

Christmas Blessings



Perhaps because we begin working on this Christmas letter in the middle of November, some of us are thinking about how grateful we are for all our many blessings. Others in our group are excited to share with you other thoughts that have occupied their minds lately. Whatever the topic, please know that we are delighted to have this opportunity to communicate our appreciation and gratitude to all of you for your interest in the School. We are grateful for the teachings Vitvan provided during his lifetime and delighted to be able to communicate with the many kindred souls 'out there' who are also Treaders of the Path to enlightenment.

Wishing you happy holidays and a fulfilling year to come.

School of the Natural Order Home Farm staff and friends, 2010

– James Hillman

blessings, n. Something promoting or contributing to happiness, well-being, or prosperity; a boon.

With the above definition of a blessing given in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* in mind, I would like to share with you a few of the thoughts about blessings from well-known authors:

I think we each have a personal sweet spot as well. It's the state of mind in which we experience the most joy and satisfaction in being ourselves. And from that place of pleasure and joy in being ourselves, energy arises to flow out into our day bringing with it the depth and resonance of our own beingness, bringing with it blessing.

– David Spangler

For this I bless you most. You give much and know not that you give at all.

– Kahlil Gibran

The character truest to itself becomes eccentric rather than immovably centered, as Emerson defined the noble character of the hero. At the edge, the certainty of borders gives way. We are more subject to invasions, less able to mobilize defenses, less sure of who we really are, even as we may be perceived by others as a person of character. The dislocation of self from center to indefinite edge merges us more with the world, so that we can feel "blest by everything."

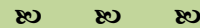
All that appears in your life is a blessing, presenting you with a greater opportunity to define who you are, and to know yourself as that.

– Neale Donald Walsch

Have you learned the lessons only of those who admired you, and were tender with you, and stood aside for you? Have you not learned great lessons from those who braced themselves against you, and disputed passage with you?

– Walt Whitman

– Frank Burney, 2010



Lessons Learned ?

I often find it difficult to stay positive in light of all the personal, community, national and worldwide difficulties I am aware of. I wish I could truly believe all the spiritual precepts that, to me, are glibly tossed about, such as "All things are manifesting as they should," "Everything happens for a reason," "There are no accidents," "It's karma," etc.

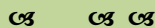
One of the most helpful things I read this past year that clarified this issue for me was from *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz who writes, "You are here to learn, not suffer. Karma does not mean suffering and

punishment. Karma is the result of your past actions, allowing you to learn and grow.”

However, I know I am not alone in wondering what the lesson is that I am supposed to be learning when I am embroiled in a personal or interpersonal conflict. I know now that if the conflict, issue, incident, etc. , keeps occurring, then I have not learned my lesson. I imagine the same is true on other levels, i.e., family, Home Farm, nation, etc. I also believe that a recurring issue is an invitation to me and an opportunity to adopt a new approach, attitude, behavior, etc. In addition, if I can approach life with a “class is in session” attitude I do not feel nearly as discouraged or negative as when I approach life with an “Oh no, here is another problem” attitude.

My wish for the holiday season and coming year would be for all of us to receive *positive* guidance to help us deal with the many lessons that the school of life will assign to us this year. I also hope, for myself and others, that we will be willing to break old patterns and be open to new, more functional ways of dealing with recurring “life lessons.”

– Jane Murray, 2010



Best wishes for the New Year and happy learning!!

I've believed for some time now that the "sound currents" of the so-called "frequency world" hold keys to unlocking the inner worlds and the Gnosis. Recently I started searching Vitvan's writings for his comments on this question and I found a wealth of information. Here are some examples which illustrate my point.

