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Cordial Christmas Greetings.



In this, the last issue of Mercury for 1919, the Officers of Metropolitan extend to every member of the College and to all members of the Fraternity to whom it shall come, the most cordial and fraternal greetings and good wishes of the season, and thank them for the loyal support given during the past year, a year of the greatest progress and activity ever experienced by the Mother College. Sincere appreciation is extended to all those whose regular attendance and cordial personal co-operation have made our success possible and we believe that they who have stood by the College so nobly have received in great measure of spiritual benefit and advancement themselves. While our work has been greatly enlarged and extended during the year, with consequent increased expenditure, our finances are in excellent shape and the extra Wednesday and alternate Friday evening classes maintained throughout the year speak for the enthusiasm of our members in the work.

With the momentum gained during 1919, we believe we shall go forward to greater achievement and accomplishment in 1920 and we bespeak for the incoming year the same loyal support that has been accorded those of 1919.

Authorized Instruction in Rosicrucian Philosophy.

By Fr. K. X°.

Number Seven.

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rosicrucian Concept of the Orthodox Trinity; Jehovah. (Continued.)

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ORIGIN OF "PERSON."

If we look up the origin and derivation of the word "person" we shall gain much help. Person—persona,—(Lit. mask), per and sonna,—signifying a mask: that through which sound comes.

ONE SUBSTANCE, ONE PRINCIPLE.

Now in Instruction Number One the student was taught that the Absolute, Supreme Being and Solar God, are ALL ONE PRINCIPLE, the Absolute manifesting next the principle known as the Supreme Being, then through the Supreme Being manifesting its third principle, the Solar Gods and Logoi. This is the Cosmic Trinity, ONE SUBSTANCE, ONE PERSON, INDIVISIBLE, MANIFESTING IN THREE DISTINCT PHASES as it approximates its purpose in creative activity. It is ONE PERSON because it (the Trinity) is the mask, so to speak, through which the Creative Word goes forth to bring Order out of Chaos, and tangible Creation out of unorganized primordial Cosmic Root Substance.

Sayings of Elbert Hubbard, No. 16.

"To listen is a fine art."

REINCARNATION.

In other words, the Supreme Being and the Solar Gods may be said to be succeeding incarnations of the Absolute in a cosmic sense, in order to bring Divine Cosmic Consciousness latent, into a state whereby the evolution of SELF-Consciousness could begin.

DIVINE AND SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS.

This process brings us to the planetary Trinity or MUNDANE Trinity; the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for these Beings, great and powerful as they are, belong to our planet Earth specifically.

SON, NOT JESUS.

In studying this Trinity, first let it be clearly understood that the word "Son" does not mean Jesus. This will be duly explained.

PERIODS.

In Instruction Number Two, the Seven Periods were described and explained. Our Evolution has already passed through the first three, the Saturn, Sun, and Moon Periods, and the first or Mars half of the fourth or Earth Period. We are now in the second or Mercury half of the Earth Period; the culmination of the Mars half being marked by the Great World War, the evidences of the Mercury half being already shown by the waves of philosophic and scientific inquiry flooding over the world.

INITIATES.

The evolutionary wave of humanity pertaining to each Period, like a class at a University or College, has produced its highest graduate, in the planetary or evolutionary sense, an Initiate.

HIGHEST INITIATE, FATHER.

In the stream of Virgin Spirits differentiated from the Body of God and entering the dip into Matter, or Involution and Evolution, those who constituted the Humanity of the Saturn Period are now the LORDS OF MIND, and THE HIGHEST INITIATE OF THAT PERIOD is the lofty Being we term the FATHER.

SON, OR CHRIST.

Continuing the stream through the Sun Period, the Humanity of that Period are now the ARCHANGELS, and the HIGHEST INITIATE OF THE SUN PERIOD IS THE "SON" or "CHRIST" (Chrest—good).

HOLY SPIRIT, JEHOVAH.

Likewise, the same stream continued through the Moon Period places its evolved Humanity as what are now termed ANGELS, and its HIGHEST INITIATE WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT,—JEHOVAH as it was called when known as the Race Deity of the Hebrews.

VIRGIN SPIRITS.

It must not be understood that these three streams of the Virgin Spirits were one continuous stream. Each was an original stream beginning with the Solar God, and proceeding through each separate Period, with this difference however;

GRADUATES.

As in the case of the Cosmic Trinity, it was a process of manifestation from the Absolute outwardly, so with the MUNDANE Trinity it was a similar process. Nothing in the Cosmos "happens" by "chance." All, to the most minute detail, is the result of carefully thought out plans in the Mind of the Absolute. Therefore, as in every class in the schools of this world there are those who will graduate with highest honors and in turn become Teachers and Guides, so with the School of Human Evolution there are those destined to become Teachers and Guides. And as every human Institution has its President or Master, so the School of Human Evolution must have its Master, one who has gone through all the courses of instruction and experience that this Great School can possibly offer, which means that he must have coursed the full gamut of Humanity.

