

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

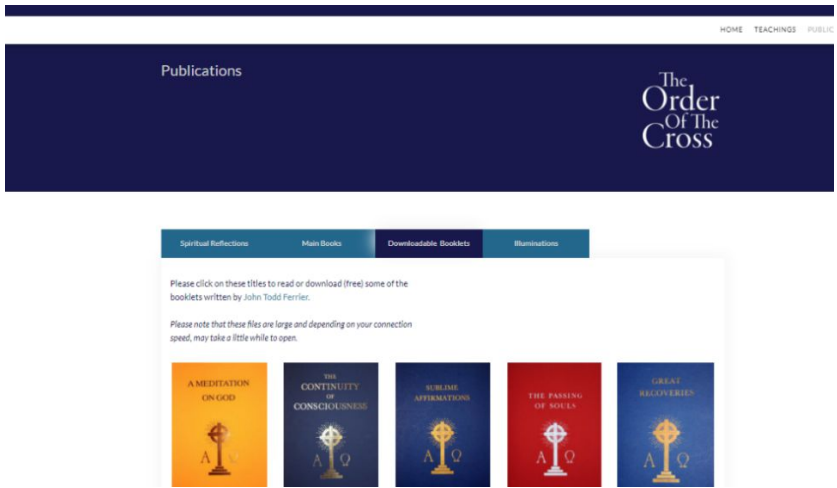
February March April 2022



The Order of the Cross

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Thoughts to Inspire



We live in a Universe of Motion. As citizens of that Universe, we are sharers of the Divine Mystery. The Law of Motion is inherent in everything created by the Eternal Love and Wisdom, and contains the Secret of HIS Majesty, and thus obtains in the miniature worlds even as it obtains in the great worlds. It lies behind the secret of Life, Light and Balance in all systems, in the individual members of the systems, and in the corporate body of those always accounted the Children of the FATHER-MOTHER, who make up the Cosmic wholeness in a World, a Planet, a Star like our Sun, or a Star like Sirius. There is nought of the Divine Mystery we do not share; the electrons of our Being, the forms and dual action of which are built up into the fashion of a Soul through motion, contain HIS Mystery.

Extract from 'Herald of the Cross, Vol X by John T Ferrier, page 111

*From the Teachings***The Realm of Radiance**

MAKE MANIFEST in all things HIS Excellency. Let GOD be the first and the last in your life, in your speech, in your service, in your judgements, in your manifestation. Live for HIM; never live for another apart from HIM in your consciousness. “Oh,” you say, “I am so busy. Even from morning until night I am so busy with other things.” We are all busy, we all have things to attend to; but you can do the humblest service, the most outward service, as if HE were present with you; and HE is. Try to remember that and do it as for HIM. Live in the consciousness that HE is with you. You say, “It is all very well if you are able to dwell up in those Realms of Radiance, but down here amid the murky conditions of the Earth-life, how different it is!” We are all amid those conditions, we all see something of them, we all feel something of them, aye, more than that, more; for as the Being beholds and realizes, the greater is the outward affliction – if I may use that term – likely to proceed from the vibrations that are so contrary to and out of harmony with a Christ-like life, even with a Jesus life. Try, try to remember that HE is with you from morning to night, and from the night until the morning, and that HE companions you through HIS mediatorial ministries. Climb, *climb* the heights. HE will help you. If you grow thirsty on the way, HE will supply you with that Water which has eternal refreshing. If you are needing stimulant, HE will give you of the Wine of HIS Being to enrich you. Even the Bread of HIS Heavenly Wisdom will be angelically meted out unto you as you climb the Heights where HIS Path leads.

