

MAX HEINDEL' S MESSAGE



The Esoteric Meaning of Easter

IF WE WERE TO ENTER one of the orthodox churches or attend the open air Easter morning services held in so many places all over the country, we should probably be told the story of the resurrection of an individual named Jesus, who died for our sins on Good Friday and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. But while the life story of Jesus, as recorded in the Gospels, is practically true, and while we love and venerate Christ (who took the body of Jesus for the three-year ministry) for the noble work He has done and is doing for humanity, we look beyond for the significance and esoteric meaning of Easter.

If this were simply a feast to commemorate the death of an individual, it would on the face of it be foolishness to make it a movable feast. We do not fix the death of Lincoln by the sun, as we know is the case with Easter in relation to the Christ. Easter is always determined by the conjunction of the sun and moon in the sign Aries, the ram or lamb. First, the sun and moon must come to a conjunction; that is the new moon. Then the moon must pursue her course half way around the circle of the zodiac until she is at the full, and the first Sunday following that event is Easter. This plainly shows that we are not celebrating the death of an individual, but that it is a solar festival.

We do not, however, worship the sun, moon, and stars. To do that would be idolatry. But we know that the sun is the physical vehicle of the Godhead, as the planets are the vehicles of the Seven Spirits before the Throne. And therefore we realize that the Christ Spirit which illuminated the body of

Jesus and entered the earth on Golgotha did not then and there complete the sacrifice once and for all, any more than the sun by shining upon the surface of the earth can make the plants grow forever and cause warmth to surround the earth perpetually. But each year when the sun descends towards its western node at the fall equinox, the vitalizing Christ ray enters the earth and permeates our globe to the very center, which it reaches at the time when the Sun is at its lowest point of declination, the time when we speak of the Savior as being born at Christmas.

Then as the sun begins to ascend towards the vernal equinox, this great vitalizing wave of dynamic force rises to the periphery of the earth, fertilizing the millions of seeds slumbering in the soil. It drives the sap up in the trees and causes them to bud, so that the forest becomes a bridal bower for the mating beasts and birds. This cosmic Christ force is liberated from the bondage of the earth at Easter, when it has spent itself and given its life for the world. Thus there is an inbreathing and outbreathing in nature, and the world could not exist without it any more than we could exist without continually breathing the oxygenated air in which we live.

And so as a matter of fact the Christ annually gives us the bread of life, but not only in the physical sense; there is in addition a spiritual outpouring during the winter months, from which we may greatly benefit if we are minded to attune ourselves to its vibrations. That is the true bread of life in the highest sense of the word, and without it our souls must starve; hence our great gratitude to the Christ for His annual sacrifice. □