

Festival of Christmas

T253 The Inner Teachings 10th December 1957 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

Let us pray in spirit, raising our hearts to the Eternal Spirit of all love, wisdom and power, pouring forth our thanks for life and the ever-unfolding consciousness of our beloved Father-Mother-God. Thou knowest every human cry. May Thy truth find entrance to our hearts. As we surrender to Thee, Thy blessing flows to us, Thy children.

Amen.

Most of you who are listening have heard about the Aquarian Age and about the seventh ray whose influence will be particularly felt during this Aquarian Age. Those who guide and inspire the work of this Lodge are working upon this ray in a very simple manner, because humanity at its present stage of evolution requires a simple method of learning about the mysteries of heaven. Be content, my children, to follow the simple path, step by step.

This seventh ray is recognised to be the ray of the higher psychic development, of ritual, of ceremonial, of brotherhood; in other words, this is the age for the development of inner or soul powers, but the seventh-ray work takes other forms. It is connected also with the development of physical science. People are much concerned at present about—shall we call it the 'science rush'—the competition between various countries to acquire scientific knowledge. This competition is because certain sections of humanity are thinking only of domination and superiority over their fellows, but we suggest to you that God is omnipotent. The seventh ray is guarded, protected by the Wise Ones acting under divine wisdom and power, but at the same time, in order to assist the true unfoldment of human spiritual power and the right application of science, both psychic, spiritual and material, it is necessary that man's* knowledge should be balanced by the indwelling spirit of the Lord Christ.

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

Therefore, when we repeat many, many times that his teachings are indeed the universal teachings of love, we do so because it is vitally necessary for all peoples, particularly those who are now preparing for initiation, to grow strong in love, and to be balanced through knowledge of the spiritual law which is working throughout all life. Man's enemy is arrogance. Every man thinks he knows what he wants and what is good for him. He has yet to learn the lesson which the Master Jesus not only taught but demonstrated, that of meekness and humility. Many, many times you have heard us say that first man must love God. Man's conscious unity with the Divine Spirit is the foundation of everything.

The Age of Aquarius is the age of the mind, a mental age; it is also a scientific and a spiritual age. While man is treading this difficult path, which is like a razor edge, he will come up against many difficult situations not only in his individual but also in his national life. We of the Brotherhood return to you for one purpose—in order to help you to awaken to the knowledge of spiritual life. People often ask what is meant by initiation. Initiation is an awakening of the spirit in man, and not only the awakening but a continuation of the unfoldment and development of the Christ power within man. It means an expansion of consciousness to reveal the heavenly mysteries. Before this esoteric knowledge can be

Festival of Christmas

T253 The Inner Teachings 10th December 1957 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

imparted, before man is able to use rightly those occult powers, he must be tested and tried in his faith and trust in God's love and wisdom.

The answer to the problems of every soul is to surrender to the Will of God. 'Thy Will be done, O God!' But this surrender is very difficult for those of you who are setting out upon the spiritual path, particularly when you think you know more than you can truly understand. Then you get confused with material problems in your life. This is where you are being tested. Every soul has to withstand great pressure and to be well tested. Supposing the Master called upon you to do a very important piece of work which is going to involve many souls; and supposing you had not been tested and proved? It is possible that you would break down under the stress of that work. We are telling you this in order to help you in your endeavours to follow the path of light with all its testings and disappointments.

You have heard us say that truth is a paradox, which is why we cannot dot all your 'i's and cross all your 't's for you, why we can only give you a certain amount of teaching and why you must pass your own examinations and undergo your tests alone. One thing is very sure, and this is God's love. God is ever with you and though he may veil his countenance sometimes, if you will hold fast to belief in his love and wisdom you will find that you will come through the mists into the light. Every time you are tested and stand up to your test with strength (with God's strength) you will advance. We would call these minor initiations. Initiation means an expansion of knowledge. You can listen to words but until you have passed a soul-test, you do not know, you have not acquired the true knowledge.

Now the life of Jesus, from birth to crucifixion, demonstrated to mankind this esoteric teaching. He continually stood up to tests and passed them. Do you remember the temptations in the wilderness? The wilderness of course means the worldly, the material life where everything is barren and the soul is hungry for spiritual food, where the soul is tempted by worldliness. 'Do this for me and I will give you all the wealth you can wish for,' said the lower voice. 'Cast yourself down from this pinnacle and no harm will come because the angels will bear you up.' 'Get thee behind me, Satan,' said the Lord.

Do you remember the many other tests the master underwent? In each case he rejected the temptation of the lower worldly self and so freed himself from all entanglements of the lower nature. This is what the would-be initiate must do—free himself from the chains which bind him down. However low he is reduced in material life, he will rise ever nearer to the glory of God. Whatever you are called upon to go through, if you look up to the heavenly light, to the Divine Spirit, you will never regret your faith, your confidence in the power of God not only to bring you through the wilderness but to bless you with understanding of the purpose of your sorrow or tribulation.

