the Baptism. Only a pure body could have withstood the extremely high vibrations of the Christ, and even this highly evolved vehicle required the special care of the Essenes, as indicated by passages in the Bible referring to the withdrawal of Christ Jesus from His disciples.

A definite distinction should be made in regard to the identity of Jesus, the man, belonging to our human life wave; Christ Jesus, the Christ Spirit functioning in the lower vehicles of Jesus during His three years' ministry upon earth; and the Christ Spirit liberated from the bodies of Jesus and functioning as the indwelling Planetary Spirit of the earth.

For further information on this subject, we suggest that you read pages 360-364 and 374-383 of *The Cosmo-Conception*, No. 15 of the *Christianity Lectures*, Chapter 8 of *Teachings of an Initiate*, and pages 69-72 of *Ancient and Modern Initiation*. *The Cosmo-Conception*, at least, is probably in your public library.

The Trinity

Question:

I do not understand the statement made by Jesus, "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." (John 14:9.) Will you please explain what is meant?

Answer:

The Gospel by Saint John emphasizes more than the other three Gospels the Religion of the Father and the actuality of the Holy Trinity. It is to the Doctrine of the Trinity that he refers in the statement you mention.

God is One, but at the same time He is triune, embodying the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, or the Will, the Wisdom, and the Activity Principles. Each is a definite spiritual Power, but they are closely inter-related and function as a unit. Max Heindel said that: "Much ink and many goosequills have been used in latter years to defend or decry the idea of a Trinity, though that ought to be manifest to anyone who will look about him in Nature with a thoughtful mind."

Further reference to the subject may be found in *Gleanings of a Mystic*, pages 167-169, and in *Freemasonry and Catholicism*, pages 7-8.

Occult View of the Effect of Mining

Question:

What is the occult view of all the mining, drilling, etc., to which man subjects the earth, and also the extensive use of concrete?

Answer:

"It might be supposed that mining operations would be very painful to the Earth, but the reverse is the case. Every disintegration of the hard crust causes a sensation of relief and every solidification is a source of pain. Where a mountain torrent washes away the soil and carries it toward the plains, the earth feels freer. Where the disintegrated matter is again deposited, as in a bar outside the mouth of a great river, there is a corresponding sense of uneasiness.

"As sensation in animals and men is due to their separate vital bodies, so the feeling of the Earth is particularly active in this sixth stratum, which corresponds to the World of Life Spirit. To understand the pleasure felt when mining operations are disintegrating the hard rock, and the pain when deposits gather, we must remember that the Earth is the dense body of a Great Spirit, and to furnish us with an environment in which we could live and gather experience, it had to crystallize this body into its present solid condition.

"As evolution proceeds, however, and man learns the lessons pertaining to this acme of concretion, then Earth will become softer and its spirit more and more liberated. This is what Paul meant when he spoke of the whole creation groaning and travailing, waiting for the day of liberation."

The above three paragraphs are found in the *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* beginning on page 505. From this we would presume that the extensive use of concrete is not desirable from the occult point of view.





Achieving Natural Sleep

DIANA DUPRE

The May, 1974, edition of *National Health Federation Bulletin* contains two significant articles about sleep. One, "Sleep...Do We Really Need It?" by Jay Patrick, stresses the essential nature of sleep for physical and mental restoration.

Sleep is an integral part of the circadian, or body, rhythm -- the cyclic periods of waxing and waning energy -- under which optimum health is maintained. A regular pattern of seven to eight hours sleep in every 24 enhances the "24-hour rhythm that can help keep man's whole mechanism functioning smoothly and effectively."

Although physical scientists do not know *how* bodily regeneration takes place during sleep, they do know that it does occur. Says Mr. Patrick:

"...as part of the circadian rhythm, at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. the adrenal glands re-start the production of some 43 different hormones. It is at this time, as the body is readjusting, that most of the babies are born and most heart attacks occur.

"The adrenals are the largest storage point for ascorbic acid, which they can bum up at the rate of several grams per minute under high stress, says Dr. Fred R. Klenner....

"Since standard vitamin C tablets are up to 90% lost from the body

within a few hours after ingestion (Dr. E. Charaskin), one wonders if the adrenals always have enough ascorbic acid when they resume their activity at about 3:00 or 4:00 a.m.

"They then start, in 20-minute spurts, to furnish the powerful hormones necessary for the action of the coming day. This may be another way in which timed release vitamins can be effective, supplying the adrenals and other organs with what they need when they need it....

