

The City of God within the Being

All embodiments are compound. They are manifold. The greater the manifoldness, the greater their complexity; though even that which is most complex to the human mind is simple in the Divine World. The City of GOD in the Divine World, as an exposition of the Sacred Mystery of the FATHER-MOTHER, is made up of units, so that the Divine macrocosm is a unification of the Divine microcosms, each one perfect after its order and degree, estate, embodiment and ministry, yet in the unification making the fuller perfect exposition of the Divine Mystery. It is thus through all creation.

The City of GOD, whether it has relation to the Mystery in the Innermost World, or in a Celestial System, or in the various members of the Celestial System, or in a planetary world like this Earth, or in the units that make up the world – the City of GOD is perfect. When it expresses itself, it reveals the perfection of HIS Thought, HIS Love, HIS Wisdom. It reveals the Glory of HIS Mystery which is the reality of Life, *the reality of Life*, the consciousness of HIMSELF in all things. For true Life is the living in such a consciousness, and through that consciousness, in HIM, from HIM, for HIM; so that all things must speak of HIM, whether they be around oneself, within oneself, or touched by oneself; that is, the action, everything must speak of HIM.

The City of GOD is no vain dream. It is a state. It is first a primal state, the primary state of the Being. Then it becomes an estate. An estate is a resultant. It is an acquisition. It is a realization of the acquisition. It is the outcome of growth, expansion, deepening, ascension.

The Mystery of the City upon Seven Hills pp24-26



Spiritual Reflections

The Order of the Cross

**June – July
August
2017**

Future issues of Spiritual Reflections

Dear Reader,

A Reminder that you will receive the next issue of
Spiritual Reflections in September 2017.

Warm wishes,
The editorial team

Thoughts on the Teachings John

Pignégué

“The City of GOD’ may seem a rather grand concept on first acquaintance, so much so that we, as mere mortals, might feel that we could not possibly have much of a connection with it. The complexity implied in the term can seem daunting, especially regarding our own experiences of what a ‘city,’ with all its hustle and bustle, means to us in our ordinary everyday lives. The general rackety nature of city life belies the fact that there are also pockets of quiet and beauty – gardens, art galleries, hidden churches – all places to which we can withdraw to ‘redress the balance,’ so to speak. The notion of ‘The City of GOD’ can also be found in literature, one outstanding example of this being John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress* with its radiant depiction of ‘The City of GOD’ in the closing pages. Gradually, we can begin to realise that ‘The City of GOD’ may not be quite so out-of-reach as we might have first thought. We may thus be able to relate more easily to the ‘notion’ of it (almost as if we were glancing at it out of the corner of our eye) but then also thinking a little bit more about its true meaning and possibilities for us as individuals.

As with most things in our lives, both spiritually and on the outer, consideration of how we might proceed in any given circumstances is of great importance in making sure, as much as we reasonably can, that we “do the right thing.” Sometimes we can tend to make things more complicated than they are or need to be, and in connection with our spiritual life and journey, this can quite possibly be the case, albeit with the best of intentions. But if we look at Our Friend’s words in the cover-extract, we find welcome reassurance: ‘...that which is most complex to the human mind is simple in the Divine World.’

‘Simplicity’ can be seen to be the key to everything (easier said than done, of course) and in particular to everything connected with our spiritual life – this will in turn bring added dimensions to all that we do and to all those we meet in the course of our daily lives.

Thus we may better ‘live the life’ through always quietly reminding ourselves that “everything must speak of HIM.”

Cathy
Oerter

Swanage Dance Week, April 2017

MOST OF THE DANCERS had attended the Easter Gathering at Sarum College the prior week and were filled with the joy of fellowship and the continuing atmospheres of potent Ministry. We found ourselves welcoming the sights of the sea now, with her chalk white cliffs that were interspersed with the new green of spring as we arrived at this little corner of the world.

Our regular dancing hall was no longer available and after the first day readying the new venue we felt more at home. Meals were catered leaving time for the true Work. Each morning we climbed upstairs to the tranquillity of our home sanctuary for either a service or meditation. The hymns were sung without musical accompaniment but beautiful nonetheless as voices filled the room as if a choir of Angels had joined in. The evenings were for study from The Herald of the Cross XIII and always left us with the awe of our beautiful Teachings.

2

The dancers knew they had reached a new level of understanding Natural Movement Dancing. Gone were the hesitations of the mind trying to think of 'how to move'. The dancers have been dancing many years and the time had arrived for us to move gracefully together once more, free of self and unified as a whole. The Heavens must rejoice as they witness a transformation long coming, exhibiting nothing personal, only the fulfilment of a godlike goodness that all have yearned for. The dance space became an oasis of His Love to touch that Life in a body of no one but everyone.

