

The Journey of the Magi to Jerusalem

The following is transcribed from of a lecture given by Paul Solomon on Christmas Day, December 25, 1984, at his home, Hearthfire Lodge in Timberville, Virginia.

We are recalling a search that happened first in the Holy Land 2,000 years ago and has happened consistently throughout time.

The search that we are recalling is referred to in the Mystery Schools as one of the Minor Mysteries. And because it is one of the minor mysteries, you have a truth from the beginning of how to interpret or apply this story. The initial story that you have is that all of the minor mysteries consist of paradoxes. So if there is a paradox or a pair of opposites and in the story, there is not a reference to the opposites, then what you want to do at the beginning of the story is look for what the opposite would be.

Now this particular story is called the story of the magi. It is also called the story of the wise men. It is referred to as the story of the kings. And its called the story of the astrologers.

So here we have, apparently, the same people, perhaps the same three people, being referred to by four different names, four different titles. So maybe our first task is to find out why they are referred to by these particular names. And then, as we find that out, we can look for what an opposite is to see what the other side of the story is.

Let's take first the title at the top, the magi. The word itself refers in the ancient times to very special wise men and it has a very specific meaning. When you see the words magi used, particularly in ancient literature, and you find it a little bit differently in modern literature. But in ancient literature it has this specific meaning. The magi were advisors to kings or pharaohs. That's one thing that you want to know about the magi. They were always advisors to the rulers of a country. Number 1.

Magi Means Magician

Number 2. The word magi means magician, that is one of the things that it means. So they were men who were called magicians because they knew laws which produced effects that other men don't know how to produce. These effects that they were able to produce were called magic, and from that term comes their name "magi."

The magi were trained in some specific disciplines. The word astrologers is used here because one of the disciplines that the magi were trained in is astrology, and that was by the ancients often considered, perhaps, the most important discipline in which they were trained. But it is very definitely not the only discipline in which they were trained. So while these wise men, magi, were astrologers, that's true, and that is historically correct. They were not just astrologers.

They were trained in the Mysteries. So another thing that we can know by the use of the term magi, the term would not have been used if these men had not been Initiates. Initiates means

that they were Adapts in the particular mysteries of the east that existed at that time. Now by the mysteries of the east, we mean the countries beginning with Egypt and going through Israel, to Persia, to India and China.

They were initiates of any one or more of the mystery schools in that country at that time. And by Initiates, we also mean Adepts. So these were men who were Initiates of a Mystery School, who were magicians, who had studied astrology and some other disciplines.

The other disciplines that we know that they were educated in are dream interpretation, symbology, and Sacred Scriptures. By Sacred Scriptures we mean the mystery stories. The mystery stories are a collection of stories which have an exoteric and an esoteric meaning.

The exoteric meaning of the stories is something that is interpretable by people who are not Initiates. What that means, for example, is that if you read one of the stories, you could get out of the story a moral, a meaning. And that meaning is fairly obvious to the non-initiated. Fairly obvious. It might be something that you'd have to work out or figure it out, but you could figure it out. The story always has another meaning which is likely to be not interpretable by non-initiates.

So these men were students of these Sacred Scriptures which were written in a Sacred Language which were told to the people. The people were given the obvious morals of the stories and from those morals came their religions. Behind the stories were mysteries that a person needed to know the sacred language and the sacred symbols to interpret. These were the magi.

Ruled Over the Laws of Earth

They were called wise men because they are advisors to the king. And all of the king's advisors, whether initiates or not, were called wise men.

They were also called kings. That might give us a little mystery there. Why were they called kings? Anybody have an idea of that?

Anyone who has the keys to the mysteries were rulers over the things that happen on the earth. So these men, in spite of the fact that they were not necessarily the rulers of their countries, and they also might be, by the way. The Pharaohs for example, were traditionally initiates of the mysteries of Egypt. Sometimes they were not initiates, and that's when the wise men or the magi of Egypt judged that their character was not ready to allow them to become initiates. So sometimes the pharaohs were not. Sometimes they were.

So these three men possibly were the literal rulers of their country. But the term "kings" is applied because they were rulers over the laws of earth.

