

# The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

From Manly P. Hall

As the Christmas Season approaches, and we come to the end of another year, it is appropriate that we be mindful and grateful for the blessings we have enjoyed through the years of our lives in this world. It is true that we have all passed through many of the inevitable vicissitudes of existence, but as we look back, I am sure that we will find much to inspire thankfulness. Everything depends upon the center of consciousness in our own hearts. After all, living is in many ways a matter of interpretation. If faith is strong, and we have a solid foundation in principles and convictions, we are more observant of a Divine Presence moving within and behind the confusion of outward appearances. Most of all, we can remember that in spite of the conspiracies of nations, the great laws of life continue to rule the destiny of creation. There is still so much of beauty everywhere. The seasons follow their orderly progressions. Nature has not turned against us; nor has the Divine Nature departed from us. With each year, the search for internal security may be a little more difficult, but this is the way that it should be. It is only when the challenge of circumstances becomes more intensive that we release in fuller degree the spiritual strength with which we have been endowed.

Beneath the surface of our uncertainties and anxieties, the eternal plan continues to achieve its perfect works. Looking back over 1964, it is good to realize that we have grown, that we are better and stronger people than we were a year ago. New insight has come to us, intuitions have been strengthened, and we have valued more highly than ever before the virtues of patience, kindness, and tolerance. We can also see how the obstacles to man's eternal progress are slowly but inevitably being overcome. It is almost impossible that a right-minded person with normal faculties of observation and reflection could fail to observe that all things are moving toward some greater good that lies ahead.

At the Christmas Season, we are inclined to seek the presence of God in all areas of our mortal activity. Personal experience is our all-sufficient guide to understanding. If there

are some things that happened in 1964 that are difficult to accept, this is the season when we must reconcile our own purposes with the will of Heaven. From our very acceptances, a new light is born within ourselves. The Christmas spirit is a kind of alchemical mystery. There are three priceless ingredients which must be brought together in the compounding of the universal medicine. By insight, we transmute the past; by love, we attain victory over the present; and by faith, we move into the future without fear.

If we strengthen these three powers within ourselves, we will achieve an immediate and more perfect adjustment with life. We will be able to release our hearts and minds from the pressures of doubts and fears, and understand more completely the mystical meaning of the Winter Solstice. At the moment of the annual birth of the sun of light and the son of righteousness, we experience the resurrection of truth within ourselves. Those doubts which have lingered from past time are like shadows to be dispelled by the splendor of the newborn light.

Let us pause for a moment, then, at this Christmas Season, and be quiet in that cosmic moment of the resurrection of the solar power, and allow this universal ritual to be re-enacted in our own hearts. As the light of the new year is born, let us meet it with the light of a new hope, which has come to birth in ourselves. Let the shadows and gloom of selfishness be dispelled by a firmer dedication to mutual respect, admiration and friendship. Let us make a resolve that all negative attitudes shall fade away with the old year, and that we may enjoy the restoration of our natural happiness and serenity of spirit.

The giver of all things is bringing us another precious gift --the gift of a new year, in which to build a new life nearer to those convictions which we hold most sacred. Let us share this gift with all we know, for what can we bestow upon another more valuable than enlightened friendship and understanding? Let old grudges bury their own dead. Let the past fade away, for it has ceased to be a reality. Let Christmas Day itself be the birthday of a new consciousness of purpose. Then the Christmas symbolism will release its true meaning, and we will experience an inner joy and blessed quietude which cannot be disturbed by the happenings of the day. In this way, each devout person will experience the Christ-Mass as a holy sacrament in his own soul, and the new year as a new life in truth.

*Manly P. Hall*

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