



The Cross and The Lotus Journal

Winter Edition

December 2000, Vol. 1 No. 4

Dear Friends,

Silent sacred greetings. During this time of year much of the world recognizes the birth of Jesus. When one enters the inner way of God-Realization, one sees universal teaching in the sayings of Jesus and his life story. From time immemorial spiritual Masters have used stories, some fact, some fiction, to point the minds of aspirants to ultimate Truth. The Masters have always known absolute Truth could only be the product of direct transcendent perception.

Thus the essence, the kernel of Truth, is not in the outer husk of the story, but in realizing the ultimate Truth at its core. By entering into the story itself, we follow the Way as it has been laid out for us. When the story is told by a realized Master, the story itself becomes a way of salvation. That is, by following in the footsteps principles of the story, we will be led to the realized state from which its author is speaking. This is the great marvel and mystery of a really good story. In the story of Jesus, we have a story for the ages.

I invite you all to take time during this busy season and read the story of the birth of Jesus. Then go into the quietness of your own being asking God to show you that inner core of Truth, something to take with you that will help guide your daily life. Do not be discouraged if at the first diving or two you do not get any pearls of wisdom. Keep going deeper into silence until a glister of Light lets you know you are near your goal. It may come as a sudden insight, or a remembrance of something you have always known, but now known more deeply, more profoundly.

If gift giving is part of your celebration, then soak the gifts in love. When you give, give mostly with your heart. Then the gift you receive in the giving is the love that permeates the gift itself, nothing more is needed. This is also a wonderful time of year to give to the stranger. Make extra effort to know how God would like to give through you to another. Again, with love, as it were, flowing like liquid to the recipient. It makes life quite fun and alive if we spend our days looking for opportunities to give, without thought of return. It may be the gift of a smile, some small encouragement, a secret gift of some money to someone in need, it can take the shape of countless forms, but all in the spirit of life giving

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The Reverend Yogacharya Mother Hamilton

The Christmas Tree

A Talk Given by Mother Hamilton
on December 21, 1980

Our Bible reading this morning is from Isaiah, Chapter 9 beginning with verse 2.

[Bible reading goes through verse 6.]

And then from Luke, Chapter 2 beginning with verse 1.

[Bible reading goes through verse 14.]

I'd like also to read to you a Christmas letter that was written by my Guru many, many years ago to all of his devotees.

Dear Friends,

Let us decorate the growing Christmas tree of civilization with the flaming flags of all brother nations. Let us drown our differences and behold the branches of our national life spreading out from the tree of one international life. Let us demand that America, India, Germany, Russia,

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France, China, Japan, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, Mexico, Egypt, and all nations learn to decorate their flags on the Christmas tree of brotherhood and celebrate the coming of the United Nations of the World through their awakening in Christ. Let all brother nations contribute their best to make a League of Hearts and a League of Wisdom in preparation for their coming union. Let all nations consider themselves as children of God with different names only. May the love of nations be the twinkling lights with which to decorate the Christmas tree of world union. Let us obliterate the oddities of dogmatism and behold all religions as the branches of the one tree of truth. Let all sects celebrate around this one Christmas tree of universal religion in the coming United States of the World. Let us behold the soft twigs of our temporary joy-loving senses, not projected away from, but joined to the everlasting Christmas tree of Divine joy. May we all learn to climb up the spinal tree of life and pass by the starry knots into the infinite kingdom of Christ.

In this coming Christmas we shall celebrate the coming of one kingdom, one religion, one brotherhood, one human nationality, one wisdom, one ever-new happiness, one language, one race, one universal law, one freedom, contact of one God, and one understanding for all human brothers. May this Christmas and New Year time fill you with the adamant determination to improve yourself and others as Christ would wish you to do to usher in paradise on earth.

What a tremendous vision he had of universality. It's a strange thing, isn't it, that a man from India... I have known two masters from India who taught me more about the Christ during the time I was with them than all the rest of the years of my life. And in the ashram where I went through the mystical crucifixion twenty-two years ago myself, there, in the most prominent place of all, was the picture of the Christ. And yet we call them heathens, yet they came to teach us the true meaning of Christianity, the true meaning of Christ, if we would only open our eyes and see that.