To be rulers over the laws of earth in this sense meant that they were spiritual beings who understood the spiritual laws that applied to earth. In other words, let's say it this way.

For you to become a king of your life, you have to be the master over your life, which means you have to be master of your emotions. If you cannot rule over your emotions, then you are not a king in your life. Your emotions may very well be king. If you can't rule over what happens in your body, what happens in your mind, your thoughts, if you're not in charge, then you're not a king.

A Different View of Astrology

These men were kings. They were astrologers which meant in that time, at least, that they understood a relationship between the heavens and the earth in this way.

There is a tendency among, perhaps, modern astrologers to say that astrology is the science of observing how the stars rule the planet earth. That was not the ancient belief of astrology. The ancient belief was different in this way. The ancient astrologers believed that there is a God, often called the Unknown God, also called the Unknowable God, called this because what he is, is beyond perception.

To illustrate that, if you consider this table to be everything that you can know, everything that you understand, everything that you have a name for. Then the items on this table are the various different things within your knowledge. The physical universe is there. All of the things that you can describe are there, including God. All of your perceptions are on the table. Everything that you can possibly know, everything that you can perceive or understand is on the table.

There is something that is not on the table. Now when try to name the things that are not on the table, what comes to mind?

Air. That's on the table. You can describe what air is and you have some idea of the nature of it. That means that it's on the table.

The negative plane. A different plane that represents negative existence. It is said that for existence to be, there must be something that is not being. Anti-matter is what you're thinking of. Right? That's on the table, as you describe it.

God. God is on the table. You can describe Him.

Why is God on the table? If there's a word for it, it's on the table. To the extent that it's knowable, it's on the table.

The Great Unknowable. Since you can call it something, it's on the table.

All Concepts Are On The Table

The Great Unmanifest, as a concept, is on the table. What it refers to, to the extent that we can't know it, we can't come up with a word for it, we can't perceive it at all, it's not on the table. But the idea itself, is on the table. It's part of the knowable.

The idea of magi was something that was beyond what can be described.

Let's see if we can say it this way. The magi created a diagram of all that can be known and observed, all the observable laws of the universe, they distilled to their essence and made a chart. And when they had charted all of this and they put at the top the Ain Soph, the light that enlightens all of this.

Then they said, "We have created a diagram of all that is."

A little wise old man said, "The fact that you have it there on the board suggests that there is something beyond that, that isn't on the board."

And they settled that and they said, "Yes, you are right. So they put above that, another expression, Ain Soph Aur, the radiant behind the radiant."

The little old man stood up again and he said, "Now that you've identified it, there is still something beyond it that is unknowable."

They stopped at that point, recognizing that there is something beyond anything that we can describe or know or perceive, and no matter how far you go into perception, there is always and will be always, according to their belief, something more beyond that. That which is created cannot know its source. That which is created is always less than its creator. There's something beyond.

Creator Reflected In His Creation

So with their belief that there is something beyond, they had also a belief that that which is beyond is reflected in that which is. The belief extended to say that the cause of the universe or the universes reveal itself through what it created. The nature of a creator cannot be different from what he creates.

Now you can see that in a work of art, in a book, anything that we can create, even a house that we can build. If a person looks at it, they can know something about us. We can't create anything that is out of character for us.

So because of that, the created reflects something of the nature of the creator. For this reason, they believed, that if we study the universe, that by observing the relationships between these movable and moving particles of the universe, which were the stars, the planets, the constellations and even the universes beyond them, if these things move and relate to one another, their relationships will indicate something about their creator.

This means that the magi saw the constellations and the stars not as causes of anything that happened on earth, but rather as indicators of a cause beyond them. And their belief was that whatever causes these relationships between the stars, is also the cause of relationship on earth. And if we watch the relationships between the greater, the macrocosm, then we can assume that the lesser will reflect those greater causes in a more concentrated way.

So in order to understand the energies and influences that were happening on earth, we might look beyond the earth to the greatest thing that we can see and know that that reflects a cause beyond it. So by seeing that cause out there, we will see that cause concentrated here. But what we're looking at is not the cause. It is a result out there which bears a relationship with the same result of the same cause here in the microcosm.