One of the most important points in our meditation practice is to focus attention on the sound currents. When contacted, these sound currents seem to be about or around the head. When one begins to practice focusing attention on the sound currents, he will do well to hold his attention on them for a moment or so at a time. Keep focusing

attention until you can hold at least fifteen seconds. Be not discouraged, compliment yourself, but keep focusing attention on them until you can hold the focus. This is the secret for bypassing the cortical activities; this is the key to making the world quiet. The real world is discovered in the silence of all mental activities and entered with identification of consciousness with the sound currents. If one can hold the mental-cortical activities quiet, he can function; i.e., know without thinking. In this practice of focusing attention on the sound waves and frequencies, one gradually converts the effort to hold attention to one of listening to them, noting the different sounds, notes, keys, rhythms, intervals, etc.

The sound currents are never below Mind level. I have made exhaustive experiments to see if the sound currents were not in the psyche. They are not. They are reflected in the psyche, but the sound currents are properly pertaining to wave-frequencies on Mind level.

Another item worth mentioning—I was thumbing through old school lesson courses and newsletters when I was sick with the flu recently. I discovered where Vitvan tells us the names that the different religions use to refer to the sound currents. For Christianity he stated that they call them "The Holy Ghost." He claimed that what they mean by The Holy Ghost is the sound currents of the frequency world. I found this to be startling and very significant. Certainly my belief in the importance of the sound currents has been verified beyond expectations!

Here's a related comment by Sri Aurobindo:

When there is a complete silence in the being, either a stillness of the whole being, or a stillness behind, unaffected by surface movements, then we can become aware of a Self, a spiritual substance of our being, an existence exceeding even the soul's individuality, spreading itself into universality, surpassing all dependence on any natural form or action, extending itself upwards into a transcendence of which the limits are not visible. It is these liberations

of the spiritual part in us which are the spiritual evolution in nature.

—from *Evolution of the Spiritual Man*
—offered by brother gregory, 2010

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Conscious

I fell off a tree trunk and fractured my skull some years ago, and since regaining consciousness the journey of my reconstruction has been far more interesting, more valuable than what I have lost. Troublesome, yes, but good in unexpected ways.

There is an amazing time lag in knowing how much your mind lets you know about how hurt you are, what it is and how much you have left. In the interim, you survive and your mind allows you to deal with your life in the same old way. And then you start learning.

It was two weeks before I learned that I had no sense of smell or taste. After a while the sensations of texture and feel of foods gave me as much sensory satisfaction as I felt I needed and I let it go at that. That was because Dr Cho had told me not to worry too much. If I did, he said my brain would swell and open the fracture to infection ... and sure death.

I came to Home Farm, the quietest place I knew of. Essentially, as close to my roots as I could get, to see what would come together and what things had to go because they were not there anymore. Interesting, to be sure, and then there is grateful.

Grateful that I knew this refuge of study existed. Grateful to be here where my mind can roam. Grateful for Vitvan's lectures, the opportunity to spend time working upon the land and time to think. Most of all, grateful that Susan and I have found each other, and very grateful for the contentment we share.

To be aware of contentment one has to have been able to discern being content, something unique to each individual, and to have this content for quite a while to register

contentment as a state of being. Awareness allows you to separate self and examine it, define it, work with it. Continued awareness frees you from domination by the emotions rising from your body's genetic pool and the prejudices coming from your cultural attachments. This fascinating interest, this awareness, makes you think of your physical and mental states, that of the world around you, and enables you to initiate decisions from the truer self you find within.

Given the differences in geography and culture it is no wonder that there are different names for things that happen to humans. But worldwide, represented in every culture, the pentatonic scale has just five basic harmonic divisions in an octave that all humans respond to regardless of culture. States of consciousness are the same, and awareness of them is too, all the same place with different names and sounds. We humans are all influenced by the same phenomena, whether it be called music, religion, or states of awareness.

We are consciousness itself! This awareness allows focus... what do you really want to do with this consciousness? Is it just a cerebral toy to toss up and down as you age? Can you help erase global paradoxes? Plant trees? What are you going to do?

Me? I'm going to write that book. And there is Susan.

And I am Grateful.

