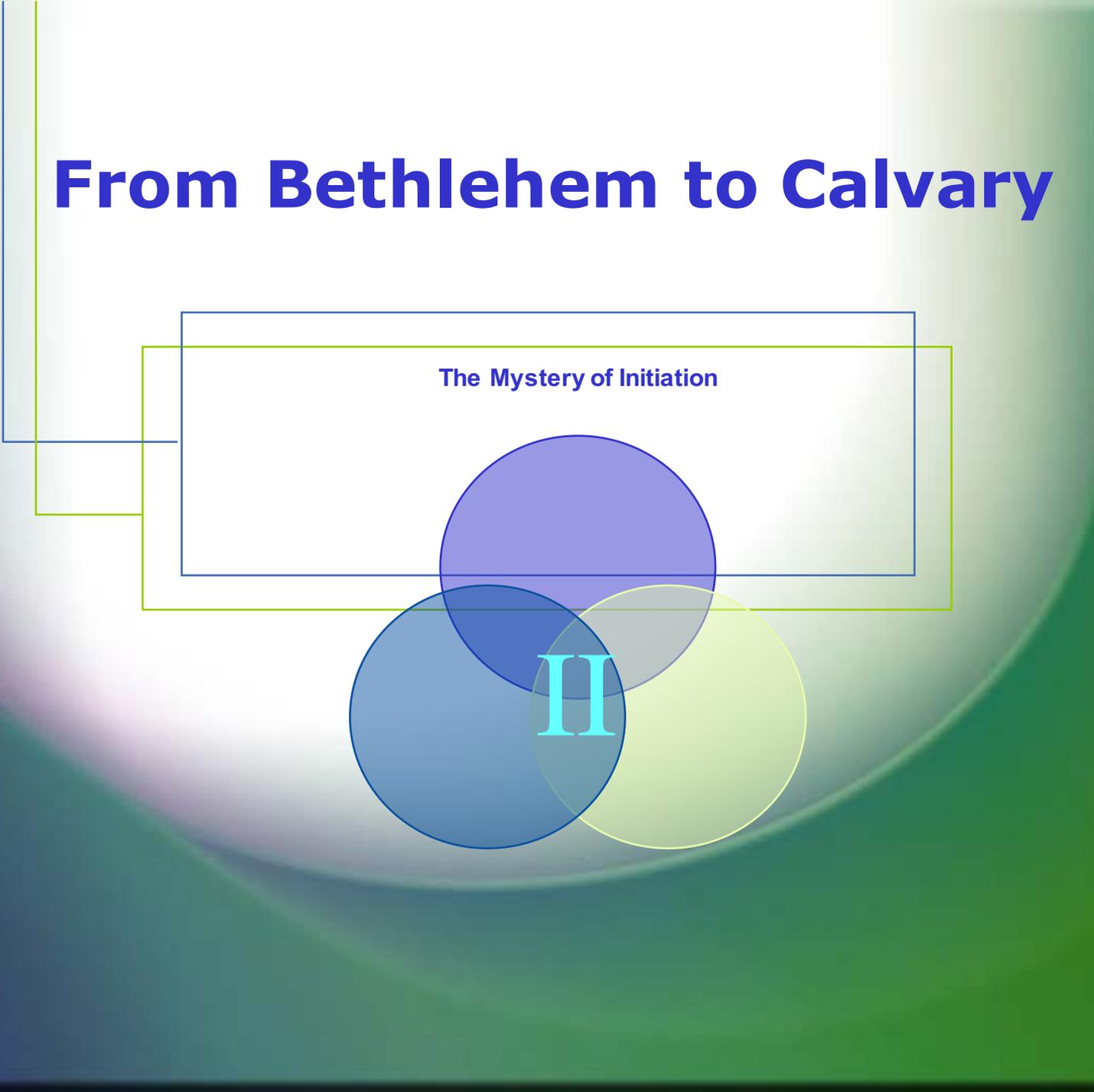


# From Bethlehem to Calvary

The Mystery of Initiation

II

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. The Roman numeral 'II' is centered in the intersection of the blue and yellow circles. Above the circles, there are two nested rectangular boxes. The inner box is blue and contains the text 'The Mystery of Initiation'. The outer box is yellow and overlaps the blue box and the circles. The overall composition is centered and balanced.

# **The Five Initiations**

## **Part II**

# The Five Initiations

- The **Christ** (also called Christ energy of Love-Wisdom) has, although **hidden**, always been present in every human being, however, at the right time the child-soul will emerge and from then on the first of the five initiations will be possible.
- The soul starts to manifest on earth and the life of the disciple and the initiate begins. He goes from one level to the next until he is master of all the laws of the **spiritual realm**.