Billions Upon Billions of Stars

I don't know if you could say that, whether that the number of causes and effects are infinite. What you can say is this. Science has observed that to the extent that they can catalogue it, there are at least as many neurons in your brain as there are stars in the universe. There is a comparable number of stars, and there are billions, literally billions. More than you can count, there are stars out there. And for every star out there, there appears to be a neuron in your brain. There is a relationship between the microcosm and the macrocosm.

Now whatever that number is, it may be finite or infinite. We don't know. But that number of stars apparently would indicate the number of possible relationships. Not that there would be one relationship or one energy or one cause for each star. But each star would be a cause in itself and in their relationships with one another, produce other causes. So there are as many causes as there are stars multiplied by the number of stars that there are.

Now if you've followed all of that, I'm impressed.

Every star represents in itself, the billions of stars, each one represents a possible cause. Those stars relating with one another represents another cause. So for each star relating with each other star is one more cause. So there are as many causes as there are stars first. There are also as many more causes as there are relationships between the stars. So you can multiply the number of stars times the number of stars and get an idea of how many causes are possible.

It's mathematically impossible because first you have to have the number of stars, which we don't have. But if we say there are a billion stars, then there are a billion causes. But for every star, there is a relationship with every other star, so a billion times a billion is a basic number. So how many causes are possible? That gets about as close to infinite as the mind can perceive, I think.

So Enter The Foolish Men

The paradox that we want to look at is this one. The wise men indicate that they were advisors to the rulers of earth. They were advisors to the king. That's what is meant by wise men. And

one particular point that we can use for our paradox, is as these are wise men, then there also are, by implication of our story, foolish men. Foolish men are not initiates of the heavens. They are not rulers over the earth. We know who the foolish are. They are people who cannot control their own emotions, their own body, their own life. In fact, the fact is when you refer to kings, you say three kings. That lets us know something more about the kings. It's not referring to kings of countries. It's referring to kings of mind, body and spirit. They are the kings of the trinity.

So from this we know that they're initiates on three levels, mind, body and spirit. They are advisors to kings. They are trained in the mysteries. And they are astrologers.

Now why do you isolate astrology here when it mentions these kings? Instead of saying just magi, why aren't they also called astrologers?

In this particular case it is because that was the one of the disciplines in particular that they use in their search. There were other disciplines that they used. They were magicians on other levels.

But this particular story refers to the fact that these magi were astrologers, and through their astrology, they were searching for an event which was indicated by their knowledge of astrology.

So let's see what that event was. We established that there were wise men, there were foolish men and that in our schools of the minor mysteries, we are not talking about the journeys of foolish men, but we are talking about the journeys of the wise. If we are going to understand the journeys of the wise, we will need to know something about the journeys of the foolish. That gives us our a points of comparison and that will resolve the paradox.

So what we're going to be doing in these next twelve days, is looking at the journeys of the wise and the foolish.

Finding the Path of Light

And the way that we will map out the journey of the wise is to draw the journey of the foolish around it, which is what you always do. If you want to find a pathway of light, it is already light here. It is light all over the board. We're going to find pathway through the light, then we create darkness on both sides of it. That gives us a path of light which we can follow.

So that this darkness is the journey of the foolish. And by creating that, we will isolate everything that is not the path of the foolish, and thereby find the path of the wise.

Did I confuse you?

Not yet.

Here we are on earth, and there is a sun around which we rotate. As we rotate around the sun, the sun will be in perspective to the earth, displayed against a background - I'm going to draw these white clouds, although they're not. These are 12 constellations.

Now, as you from a point on earth, we look up from where we are on earth, and the sun appears against a backdrop of a particular constellation. Now as the earth revolves around the sun, when it comes to this point, the sun will be between the earth and a different constellation. The sun moves through these twelve constellations once a year.

Move In Opposite Directions

Now the solar system in which we and this sun are located moves (the entire solar system) through this constellation, these 12 constellations, in an opposite direction. So the earth is moving this way. The entire system, including the earth and these planets and the sun, is moving in the other direction.

Clear so far? The earth moves around the sun once a year. And by movement around the sun, it puts the sun between the earth and a different constellation every month, in this movement around the sun. This entire solar system moves in the opposite direction.

