



Greetings & Well-wishes to you and yours!



The Gifts of Man

This is a story of the three wise men that came bearing gifts for the newborn King in a manger, among the animals. Vitvan's interprets this story as an allegory; the taking of form of the elemental self to journey through the psychic self to the Logos, the Only Begotten Son, individualized man. There is a description that I have read which has stuck with me, of the three gifts the wise men gave: 'Thought', 'Action' and 'Desire'. These have special meaning in my process, my state of development and understanding of the Wisdom Teaching or Gnosis.

If man has gifts to offer to the Christ, the Christ Consciousness - 'Thought', 'Action' and 'Desire' sum up all that the state called mankind most values. These gifts given, or surrendered, would free him, emancipate him out of ignorance, darkness and separation. The surrendering unto the 'Lord' every thought, action and desire that opens the "gates to Heaven".

Energy spent on the belief that freedom, peace, truth and love are somewhere in past memories and in future hopes and dreams through our thoughts, actions and desires, binds us to the objective self-conscious state. When we try to force them out and fight with them, they cling even harder. These are my thoughts, my actions, my desires - not realizing that they are borrowed, not unique. When surrendered in the natural order of evolution, in the journey of Self-Realization, they are called by different names such as Knowledge, Will and Love, of which have no time or boundaries. A different dimension that makes no sense in this objectified, thingified world.

Self-inquiry into with what power do I think and do and desire, is the beginning of discovering the True Self and the letting go of the personal self, the ego. The I AM which is my True Self is the Power with which I am conscious of my world. Meditation is the key to gaining referent for what Vitvan calls Mind Level. Meditation is the practice of the surrendering of thought, action and desire to the stillness of Being, to what IS 'behind' - the causative factor of consciousness.

So, wherever you are in this process of reorientation and development of understanding, I wish you presence in thought, action and desire. May you give the gifts of the personal self, in the presence of stillness, and forevermore be in the Holiday Spirit!

- Submitted by Steve Anderegg



Questions and Answers

I looked in the mirror
and what did I see
as I gazed into eyes
that looked back to me?

A traveler answering destiny's rhyme,
Seeking the Light untouched by time.

Echoes of illusion came to my ears,
song of pleasure and pain through the years.

A body, a soul and the Eternal Son,
discovery of Self, apart, to the One.

- Submitted by Rita Grove



One Family

One will always have choices.
Up - Down
Good - Bad
Right - Wrong

It is the duality of the objective world
that we find ourselves in
on our journey.

In Oneness,
In the presence of the True Self,
there is Love without duality,
just Love,
just Love,
just Love.

- Submitted by Corry Dodson

Homage to the Christmas Tree

As long as I can remember, I have had a fondness for the Christmas tree. It seems that I can stare and focus upon one for hours sometimes!

It has recently dawned within my consciousness the correlation of the Christmas tree to what in Eastern traditions have been called the "Kalpa Tree", also referred to as the "wish-fulfilling tree". Furthermore, it also seems to correlate with what the word "Field" represents to me. (Especially since I purchased my magnetic field demonstrator!)

The top of the Christmas tree/Kalpa tree represents the positive pole of the field, usually adorned with a Star. What seems apparent about the top of the tree is that it tapers and becomes less noticeable to the senses, although the Star suggests it is characterized by Power. (I would add descriptions like the Father/Christos/Power to be Conscious.)

The bottom of the tree represents the negative pole. It is broader and more apparent, and below it configures presents/gifts. (I would add descriptions like Mother/Matter.)

I believe Santa represents an agent or vehicle of the Power to be Conscious. Santa asks me, (a State of Becoming), "What do I want/desire?" What I want represents what the State/me is focused upon. As my state matures, my ability for one-pointed attention grows. The Power to be Conscious characterized by one-pointed attention activates the Mother and manifestation/configuration happens. I get what I asked for, the presents appear!!

All these years, the Christmas tree as an allegory of the Cosmic Process! Hallelujah! It turns out that my world has characterized my State. My world characterizes what I have been asking for/focused upon.

At this time of year called Christmas, the realization that what I truly want to orient to, that which represents the Source/Power of All, is called the Christos!! AUMmen

- Submitted by Eric Schneider





Only when thou hast climb'st above thy mind,
And live'st in the Calm Vastness of the One,

Can Love be in the Eternal Bliss,
And Love Divine replace the human tie.

- Sri Aurobindo, Savitri
- Submitted by Laura Rankin



So, forever,
Sortem Suam Quisque Amet

May Peace and Blessings
Flow to you with these lines,

And I pray to remain, as ever,
Faithfully in the Great Work,
Vitvan.

- Submitted by John McKlosky



I would like to reflect on the positive contributions the students of the School of the Natural Order and its community have made to the field over the past year. A commencement has occurred - a new board with entirely new members is now in place for the first time in many years. We have common ideals that center on the fact that we are here to serve the school, and hold its values to the highest standard. We will continue to learn how to work together, and with this learning comes growth - both for the school and the 'individuals' who call themselves students of wisdom. I am honored to be part of the School and contributing to this great work. Looking forward to a new year and further development!

- Submitted by Jeremiah Hess



LITANY

- I. There is no more any parting of the ways.
- II. All the different paths become but the one path.
- III. I am but a part.
- IV. I am but one stone in the Great Temple.
- V. I am a soldier in the army, and from the one who is next to me I cannot swerve by ever so small a fraction; for if I did, the march of the whole army would be disordered. I remain, therefore; immovably associated with my fellow soldiers.
- VI. I know that I take upon myself the responsibility of the whole when I pass consciously into union with it.
- VII. I am ready, without complaint, to be cast down from the place in which I stand, should I swerve or flinch under any trial falling on those next to me; for I know that my strength can never be exhausted, since my comrades also stand unswervingly by my side; and while united we cannot fall.

How vividly these words recall the onslaughts of the force of darkness against the School of the Sacred Science in Los Angeles in 1924! One astral storm after another broke over into the physical plane and raged around that little group of workers in the Light! But we rose to our feet at the close of each class meeting and chanted this litany together for many weeks and months. And there was an outpouring of power beyond all imagination. No wonder all the efforts of the forces of evil and destruction came to naught! It is wonderful for the individuals of a group to pass through such an experience, and if it comes to you, count it as one of your greatest blessings. Why? Because when you have passed through, you have the asset of courage and strength and power that nothing else can give.

In the sixth chapter of the Gospel of St. John there is this record: "From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" Simon Peter then answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." Peter even then felt the solidarity of the collective force of the twelve, and that is the spirit expressed in the first line of this litany. "There is no more any parting of the ways." I know that is true with many of you — you have tried with every power you have to break away from this group and go another way, but there is no more any parting of the ways for you, for your spirit has merged with those with whom you are working upward to the Light.

You can be near or "next" to another disciple although thousands of miles may separate you. It is a nearness of consciousness, and not physical proximity. You can go only to a certain point alone on the Path, without the support of others, and then you will come to a standstill. The only way to go on is to unite your strength with others, and thus gain the strength of the whole group. From this mystic sense of union, arises the state known as the Feast of Satisfaction. December 21, 22, 23 24 — The Feast of Satisfaction.

- Mabel Collins, When The Sun Moves Northward
Commentaries by Vitvan
- Submitted by Laura Rankin