



*Reflections of Consciousness
Individual Expressions of Self*



*Starring ✧ Vitvan
Featuring ✧ School of the Natural Order Students*



**The Journey of the Three Wise Men, Matthew 2:1-21
as given by Vitvan**

Who are the Three Wise Men? Of course, we can repeat the historical story of the three holy men who saw the star in the East and followed it until they came to the manger where the Christ child lay. That interpretation would be interesting to our minds, perhaps, but it is only the outer shell of the truth, and it would add nothing to the expansion of our inner consciousness. Let us look upon the story as a historical allegory representing the conditions present in the consciousness of each human being. Considered in this way, the Three Wise Men are seen to be the principles of Thought, Desire, and Action, or the mental, astral, and physical states of the ego.

Later on in development, when the ego has performed the mystic marriage of heart and head, the Triune Principles of the human nature will follow intuition with no rebellion, but we are speaking now of the conditions obtaining at the time of the first awakening of the Christ power, when the faculty of intuition is born.

When man first becomes conscious of himself as a separate being, he is focused in the instinctive state and is ruled by his desires and his emotions. Action follows desire with no restriction by any higher faculty. As the development of his human state goes on, his mental faculties gradually assume some degree of control of his desire nature, and he comes to depend upon logic, judgment and reason as the highest qualities of which he is conscious.

Now when intuition is first born in the consciousness, its Light is comparatively feeble, and the individual will have many lessons before he learns to turn from the guidance of his mental faculties to follow that



Light. Again and again he will close his consciousness to the inner voice that bids him take a certain course, and listen to his mental values of the situation, only to find later that he has gone into a blind alley. Then he will be obliged to acknowledge that the way to which his intuition prompted him was the right way. Only repeated experiences of this kind will wipe out the old habit tracks, by which he followed his desires and his thoughts, and teach him to depend upon his intuition.

John D. Rockefeller says in his autobiography that he learned, early in life, to follow a sagacity within himself. He says that many times during his business career he held out for a certain line of action against the reason and judgment of all his associates; his will prevailed because he had a controlling interest in his business organizations. Mr. Rockefeller says that when these matters turned out to be phenomenally successful, he was given credit for a superior quality of judgment which he did not possess--he simply had the sense to follow the sagacity within him. This is very significant to me.

Do not reserve the use of this faculty for your spiritual affairs. If you are living your life naturally and normally, in accordance with the Father's Will, every affair of daily life is a spiritual thing. To be natural is to be spiritual. If you will learn to follow your intuition it will work out your plans in business life and in every other state of your being. This is the proof that there is a higher power within you, a Power which can be cultivated and developed. It will grow stronger as you trust It and depend upon It until, in time, all other influences will disappear from your consciousness.

The same thing is true of the great realm of your being in which your feelings and desires reside. When the Christ power is born in your consciousness, it demands all of your nature. The "I AM" is a jealous God, it will not share you with anything else. All the incarnations before this awakening took place were devoted to carrying out your desires and your mental concepts, but when the turning point comes, when the "I AM" becomes conscious in your being, you must desire the Spirit only; it is no longer safe for you to desire relative conditions. However, in the beginning you do not know this; at that time your desire nature is not purified, and you want all sorts of things. You may think that you will devote yourself to the service of Truth when you have made the first ten thousand dollars, but the chances are that if you ever reach that goal you will decide to wait until you have made fifty thousand. When one says, "When I get so-and-so, . . ." when he tries to bargain with the Spirit, you may be sure that he has many lessons to learn before he really knows Truth. We all have seen students try to "serve God and mammon," and we know that it cannot be done. When one who has gained the Light allows his desire nature to obscure it, he never gains his desires. He may sacrifice truth for the sake of financial success, but he will lose the money also. He may turn from the service of Truth for the sake of peace in his home, but he will not have the peace. I know this Inner Law; I know that it governs even the most objective conditions of one who has come under its operation. The desire nature must capitulate and follow the Light regardless of the fact that it seems to lead to the sacrifice of everything in life. I say *seems* to lead to complete sacrifice, for the truth is that once the full renunciation is made, all that you have given up comes back to you and, in addition, the consciousness of Eternal Life. Then only are we actually Immortals, conscious of our Divine Being. But this glorious realization will not come to you until you have given up every desire except the desire for the Christ consciousness. When this is done, no harm can come to you, for when you are going with the Light you have the protection which is indicated in the verses I read to you. If danger threatens, the invisible helpers will take you away into safety until you have grown strong.

