

back into de bedroom—in de morning into de living room—den into de store agen.

“De Hebrews wouldn’t patronize because my wife vas a Gentile. But in days I vent round mit a bag on my back soliziting laundry, and at night I vorked.

“Today I have a steam plant uf my own—de Joseph Justice Laundry—a good business on Broadway and I’m prosperous and people call me up on de fone and say, ‘Joe, come here,’ and ‘Joe,

come dere.’ I don’t need to look for vork—it come to me.

“Salvation paid. I bring Him misery, He gif me joy. I bring poberty, He gif prosperity. I bring selfishness, He gif de joy of doing someding for de oder feller. Dot is a good bargain—salvation is a paying bizness. De proof of its bein good is dot a Hebrew has stuck to it for dwenty-seven years.”

—*Author and Original
Publisher Unknown.*

Esoteric Bible Studies

BY CORINNE S. DUNKLEE

THE HOLY BIRTH

(This is the first of a series of studies in the most important events of the life of the great Teacher, Christ Jesus.—EDITOR.)

TEXT

7. 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.

8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them: and they were sore afraid.

10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

12. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13. And suddenly there was with the

angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

—*Luke 2:7-14.*

INTERPRETATION

Every messenger coming to inaugurate a great world religion has been born through an immaculate conception with all its inner beauty and mystic meaning.

Max Heindel says that Initiation is a cosmic process of enlightenment and liberation of power. The experiences of all during Initiation are similar in their main features. It is interesting from this viewpoint to note that Buddha, Krishna, Agni the fire god, Osiris, Zeus, Mithras, Dionysius, Hermes and many others were reputed to be born of virgin mothers through an immaculate conception, the holy birth taking place at midnight in a cave, grotto, or stable.

An ego thus born we term an “old soul,” one who has had many preparatory earth lives, during which he has evolved that sublime compassion which enables him to live the life of complete self-renunciation necessary to become a Teacher of his people. Such an ego is carefully watched over and tended by the divine Hierarchies who guard our

human evolution. Such a birth is always a momentous event, and angels and arch-angels are always watching and waiting and singing gladsome hosannas when so great a soul is brought to birth. The Kabbalah states that the Cherubim and Seraphim (the Lords of Gemini and Cancer) joined in the angelic chorus to announce the birth of the holy Master Jesus, singing, "Peace on earth, and good will among men," a message fraught with deep esoteric significance, for with this holy birth a new dispensation was ushered in. A great spiritual step forward then commenced in the evolutionary progress of the earth and its humanity.

All other World Teachers have been of about the same spiritual status of Moses, and came to earth to bring a new or deeper spiritual message to a particular people or nation. Jesus, the high Initiate, came for wider work, to prepare the way for the coming of the great Christ, the Sun Spirit, whose mission was not for any one people or country. "He came to keep and to save that which was lost," to redeem the entire earth and its humanity. At His Name every knee shall bow and every voice proclaim His transcendent glory as Lord and Regent of the earth.

The mystic birth of the World Savior was a cosmic event of great importance, and it is therefore not surprising that it is pictured in the skies from year to year. Max Heindel says that in the stars we may peruse in advance a biography of the Great Ones who come to perform world missions. "As above, so below." In letters of flame written so that those who will may read, we find in the starry vault of the heavens each year at the holy Christmas season the cosmic outlines of the great events which all the Christian world is celebrating.

At the time of the winter solstice the sun, the material light of the world, reaches its extreme southern declination, when for the people of the northern hemisphere it is partly dead as far as its

beneficent, life-giving force is concerned. Then it is necessary that a new god of light be born to save humanity from darkness, cold, famine, and eventual death.

On the night of December 21st the sun begins to rise slowly toward the earth's equator. Thus we say that a new sun child is born at Christmas time. During the hours just preceding the midnight of December 24th, from about 10 to 12 P. M. in all northern latitudes, the sign of Virgo the Virgin, the sign of purity, of the Immaculate Conception, and of the deified type of motherhood is to be seen on the eastern horizon, brooding over the holy birth; while in the belt of Orion shine the three stars called the Three Magi or the Three Wise Men (for *magus* means a wonder worker), who herald the glad tidings of the Nativity. At the time of the winter solstice these stars are in the western sky opposite the Virgin upon the eastern horizon.

We are all destined to experience all of the steps outlined in the Gospels and described as events in the life of Christ Jesus, for we are each one Christs in the making. Therefore at some time for each one of us the Immaculate Conception and the Holy Birth will become a living, demonstrable power within our own personal lives. Let us study and meditate upon these sublime spiritual mysteries particularly from this viewpoint, for in so doing we shall find ourselves drawn closer within the aura of the great Sacred Heart of Love which embraces all things and whose power is especially potent during this the blessed Holy Season.

"A commonplace life," we say, and we sigh;

But why should we sigh as we say?

The commonplace sun in the commonplace sky

Makes up the commonplace day.

—A Book of Remembrance.