

# The Call of the Inner Christ

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*In the beginning was the Logos and the Logos was with God, and the Logos was God.... In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it....The true light that enlightens ever man was coming into the world....To all who received him; he gave power to become children of God....*

-- *The Gospel of John*

*I am child of Earth and starry Heavens; my race is of the Heavens.*

-- Orphic fragment

There are marvelous wonders and profound spiritual truths which are as yet mysteries to the human heart and mind. If the natural order veils grand secrets, *how much more so the spiritual order!* The coming of *The Christ* in the Master Jesus has a significance which few, even Christians, have begun to comprehend. Had we sufficient vision, we would be able to see how the whole vast scheme of creation and the long aeons of human evolution were *always leading*, with unerring Divine Purpose, toward the *manifestation* of the *Christ*. The mystery of the Christ lies at the heart of creation itself. From the dawn of our planetary life a network of invisible threads connects our entire planetary past to this one Great Event. With the coming of the Christ a beam of light descended

from the Heart of God to the heart of humanity, to remind the Earth, daughter of the Sun, and humanity – *the Son of God* – of their divine origin. Heaven, Earth and man<sup>1</sup> move together, and the only way to discover the meaning of their evolution is to contemplate them at their common task – to consider them as an organic whole. Only then will the *real* significance of Jesus Christ, and what he accomplished for humanity and our planet, begin to appear. Plato said, “The soul of the world is crucified in all the creatures of the universe and awaits its deliverance.” What we shall look at here is the means by which this is accomplished. But our angle of vision is not the conventional one.

As Christians, our focus is too narrow, our vision too short-sighted, our spiritual aspirations too selfish, and our understanding of the Life and Teachings of Christ too biased and dogmatic. This must change and will. My purpose here is to call you to open wide your hearts and look deeper within them...and at the same time to expand the vistas of mind and vision so that you may glimpse something of the Glorious Purpose for which God has called the worlds – and our tiny Earth – into being. Remember that truth has nothing to fear from open-mindedness. Jesus, with his own *vaster vision*, saw what we as yet cannot: he saw the Father’s Supreme Purpose for creation, and that is why he was so willing to *give all* to its fulfillment!

For a few brief moments let us cast our eyes upon the broad Design as best we can, then look to Christ himself for guidance in harmonizing our own lives and world with Divine Purpose.

### *The Purpose of Creation*

There is an incident told about the German poet, Goethe, author of *Faust*. Toward the end of his life a friend said to him, “You know, it has been discovered that the Gospel of St. John is not authentic.” Without hesitation Goethe replied, “Then what *is* authentic if not that which is eternally beautiful and true?”

With these words the wise, aging poet dismissed all thinkers who become so blinded by earthly details that they never look beyond them to the Grand Design and Reality of things. When the Whole is clearly seen, the parts invariably fit.

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<sup>1</sup> Use of the term *man* with reference to the whole of humanity, male and female, returns us to the true and original meaning of the term. The English word *man* is derived from the Sanskrit verb *man*, meaning “to think,” and the noun *Manas*, meaning “mind”. In sum, *man* is that being in whom highest spirit and lowest matter are joined together by intelligence – which has nothing whatever to do with gender! When the pronoun *He* is used with reference to Deity or the Logos, it is for convenience only as Deity is the One All-Inclusive Reality, *both Spirit and Matter*. Otherwise, manifestations of Spirit through vehicles of Matter – which is what every Incarnation is -- would become impossible.

Like Genesis, John's Gospel opens with an account of creation. Being a gospel of the Spirit, what John reveals to us is *the inner meaning* of creation. His is the message of the coming forth of Divine Light – a Light which buried itself in the deepest and darkest recesses of existence from the dawn of creation, there to shine and burn invisibly – as we would say, *hidden but latent* – until life on Earth was readied for its shining forth, its Revelation. First come the lower, evolving life-forms and the long aeons of 'spiritual darkness'. The *lesser* must unfold before the *greater* can appear. In time, humanity appeared upon the scene, and the hidden inner light of creation began to burn more brightly, but still imperceptibly, being as yet covered over by the darkness of human ignorance and brutality. For many more ages the race slowly evolved until the obscured light of mankind's divinity began dimly to glow. Then, at long last, *the time had come* – the time to *prepare* humanity for the coming Revelation of what it was God had *buried* deep in the heart of man. That Light, so long veiled in darkness, would soon shine forth.