Herald XXI, pp85/86

Reflections upon The Realm of Radiance

John Pignéguay

“LIVE THE LIFE” is an expression that we will probably all be familiar with. It is a powerful phrase whose apparent simplicity is what gives it such potency. As with various aspects of our daily lives, it is one of those things that are “easier said than done.” But it also has to be said that the more we try, the more likely it is that we will make some sort of progress. ‘Busy-ness’ is something that has about it a kind of merit that invests us with a sense of achievement, and while this can certainly be true, we also need to look carefully at ourselves to make sure that we maintain a balance between the various activities. Obviously, we are *in* the world but may feel that we are not *of* it in spiritual terms.

The spiritual life of each one of us is like a tender plant that needs constant nurturing, and outer conditions are adept at disrupting this process, again if we let them. This being so, the remedy is surely at hand. Our founder’s words in the extract give us all the guidance we need in these especially difficult times. His visionary spiritual ideals take us up and away from earthly tribulations and give us a truer spiritual perspective. “Climb, *climb* the heights.” In outer terms, that expression lifts us step-by-step to where we do indeed see more clearly, and if that is so in our purely physical world, think of the corresponding effect that will take place in our spiritual world.

Our founder’s words are always full of understanding and encouragement, both of which enable us to “live the life” to the best of our earthly and spiritual abilities. We are then also more able to quietly share with those we meet on life’s journey something of our understanding of how we may all (each in our own way) “... climb the Heights where HIS Path leads.”

The Voyage of Life

Rosemary Smith (2021)

One cannot always live life
On the crest of a wave.
Life is like the ocean
With its peaks and troughs,
Its storms and tempest,
But we can find calm waters
When the storm has passed.

There will be blue skies again
And the Sun will shine
As we rise up, looking to the horizon
Wind tossed, taken by the tide,
Moved by the currents of life –
Letting them flow over us.
Swept along on our journey
The Heavens will guide us
Towards a safe haven.



Our Contribution to the Planet

Michael Owen

THE LAST TWO YEARS have been turbulent and I know that, like me, there are many who have been down at times. At these times we might contemplate the saying: “Pain is inevitable, suffering is optional.” And Shantideva, eighth century Indian thinker, who asks:

“If there is a solution, then what is the need for dejection? If there is not a solution, then what is the point of dejection?”

In the past, many turned to their religion for help at times such as we have been, and are, going through. Some still do but, like the number in our Fellowship on this plane, their number has dramatically declined; in a recent UK survey 70% of 18-24 year olds said they had no religion. History shows that religion has, and indeed still is, so often the cause of violence with the insistence that “ours is the way that you have to follow”. Yet the Dalai Lama points out that all the world’s major religions, place an emphasis on love, compassion, patience, tolerance and forgiveness!

So many no longer respond to the assertion that religion, whichever that may be, has the answer for them. Yet, if asked, they still say: “I think that there is something there”. Now, millions are awakening, as did the woman who found the Lost Coin, to the realization that the answer is not out ‘there’; it is in ‘here’: within.

We see this in the massive increase in the number of books, which are best sellers, written by spiritual thinkers; from the number of their websites that there are to visit and the fact that one such as Eckhart Tolle can fill the Albert Hall. The magazine Mind Body Spirit now runs an annual feature in which it nominates *The 100 Most Spiritually Influential Living People* in that year. Their message is that it is only ‘within’ that one will be able to make connection with the Cosmic Consciousness, the Eternal Love or ... the FATHER-MOTHER!

The worldwide concern for the future of the planet coming together with the pandemic are causing people to reevaluate life today, for example: What really matters to them? Why do they spend four hours a day in overcrowded public transport or in traffic jams polluting the atmosphere? How debilitating isolation can be. How dependent we all are on those providing essential services who have too often been disregarded as “unskilled”.

In the early Heralds Our Friend anticipated the conditions that would have to change in the Western World. And He spoke of equity in commerce (*Herald VIII*, pages 38-9); the impact of machinery, leading to overproduction and uneven distribution of any enrichment (*Herald XXI*, pages 219-24) and that waste matters comes from misuse (*Herald XXII*, p71).

