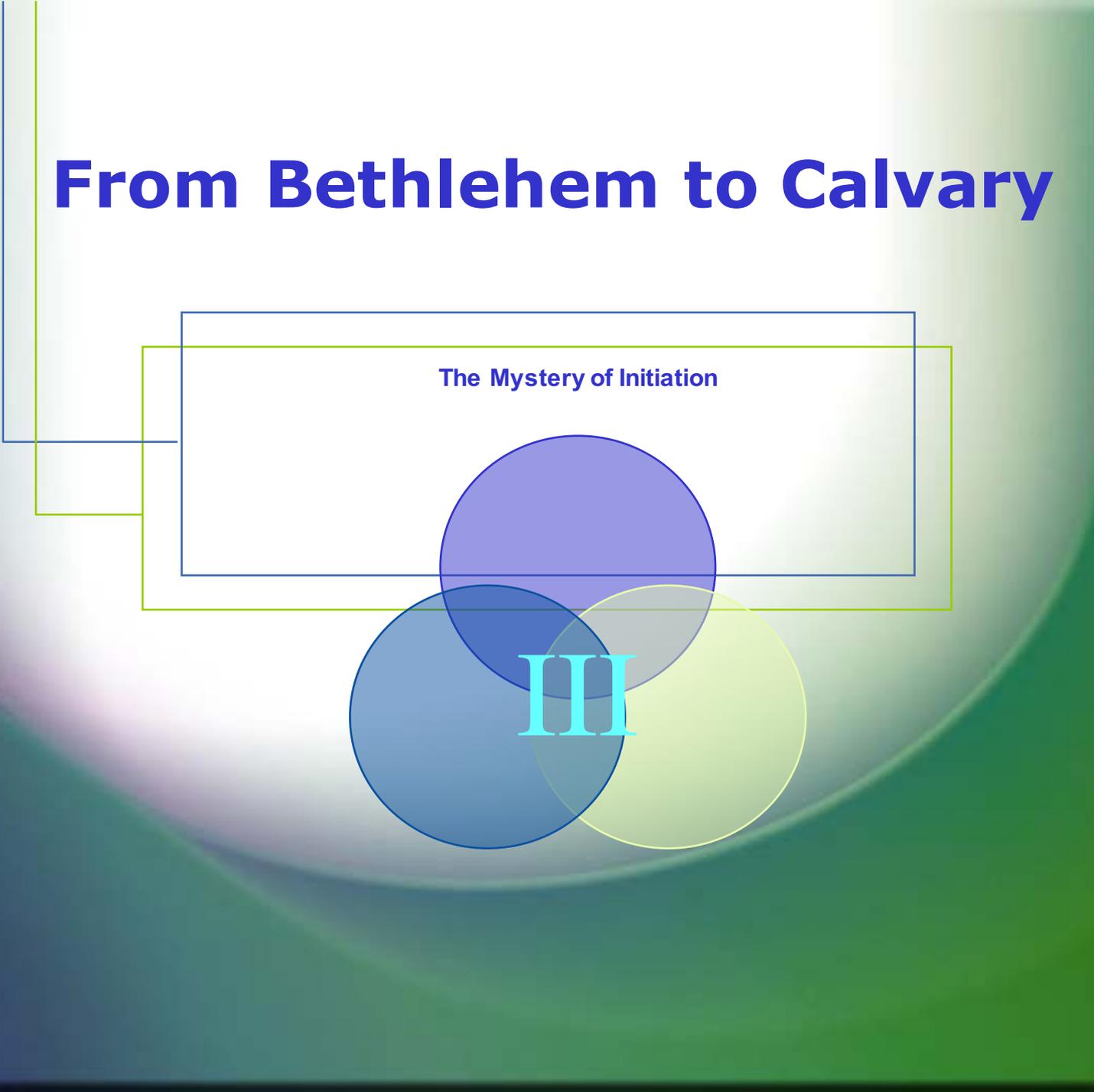


From Bethlehem to Calvary

The Mystery of Initiation

III

The image features a large, semi-transparent sphere in the background with a gradient from light green at the top to dark blue at the bottom. In the center, there are three overlapping circles: a purple one at the top, a blue one at the bottom left, and a yellow one at the bottom right. Two rectangular boxes are overlaid on the scene: a blue one and a green one, both with thin outlines. The blue box is positioned above the purple circle, and the green box is positioned below it, partially overlapping the blue box and the circles. The Roman numeral 'III' is centered in the lower part of the image, overlapping the blue and yellow circles.



**Biblical Terms
regarded from a
new perspective**

Part 3

The Garden of Gethsemane

We are not saved by believing in the formulation of a theological dogma, but by the fact of His living presence of the living Christ (in us).

The feeling of oneness with God and His fellow men forced Christ to set the **Last Supper**, the symbolism of which was lost tragically in theological practice. The keynote was **BROTHERHOOD**.

In His struggle with the powers of the world it was the realisation of the **failing love** of his brothers which was the main problem of his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. The moment he needed **understanding** his brothers let him down, just like people let us down.

(**Disappointment**, a human reaction but His *divine nature* did **not** stop Him from *persevering to accomplish His command*.).

**If thou be the Son of God, command
this stone that it be made bread.**

Currently, the world aspirant - **humanity** – is facing this **ordeal**. His problem is **economic** in nature and has primarily and fundamentally to do with **bread**. The world faces a **physical challenge**.

The **temptation** is:

- Let us use our **divine** powers for *personal physical purposes*: perfect **health** for ourselves, long desired **financial** prosperity, **popularity** for our personality and acquisition of the physical environment and conditions that we wish for ourselves.
- These are the **temptations** of the **aspirants** at this time.

If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. (2)

The attitude is: Let us satisfy our hunger, whatever its origin may be, and let's do that because we are **divine**.

We are after all the sons of God and thus have a **right** to.