In the eight century B.C. the prophet Isaiah came forth proclaiming the message of a coming Messiah. A century later, within a space of fifty years, the forerunners of five of the major world religions made their appearance: Zoroaster, Lao-tze, Mahavira, Confucius and Buddha, as well as the greatest of the Greek philosophers, Pythagoras. In an essay on Pythagoras, Edouard Schuré, noting this convergence in time of so many great teachers, writes:

*It is not by chance that these reformers appear at the same time among so many different peoples. Their various missions were united in a common goal. They prove that at certain times a single spiritual current mysteriously passes through all mankind. Where does it come from? – From that divine world which is beyond our sight, but whose seers and prophets are its ambassadors and witnesses.*<sup>2</sup>

Through the lives and teachings of these Sons of God a new energy was released into the world – a light that was needed to bring about a moral and spiritual uplifting of the race on a large scale. We must never forget that in God's eyes humanity is ONE and, as our Scriptures say, He "leaves Himself nowhere without a witness." It was necessary that the world be *prepared* for the coming of the World Teacher. It was this preparatory work which these earlier spiritual Teachers came to do.

If these thoughts are new and perhaps a bit strange to you at first, consider that Zoroaster also prophesied the coming of a World Savior and knew the signs of the time and place of his birth. The three Wise Men who attended Jesus' birth, the three *Magi*, were disciples of Zoroaster...come to honor the promised Savior. I would ask you to ponder these questions: Would a Creator whose awesome and glorious designs we see in the starry heavens, in the beauty of flowers and the mysteries of the atom have placed *humanity* on this

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<sup>2</sup> Edouard Schuré, *The Great Initiates* pp. 269-70.

errant globe without a PLAN – a Plan that has been unfolding from the very depths of time? Would the Christ, the Lord of Love, enter the human form without the world being *prepared* for the Great Work he came to do? Surely not! Is it too much then to believe that Divine Purpose lies behind all and is carried out according to a Plan, the *final attainment* of which was clearly envisioned in the Mind of God before the first Breath of Creation went forth!

Today, in our much-troubled world, we *need* as never before the vision and confidence bestowed by a recognition of Divine Purpose -- a Grand and Perfect Design. It is this Purpose that John's Gospel proclaimed in its cryptic symbolism.

### *The Master Jesus and the Cosmic Christ*

The Cosmic Christ, the Creative Logos who has sustained the world's existence from its beginnings by the constant *infusion* of his own Life and Light – *this* Christ appeared in Jesus of Nazareth – revealing to us *the future*, that which it is humanity's destiny TO BECOME.

There is no space here to dwell in depth upon the profound mysteries by which this was accomplished, but all divine avatars come forth from the Second or Creative Logos. To understand the main point of this essay, it is essential that we realize that Jesus is a human being *like ourselves* -- the noblest and purest flower of *our* humanity! -- so spiritually evolved that he was found worthy in the Father's eyes to become the Revealer of the Heart of God to the heart of humanity. Through Jesus, a *man* like us, came the *Cosmic Christ*, the Light of the World, the Sun of the Father. The Light which, for so long, had hidden itself in the primal darkness of nature and unevolved humanity was at last ready to come forth. The Seed of Divine Light at the heart of humanity was *ready* to be REVEALED! And what was this great Revelation?

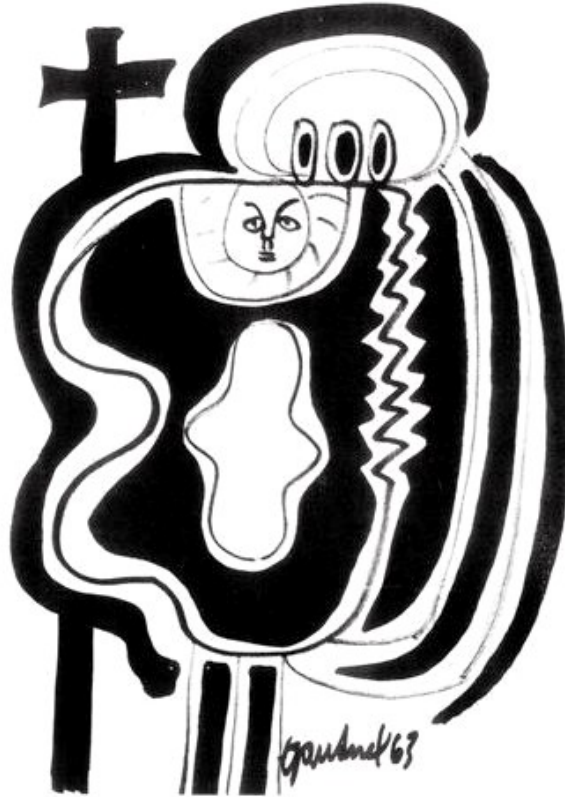
The Decalogue of Moses had been a presentation of Law, not Love. The Life of Love did not reveal itself, did not enter humanity, until the coming of Christ. Buddha, it is true, had given the world a Teaching of Compassion, but it had been his mission to awaken *reason*, the mind of Light, and teach the Way to Illumination. The Path of the Bodhisattva in Buddhism nevertheless represents the noblest ideal of selfless compassion found in any religion. Christ, BEING PERSONIFIED LOVE, took the next step in the Divine Plan and brought Love Itself acting through his Presence as a Force as irresistible and radiant and the Sun. There is a difference between *reason* and a *force* which enters one directly as a *living energy!* It is Love's *Potency*, knowable in *direct experience*, which Christ brought into the world when he gave himself to us by merging himself with our humanity. It was in the Master Jesus that the Cosmic Christ found the One who alone was able and worth to demonstrate this momentous REVELATION!