While the earth is moving this way, the solar system is moving the other way. Now this movement of the entire solar system is called the procession of the equinoxes.

Now this procession of the equinoxes requires about 3,000 years for the solar system to move all the way around one time or one sign. One sign movement, requires between 2,000 and 3,000 years. That period of moving from one sign to another is called an Age.

So when the solar system is in a particular Age, there will be the influence of that age upon the entire solar system or the universe during that age. During that particular age, there will be a universal influence upon the thinking of the earth. That universal influence of the age will produce what it calls "saviors" or "deities," which are born of that age and reflects the nature of that age and the challenges of that age.

Now as example of this procession of the equinoxes and the ages, we have recorded period of history, in fact we have about 12,000 years of recorded history, which will take us back four ages, four periods of 3,000 years.

Symbols of Each Age Throughout Planet

So in the most ancient of these four periods, we have the age of Taurus, which is symbolized by a bull and during that age, wherever we look on the earth, in all of the cultures, whether it be in China or in Egypt or Israel, or in Atlantis, in America, in South America, we will have during that age, saviors and teachers appearing, all of whom will talk about the Sacred Bull. And they may use symbols which are slightly different. For example, they may use a minateur, a half bull and half man. They may use the apis bull of Egypt. A minateur of Greece. And so on, but in each

ones of them, in every culture, the symbol that comes out and the things that are said about it, the things that are the focus for that age will bear a similarity to the Age of Taurus.

Now, the next most recent period in history, proceeds through the zodiac as we know it backwards. Remember it goes backwards is because as we go through the solar year around the sun, we go forward, but the procession of the equinoxes is in the opposite direction. So we go through Aries, Taurus, Cancer, but the procession of the equinoxes goes through Taurus, Aries, Pisces, and then Aquarius.

So it has been known for many thousands of years what the next age will be and approximately when it will come. Now approximately means this. By watching the procession of the equinoxes, it can be told from any point on earth exactly when that point will come into the influence of that next sign of the equinox. But there is something called “an area of influence.” Those areas of influence overlap in going from one constellation to another. And also not all points on earth will see that dawning of the age at the same time. It will occur over a span of 100 or 200 years.

So what is known is that there was a savior of the Taurean Age, one of the Age of Aries, one of the Age of Pisces. And there will be one of the Age of Aquarius.

Similarities of Saviors of Each Age

When we look at these saviors of the different ages, we will find some interesting things about them that are precisely the same. They are all born among the animals. They were all crucified. All of them. By the animals among they were born. They were all born of a virgin, and sometimes that varies, but little. They all performed miracles, and they all are of the nature of the highest within us. There are certain things about this world’s saviors that simply don’t change.

Now, these wise men that we’re looking at, the magi, knew about this procession of the equinoxes. And they knew that they were living at the time of a change from one age to another. They knew that. They knew that from their study of astrology. They knew the procession of the equinoxes, and they knew that they were living on the cusp of a change from the Age of Aries to the Age of Pisces.

For this reason, they watched what was happening in the constellation of Pisces. In their minds, they said, “Something is going to happen in the constellation of Pisces which will mark the birth of a new age.” They knew this was going to happen.

In their watching, they noted that there was Saturn. Saturn indicated to them the disciplinarian which was the initiator and it was legalistic by nature. It demands adherence to the law. It is the influence within this solar system that forces you to pay attention to the details of a lesson that is put before you, and to learn that lesson very exactly.

Religions Born in Aries Adhere to Law

The religions that had been born during the Age of Aries, they said were ruled over by this planet, which was born in that age. It appeared in the solar system, was discovered during this age and it was the Lord of it. And it caused the religions born during them to have heavy disciplinary tendencies. And you can look at Islam. You can look at ancient Judaism, and see those as two religions born under that influence.

Islam is a religion that will cut off your arm for stealing, quite literally. So would ancient Judaism. And they both had sets of defined rules that you must follow exactly in order to be an initiate of this religion.

There was coming into the influence during that same age a larger planetary than Saturn and one that was closer to the earth. Because it was larger and closer to the earth it would overpower this one.