— Dan Hathaway, 2010

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One of the blessings we have in this country is freedom of religion, but it is something we all seem to take for granted. And yet it's so important for each of us; particularly for those who have chosen to travel a path different from most followers of organized religions. During the campaigning for this recent election, comments were made about this being a Christian nation and questioning the constitutional separation of church and state.

Sometimes we may need to be reminded how precious this freedom really is to us.

An article in the October 2010 issue of *Smithsonian Magazine* titled "God and Country" by Kenneth C. Davis reminded me of this once again and provided some historical insights on this freedom. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (drafted in 1789) begins with these words; "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ..." Our founding fathers had good reasons to include this legal protection, among them the fact that the King of England was also the head of the Anglican Church. Also, they must have been aware of the extreme intolerance of the Puritan fathers who did not countenance opposing religious views: four Quakers were hanged in Boston between 1659 and 1661, and Catholics were banned from the colonies along with other non-puritans. And there was violence among other Christian sects.

The above-mentioned article contains quotes from George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison supporting their reasons for including religious protections in the Constitution. Madison once wrote: "The Religion of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every... man to exercise it as these may dictate. This right is in its nature an inalienable right."

Obviously, with these constitutional protections, there has been much improvement over the last 220 years, but as I am exposed to the news today on television, radio, newspapers and magazines it is apparent that there is still much religious intolerance in this country, and around the world. Tolerance, compassion and empathy for the religious views of others must come from within each of us. Perhaps *then* we will experience Peace on Earth.

– Bill Coffman, 2010



The Schemes of Men of Vision,

a tone, prose-poem suggested by words excerpted from a book written by Jacob Needleman, "**The American Soul**, Rediscovering the Wisdom of the Founders," (copyrighted 2002, first published by Penguin Group (USA) Inc., N.Y., N.Y. All rights reserved).

... "the fact is that many of the ideals that Americans now consider definitive of our nation were introduced and developed by [these] mystical communities, and the original and deeper meaning of these ideals may be astonishingly different than what we now understand of them. For example, the ideas of human equality and independence in these communities are rooted in the notion that God, or "the inner light," exists within every human being, and that the aim of life revolves around the endeavor and necessity for every man or woman to make conscious contact with this inner divine force. This interior divinity—in William Penn's language, "the inner Christ"—is the source of true happiness, intelligence and moral capacity, and is meant to be the guide and ultimate authority in the conduct and assessment of our lives and obligations.

Seen from this perspective, no human being can have ultimate authority over another, not because the individual has the right to satisfy the desires of the body or the ego; not because every individual has the right to plot the scheme of his or her own actions with respect to the social, economic or sexual aspects of life; not because every individual has the right to say whatever he wants to say. No, a human being is his own authority only because he has within him the inner Christ, the inner divinity."

If you don't have a scheme,

How are you going to make your schemes come true?

