

CRACKING THE CODE: THE SACRED SYMBOLOGY OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

PULSE OF SPIRIT
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Have you ever wondered why Christmas can send warm chills down your spine? Even after you get fed up with all the commercialism? Even after you become disillusioned by the historical inaccuracy of some of the elements of the story? And even after you have decided that you can't buy into some of the elements of dogma and belief attached to Christmas? And then think:

Darn. Christmas got me again. There's just something about this holiday...

Yes, there is something about Christmas. Locked within the symbology and the story is a truth and wisdom for you and for me; a truth our world desperately needs. While wrapped with story and belief, the gift within the wrapping is a formula for our oneness, for our enlightenment as a race, and for a thriving future on Planet Earth. There is a recipe for our collective rebirth as humankind.

So are you ready to see past the wrapping and open this Christmas gift? Past the dogma and belief, the scientific impossibility of a virgin birth, and the possible historical inaccuracies, to crack the code of the sacred symbology of the Christmas story?

Some speculate that the most well-known verses from the Bible are not John 3:16, the Lord's Prayer, or the 23rd Psalm. That the best-known verses from the Bible are from the 2nd chapter of Luke, made famous by Linus who recites them in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. They touch our hearts, especially being read by a child.

Here are the verses Linus recites, and a little more.

*And she brought forth her firstborn son,
and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger; because there
was no room for them in the inn.*

*And there were in the same country
shepherds abiding in the field, keeping
watch over their flock by night.*

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon
them, and the glory of the Lord shone
round about them: and they were sore
afraid.*

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not:
for, behold, I bring you good tidings of
great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall
find the babe wrapped in swaddling
clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a
multitude of the heavenly host praising
God, and saying,*

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men.*

In typical biblical efficiency, so much is said in so few words. These verses suggest a wondrous pageantry and celestial affairs coming to Earth.

So, what about the message of the angels? It's so clear that what is being said was meant to be relevant for all the world. This was an event of global significance. That significance

stretched far beyond the people who were there or the country where they were.

The angels didn't say, *Build a church*. They didn't say *Build a religion*, or *Build a nation*. They simply said this:

*Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good
tidings of great joy, which shall be to all
people.*

All people. It's so easy, it seems, for religious traditions and spiritual paths to end up believing that what they are experiencing is relevant to them and them alone. And indeed it is relevant to them. But at the origin of all faith, all religion, and all spiritual practice, is something that is designed not only for those who happen to come across that faith and follow it but ultimately something relevant for the whole world. And so we call for an awakening—awakening so that those who are hearing the voice of the angel, in whatever way, realize that it's not just for them. It's not just for me and mine, it's not just for us and not them. It is for the whole world.

This biblical passage reminds me of what the voice of Spirit said to Abraham, then known as Abram, early in the story recorded in the Bible. Abraham is seen as the father of three great religions: Islam, Judaism,

and Christianity. Here is the biblical telling of the beginning of the path of spiritual evolution for humankind. These verses portray the original spiritual DNA for that evolution.

Here's what they say:

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

...and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (Genesis 12:1-3)

Do you see the parallel with the voice of the Christmas angel?

“In thee shall *all* families of the earth be blessed”—not only the Children of Israel, not only the state of Israel, not only those who follow the Judaic path, not only Christians or Muslims. Nor is it only for those who consider themselves Emissaries of Divine Light.

In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Here is this original message coming from the Unseen into the awareness of Abraham, the same message that came from the Christmas angel. There was the vision

of the spiritual evolution of all humankind and the immediate steps Abraham was called to take to fulfill that vision.

There was a nation to build—Israel. But that nation had relevance to the whole world—not only to its own people but to *all* people, *all* families.

Later on, in Chapter 22, this is said to Abraham:

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore.

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;...

All the nations of the earth...

Both the story from Luke and Abraham's calling portray the primal impulse for our spiritual evolution as humankind.

Today, visionary leaders tell us to begin with the end in mind. This is habit #2 of Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Successful People*. Gregg Braden, Michael Beckwith, and many others teach how, if we are to truly create, we must entertain deeply in heart and mind what will become the

ultimate manifestation of our
creating.