It's name was Jupiter, and where the influence of Saturn was keeping the nose to the grindstone, legalistic pushing to meet the demands of the law. Jupiter, on the other hand, brought into the universe an expansive, free kind of energy, freedom. And what the astrologers look at was what was going to happen when this constellation of Pisces on a particular year at a particular time is that Saturn is going to appear in this constellation and Jupiter is going to appear approaching it and moving faster than it is.

It will coincide with it, in relationship to earth. Here is Jupiter approaching, and when it comes between the earth and Saturn, it will eclipse Saturn as seen by the earth and when it eclipses Saturn, it will look like one enormous star in the sky, not only because Jupiter and Saturn are conjunct here, but also because Mars and Venus were conjunct with them and Mercury.

So most of the known planets of the time were all conjunct in the sign of Pisces. Jupiter would move to make this relationship, eclipse the influence of Saturn and move beyond it. Then at a particular time in that same year, Jupiter would go retrograde. As seen from the earth's turning, it would appear to go backwards to make this station again and would go forward a second time.

Now this phenomena of this moving star seen by the earth or planet, moving past one and going retrograde and going forward again is a common phenomena. It happens because of these two movements, constellations one way, the turning of the solar system the other way. It makes it looks like the faster moving planets go ahead, come back and pass again. This all would happen, according to the astrologers in the year 7 BC. In the spring, Jupiter approaching and starting to eclipse Saturn.

Astrologers Predict Royal Birth

In August it would make this station where the eclipse of Saturn was complete and go beyond it. In December again, it would be in the same position, and when it started away again, at exactly that point that Jupiter would start further, after overcoming the influence of Saturn twice, it would

move forward. At the moment when that would happen, astrologers believed that the savior of this age would appear.

Where would he appear?

The astrologers of that time assigned the sphere of influence of each one of the constellations of the zodiac to a particular segment of the earth. If you could divide the earth into twelve segments as seen from where they were, they would say, "This is the band of influence on which this constellation will dawn on the earth, and wherever that influence is, that particular country is said to be the host of that sign.

The Chaldean astrologers had assigned the land of the west from where they were, the next span of land to the west of them, was assigned to the constellation Pisces. At that time that was Palestine or Israel.

Their reason appears to be that because Israel was the Piscean country, because this stellium was appearing in Israel, there would be a royal birth in the house of Israel, The most obvious place for this was in the royal house. No problem. They know where the royal house is. That's where Herod lives. Apparently his wife is pregnant. We will go and welcome in this king.

As the wise men approached Jerusalem and met the king, they discovered that they had made a slight error, which they might have known in advance had they been wiser.

But up to this moment, they had followed the journey of the wise men, with a little influence of the foolish men. They could have thought, "Maybe this doesn't necessarily mean the royal house as we would see it. What after all, is the royal house of Israel?"

It didn't occur to them until they arrived in Herod's court, having not asked all of the questions, they arrived there, and they asked, "Is there a birth about to happen here in the royal house?"

They found this old, old man who was unlikely to be a father this year. "Well," they thought, that's still possibly. It's rarely happened, but perhaps..."

And they asked. "No, there's no pregnancy. No expected birth."

Whoops, Wrong King!

Then it dawned on them, "Uh, oh, we should have been wiser than this. We not only have followed clues that were earthly and not heavenly, we made some assumptions based on the mechanics, without going beyond it to think... We should have thought of the spiritual royal house of Israel. Or even literally, the royal house of Israel, is the house of David. Herod was not born in Israel, at all, is not even an Israelite. As soon as they got all of their facts together, they thought, "Uh oh, we have not only stepped into the wrong house, we have clued in this false house that there is a real royal ruler. We not only have been foolish in our own search, we've set up Israel for a problem."

They finally realized, "We must be silent."

Herod thought, "There going to be a birth. They apparently know there's going to be a royal ruler born in the house of Israel and if I'm real clever I can take advantage of this situation."

So he said to the wise men, the seekers, "If you find him, let me know where he is because I want to come and pay my homage to him too."

One thing about wise men is that they are all psychic, when they remember to be.

