

SPIRITICITY December 1962

CHRISTMAS

By Alden Truesdell

GOD WAS early recognized as the Santa Claus of the sanctified. If one could be good enough, God would give him the things that he prayed for, much as Santa Claus brings the presents that are on the Christmas list. After the delivery of the gifts, the Delivery Boy was supposed to withdraw and in no manner project His Presence into the general enjoyment of the celebration. The magnificence of God's Presence might prove embarrassing.

After God has set up the Christmas tree of creation, trimmed with such rare ornaments as only the Fabulous Father of Lights would conceive and construct, loaded it with presents so valuable as to be priceless, the Paternal Philanthropist might expect to witness the appreciation that is a parent's pleasure; He might even expect a bid to the party. But the people are just too busy, as God can see for Himself.

This condition is not peculiar to this generation, but its an ancient and universal condition. As far back in the records as Deuteronomy we read:

"Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God; . . . lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God. . . . But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth."

Instead of incessant petition to a spiritual Santa Claus, what if our prayers were charged with invitations to God to attend the holiday festival as a house guest? Conditions will never be better for enticing and entertaining God than in that time when many members of the community of Christendom have been distracted from the restrictions of constant receiving to an outsurging release of the generosity of giving. God is always on the giving hand, as is Santa Claus; and the spirit of giving spreading through the race like an epidemic, takes the individuals out of themselves to such an extent as to make room for God. God would live with us all the time, if we would make room for Him; but, as long as the consciousness is filled with the self, there is no room for the spiritual Saviour. There is no room in the inn for the Christ Principle with Its sufficiency.

Man is a chronic grabber and getter. He is a spasmodic and sometimes generous giver. But the former practice has overbalanced and upset the normal function of the law of giving and receiving. Man's emphasis upon demand has been so great that the impulse has carried him far beyond his base of supply. He has gained his goal in the world, but has lost his supply of soul-substance in the process. The race therefore must return - return to normalcy which, actually, is spirituality; for man is not normal except he be whole, and man is not whole except he be spiritually established and directed.

If in our prayers to God we invite Him to be our guest, we may uncover that Kingdom where God is with man, where He is their God, and they are His people. The Christmas spirit

with its Christ-birth celebration, even with its exaggerated practice of haphazard giving, is an escape valve and a healing release of pent-up powers of individual and racial growth. The surge and splurge of promiscuous giving is the greatest health-promoting practice known to man. It is a spree to be sure, and has a tendency to get out of hand. There may be a hangover from the indulgence of the intoxicating wine of giving and living, but it will be as a convalescence from a successful and beneficial operation. The patient will improve and increase in favor with God and man. The race will be in a happier, healthier state of mind and condition of affairs.

"Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born,
And not in thee, thou art still forlorn."

We might consider the declaration of the little rhyme and say, "If Christ is born in you, you are not forlorn." If Christ is born in you, the transcendent descriptions become commonplace and even inadequate. With the Advent of Christ in consciousness, you cease to exist and begin to live. Birth and death in the world give place to spiritual illumination and resurrection into eternal Life.

If Christ to born in you, these will be grateful acknowledgment to all the inspired down through the centuries, who have honored this Christ birth in song and story - even though the finest literature leaves much to be desired in the way of description.

If Christ is born in you, you will accept for that baby Deity the adulation of all nature. The multitude of thoughts will recognize this saving infant. All the faculties of being will come to His crib, for this Projection of Perfection is a tiny replica of "the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

That time when the attention is distracted from stubborn selfishness to the godly goodness of giving may be the expected but unpredictable time when "in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Therefore praise God for Christmas as a medium through which the Giver of all good and perfect gifts circulates His contagion and establishes His service in His own household, His own creation!

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GIVE a JEFFERY BOOK
For Christmas