—david cochrane, 2010



WE HAVE SO MUCH TO GIVE THANKS FOR

1. **Maybe** . . . we were supposed to meet the wrong people before meeting the right one so that, when we finally meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for that gift.
2. **Maybe** . . . when the door of happiness closes, another opens; but, oftentimes, we look so long at the closed door that we don't even see the new one which has been opened for us.
3. **Maybe** . . . it is true that we don't know what we have until we lose it, but it is also true that we don't know what we have been missing until it arrives.
4. **Maybe** . . . the happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just try to make the most of whatever comes their way.
5. **Maybe** . . . the brightest future is based on a forgotten past; after all, you can't go on successfully in life until you can let go of your past mistakes, failures and heartaches.
6. **Maybe** . . . there are moments in life when you miss someone – a parent, a spouse, a friend, a child – so much that you just want to pick them from your dreams and hug them for real, so that once they are around, you appreciate them more.
7. **Maybe** . . . the best kind of friend is the kind you can sit on a porch and swing with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.
8. **Maybe** . . . you should try to put yourself in others' shoes. If you feel that something could hurt you, it probably will hurt the other person, too.
9. **Maybe** . . . you should try to do something nice for someone every single day, even if it is simply to leave them alone.
10. **Maybe** . . . giving someone your love is not an assurance that they will love you back. Don't expect love in return; just wait for it to grow in their heart. If it doesn't, be content that it grew in yours.
11. **Maybe** . . . happiness waits for those who cry, those who hurt, those who have searched, and those who have tried. They can appreciate the importance of the people who have touched their lives.
12. **Maybe** . . . you shouldn't go for looks; they can deceive. Don't go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile, because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile.
13. **Maybe** . . . you should hope for enough happiness to make you sweet; enough trials to make you strong; enough sorrow to keep you human; and enough hope to make you happy.
14. **Maybe** . . . you should try to live your life to the fullest.
15. **Maybe** . . . you could send a special message to those people who mean something to you, to those who have touched your life.

Remember the 3 R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; and Responsibility for all of your actions.

Peace to you this precious season, multiplied by hundreds, thousands, millions. Then.....perhaps, there might really be Peace in this ragged, beautiful world.

– Parker and Carol Damon, 2010



I recently opened Vitvan's *The Christos*, randomly, looking for inspiration for my contribution to this newsletter. In Class Talk Four I found a section I had apparently bracketed (how many years ago?), as having

some special significance for me. I read it aloud to myself, to see how it resonated today:

In looking upon yourself, as you look upon the planet and whole cosmic process, think in terms of energy, not 'things' any more. This energy world, Nature's formative

forces, is like a Mother Substance upon which the Positive Power operates. You are like the Positive Power when you plant the seed in the World Mother, the Mother Substance.

Now the pattern in the life germ of the seed is analogous to yourself; the state in which you are now conscious of yourself represents or could be described in terms of pattern, lines of force in the cellular structures.... The state in which you are conscious of yourself can be described in terms of electromagnetic lines of force – your pattern. So, the life germ of the seed, according to its state in the evolutionary process, can be described in terms of its pattern. The pattern determines the development, the growth, the configuration. In the process of the emergence of the pattern into the configured actuality, it gathers the elemental forces, nature's formative forces – it gathers the energy in other words – and configures the energy gathered according to its pattern. We do not expect the flowering and fruitage of the plant until its season has arrived (time, now, relative to its cyclic process), then you expect the flower and the fruit.

The point is – look upon yourself, look upon the planet, look upon the race on the planet, look upon the cosmic process as a whole as you looked upon the plant, and then see the growing and developing process. When the time arrives, when the season (relative to the cyclic process) is ready for another expansion, growth period, development (we call that evolution), then there comes a creative urge, nothing from without, but from the Power which motivates the substance, and has motivated it from the beginning of manifestation of the creating process, there comes an urge and in response to that urge we seek understanding of the next event, the next point in development.

Hence, our work. Now this “hence” is based upon the fact that we seek understanding and that signalizes that we have reached the mental level or we would not seek understanding. If it were not for that fact we would have no schools of any kind or description — if we were not on the

mental level seeking understanding. Instead of seeking how to accomplish the acquisition of more things, we are seeking understanding of how to build into our consciousness the next point in our natural order developing process; that will be something we can take with us, something permanent, something that cannot be taken away from us, ever; that constitutes true wealth, wealth that cannot be despoiled, stolen, will not rust, etc.; it is something that is permanent and real.