For many years people have complained that “things don’t last as they used to”, “that it seems to be getting worse”, and “it’s almost impossible to get anything repaired these days”. All of which means more production and sales! Then we see frequent introduction of a new feature to show the product you bought last year is really no good any more. It hasn’t got ‘Whizzo’, just as the one you are about to will be no good next year because it hasn’t got ‘Whizzo’.

So, it was wonderful to hear Apple announcing last Autumn that it was working on producing products that their users would be able to repair! Let us hope that once again where Apple leads others will follow.

World and business leaders have come to the realization that the wanton misuse of natural resources and the pollution resulting must be stemmed. We should be glad that some progress has been made. However, vested interest continues to impede the advance.

Everyone has a part to play in safeguarding the future of the planet. Let us remember Greta Thunberg the 15 year-old Swedish girl who has had a major impact in raising concern about the need for action on the environment. She decided to spend her schooldays sitting outside the Swedish Parliament with a sign, translating into English as “School strike for climate”. Her peaceful protest soon attracted the

attention of the media. She had done her research so could answer their questions with the facts, which were then circulated more widely in their reports. As a result, now thousands turn up to hear her speak and she is regularly invited to speak at major conferences, including COP26, of world political and business leaders.

Another way of benefitting the environment has been highlighted by 107 experts from 52 countries sitting on The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change who point out that if the world's population moved to a more plant-based diet, emissions could fall by up to eight billion tonnes a year and health would improve.

On Boxing Day, I read an article headed: *No meat please, we're British: now a third of us approve of Vegan diet.* It reported a survey in which 8% of respondents said that they were already eating a plant-based diet; in 2019 the figure was just over 1%! Today, many restaurants have a special vegetarian, or even vegan, menu and Wagamama advertises that 50% of the items on their menu are vegan.

Fifty years ago, a week away on business for me meant returning home clucking from a surfeit of omelettes. Both my host and I had the embarrassment of a restaurant refusing to provide a vegetarian meal. Then I would not have believed what is now happening!

It can sometimes seem to us that little progress is being made but remember that there was a worldwide conflict taking place when Our Friend passed and all the healing that was, and is, necessary as a result. There is still a lot to be achieved but much has been in those eighty years. In conclusion, a quote from an answer Our Friend gave at Roselle in 1941 on how we may help in healing the World conditions.

What shall we do help more effectively, the healing of the World? The greatest thing we can do is to be one with HIM Who blesses all, Who makes none accursed, but Who works through a million avenues to restore those who have made themselves accursed by turning their back on HIS Truth and HIS ways. To all we send our Blessing in this hour; yes, even to those who have devastated our cities, our villages, our land, our homes. For we would be like HIM Whose Love never changes in its nature, nor is slow to bless where

and when Blessing is needed and asked for.

Herald XV, supplement page 65

ORDER OF THE CROSS LITERATURE

The primary books written by John Todd Ferrier are available free of charge by going onto our website under Publications and clicking on the appropriate button or by contacting one of the people below, depending on your location.

Books

The Master: His Life and Teachings

The Logia or Sayings of the Master

Life's Mysteries Unveiled

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The Divine Renaissance Vol. 1

The Divine Renaissance Vol. 2

The Message of Ezekiel

The Mystery of the Light Within Us

The Message of Isaiah

Divine Mysteries

UK: Contact Margaret Jack

Email: literature.uk@orderofthecross.org

North America: Contact Alexander Guza Email:

literature.usa@orderofthecross.org

Australia & New Zealand Contact Claire Ede Email:

literature.au@orderofthecross.org

The Moment of Truth and the Purpose of Life

Bernard Fallon

'THE MOMENT OF TRUTH' has evolved into a commonly used phrase and is frequently applied to very humble circumstances, so that it has become 'dumbed down' from a once more exalted state. It is applied to such moments as when we see if the glue has set, and the repair is made good – viewers of The Repair Shop on television will be familiar with this – or when we see if an action we have taken has had its desired effect. I began writing these thoughts on the day celebrating The Epiphany, 6th January, and 'epiphany', a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization, has suffered a similar fate.

