

The Spring Equinox

THE SUPREME MYSTERY of life is both concealed and revealed in the crucifixion and the resurrection of the masculine and feminine principles in nature. This process is alchemically termed the blending of fire and water. The mystic sees its perfect manifestation in the passage of the sun through Pisces and Aries during March and April.

While the sun is in the psychic sign of Pisces all nature is working through and with the great water or feminine principle of Godhood. This is the time of the bursting of bud and of the running of sap in the trees. Blessed are the eyes that have learned to lift the veil and can perceive the workings of the various ministers of God's kingdom at this holy season; for this is a period of intense activity on the inner planes, this activity extending from the celestial Hierarchies to the realm of nature spirits which man calls fairyland.

As the sun passes into the sign of Aries, the magic blending is accomplished; the "living waters" of Pisces are flooded with a new light, the new fire of Aries flames up. This resurrected life that floods all nature is the "magic green fire" of the ancient Gaelic legends. Blessed indeed are the eyes that may see these wonders that God has prepared for those who love Him.

In the Masonic legend of Solomon and Hiram Abiff, Solomon typifies the feminine, watery, form-building Pisces; Hiram, the martial, energizing Aries. When the form of the Temple is complete, it must be infused with the radiant new life of the master builder—Hiram (Aries).

This blending of water with fire becomes the Master's word, to which all nature responds in the resurrection of a new life. This same mystic blend-



Detail, Isenheim Altarpiece (1511-1515), Mathis Grunewald, Musée d'Unterlinden, Colmar

The Resurrection

Enclosed in a sunlike halo that blinds the soldiers guarding Him, the Saviour rises from His tomb as Life triumphant.

ing is the lost word which must be recovered by man before he may know the resurrection into that eternal life through Initiation, which the Master described unto His disciples.

In the life of Christ Jesus, who came as the great Way-shower or Initiator for all humanity, this great cosmic drama is outlined in the Easter Festival. The date of Easter is fixed according to occult tradition. The sun must not only pass the equator as it does on the 21st of March, but the full moon after the vernal equinox must also be passed. The Sunday following is Easter, the day of the Resurrection. The light of the vernal sun must be reflected by a full moon before that day can dawn on earth. There

is a deep esoteric meaning hidden behind this method of determining Easter.

The spiritual status of the masses of humanity is not yet sufficiently high to receive and assimilate the full force and power that flood and permeate the earth at the time of this “Cosmic Resurrection,” the vernal equinox. Only Initiates, those who have found and learned how to use the lost word, previously referred to, can partake fully of this high spiritual ecstasy. This great force must be received and transmitted or reflected to the masses by the full moon.

The esoteric Christian, while partaking joyfully and reverently of the Easter rites, is ever seeking to attain to a participation in the holy mysteries of the “Cosmic Sunrise,” the sublime ceremonial of the vernal equinox.

At the time of the vernal equinox (or during the enactment of the great solar change or mystery), for the space of three days the days and nights are of equal length. So too, the Christ, whose life is a perfect analogy of the solar drama, remains for three days within the earth, between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. He arose at the sunrise of a new day and angels joyously proclaimed the fact to His disciples that He is risen. His disciples understood the inner meaning of His real esoteric mission for the world; namely, that He might become the indwelling Planetary Spirit and rend the veil so that whosoever wills may come and partake freely of the waters of life, through the establishment on earth of the new Christian mysteries.

Here is milk for the babes and meat for the strong—the sublime story of the holy birth, life, death, and resurrection of the supreme Master, Christ Jesus, whose life is to be revered and emulated by those who would follow in His steps. There is also another way, the way of the Cross, as it has been mystically described by some who have found it. This is the path that leads to the holy joy of the solar mysteries that are celebrated at the four great turning points of the year. An understanding of these mysteries caused Plato to assert, “The World Soul is crucified.”

At these most holy seasons of the year, both the Master Jesus and the glorious Sun Spirit, the



Fra Angelico and Benozzo Gozzoli. Fresco, 1440-41. Convento di San Marco, Florence

Resurrection of Christ and Women at the Tomb

The angelic messenger asks the frightened women: “Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen.” —Luke 24:5-6

Christ, are working for the future progression of the planets and for the enlightenment of those who will make themselves worthy to partake of these waters of eternal life to which the Christ referred when He said: “If ye drink of the water which I bring unto you, ye shall never thirst again.”

In many ways throughout the mystery of His life and in the inner significance of His words, He has placed the key that will unbar the mystic portals. To one who finds it, the Master’s concluding exclamation, “*consummatum est*,” becomes his own triumphant password. He too has rolled aside the great stone and stepped forth free to be greeted by a joyous angelic chorus that proclaims to other disciples who await about the tomb: He is not here for He is risen.

“Everyone is a Christ in the making and some day will be Easter for each one of us.” □

—Corinne S. Dunklee