Why all this? Because I do not want the students in The School of the Natural Order to stand gazing: I want you to look at the plant growing and developing. I do not want you to become attached to any thing, any teaching, any Vitvan, or any person who is alleged to have lived ten thousand years ago or today, or will be born tomorrow. That would not mean a thing to you. The plant is growing; it may be that many plants have grown all over the world; but to any given plant, all the other plants that have grown don't mean a thing to it. Its growth depends on the creative urge in itself; it must throw all dependence upon the creative urge within itself. You must throw all the thought upon the dynamic creative urge within yourself. If there are plants in the world that have reached the flowering stage of the fruiting stage, I am glad to hear it; let us have more individuals that have reached the Light stage and we won't have any more trouble and war and destruction in the world. How are we going to reach it? That depends upon the creative urge within yourself and no one else and nothing else. That is part of our attitude toward this work and instruction.

– Vitvan, *The Christos*

The flow of the Power with which I think, feel and act, is the ceaseless, limitless flow of the creative Power, abundant to fulfill every need appropriate to my state of consciousness.

Love and blessings to all,

– Val Taylor, 2010

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Several weeks ago I was listening to a CD series called *Mindfulness and the Brain*. The six CDs record conversations between Jack Kornfield, who approaches mindfulness from a

Buddhist perspective, and Daniel Siegel, a psychiatrist who approaches mindfulness from a neurobiological point of view. I found one of Jack Kornfield's statements especially thought-provoking.

Forgiveness means giving up all hope of a better past.

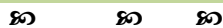
He follows this with a story about two men who had been held prisoner and abused by their guards during their captivity. Reuniting years after their release, one man asks the other, "Have you forgiven our captors yet?"

"Never," replies the other.

"Well, then, you are still in prison," says the first man.

As a new year begins, may we be free from carrying the unnecessary burdens of the past. And may we look to a future that holds optimism, hope and joy.

– Susan Wetmore, 2010



Living here in Baker I have little association with other people most days. This may be why I love to shop. In thinking about it, I think one reason I enjoy it so much is that I like the interaction with all the people I meet in the process. For years I have made a game of trying to make a pleasanter day for those who work where I do my shopping. Dropping compliment here, an empathetic comment there, acknowledgement and appreciation of good service or helpfulness all seem to help brighten their day. If I hear a negative comment from someone when I am standing in line at the checkout counter, I like to try to return it with something positive instead. It's a great game, and I leave the stores happier than when I went in, and I'd like to think that the affect on others is similar.

In his book, *The Devachanic Plane*, C. W. Leadbeater describes the life of a seamstress in a garment factory during the industrial evolution. She spent her life doing kind deeds and caring for fellow factory workers, and in so doing, Leadbeater says, she elicited a positive

response in them that enhanced their evolutionary development, even though they were mostly very young souls. She also incurred good karma in the process, he says. I was delighted with this bit of reinforcement of the idea I had been trying to practice all these years.

So here is the thought I would like to share with you. Be a blessing to those you contact as you go about your daily activities. It fulfills the admonition of the great old Christian hymn to "Brighten the corner where you are ..." and I can testify that it's a great way to make your own life more cheerful and positive. ... And who knows what treasures such behavior may be laying up "where moth and rust do not corrupt nor thieves break through and steal"? Be a blessing as you go about your daily chores and have super-happy holidays and a joyous year to come.

–Marj Coffman, 2010



Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect

One of my favorite children's Christmas stories is *Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect* by Richard H Schneider.

It seems that there once was a forest of beautiful perfect evergreen trees, each of whom strove to be perfect enough for the Queen's choice for the Christmas tree in the castle each year. A young tree named Small Pine listened to the advice of the elder trees and tried to grow perfectly beautiful. But when Small Pine lowered his branches to shelter a rabbit from prowlers, he could no longer straighten them, and they drooped to the ground. When a bird took shelter in Small Pine's branches during a blizzard, a new gap in his upper branches remained. And when a hungry fawn nibbled on Small Pine's green needles during a cold winter, the branches became ragged.

As the royal sleigh, drawn by two white horses, slowly passed through the forest, the Queen's careful eye scanned the evergreens. Each one was hoping to be the royal choice.

When the Queen saw Small Pine, a flash of anger filled her. How could such an ugly tree with so many drooping branches and gaps be allowed in the royal forest? She decided to have a woodsman cut it to throw away and nodded for the sleigh to drive on.