The third principle in the triune nature of man is his physical state, characterized by action. In action also man must learn to follow the Light. He must not be misled by his mind or his emotions into acting for the gratification of reason or desire; he must act only at the behest of intuition. You see that the journey of the Three Wise Men is the period of learning to follow intuition. It begins with the birth of the Christ within, while the principles of the human nature are still strong in the conditions which have been



developing over many incarnations. The journey is a difficult one because the old conditions fight for their existence. It is only after many hard experiences have been lived through, and many lessons learned thereby, that consciousness can hold mind, desire, and action constantly polarized to intuition. The conflict between the un-regenerated animal and human nature and the Light of Truth continues in the consciousness until the Light has grown strong enough to transform all the rebellious conditions. The conflict is the journey, the search for the Christ. When the mental, emotional, and physical states have made the complete sacrifice before intuition, they have become Wise Men. They have become willing to follow the Light regardless of anything else in the world; therefore, they are able to find the Christ--to enter the Christed state.

In the historical story, the Hebrews took the promise of the coming of the King in the most literal way. They expected that an earthly king would deliver them from bondage. King Herod took the story literally also and feared that his power was threatened; craftily he set about finding the future king so that he might destroy him. When Herod heard that the Wise Men had come inquiring for the child born King of the Jews, he sent for them and told them to bring him word when they found the child, that he might come and worship also.

Our interpretation of the inner content of the story has shown us that the Christ born in consciousness has far greater power than any earthly monarch, for as His power develops He will master every realm of being and control all things. We have described the process by which He overcomes the forces of darkness and ignorance in the individual consciousness. King Herod symbolized the forces of darkness in the race consciousness which must also be overcome. We are all functioning centers in the consciousness of the race, and every force of Light or of darkness in the race affects each center in it. Then, when the Light is born in an individual consciousness, the dominion over it of the forces in the race consciousness is threatened, and they gather to fight the Light and recover their own.

Every individual who has experienced the awakening of the Spirit will testify to the Truth of this. As soon as the Light is born in him, he encounters opposition. Usually it comes first from those who have been nearest and dearest to him; they feel a change and fight against it without understanding it. At first they will implore him to give up the new ways; they will reason with him, telling him that they are only trying to save him from a dangerous teaching--perhaps from insanity, or from the loss of his good name and standing in the community. There are appeals to sympathy, loyalty, and all the highest qualities of his human nature. If all these things have no effect on the student, he will soon find himself facing actual persecution in some phase.

Now individuals, as individuals, are not to be blamed for persecuting one in whom the Light is born; they are the unconscious instruments of the forces of darkness in the race mind. Such warfare is never waged against an un-awakened one; an individual who is completely identified with the race mind can violate even the laws of the race mind without having it turned against him. But when one individual takes a step in consciousness which is beyond the level of the race, the powers of darkness know it instantly and seek every means to put out his Light. They will fight, tooth and nail, for every advantage, for when the Light is born and has grown strong in a sufficient number of us, the rule of old King Herod will be over--benighted humanity will be freed through the superior Power of the Christed-consciousness.

