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40th ANNIVERSARY
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.

Always most gratefully and sincerely,

Manly P. Hall

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IN THE FIELDS OF PHILOSOPHY, COMPARATIVE RELIGION, AND PSYCHOLOGY

The Man who would not be God.



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



In a certain day more
than nineteen centuries
ago, Octavian, Emper-
or of Rome, summoned
to his presence one of
the ter' imperis' Sybils.

OCTAVIAN 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 ses-
sion, and resolved to ele-
vate the Emperor to the
estate of a god while yet
he lived, conferring with
this decree the privileges,
rights and worship suit-
able to a deity.

The Emperor, who pos-
sessed nobility of mind
and realized the weak-
ness of his mortal flesh,
refused to permit the Sen-
ate to bestow the title
"Immortal" until he had
questioned the Sybil to de-
termine if another would
be born whose merit
would be greater.

Now the Sybils were
women possessed by the
gods and exercising pro-
phetic and mystic powers,
and their utterances were

carefully preserved for
the guidance of the state.

It happened that the
Sybil came into the pres-
ence of the Emperor on
the very day of the na-
tivity 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. Point-
ing her long narled fin-
g at the Emperor, the
Sybil cried, "This child
shall be greater than
thou!"

So the Emperor of Rome
refused to be made a god,
declaring that the mys-
teries of Heaven were be-
yond 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 spiritu-
al 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 Em-
peror, 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 spiritual-
ized beings who emerge
from the depths of His
own nature.

The name of the first-
born of the Eternal Spirit
is Truth, the ever coming
Savior of mankind. In the
end, Truth shall rule su-
preme over all the world.
And in that day war and
hate and crime shall cease,
invincible right shall pre-
vail, and the nations shall
be united in the brother-
hood of man.

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