*(See also lecture: The Constitution of Men)*

# The whole World is on the Way

- The way to be found in the kingdom by means of private questions and answers, searching and finding and by obedience to the inner voice which can only be heard if other voices in ourselves become silent.
- Every initiation or expansion of consciousness is preceded by a journey; each stage and each dramatic event comes at the end of the trip. Entering the Path is a known way to describe the approach to the mysteries by a human being.
- Currently, the world is on the go. Everyone is traveling, which is a symbolic process for an inner state of search and move toward a predetermined target.

# The Desert Experience

The three trials (Matthew 4: 2,3,4).

- ... After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said: "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'
- There are two interesting facts in perceiving all these temptations.
- In each of them the **devil** uses the word "**if**" and **Christ's** answer is always – "**It is written**".

# The Desert Experience – The Key

- These two expressions contain the **key** for the entire process. The last temptation is **doubt**. The test we will all have to undergo finally and forms a culmination in the life of Christ is the test of our divinity.
- The question is: are we divine? How can our divine powers express themselves?
- It is the general **lifelong urge to divinity** which is put to the test.

# The very Essence

- For seekers of the divine, or the **very essence of our existence**, the truth must be something which we could not dream of and of such a deep, comprehensive significance that it is pointless for us to speculate about it, because it is something that must be **experienced** and not dreamed of; something which we enter and no vision.
- The answer that Christ gave, ***"it is written"***, should be considered in a **threefold** way (the tests), of which more information will be provided further).

# Baptism of Water and Fire

There are two kinds of baptism:

- John the Baptist: the baptism of water.
- The baptism of Jesus Christ: of the Holy Spirit and fire.

The baptism in the Jordan is symbolically the **purification of the mind** of **man** (2nd initiation - emotional nature / water / discernment). This precedes the baptism of fire.

Christ and his baptism symbolises for us the **divine in man** (3rd initiation - mind / fire). God / man (the soul) which is directly employed by the **personality**.

# The Word of the Soul

- Thoughtless people see this as an endorsement of the verbal inspiration of the Holy Scriptures (Old rulings from the Jewish Scriptures).
- **Christ** meant something much **deeper** than the Bible says. He meant that God's sign was upon him; He was the Word, and the Word was the expression of the truth.
- The **Word** means the individual **soul** (which embodies the influx of **divine energy of will** that determines our attitude in trials and our answers to the issue raised by the devil (The Guardian on the Threshold or the temptations)).

# From Believing to Knowing

- If the Word (soul) is still *hidden deep*, only **distorted sounds** will be the result and the soul will not be able to resist the temptation.
- The time has come now for man to stop **believing** and to proceed with full knowledge through thoughts, reflections, experiments, experiences and revelation.
- The immediate problem for all who seek new knowledge and who want to become conscious knowers instead of **faithful believers**, lies in the fact that they have to accomplish this in the **everyday world**.

# Jesus Christ's Role

The history of the temptation in the desert has become a major controversy for the believer. How to reconcile the divinity of Christ and the devil with each other?

Was it possible that Christ could be tempted in reality, and if so, wouldn't He have fallen into sin?

The esoteric explanation is: "**... we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin.**" (Heb 4: 15).

He came in a human body and was subject to human conditions, as we are. He suffered and struggled with death; He felt irritability and was determined by His body, His environment, the time period, as we all are.

# Jesus Christ's Role (2)

- He had learned to be **master over himself**, as a result of the experiences on the journey through the **evolution of consciousness**. He could face this experience, see evil in the eyes and conquer it.
- Thus He taught us how to confront evil (material substance or delusions); what we can expect as disciples preparing for initiation and the method whereby evil can be turned into good.
- He joined the temptation **not** with a great **new technique or revelation**. He simply grabbed back what He **knew**, which had been **taught** to Him and had been **said** to Him.

# Jesus Christ's Role (3)

- Every time he faced the temptation, he said:
- **"It is written"** (Matt. 4: 4,7,10) and used no divine or new capabilities to fight the devil.

He simply used the abilities that we all (unconsciously) have, viz knowledge and the ancient rules.

The history of the desert is a **cosmic event** involving **humanity**.

Christ showed the way that every man must go.