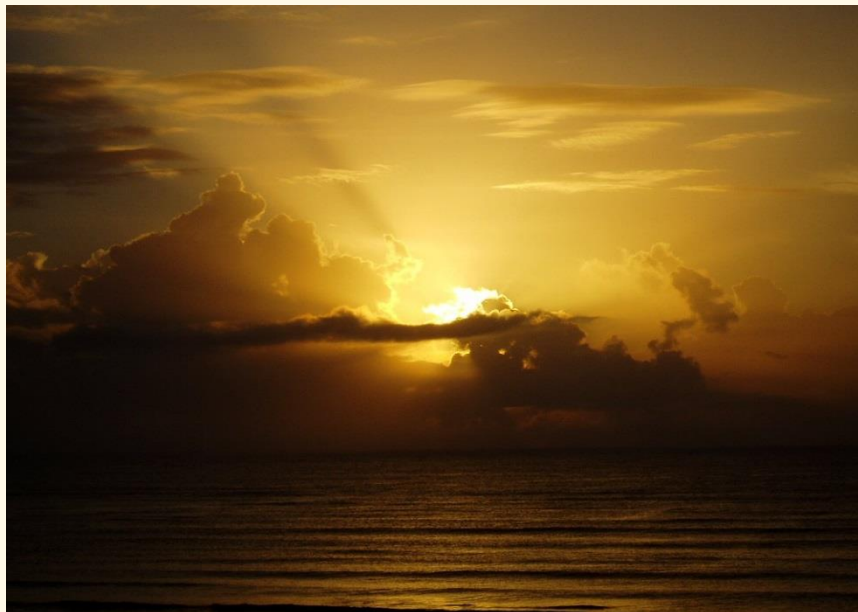
King Herod is clever in his methods of fighting. In the story, he asked to be told where the Christ child was so that he might go and worship him. To this day his emissaries will enter our organizations for the teaching of Truth, in order to gain an advantage for their warfare against us. Until the Christ consciousness is strong in the individuals forming those organizations, their work is in danger.



Now we come to the interpretation of the last part of this wonderful story. When the Wise Men had found the Christ child, they worshipped him, and then departed to their homes by a different way having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod. After they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, telling him of the danger to the child, and warning Joseph to take the child and his mother into Egypt. This is symbolical of one of the most beautiful experiences which comes to the soul on the path. When the triune principles of human nature have rendered their complete offering, when reason, desire, and action are ready to follow intuition with no opposition you will be watched over and guarded by invisible powers. You will learn to fear nothing, for over and over it will be proved to you that when you are threatened with destruction by the forces of darkness, you will be guided and kept safe. Suppose that you are confronted by some danger and are seeking the highest guidance for your actions. You will put any desire you may have in the matter wholly aside; then you will quiet your mind--that is, put your reasoning powers in abeyance. When you are still enough on every plane of your consciousness, you will be given the direction--suddenly you will know what to do. Then the principles of thought, desire, and action will be used to carry out the direction given you by the higher Intelligences through your faculty of intuition. The mind finds objective ways and means; desire lends power to the mind; and action follows their guidance--all are rendering their offering to the Christ.

These times come to all in whom the Light is born. If, when the test comes to you, you have shown by your life and by the brilliance of your Light that you can follow the Christ with no shadow of turning, then some higher Intelligence will come to your aid. The Great Ones are wholly impersonal and dispassionate; only by merit, by the ability to give up your personal will to the higher Will, can you earn the right to be so guarded and guided. But when you have earned that right they will direct you in times of need. Until you have grown very strong in Truth, that direction usually will be to hide your Light from the undeveloped ones who would destroy it. Do not talk your Truth to the people whose needs are only for physical and emotional life. This is not cowardice or hypocrisy; it is the use of Serpent Wisdom for the protection of the Light while it grows strong within you. If you uncover your Light indiscriminately before it has developed and transformed your whole nature, you will be tempted to sacrifice it, but if you learn the great Wisdom of Silence, you can follow it joyfully, creatively, within yourself, and so preserve yourself until the day when you are strong enough to stand before all as a Light Bearer.

♥This is the inner significance of the journey of the Three Wise Men.♥





One of my favorite Christmas symbols is a candle. To me a candle represents the Christos Power that we are each trying to awaken in ourselves as we tread the path “from darkness into Light.” Living in these troubled times, I have also taken to reminding myself that “[It is] better to light a single candle than to curse the darkness.”

As happens frequently with me these days, I wondered where that expression came from, so I went looking for an answer on the Internet. What I discovered was that no one seems to know for sure where it originated. It has been attributed to various persons who have used it, from Confucius to Eleanor Roosevelt to Adlai Stevenson, to name a few. It seems to have served in many other “troubled times.” Does it matter who said it first? Not to me. I am choosing to use it to preserve my equilibrium in our chaotic world. I feel we are watching the disintegration of the old cycle and the dawning of the new one. Vitvan described this as the necessary chaos that must occur during a transition from one cycle to another. I try to remember that and to be the observer, not someone who needs to react as the world lurches from the old cycle to the new. I have taken that quote as my reminder that while I probably cannot do much to ameliorate the world situation, what I *can do* is to maintain my own peace and poise by reminding myself, “better to light a candle...”, and as I turn away from dwelling on the darkness, I’m being prompted to meditate more these days and to keep in mind that I am seeking the light of understanding, *the Light* of the Christed consciousness, which we invoke in our benediction when we say, “May the Blessed Ones lead us, from darkness into Light.” As enough of us practice that, we really can change the world for the better.