"Insomnia appears to result from a biochemical imbalance in the body such as is often brought on by excitement. This excitement may be due to the tensions of the day, to good news as well as bad...."

From the purely physical point of view, this is indeed what happens. After the body has been "somehow" restored in sleep, renewed energizing activity begins before the individual awakes, that he may be ready to resume the work of the day. The occult scientist, however, knows that man has four vehicles rather than just the dense body, and that all of these are brought into play during sleep.

Sleep, contrary to common belief, is a time of intense activity. The Ego takes the mind and desire body into the Desire World, leaving the dense and vital bodies behind. As the harmonious vibrations of the De-

sire World flow through the mind and desire body, the rhythm and harmony of these vehicles are gradually restored. The higher vehicles steep themselves in the desire essence and, when fully strengthened, commence work on the vital body. Then the vital body, using solar energy, removes the poisons accumulated during the day from the dense body and rebuilds it, with the result that the body is fresh and vigorous in the morning when the Ego re-enters at the time of waking. If this activity did not take place, we would feel just as fatigued upon waking up as we did when we retired, and our physical bodies would soon be of no use to us.

It is also true that insomnia occurs when there is a chemical imbalance in the body, but, again, there is more than merely the physical side to consider. Both wakefulness and sleep that is not restful can be traced ultimately to the negative nature of the Ego's attitude and conduct during the day.

The restorative activity of sleep takes place easily and successfully when the Ego has behaved in a clean, wholesome, conscientious manner during the day. If he obeyed natural law and the dictates of common sense in caring for his physical body, if his thoughts were loving and kindly, and his deeds helpful and altruistic, and if he was able to maintain a degree of equipoise within himself, the higher vehicles, quickly renewed, will be able adequately to do their work upon the vital body which, in turn, will have little trouble in revitalizing the physical body.

If, however, the Ego has indulged in riotous living and unwise dissipation, or if he harbored emotions such as fear, anger, resentment, and hate, the disharmony in all his vehicles is so great that insomnia is likely and, even if sleep occurs, restoration cannot always be complete. If the individual has fallen prey to

lower emotions, it takes much longer to return the mental and desire vehicles to a state in which they are fit to work on the vital body; thus, work on the physical body is also delayed and may be unfinished in the morning. Even if the aberrations were purely physical, the four vehicles are so closely interrelated that what affects one affects all, and restoration is impeded.

Certainly a balanced diet is essential to restorative sleep, as it is to all phases of good health -- although, as we know, diet alone is not sufficient to insure the well-being of any or all of man's four vehicles. No matter how selfless and otherwise pure a life a person may lead, if he eats unwisely he will have to divert some of his energy to overcoming physical infirmities with which he would not have been burdened if he had eaten properly.

As Mr. Patrick points out: "...he whose body is well supplied with the full assortment of the nutrients (total body chemistry) required is less likely to suffer from the biochemical imbalance that is insomnia." He cites an instance in which a group of patients who received vitamin C supplements slept better than did another group which did not get extra C. He also mentions a doctor who required only six hours of sleep nightly after taking niacin. The doctor believes that "this may be partly because niacin imparts a negative charge to the red blood cells...This electrical charge breaks up the clumps of red cells, dispersing the cells widely throughout the blood. This dispersion opens up so much more of the cells' surface area that their ability to carry oxygen and other body nutrients is greatly increased".

The second article, "Sleep Made to Order," discusses a device which promotes sound natural sleep through the utilization of sound and light signals. This instrument, developed

in the U.S.S.R. Academy of Medical Sciences, is described as follows:

"The basic idea of the technique is to make a person go to sleep as early as possible. To make a patient sleep, it is enough to have one or two sources of influence, for instance, sound or light. A broken sound signal, like the falling of rain drops or winking light, produces fatigue, helps to relax the muscles, and as a result the patient drops off to sleep. The sound and light signals are provided by the rhythm-sleep device which is not bigger than a telephone set and is still at the experimental stage. The sound is emitted by a miniature amplifier, and the light by two small light filter cells.

"The parameters of the sound and light signals change during the entire treatment, depending on the state of the patient, defined by the action potentials of the brain and the muscles, the motion of the eyes, the frequency of respiration and the pulse beat. When sleep becomes deeper, the fluctuations of action potentials grow, and their frequency falls. The muscles become slacker, their action potential activity falls, the respiration and the pulse beat becomes slower, and so does the motion of the eyes.

"All the changes in the physiological indices are registered, and the volume of sound, the brightness of light signals and their frequency are regulated under reverse communications principle.