But then . . . she raised her hand for the sleigh to stop and glanced back at the forlorn little pine.

She noticed the tracks of small animals under its uneven needles. She saw a wren's feather caught in its branches. And, as she studied the gaping hole in its side and its ragged shape, understanding filled her heart.

"This is the one," she said, and pointed to Small Pine. The woodsmen gasped, but they did as the Queen directed. . . . To the astonishment of all the evergreens in the forest, Small Pine was carried away to the great hall in the castle. . . .

So if you walk among evergreens today, you will find, along with rabbits, birds, and other happy living things, many trees like Small Pine. You will see a drooping limb, which gives cover, a gap offering a warm resting place, or branches ragged from feeding hungry animals.

Being perfect, whether tree or person, is impossible in a full life. Small Pine's heart opened to those around him in the forest. His shape was no longer stately and perfect, but his beauty shone through in his kind heart and his willingness to nurture others. The other trees learned from him, just as we can learn from the trees in this beautiful Nevada landscape. Here, too, very few of the trees are perfect. The trees have weathered many cold winters and hot summers. When I watch the pinyon and juniper trees standing ankle deep in the pure white snow and glistening with a breath of fresh snow on their branches, I am revitalized, remembering that each of us responds to life in a different way, and each of us learns and draws strength from our challenges. And very few of us are perfect. . . .

– Lynne Hoffman, 2010



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Christmas Day is coming again — along with Winter Solstice, as preamble for the 'Christmas' that was grafted upon it long ago — but that act takes nothing away from the eternal message of the Prince of Peace. . . .

. . . And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

— Luke 2:7-14 New American Standard Version

We are not living in a rational time, so it seems we cannot reasonably expect a more pervasive awareness of the Divine in this present age. The general mindset is usually to take everything on faith and avoid inquiry because it has a sense of 'heresy' about it. We have also not been generally encouraged to question or take time to consider the origin of certain beliefs in our society, although it is very doubtful that the Christ, upon whose life the Christian religion is supposedly based, would forbid anyone to inquire as deeply as possible into the nature of existence and the true meaning of his life and words. However, Vitvan always encouraged us to question everything and the application of such reason can often serve to open up new portals of intuition and awareness.

To those who have some understanding and appreciation of the deeper meaning symbolized by Christmas, the sophisticated modern treatment and observing of the “season” is disconcerting. In fact, the Christmas idea is getting rather complicated; we verbalize “Peace on Earth, good will among men” and then listen to the radio, read the newspapers, look into the magazines and hear nothing and read nothing except war, moil, turmoil and threat of yet greater catastrophe. For hypersensitive natures, this is enough to create schizophrenia!...As a consequence, we are torn between a devotional attitude toward the idea symbolized by Christmas and skepticism bordering upon cynicism, complicated by the over-commercialization of what should be the spirit of the occasion.

Most religions are clearly celebrations of the timeless revolution of Nature, which serves as a mirror for the Power-to-be-conscious manifesting through activity in Mother Substance. We can observe in Nature an almost constant cycling of conditions and circumstances which mirror all of humanity in its individual and collective transformation. Every thought, word and deed makes an impression within our own nature and eventually brings forth the fruit of that imprint, which is sometimes known as the law of return or karma. Child-like innocence is often lost along the way, but eventually sought again by the awakened psyche – making regenerated innocence one of the true, unspoken goals of this life. Sadly, very few individuals ever actually achieve this goal because of the many worldly distractions and ease of compromise, as opposed to choosing a long, lonely struggle on a narrow pathway towards the light.