In the voice of the angel to the
shepherds, and in the voice of the
Lord to Abraham, there was at the
beginning of things what was to be in
the fulfillment of things: great joy,
peace, goodwill and blessing for *all*
people, *all* families and *all* nations.

Here we are today, entering the
holiday season in the year 2020. Does
it seem to you sometimes that we are
not at the beginning or the end but in
the middle of things? That we are in
the thick of it?

The voice of the Christmas angel
reminds us that if we are in the
middle of things, it is a good time to
remember the beginning of it all. And
according to the beginning, and
according to how true we are to the
beginning of things, so will the ending
be.

We find these words in the Book of
Revelation:

I am Alpha and Omega.

I am the beginning, and I am the
ending. I am the primal and the final.

In the beginning, the seed of our
spiritual evolution was for all

humankind. Anything global and
universal has to start someplace,
perhaps with a nation or, in
Abraham's case, with simply going to
Canaan. There is something to do that
doesn't seem quite so universal or
global; it appears to be very specific
and local, and perhaps limited. We
are called upon to take such steps—to
do something in the midst of things.
But never ever, in taking that step,
can we lose our awareness of Alpha
and Omega—the beginning of things
and the ending of things.

As Emissaries of Divine Light, we
founded an organization and created a
following. We bought property—we
established Sunrise Ranch, Gate
House, Edenvale, Riverdell and other
places. But this is not the ending of
things.

When embraced with vision, the
immediate reality allows an opening
to the universal and the global. Care
of the immediate allows what was
initiated at the beginning of things to
be fulfilled in the ending of things.
This requires that we are people of
vision, people who hold in their
hearts original purpose—not because
we have any illusion of going back to
anything but knowing that we are
fulfilling the seeds of the original
spiritual DNA for our global spiritual
evolution.

We are in the middle of Hanukkah, a part of the story of humanity in the middle of things. And the heroes of the story certainly found themselves in the thick of it.

The nation born out of Abraham's vision had cracked apart, and some of the people of that nation were carried off to Babylon, which was then conquered by Persia. They became the Jewish people. And after a relatively brief stay, they were reinstalled by the Persians back in Jerusalem and in places in North Africa. What a fascinating historical outworking!

From that period to Jesus' birth, and beyond, they held the spiritual lineage they brought with them to Jerusalem. They were challenged by the political forces around them, and in the Hanukkah story there was an empire in Syria that sought to dominate and wipe out the Jewish faith. There was a segment of the Jewish population that lost track of the roots of their faith. Thankfully, there was a tremendous urge within the core of the Jewish people, led by the Maccabees, to keep sacred what they knew. Their persistence became a gift to the world. It kept safe the lineage for which they were responsible. Hanukkah is the celebration of that.

The world owes a debt of gratitude for what they did.

Like people of all faiths, in preserving and keeping safe the beginning of things and the lineage of things, we have to know that that lineage, rightfully followed, is taking us to Omega, the fulfillment of things. Omega is far larger than the heritage we are holding at the moment. So, what we say on this December Day is that as Emissaries of Divine Light, what we are carrying and holding is far larger than the preservation of a lineage, however understood. We are holding the seeds of the fulfillment of that lineage. That fulfillment is spoken of in the voice of the angels to the shepherds:

*I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people....*

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men.*

Cracking the code to the sacred symbology of the Christmas story, the voice of the angel rings in our hearts and minds. It resonates in our spirit and speaks to the world.

We speak to people of our own tradition, whatever that might be, whether Emissaries of Divine Light or anything else. And if it is indeed a

true lineage, we know that it is for all people, not because we are going to force a belief, dogma or spiritual practice on anyone. But because we bring the same blessing that Abraham was called to bring. And in everything we do, we address the immediate with that original seed of our primal spirituality.

In doing so, we find our oneness. We sing gently with one voice because

that original seed is the same for all people. And truly, the fulfillment of any person, any lineage, any faith, any spiritual path, is the fulfillment of all people.

Can I speak for you when I make this declaration? *We are here for this.*

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Sunrise Ranch
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OF DIVINE LIGHT

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