NMD principles are based on the Cross and offer another way of expressing inner motion. Annea Spong, member and founder said of her technique, "Dancing is a language; it contains thoughts, feelings, vision and spirit." Just as it is difficult in human speech to tell of an atmosphere, this too falls short in conveying the motion present in this school. We were a body of water, flowing easily with one another, feeling blessed to be dancing the steps of the Cross in self abandonment, self-denial and self-sacrifice.

Thank you to the organizers who contribute to the Work to make these times potent and ever so special. To Annie and Hamish for selfless service and to the non-dancers who joined us during the week, our gratitude.

The Pilgrim's Progress John Pignéguy

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS – or to give it its full title, *The Pilgrim's Progress from this world to that which is to come delivered under the similitude of a dream* – is one of the most famous books in English literature. Written by John Bunyan in 1678, its title is self-explanatory in one sense, but is expanded hugely by a unique and remarkable list of characters, sometimes in pairs, who appear throughout the story. *Christian* is the main character in the story and with his companion *Hopeful*, the two of them approach the Holy City at the conclusion of the tale.

Other characters include *Mr. Worldly Wiseman*, *Mistrust* and *Timorous*, *Mr. Money-Love*, *Formalist* and *Hypocrisy*, *Little-Faith*, *Ignorance*. We may feel that we see characteristics in some of these figures that we recognize in people that we know or meet – if we are *Honest* and *Truthful*, some of them may even apply to us.

The following edited extract consists of the work's opening sentence and then sections of the final pages.

Extract from *The Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan

“As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place where was a den, and laid me down in that place to sleep; and as I slept, I dreamed a dream..... Now I saw in my dream, that by this time the pilgrims were got over the Enchanted Ground, and entering into the country of Beulah, whose air was very sweet and pleasant; the way lying directly through it, they solaced themselves there for a season. Yea, here they heard continually the singing of birds, and saw every day the flowers appear in the earth, and heard the voice of the turtle in the land. In this country the sun

shineth night and day....Here they were within sight of the City they were going to: also here met them some of the inhabitants thereof; for in this land the shining ones commonly walked, because it was upon the borders of heaven.

“...Now, as they walked in this land, they had more rejoicing than in parts more remote from the kingdom to which they were bound; and drawing near to the City, they had yet a more perfect view thereof. It was builded of pearls and precious stones, also the streets thereof were paved with gold; so that, by reason of the natural glory of the City, and the reflection of the sunbeams upon it, Christian with desire fell sick. Hopeful also had a fit or two of the same disease; wherefore here they lay by it awhile, crying out because of their pangs, ‘If you see my Beloved, tell him that I am sick of Love.’

4

“But, being a little strengthened, and better able to bear their sickness, they walked on their way, and came yet nearer and nearer, where were orchards, vineyards and gardens, and their gates opened into the highway. Now, as they came up to these places, behold, the gardener stood in the way; to whom the pilgrims said, ‘Whose goodly vineyards and gardens are these?’ He answered, ‘They are the King’s, and are planted here for his own delights, and also for the solace of pilgrims.’ So the gardener led them into the vineyards, and bid them refresh themselves with the dainties; he also showed them there the King’s walks and the harbours, where he delighted to be: and here they tarried and slept.

“...Now I saw that when they awoke they addressed themselves to go up to the City. But the reflection of the sun upon the City (for the City was pure gold) was so extremely glorious, that they could not as yet with open face behold it. I saw, that as they went on, there met them two men in raiment that shone like gold, also their faces shone as the light.

“...Now I saw in my dream that these two men went in at the gate; and lo! as they entered, they were transfigured; and they had raiment put on them that shone like gold.....and behold, the City shone like the sun; the streets also were paved with gold; and in

them walked many men, with crowns upon their heads, palms in their hands, and golden harps, to sing praises withal.

“There were also of them that had wings, and they answered one another without intermission, saying, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!

“...So I awoke, and behold it was a dream.”



5

Analogies for Love Alan Harris

Is love a light beam we shine
upon our chosen few of heart,
reflected by them upon us?

Or is love an inner sea
contained by, yet containing us,
in turbulence or pleasing calm?

Does a new mother perceive
in her baby's trusting breath
the force of a new volcano?

As a cup that cannot explain its tea
or a husk that fathoms not its corn,
I cradle love as an infinite infant within.