# The Experience of the increasing Consciousness

- An initiation includes that time, when a man feels in every part of his being that life (Spirit) is a **reality**. For a brief moment his consciousness is universal. An initiation is a blaze of illumination thrown in the river (the astral plane) of life and it is a **total experience**. The initiate will never be the same again in his consciousness.
- At the **2nd initiation**: In the waters of the Jordan, one meets the world as a **person** (free from physical and emotional feelings, focusing on the mental plane).
- At the **3rd initiation**: On top of the Mount of Transfiguration one is above the world as **God**. In this initiation one is on the **same level as his brothers** (divine and human) undergoing purity and peace.

# From Perfection to Service

- At the 3rd Initiation - **The Transfiguration** - Christ was cleaned, but before him lay the **temptations**. He had to become equal to us in every aspect in His consciousness (either again or in remembering a history of difficulty and temptation); both in terms of sin, weakness and human frailty, but also human success.
- Christ must also demonstrate His moral greatness as His divinity and His perfection as the man who came to maturity. He had to go through the same ordeals to which every future occupant of the kingdom must submit.

# The Era of Service

- Immediately after the descent from the mountain top Christ began **to serve again**. He demonstrated a new way of speaking to the masses both individually as personally instruct his chosen few.
- He bridged the old and the new, and brought a **new truth**. He gave us a new understanding that **God is love**.
- It is of major interest to realize that what Christ really did was *to usher in the era of service*, also if we start only after 2000 years to realize the meaning of this word so much used. Service is becoming increasingly important in all human affairs *instead of the salvation of the individual*.

# The Vision on the Mountain

The **vision** of Christ on the mountain after the Transfiguration:

*"The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life."* (Matt. 17: 22-23)

This vision of Christ consists of two parts:

- He had the vision that **something is achieved**. The reached inauguration on the mountaintop (a great spiritual experience) was behind him. Now He had a vision of the **physical fulfilment** in the form of a triumphal **entry into Jerusalem**.
- But this is associated with a **sense** of *ending His life of service to the cross*.

# The Valley of Duty and Service

He clearly saw what lay before him, and the direction in which His service to the world led him.

**Rejection** by the world always precedes the **acceptance** by the **world**

**Disillusionment** is a stage on the way to the reality. The hatred of those who are not yet ready to recognize the world of spiritual values □□ is also the fate of those that are enlightened. Christ realised this, but He "... *resolutely set out for Jerusalem*". (Lk. 9: 51).

It was a **triple temptation**, just as after the initiation of baptism, but of a more subtle nature.

# The triple Temptation

These tests are opportunities for *divine expression* and show the area of *detachment*

- **1st Test:** Enduring world success and the triumphal entry into the Holy City could he do without departing from His purpose, without being attracted by material success and the fact that they proclaimed him King of the Jews. Success requires a much more drastic discipline and offers a lot more opportunities in forgetting God and reality than to forget mistakes and negligence. **Public recognition** and the apparent attainment of the earthly purpose are much more difficult factors to cope with.
- **2nd Test:** He also had to prove having sufficient strength to **face the calamity**.
- **3rd Test:** As in the desert experience, the **utter loneliness**.

# The Crucifixion or Great Renunciation <sup>(1)</sup>

- The central mystery of Christianity is the highest initiation, the **Resurrection** and **Ascension**.
- But the **Crucifixion** has always been the **most important** episode in which the entire structure of Christian theology is built upon. Here the **emphasis** is on the death of Jesus. Much has been incorrectly interpreted, but there is also **divine truth** in much that is expressed.
- The main point is **not** His death, although a highlight in the evolutionary process, but the subsequent **resurrection**, which symbolised the formation and the appearance on earth of a new empire, in which man and all forms will be free from death a kingdom rid of the cross, which would ultimately become a **symbol**.

# The Crucifixion or Great Renunciation (2)

- Often God has been presented as a false god. What Christ accomplished has become a **twisted understanding** as a result of the point of human evolution at that time which was under the influence of the **6th-ray Piscean** that included fanatical imposition of the ideal through **fear** of the dreaded God. This fear is still present today in the collective consciousness, although many have turned away from the church.
- The **Orthodox** religion can be seen in its entirety as the cross upon which we have crucified Christ.

# The Crucifixion or Great Renunciation (3)

- This was a **great cosmic event**; its effects concern the masses, and not specifically the individual.
- Intelligently contemplated, Christ did not die, so that you and I could go to heaven.
- He died as a result of the **kind of service** that He had demonstrated, ushering in a **new era** and because He had taught the people how they should live as sons of God. The Way of the **five human initiations**.

# Hope for the Future

In the evolution of man, all indications point towards the rejection of the old thesis's which were based on fear and that he shall bravely face the facts and responsibilities underlying his spiritual birth right.