

The Esoteric Significance of the Immaculate Conception

T024 The Inner Teachings 14th October 1936 Pembroke Hall, London

Invocation:

To the Beloved, to the Infinite, to the Most High—we pray that His light may illumine our minds, that His love may fire our hearts. And with the incoming may we continue to learn from the inner wisdom. In simplicity we pray that nature in all its beauty shall convey to our waiting hearts some of the inner mystery of life. May our daily contact with the beloved friends and brethren of earth bring to them and to us greater love; and so may this great family work for the coming of the Universal Brotherhood, the Great White Brotherhood in the outer manifestation of life, so that all God's family understand the meaning of life, love and peace.

Amen.

We greet you dear ones, and ask that you will not hold too closely to the old presentation of the Immaculate Conception; that you will give your hearts to the angels of wisdom who come, these great ones, to inspire you with understanding. Give them the entry by keeping in abeyance the lower mental body and opening wide your hearts to love, to the inner wisdom of the spirit.

Men* have sought for two thousand years for an explanation of the Immaculate Conception, and there are many schools of thought which would explain this wonderful happening in their own way. We offer you a few thoughts. You may, by following the path of intuition, be led, but we pray you to remember that cosmic mysteries must remain inexplicable to the intellect. It is only when the light of the divine spirit of the pure love-wisdom ray enters that man can glimpse these mysteries, and it is not yet possible for you to comprehend entirely. This we ask, do not reject thoughts which come but store them for future consideration.

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

We deal with the simple story of the birth of Jesus. Has it been definitely stated in any of the Gospels that Jesus was born in any extraordinary way? True it is that we are told of Mary the mother, who said the angel visited her and told her that she would conceive a son by the Holy Ghost—the Holy Ghost, according to our understanding, being the spirit of wisdom which can dwell within physical form.

Through this visitation she would conceive and bear a son. Since time immemorial there was expectation of a saviour, the Christ. Students know that a like story has arisen in other lands and other religions apart from the Christian. In the beginning, in early creation, there was a promise of one who would bring light and turn humanity on the upward arc again towards God, the Perfect One. But in the present day, the inner meaning, the true meaning of this coming of the Son was misunderstood and the material or human aspects always presented. Thus the true spiritual or esoteric meaning became more and more obscure.

But we would remind you that in the heaven world, in the great Council Chamber of Light, the event was prepared for; Jesus of Nazareth was the vehicle chosen for the incoming of the Light of the Son—the Light destined to save humanity. It was necessary for the body or

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vehicle of Jesus of Nazareth to be as pure as possible, for the desire body to be absolutely pure and freed from the lower nature. This is practically unknown in humanity; before the Son could manifest on the physical plane, it was necessary to have a perfect and pure desire body, as well as a physical body of high and pure vibration. Christ, the Lord, could not descend, could not inhabit a physical body, nor yet the desire body; the lowest body in which He could manifest is the vital, or body of Light. So Jesus the Master, having been prepared for his great mission, was born into the body of flesh which was of necessity pure and holy. The purity of this desire body is most important in this Immaculate Conception.

Is it possible, thinking and clever people ask, for conception to take place other than through the usual channels? The wise man will not reject the possibility, remembering the so-called miracles of Christ Jesus and also the resurrection of the vital body, and the ascension. Again, thinking people will ask—if God brought man to procreate and it is His Law, where lies the sin? For according to orthodoxy, children are conceived in sin! Remember that the orthodox Church contains in its teachings wonderful mystical truth. There are advanced souls in the orthodox Church who have vision and understanding and recognise the esoteric implications, but cannot or will not as yet reveal them to the world. The time comes however when mystical truth will be given forth simply because humanity will become so attuned and purified as to understand and recognise spiritual truth. Joseph is referred to as the father of Jesus in the four Gospels; his line of ancestry is traced back to David, so in those days men believed that Joseph and Mary were the parents of Jesus.

Referring again to the desire body, let us bear in mind the important part it played in the conception of Jesus. Mary belonged to what you would perhaps call a monastery or brotherhood; Joseph too was a member of the White Brotherhood of which you are beginning to learn, though you are on the fringe as yet of this great brotherhood of the spirit. In those days there was a White Brotherhood—the same brotherhood in spirit as you form today. Of this Joseph was—shall I say—an ‘elder’, a pure and highly evolved soul, an initiate. Mary, the mother, was one of those pure sisters who have certain work allotted to them by the Brotherhood. Both were pure in body and in desire and it was their mission to be guardians—I use that word purposely—guardians of Jesus the Master.