Here are a few more quotes I found that you might enjoy thinking about:

“Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened.”
(sometimes attributed to the Buddha)

“We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light the candle that can guide us through that darkness to a safe and sane future.” –John F. Kennedy.

“All of the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.” –St. Francis of Assisi

My Christmas wish for us all
Is that we remember to use the gift of Vitvan’s teachings
To help us stay focused on the Light.

-Marj Coffman



In this time of giving, I offer my Gratitude, Love, Appreciation and Respect to the students of the School of the Natural Order and the part they play in the Unfolding Process of the One to the Many and the Many to the One. Over the past few years, I have been able to rekindle relationships, and have formed new ones that have offered me a wealth of opportunities for growth as I continue on my journey.

May your Dreams guide you
Your Imagination fulfill you
And Pure Joy overtake you

Namaste
Corry



THAT WHICH CURTAILS LIBERTY CREATES EVIL

"For those who cannot as yet perceive fundamental causative factors, i.e. the etiology of phenomenal effects, there is one unfailing rule which can be applied as definitive about evil.

The rule: That which circumscribes or prevents liberty of choice and/or freedom of movement - of a given 'thing', 'person', etc., and within the natural limits of structural relationships, state of development, position occupied in the Cosmic-process, etc. can be called evil, for it is the sole creating cause of evil."

".....The only successful way to fight evil is by liberating Truth - The Good - in our respective selves and at our basic state in Self-awareness."

I kept thinking about this passage, so I thought I should share it.
From The Problem of Good and Evil

-Kathi Wright



The Garden of Spiritual Goals

Can you tell if you are really through some stage of development? How can you see if you are still on the path you chose? Is it possible to quantify progress?

Yes. We can. Obtuse reflective moments sometimes bring the realization that we have passed through a phase. Our capacity for hindsight is the clearest view we have. And generally those realizations come long after the passage. Eventually the realizations build into a quiet certainty that there is direction and development. Trends seen in hindsight bring gladness; new resolutions, another change of course.

Musicians can readily see the fruit their practice brings. Spiritual practices, on the other hand, are a simple, steady, long term dedication; much time can elapse before progress can be seen or felt. Indeed, the process almost requires that one not care about progress and that realizations are unlooked-for joy.



On the path through the spiritual garden the vision of hindsight is the way we see what made a difference. Only there does one find that daily practice really does bring about changes. What you see, hear, think, and say each day, each minute, is how you build your life.

-Dan Hathaway



JOY

Seasons come and seasons go,
As the quiet of the night fades away,
The early morning dawn brings Joy to my life.
With the presentation of a brand new day,
Whether I have lived before or whether I will live again,
Today is the present moment of my Joy;
It will Heal my yesterdays and Enlighten what tomorrow will bring,
Because Joy is in my Heart,
and I enjoy every day.



-Author Unknown
-Contributed by Leo Weese



"When you are motivated by a hunger for Light and Truth,
You are ready.
When you no longer can fight it out of you,
You are ready.
You might work against it and want everything under the sun first,
But when That becomes predominant and you want It over and above everything else,
Then you are ready."

"Please understand that I am not talking down to you. I am just trying to describe a process that you have gone through, that you're in, or that you will go through....I believe in focusing attention on our next step. When we've accomplished that, then take the next step, then the next one, etc. We'll arrive that way, but we won't arrive by trying to jump onto a high level that we don't know anything about. We don't know what it would do to us. We'd be scared to death if it happened! If its Power, Dynamism and its Light were suddenly revealed to us, we'd flee in terror. So you see that we've got to become conditioned to it step by step until we reach it easily. That way we can take care of it, handle it, be adjusted to it, and conditioned in it when we get there."

-Vitvan-Expanding States of Self-Awareness



*Love was the Impelling Motive for Manifestation,
And Love it is that keeps All in Ordered Sequence,
Love Bears All on the Path of Return to the Father's Bosom,
And Love eventually perfects All That Is.*

-Master Djwhal Khul

-Excerpts Compiled by Laura Rankin





A Christmas State-of-Consciousness

What are some of the symbols we associate with Christmas? Obviously, images of Santa Claus and/or Saint Nicolas may come to mind, but for me the image of the Christmas Tree stands out even more clearly.



