

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

3910 Los Feliz Blvd. - Los Angeles, Calif. 90027 - 663-2167

MANLY P. HALL
President - Founder



HENRY L. DRAKE
Vice-President

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The Blessings of Christmas



Dear Friends:



here is an old saying that man's emergency is God's opportunity. As human affairs become more difficult, persons of all faiths throughout the world turn to religion for strength and solace. Even in countries dominated by atheistic policies, private citizens are turning to a mystical communion with the Divine Power that always has, and always will, rule the world. There is no doubt that every aspect of mortal relationships are glorified by strong inner dedication to those high ethical principles which are the foundation of all spiritual teachings.

We receive a number of reports from foreign countries relating to the development and progress of their cultures. In every case there is greater dependency upon integrities, and officially or unofficially, most governments are turning to traditional idealism as the first line of defense against the deterioration of institutions and the demoralization of persons.

As we noted in the World Horoscope for 1974, which remains in force, incidentally, until March 21, 1975, there was an overwhelming number of constructive aspects and strong emphasis upon the essential advancement of the human race. It may seem difficult to justify the starry influences, but if the present social and political upheavals bring us back again to our spiritual heritage, this can lead to the greatest advancement that we have known in the last thousand years. It is especially interesting and noteworthy that the so-called "peer group" in modern society is moving firmly toward a recognition of spiritual reality. For example, the scientific world in general, is focusing its attention largely upon the exploration of the parapsychical universe. Space research has greatly changed the attitudes of astronomers, physicists and electronic research groups, and many of our leading psychologists and psychiatrists are recommending religious allegiances for those under stress. Several instances have come to me in the last few months of a strong partnership between physicians including specialists, and the churches because of the obvious benefits resulting from a strengthening of faith as the first line of defense against fear.

An old scientist once observed that an undevout astronomer is mad, and not long ago I was talking with an astronomer, and mentioned the famous statement supposed to have been made by de Laplace to Napoleon when the Emperor asked why de Laplace never mentioned God in his scientific writings. It is rumored that the astronomer replied gravely, "Sire, I have no need for that hypothesis." My friend, who was for some time connected with important space research, bristled and stated firmly, "de Laplace said no such thing!" This in itself indicates a complete about-face in the higher echelon.



Those floating around in the *Skylab* are getting a new perspective on life, and their findings closely resemble the public utterances of the earlier astronauts. In the clearer atmosphere outside of the earth's smog belt, things look considerably better than they do down here. It is almost impossible to explore the phenomena of inter-stellar space without realizing that some mighty power sustains the immeasurable framework of creation. We are now exploring the great ocean of causes in which we live and move and have our being.

Unfortunately, we have devoted so much attention to the consideration of *immediates* that we have ignored *ultimates*. Now we realize that until we discover the essential purpose in life, we cannot live purposefully even in our own small sphere. The search for purpose must end with the realization that *Divine Mind* is a sovereign reality. While we may not understand all the workings of this Mind, we can discover many of its mysteries through contemplation of its processes. Only the devout can experience Truth; for the undevout, facts must remain bodies clothing mysteries which only a deep faith can explore.

At this Christmastime, therefore, the *Sacred Mystery of the Incarnation* is both inspiring and consoling. The angelic forms still elude us, but the song first heard by the shepherds proclaim the Divine Purpose. It was intended that peace should come to earth, and that all men should dwell together in the good will of mutual respect and kindness. In our exploration of the stars, it may happen again that a star will lead the wise men of this generation into the presence of a rebirth of the Law of God among men. Actually, we have many blessings, and it is time to consider them and not allow ourselves an attitude of futility in a cosmos where everything is meaningful, and all things work together for inevitable good. Discouragement is only a moment of bewilderment in a universe of law and order. It is a mistake, however, to assume that we are struggling against causes beyond our control. The modern scientist, until recently, has glorified law; and to a measure, material science has inspired material government and materialistic economic progress. It has been assumed that by the perfection of our physical institutions that we can bring about the perfection of man. Actually, everything that we have is useful only to the degree that inspired insight guides the destiny of our human civilization. Before skill must come virtue, and the perfection of virtue depends upon a commitment to the *Divine Will*. No man's work can be better than the man himself. The Universe has given us much, but unless we use wisely, our skills are in vain.

Everything that we need to advance our own humanity is ever available to us. As the Chinese said, "Heaven bestows." It is time that we became more grateful for those simple joys which were so important to our forbears. They have given us a legacy of simple and practical values which we have sacrificed to our own selfishness and ambition. Even today in many parts of the world, Christmas will be celebrated as the most important of our great folk festivals. It belongs to the lifestream of the *folk*. It goes back to the time when life was regulated by honorable convictions such as those set forth in the *Sermon on the Mount*. We are all one great family, and religion has always taught that the *Universal Parent* guards with both strength and tenderness the beings He fashioned in His own image, and endowed with His own attributes.

The two great centers of life in man,-- the mind and the heart, are intended to control the flow of consciousness into manifestation. Gradually the mind has become the dictator, and has assumed despotic powers over the individual himself, and the institutions he has fashioned. Actually, as we all know in terms of esoteric physiology, the heart is the very seat of life itself, and the mind was intended to support the heart and assist the emotions in their constructive expression. The power of the mind is wisdom, and the power of the heart is love. Wisdom without love can lead to despotism, and love without the guiding influence of dedicated wisdom is unable to accomplish its perfect works in this world. Christmas is the day when love rules the world, and this rulership is authenticated in the individual himself. From time immemorial Christmas has been a religious festival

expressing itself through family worship, tender regard for children, and solicitude for the widow and the fatherless. It is a time of generosity which is not justified by the self-centeredness of the mind, but by the God-centeredness in the heart itself.

