

The Work

The work of the Buddha and the Christ

Compiled by Marc Thiessens



The **work** being done by those who see the world stage as the arena for the conflict between the Dweller on the Threshold and the Angel of the *Presence* might be itemized as follows:

1. The producing of those world conditions in which the Forces of Light can overcome the Forces of Evil. This they do by the weight of their armed forces, plus their clear insight.

2. The educating of humanity in the distinction between:

- a. Spirituality and materialism, pointing to the differing goals of the combatant forces.
- b. Sharing and greed, outlining a future world wherein *The Four Freedoms* will be dominant and all will have that which is needed for right living-processes.
- c. Light and dark, demonstrating the difference between an illumined future of liberty and opportunity and the dark future of slavery.
- d. Fellowship and separation, indicating a world order where racial hatreds, caste distinctions and religious differences will form no barrier to international understanding, and the Axis order of master races, determined religious attitudes, and enslaved peoples.
- e. The whole and the part, pointing to the time which is approaching (under the evolutionary urge of spirit) wherein the part or the point of life assumes its responsibility for the whole, and the whole exists for the good of the part. The dark aspect has been brought about by ages of glamor. The light is being emphasized and made clear by the world aspirants and disciples who by their attitudes, their actions, their writings and their utterances are bringing the light into dark places.

3. Preparing the way for the three spiritual energies which will sweep humanity into an era of comprehension, leading to a focused mental clarification of men's minds throughout the world. These three imminent energies are:
 - a. *The energy of the intuition* which will gradually dispel world illusion, and produce automatically a great augmentation of the ranks of initiates.
 - b. The activity of light which will dissipate, by *the energy of illumination*, the world of glamor and bring many thousands on to the Path of Discipleship.
 - c. *The energy of inspiration* which will bring about, through the medium of its sweeping potency, the devitalization or the removal, as by a wind, of the attractive power of maya or substance. This will release untold thousands on to the Path of Probation.

4. Releasing new life into the planet through the medium of every possible agency.
5. Bringing home to the nations of the world the truths taught by the Buddha, the Lord of Light, and the Christ, the Lord of Love. In this connection it might be pointed out that basically:
 - a. The Axis nations need to grasp the teaching of the Buddha as He enunciated it in the Four Noble Truths; they need to realize that the cause of all sorrow and woe is desire - desire for that which is material.
 - b. The United Nations need to learn to apply the Law of Love as enunciated in the life of Christ and to express the truth that "no man liveth unto himself" and no nation either, and that the goal of all human effort is *loving understanding*, prompted by a program of love for the whole.

- All manifestations and every point of crisis are symbolized by the ancient symbol of the point within the circle, the focus of power within a sphere of influence or aura.
- So it is today with the entire problem of ending the world glamor and illusion which fundamentally lie behind the present acute situation and world catastrophe.
- The possibility of such a dispelling and dissipation is definitely centered in the two Avatars, the Buddha and the Christ.
- Within the ***world of glamor*** - the world of the astral plane and of emotions - appeared a point of light. The Lord of Light, the Buddha, undertook to focus in Himself the illumination which would eventually make possible the dissipation of glamor.

- Within the ***world of illusion*** - the world of the mental plane - appeared the Christ, the Lord of Love Himself, Who embodied in Himself the power of the *attractive* will of God.
- He undertook to dispel illusion by drawing to Himself (by the potency of love) the hearts of all men, and stated this determination in the words, "And I, if I be lifted from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32).
- From the point they then will have reached, the world of spiritual perception, of truth and of divine ideas will stand revealed. The result will be the disappearing of illusion.

The Buddha, when He achieved illumination, "let in" a flood of light upon life and upon our world problems, and this intelligent understanding of the causes of world distress He endeavoured to formulate into the Four Noble Truths.

The Four Noble Truths tell us:

1. That existence in the phenomenal universe is inseparable from suffering and from sorrow.
2. That the cause of suffering is desire for existence in the world of phenomena.
3. That cessation of suffering is brought about by eradicating all desire for existence in this universe of phenomena.
4. That the way to the cessation of suffering is by treading the noble Eightfold Path, wherein are expressed right belief, right intentions, right speech, right actions, right living, right endeavour, right-mindedness and right concentration.

From the Buddha he can learn that the way of release is to be found in detachment, dispassion and discrimination.

These are the first steps on the road to **Christ**.

In the teaching of the Buddha we have the three ways in which the lower nature can be changed and prepared to be a conscious expression of divinity.

- Through ***detachment*** man learns to withdraw his interest and his consciousness from the things of the senses, and to turn a deaf ear to the calls of the lower nature. Detachment imposes a new rhythm upon the man.
- Through learning the lesson of ***dispassion*** he becomes immune to the suffering of the lower nature as he detaches his interest from secondary things and the non-essentials, and centers it upon the higher realities.
- Through the practice of ***discrimination*** the mind learns to select the good, the beautiful and the true.