PROGRESSED MANIFESTATION.

As the Solar God is a progressed manifestation of the Absolute, and the Virgin Spirits are progressed, differentiated manifestations of the Solar God, it will be seen that the highest Initiates, even as all Humanity, are of ONE SUBSTANCE with the Absolute, in differentiated vibratory status. Thus, those particular Virgin Spirits, who by their proficiency and efficiency became the highest products of their respective Periods, were truly of ONE SUBSTANCE with the Absolute, the Supreme Being and Solar God in differentiated vibratory manifestation in evolutionary process back to Cosmic relationship.

HIGHEST SATURN INITIATE.

But with the highest Initiate of the Saturn Period, the evolutionary wave of that Period was completed. The involuntary incarnations of that Initiate were completed. Therefore, to help in cosmic and solar plan the wave of Humanity then entering upon its course, that same Initiate began his voluntary incarnations, and again, of his own free will, took upon himself the human nature of that Period, the Sun Period.

The same process and sublime act took place at the beginning of the Moon Period.

IN SUN AND MOON PERIODS.

As the highest Initiate of the Saturn Period, he naturally became the Leader and Guide of the Sun Period, and therefore the highest Initiate of the Sun Period. As the highest Initiate of both Saturn and Sun Periods he was more than ever qualified to become the Leader and Guide of the humanity of the Moon Period by his vastly accumulated experience, and thus also became the highest Initiate of the Moon Period as well.

ALL ONE PERSON.

THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT INITIATES OF SATURN, SUN, AND MOON PERIODS, ARE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON, (or mask through which the sound of the Creative Word became potent in the process of our planetary creative activity) THE TREMENDOUSLY ADVANCED EGO OR ELDER BROTHER AND MASTER, BEING OF ONE SUBSTANCE WITH THE FATHER (the Cosmic Trinity) BY WHOM ALL WORLDS WERE MADE, AND BY HIS ADVANCED SPIRITUAL STATUS AND ENTERING INTO COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS AND COSMIC CREATIVE ACTIVITY,—"VERY GOD OF VERY GOD, AND LIGHT OF LIGHT."

FUNCTIONS OF THE HIGHEST INITIATE.

In the Saturn Period this Great Being was the ultimate product of the Human Evolution of that Period. In the Sun Period He became the Guide thereof. In the Moon Period, He became the Master of Human Evolution.

Therefore, the question arises, what is this Great Being to our Earth Period?

WHAT HE IS TO OUR EARTH PERIOD.

In the three Periods just mentioned, His activities and operations were on the outside of our planet. During the Mars half he began His preparatory work to become the PLANETARY OR INDWELLING SPIRIT OF EARTH, thenceforth to guide the future evolution of this sphere from within, outwardly, as the fact of His Divine Creative Status warranted. Thus in the Mars half he has been successively the Race God of many Races and the time approached when He should enter into His possessions until the end of the present Day of Manifestation.

COSMIC LAW. JESUS.

Now it is a cosmic law, that to function in any world region or sphere, the Ego, however advanced, must have a vehicle pertaining to that world region or sphere, and the home of the Ego on the mundane plane is in the Blood. So it was necessary that an advanced Human Being should be prepared for this purpose, whose spiritual life should be such that his vehicle could be utilized by this Great Being while functioning on the Earth Plane. Such a Being was the Man Jesus, son of Joseph the Carpenter.

HIS LIVES. CHRISTOS.

This Man Jesus had been known to ancient history by many names throughout many previous incarnations, in each of which He had advanced to such a point that in the incarnation by the name of Jesus He had become so highly spiritualized that His physical, etheric, and astral vehicles could be utilized by the Great Triune Being whom we call in Rosicrucian teaching the CHRIST, CHRISTOS, or SUN INITIATE, for its work upon the Earth. It was by virtue of the tremendous spiritual vibratory power of the Sun Initiate that the wonderful powers manifest through the Man Jesus were operative.

NATURE OF JESUS.

Jesus, highly advanced as he was, more so than any other human being incarnate at that or any subsequent time, had a purely natural birth, with natural parents, Mary and Joseph, although that birth was carefully planned by the Lords of Destiny for that particular incarnation. Ancient records carefully eliminated from the Sacred Writings by Christian Theologians give us much light on his early years. This is not of importance to us, except in so far as they indicate his purely human nature and character.

The great event in his life, the event for which he had incarnated, and the beginning of his mission, was at his Baptism by John, in Jordan.

BECOMES CHRIST.

