



Joseph and Mary

By Yogacharya David Hickenbottom

Biblical stories describing people, events and places were spoken, and then written, as teaching tools. The stories can be seen to have multiple levels of meaning that help guide the spiritual aspirant socially, physically, mentally and most of all spiritually. Last week I was speaking on the topic of Christmas when a revelation came to me about an inner meaning of Jesus' mother and father.

Joseph and Mary represent the redemption of reason and feeling. Adam and Eve were the prototypes for reason and feeling, going against their divine intuition by eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (duality). As a result Adam and Eve (reason and feeling) took themselves out of the garden where they walked with God, or were in union with the Divine Consciousness. A long journey resulted for the soul, wandering in ignorance, making slow progress back to the divine origin. Joseph and Mary represent the return to that fateful decision, only this time it will be done differently.

Mary symbolizes devotion and surrender to God. Her purity is undeniable and her desire to be attuned to the Infinite is prominent. She is put to the test, from a worldly standpoint, she is pregnant without being married. Although this is an enormous problem for her she has faith in her revelation that this is a spiritual experience and displays great courage; she surrenders to God's will. Joseph is also tested, as reason wrestles with this absolutely phenomenal event. His reason cannot find its way through the dilemma until he has a revelation in a dream that this is truly a spiritual experience. He too surrenders. Both Joseph and Mary are then taken on a dramatic journey that changes the world; uplifting it into higher realms.

Each of us has Joseph and Mary attributes. Our reason and feeling natures are being purified so that we too may come to the point of surrender where the Christ-child may be born within. In addition to the reason/feeling aspects, Mother Hamilton revealed that Joseph and Mary relate to activity in the physical body as well. Joseph and Mary represent the pineal gland and the pituitary gland respectively; these secrete a vital life-force filled substance that comes together to make the Christ-seed. It is a virginal birth because those two glands never come into physical contact. Just as the merging of the male sperm and the female ovum produces an astral light that attracts a human soul for incarnation, so too, to an even greater degree, do the secretions of the pineal and pituitary glands attract the pure Christ-Consciousness that makes manifest the Christ-child. The five pointed star glows in the ajna (the point between the eyebrows) as seen in deep meditation, signaling that the Christ-Light is becoming incarnate on earth (representing the body).

The redemption of the world comes about through this divine incarnation. The world (human consciousness) is redeemed (lifted into Divine Consciousness) when the Christ (Divine Consciousness made manifest in creation) is born (awakened) in the night (of delusion) to the herald of angels (divine understanding) and the pronouncement that there is to be peace on earth, good will toward all men (felt in every part of the being).

As we move forward in time we come to know that Joseph dies at a point when Jesus is coming to age. Symbolically reason (Joseph) must make way for the divine intuition that Christ makes manifest. This is necessary because reason cannot usher the individual into Divine Consciousness; it can only help prepare the

way. When the Christ matures (becomes strong in the individual) then the reliance is put upon meditation gained intuition and not on reason. Time and again intuition of Christ-Consciousness proves itself superior to reason. Reason depends upon what the senses say and what other minds have to say; it is limited. Divine intuition stems directly from Cosmic Consciousness and is therefore unlimited. By virtue of the fact it comes from the purity of Divine Consciousness it is perfectly attuned to divine virtues, further making it superior to reason that is made up of mixed motives driven by human ego.

Mary continues in the story of the life of the Christ because feeling (as distinct from emotion or the sense of touch) is so closely connected to divine intuition. Referring back to Genesis, and the fall of man, feeling nature (Eve) is attracted to the tree of knowledge of good and evil (duality). When feeling is directed toward towards the attractions of the senses then reason (Adam) falls to rationalization and follows feeling. Feeling and reason become bound to the sense nature of touch and the likes and dislikes of the body determine the decisions (Adam follows Eve). This dominance of sense-life creates a roller coaster of emotions, also a product of feeling nature. Feeling nature is then directly responsible for the attraction to the world of duality and the fall of human consciousness. The purification of feeling nature (Mary) must also then be instrumental in ushering in the new Christ-Consciousness and seeing it through to complete fulfillment.

However feeling nature is not equal to Christ-Consciousness; this is illustrated when Jesus points out that Mary may not be permitted entrance when he is communing with his disciples (the chakras) saying, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”^[1] And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers!”

When the true message of the Bible is properly understood a wondrous proclamation is broadcast to the entire world for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. The message is this: you may attain son-ship (oneness) with God through following the path laid out by Jesus, the Christed One (the one anointed by God to redeem you; the great Light within). The birth of Christ happens within you, the gathering of disciples, the healings, the facing of opposing forces, the crucifixion and the resurrection—it all happens right within you! It is the inheritance-right of all humanity and the time for the awakening of the sleeping Christ-Consciousness is now.

Christmas is the time of that birth, to see the star, to hear the angels and be in awe, and to discover who and what you really are. May you be blessed in your life to find the fulfillment of this birth.

Yogacharya David

¹ Matthew 12:47-49 (New King James Version)⁴⁷ Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.”⁴⁸ But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”⁴⁹ And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers!”