

# **SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS**

**November, December 2020, January 2021**



The Order of the Cross



The Macrocosmic Cross

*From the Teachings*

## **The Coming of the Kingdom**

THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM of the Heavens is the coming of Angelic breaths. True, it comes through embodiments. The Master did not simply give parables. A teacher may speak in parable. If he has some vision to illustrate, some philosophy to expound, he may use parabolic teaching. It was common in the east. But in the parables used by the Master ... there was always that breathing through them which was not of the mind, though the philosophy was always of the Divine Wisdom. There was a breath in them that told that they were wafted from the Heavens themselves. The breaths of the Angelic World were present to those who heard.

The Kingdom of the Heavens is first the atmosphere generated from the Heavenly states and conditions; then the Life of the Heavens embodied; and then the crown of that embodiment in the glory shed by the Heavenly radiations. And when the Heavens come, after the manner set forth in the parabolic teaching of the Master, they do not say to this man and to that woman – “Come, you must believe in me, and then you will be in my Kingdom. Come, you must be citizens of the Kingdom, and the only way is to believe.” What the Heavens really say is like this: “Drink in of this breath; apprehend this vision; see the glory of life as illustrated in the parable, for it speaks of the purpose of the FATHER-MOTHER concerning you.” ...

Therefore, in the coming of the Kingdom, the motion of the Soul is Heavenward. It is first from the Heavens to man. The Kingdom is GOD’s gift. It is GOD seeking unto the finding of the Soul. It is a Divine Motion... But the Kingdom finds us only when the Being responds. We must drink in the breath. We must seek unto the understanding of the vision. We must needs be moved to finer issues, even to seek unto the finding of the radiance in realization.

*Herald XXI, pp166/167/168*

## **Reflections upon The Coming of the Kingdom John Pignéguay**

**‘R**ealization’ is a dawning sense of awareness of spiritual possibilities in the life of every person. This is something that is much easier to understand in the quiet moments of our own individual lives, in stark contrast to the hurly-burly of everyday life with all its demands and contradictions. Finding a true balance between these two ‘states’ can at times be quite a challenge – after all, we do in fact live ‘in’ the world though we may often feel that we are most certainly not ‘of’ it. But we really can learn from all these experiences if we give ourselves time to do so – and that is a real and constructive ‘learning process’ in itself.

Our founder writes in the cover-extract that “the breaths of the Angelic World were present to those that heard them.” And while that may sound simple enough to us, it is worth asking ourselves whether we do in fact give ourselves sufficient time to absorb these influences, things which are so vital to a balanced life – easier said than done, we will all agree.

But we can all have things in our lives which not only enhance our experiences but also give us a spiritual ‘lift’ at the same time – for example music, art, literature, the natural world etc., all of them bringing to us so many different aspects of “The Kingdom of the Heavens,” to our great joy, benefit and blessing.

Thus is our individual and collective vision gently raised up to where it should ideally be. As our founder puts it in the final sentence of the cover-extract – “We must needs be moved to finer issues, even to seek unto the finding of the radiance in realization which the Heavens pour forth.”

## **Meeting Together in These Times**

The great world pause made possible the opportunity to study our sacred Teachings far exceeding the regular group and reading circles scheduled times. What was disappointing initially, because we no longer were able to meet physically, has become an unexpected increased period of intense reading together that has heightened our inner knowing.

For the writer the group sharing went from two times/week to fourteen times/week with eight different groups scattered as it were, from around the world. All told 64 (some repeated) members and inquirers read together. It has been a joy to share so familiarly with friends in Australia, Canada, the UK and the US.

Three of the groups have been via the Order of the Cross communal phone line. Thanks to Esther Gowen for the intuitive need for this kind of sharing. The remainder five groups are fortunate to be on video linking. Most start with a silence and a prayer before proceeding to the selected reading. Our Monday group concludes with a hymn played by Christopher Loy. Some groups have a designated book to read through, others single unfoldments. Regardless the Message is always the same. The overlap of subjects became quite insightful. The inner truths of living vital words i.e. Love, Wisdom, Truth, Embodiment, Manifesting, Atmosphere and a host of other Mystery terms are inwardly addressed and lead us to the central wonder of our FATHER-MOTHER.

## Tuesdays Communal Sharing Group



## Thursdays Communal Sharing Group



## Fridays Communal Sharing Group



The Message is incredibly vast with limitless layers revealed as we journey on our paths. Understanding the Soul, even in the minutest way, realizing the boundless potency of our individual lives as parts of this universal whole, the responsibility and honor we share becomes clear. These now daily 'brotherhood' linkings have elevated our unity in fellowship across continents bringing us nearer to each other and to HIM Who is Our LORD. Oh, what a blessed time it is.

