

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Culmination of the Ministry

The Rite of the Triumphal Entry

And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples.

And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him.

And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither.

And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him.

And certain of them that stood there said unto them, What do ye, loosing the colt?

And they said unto them even as Jesus had commanded; and they let them go.

And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him, and he sat upon him.

And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way.

And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

—*Mark 11:1-10*

See also John 12:12-17.

One-third of the Gospels is devoted to the death and the Resurrection of Christ Jesus. Passion Week, the last week that he remained among men, continues the most important part of His work upon Earth. The Triumphal Entry, which is celebrated in the Church as Palm Sunday, begins this eventful week, every step of which is fraught with mystic meaning for the aspirant to the higher life.

As Christ did not belong to the human life wave, He had no Earth causation to liquidate, and consequently He was able to cover the entire path of Initiation for our Earth Period in the three years of His ministry. Man requires many life cycles for such attainment, the length of

time depending upon his development and the degree to which he spiritualizes the human will and awakens the power of love that is within.

As we have pointed out so frequently the important events in the life of the Christ have their parallels in other religions and in the lives of other Teachers of cosmic truths. In the Mysteries of Eleusis, the Triumphal Entry had its correspondence in the joyous procession led by the victorious neophyte who had become an Initiate. Of Buddha it is recorded: "With the solemn entry of Buddha, the people swept the pathway, the gods strewed flowers on the road and branches of the coral tree; the men bore branches of all manner of trees, and men and gods shouted 'All Hail' " In the Egyptian Mystery processions a picture was carried of the new king driving his chariot and waving palm branches to the plaudits of the assembled multitude.

The Triumphal Entry, therefore, is symbolic of a high spiritual illumination attained through Initiation, and has been so considered throughout the ages. The ass signifies a bearer of peace; the palm, honor and victory. Palms were planted around the Holy of Holies.

To the wisdom of the ancient teachings, as given in the Lunar Mysteries, the Christ added a new note. He asked for a colt whereupon man never sat. *Loose him and bring him.* He commissioned the Disciples to do this, as He was instructing them in the deeper Mysteries belonging to the new Christian religion. *The Lord (law) hath need of him.* Spiritual evolution always follows a spiral path. Man outgrows old forms of spiritual understanding just as he does obsolete modes of transportation and crude means of illumination.

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