Many do not yet understand that the Universal, in order to reveal itself, can only act through Great Individuals. All avatars are agents of universal Truths.

### *The Christ Within*

So now we have...Jesus, the Perfected One of *our* humanity, and the Christ – a Cosmic Being coming from the Heart Center of the One All-Embracing Life we call 'The Father'. In their *union*, Man reveals God to man.

Before taking up our next point, I'd like to illustrate my central theme with a story from Hindu literature. The Hindus have long believed that *Atma* is the Supreme Reality hidden within each of us. There is a delightful story which says that when Brahma, the supreme God, created man, he endowed him with a divine nature. But as time passed man so abused his divinity that it was decided it would have to be taken and hidden from him. So Brahma called a council of the lesser Gods to determine what should be done. One of the lesser Gods spoke up and said, "Let us bury man's divinity deep within the earth." But Brahma replied, "No, that will not do. For if we hid it in the earth, man will someday find it and dig it up." Then a second God spoke and said, "Then let us sink it into the deepest part of the ocean." Again Brahma said, "No, for man will someday plummet the very depths of the ocean. If we hid his divinity there, he will find it and take it up again." Silence. Then a third God said, "Then let us place it upon the highest mountain on earth." But a third time Brahma said, "No, for man will conquer even the highest mountain, and then he will surely reclaim his divinity." A long silence fell upon the council of the Gods, for none of the lesser Gods could think of a safe place to hide man's divinity. At last Brahma spoke: "Here is what we will do. We shall hide man's divinity deep within the heart of his own being, for that is the one place he will never think to look for it." So it was done. The story goes on that for ages man has searched for his lost divinity – up and down, far and wide, burrowing into the earth, diving into the ocean and scaling every high mountain. And still he has not found it. For the wisdom of Brahma had placed it in the one place where humanity still refuses to look.



Ancient sages said, "God is a circle whose center is everywhere, and whose circumference is nowhere." In other words, God is *Infinite*, which means that He infinitely *transcends* the vastness of the cosmos and yet, at the same time, also *pervades every part of it* – and in each part remains *Infinite!* We find this same idea expressed in the *Bhagavad-Gita* where Krishna, speaking as the Creator, says: "I have pervaded this whole universe with a fragment of Myself, yet I remain." So let us employ a bit of elementary logic. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is *within* you." If God is infinite, and this must be so – there can be no place where the Infinite is *not* present. Christ also said, "I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. The Father and I are One." *If God dwells within us and Christ is One with the Father, then Christ must also dwell in us!* And such indeed was Paul's understanding when, referring of "the mystery hidden for ages", he spoke of "Christ *in us*, our hope of glory."

From this point on I shall speak of *The Inner Christ*. When Jesus, in his perfected humanity, *revealed* the Christ, he revealed that which lies within all of us – *latent*, waiting to be called forth into manifestation! There can be no mistaking Christ's teachings: "Have I not told you that you are gods?" "I am the First-Born of many brethren." "The things I have done you *also* will do, and even *greater* things than these." And John adds: "To all who receive him, he bestows power to become SONS OF GOD." Paul goes on, "It does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he shall appear, *we shall be like him.*"



I cannot elaborate here upon the nature of the Christ Within except to say that he is essentially identical with the Spiritual Soul – our own immortal, conscious, living, divine Self. Anyone who learns to meditate – truly meditate – and turns his or her attention *inward* into the heart, into the Spiritual Center of his or her being, will find Christ *there* and will discover the Divine Love which lies concealed, *latent and waiting to be called forth* by the earthly man. Spiritual law is the same as natural law: There must be a *demand* before there can be a *response*. The outer, earthly man must *call to* the spiritual Self within. Then the Self will respond and the Inner Christ will answer.