Pictured are the different groups that have become a part of the writer's daily manna of spiritual enlightenment. What an honor to be able to read our Teachings with such a varied number of members and inquirers. How grateful we are to see the beautiful shining faces and hear the various voices in dedicated service for our FATHER-MOTHER.

## Cathy Oerter

Every day Video Group. [USA, Canada, Australia]



## Mondays Video group [USA, UK]





### South West Florida Video Group reads Mondays



### Wednesdays Video Group [USA, UK]



### Florida Video Inquirers meet on the weekend



*How privileged we are to be able to withdraw from the World's tumultuous motion to have an hour with THEE!..*

*When the World conditions throw shadows upon us which produce doubt, THOU speedest unto us with THY Radiance, and the shadows flee away.*

*In the hour of deep Soul-pain that nothing on the Earth can heal or even comfort, on the wings of THY majestic Love THOU comest to us and speaketh in language we can understand; and because THOU dost use terms vital with the very breath of comfort, our Soul-pain is healed.*

*Herald XIV, p1*



## **Inspirational Thoughts**

**John Todd Ferrier**

“WHEN YOU RECOGNIZE THE GOOD, the true, the beautiful, make these part of yourself. When you recognize that these should be transmitted, then transmit only what is the good, the true, and the thing that is beautiful, to others. Reveal these in your own embodiment. They will radiate from you and shed their glory. For you cannot think good without blessing. You cannot embody truth without revealing HIM. You cannot be inwardly beautiful like HIMSELF, and fail to realize something of the blessedness of seeking to embody that beauty in attitude, in thought, in giving, in service unto others. What a glorious day it will be when you have all realized within you the power of the Highest!”

*Herald XII p217-8*

“THERE IS GREAT REJOICING IN THE HEAVENS TO-DAY, notwithstanding the sorrow begotten of the state of the World. The present turmoil was not unexpected. If you have had an atmosphere charged with impure elements, you must expect bye and bye an electric storm. The racial conditions of the present time are the outworking resultant of the inpouring into the Planet’s Atmospheria of Solar magnetic streams of a most intensified order for the changing of the elementary states within the outer Kingdoms, and the bringing back into a state of balance, the Earth’s magnetic poles and streams. The result is that men and women, nations and peoples and races, are disturbed to the foundations of their life. They are in the maelstrom of the meeting of the waters

*Herald X, p246,248*

“BE COMFORTED, the Angels minister to you...Be strong and walk uprightly. Stand and fear not. Behold the salvation of GOD, the perfect salving, the bringing back of GOD for you. The Angel of HIS Presence which has been with you through the ages, is with you to-day, bearing you up through that great search of Being within you for divinest realization. And GOD ministers through HIS Presence within you unto the day of your appearing before HIM; that is, the day in which HIS appearing to you shall be most glorious through His Holy, Holy, Holy ONE within you.”

*Herald XXIV, p133-4*

## A Pushkin Poem

**John Pignéguy**

**I**N OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR, Ruth and I went to a concert at Snape Maltings which is close to Aldeburgh on the Suffolk coast where the composer Benjamin Britten (himself a native of Suffolk) lived for many years. The concert was part of the Britten Weekend 2019 which was titled “Britten and Russia” reflecting his love of Russia which developed over many years as a result of close relationships with various Russian musicians, including the cellist Mstislav Rostropovich and the composer Dimitri Shostakovich. The programme-notes for this particular concert also related how, in 1965, while on holiday in what was then the Soviet Union, Benjamin Britten composed a cycle of six songs to texts by the Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin (1799-1837) which were entitled “The Poets’ Echo.” Britten loved the sound of the Russian language but was not a Russian-speaker. His life-partner, the tenor Peter Pears, provided the translations of the poems, this remarkable one being entitled simply **Angel**.

At Eden’s gate a gentle angel  
 With lowered head stood shining bright,  
 While Satan sullen and rebellious  
 O’er Hell’s abysses took his flight.

Soul of negation, soul of envy,  
 He gazed at that angelic light,  
 And warm and tender glowed within him  
 A strange confusion at the sight.  
 “Forgive,” he said, “now I have seen thee,  
 Not vainly didst thou shine so bright:  
 Not all in heaven have I hated,  
 Not all things human earn my spite.