Many teachers and groups that are fully and absolutely convinced of the rightness of their position, flourish on this theory.

The **awareness** goes by being **immersed deeper in a material marsh** and these signs are evident at this time.

The **solution** of the problem lies in the re-evaluation of and re-education in the fundamental principles of life.

This will lead to **right human relations** as a result of the principle of **Sharing** and this attitude is becoming more common as well.

The 7 Cross Words

These "cross words" are always considered as a **personal** testimony but they have a much deeper meaning, they were words of power.

- 1. Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.** This is the ignorance of people and ignorance is not a sin, because sin is composed of a definitive act in defiance of conscience.
- 2. Today you will be with me in paradise** (salvation - see diagram). The recognition of the baptism of fire and suffering that culminates with grief on the cross.

These two statements have the meaning of the **first two initiations.**

The 7 Cross Words (2)

- 3. Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother!** John portrays the perfect personality and Mary the physical aspect. The 2nd aspect of the Trinity - a symbol of the *3rd initiation*.
- 4. My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?** Symbolically the substance and the soul (the substance of the form and consummate lower nature) were crucified. Then three hours of silence and darkness reigned indicating that Christ reached the stage of the final sacrifice - the soul - and that also the soul itself had to be placed on the altar. This drove Him to the cry of protest and doubt: My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?

The 7 Cross Words (3)

5. **I am thirsty.** His willingness to take on the role of **Saviour** and not of the physical meaning.
6. **It is finished.** Then the miracle occurred to Christ that it was finished, for why He had come into incarnation. The gate to the kingdom was open. He had given us the example of service that was unparalleled in history. He had shown the **nature of perfection.**
7. **Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.** The **spirit of life** in Christ and in us make us his sons and this sonship is the guarantee for us to ultimately achieve the goal. The given sign is expressed in the words:

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom (Matthew 27:51). Spirit and matter were one and all barriers were knocked down, and man and God could meet.