I trust there will be no misunderstanding of our words; the Holy Ghost, the Inner Wisdom, is the wisdom of the spirit which raises the desire body and the physical body to a plane of power and beauty. This inner wisdom raised the vibrations of the two chosen for their holy office, and in the conception of the Master Jesus, no vibrations of desire, nor thought of self marred this holy consummation of God’s will.

So much for the outer story of the birth of the Master Jesus. Let us go deeper. In the beginning, at that period which you call the creation of the world, there shone a wonderful light—God the Father, but only God the Father. But within Him, as part of Him—God the Mother. How can we form a picture of the glory, how can we conceive God in any form, save as a manifestation of intelligence, a manifestation of wisdom and love daily expressed through all life? Let us try to conceive the great and radiant Light which is all intelligence, all life, all power, and conjoined with Him the other aspect, the Mother.

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As above, so below; in the beginning of each religion, you will find the Three—Father, Mother, Child, the Trinity. And so in the heavens was conceived by the Immaculate Conception of Will and Wisdom, a Son who is the Love and the Light. That Son, we understand and believe, is Christ, lord and saviour of humanity. Christ was born to be the light and life of all humanity, and through his life and his light within the heart of man, to save humanity from that lower self which is called ‘sin’ and self-destruction. And the angels cried in their joy, and the heavens opened, and a great light shone upon the shepherds, the simple men who dwelt close to simple things of earth—they heard the voice, the angelic message—’Peace on earth, good will towards all men....’

The humble and the simple—they understand where great minds often fail. Oh beloved, how can we convey to your hearts the love and the beauty of that Radiant One, Christ the Lord who descended, who interpenetrated the physical and the desire bodies of the Master Jesus in order to manifest to suffering humanity?

Q. When you speak of Christ as the saviour of humanity, does that refer to the planet earth alone?

A. Yes.

Q. What of the others—Confucius, Buddha, etc?

A. Buddha was the Light of Asia—Christ, the Light of the World. There have been these great ones who have prepared the way, and they participated in the final culmination of the Light of Christ through Jesus of Nazareth. They in a sense were all masters in the same Lodge, contributing and helping, working with him who is the Grand Master.

Q. And the Christ spirit was operating through them?

A. To a degree, brother, but not to the extent that he manifested through the chosen vehicle, Jesus.

Q. Was Joseph quite unconscious of his high service?

A. When a soul is ready to be used for a high service, usually that soul is so humble and so simple that it fails to recognise itself as being chosen for any special service. They love, and in that very simplicity lies their purity. But as I said, Joseph was an initiate, so had high qualifications.

Q. Some teach us that it was the first time that Christ had manifested on this earth. Would it be that on this occasion he possessed the body of Jesus completely, and on the other occasions had only overshadowed them?

A. Yes. Think of Christ as a virgin spirit, not before incarnated on the earth plane, since he could not descend low enough to create or to bear with him his own desire and physical body.

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Do you see? In that sense he was a virgin spirit. But if you can, think of Christ as a sun, a Great Light, sending forth its rays on to the earth through those who had been prepared to receive the light of the rays of the Christ spirit, through many incarnations. But the Christ spirit had not actually descended to intermingle his vital body as he did in the case of Jesus who was the chosen vessel for that manifestation.

Q.The next world teacher—will he be so completely overshadowed?

A.I knew that question was coming! First of all, the vehicle of the next world teacher will not be like the body of Jesus, but rather a vital, or body of Light. He will not manifest again as before. That is all I am prepared to say.

Q.Would the vision of Joseph be an opening up of the higher consciousness?

A.What you would call an initiation? That is so.

Q.When you speak of the next world teacher as coming in the vital body, surely this will not be until the physical man is so purified as to be able to recognise the vital body?

A.There will be an 'elect'—there are those today who through spiritual development have an inner vision open, can walk and talk on a higher plane with the angelic ones. When the great lord comes, he will be recognised and welcomed by those who have eyes to see.

Benediction:

We raise the vibrations of mind and heart to the great spirit of Light, praying that His blessing may pour into the centre of our being, giving us courage to live worthily, taking from us the desire for selfish gain. Oh may the power of God fill our souls and Christ the Beloved use us to heal and to comfort and to bless. So may Thy will, O God, be done on earth as it is being done in the heaven worlds.

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:

Holy Spirit, Essenes, afterlife, Christianity, astral, astral body