AT THAT BAPTISM, JESUS BECAME JESUS THE CHRIST, or CHRIST JESUS.

EVIDENCES OF THE OCCUPANCY.

The Christos or Sun Initiate thus occupied the Vehicles of the Man Jesus, until the Crucifixion of the latter on Golgotha. And note this, that while many of the "Epistles" or writings of the Apostles speak of the "Death of and on the Cross," nowhere are we taught in either ancient records or in the undoubtedly authoritative books of the Bible itself, that *JESUS* actually died a *physical* death thereon. Many references are made to "Christ dying for us, etc.," but the *FACTS* are, that Jesus exclaimed in his purely HUMAN agony, "Eloi, Eloi, lama Sabachthani,"—"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" showing that even with this great Initiate, the hour of his Human suffering obscured for the moment his spiritual sight and vision.

But later, he cried out with a loud voice AND GAVE UP THE GHOST according to St. Mark (xv-37) and by St. Luke we are told that with a loud voice he said, "Father, (note h's now awakened spiritual sight and recognition) into thy hands I commend my *SPIRIT*,"—(his erstwhile controlling or obsessing directive guidance, the SUN SPIRIT). In John xix-30 we are told that "he bowed his head; and GAVE UP THE GHOST" (the Christos).

WHEN JESUS CEASED TO BE CHRIST. CHRIST EGO LEAVES.

The moment when he "gave up the Ghost" was the moment when, realizing that his special and lofty mission was completed, he voluntarily permitted the dissociation of the higher spiritual Entity or Christos, from his purely personal human vehicles. Then, when the spear of the Roman soldier pierced his side, the Greater Ego or Christos passed thence, via the Water and Blood that flowed therefrom, into the Earth to which it was thus furnished an entrance. Those who care to seek may find ample evidence that after the Corpus of Jesus was taken from the Cross it was restored to normal human functioning, and lived for several years thereafter, becoming one well known among the Great Philosophers of antiquity.

WHY THIS WAS NECESSARY.

It may be enquired why such a process was necessary for an Initiate so advanced as the Sun Spirit or Christos. It is because from the amoeba to Divinity, from the finite to the Infinite, Nature knows no exceptions to Natural or Cosmic Law.

And one of those laws is, that to function in any given world or region the Ego must have a vehicle pertaining to that world or region.

Now, although the Christos was the Highest Initiate of the Sun Period, as in fact of the preceding and succeeding periods as well, it must be kept in mind that the Humanities of the Saturn, Sun, and Moon Periods had never attained the complete dip into Matter accomplished by the Humanity of the Earth Period. The Humanity of the Saturn Period reached a point in the World Regions equivalent to that of Concrete Thought, and thus developed the Mind Matter to an extent which made it possible for succeeding evolutionary waves to go a step farther, which was done in the Sun Period, wherein the Humanity of that Period developed the Astral Body, and likewise in the Moon Period the Humanity of that time evolved the Etheric Body or Vehicle.

VEHICLES OF FORMER HUMANITY.

Therefore, although they may be immeasurably beyond our humanity, those of the Moon Period who are now the Angels cannot function nearer to our conditions than the Etheric inasmuch as they learned to build only the Etheric Body as their lowest vehicle. The Archangels or ordinary Sun Spirits learned to build only the Astral Body, so they can approach our Humanity no nearer than that.

WHERE THE HIGHEST INITIATES NOW FUNCTION.

The Highest Initiates of each, however, have progressed so far in the spiritual worlds, that they function vastly beyond those of their own contemporary evolution. Thus in the instance of those of the Saturn Period they have attained to consciousness in the World of Divine Spirit. Those of the Sun Period normally function in the World of Life Spirit, the first of the so-called "Universal World Planes or Regions." The Highest Initiates of the Moon Period now function in the higher divisions of the Region of Abstract Thought.

NECESSITY FOR JESUS BODY.

The Greatest Initiate of them all, the Triune Being known as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, having never built in his own evolution a physical body, was obliged to have recourse to one in order to function in the Physical World. This body was provided by the Physical Vehicle of the Man Jesus. The body so prepared and provided was the result of a long extended series of incarnations, tests, and trials through age long eras. In order to enable the Ego Jesus to build through Mary a Vehicle sufficiently attuned to the requirements.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JESUS AND JESUS THE CHRIST.

It will be seen that Jesus and Jesus Christ, Jesus the Christ or Christ Jesus are thus two entirely distinct and separate entities or Egos. The lofty mission of the Man Jesus, the loftiest ever yet accorded to Man, was to become the connecting link between Divinity and Humanity. Through Jesus, the Triune Being whose particular sphere is the World or Region of Divine Spirit reached down and entered into our Humanity.

ONE WITH THE FATHER.