These three practices, leading to a changed attitude towards life and reality, will, when held sanely, bring in the rule of **wisdom** and prepare the disciple for the **Christ** life.

- When the work of the Buddha (or of the embodied buddhic principle) is consummated in the aspiring disciple and in his integrated personality, then the full expression of the work of the Christ (the embodied principle of love) can also be consummated and both these potencies - light and love - will find radiant expression in the *transfigured* disciple.
- It might be added that when an appreciation of the meaning of the words "**transfiguration** of a human being" is gained, the realization will come that when "the body is full of light" then "in that light shall we see Light."
- This means that when the personality has reached a point of purification, of dedication and of illumination, then the attractive power of the soul (whose nature is love and understanding) can [361] function, and fusion of these two will take place. This is what the **Christ** proved and demonstrated.

- The **third** initiation, the Transfiguration, indicates completion of the process. Then only glory is seen: only the voice of the presence is heard and an association with the past, present and future is achieved.
- The practical effects of this process will be the dissipation of glamor and the release of the human spirit from the thralldom of matter; it will produce, also, the dispelling of illusion and the recognition of truth as it exists in the consciousness of those who are polarized in the "awareness of the Christ."

Through the message of Christ three general concepts emerged into the racial consciousness:

1. that the individual, as an individual, is of value.

- This was a truth which the general Eastern doctrine of rebirth had tended to negate. Time was long; opportunity would endlessly recur; the evolutionary process would do its work. Let mankind therefore drift as a whole with the tide, and eventually all would be well.
- Hence the general attitude of the East was failure to emphasize the supreme value of any individual. But Christ came and emphasized the work of the individual, saying, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works." (St. Matt., V, 16.)

2. That the opportunity was presented to the race as a whole to take a tremendous step forward, to undergo the "new birth" or take *the first initiation*.
3. The third concept which was taught by the Christ was that which embodied the technique of the new age, which was to come when individual salvation and the new birth had been properly grasped. This was the message or command to love our neighbour as ourselves." (St. Matt., XIX, 19). Individual effort, group opportunity, and identification with each other - this was the message of the Christ.

- Upon this racial teaching follows the work of the Christ with humanity, resulting in an understanding of the value of the individual and his self-initiated efforts at release and illumination, with the final objective of group love and group good.
- We learn to perfect ourselves in consonance with Christ's injunction, "Be ye therefore perfect," (St. Matt., V, 48.) in order to have somewhat to contribute to the group good, and in order to serve Christ perfectly.
- When the life of Christ will flower forth in the human kingdom, the personality then fades out, dimmed by the glory of the soul, which, like the rising sun, disperses the darkness, reveals the life-situation, and irradiates the lower nature. It leads to group activity, and self, as we usually understand it, disappears. This is already happening.

- The final result of the work of the Christ can be seen portrayed for us in His words to be found in St. John XVII, which it would be of value to all of us to read.
- Individuality, Initiation, Identification - in these terms the message of the Christ can be expressed. This He epitomized when on earth in the words: "I and my Father are one." (St. John, X, 30.)
- That great Individuality, the Christ, through the process of *the five great Initiations*, gave to us a picture of the stages and method whereby identification with God can be brought about.

- When the Will of God, expressed in Shamballa and focused in the Buddha, the Love of God, expressed in the Hierarchy and focused through the Christ, and the intelligent desire of humanity, focused through the world disciples, the world aspirants and the men of goodwill are all brought into line - either consciously or unconsciously - then a great reorientation can and will take place. This event is something that *can* happen.
- The first result will be the illumination of the astral plane and the beginning of the process which will dissipate glamor; the second result will be the irradiation of the mental plane and the dispelling of all past illusions and the gradual revelation of the new truths of which all past ideals and so-called formulations of truth have only been the ***signposts***.

- The ***signpost*** indicates the way to go; it does not reveal the goal. It is indicative but not conclusive. So with all truth up to the present time.
- The demand is, therefore, for knowers and for those whose minds and hearts are open; who are free from preconceived ideas fanatically held, and from ancient idealisms which must be recognized as only partial indications of great unrealized truths - ***truths*** which can be realized in great measure and for the first time *if* the lessons of the present world situation and the catastrophe of the war are duly learned and the sacrificial will is called into play.

The Buddha	The Christ
The work done by the Buddha, and the message which He sounded, stimulated intelligence into wisdom.	But love came to the world through Christ, and He, through His work, transmuted emotion into Love.
The Method	The Result
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detachment • Dispassion • Discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individualism • Initiation • Identification

Source material:

- From Bethlehem to Calvary, Alice A. Bailey
- The Externalisation of the Hierarchy, Alice A. Bailey