"Simultaneously, depending on the patient's condition, hues are being changed from light blue and violet to dark green....

"The rhythmical factor of the instrument's influence on man is adapted to the vital rhythms of his organism, and its lengthy use helps to rearrange the rhythms of the organism, and to minimize them. That is why repeated daily treatments enhance the improvement of night sleep. A person suffering

from insomnia can improve his night sleep by using the instrument both by day and night.

"The investigations of the Soviet scientists...have shown that rhythm-sleep is effective also in the treatment of such diseases as hypertension, all kinds of neuroses, ulcers, and stuttering. The instrument is also useful for healthy people, it helps them to calm down, and to remove fatigue."

This article, taken from Novosti Press Agency, stresses that the sleep-inducing device is harmless -- therefore, we assume, non-addictive. If it does promote natural sleep and if, after a period of use, the individual is no longer dependent upon it but can continue to sleep well on his own accord, then it seemingly could serve a valuable therapeutic purpose.

We cannot stress too often, however, that purely physical nostrums, although they may give temporary help, are not enough. Continuing natural sleep which is truly restful and restorative can be assured only if each day is lived in accordance with the principles of natural law. For purposes of sleep, as for purposes of evolution itself, we must make every effort to "live the life" -- moderate, pure, dedicated, and compassionate -- to the very best of our abilities.





Release of the Healing Balm

“Christ is an embodiment of the Wisdom Principle, and in proportion as the Christ is formed in us we attain to health.”

As microcosmic cells in the great macrocosmic body of God, we human beings have inherent within us the Love-Wisdom Principle, or the Christ Principle, and upon its unfoldment, by constant effort toward purity, helpfulness, and selflessness, depends our own health. Therefore, if we aspire to permanent well-being for ourselves, or to service as a co-worker in the blessed healing work of the Christ, we must learn to love as compassionately as He loved.

This requires a consecrated life in which the personal prejudices and passions are gradually sacrificed on the altar of aspiration. As these tentacles of the lower self are loosened and eradicated, there comes a feeling of unity toward all that lives, and this opens the way for radiating the healing power of love. The purer the channel, and the stronger the will, the greater the volume of love that may be liberated and sent forth to harmonize and heal.

Slowly but surely the world is learning that sacrifice and unselfish love are two of the most potent medicines the world has known. Every day there are new recruits for the shining band whose chief aim is to

send healing balm to suffering humanity.

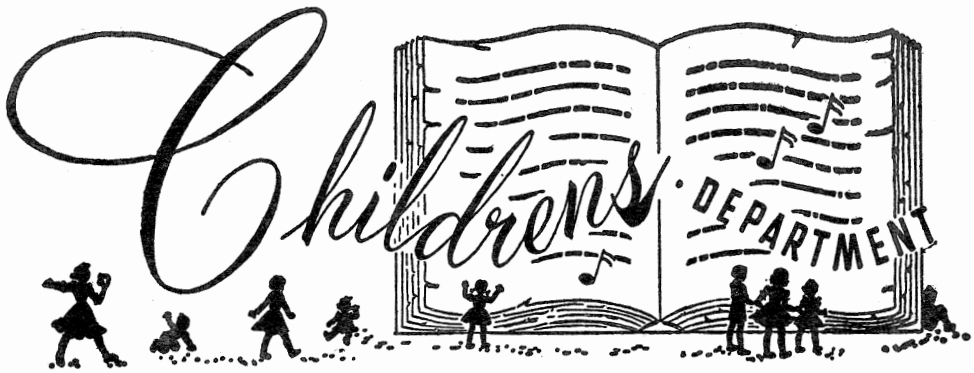
At this Holy Christmas Season the Earth is laved in His Light and Love. Ours is the blessed opportunity of lifting our hearts anew to Him and becoming better co-workers with Him in releasing His healing balm to the world.

* * *

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:

December... 1 -- 7 -- 14 -- 22 -- 28

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



Christmas in the Mouse Hole

Dagmar Frahme

For days, the Mouse children had watched all the human goings-on with amazement. Once they got so excited they forgot to stay hidden and Mother Mouse had to pull them back inside their hole by their tails.

"Ouch!" yelled Melissa Mouse. "That hurt!"

"It would hurt a lot more if one of those humans caught you," said Mother. "Now peek around the corner, if you must watch, or come back into the woodwork where you belong."

"Aw, Mom," protested Monroe Mouse, "we want to see what's going on."

"What you can see from right here you'll see, and the rest you'll have to do without seeing," said Mother. "What's going on is simply that they're getting ready for Christmas. They do that every year."

