

## The Christian Mysteries – III

T068 The Inner Teachings 19th January 1938 Pembroke Hall, London

### Invocation:

According to our capacity, with all sincerity we would give love and wisdom to Thee, O gracious Spirit, Lord of all Hosts, King of Kings, Thou who art the glory and the life—all-perfection, ever-evolving being. All love and wisdom we aspire to become. So may each soul in this gathering look up and receive the blessing of truth and peace from the centre of all life.

Amen.

The time has now come for man to develop a sixth sense, which we call intuition. Man\* has concentrated long upon the stimulation and development of intellect. This sixth sense, or ray of light, is destined to open for him the secrets of nature, of creation, and all spiritual life and purpose. We ourselves work especially on this ray of intuition—the love-wisdom ray. And so when you and we and the company of spiritual brethren meet together in this little sanctuary, we meet in love, desiring one of the most precious gifts of life—wisdom, through love.

*[\*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction.]*

With the gaining of wisdom and understanding through love, we come into the full power of our creation, our God-hood. Let this be our keynote, then, during the coming weeks, and also may we strike it afresh at each successive meeting while this work continues: love–wisdom, since only by attuning ourselves to this vibration shall we absorb the inner wisdom of the mystery schools of all ages. Many approach the mysteries through intellectual striving and gain much knowledge; they read facts and interpret symbols, but even they meet that shining mystery which they have to learn to read—with wisdom.

Many there are in this little community who secretly regret their lack of mental training and intellectual attainment (or what the world calls ‘education’); yet these same have within them aspiration, intuition. To them we say: regret nothing, beloved; if the powers that be, the great Lords of Karma, had seen fit to place you in conditions of life which would have brought intellectual attainments and a comprehensive education, you would have been so placed. Many there are on earth at present who in past lives have stored within them all that education and intellect could bestow. During this incarnation their development lies along the love–wisdom or intuitional path, thus leaving the physical brain unclouded in order that the wisdom stored within the soul shall register, or be reflected, upon the outer consciousness. Regret nothing. Accept the conditions of life as they present themselves with a thankful heart, knowing them as necessary for you at the present time.

We spoke at our last meeting on the mysteries, the great mysteries hinted at, hidden or enshrined in the legends or folk tales of Britain, including those of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and the secret or mystical brotherhood which tradition tells us was established at Glastonbury. Tonight we consider the esoteric aspect of this story, and if there be repetition, bear with this patiently, remembering there are some present who were not here before and need a link to help them to follow the story intelligently.

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King Arthur, the legends tell, dwelt in the West Country and gathered around him a number of knights—twelve, some say, others twenty-four. They were a brotherhood of chivalry and loyalty and courage, and met around a certain ‘round table’. This again needs interpretation: the table was divided into twelve segments. Of each segment, half was black and half white. Before each a knight sat in the gathering of the brotherhood, and thus was symbolised not only the dual nature of man, his good and evil, but the duality of the universe as a whole. And doubtless the twelve segments bore reference to the twelve signs of the zodiac. Let us see how this corresponds with the story of the Christos, Christ. This legend of King Arthur is of course but another presentation of the ancient Sun worship mystery, the inspiration of most of the religions of the past and not confined only to the Christian story of Christ and his twelve disciples. King Arthur chose twelve knights. Both the twelve disciples and the twelve knights can be accepted as earthly symbols of the twelve signs of the zodiac in the heavens, the twelve signs of the zodiac thus taking personification or representation on earth as twelve archetypal men, held in the mind of the Creator. The Sun was the life force, the twelve segments of the heavens the modifying influence which differentiated these twelve archetypes. The astrologer can trace throughout humanity the effect of these twelve signs, segregating men into twelve classes or types, and through each the soul evolves or passes in its long march towards the perfect, perfected man.

Another interpretation: Christ the Son, it has been said, was the divine mind sent to earth to bridge the gulf for humanity between earth and heaven. He offered himself as saviour to man, from which conception originated the Christian teaching that Jesus Christ is the sole saviour of man. This conception is modified by esoteric Christianity, which understands that Christ—Christos—is the divine mind, sent forth from the heart of the Father—the divine mind, the ‘body’ of the Lord, was broken and partaken of by the twelve ‘disciples’—the twelve archetypal men—at the ceremony known as the Last Supper. Put aside for the moment your conception of that upper room in Jerusalem and the outer ceremony of the Last Supper, and interpret this Christian mystery as an inner soul experience, of which all mankind must partake. Indeed, man must have eaten of this divine mind or else he had not been brought to life! Is this difficult to believe? Yes, when we gaze with wonder and non-understanding upon some brethren; yet we ourselves shall yet see, as we evolve, that each and every man has participated in that sacrament of receiving the ‘bread’ of life bestowed in the form of the divine mind, the divine spark: Christ within.

This mystical story has been established by initiates throughout the ages but told only to those ready to listen and understand. Periodically, as always happens, the narrators withdraw, the truth-teachers or masters have been forced to withdraw from the world into the unseen. The seed sown was left to work in the earth. Perhaps Christ had this in mind when he told the story of the sower, of how some seed fell on stony ground, withered and died; some on fertile soil and it grew; some only flourished for a little while and then died. Man could not sustain the beauty of the seed which was sown within him; there was not sufficient strength, nor depth, in his soul.

This Christian story, together with the Christian teaching, was brought to Britain by the chosen one, a disciple of this early Christian brotherhood. An initiate of the mysteries knew

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of his coming and awaited it. We find him named and preceding the history of King Arthur, as one Merlin, an initiate of the Ancient Wisdom. The very story of his birth, as related by legend, reveals him to be an initiate, a birth-child of the fire of kundalini. He is said to have been born of the union of a virgin mother and of a father supposed to be of the underworld, of the nature spirits. Those of us who understand the mysteries and the potentialities of creation sealed within the human body, see here indicated the mystical marriage—the redemption and arising of the baser creative powers and their commingling with love and wisdom, producing the initiate: one who is initiated into the mysteries of Egypt, the master of all the lower life.