In the light of this knowledge, much that has been hitherto obscure in the utterances ascribed to Jesus will become clear, when we understand that after his Baptism, it was the Christos or Sun Spirit speaking through him. When he said, "He that hath seen me, HATH SEEN THE FATHER," we can reconcile it with the apparent contradiction in the statement that "No man hath seen GOD at A Y time."

MADE DIRECT CHAIN.

Again, when he said, "Whither I go, ye cannot come," (John xiii-33) and again (xiii-36) "Whither I go, thou canst not follow me NOW; but thou shalt follow me afterwards." In John xiv-2, we are told, "In my Father's house are many mansions (Regions); if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." Jesus himself could not have told by actual personal entrance therein, of the many mansions, therefore it could only have been the SPIRIT within, speaking. Then too, the SPIRIT expressly stated its mission when it said, "I go to prepare a place for you;" in other words, after linking Divinity incarnate with our Humanity the SPIRIT had bridged the gulf between evolutionary periods, and established a direct chain connecting the highest inner worlds or regions, with our Physical World Region.

PLANETARY GUIDANCE.

From the first impulse toward creative effort manifested by the Solar God, up to this time of the Great Incarnation, our planet had been guided from without. Human progress from the first differentiation of atomic vibration in Cosmic Root Substance up to that sublime union, had passed through the relatively simple stages to one of greater complexity.

COMPLEXITY INCREASES. BEFORE AND AFTER THE INCARNATION.

This complexity of human affairs brought about the need of direction by actual contact from *within*, for which the Great Triune Being or triple Initiate had been preparing and was now able to undertake. From an intelligent observation of human progress since the Incarnation, all will recognize that that progress has been accelerated to a remarkable degree, and has been marked by Man's entering into a knowledge and understanding of Nature Forces and their actual operation and manipulation. This was not necessary in the status of human progress *before* the Incarnation; it has been indispensable *since*, and so from decade to decade our progress has been so swift, that it has been difficult to keep measure therewith in ordinary school text books.

THE ROSICRUCIAN MOTTO EXPLAINED.

This understanding of the union between Jesus and the Christos explains paragraph 37 of the Athanasian Creed to which we stated we would later refer. Unknown to the ecclesiastical authorities who formulated it, in reality it is an exposition of the Rosicrucian Motto, "IESUS CHRISTUS, DEUS ET HOMO." "For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one Man," so Divinity and Humanity united make one Christ. Jesus was the Man. Jesus the Christ was God and Man. Through Jesus God became Man. Through Jesus Man became God. This is an infinitely loftier concept and understanding of both great Egos, than the orthodox Christian acceptance.

HEBREW AND CHRISTIAN.

In Jesus, the Hebrew can see several of his Race Prophets and Wise Men Incarnated and Epitomized. In Jesus, the Christian can see a new heaven and a new earth opened up to future human evolutionary waves. In Jesus, both Hebrew and Christian have a common ground of association.

BODY OF GOD.

The Seven World Regions, being the differentiation in so-called space, of the cosmic Root Substance worked upon by the Creating God, are in reality therefore, the Body of God, and the Highest Initiates expressing or manifesting in these Seven Regions are the Highest Expressions to Humanity of the Body of God. Yet God, the Initiates and ourselves are all of one Substance, undivided, indivisible, but differentiated in vibrational status.

EXEMPLAR.

This fact of an advanced exemplar of each evolutionary Period, preserved in the Consciousness of the Universal Human Spirit, brought over from wave to wave of human evolution, is the basis of the common teaching of all religions the world has ever known, that of a Messiah or "Saviour" to come at some foreordained time. The only manner in which foreordination may be said to enter into such concepts, is through the certainty that at stated cycles one wave of human evolution ends and another begins, and that after a specific number of revolutions one Period ends and another begins, and with the ending and beginning the highest Initiate of the preceding becomes the Guiding Spirit and Teacher or Solar Elder Brother of the succeeding Period.

REAL "PERSON." JESUS' HUMAN PERSONALITY.

The real "Person" that Theology has tried so hard to explain in fashioning for itself a definition of Deity that would answer all queries and meet all requirements is, in reality, not that of an impersonal Being or Principle, but the Human Personality of the Man Jesus. There is no need to divest Jesus of his Human Personality even if it could be accomplished, in order to personify the impersonal. The real Person in this Triune Being is Jesus himself, the "mask," through which came the sound of the voice of the SPIRIT, the CHRISTOS, OR SUN INITIATE.

BEGOTTEN BEFORE ALL WORLDS.

The Christian Creed informs us that Jesus Christ was the only begotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds. In the case of a person such would have been impossible. In the case of a Principle such was the FACT. St. John, (I-1 14) tells us that "In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God." Also, that "The WORD was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

THREE ASPECTS OF SUPREME BEING.