I have something else that I want to read to you.

The Wise May Bring Their Learning

The wise may bring their learning.
The rich may bring their wealth.
And some may bring their greatness.
And some bring strength and health.
I, too, would bring my treasures to offer to the Christ.
I have no wealth or learning. O what shall I bring?
I will bring to the Christ a heart that loves.
Will bring him thankful praise.
A soul meekly striving
to walk in holy ways.
This shall be the treasure to the Christ.
These gifts are what the poorest child can bring.
I'll bring the little duties

I have to do each day.

I will do my best to please Him

at home, at work, at play.

Better are these gifts to the Christ than the richest gifts without them.

This is what I can bring

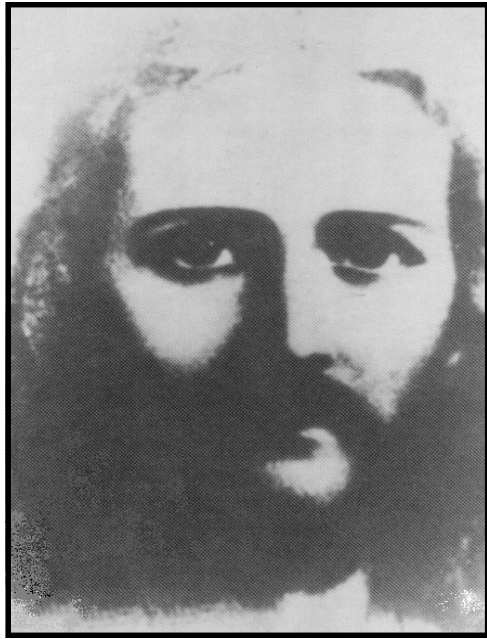
because I love Him, love Him, love Him.

And Fred Camets is the one who wrote that from his great loving heart. He can no more help bowing at my feet than he can fly. I have scolded him; I have talked with him; I have discussed with him; I have begged with him; I have pleaded with him; [chuckle] I have loved him; and I accept all that he gives me and turn it over to the Christ, because such is his love for the Christ that he sees the Christ in every form, and especially in this form because he has been with me for twenty-two years. And this man has driven all the way from Portland every Wednesday night that his car hasn't broken down or that he wasn't ill for many, many years to come up here to service. Now I call that love and devotion for God, believe me.

My own love for God was like that. I would have crawled on my hands and knees to be with the Guru who taught me the true meaning of the Christ. I had been walking in darkness, believing the tales that had been told me from the time I was a little child about the Christ. And nobody seemed to know in those days that, as the Bible says, the Christ is within you, that God and the kingdom of heaven are within you. And that is the only place they are to be found. "Ye are Gods," said the Christ. "Ye are the living Gods." Christ is the firstborn of every creature, as it says in Colossians. And so, therefore, as he came out from God the Father, he took on the form of all men, this Universal Christ. he is in their hearts; he is in their consciousness; he is that light that shineth forth in the darkness. he is everything that we can imagine, because he is the Carpenter of the whole universe.

As I've said many times, I cannot limit the Christ just to the one body who lived 2,000 years ago, because the Christ that I worship is the Christ that is in every atom of space, in every form that walks the earth. I revere and worship that one Christ also who lived 2,000 years ago, who became a beacon to the whole Christian world, but there were others before him and there have been others since who have attained Christhood. These men, these women, stand out as the shining examples of what each one of us can do. If we have to accept the fact that only one could do it, what is the use of our striving? Each of these people came as the example that each of us could follow. Perhaps their language is a little different. Perhaps they speak in a little different terminology, but each one is speaking of the same Father God, the same Mother, the same Christ Consciousness, the same Trinity, all over the world.

I have traveled this world three times around. I have been to many places, and I have seen as great or greater worship



Picture of Jesus from Sathya Sai Baba

in the so-called heathen countries (called so by the Christians) than I have among the Christians themselves. I think that this year we should all become Christians, worshipers of the true Christ, that first and only begotten Son of God, that one that emanated from the bosom of God and went forth to create universes, worlds, far beyond our imagination.