For most people, real 'moments of truth' are a rare experience in their daily round but for students of the Teachings they are not so rare. In every unfoldment there is to be found at least one 'moment of Truth' and each 'moment' makes connections with the 'moments' in other unfoldments; each confirming the Truth of the others and together building up a Temple of Heavenly Realities that the Soul may enter and, recalling them from its past, know them to be True.

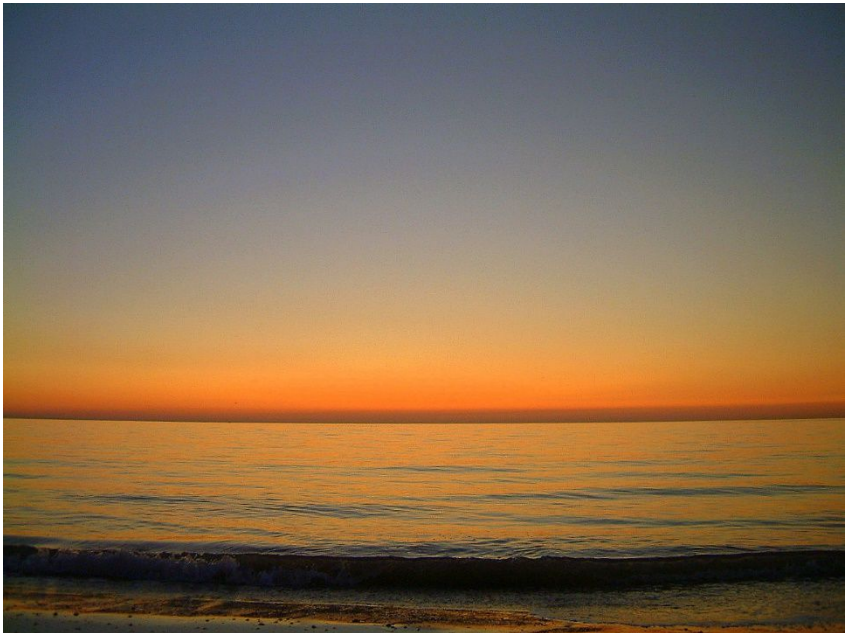
Very recently I came across a 'moment of Truth' – I cannot be certain, but I think it was not in the Teachings – which, for me, is hugely meaningful and significant. It is, "We are not a Body with a Soul; we are a Soul with a Body." This is not something new, rather something 'known' throughout life, but put in a way that adjusts the way life is looked at. "We are a Soul with a Body". It is worth repeating over and over. It is the keystone of the arch of our understanding about the purpose of this life. It re-evaluates the importance that is generally given to all that we do in this life by placing it in a continuum with the life that comes before and the life that follows. "We are a Soul with a Body". It affirms that we have a Spiritual Life and an Earthly life. And one purpose of our Spiritual Life is to nurture a growing consciousness of Divine Mysteries.

"We are a Soul with a Body". The Soul's processional through this life and the purpose of that processional is beautifully expressed in the following 'moment of Truth' from the unfoldment The Secret Name

of GOD, *Herald X*, p93. Every word, every phrase, is worthy of close reading and appraisal.

You are here as a dweller, not merely to live the life of existence, but to live the Life Eternal. That Life is expressed by the Soul dwelling in the consciousness of HIM. And to live in that state of Life Eternal is not only for your own joy and the revelation from the Heavens of your high estate; it is also for the healing of the World, through making manifest unto it the meaning of Life as distinguished from mere existence.

May we all find ways to contribute to the healing of the World



Communal Sharing Circle: Services and Studies by Phone

THE COMMUNAL SHARING CIRCLE is international and open to all. Join us as a reader or listener—all you need is a phone!