The Three Aspects of the Supreme Being it will be remembered are, POWER, THE WORD, AND MOTION. These are aspects of the Supreme Being, not persons. Therefore, the only thing that was "begotten" before all worlds, was the WORD, manifested as the second aspect of the Supreme Being. This WORD was made flesh, through the projection from the Supreme Being of the Third Manifestation of the Cosmic Trinity, the Seven Creative Logoi, which diffused through from the second to the seventh Cosmic Plane, the diffusions in the seventh becoming the Gods (Solar) of the various solar systems. It was incarnated in flesh through the dissemination of differentiated Virgin Spirits from the Solar God as the Humanities of this and other Planets and Planetary Periods.

THE COSMIC TRINITY HAS TO DO WITH COSMIC MANIFESTATION.

COSMIC TRINITY.

The aspects of its Expression as the Supreme Being, Power, the Word and Motion have to do with the (1st.) planning and visualizing of the Universes; (2nd.) creatively mobilizing the forces of attraction and repulsion, cohesion and so-called gravitation in their reactions upon the inseparable atoms of Cosmic Root Substance; (3rd.) inaugurating the motions and velocities from which result the possibilities of Solar Systems and tangible life expression as they have been and as we know them to be at the present time, respectively.

CHRIST LIFE.

At the present time much thought is given to what is commonly called "Living the Christ-life." It is notable that the greatest attention has been given to this concept since the ushering in of the Mercury half of the Earth Period of evolution. We are also reminded of the numerous analogies between the life of Jesus and the lives of many prior Messiahs and Race Saviours. Whence come these ideas and parallels?

CHRIST SPIRIT LONG ACTIVE.

The Christ Spirit has been actively present many times in the process of our human evolution, even in prehistoric ages when mankind had no knowledge of it whatever. As previously explained, the Christos or Sun Initiate cannot function below the Etheric and Astral Vehicles, so the humanity of the early evolutionary Periods felt, but were not conscious of, the real import of it, the presence of this vitalizing spiritual power, which operated to raise the mass intelligence of humankind. When our humanity had approximated the requisite degree of appreciation and understanding of its presence, the Christos selected seven of the most advanced Initiates of the Atlantean Mysteries, and in their subsequent incarnations IMPRESSED, without entering into them, their higher vehicles to such an extent that they were enabled to prophesy accurately for the benefit of mankind.

SCHOOLS OF THE PROPHETS.

The groups of disciples who gathered around these Initiates, constituted the Schools of the Prophets, of which every ancient world religion had its own. One of these seven Initiates was the Ego, who in many incarnations was known to our recorded history as a great leader and Teacher of Humanity, culminating finally in the incarnation in which he was known as Jesus. Thus the prophecy of the Christ to come, was perpetuated through the incarnations of this and other Initiates and pursuant to the ardently desired end, each incarnation assumed features analogous to and which linked it with, the preceding incarnations of each particular Initiate. Thus to each has been accorded by mythos, a miraculous or virgin birth, trial, temptation, endurance, triumph, and in most cases a painful death.

ALL HUMANITY IS ACCOUNTED FOR.

Theology has often been puzzled to account for what may become of those who passed to the spiritual worlds before the coming of the Christos. Reincarnation when rightly understood provides for equal opportunities for equal understanding spiritually as well as physically for all. But in the cases of those whose involuntary incarnations were completed before that great incarnation of the Christos, the knowledge accumulated by those who have lived since the event is transmitted spiritually in the higher planes in such a manner that it can be easily assimilated and personally accepted as experience even by those who have passed to other planetary planes of being, for the auras of each planet in our solar system overlap and interpenetrate each other to such an extent that day by day we breathe, inhale and move in the actual auric substance of other planetary spheres of existence. This is one of the facts that contributes to help along our knowledge of the other members of our planetary system, as it comes unapprehended though none the less surely to those who as astronomers may be concentrating their thoughts upon such matters, and therefore by the law of Attraction draw such thought waves to them.

CHRIST MYSTERY REACHES INTO ALL PLANES.

In the same way, those whose progress is now made in the spiritual regions may receive the consciousness and knowledge of the Christ event and make it a part of their own personal consciousness as well. "Up to the Christ Mystery, evolution had been confined principally to the world of sense, with the consequent abeyance of the spiritual." "Everything which flowed into the sense-world proceeded from what had been in the spiritual world from remote ayes," and thus material progress to the gradual exclusion of spiritual progress was made. After the Christ Mystery those who are spiritually awakened take back into the spiritual world all they have gained and learned in the physical world. "And from the spiritual world it then flows back again into the earthly world of sense, through the reincarnating souls, who bring with them what they have gained through the Christ impulse in the spiritual world between death and a new birth. Thus the present makes up for the past and no modicum of human experience is lost.