Many of us will have childhood memories of what we thought the Devil, or Satan, looked like. Probably some sort of threatening-looking character dressed in black, with staring eyes and a pair of horns protruding from his forehead, plus a long pointy tail, and not forgetting the long-handled 3-pronged toasting-fork that he carried in one hand. There are some wonderfully graphic depictions of just such a character to be found in medieval and Renaissance art – they can look a bit like

cartoon characters, but ones with a deadly serious message for the viewer! These stereotypical images can sometimes be a block to any sort of understanding as to their true meaning.

A little more clarity begins to emerge when we look at the dictionary definitions of some of the terms. For instance, Satan is described as “The Devil, Lucifer,” with Lucifer being described as “The chief rebel angel.” Significantly, the term “Lucifer” translates from the Latin as “Light bringing, morning star,” all of which takes the whole story into another dimension, something we begin to see in the poem’s second verse –

Soul of negation, soul of envy,  
He gazed at that angelic light,  
And warm and tender glowed within him  
A strange confusion at the sight.

In other words, could it possibly be that Satan himself is beginning to realise some aspects of his own past? Our Friend addresses this point in two extracts, firstly in *The Logia* p177 (Note 7):

The Planet came under the dominion of influences exercised over it by other fallen ones – the fallen angels, as they have been named. And these influences of fallen spirits together have been spoken of as Satan. He was the angel of the outermost sphere, but fell from his first estate.

Two of Our Friend’s other references are to be found in *The Divine Renaissance* II and help bring further clarity, the first being on p115:

For although we have to contend against great powers, at times, there is no personal devil, though there are still many evil embodiments. The devil is the spirit of negation in everyone who has that attitude towards the Divine. There is no personal Satan. For Satan represents the deceiving influences, anywhere and everywhere.

The second extract from the same volume is to be found on pp382/383:

What was the nature of that destroying force? Why, it was the spirit of negation, that spirit of the Devil which means negation, that Satanic spirit which embodies the evil influence, which was working against any manifestation of Christhood, and was determined to destroy it, if possible. For that is the inner significance behind all betrayals ... And, of course, the powers named the Devil and Satan, can be overthrown only through all the children having upon them the hallmark of Divine Love, of real childhood to HIM Who is the FATHER-MOTHER ... a living childhood that fills the Being with the motion of HIS Own glorious Lifestream.



## ORDER OF THE CROSS LITERATURE

The primary books written by John Todd Ferrier are available to purchase by contacting one of the people below, depending on your location.

### Books

<b>The Master: His Life and Teachings</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>The Logia or Sayings of the Master</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>Life's Mysteries Unveiled</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>Life's Mysteries Unveiled – PAPERBACK</b>	<b>£4.00</b>
<b>The Divine Renaissance Vol. 1</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>The Divine Renaissance Vol. 2</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>Isaiah: A Cosmic Drama</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>The Mystery of the Light Within Us</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>Ezekiel</b>	<b>£5.00</b>

### **UK: Contact Margaret Jack**

Email: [literature.uk@orderofthecross.org](mailto:literature.uk@orderofthecross.org)

### **North America: Contact Alexander Guza**

Email: [literature.usa@orderofthecross.org](mailto:literature.usa@orderofthecross.org)

### **Australia & New Zealand Contact Claire Ede**

Email: [literature.au@orderofthecross.org](mailto:literature.au@orderofthecross.org)

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## Communal Sharing Circle: Services and Studies by Phone

**T**HE COMMUNAL SHARING CIRCLE is international and open to all. Join us as a reader or a 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, please contact the Coordinator (see page 16).

Three regional calls are held on a rotating schedule to serve our global community. The weekly call schedule is indicated on the calendar below:—

- I: North America, Australia and New Zealand – 00:00 UTC
- II: Europe, Australia and New Zealand – 08:00 UTC
- III: North America and Europe – 16:00 UTC

Local call times and dial-in numbers are listed on pages 16 and 17.