I want to talk to you this morning about “The Christmas Tree.” The Christmas tree is the symbol of the tree of life. Man himself is made in the form of a cross as he stands upright with his arms outstretched and his feet together. And, as I have said a million times, it is upon this cross that the Son of man, the human ego, must be crucified in order that man become the Christed One, the Son of God. And this is the privilege of every single man. But when this body is turned upside down, then the hair becomes the roots and the limbs become the branches of the tree.

You know, it’s an amazing thing how we take for granted that the beginning of the Christian era was the beginning of all life, that there had really been no true worship before that, and that is not true. It is said that India is the cradle of all religions, and they had Krishna. That word means the Christ, only it is in Hindu terminology. They had the word Aum, which means Amen in English. It was derived – Amen, ‘Amen, as we call it – was derived from this original Sanskrit word of Aum. And if you can close your eyes at any time and be very, very still with your eyes focused at the seat – between the eyebrows – the spiritual eye. Listen very quietly, you will hear (not with your outer ear, but with your inner ear) this sound of Aum. It is the word of God which first came forth and brought all of this world into manifestation.

It’s really interesting to think about the fir tree which has come to be symbolized as the Christmas tree. And yet, in the beginning, it wasn’t a Christmas tree, and the pagans used the tree as a form of worship long before Christ was born. Actually, the yule log started this whole symbolism. In the early days – very, very early – in this particular life-time of ours, they burned yule logs on the fireplace. They used to bring these logs in every year, and particularly was this true then after the Christ was born and Christmas came into being. Christmas means a “mass of Christ”, or a service which is dedicated to the worship of the Christ season. They would bring these logs in and they would burn them on the fire because the Christ represents light. He is the light of the world. In the beginning they had what they call a “paradise tree”. And that was around the 11th century. They didn’t worship Adam and Eve, but they had a special day set aside to acknowledge the fact that they were symbolic of the first man and woman on the earth. These trees were not decorated at all but, finally after the Christian era, they had these trees and they put apples on them to signify the fruit of the tree of life which we are told about in Genesis.

Gradually, various customs came into being and people would light candles and, again, the candle was significant of the light of the Christ in the world. Then they started having two trees. They would have a paradise tree and they would have just a plain fir tree. That tree was symbolic of life and they brought it into the house; they dug it up out of the ground and brought it into the house to represent the fact that even though winter had come over the land and it seemed as though everything was dead, still the brave little fir tree stood straight and tall. And that is true of the fir. It stands straight and tall even in the midst of winter when the snow is on the ground, and sometimes the pine tree is covered with snow. And yet, you shake the tree, the snow falls off, and there stands that beautiful little fir tree. The candles were put in the window to light the way for any wayfarers that might be lost.

Gradually, the tree came to be symbolic of Christmas in the Christian mind. And it was about the year 1700 when it was first brought to America by the German people, and they used to light candles. I can remember many years ago when I was a little child, that we had real candles on our tree – it was rather dangerous I think today when I look back at it. They had little tiny clamps and a little place where you put the candle in. Then, gradually, they had various colored ornaments. And these ornaments are symbolic of all of the fruits of the tree of life.

Now, let us think of our own tree of life and the ornaments that we decorate it with. God decorated it in the first place, because there are seven golden candlesticks; there are seven lights in each of those candlesticks in every human body, and these lights, these candlesticks, are of course referred to as the seven churches in Revelations. And the spinal centers are these that they refer to. When your whole tree is lit up with the light and the love of God, then the whole

body becomes filled with light, even as Christ said. “The light of the body is the eye; therefore, let thine eye be single” – one-pointed upon him. Look for that light in the center of the forehead, and your whole body shall be filled with the light of the Christ. You have to go through the crucifixion; you have to pick up your cross and follow the Christ in order that you might emulate him in every detail, even unto death. But it is the Son of man, the ego consciousness, that dies, that one that is constantly doing things that are against the laws of God. They are not following what the Christ came to bring, and that is the commandment of love.