Readings taken from the books are referenced on the calendar below; others require a service document. To receive documents by mail or email, contact the Coordinator (see page 19)

TWO REGIONAL CALLS are scheduled to serve our global community :—

I: North America, Australia and New Zealand – 00:00 UTC

II: North America and the UK / Europe – 16:00 UTC

Local call times and dial-in numbers are listed on pages 19 and 20 below. If possible, please join us before the scheduled hour.

SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

- | | | |
|----|--------|---|
| 6 | I & II | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Jane Bennett
<i>Divine Mysteries</i> , p.104, 132 – “ <i>Angelic World; Colours</i> ” |
| 13 | I & II | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Jean Laverack
<i>Divine Renaissance I</i> , p.75-92 – “ <i>The Eternal Mystery</i> ” |
| 20 | I & II | Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye
<i>Ezekiel</i> , p.137-145 – “ <i>The Arising of Israel</i> ” |
| 27 | I & II | Worship Service – Ministrant: John Blossom
“ <i>Heavenly Service</i> ” [document] |

MARCH

- 6 I & II Worship Service – Ministrant: Patricia Sherwood
“The Solar Mystery” [document]
- 13 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Lindajeane Stewart
Herald 32, p.15-32 – “The Way Into the Holiest”
- 20 I & II Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye
Herald 24, p.16-24 – “Upon Mount Moriah” (Pt. 1)
- 27 I & II Worship Service – Ministrant: Elsie Danielsson
“Children of Judah, Luna and Sol” [document]

APRIL

- 3 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Christa Lewin
Herald 30, p.2-20 – “Prayer and Fasting”
- 10 I & II Worship Service – Ministrant: June Young
“Divine Liturgy” [document]
- 17 I & II Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye
Herald 24, p.24-34 – “Upon Mount Moriah” (Pt. 2)
- 24 I & II Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Richard Palmer
Divine Renaissance I, p.97-107 – “The Worship of GOD”

LOCAL CALL TIMES – Communal Sharing calls are scheduled year-round on Universal Time (UTC = GMT). To find your local call-in time, refer to schedule A or B (page 20) according to whether your area is currently observing Standard or Daylight Savings Time.

NOTE: Clocks “spring forward” on March 13th in North America and on March 27th in the UK and other European countries. In Australia and NZ clocks “fall back” to Standard Time on April 3rd.

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

Esther Gowan • esthergowan@earthlink.net • (1) 805-542-9133

<p>A – Daylight Saving Time in Northern Hemisphere; Standard Time in Southern Hemisphere</p> <p>IA: 00:00 UTC (=GMT) 5 pm PDT (Sat. eve.) 8 pm EDT (Sat. eve.) 8 am AWST 10 am AEST 12 pm NZST</p> <p>IIA: 16:00 UTC 9 am PDT 12 pm EDT 5 pm BST (U.K.) (12 am next day AWST) (4 am next day NZST)</p>	<p>B – Standard Time in Northern Hemisphere; Daylight Saving Time in Southern Hemisphere</p> <p>IB: 00:00 UTC (=GMT) 4 pm PST (Sat. eve.) 7 pm EST (Sat. eve.) 8 am AWST 11 am AEDT 1 pm NZDT</p> <p>IIB: 16:00 UTC 8 am PST 11 am EST 4 pm GMT (U.K.) (12 am next day AWST) (5 am next day NZDT)</p>
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INTERNATIONAL PHONE NUMBERS FOR COMMUNAL SHARING CALLS	
COUNTRY	PHONE NUMBER
Australia	(0) 2 8355 1039
Canada	(1) 647-497-9379
France	(0) 1 70 95 05 85
Ireland	(0) 19 030 050
New Zealand	(0) 9 925 0481
Sweden	(0) 853 527 817
United Kingdom	(0) 330 221 0099
United States	(1) 646-749-3117
ACCESS CODE: 506-112-581 # (same for all areas)	



Spiritual Reflections Publication Timetable

Issues will be published in the first week of:	The three month period the issue will cover
May	May June July
August	August September October
November	November December January
February	February March April

The next issue of Spiritual Reflections will be published at the beginning of May 2022.

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