"But how come they put a tree in the living room? And how come they wrap up so much stuff and tell each other not to look in the closet? We could get in the closet. One of our doors goes in there but all of a sudden you won't let us use it. How come?" asked Monroe, who never seemed to use the word "why."

Mother patiently explained about

Christmas trees and presents. She said that the closet was especially dangerous for mice at this time of year because, even if humans promised each other not to go in there to look for presents, they went in there all the time to *hide* presents.

"There's that yummy smell from the kitchen again," interrupted Melissa. "Maybe we could sneak in there tonight and see if whatever it is tastes as good as it smells."

"Nothing doing," said Mother. "They're baking Christmas cookies. You'd have frightful stomach aches if you started nibbling them. You children stick to cheese."

"Aw, Mom," Monroe began again, but got no farther.

"Don't 'aw, Mom' me, young man," said Mother. "Stay out of that kitchen. Maybe after the humans have their Christmas dinner your father can get some cookie crumbs from the dining room floor. There are usually plenty around then, and they would make a nice treat for us. But until then, no sweets! Now I have work to do. You two behave."

Mother Mouse looked them up and down. She was not quite sure, with good reason, that they *would* behave.

Then she sighed, shook her head, and hurried away.

"I've got an idea," whispered Monroe when Mother was out of sight. "The humans are so busy they won't see us. We can sneak into the kitchen and hide under the table. Nobody will know we're there and when they leave we can find what they're baking and eat all we want."

Melissa, more timid than Monroe, hesitated. "Do you think it's safe?"

"Sure it's safe. The humans haven't looked at the floor for days. They'll never see us." Monroe sounded confident.

"O.K." said Melissa, still doubtful. "Lead the way."

Monroe made sure that the coast was clear, and hurried along the wall toward the kitchen door. Melissa followed so closely that she stepped on his tail.

"Ow!" he squeaked. "Watch where you're going!"

"Sorry," whispered Melissa, looking around fearfully to see if anyone noticed them. There were several humans nearby, but no one saw the little mice.

Monroe stopped at the kitchen door. Two pairs of human feet stood near the table.

"We're going to have to run between them," whispered Monroe. "When I say 'now' follow me!"

"But they'll see us," protested Melissa, crouching against the wall.

"They won't see us if we hurry. You don't want to be a sissy and back out, do you?"

"No," squeaked Melissa softly, although she really *did* want to back out.

"O.K. then. Get ready -- now!"

Monroe raced across the floor, scurried between two feet, and went far under the table. Melissa, right behind him, barely managed to pull her tail out of the way as one of the feet moved and almost stepped on it.

"Whew, that was close," she whis-

pered, leaning against Monroe, her heart pounding.

"We made it," said Monroe. "Now we just have to wait till they go. Did you see that plate of cookies on the table?"

"All I saw was FEET," said Melissa, shivering.

"Well, calm down. You'll see the cookies soon enough. We're going to have a feast," promised Monroe.

So the two little mice crouched under the table, waiting. The feet moved back and forth, and human voices talked about measuring sugar, sifting flour, and chopping nuts. Once a nut fell off the table and rolled toward them.

Monroe and Melissa watched, terrified, as two of the feet moved and the knees above them started to bend.

"Let it be for now," said a voice. "I'll get it later when I scrub the floor."

The little mice sighed with relief as the knees straightened up again and the feet moved back to where they had been.

Finally, after much running of water and clattering of dishes, a voice said, "There, that's the last batch. Just in time to meet Grandma's plane, too. We'd better hurry."

With that, two pairs of feet walked away, and the little mice were alone.

"Hear that?" asked Monroe. "They're going out. We've got it all to ourselves. C'mon."

He scurried up a leg of a near-by chair and jumped onto the table. He caught his balance, and stared. Never in his wildest dreams had he imagined such a banquet. All around him were plates of cookies. Plain cookies and fancy cookies, cookies that looked like Christmas trees and lions and angels, cookies full of raisins and nuts, and cookies covered with green and red icing.

"Wow!" he whispered. Then he looked down at Melissa. "Come on up. There's enough here for a hun-

dred mice. You're wasting time."

He took a bite out of a lion with a red mane, and looked down again at Melissa, his whiskers covered with icing. "You don't know what you're missing," he said.

Melissa, still not sure it was safe, finally joined Monroe. She looked all around, her eyes wide with wonder. "Start eating," urged Monroe. "You can look while you eat."