This commandment of love is the greatest commandment that was ever made, and it extends to all religions, to all men over the face of the earth. We should not think we have the only truth, the only religion. Truth is, and people explain it in different ways. And many go to orthodox churches and are taught about it in the historical sense, about the birth of the Christ, how Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem in order to be taxed. Jerusalem is the holy city, and that represents the holy consciousness within yourself, when your whole being is lifted up into the worship of God. Then, and then alone, are you ready to be taxed. And that doesn’t involve money at all. It means that you are going to be tested; you are going to be between these two forces of good and evil within yourself, so-called, or the positive and negative forces, and you are going to have to travel that journey toward Bethlehem. You first have to meet with the wicked king, Herod, which represents the passions, and he tries to get rid of the Christ Child after the child is born by cutting off all of the heads of the male children. But the Christ succeeds in escaping him and returns to Galilee, and there becomes a light unto the world.

Not much of his life is told to us between the time he was born and the time he was twelve years old when he confronted the priests in the temple and asked them questions which you wouldn’t think a child of that age would know at all. But know it he did. He came with that knowledge, because it was His destiny to become a light unto the world. And he confounded the priests with these serious questions. His parents didn’t know when they left the temple that he was not with them, and they searched everywhere for him. Finally, they went back to the temple, and they found him there, still asking the priests questions. And they berated him for not coming with them, and he said, “Do you not know that I must be about my Father’s business?” Wouldn’t it be wonderful if each and every one of us each day of our lives would dedicate that life to be about our Father’s business, not our business, not the other fellow’s business, but the business of God, through Christ; to really pick up our crosses which are our bodies and follow him and emulate him in every way.

To be the tree of life is the most wonderful thing in the world. And you will know that the tree...notice that the tree always points upward. The light of the candle is always one-pointed.

Everything goes into the One; everything goes into the One. Isn’t it wonderful to think of the simile of this little child that was born this morning out of the mother’s womb. She, in turn, was born out of her mother’s womb. And, again, the seed came into full fruition and grew into a tree of life, and then it spread its seed and, again, the seed grew and became a tree of life. And this is the way the trees in the forests grow. The fruits of the tree falls to the ground, and the seeds take root again, and it is constant and continuous. And this is the way that God continues the life of each and every one of us, of all of mankind all the time. How wonderful this is.

When you stop to think about this tree of life, it has everything in it. It has the seed; it has the power to grow into a tall, strong tree; it has the power to bear leaves and fruit; it has the power to have the harvest, and the harvest comes from the seeds of truth, the seeds of life that you plant in your own garden of life. And unless you plant good seed, you will not get anything but weeds. Isn’t it better to walk in the way of the Lord, to follow His commandments, to pick up your cross and follow the Christ and be a light unto men, and to have your own life a thing of radiance, a thing of service, of joy, of happiness.

I looked at the group that performed last night in our usual Christmas play, and I wanted to thank them with everything I had, and I tried to afterwards. But I think of the many tremendous gifts that God has given to each of us on our trees of life, and it is up to us what we make of it. We can misuse them. We go out and do things for which we may go to prison or be punished; we may abuse our bodies by drinking, by smoking, by drugs, by overuse of sex. All of these things we may do, but they are never going to bring us anything but trouble and grief and sorrow. But if we think of the tremendous gifts that God has given us: the gift to see, the gift to hear, the gift to smell, the gift of taste, the gift to touch, the gift of feeling, the gift of love beyond all things. And He truly has given us the gift of peace if we would only use that peace and build a world where there is peace on earth, good will toward all men. How wonderful this would be. And I saw this demonstrated last night with all of these wonderful souls. And I see the changes in all of you down through the years, those of you who have been with me for even a short time, because your minds are centered upon God.

We do not center our attention upon hellfire, damnation, Satan, the mark of the beast, all of these things. They are negative. God is omnipotent; He is omnipresent; He is omniscient. His is the only Power, the only Intelligence, the only Presence on earth! It is man himself who has dreamed up the satanic influence, and it will never change, this world of ours, until we stop thinking about these negative things and put our mind upon God alone, through the Christ Consciousness which is inherent in every single man. When you can do that, you will light up your Christmas tree, and then you will not only put your gift as you do under the human tree and under the tree that we go out to in the forest



Mother with Mother Teresa in Calcutta

and cut down and bring to our living room and decorate with bright tinsel ornaments, but we will decorate our own trees of life, our bodies, with the jewels of love, of peace, of wisdom, of power. And we will bring forth such beautiful gifts, such as we listened to, such as we saw last night, that we scarcely will be able to contain it.