...there was the signal, the fires were lit – great rejoicing; and today we light a candle at Christmas time. Among other things, the lighted candle symbolizes the return of light, the return of the Sun God, the conquering light overcoming darkness. When you light your candles at Christmas, remember the triumph of Light over darkness, the return of the Sun God. This was the occasion for great

rejoicing by reason of many ‘things’ most of us have forgotten. In a gusty winter wind, cook your meals over an open wood fire, shiver in your tent of skins under blankets of hides, see your goats and cows grow thin for lack of green grass, your babies cry with hunger because milk is scarce...and then the great news – the sun is returning with its light and warmth! Rejoice? Of course we rejoiced! ...

In the natural realm, every luminous cosmic state has a darker shadow. A very good analogy is the perversion of elves into goblins by Saruman in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Just about everything true about what the Christ message represents is different than the accepted modern religious interpretation – making today’s religions the “goblin” as compared to the “elf.” In the School of the Natural Order, we are committed to observing this special and symbolic time of Christmas, while trying to avoid the skepticism and cynicism which can be so tempting.

...We know that the Wise Ones of all times understood the birth of a great power in human consciousness, the coming of a real, great Light in the individualizing process; that sooner or later everyone will reach the point where this great force awakens and enters his consciousness; a great and true light is born. This is the occasion which we observe, either in memory of it having occurred – or in anticipation of its coming and its fulfillment in us, as it has been fulfilled in all of the Illuminati of all times...

The true purpose of Christmas is for celebration of the birth of a promise of our own coming liberation from the bonds of the flesh. Fear of death and want continually forces us to compromise our purpose and intention and can be the direct cause of a great amount of wasted time and energy. The birth and life of Christ represents a station, one that each of us individually can aspire to and attain.

...this is a universal, impersonal, non-literal and non-historical occasion, to eagerly look forward to and anticipate the coming of a great illuminating Light, Force and Power, the crowning achievement of the long

struggle to individualize ourselves from the animal state or level. The allegorical story as given by the Wise Men of the East...beautifully and accurately symbolizes the occasion...Well may the king of darkness tremble when that mighty Power is born, when that Great Light comes!...

In times of great darkness, everyone needs a light. It just so happens that an incredible light is concealed within each one of us and it is this light which we must constantly nurture and celebrate year-round, rather than the perversions of the Christmas marketplace in our present time. We are here on this earth to serve while awakening to our destiny and life's purpose. It is also true that we brought nothing here with us except whatever we had become before this incarnation — and we will take nothing with us except what we have further developed this time around. Given this understanding, there is clearly nothing of greater importance than to experience the birth of the light within ourselves. And, good news, you really don't have to look all that hard for what you are seeking. There is only one location, waiting to be born again, in a lowly manger in the Bethlehem of your individual heart...

It is the birth of the individual, through the Power of the Christos — the creating force of Mind — which we celebrate at the Winter Solstice, symbolized by the 'return' of the sun.... Let us now return to the delineation of the symbolism as given in the allegorical portrayal of the birth of a being on the Mind

level, with its awakening Christos Power. It is a beautiful story. We recognize this label "the Christ"... as designating the light and power of Mind; but more specifically, the light and power of the individualized Self in Mind Substance, the Autonomous Field. This is an illuminating power, which breaks into the consciousness of one when he approaches or reaches the perfective phases of his whole individualizing process. There is a greater and deeper significance in this great force and power which we label 'Love'... [Love] is a cosmic force, ever present on the Mind level, reflected on the higher psychic level and labeled 'the Christos'... It is the love nature also that hears — that literally, actually hears — the angel voices singing "Peace on Earth, good will among men...."

All quotes are from a message entitled "The Idea Symbolized by Christmas", by Vitvan, published in *Here-Now*, December 1953.

—Karyn Weese, 2010

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Yule be sitting by a warm fire
Yule be wondering when it'll
snow
Yule be glad when it does
Yule be contemplating a whole
new year
Yule be the time of increasing
consciousness
Yule be free of race psyche B.S.
Yule be Free!

— John B. Free, 2010

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*Season's Greetings
From All Of Us To
All Of You*