Christ said, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock.” Traditionally, Christians have visualized Christ as being *outside* waiting to be invited in. I would have you *reverse this image* and begin to see Christ as residing *deep within*, at the innermost center of your being – a light buried in darkness, patiently knocking *from within* at the door to the *outer life* – waiting, like the gentleman that he is, to be invited to come forth and heal and transform your earthly life. The Spiritual Path is *not* easy as Jesus’ own life demonstrates. But it gets easier when you *know* that Christ is *already within*, not off in some vague and distant, unknown realm.

The experience of Illumination, such as St. Paul had on the Damascus road, is synonymous with the emerging of the Inner Christ into outward mastery over the earthly life. Though usually accompanied by a powerful event in the inner life, this emergence of the Christ is *a long, conscious process*, not a static, one-time event! The earthly life of Jesus was a dramatization of this process with its various stages – a theme which needs greater study.

### *The Call of Christhood*

We now come to our major point -- that is, that Christ came in Jesus in order to call *us* to *OUR OWN* Christhood. Yes, that's correct! *You* are a *Christ-in-the-making*, and your supreme duty to yourself, to God and to humanity is to so live, love, serve, strive and sacrifice all separate and selfish interests that the Light of THE CHRIST WITHIN can emerge from its ancient darkness and *be revealed in you* in all its glory and power.<sup>3</sup> As Jesus said, "You are the *light* of the world. Let your light shine." That, incidentally, is what the word *divine* means, "a shining forth". Within our innermost center, each of us is a Being of Light, and Immortal Shining Self, a veritable Child of Fire, capable of radiating the light of Wisdom and the warmth of Love to all. Just imagine for a moment what this Earth will be like when a majority of humanity is *expressing* its Christhood! That will not be for quite some time – perhaps many thousands of years. But what is of importance *for us here and now* is that the process has *already begun*, and we have been shown the *Way*. There *are* Those who have *already* mastered and perfected Their humanity and are expressing Their Christhood. Paul calls them "Saints made perfect." Others call them such names as Rishi, Mahatmas, Masters of Wisdom, Elder Brothers, and Illumined Ones. Equally important is that there are today many thousands, scattered throughout the world, who are *in process* of mastering their humanity and discovering their Inner Christ! They may or may not call themselves Christians. It is the *Inner Reality* with which they identify.

For twenty centuries people have predicted the reappearance of Christ, and he has not come forth. Many intelligent people, in consequence, look upon those who speak of Christ's return as being odd, deluded, perhaps a bit flakey. And some of them are! But the plain truth is that the Christ *is* preparing to come forth again and walk and work *openly* among humanity. I do not presume to know *when*, but I do know that the Preparatory Work has been going forward now for at least a century; that Those in whom the Christ-Consciousness is full awakened are collaborators in Christ's Plan; and that the vanguard of humanity in every nation, religion, race and field of human endeavor is aiding – some conscious of their mission, others aware only of their desire to serve humanity. But all are being 'overshadowed' by the Spirit of the Christ.

Because our topic has a direct relation to this theme of the Reappearance of the Christ, I wish to indicate without elaboration the *three stages* by which this Reappearance will take place. Such is Christ's Plan.

First, Christ will overshadow *humanity as a whole*, stimulating in the masses a longing for liberation from the age-old oppressive conditions of life – for these interfere with the emergence of the Inner Christ – and evoking a

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<sup>3</sup> I would have you note in passing that these great spiritual truths will come *alive* for you just to the extent that you recognize them as *real forces* and *living energies*, governed by great laws. If you have the eyes to see, physical nature mirrors spiritual nature. A 'miracle' is not an interruption or overturning of natural law, but a concentration of the scattered forces of the universe upon a given point – producing, through the awakened power of the Inner Christ, a hastening or intensification of nature's powers and processes. Results appear "miraculous."

resurgence of interest in things spiritual – including the spread of goodwill among races and nations, political and educational reforms, a fairer distribution of the world's goods, solving of the problem of sex, and a sloughing off of all that's dead in religion in preparation for a truer, more universal opening up of heart and mind. A careful analysis of world trends will show that all these factors are assuming a place of growing importance in human life and thinking today. Phase one of Christ's Plan is *well under way*.