Isn't that a more wonderful thing to think of – what you can spread across the earth if you will only change yourself and your ideas. If you will realize that the Christ is within you, and that you cannot get away with doing one single thing, of thinking one thought, of committing one action, nothing at all but what He knows. Because he is that Living Presence within each and every one of us. He is there. He is omnipresent, and He is all wise because he knows, because He is inside of it even when the sparrow falls because He is that light that makes that sparrow be able to use his power to soar into the infinite, His power to breathe, and his power to swoop down on the earth and pluck the seeds from the ground. How wonderful. He is the power that makes the fish in the ocean swim, and each kind feeds upon the ones below it, the kingdom below it, each single one, until finally man, His greatest creation has jurisdiction and dominion over all things.

I would like to say to each of you, “Wake up to your Christhood.” Each one of you are potential Christs. Each one of you have the power within yourselves to become even as He became, because He said that no disciple can become greater than the master, but each disciple when he becomes perfect can be as the master. He gave us that hope that we, too, could be heirs with him in God's kingdom. And if we do not believe that, we do him a terrible disservice, and we do not speak the truth. Let us really read what the Bible says and know that we have this power within us to rise above all of the things that bother us, all of the things human, and ascend into our Christhood to become a living tree of life for God alone. How beautiful it is.

The real meaning of Christmas is giving, to give to the poor, to give to the needy, to serve the Christ in every man even

as Mother Teresa does in Calcutta, India. She is a world-famous Christian saint and, certainly, she shouldn't have to wait until after she has died to be canonized because she is a saint now. I have but to close my eyes, and I see this woman's face before me – not beautiful in the human sense, in the ordinary physical sense at all – her face is lined with wrinkles, her features aren't too good. But she has a light blazing in her eyes and a light on her skin such as I have never seen before. It is beautiful. And she takes the lepers, she goes out and picks up the sick and the dying off the streets, and she takes them home to her hospital. And she washes them with her own hands and makes them clean, and she puts clean garments on them, and she teaches these people about the Christ. And each one that comes before her is her Christ in human form. Now, this woman is a great, great Christian, believe me she is great. She really serves. She is completely without thought of herself. She thinks only of God through Christ and of serving Him in every waking moment of her life. She gets very, very little sleep. She works ceaselessly. She uses everything that is given to her in order that she may serve her Christ, and her name has spread all over the earth. Still, when she was given the Nobel Prize and they asked her if she had any comments to make about it, she said that all the honor that had been paid to her was nothing more nor less than crucifixion. She had to take time out to come and appear before a world audience to accept an honor which she gave only to Christ, and so she felt that that was crucifixion. That is true humility, isn't it? And if each of us could be humble in that sense, if each of us each moment of the day, not just at the Christmas season, but beginning this moment would look for people to serve, to serve Christ in them, even until you die serving Christ, what more glorious end could you have?

But there is no such thing as death, and Christ gave us that example when He arose from the dead after being crucified. Even in the historical terminology He arose from the dead. But He arises from the dead within yourself after you have gone through these tremendous spiritual experiences, and He ascends into the kingdom of his Father. And that ascension is difficult, there is no doubt about it. You have to go into the depths of your own subconscious mind and face all of the trials and the tribulations that you went through before, all of the misdeeds. And then you have to pay for it. Then your heart center opens and you are lifted up, and you start ascending into the kingdom of heaven within yourself. Because, again, let me remind you that Christ said that God and the kingdom of heaven are to be found within us, not outside, saying, “Praise the Lord”, although we must praise Him with our lips, with our words, every moment of our lives, but He is found in the quietness, in the stillness of our own souls. As it says in the 46th Psalm, “Be still and know that I am God.”