So they both ate and looked, and looked and ate. Never had they seen anything so wonderful! Never had they tasted anything so good! Melissa even forgot to be scared. It was so quiet that all you could hear was the sound of little mice teeth crunching cookies.

Then the back door burst open, and two human children hurled themselves into the kitchen.

"Wow! Look at the cookies!" shouted the boy, whose name was Joey.

"And look at the MICE!" shouted the girl, whose name was Jenny.

Melissa and Monroe froze in horror. There was no place on the table to hide. The children came closer and looked down at them.

"They're kind of cute," said Joey.

"Yes," said Jenny, "but they sure ate a lot of cookies. Look at the crumbs. If we tell Mom about them she'll put out mouse traps, and if we don't she'll think *we* ate the cookies."

"Oh, brother!" said Joey. "I don't want her to put out mouse traps, but Christmas is no time for *us* to get in trouble. What are we going to do?"

"I don't know," said Jenny, "but the mice had better go home while they can. Mom will be back soon."

Melissa and Monroe stared at the children. Were't they going to catch them and put them in a cage, or worse? Children liked to catch animals, they had heard.

"Go on," said Jenny, as if she could read their thoughts. "We won't hurt you. But it wouldn't be a good

idea for Mom to see you -- not after you ate those cookies."

With that, Monroe came to life. He twitched his tail and his whiskers and said to Melissa, "I think they mean it. They won't hurt us. Let's go. It's our only chance."

He took a deep breath, jumped off the table, and scurried across the room, through the door, along the wall, and safely into the mouse hole.

But Melissa, still scared stiff, couldn't move. She watched Monroe jump off the table, and saw nothing more after that.

"Poor little mouse," said Jenny. "What are we going to do with her? We've got to get her out of here."

"I saw where the other mouse went," said Joey. "There's a little hole in the woodwork that Dad doesn't know about. If we put her in front of it, maybe she'll go on in."

"Good idea," said Jenny, picking up Melissa as gently as she could. "Show me where it is."

Jenny carried Melissa, who hardly knew what was happening, into the dining room, and put her on the floor in front of the hole. Monroe, who had thought that Melissa was behind him all the time, had been very upset when he found that she wasn't. He was peering out of the hole, wondering what to do, when Jenny set Melissa down.

"Come on in," he whispered.

"Don't stay out there."

Melissa opened one eye, and could hardly believe that she was in front of her own door. She had barely enough strength to crawl inside, and collapse.

On Christmas morning, neither Melissa nor Monroe felt the least bit Christmassy. Mother Mouse, who had known all along what was going on in the kitchen, had been relieved to have them safely home. But she had given them a scolding they would long remember.

Father Mouse had spanked them both. Then he had talked to them sternly about the danger the whole Mouse family was in because the children's mother would probably set her mouse traps.

Besides that, of course, they had both had awful stomach aches, and Mother and Father had not been at all sympathetic.

So on Christmas morning, although their parents had stopped scolding them and their stomach aches were gone, Melissa and Monroe were very unhappy and very quiet. They moped around with long faces, and didn't touch their breakfasts.

When Father Mouse called from the mouse hole entrance, "Come here, you two. I have something to show you," they didn't want to go. But they knew they'd better obey Father, so they went.

"Look out there," said Father.

They looked, and suddenly they weren't unhappy any more.

Right outside the mouse hole, someone had put a little pine branch into a vase. On the branch were tied a string of popcorn, a few red cinnamon candies, a few nuts, and at the very top a cookie shaped like a star. Several hunks of cheese, a gingerbread man, and a piece of paper with writing on it, had been placed on the floor.

"A Christmas tree! And presents!" exclaimed Monroe.

"For us?" whispered Melissa.

"For us," said Father. "Better read the note."

Monroe studied the writing on the paper, then slowly read out loud: "Dear Mice, Mom says she will not use mouse traps this time, but please stay off the kitchen table from now on. If you find crumbs and things on the floor you can have them. Merry Christmas, Jenny and Joey."

"No mouse traps!" exclaimed Melissa.

"And we can have crumbs and

things on the floor. That must mean we can look for them," said Monroe.

"Just the same, you'd better let me do the looking," warned Father.

"What a wonderful Christmas it is, after all," said Melissa. "Humans really can be nice."

"And mice can be nice too, can't they?" asked Monroe, looking worried.

Father laughed. "Yes indeed. Humans can be nice, and mice can be nice. And one of the most wonderful things about Christmas is that everyone gets to know just how nice everyone else can really be."

Christmas

Greetings



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