

# FDP HERALD

## Fellowship of the Order of Dionysis and Paul Newsletter



### A Light in the Darkness

I was recently on a train from Brussels, Belgium. I was seated next to a gentleman from Ghana, who it turns out was a Muslim preacher. We talked about the various commonalities between our Faiths. I asked him about Christmas.

For him, Jesus was indeed a prophet but found it rather silly that Christians genuinely believed that he was born on 25th December. There was nowhere in scripture that claimed such a thing. We talked a while about practicalities within different religions, and rather surprisingly to me he cared more for the men and women who simply believed nothing. He was under no illusion that all men should follow Islam, or indeed any other faith.

He felt that it was his duty to help those who believe in nothing but

themselves, and aid the turning of their spirit towards God - whether that be through Christianity, Islam or Hinduism etc.

At some point we talked about the symbolism of the the Sun and the Moon within the different faiths. With the Sun seeming benevolent to those in lush countries, and the Moon seeming benevolent to those that dwell in the desert. The subject of John the Baptist was raised, another common prophet between the two faiths. Representing the height of the Sun. I asked if it was possible that given that according to scripture Jesus was born 6 months after John, that perhaps the new light born at the darkest point of the year was symbolically important, and that perhaps, though not necessarily historically true, might be a reason to celebrate what he might represent.

This he conceded was worthy of consideration. We both talked animatedly for the rest of the journey to London. Though dogmatically there may be much that divides us, there is rather more that unites us in the brotherhood of man. There is Family, Love and Loss, and with the Spirit of God within us we are united and a new light is born even in the darkness.



Aleph: Means 'Ox' and has the numerical value of 1



Tau: Means 'Sign of the Cross' and the numerical value of 400

### Genesis 15: 1-6

**1** After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” **2** But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” **3** And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” **4** Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” **5** He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” **6** Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

### Psalms 89: 1-4

**1** I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. **2** I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself. **3** You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, **4** ‘I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.’

### Faith - Hope - Love



[Audio of Daily Office Click Here](#)

### Christ the King

The festival of Christ the King was established in 1925. Before this, the Sunday before advent was commonly known as ‘Stir-up Sunday’, which was said to have its origins in the collect for the day in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer:

“Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

Pope Pious XI had this to say regarding the introduction of the new feast and its significance:

“If to Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all men, purchased by his precious blood, are by a new right subjected to his dominion; if this power embraces all men, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from his empire. He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, as instruments of justice unto God.”

For many the name Stir-up Sunday was associated with the day one made Christmas Pudding, which may have contributed the change in the name to perhaps a more spiritual reminder.



## THE FIRST ADAM

**1 Corinthians 15:42-50** ...The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. <sup>49</sup> And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. <sup>50</sup> Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

Thus, the First Adam is a creature of Nature formed of the dust of the Earth – a creature of the senses, earthy, mortal and fickle. His nature is bestial, and can do no other than serve his instinctive nature in the form of fulfilling his appetites. His dynamic is Like/Dislike (Sympathy/antipathy).

The 1<sup>st</sup> Adam in 1 Corinthians 15, is a depiction of who and what we are in this world. This Adam accords with our experience: we all know him for we are him! We are born into this world and in this world we must grow, conditioned by the instinctive nature we serve so enthusiastically.

'Self-image' is important to the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam. How we (the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam) are perceived by the world is very important. As are our relationships, especially with lovers and close friends. Relationships with others, or the lack of such relationships consumes much of our time.

Home-life, past & present, regrets and resentments, events and behaviours long since past, affect the nature of our daily experience. As does our relationship with our children, which is powerful and dynamic. The memories, obligations and sympathies that exist around the home and between family members, can often be the source of tensions in the mind the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam throughout life.

The angst generated by educational needs may be very substantial. Advancement in society is to a large extent determined by schooling and the level of education attained. A degree or Phd,

informs the world that the bearer is well-educated and better informed (in that skill-set) than the average. The level of education often determines the standard of living

For many of us our identity is reflected in how we earn our living; be that as a farmer, a tradesman, fisherman or merchant etc. consequently our insolvency and the precarious state of our resources are frequently the cause of the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam's anxieties. The fear of unemployment and the loss of income is a major cause of anxiety. To actively participate in the life of a community gives a person a sense of purpose and meaning. To be rejected or degraded by the community is a stigma that can be too great to bear. Consequently, the angst created by the lack of skill and education, colours the background of the mind of the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam.

Another very real issue for the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam is health. Anxieties about health do impact upon the daily life of the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam. An acute illness may be damaging, but chronic sickness can destroy a career, an income, the home and family integrity. In every family a death will inevitably take place. Someone will die, usually an elder but not always. To the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam death is a dreaded and inevitable aspect of life. The fear of it is a powerful feature of the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam's existence that lurks in the shadows and never goes away.