CHRIST LIFE NOT A MATTER OF FORMULA.

Living the "Christ Life" is not a matter of doctrine, dogma, precept, or formulated practice. Imposters have reaped rich harvests from the credulous by prescribing such conditions and provisions, revealing thereby their own ignorance of the essential nature and meaning of the "Christ

A STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

The Christ Life is above all things a state of consciousness. All else that may manifest in the exoteric life of the seeker will be resultant upon the degree of Christ Consciousness attained. We have referred to the Coming of the Christ early in this era, as the "Christ Mystery" and mystery it is, for while millions have and do proclaim their belief in the Incarnation, few, very few, understand and know *wha*: the incarnation really means.

WITHOUT AND WITHIN.

Prior to the Incarnation the guidance of the Humanity of the Earth Period was from without. Since the Incarnation it has been from within. Coming from within, it brings with it in the thought forms and activities of the Indwelling or Planetary Spirit the Christos, to all Kingdoms and Creatures of the Life Wave, according to their capacity to receive and their ability to respond and react thereto.

INDIVIDUAL MEASURE OF CHRIST LIFE.

This ability to respond and react is the measure of the seeker's attainment of the Christ Life, which is participation in the Christ Consciousness. Prior to the Incarnation the individual accepted guidance from the Holy Men, Prophets and Judges acting as the mouthpieces or "persona" of the Spirit.

INNER SELF.

Since the Incarnation, the individual becoming by degrees permeated and imbued with the Christ Consciousness has gradually broken away from sole reliance on priestly admonition and guidance and begun the process of self guidance in obedience to what is commonly termed "one's inner self."

FADS.

But as yet, for the mass aggregate of Humanity, this individual guidance is far from perfected as an infallible criterion of action and attitude, hence the vagaries, fads, and idiosyncrasies resulting from the modern and in some limited circles, popular cry—"Individualism; intense, unfettered individualism."

FORCE SEEKS OUTLET.

Every force in Nature seeks an outlet or avenue of expression. There are no exceptions to this law. It is therefore true of the stream of consciousness. And the Christ Consciousness, powerful, planetary, solar, and almost truly cosmic, seeks such an outlet—through the life and consciousness of the individual.

GOLGOTHA THE BEGINNING, NOT THE ENDING.

The individual who can realize actually and personally, not theoretically and dogmatically, that Golgotha was the BEGINNING, not the end of the influx of Divine Spiritual Consciousness, and in this realization knows the "ever presence" of the Christos, with us, here and NOW, has begun to live the Christ Life. Knowledge is power, and the true knowledge of the Christ Mystery dawns only on those who by their evolutionary status are able to receive it, and only such will be actuated to seek for it and desire it. Search prompted by ardent personal desire, awakens latent and dormant spiritual sensibilities; observance of the teachings of the Christos while incarnate as Jesus, in a broad minded, tolerant, spirit of charity and compassion, will raise one's spiritual vibrational status, and both search, desire, and observance will unite in the individual in whom they combine, to amplify his human, personal, individual consciousness into the depth, power, and comprehension of the Christ Consciousness.

Then will such an individual begin to live the true Christ Life, which is not to be confounded with the idea of working miracles, phenomenal healing, etc. When first the Kingdom of God has been sought and found, "all these things shall be added unto you," to just the extent that you have earned the right to them.

"The Christ impulse, rightly understood, impels the human soul which has experienced it to feel itself a member of a spiritual world, recognizing it as a world to which it belongs, outside which it formerly existed."

"The province of reverent theology is to aid accurate thinking by the use of metaphysical terms. Its definitions are no more an end in themselves than an analysis of good drinking water, which by itself leaves us thirsty but encourages us to drink." Therefore, the student of spiritual science may be encouraged by various religious concepts, to delve deeply into the profundities of cosmic and Divine relationships, but only by the aid of the esoteric knowledge and true spiritual insight will he be able to understand them.

"Time."

In the course of a most profitable correspondence with Frater Stobaeus of Phoenix College, Atlanta, some discussion regarding the occult concept of "Time" developed. In this connection the Editor suggested the little book by Richard Jeffries, "The Story of My Heart," on account of that writer's original ideas on the subject. After reading the little book, Fr. Stobaeus sent the following thoughts which were embodied in letters, and which we have secured his permission to reprint, believing that Fr. Stobaeus' observations will be of great service to the many others in the Fraternity who have been considering the same subject. Ed.

ATLANTA, GA October 2nd, 1919

The little book reached me yesterday, and I spent a most delightful evening with our friend and brother, Jeffries, and shall spend many another delightful hour in his good company.

As you sent it to me for my enlightenment as to the idea that "with God there is no time," and that on the spiritual planes, "time" does not exist, there being no past or future, but only the eternal present, I have read with that chiefly in mind.