In the process of trying to understand the meaning of a symbol, any symbol, Carl Jung introduced a new term into the lexicon of psychology. The term he coined was "transcendent function." Basically, what he meant was that in the process of trying to understand a symbol we must in some way become mentally associated with that symbol. In other words, we need to ask our self a number of questions. For example, let's use the symbol of a house. Now we ask: How am I a house? There's the door and the windows, the roof, and the walls. There's also the color or colors of the house. What do they mean? One might ask themselves: Why did I imagine those colors? And if the house has a front door, might it also have a backdoor, even though I can't see it? Interesting question. What are my windows? And how am I a door?

In the process of imagining oneself as a house, all kinds of ideas both profound and trivial may spring to mind. And what was previously just an imaginary symbolic house, begins to take on meaning and with new meaning comes new understanding. This internalization of a

symbol and the subsequent finding of meaning related to the "self" is what Jung meant by the term "transcendent function." So how is it I am a house? One might call this "my house-of-consciousness."

The next question we might ask, Is there anything in that house? For the purpose of entering into an expanding state of awareness, let's say there's a Christmas Tree in the living room. Now, let's look at that Christmas Tree. What is its shape? Kind of a big triangle. What might that mean? Does the tree have any Christmas ornaments on it? What might they mean? Are there lights on it? How do they relate to what I am? Are there presents? (Is there one for me?) Is there a star or Christmas angel on the top of the tree? What might that mean?

Generally speaking, this is how the transcendent function works. Namely, through a process of turning an abstract symbol into the concrete essence of understanding, self-understanding. And though invisible to anyone else, the essence of your understanding will bear fruit in its season. And speaking of seasons, may this little gift help put you into a Christmas State-of-Consciousness. Indeed, ask and receive. After all, it's our Christmas, isn't it?

-Charles Vincent Davis
-December 1st. 2018 A.D.



There are two things that every disciple must someday learn, my brother;
 One is to cultivate the ability to 'sit light in the saddle',
 And the other is to develop a sense of humor.

-Master Djwhal Khul

-Submitted by Brian Morrison






The journey for me starts with One Breath, One Moment of Stillness, and Silence beyond mental activity, beyond the objective understanding of time and space. The Journey continues with more sustained stillness, awareness of that Power with which I Am conscious of my True Self.

I know that it's easy to see this 'Map and Journey' as a 'thing', something outside of my own consciousness, instead of a dynamic, ever-changing process of expanding Self Awareness. The conditioning and pull of the race psyche, present within my consciousness, *seems* so real to me. This map, as given by Vitvan and the School of the Natural Order, seems to me to point to ones own individual consciousness and that what I perceive to be 'out there' is really just in the way I perceive 'it'; through the lens of the senses, through my conditioned psyche. It is the Power with which I perceive that IS my True Self. This I am experiencing on my journey.

The crux of the matter is that the map and the journey are one and they lead not to a place and time in some future, but to this moment, Now. There isn't any time or space except in our "three dimensional state of consciousness". The 'Journey' isn't a long, long, hard road that leads to some time and place in the future, It's Now! Whatever I'm conscious of Now, there is a Power with which I am conscious 'behind', 'within' that 'state' of consciousness, that 'state' in which the Power To Be Conscious is conscious of itself. In the words of The Incredible String Band from the 70's, "Whatever you think, it's more than that". I feel that what I call "The Map" could easily be likened to the Ten Commandments, and I could build a church of stone with walls of time out of 'it', with hopes of a brighter future, when the Power To Be Conscious will be conscious of Its Self. But that's Now. Be Still And Know, my 'higher self' whispers.

I'm thankful for the company of those, 'out there' in my world that share this journey. Spending time studying, exploring, feeling, sharing in the Zoom groups online, and in conversation through emails and phone. It's humbling, like looking in a mirror, it's painful, like walking on glass, it's enlightening, like watching the sun rise, it's like a slap in the face to the personal self. It's another day walking on The Path! There is no place like Now!

Brothers and Sisters,
 Thanks   ,
 Steve Anderegg