Michael
Arcese

Communal Sharing: Meeting the Needs of Isolated Members

THE ADVENT OF COMMUNAL SHARING services and studies by phone has been profoundly appreciated and truly uplifting to many of the friends in the Order of the Cross Fellowship. Approximately 25 Order members participate regularly or occasionally, as do a few inquirers. On any given Sunday 10-15 of us read together. Regular participants include long-time outposts and those who have become so recently, and friends from diminished groups and reading circles, all of us widely separated across North America, the U.K. and other parts of Europe, and all deeply appreciative of the opportunity for fellowship with other Members.

Although we do not have the comforts provided by the physical presence of regular reading circle friends, it has been noted by several of us that the absence of visual distractions and focus on the uniqueness and spiritual depth of each individual voice become particularly apparent as we share what unifies us, the Words of Our Friend.

6

When each of us first came into the Message, and we began to share in reading circles and gatherings, we experienced the challenge of reading the Words of Our Friend fluidly. There are many long sentences full of punctuation, various emphases and seeming digressions. Over time we develop the skills to read with some of the intonation and Divine vibration intended. During the Communal Sharing calls we each, and as a group, have the privilege of hearing the different voices of friends who have grown so much in their abilities to read the words and raise atmospheres so beautifully. And again, because we are present via the telephone, we are sharing without visual distraction. As most of us are reading at our own altar settings, we do enjoy the visual reinforcement those Divine symbols provide.

In *Herald XXVIII* Our Friend writes:

Read aloud the Logia of the various Books and get the meaning of it and let the music of your voice be borne by the meaning.

...read it as if you were in the Stream of it, in the motion of it. Let there be inflection, let there be change in the voice. Get into the swing of the Message. ...

Words have vibrations, that is they have the power of producing vibrations, but you have the power of controlling, qualifying and modifying the vibrations. Therefore vibrations produced by your speech will be governed by the terms you use, the feeling that passes in a vibratory way into the terms, and your response to the motion produced by the terms and conceived within yourself in your vocalization of them and your enunciation. ...

Therefore language is not only something we can hear, but it is something that can transmit to us vibrations belonging to the very terms. pp77-78

I truly appreciate what the Communal Sharing calls and the friends who participate have brought into my life, and very much enjoy my opportunities to read with and listen to individuals who have learned to read and speak the Message so well. We welcome all members of our Fellowship to join us whenever you like. Atmospheres will be raised and you will have the opportunity to enjoy the voices of souls you may seldom, if ever, commune with in person. The newsletters list the dates, times, readings and access phone numbers for any who may wish to join. Please feel comfortable participating as frequently or infrequently as you like.

7

Recently we received an email from Patricia Sherwood, Clerk of the newly formed Australian Area Council, requesting that times be provided so that members living in Australia and New Zealand might also be able to join in Communal Sharing calls. At present all our calls are scheduled in the middle of the night for our friends 'down under.' Patricia's email concluded with the following observation: "It seems a missed opportunity in this age of high technology that isolation of Order members need prevail."

It was a desire to meet the needs of our isolated members that motivated the North American Council in 2014 to experiment with fellowship calls via the Go-To-Meeting conference call system. We are particularly grateful to Joyce and Peter Burk for their

organizational efforts, which were vital in getting the Communal Sharing reading group up and running.

Efforts are now underway to expand the reach of Communal Sharing calls, providing times when friends in Australia and New Zealand can also join with friends from North America and Europe. A new expanded Communal Sharing schedule will be published beginning with the September 2017 issue of the Members' Newsletter.

We thank the Trustees and Councils for welcoming and financially supporting the Communal Sharing phone service. We're certain many have benefitted and will continue to do so as we share the Message and touch the Heavens.

Communal Sharing: Services and Studies by Phone

8

JUNE

- 4 Communal Worship Service – Ministrant: Elsie Danielsson
Readings individually prepared
[Order of Service provided]
- 11 Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Ian van Zyl
Ongoing Study taken from *Divine Renaissance II*
- 18 Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye
Herald XXXIII, pp54-60: A Meditation on GOD
- 25 Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Patrick Barnes
Excerpts from *Minor Prophets* [Document provided]

JULY

- 2 Worship Service – Ministrant: Richard Palmer
The Motion of Prayer [Document provided]

- 9 Communal Sharing – Ministrant: June Young
Ongoing Study taken from Divine Renaissance II
- 16 Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye
Herald XXXIII, pp60-68: A Meditation on GOD
- 23 Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Lindajean Stewart
Herald XXI, pp148-164: Flowers of Hope
- 30 No service

AUGUST

- 6 Worship Service – Ministrant: Turid Nelson
Topic to be announced [Document provided]
- 13 Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Michael Arcese
Ongoing Study taken from Divine Renaissance II
- 20 Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye
Mystery of the Light Within Us, pp179-186: The Girdle
- 27 Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Anne Candlin
Herald XVI, pp127-139: The City of God and His Saints

9

Weekly COMMUNAL SHARING calls are international and open to all. All you need to join us is a phone! Readings taken from the books are referenced above; others require a service document.