Second, those of humanity who are ready to unfold their Inner Christ Nature will be subjected to an *intensified spiritual stimulation*, to the tests and trials of the Way of Holiness and, when they are *ready* and the time is right, there will be seen in these men and women a clear emergence of the Christ Light. Nor will this emerging Light be confined to any one religion or field of human endeavor; the *universality* of the Light will be one of the outstanding features of its coming revelation. Today, increasing numbers of people *are* finding themselves subjected to this *intensification* of the inner life and consciousness, often without knowing why. So the second phase of Christ's Plan has been initiated.

Third and finally, when world conditions are *right* for that Work which the Christ has planned and for the next great Revelation which he will bring, then he will reemerge upon the world stage visibly, but *not* in the fantasized manner often portrayed. This time he will not come alone as before but will bring with him many Co-Workers who have served humanity in the past as great artists, teachers, scientists, healers, statesmen, etc. The *timing* of this final stage depends largely upon humanity itself – on our *responsiveness* to the two earlier stages of the Preparatory Work. For that will determine when the world is *ready* for the next Great Phase of Christ's Redemptive Work to begin.

If you've followed these last remarks thoughtfully, then you will realize that present world period – that of the current living generations – offers the *greatest spiritual opportunity* the world has ever known! Two thousand years ago, Christ came and planted the *seeds* of the Kingdom of God on earth. These will now be nurtured and brought to flower in the coming centuries, and the Kingdom of God will gradually emerge from its place of concealment and be *recognized* as another kingdom of life on Earth. This new century is the hinge of time upon which the doors of mankind's Divine Destiny can swing open.

I said this theme of the Reappearance of the Christ relates to our topic – the calling out of our Inner Christ. The connections should be obvious, *for like attracts like*. The stimulation of the inner light of humanity is being intensified in preparation for the coming of the Christ – a coming which, this time, is *both* outer and *inner*, a coming which will not be limited to a single great Teacher but will manifest in dozens, hundreds, then thousands of our humanity as the hidden light of the ages emerges. You will recall that two thousand years ago Christ said, "I am the First-Born of many brethren...I am the Pattern" – the Way-shower! If you can envision humanity as being like a great *wedge* slowly advancing along

the evolutionary path – its most evolved members pioneering the way for the masses – then Jesus Christ is the Razor’s Edge, the *first* to cut through and open the Way to Christhood for the rest of humanity. Twenty centuries ago, the Christ appeared in *one* man. Soon he will reveal himself in *many*. Such is the testimony of the ages to the great success of the Work Jesus undertook! We’re told that even angels stood in awe of his stupendous sacrifice. He was *the first* to reveal the Christ fully; hence our Lord and Master. Our debt to him is immeasurable!

### *Christhood and the Cross of Divine Sacrifice*

To say that we have been *called* by our Inner Christ opens before us the whole range of spiritual life and endeavor: its aspirations, trials and temptations, self-purification, healing, disciplines and training, awakening, and paths of service. But in my closing remarks I want to focus on what I see as the *central* theme of Christhood.

The Way of Christ is the way of the cross. He who calls us to Christhood says, “Let go of self, take up your cross and follow me.” The Path to Christhood has many steps and stages, but in the end it *is* the Way of Self-Sacrifice. Christians would be well-served by studying the teachings of the Bodhisattva Path in Buddhism, for it also the Path of the Christ. Of Self-Sacrifice *the Cross* is the eternal symbol.

Historically viewed, there was a crude irony behind the Roman Empire’s choice of the cross as an instrument of execution. For the cross is the most ancient of the symbols of *Life* – as still evidenced in our use of such phrases as “cross-fertilization” and “cross-breeding”. To crucify a man was tantamount to sending him *out* of the world by the same road that brought him *into* it. Thus were criminal *mocked*, as if to say, “It would have been better had you *never been born!*”

But the mysteries of God are profound, and things are never merely what they seem. Jesus’ crucifixion revealed to us the true, real and *cosmic* significance of the cross, its place in the Divine Scheme.