When we sing to Him softly, gently, when we chant with the depths of feeling from our hearts, with all of the love that we can muster, we're just not singing hymns to hear the beauty of our voices, but we are singing to God. When we meditate,

we are sitting in the silence of our own body temples. We are meditating upon the Christ alone. That is true worship. It is not outer worship, it is inner worship. And you must become completely still before you can hear His voice, His word of Aum. You can hear it; it's high-pitched, and it's beautiful. You can hear it inside your own body, inside of your temple, and it will resound throughout your whole world. I can hear it at will anytime I want, and many times I'm not even thinking about it, and this sound penetrates every part, every atom of my body to such an extent that I become aware of it, and immediately I am filled with the bliss of the Christ's radiant presence. It is tremendous. I can look up into the center of my forehead, and I can see His light there, the candle lit on the hilltop in my own being, as each and every one of you can if you will but take the trouble to go inside and really worship him in silence and in prayer.

I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a wonderful and happy and prosperous New Year. Keep the Christ in your hearts, in your consciousness, in every act, in every deed, in every thought that you have. Think only of him and serve him and he will come to you in all of his graciousness, his radiance, and his light and bless you forevermore.

Now, we are all invited to go downstairs and partake of the food of Christmas in the human sense.

[Dale Tonkins] Mother, we have a little presentation that we would like to make to you. You know, last night after the concert you thanked all of us for what we'd given to you, and I couldn't help but think, and I say this for all of us, that the thanks is to you for what you are in God and for what you've attained in God, for the love that you give to us. You know, Mother loves us enough to scold us when we need it even, whatever it takes to help us realize our talents and to find God within. We thank you, Mother, from the bottom of our hearts and from the depths of our souls.

Some of you may not know that Mother's birthday is on Christmas Day, so we have two cards here. This is for a Happy Birthday . . .

[Mother reads card] "A loving birthday greeting for the dearest of all mothers to wish you all the happiness you're always giving others, to thank you for the things you've done in such a thoughtful way, and then remind you once again how much you're loved each day. Have a wonderful birthday." There are many, many names and all this money [giggles] that I can use for God's work.

Let me say that I appreciate very much your thanks, but I give it all to God, because without Him I am nothing. He makes me live and breathe, walk, sleep, eat, everything. I could not do one thing if it were not for Him, and I serve Him in each one of you with all my heart, my mind, and my soul. And any credit for anything that I do goes to Him alone, because without Him I am nothing. He makes all things possible for each and every single one of us, as I have said. I am the littlest one on the Christmas tree of life,

I feel. That I can serve God in each of you is my greatest pleasure and my greatest privilege because I, too, am serving Christ in you each moment. I'm fortunate to have my birthday on Christ's birthday.

[This talk has been abridged for this Journal.]

The Mystical Christmas

Christ is born each time that something new comes to this earth from God, for He is "the firstborn of every creature," as Mother often repeated [Col 1:15]. Each new thought of God is filled with all of His might and essence. Each part does not just reflect Him, it is His very Self. God's every part is equal to His whole. The mystery is in the idea of parts, of separateness.

The Christ is not some one but all ones. Rightly understood he is both a Person and a Principle, not some intellectual principle but the Principle upon which this universe is built! He is the cornerstone of the macrocosm and of the microcosm. He pervades everything and everyone. We have Him intimately and can rightly claim our inheritance through Him because we have Him completely and we have Him only.

His birth did not happen once but rather it happens continuously. As God's first Thought, He preserves this world through each moment: "man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live." [Deu 8:3] Continuously are we wrought and sustained by God's consciousness. Each moment must He preserve us if He wants this world to continue. Continuously, is the Christ born in our midst. Let each man proclaim this Truth and know it for himself that he might stand in awe of God and His Creation.

Larry Koler

May the whisper that I hear from far
be the Sound of the voice of God
calling me sweetly
to nourish my soul
to awaken my spirit
to give me courage
that I may continue this right path
of awakening that which is asleep
from ages of dis-use
remembering always, the way home
to the Light
that shines within
if only I'd stop to look

Constance Meisner
Prince Rupert, BC, Canada



David Honoring the Masters in Arati Ceremony

Truth Series Talks

Mother Hamilton personally selected 20 talks to be released many years ago. We are excited that the first four of these have been completed in CD form and will soon be available. They will be released for Mother's Mahasamadhi Celebration.