NEW MEETING TIMES: In preparation for the addition of new reading times to meet the needs of our friends in Australia and New Zealand, all currently scheduled calls will now take place at the following times:

9:00 am PDT
12:00 pm EDT
5:00 pm in the UK
(12:00 am AWST).

FELLOWSHIP CALLS on 2nd Saturdays – June 10, July 8, August 12 – help us get to know each other better and consider ways to improve our Sunday calls. Saturday calls begin at:

8:00 am PDT
11:00 am EDT
4:00 pm in the UK.

We welcome you to join us as a reader or a listener. Please call in 3-5 minutes before the hour and identify yourself when you join the call.

Spiritual Linking

Christopher Nye

THE READING FOR JUNE IS

A Meditation on GOD

Part 1 *Herald XXXIII* pp54-60

It will take place on Sunday 18th
at 16h00 Greenwich Mean Time, that is
5pm. In the UK, 9am PDT

Now GOD invites us to meditate upon HIM.

THE READING FOR JULY IS

A Meditation on GOD

Part 2 *Herald XXXIII* pp60-68

It will take place on Sunday 16th
at 18h00 Greenwich Mean Time, that is
5pm. In the UK, 9am PDT

Illumination comes to the mind first.

THE READING FOR AUGUST IS

The Girdle

Part 1 *The Mystery of the Light Within Us*
pp179-186

It will take place on Sunday 20th
at 16h00 Greenwich Mean Time, that is
5pm. In the UK, 9am PDT

Come with me into the Angelic World.

Please note, the time has been changed for organisational reasons.

International Numbers for Communal Sharing Calls

COUNTRY	PHONE NUMBER (with country code)
Australia:	+61 2 8355 1039
Austria:	+43 7 2088 1033
Belgium:	+32 (0) 28 93 7001
Canada:	+1 (647) 497-9379
Denmark:	+45 69 91 89 30
Finland:	+358 (0) 942 41 5770
France:	+33 (0) 170 950 585
Germany:	+49 (0) 692 5736 7303
Ireland:	+353 (0) 19 030 050
Italy:	+39 0 693 38 75 50
Netherlands:	+31 (0) 208 080 208
New Zealand:	+64 9 925 0481
Norway:	+47 21 54 82 21
Spain:	+34 911 82 9890
Sweden:	+46 (0) 853 527 817
Switzerland:	+41 (0) 435 0167 65
United Kingdom:	+44 (0) 330 221 0099
United States:	+1 (646) 749-3117

ACCESS CODE: 506-112-581 # #
(Same code for all countries)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, and to receive service documents by mail or email, please contact the Communal Sharing committee.

Lindajean Stewart • ljstwr_60@yahoo.com • (1) 610-649-2906
Elsie Danielsson • ElsieDanielsson@aol.com • (1) 760-424-8129
Esther Gowan • esthergowan@earthlink.net • (1) 805-542-9133
Michael Arcese • arcesem@gmail.com • (1) 425-531-1780

GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

June

23-25 Midlands Area Gathering, Ilkley

July

25-31 Dance and Family Gathering, Ammerdown, Somerset

August

27 Northern Area Members' Day Gathering, Rapha Centre, Braco

September

29-02 Oct S, SE, and W Areas Gathering, Charney Manor, Oxfordshire

October

20-27 Northern Area Gathering, Gartmore House, Stirling

If you are interested in joining us at one of these Gatherings contact us using the Order of the Cross contact details below, telling us something about yourself and which Gathering you would like to attend.

12

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

If you have changed your address or any of your contact details, please notify Roger Score at:

The Order of the Cross
27 Old Gloucester Street, LONDON, WC1N 3AX
Email: light@orderofthecross.org or
Telephone 0207 1176 059

This will ensure that Spiritual Reflections is sent to your new address and that all your contact details are updated on our database.

If anyone wishes to reproduce a portion of Spiritual Reflections, permission should be sought from the Editor in advance, at the above address, or:

Email: editor@orderofthecross.org

All articles are the individual responsibility of the writers and should not be taken as authoritative.