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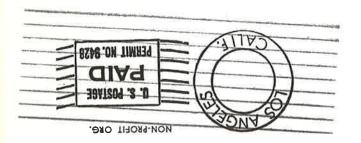
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OF MANLY P. HALL'S
PUBLIC WORK
1960

CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN--DECEMBER 1963

Dear Friend:

As we come to the end of 1963, we are inspired to take careful count of the blessings and privileges for self-improvement that have come to us in the past year. Internationally, we have escaped many hazards, and nationally, we have maintained reasonable security for our people. We have seen progress in human understanding, and observed increasing emphasis upon religious tolerance and indications of the advancement of idealistic philosophy, mysticism, and ethics. We therefore look forward to the new year with high hope that the principles that we know to be right and true will gain still greater victory in all the areas of human activity.

Our Society has been most fortunate in being able to continue its program of religious education and public service. This has been made possible by the generous support and understanding of friends who have been cooperating with our endeavors for years. We have made many new friends, and they too, when emergencies have arisen, have come forward with substantial assistance. We feel greatly encouraged by this splendid faith in our efforts, and believe it is the real secret of continuing success. We want you to know of our sincere gratitude.

The progress of our campaign to lift the heavy burden of monthly mortgage payments from the slender finances at our disposal reveals more plainly than words the insight of our friends. To date our recent special effort toward this end has exceeded our best hopes. There seems little doubt that our goal will be reached and our Auditorium soon cleared of all incumbrance.

We have decided to wait until the next Contributors' Bulletin to actually date the mortgage-burning ceremony. You will be notified in due time, and we hope that as many friends as possible will be with us on this happy occasion.

Some years ago, we published a special Christmas card, which has long been out of print. The unusual message that it contains and the fact that it has both historical and religious interest have suggested that we reprint it in this letter. I believe you will find the little story of "The Man Who Would Not Be God" especially inspiring at this stage in modern history.

Our kindest thoughts are with you for a wonderful Christmas Season, and we shall ever be mindful of both the privilege and the responsibility of deep and continuing friendships. To each and every one, also, the best new year and the richest of spiritual blessings.

Manly P. Hall

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The Man who would not be God.



A Christmas story from The Golden Legend of Jacobus de Voragine, A.D. 1230-1298



N a certain day more than nineteen centuries ago, Octavian, Emperor of Rome, summoned to his presence one of the ter imperior Suhils.

CTAVIAN had brought the Roman Empire out of a long period of wars and had established peace throughout the civilized world. To honor him. the Roman Senate had assembled in solemn session, and resolved to elevate the Emperor to the estate of a god while yet he lived, conferring with this decree the privileges. rights and worship suitable to a deity.

The Emperor, who possessed nobility of mind and realized the weakness of his mortal flesh, refused to permit the Senate to bestow the title "Immortal" until he had questioned the Sybil to determine if another would be born whose merit would be greater.

Now the Sybils were women possessed by the gods and exercising prophetic and mystic powers, and their utterances were carefully preserved for the guidance of the state.

It happened that the Sybil came into the presence of the Emperor on the very day of the nativity of Jesus Christ.

While in the presence of Octavian the priestess was possessed by a spirit, and declared that she beheld a circle of light about the sun, and in the middle of the sun stood a Virgin carrying in her arms a Man Child. Pointing her long anarled fing at the peror, the Sypil cried, This child shall be greater than thou!"

So the Emperor of Rome refused to be made a god, declaring that the mysteries of Heaven were beyond the powers of men; and that human beings might attain to heroic estate, but the gods alone bestow divinity upon those they select to perform the works of the spirit.

Other illustrious pagans also paid honor to Christ. The Emperor Augustus built an altar on the steps of the Capitol because he had received a vision of the coming of the spiritual King of the world. This pagan altar bore the inscription "This is the Altar of the Son of the Living God."

It may be well at this season of the year to know that the Christian Mystery was interpreted by the pagan Roman Emperor, Octavian, in this manner:

The Supreme Deity, Lord of all nations and all people, first of the Gods, and the Bestower of divine honors, reveals His Will to His creation through great spiritualized beings who emerge from the depths of His own nature.

The name of the firstborn of the Eternal Spirit is Truth, the ever coming Savior of mankind. In the end, Truth shall rule supreme over all the world. And in that day war and hate and crime shall cease, invincible right shall prevail, and the nations shall be united in the brotherhood of man.

May the Christ in You, which is the Hope of Glory, bestow the Blessings of Peace and Wisdom at this Season.