To understand the deeper meaning of the Cross, one must see *its vertical arm* as an *aligning* of the aspiring earthly man with the Spirit of God. When our *attention* is turned to God in praise, aspiration, invocation, meditation and receptivity, we are – though few yet realize it – *literally* building a “bridge of *living light*” between God and ourselves, between the spiritual and earthly realms. As we become *increasingly* aligned and attuned, this bridge *grows in strength*, and over it the Will, Power and Purpose of God the Father can flow to and through us with increasing potency and effectiveness. To use a mundane analogy, building this bridge is like ‘getting wired’ to the Power-Source...and like establishing a

communication link with Divine Wisdom. In the East this bridge has a name; it's called the *Antahkarana*. By means of its construction the earthly personality, Soul and Spirit are aligned and gradually *fused* until they become One as they were in Jesus. This is the true meaning of AT-ONE-MENT. It is this *oneness* with God, when realized, that entitles us to be called Sons of God. Via the *Antahkarana*, a stream of living energy is set up in the One Life between those *polarities* within which we call Spirit and Matter, God and humanity, the earthly man and the Christ-Self. Across this bridge of light God directs those Ideas, Plans and Potencies which work out His Will on Earth *through and by means of humanity*. Therefore, our *effectiveness* as God's servants depends upon creating a strong and unimpeded channel. Building this bridge is the chief work of *meditation*.

As this down-flow of Divine Energy meets *the horizontal arm* of the cross, it is 'deflected' and flows *outward into the world* as Sacrificial Love and Service. The horizontal arm represents the *field* of divine service and the realm of need. Thus the cross symbolizes the means whereby the *Life* of God is given for the healing, uplifting and transformation of the world. It is a symbol of *Life*, not death.

The cross also has an added significance: Its vertical arm symbolizes *eternity*, the Eternal Now where the Divine Plan is complete in the Mind of God; its horizontal arm *time*, the need for a gradually unfolding or evolutionary process by means of which the Divine Purpose is worked out in space-time. That which is *slowly built* takes deep root and forever endures. It is at this *intersection* of time and eternity that the Christ-Spirit ever stands in selfless love – simultaneously obedient in both directs, to the Will of God and the world's need. At this intersection the cross-current of spiritual and earthly forces create *a point of tension*, fixing our *place* of service. It takes dedication, courage, endurance and great love to *stand firm* in this place of Divine Opportunity when the cross-currents of conflicting 'worlds' sweep through our lives! It is not an easy task. *But the flow of spiritual power is always in direct proportion to the gift of self*. It is also at this point of intersection that our *divine* and *human* natures *meet and fuse*, giving birth in us to the Christ-Life – giving birth to still *another* living, sacrificial Son of God!

The outcome of the work of the cross is most assuredly *Resurrection*. Lao-tze said, "The way down is the way up." Crucifixion or the path of descent into generation and Matter is *also* the path of ascent or resurrection – the way to reunification with the Spirit. By means of the cross the *Life of God is poured into the world*, producing that *steady infusion* of Divine Love, Power and Purpose which guides and advances the evolutionary process. Underlying what is called "natural evolution" as its *Cause* is a deeper process of Spiritual Evolution -- the purpose of which is the *revelation* of the Inner Christ-Life, "the light shining in darkness." This evolutionary process is, in truth, one of a slow and certain *Resurrection* by means of which all life, passing through *experience* in Matter (the realm of death), undergoes *spiritualization* and returns to the realm of Spirit

and Divine Union. This resurrection is made possible by the Cross of Self-Sacrifice and by the steady infusion of that great Evolutionary Force called LOVE, flowing into the world via the intersection of eternity and time.

If you wish to know how to *Awaken* the Christ within your own being, *begin* by recognizing the Christ in *everyone* you meet! Pour out blessings of Love and Light to others by seeing them as the *Inner Christ* within yourself – from this Christ-center *give freely of your own heart!* Serve others as though you served Christ Himself, for indeed you do!

You may begin to see now how profound are the symbols of faith and how, when understood, they enable us to enter into a deeper *living* relationship with all that is True and Real and Vital!

All love and wisdom, all creative powers are locked up inside each of us in the infinite depths of our Being. Evolution is but the gradual bringing out of these locked-up powers – unfolding our inner life as a flower unfolds. As the thick veils of mind and matter grow thin, the Sun of Love and Divine Life – *The Christ Within the human heart* – stands revealed, illumines and *irradiates* this “star of suffering” – our Earth -- with unbound splendor. This is our destiny.

With an open heart, turn you vision *inward*, for it is there the eternal Christ awaits you – *has waited for you* from the depths of time!