And I think I have now grasped the concept of "time" which would render such a statement true, but it still seems to me a limited concept.

Is "time" but an "artificial" expedient "mutually agreed upon?" Admitting that the hours, which measure the length of days, the weeks and months which measure the years, and the years which measure the length of man's sojourn this physical plane, are such expedients, artificial and agreed upon to serve the purpose of man while here,—is this really "time?"

It is true that "Eternity, the Now, is continuous" and, in a sense, everything that has been now exists, what now exists has always existed and will ever exist, that "what is to be" is now and ever has been, but the past is passive, the present is active, yet in a broader and a truer sense I think, "Eternity" embraces a past, a present and a future.

The Divine Spark emanating from the One Infinite Intelligence contained within itself the possibilities, the germ of all experiences, all powers and all accomplishments that will ultimately be realized by the Creative God which man is destined to become, just as the giant oak is contained within the acorn. Yet that Divine Spark was not then a Creative God, neither is the acorn an oak. The germ and the possibility for each degree of growth and progress existed in the beginning, but the growth and progress must take place, each degree of such growth becoming active development at its appointed time, and as this growth and unfoldment proceeds it marks the progress of "time" in its true sense.

Our brother Jefferies had undoubtedly reached a very advanced stage of development, but did he possess the knowledge he has here revealed when he started upon his planetary journey? No, this was the result of past experiences, even embracing experiences during his then present incarnation, but to him past, for they had been experienced. And he was destined to add yet other experiences which had not been then realized or passed through, but were still in the nascent state. These two conditions constitute a past and a future for him, for his soul (as he terms it) even though it were manifesting upon the spiritual planes.

The shadow passing around the dial, the hands passing around the face of the clock, do not make "time," even for the dial or clock. These are but expedients adopted to enable man to mark off his progress, and to increase his ability to profit by experiences as they develop and unfold. "The great clock of the firmament" comes nearer to being an expression of "time," for it, in its inevitable march, limits the opportunity of man to profit by his opportunities, marking as it does the passing of such opportunities in the manner and under the circumstances then presented. But, as man must gain such profit or assimilate such experience, perhaps under more bitter and more trying conditions, fault might be found even with this as a true expression of "time." The conditions under which man labored under the Sign of Pisces are not those man experiences under the Sign of Aquarius, so that he who failed to assimilate an experience presented under the former, may be forced to do so under the latter with, perhaps, greater suffering.

The fact that experiences must be assimilated and that through such assimilation the unfoldment of an ultimate Creative Being is accomplished, necessarily creates "time" in its true sense. And as experiences leading to such a glorious attainment certainly cannot be limited to man's earth pilgrimage, but must continue through the "spiritual spheres," then "time" really exists not only in the physical, but in the spiritual worlds, even to the highest heaven. Not, of course, as days, weeks and months, but as denoting "the succession of events," or perhaps we might better say "the progress of the ego toward its ultimate destiny," "Time" in this sense must necessarily be a fact in Nature, else there could be no growth or progress.

The saying that "With God a thousand years is as a day and a day as a thousand years" is conceivable because He is eternal, but this does not mean that "With God there is no time." It is He who fixes the Periods and the Times, and except for His infinitely accurate concept of "time," regulating every manifestation of His power, from the most minute vibration of the ether to the course of the mightiest sun in its orbit, the harmony of the universe would not exist and there would be inexpressible and inconceivable chaos.

So that, instead of saying "With God there is no time," we would better say that His concept of time is so omnisciently comprehensive and accurate as to be beyond the grasp of the finite mind even at its highest.

There are many beautiful truths beautifully expressed in this little book and I shall not only enjoy them myself, but shall give my friends the benefit of them.

Mother Shipton's Prophecies.

Published by request and in response to several inquiries.

The following, which is known as "Mother Shipton's Prophecy," was first published in 1488, republished in 1641 and again in 1875. It will be noticed that all the events predicted in it except the last two lines have come to pass:

Carriages without horses shall go;
And accidents fill the world with woe.
Around the world thoughts shall fly,
In the twinkling of an eye;
Water shall yet more wonders do;
How strange, yet shall be true.
The world upside down shall be,
And gold be found at root of tree.
Through hills men shall ride,
And no horse or ass be at his side.
Under water men shall walk,
Shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk.
In the air men shall be seen,
In white, in black, in green.
Iron in water shall float,
As easy as a wooden boat.
Gold shall be found and found,
In a land that is not known.
Fire and water shall wonder do,
England shall at last admit a Jew.
The world to an end shall come,
In eighteen hundred and eighty-one.

Have your Mercuries bound promptly.