Let us turn to the mystery school said to be established by King Arthur and his knights. This was the forming of the Rosicrucian masonic brotherhood in this country. Merlin, the initiate, the wise one, the mage, learnt by the secret ways—which the brethren of the mysteries use even to this day—that one would come from the East as the messenger, to establish in this country this brotherhood of the Christian mysteries. With eager anticipation Merlin awaited the coming of one sometimes referred to as Joseph of Arimathea, sometimes as Nicodemus. A name little matters! The voyager journeyed from the East to bring the light and to establish the mystical brotherhood of Christ in this country. Coincident with the arrival of the messenger in Britain, others came to found brotherhoods in France, in Germany and other countries, each destined someday to play its part in the great drama, the preparation for the Golden Age.

Man's conception of time overburdens him, five hundred or even a thousand years seems an eternity, but it is nothing, a day only! Look within yourself and realise that it takes a lifetime—perhaps many lifetimes—to eradicate a trivial weakness, to bring into your soul and into your being strength needed to assist in the great plan of salvation for this earth planet. How long it takes to learn a lesson, how many times you must go through the same experience! Even simple rules of health you break again and again, and go on breaking them; if this be so, how long will it take for the spiritual truths to grow and mature in humanity?

The brotherhood established by one called King Arthur was of high degree, like another in France—the Order of the Albigenses, the 'white' gentle-men. Yet again the teaching was re-stated and re-established in Germany under the name of 'Rosicrucian', but each was the repository of the Rosicrucian teaching, the secret rites and rituals known to the true brothers of the Rosicrucian Order only.

If we refer to the thirty-third degree\*, there are those here who will understand. This degree has been handed down since the beginning—the secret bequeathed to earth men by the gods of wisdom when the human cycle commenced. God has never left Himself without a witness. These same secrets have been sought in the past (are still sought) by those who desired power for selfish ends; the pure brethren who held those secrets were persecuted and driven out into the secret places of the earth. Then came a time when those who had gained a little knowledge established what can be described as false schools of the mysteries, and there resulted a great deal of suffering and darkness.

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*[\*The highest level of initiation in freemasonry. White Eagle refers to masonry as a form of universal truth or teaching, with no specific reference to the freemasonry of today.]*

It is an absolute necessity for all aspirants to truth to follow the light within their own hearts and not be misled by teachings from this, that, or some other teacher. Remember: within is the true light which will lead you at last to the great Temple of the Holy Grail. During the search for the Holy Grail there must take place, within, that union between wisdom and power, the consummation of which is that mystical marriage within man's own being. When this degree is attained (or the Holy Grail is found) it bestows upon the candidate kingship, leadership, mastership. Thus the degree known as the three by three: the three multiplied by three—nine, the perfected state, the thirty-third degree.

In masonic schools now in vogue many find entrance, and if diligent can work up to what is called the thirty-third degree, but unless the soul of the candidate has reached attainment the ceremony may mean nothing. All depends upon the soul qualities and wisdom within the heart of the aspirant. This degree is only attainable when the aspirant has found the Temple of the Holy Grail—which means when the soul has attained mastery over all the lower desires and demands of the earth. Not necessarily must man be a recluse. There are those now mingling with humanity, living healthful and beautiful lives, who have entered, who are initiated into, the Holy Place. Such men are natural and simple, their souls ever aspiring to become love and wisdom in every dealing with humanity. With such men the greatest soul is ever the simplest and the gentlest, the wisest speaks little and tells nothing of who, or what, he is.

The thirty-third degree, then, is conferred upon those ready to be leaders. He known by legend as King Arthur achieved this degree and was thereby raised up and made a leader, a chief. Much confusion exists between Arthur—the leader of the brotherhood, the Rosicrucian brotherhood—and one known as 'King Arthur' who reigned and was killed in battle, and whose mortal remains are said to rest beneath the holy ground of Glastonbury. With the passage of years truth can become obscured; there is a curtain pulled down by the wise ones. The preliminary work was done; circles or sanctified places of power had been established. The wise ones watch from afar the radiation of the power of each place, now affecting the lives of millions of younger brothers drawn thither, either physically or in thought, because of reading and study. At such centres there is power concentrated which radiates and permeates into human life, human understanding.

The sword Excalibur which Arthur received from the waters, from the Lady of the Lake—water, the soul element—was, when the cycle was complete, cast back into the waters. This again symbolises that period or episode when the completed or perfected man must render up once more to God all that he has and is, an episode dealt with by St John in the Revelation, when all shall be gathered into the heart of the Father, and the sword of the spirit returned again from man to God.\*

*[\*Revelation chs. 21 & 22]*

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And so beloved, we leave you with a blessing. Simple words: ‘Ask, and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find’; knock on the door of the temple of spiritual life and it shall open. Day by day, there is a way open for you to travel; there is support and strength on either side of you leading you upward. Be of good heart! God is all love.

### Benediction:

Not in the words spoken, but in the contact we make with the soul of each present is the work accomplished. Still the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. We raise you in spirit to receive the baptism of the love-wisdom ray. To the eternal God, silently, in our hearts let us give thanks. And may our thanks be expressed in joyous living, caring for the needs of every soul we encounter; the needs not necessarily of the body, but of the soul.

Amen.

*The search matches with either words and phrases, which appear in the text, or the following ‘key’ words and phrases, which are similar in meaning to those in the document:*

*Opportunity, Arthurian legend, Arthurian, Holy Communion, Cathars*

