

The Mystery of the Summer Solstice

THERE IS A PLANETARY entity which is built by the thoughts and deeds of humanity. As man finds the path of redemption through chastity, the body of Earth is correspondingly purified and refined. The Earth's ultimate destiny is to become a ball of light floating in a sea of golden ether. The "redemption" of the Earth, its future status, position, and function, constitutes part of the work belonging to the exalted ninth degree of the Lesser Mysteries. This degree is celebrated on Midwinter and Midsummer nights; in fact, it is not possible to observe the celebration at any other time. The solstice marks the time when the Earth's vibration is highest and when the cosmic rays of the Christ Life are either entering or being withdrawn from it—the former occurring at the Winter Solstice and the latter at the Summer Solstice.

Christ, the Grand Hierophant of these Mysteries, after having called the Twelve, gave His Mysteries on Midsummer Day as the foundation work of the New Age religion, the fragments of which were gathered together in the Sermon on the Mount. The Great Work was permeated with the spirit of love, unity, and harmony which emanates from the home world of the Christ. Consequently to such as have not touched the Christ world of unified consciousness, the Sermon on the Mount seems illogical, sentimental, and impractical. But to such as have contacted the Christ realm it strikes the very keynote of the true Christian dispensation.

And seeing the multitude, he went up into a mountain; and when he was set, his disciples came unto him; and he opened his mouth and taught them.—Matthew 5:1-2

"He went up into a mountain." This was the

mountain of spiritual consciousness, the inner planes where are located all the Mystery Temples. Churches, schools, study groups—organizations of any kind on the physical plane—are but preparatory agencies which aim to fit disciples for entry into the deeper spiritual work. The spiritual work itself, however, lies beyond their scope. No man becomes an Initiate by merely joining this or that body; but when he has prepared himself properly an esoteric teacher or emissary from a Mystery Temple approaches him. At this point he may be said to have "graduated" from the preparatory agency.

He is not yet an Initiate though he has been called out by his esoteric teacher; he has, so to speak, matriculated in the University of Spirit where the course of work occupies thousands of years and uncounted lifetimes. Through continued work he eventually qualifies for Initiation.

In the Christ story this is the time when the disciple follows the Master up into the mountain. The body is no longer a prison house. He is free to work with the Christ on the inner planes, as a younger brother may work with an elder one who instructs him and supervises his labors. Such inner-plane work given to pioneers of one age becomes the established religion for the masses of the succeeding age. Thus, through spiritual evolution or progression, God is constantly revealing wider and larger vistas of His plan for the ultimate destiny of man.

All of the most important works of the Master bear both an inner and an outer significance. The masses were not ready for the inner meanings of the Sermon on the Mount; they are not even now able to receive it with the heart. Only intellectually does the twentieth century man accede to its precepts. □

—Corinne Heline