Accounting for such things as Evil and Suffering, and why evil people prosper; understanding concepts of Judgement and Hell, the Silence of God and the gods; explaining Re-incarnation, or discounting it, all of these and more, are properly the domain of Religion. In this domain we encounter a complex web of interactive speculations, assertions, ideologies, creeds and dogmas that form the basis of faith – seeking certainty and not really finding it. All of these and more generate tensions within the psyche, some rooted in Hope, others in fear.

This 'natural man' is a reactive creature. He lives in Nature's kingdom and his thoughts and feelings are defined by the needs of that kingdom – his gods (money, eros, conquest, progress etc) are the essences of Nature's forces.

Even when dealing with concepts of the Absolute, all is objectified, thus; GOD is, perhaps inevitably, defined in anthropomorphic terms: Heaven is depicted as a perfectly idealised representation of this world, and our universal hope is to live eternally as a resident of that world.

The chemistry of consciousness of the 'natural man' is determined by the natural world, which shapes our thoughts, feelings and our desires. Thus, by *Anger*, *Avarice* and *Lust* our lives are shaped, and our essential nature hidden.

When an individual reflects and speculates upon life's 'whys' and 'wherefores', and considers the meaning of existence, then two worlds emerge into view, the material world of the Senses, and the world of the Mind (intellect/Imagination).

For example, in material terms we might reflect upon changing, improving or extending our living space. Alternatively, we may muse, in abstract terms, upon what we might accomplish here in this world at some future time, or, what might be the purpose and destiny of our life. Thus, the world of 'Mind' opens its doors to those who would philosophise about life.

These two worlds (of the Senses and of the Mind) are the natural habitat of the First Adam; worlds which inevitably reflect his spacetime perceptions and concerns.

However, the mind also constitutes a portal that can lead the soul into a realm of experience beyond duality, or, perversely, deeper into it.

Yet, buried within his soul lies a seed, as it were, of the Second Adam – a spiritual creature/being, who will, when the conditions are right, germinate/awaken and emerge.

## THE SECOND ADAM

How then does the Second Adam germinate/awaken?

Within the Christian Mysteries it is taught that the awakening of the Second Adam takes place through exposure to the 'numinous', by which is meant being exposed to the presence of the THE Holy Spirit, a spiritual sun whose fructifying light and warmth is generally experienced in a properly spiritualised environment such as a church/temple service, or by the presence of an 'enlightened' (spiritualised) individual. At the heart of these mysteries is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is more than a Jewish holy man. He is the manifestation of the Logos (The WORD), and it is the nature of the Logos that must be comprehended, and by whose presence the Second Adam is awakened and conformed.

### The LOGOS - WORD

The word Logos is Greek and in common usage means *word, thought, speech*, and in some instances, *principle*. In philosophical terms, it alludes to human reason and the application of reasoning in the search for knowledge and understanding.

In spiritual terms the LOGOS denotes the eternal constant divine presence in creation; a presence that links humanity with the Divine and is available to all who seek it.

As such, the Logos is Jesus Christ, the divine Reason (or Mind), the Word of God (And the Word [Logos] became flesh and dwelt among us.... **John 1:14**) by whom the universe was created (**In the** beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

### **John 1:1- 4)**

It is to this understanding of the Logos that we turn to understand the nature of the Second Adam, who is 'the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation'. (For by

Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. **Colossians 1:15-17)**

The disposition of the soul towards the Logos must be rooted in Love – a dynamic state of EMPATHY – which is a personal relationship with the Being we call God known in the person of Jesus Christ.

He is the archetype and role model for all Christians. Recognising and accepting this archetype, following His precepts, and emulating the exemplary lifestyle of His Incarnation is essential to the unfolding of the Second Adam.

## **FOLLOWING HIS PRECEPTS**

### **LOVE GOD**

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all of thy mind and with all thy strength and thou shalt love thy neighbour as thy self.” (Mark 12: 30–31)

### **LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR**

Respect and care for your elders.

Nurture the younger generation.

Protect the vulnerable.

Heal the sick.

Feed the hungry.

Clothe the naked.

Assist the homeless.

### **RESPECT YOURSELF – LIVE SIMPLY**

Do no violence to people, to creatures, or to the World.

Minimise your aspirations for Power, Status, Wealth, Authority and Control.

Covet neither person nor thing.

Speak the truth or remain silent.

Heed the Divine Imperative:

“Seek first the Kingdom of God” (Matt. 6: 33)

**Individually:** engage in spiritualising your life through Prayer & Meditation.

**Jointly:** gather together in worship.

What happens if this awakening does not take place?

If in the course of a life the Second Adam does not germinate (awaken) then the First Adam will die and return to the Earth.

Some say the First Adam will regenerate, others think not. [discuss reincarnation]

Nature teaches the observant that just as a flower or plant returns in due season – a Rose returning as a Rose, a Daisy as a Daisy – so too will we return as the First Adam, albeit not the personality/ego of old, but a new personality formed by the conditions of time & place.

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