Let us philosophize for a moment on the symbolic meaning of the traditional nativity scene. The *Love of God* is made flesh in a stable surrounded by animals. It is also born in the midst of the animal propensities of our own nature. This *Love* is mothered by *Purity*, and guarded by a faithful and diligent Joseph. In the outside world, three symbolic figures, now called *Kings*, come to bring their offerings to the crib of the Christ Child. These Kings are leaders among men, and are respected and honored like the Magi who watched the sky for the symbol of the Holy Birth. Although they are crowned and robed, and ride upon richly caparisoned steeds, they kneel in humble recognition that all temporal power exists only by the Grace of God. Let us say that these three rulers of human opinion, are government, education, and science. They have their own empires somewhere in another land, and in large measure rule the thoughts and conduct of countless subjects. They bring, therefore, their labors as an offering to Truth. Government brings justice; education brings knowledge; and science brings skill. These treasures are to glorify the Love of God made flesh. To the degree that these Kings are selfish, ambitious, cruel or dishonorable, they have no offerings. In every field of human endeavor, accomplishment is in the name of Truth itself. When it is not, it is like the barren fig tree that is cut off from life. Those who build for their own glory, or for wealth, or for the perpetuation of a materialistic society, leave no monument behind them when they depart.

The time has come for the wisdom of this world to bow to the wisdom that is beyond this world. Everywhere men are turning from the vanities of success, and seeking the simple securities which bring happiness and peace of soul. As we observe the ecological problems arising, the energy shortages, and the bitter struggle to dominate the remaining sources of material security, we realize that before the Golden Age can come, the age of gold must pass away. If we look about us, we will find much this Christmas to sustain our inner realization that we are coming closer and closer to a concept of Universal government based upon Divine Love-Law, and the natural rules and regulations which nature has ordained.



I wish for all of you a wonderful Christmas Season and we are grateful indeed, for the true kindness in *your* heart which has inspired you to be so helpful and generous and thoughtful through the years. What you have done is simple evidence that all good things can be done.

Always most sincerely,

Marilyn P. Hall





The following list of books is recommended reading. These books may be ordered directly from *The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.* (address on page one). Please add 35¢ for handling. Sales Tax is to be included by California residents. NOTE: Prices subject to change without notice.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
You Are Not The Target	Laura A. Huxley	(P) \$ 2.00
Your Days Are Numbered	Florence Campbell	4.25
Zanoni, A Rosicrucian Tale	Bulwer-Lytton	(P) 2.95
Zen and Zen in the Art of Archery	Eugen Herrigel	(P) 1.95
Zen Bones, Zen Flesh	Rep	3.25
Zen and Oriental Art	H. Munsterberg	6.50
Zen Telegrams		2.50
Zepher Yetzirah	W. Wynn Westcott	(P) 2.00
Zen Doctrine of No Mind	D.T. Suzuki	(P) 2.50
Zodiac and the Soul	Charles O.E. Carter	3.50
The Zodiac and the Salts of Salvation	Inez Eudora Perry	12.95
Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind	Shunryu Suzuki	(P) 4.50
Astrological Aspects	CEO Carter	4.00
Astrology, The Space Age Science	Joseph Goodavage	7.00
Astrology, Your Place Among the Stars	Evangline Adams	5.95
The Awakening of Faith	Ashvagasha	5.00
Ancient, Medieval & Modern Christianity	Charles Guignebert	10.00
The Art of Buddhism	Dietrich Seckel	6.95
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The Art of Japanese Brush Painting	Mikami and McDowell	3.95
The Art of China, Spirit & Society	Werner Speiser	6.95
Aesch Mezareph, or Purifying Fire	W. Westcott	(P) 2.00
The Astral Plane	C.W. Leadbeater	(P) 2.00
Alchemical Writings of Edward Kelly	A.E. Waite	8.50
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Anthroposophy, an Introduction	Rudolf Steiner	3.50
Applied Astrology	Margaret Hone	5.00
At The Feet of the Master	Alcyone	(P) 1.50
Ancient Egypt, The Light of the World	Gerald Massey	SET -- 35.00

BOOKS BY MANLY P. HALL

Lectures - Ancient Philosophy	\$ 7.50	Words To The Wise	\$ 6.50
Old Testament Wisdom	7.50	Questions and Answers	6.50
Pathways of Philosophy	6.50	Codex Rosae Crucis - D.O.M.A.	15.00
Healing, The Divine Art	7.75	The Phoenix	12.50
Most Holy Trinosophia (St. Germain)	10.00	The Mystical Christ	6.50

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: In 1923, Mr. Hall was issuing a monthly publication called, *The All-Seeing Eye*. It was from this simple beginning that the concept of a regular magazine developed and has now become The P.R.S. Journal. Mr. Hall's Christmas card for 1923 reproduced in miniature, the title page of his magazine, and featured a special design which he drew based upon the Crest of Martin Luther. The Christmas Card contained a little essay, *The Spirit of Christmas*. Through the courtesy of a friend, a reprint has been made of this Christmas booklet. We feel that many recent students will enjoy having this item. It can be ordered directly from The Philosophical Research Society, Inc., at 60¢ per copy postpaid. The available supply is limited to 600 booklets. We recommend that you order now.