### SCHEDULE

#### NOVEMBER

- |    |          |   |
|----|----------|---|
| 1  | II & III | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Jane Bennett<br><i>H.27, p.129- – God’s Mystery in the Fashion of a Soul</i> |
| 8  | I & III  | Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Ian van Zyl<br><i>H.12, p.159- – Sharers of the Patience of the Lord</i>     |
| 15 | II & III | Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye<br><i>DR II, p.343-357 – The Obedience of Christ</i>        |
| 22 | I & III  | Worship Service – Ministrant: Anne Candlin<br><i>The Evangel of St. John [document]</i>                     |



## DECEMBER

- 6 II & III Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Christa Lewin  
*Herald 8*, p.13-27 – *The Assemblies of the Gods*
- 13 I & III Worship Service – Ministrant: Jan Holmes  
*A Christmas Story* [document]
- 20 II & III Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Patricia Sherwood  
*DR II*, p.395-407 – *The Threefold Mystery*
- 27 I & III Worship Service – Ministrant: Margery van Zyl  
*The Pyramid, the Square & the Cross* [document]

## JANUARY

- 3 II & III Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Janet Ristic  
*Herald 27*, p.113-126 – *The Keys of the Kingdom*
- 10 I & III Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Michael Armstrong  
*H.19*, p.167-174 – Prayer, Praise & Thanksgiving
- 17 II & III Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye  
*DR II*, p. 497-512 – *The Cosmic Consciousness*
- 24 I & III Worship Service – Ministrant: Michael Arcese  
*Magnetism in the Message* [document]

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Communal Sharing Circle and to receive service documents by mail or email, please contact the Coordinator: Esther Gowan • [esthergowan@earthlink.net](mailto:esthergowan@earthlink.net) • (I) 805-542-9133

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 (next page) according to whether your area is currently observing Standard or Daylight Savings Time. Schedule B is currently in effect in all areas.

<b>A – Daylight Saving Time in Northern Hemisphere; Standard Time in Southern Hemisphere</b>	<b>B – Standard Time in Northern Hemisphere; Daylight Saving Time in Southern Hemisphere;</b>
<b>I A:</b> 00:00 UTC (=GMT) 5 pm PDT (Sat. eve.) 8 pm EDT (Sat. eve.) 8 am AWST 10 am AEST 12 pm NZST	<b>I B:</b> 00:00 UTC (=GMT) 4 pm PST (Sat. eve.) 7 pm EST (Sat. eve.) 8 am AWST 11 am AEDT 1 pm NZDT
<b>II A:</b> 08:00 UTC 9 am BST (U.K.) 4 pm AWST 6 pm AEST 8 pm NZST (1 am PDT) (USA)	<b>II B:</b> 08:00 UTC 8 am GMT (U.K.) 4 pm AWST 7 pm AEDT 9 pm NZDT (12 am PST) (USA)
<b>III A:</b> 16:00 UTC 9 am PDT 12 pm EDT 5 pm BST (U.K.) (12 am next day AWST) (4 am next day NZST)	<b>III B:</b> 16:00 UTC 8 am PST 11 am EST 4 pm GMT (U.K.) (12 am next day AWST) (5 am next day NZDT)

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
<b>ACCESS CODE: 506-112-581 # # (same for all areas)</b>	

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## **Spiritual Linking** **Christopher Nye**

**T**HE STUDY FOR NOVEMBER is

*“The Obedience of Christ “*  
*Divine Renaissance Volume 2 pages 343-357*  
It will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>

*“Lo! I come to do Thy Will, O God, even as Thou has written it in the volume of the Book of my Life.”*

**T**HE READING FOR DECEMBER is

*“The Threefold Mystery”*  
*Divine Renaissance Volume 2 pages 395-407*  
It will take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>

*“O Holy Mary-Mother*  
*O Holy Joseph-Father*  
*O Most Holy Lord”*

The Ministrant will be Patricia Sherwood, Australia.

**T**HE STUDY FOR JANUARY 2021 is

*“The Cosmic Consciousness”*  
*Divine Renaissance Volume 2 pages 497-512*  
It will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>

*“We can get there only through going up the great staircase of the spiral motion of the Divine Being within us”*

The Ministrant will be Patricia Sherwood of Australia.

**The two Readings are 08h00 UTC (=GMT)** that is 8am GMT in the UK, 4pm AWST in Western Australia, 7pm AEDT in Eastern Australia and 9pm NZDT in New Zealand; the second is **16h00 UTC (=GMT)** that is 4pm GMT in the UK, 8am PST, 9 am MST, 10am CST, 11am EST in North America. *For phone-in numbers please see the Communal Sharing pages.*

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OTHER DETAILS**

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

The Order of the Cross  
27 Old Gloucester Street, LONDON, WC1N 3AX  
Email: [membership@orderofthecross.org](mailto:membership@orderofthecross.org)

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

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## **The Order of the Cross Website**

[www.orderofthecross.org](http://www.orderofthecross.org)

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## **Spiritual Reflections Publication Timetable**

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

**The next issue of Spiritual Reflections  
will be published at the beginning of February 2021.**