In that moment, they felt something uneasy. They saw something false in his expression, and they knew, "He doesn't wanted to worship this king." They were wise enough to see, I'd better keep my mouth shut and go seeking another way.

They stepped out of the palace and they asked again.

Now, how do they respond. And the answer, "Astrology has gotten us this far. Perhaps the heavens will indicate to us where this birth is."

And I have a feeling, this is just my own concept, that beside following, physically, what appeared to be a constellation in the Southern sky. They knew that they must journey due south from where they were.

To Bethlehem, The Real Royal House

They also very likely stopped and did a little bit homework. They probably stopped and asked, "What is the real royal house of Israel?" The House of David. Where was David's home? Bethlehem. Aha, that's the place.

They followed the stars and they probably had several indications. They followed it to a place that was the spiritual house of Israel and the royal lineage of Israel and they had indication of where they would find the king.

If they hadn't had anything more than having made the foolish man's journey into Jerusalem, they had every bit of reasoning they needed to find him, but they didn't use their reasoning.

They found Jerusalem. They found their way through the streets of Jerusalem to the palace. They had a destination to there. But once they got to the palace and found out the king wasn't going to be born there, now they had no destination.

They had this strange city of Jerusalem, very different from their own city. If we should assume that these wise men were from Chaldea, Babylon, we would know that the city that they came from is very polished and elegant, well organized, one straight street through the middle of the city, with straight avenues going off it, and it was bounded by two rivers. You could find your way through Babylon without much trouble. And it was a metropolis. It was a city, a real city.

Streets Going Everywhere and Nowhere

Now here they arrived at this little place, built on a hill, with this crumbling old wall around it and these jammed streets that went everywhere and no where. Impossible. Unless you know you're going to the palace, that's easy enough to find. Or if you know you're going to the temple, that's easy enough to find.

But if you're going to find some other place, you'd better have a guide. You can really get lost in the streets of Jerusalem. Unfortunately, they arrived at night. The streets of Jerusalem at night are impossible to find your way through looking for the birth of the Christ child. Unless you rise above the city and your horizon is further than the walls of the city. Unless you look beyond Jerusalem, you won't find him.

What we're going to be doing in the next 12 days we're going to find out what are the streets that lead away from the palace of Herod to the outskirts of Jerusalem to find our way to Bethlehem.

We're going to assume that there are 12 streets and each one of these streets has a name. The first of these streets that we're going to follow is a crooked and winding street. It will go a little way that way and then it will curve, and then it will backtrack, and then it will go again. Very, very confusing street to follow.

None the Right Street and None the Wrong Street

And if we find that that one doesn't get us out of Jerusalem on our way to Bethlehem, then we're going to try some street and then another street and another. There are twelve of these streets, and the interesting thing is every one of them, any one of them will get you out of Jerusalem and on your way to Bethlehem. But none of them, not one of them, is the right street. And not one of them is the wrong street. None of them is the right street and none of them is the wrong street. None of them leads to the Christ. All of them will get you out of Jerusalem, where you can find your way to the Christ.

And then we're going to look for a Thirteenth Path, a straight street that leads straight to the Christ Child, straight to Bethlehem. And we're going to find, when we find that Thirteenth Street, we'll find that it is the same street that the wise men followed.

Although there are twelve streets, and only twelve streets. There are twelve gates of Jerusalem, remember? There are only twelve streets that lead out of Jerusalem, only twelve that lead ?

A Paradox and A Cliffhanger!

The wise men didn't take any of them. How in the world did that happen?

There is the paradox.

If there are only twelve streets, only twelve gates. The wise men didn't take any of them. They found the Straight Path, and none of the Twelve is a Straight Path.

How in the world did they get out of Jerusalem. They go to Bethlehem and find the Christ child?

When you find that out, we'll find the Thirteenth path.

That's it for now.

Question: Are you going to just leave us hanging there?

Paul: Absolutely. For Twelve Days. Cliffhangers.

And The Last Word, for No. We haven't located the tapes with the solution ---- yet. We'll give you the answer when we find a tape where Paul tells us the ending. However, we're sure that there are twelve tapes. And none of them is the right tape, and none of them is the wrong tape. Cliffhangers.

Merry Christmas.

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