David's letter continued from page 1

to life. The life exemplified by Jesus was such a life, and we see that in the lives of all the great Masters.

Christmas is also the birth date of our beloved Guru, Mother Hamilton. Her life was an example of one who picked up her cross, her body, to follow the Christ. In her own Master, Paramhansa Yogananda, she found that Christ Light blazing so brilliantly. And through the Christ-like experiences she went through, she realized the inner truths contained in the scriptures. Through her life we have a modern living example of one who "went all the way" in the realization of God. We honor her most when we emulate her example in her love of God and Gurus, and her surrender to God's will.

It is in that spirit of Divine love that I send this greeting to all of you. Although I may not be able to be with you physically during this season, nevertheless I am with you in Spirit. My one desire, my one gift I wish for all of you to receive is the gift of the Presence of the Infinite One. When you open your heart, mind and soul in sincerity and humility, you become a Holy Grail for the wine of Spirit to fill to overflowing. May you always be filled to overflowing with the Grace of that Spirit.

Merry Christmas and happy birthday Mother,

In Divine Love,

David

Spring Retreat

April 6-9th, 2001

Everyone is invited to the Spring Silent Three Day Retreat at Cloud Mountain Retreat Center. A Raja Yoga Technique for Cleansing the subtle astral nerves and Charging them as well will be taught for the first time. New and experienced meditators will be benefited by practicing this Cleansing-Charging Technique that will clear the three bodies of distractions and prepare the Sadhaka for deeper meditation. It will also help to clear past mental, emotional and physical traumas, again helping the Sadhaka in their spiritual quest. The cost will be \$150 USD for the three days for food and lodging. Please contact Carla Gold for more information.

Ananda Mata's "Songs to the Infinite"

Many of Mother's talks from the early 60s had recordings of songs composed and sung by her daughter, Barbara (Ananda Mata). Al Cone has combed through many, many tapes and selected 11 songs for this CD. Available soon.

Calendar of Events

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| December 16 | Satsang with David at Koler's |
| December 17 | Christmas Service / Potluck |
| December 25 | Mother's Birthday & Christmas |
| December 27 | Swami Ramdas's Sannyas Day |
| December 31 | New Year's Eve Meditation |
| January 5 | Paramhansa Yogananda's Birthday |
| January 13 | Cloud Mountain Satsang |
| January 27-31 | Celebration of Mother's 10th Anniversary of her Mahasamadhi |
| February 10 | Cloud Mountain Satsang |
| March 7 | Paramhansa Yogananda's Mahasamadhi |
| March 9 | Sri Yukteswar's Mahasamadhi (65th Anniversary) |
| March 10 | Cloud Mountain Satsang |

For Future Planning:

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| April 6-9 | Cloud Mountain Retreat (see announcement above) |
| July | Summer Retreat (Date TBA) |
| Sept. 7-10 | Cloud Mountain Retreat |

"O Jesus, born in humility, under radiant star shining in dark, be born within our darkness with shining Light of Consciousness. O sufferer for humanity, teach us compassion and strength to stand for Truth. You, who laid down his life for his friends, show us the way we may serve humanity, and thus redeem ourselves as well as others. You suffered then, as you suffer now, misguided ones who both speak against you and for you, lead us in patience and forgiveness. Saints East and West proclaim you true, may I too be a witness to your holy Light born anew."

Yogacharya David R. Hickenbottom

"Every sound that I make, let it have the vibration of Thy voice. Every thought that I think, let it be saturated with the consciousness of Thy presence. Let every feeling that I have glow with Thy love. Let every act of my will be impregnated with Thy divine vitality. Let every thought, every expression, every ambition, be ornamented by Thee. O Divine Sculptor, chisel Thou my life according to Thy design!"

Paramhansa Yogananda

Papa's comments to a Christian devotee:
"Christ is a great savior. Christ should not be looked upon as a mere human being. He is the all-pervading Reality. You should create and develop Christ-consciousness in you. Enshrine Christ in your heart which will then be gradually purified and you will have the darshan of Christ. Remember God is Love. Live a life of love. Then you will live in God and God will live in you."

Swami Ramdas

The Cross and The Lotus Journal
PO Box 16717
Seattle, WA 98116