In the Aquarian Age you will discover that the White* Brotherhood or the Company of Heaven will manifest more and more powerfully. Even now you are realising that on certain special occasions in the year there is an outpouring of blessing from the higher worlds. This comes for instance in the springtime, when the Great Mother with all her assistants on the inner planes is working with nature to stimulate the life force, and then again at midsummer

Festival of Christmas

T253 The Inner Teachings 10th December 1957 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

(we are speaking about the northern hemisphere)—when the Christ Festival is held in the heavens. Once again comes the outpouring at the summer solstice, and then again at the autumnal equinox. Then comes the visitation of All Saints and All Souls. Lastly we come to the present time, the season of the Christ-Mass. While we are talking, all around us are radiant ones, a great company of White Brethren who draw close to bring light and power to help humanity to arise from materialism and look towards its Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

*[*Refers to light, not colour or race]*

The Festival of Christmas, in spite of all the materialism now attached to it, is taking an ever greater hold upon the earth people. Love has many levels, many degrees, from the lowest, crudest type of animal expression to the most celestial. So also are there different degrees of the Christmas spirit. You must not condemn any one of them and say it is wholly commercialised. Do not look at it in that way, but recognise that amongst humanity is an increasing desire to celebrate the Christ-Mass. Even in the most unlikely places you will find this demonstrated.

Many question the truth of this old, old story of the birth of Jesus, of the visitation of the shepherds and the wise men. Nevertheless this old Christian story contains a universal truth which you can accept in all its simplicity. It presents a profound cosmic truth, a truth which has been again and again demonstrated to humanity from the beginning—if there ever was a beginning. It always has been and always will be, this truth of divine birth in matter.

Don't let this little lower mind analyse and doubt this when you all secretly love the carols and enjoy the story of the birth in the stable. It means of course that Jesus Christ is born in very humble, lowly states. The gentle Christ is worshipped by the shepherds and the magi. The simple and the wise all worship the Christ. The shepherds signify those who have a little knowledge, who, through meditation and contemplation, behold the light in the heavens. They are the young initiates. They follow the star to the birthplace. The wise men are those who have occult knowledge of a more advanced type, but they too have learnt the lesson of humility. They come as messengers to every human soul entering upon physical life. They bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to that soul.

Students of astrology know well that every soul that incarnates does so with certain opportunities or gifts. Every soul has to learn the value of gold, both physical and spiritual. Every soul is sprinkled with the incense of wisdom. Every soul is sent into the world with potentialities, but must also taste the myrrh or bitterness as well as the joy in life. Think of the significance of this story, and remember also at Christmas time the adoration of the Divine Mother and the Christ Child in her arms.

Apart from Christmas presenting the story or picture of a human incarnation in matter, there is also the age-old story of the Divine Mother. You know that the ancients worshipped the Mother even before the Father. Throughout the ages you will find this worship. In many places there are standing stones and later temples in which the figure of the Divine Mother with the Child in her arms still remains as a proof of this. Many of you have found in your

Festival of Christmas

T253 The Inner Teachings 10th December 1957 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

meditations that you have been brought into the presence of the Great Mother, and some religions originated with her worship.

Do not some of you also feel the need for that Mother's love? Is not the world longing for such a love? Does not humanity everywhere seek the Great Mothering Spirit? We are going to suggest that not only do you long for this love but you also sometimes feel mother love towards some of your fellow creatures. While we look up for light and help, we must also look down with compassion and sympathy and understanding upon less fortunate people to whom we can always give our blessing.

In the spirit world is much rejoicing at Christmas. We want you to understand that your own loved ones can then come very close to you. Your Christmas will not depend on where you are but on what you are—and what you have of the Christmas spirit in your own heart. This can bring you into very close touch with the highest spirit world, where they well know how to worship and to celebrate. Angels are indeed singing in the heavens: 'Let there be peace on earth and goodwill.'

Christmas is verily a seventh-ray manifestation of the brotherhood of all life, which means the awakening of the vision, of the soul or psyche to the spiritual or inner worlds, to worlds of light, happiness and harmony, which is as God intended human life to be. In this life of man made perfect we see shining above the great company of brethren in the heavens the blazing Christ Star, the symbol of the Christ man. The spiritual power descending into man is symbolised by the triangle with the point coming down and perfectly interpenetrating and balancing his nature. Man is made perfect by the Christ birth, the greatest thing that can ever happen on this planet. You will see this becoming ever clearer with the progress of all seventh-ray things—with the development of spiritual science and the awakening of man.

Benediction:

All enfolding Love, Great White Spirit, we thank Thee for the outpouring of Thy love. For the blessing we are now receiving we humbly thank Thee; for the gift of Thy Son, the Light and the Life, the Life which maketh all things new for Thy children on earth. May Thy peace descend upon their hearts and clear their vision and give them joy everlasting.

Amen.