Many members and subscribers desire their copies of Mercury bound as the volume for each year is complete. With this number, the volume for 1919 (No. 4) is complete. If you contemplate having your set bound please assemble the copies *at once* and send them to our Librarian, Fr. Paracelsus, or they may be addressed to Mr. H. V. A. Parsell, Room 1517, Masonic Hall, 24th Street. If many sets are ordered bound at one time we are able to obtain a very low and advantageous price per book. If you wait until later, and order one set bound up individually it will cost you much more.

Unfortunately we cannot make up "back numbers" this year. All members were warned early in the year to preserve their copies carefully. The demand for our limited edition of Mercury this year has been unusual. We may be able to help out with some of the later numbers but the early numbers are absolutely out of stock.

Free List Suspended.

In previous years Mercury has been mailed at our expense to several whom we believed to be interested in the work. It is notable that from none of those to whom it has thus been sent, have we heard during the past year. Mercury costs us a great deal of money and is published at a complete loss to the Mother College. We do not want to put it on a commercial basis, but if it is worth having, it is worth some sacrifice on the part of those who receive it, and we believe each recipient will feel a greater degree of satisfaction if he knows himself to be a supporter of the work, rather than a mere receiver. Therefore, beginning with the 1920 Volume, (No. 5) no gratis copies of Mercury will be sent out, but we shall be glad to receive regular subscriptions at the rate of \$1.50 per year from all except members in good standing in the Mother College, whose dues therein enable us to publish it.

College Notes.

Librarian's Report.

The Library has now a total of 214 volumes, of which 195 are on the shelves, and 19 in circulation. The Librarian wishes to thank all Fraters and Sorores whose generous and continuous gifts of books have made possible this good showing. In view of the rapidly increasing number of volumes a new book case will soon be necessary for their proper preservation, and anyone who has such a case to spare will kindly communicate its size and style to the Librarian.

Soror Industria. An Appreciation.

Owing to pressure of business responsibilities which cannot be neglected, Soror Industria, 9°-2°, who has been Secretary of Metropolitan College for over five years past has felt obliged to relinquish that office. Her resignation is accepted only with the deepest and most sincere regret. Soror Industria was one of the first class of women admitted to Metropolitan or to the Order at large in America, and ever since that date (May 1914) she has been one of the strongest and most loyal workers in the College and supporters of the Order. And though she may sever the ties of office it is impossible for her to sever ties of friendship and fraternalism which bind her to every member of Metropolitan. At the last Regular Quarterly Business Meeting of the College a Standing Vote of Thanks and Appreciation was tendered her.

In Memoriam. F. G. Dingwall 9°-2°.

On Sunday, December 14th the Wor. A. and several members of the College visited the grave of Wor. Fr. Forbes G. Dingwall, Past Adept of Metropolitan, and deposited a large wreath as a tribute of fraternal esteem.

High Council Communication.

The following have been appointed Representatives of this High Council:

- Ill. Charles A. Logan, VIII°, for the State of North Carolina, December 6th, 1919.
- Ill. Oscar J. W. Burg, VIII°, for the Pacific Coast Province, November 11th, 1919.

The Annual Meeting of the Corporate Body was held at the House of the S.:S.:. on Friday evening, December 19th, 1919, according to Constitutional requirement. Reports revealed a most gratifying state of progress throughout the entire Fraternity and a past year of unusual activity and accomplishment.



Directory.

The One Hundred and Thirteenth Stated Convocation of Metropolitan College
S.:R.:I.:A.:., will be held in the Adytum, 310 Lenox Avenue

Between 125th. and 126th. Streets, opposite 125th. Street station, Lenox Ave. Subway.

Friday Evening, December 26, 1919, at 8.00 P. M. precisely

Work:

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS and the REGULAR CLASSES.

Neophytes' Class Instructor, V. Wor. Fr. Reficio IX°

Elementary Rosicrucian Philosophy, No. 7,

Subject: "Father, Son and Holy Ghost."— (*Continued*)

Elementary Hermetic Class.....Instructor, Rt. Wor. Fr. Paracelsus IX°

Junior Hermetic Instruction, No. 2,

This Class will also meet at 8 P.M., on Friday, Jan. 2, in Room 1517 Masonic Temple, 24th St.

Senior Hermetic Class.....Instructor, Fr. K.

Senior Hermetic Instruction, No. 10,

Subject: "Prophecy, Tongues, Music, Poesy."

Astrological Class.

Sr. Progressia 9°-2°.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays. 712 West 180th Street.

CLASS CONVENES AT 8:00 P. M. PRECISELY, PLEASE BE PROMPT.

Masonic Notices.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH REGULAR VOYAGE AND DINNER OF METROPOLITAN LODGE,
NO. 1, ARK MARINER MASONS, will be held Monday evening, December 22, at the Au Coq Gaulois,
32 West 57th Street, Manhattan.