The Virgin Mother Mary

- Throughout the centuries, many teachers have given mankind a progressive vision of the heights of possibilities. However a constant factor in history is the appearance of a variant of the **Virgin Mother** Mary. Most of these teachers are born in a cave and usually from a virgin mother.
- In esotericism the symbol of a cave is regarded as the place of **initiation**.
- With regard to the birth from the Virgin there is no reference in the Epistles in the Bible, which formed the first Christian documents.

The Virgin Mother Mary (2)

A summary of quotations from *Esoteric Christianity*, by Annie Besant:

- The choice of a specific date of birth is **cosmic** in its meaning.
- Jesus of Nazareth was born at the time of the winter solstice at midnight, as the sign of Virgo rises over the horizon.
- Born while the sign rises, he is always born from a virgin, and she (Mary) remains a virgin after she has given birth to her 'child of the sun' as the celestial Virgo remains unchanged and unsullied.

Immaculate Conception

- The brightest and biggest star in the constellation Virgo is called Spica; it finds itself in the ear of corn (fertility) which is held by the Virgin. The name **Bethlehem** means **House of Bread**.
- The cosmic significance of the Virgo and Mary who brought Jesus to birth by the rising sign Virgo; she herself became mother and her name was Mary.
- From this cosmic significance the term **Immaculate Conception** would be better explainable.

Immaculate Conception (2)

On a **physical level**, one could also explain the Immaculate Conception as follows:

- Mary and Joseph had a **mission** in the service of **humanity**. This birth did not arise from their own desire. Stained (the opposite of immaculate) can be seen as afflicted with glamour or delusions of the personality and therefore serving their own interest or their own needs.
- Esoterically it means the **control** of the **astral plane** (desires of the personality), Mary and Joseph acted from the **soul**, being group-aware and active in the service of the **Plan**.

The Divine Trinity

- The name **Joseph** means: one who will **add**; he was a carpenter and builder. He symbolises the building and creative aspect of God the father.
- In these three individuals: Joseph, the child Jesus and Mary are portrayed:
- God the **Father**, God the **Son** and God the **Holy Spirit** or the substance animated by God and therefore, to us symbolically represented by the Virgin Mary.

Sin and Penance?

- The Christian era is an era of **mental** evolution, but, also has a strong **emphasis on sin** and acts of evil.
- The theology has gone too far with its disastrous sinner complex and emphasis on the purification of blood.
- By the **mind**, one is able to analyse, detect and distinguish, but because of *this ability* sinfulness, remorse and an almost **disastrous attitude** toward the *Creator* was cultured.
- Because of sin, penance, reconciliation and the idea of sacrifice for us by Christ, they rebelled and as a result of this *truly healthy* response there is a normal tendency to go *too far* in there.

Sin: a Definition

A definition of the word sin:

Act against light and knowledge (characteristics of the influence of the soul) and deliberately doing what we know is wrong and undesirable.

- **Evil** is for most of us simply an attempt to *identify* ourselves with the life of the *form* while we are able to be *conscious of the soul*.
- **Righteousness** is the continuous focus of both the thought and life on the soul, which leads to *spiritual and helpful act*.

Food for Thought

The **4th initiation** for *humanity today* is of utmost importance. Only if we understand the meaning of **service** and **sacrifice** the fact of **immortality** and its *true meaning* can be revealed to us.

If one sees immortality and the soul as premise, then death has the meaning of the **bringer of change**.

The question about death and immortality can often serve to purify our minds and free them of issues that are undetermined and vagueness, with its roots in fear, mental inertia and confused thinking. These are usually determined by education and the collective consciousness.

Food for Thought (2)

Christ passed through death and was resurrected. He was essentially the same Person, but with increased capabilities. Could the same be the case with us as well?

Christ came just to abolish these sacrifices by showing us their true meaning.

In His Person as perfect man He died on the cross to show us that the divinity can only be revealed and expressed, when a man has died as a man, so that the hidden Christ (the consciousness) may live.