

### *The Incarnation Mystery: A Unique Case?*

**B**EFORE EVEN BEGINNING the body of *The Rosicrucian Cosmo Conception*, Max Heindel asks the reader to receive it as a little child, with all of the open-minded, unassuming acceptance that little children have. With that childlike attitude one can take things in as wholes without losing or missing things by struggling against what is being received. One can experience the childlike awe and appreciation while seeing the good and the beauty of the material. It feels very good to trust and open oneself to an offering, but there are drawbacks. A child, or someone practicing child-like receptivity, is vulnerable. Therefore, it is incumbent upon a parent, or a writer asking for a child-like reception, to carefully respect and protect that vulnerability.

Child psychologists of all stripes agree that it is devastating to the developing psychology of a small child to meet with parental inconsistency. An inconsistency between word and deed leaves a child not knowing what to do. To be told to do one thing and to see a parent do another, often the opposite of the command, is hard on a child. Probably all of us can remember how angry we were when we reached the age at which we could see through the statements like “do as I say, not as I do” or “it’s okay to do this when you’re grown up.” It was confusing, contradictory and unfair, and we knew it. Unfortunately, by that time our inner psychology had been formed, or malformed as the case may be, by a host of such inconsistencies before we were old enough and strong enough to see through them. However, it is true that there are things that a parent can do that a child cannot safely do. In such cases the consistency is maintained in determining if and how the matter is presented to the child.

When Max Heindel wrote *The Rosicrucian Cosmo Conception* with the consent and counsel of the Elder Brother, the danger of presenting inconsistencies to readers whom he asked to keep a child-like attitude must have been on his mind. Therefore, it seems highly unlikely that he would speak very strongly against mediumship and possession in one place in his writings and then in another have Jesus as a victim of one or the other. It may, indeed, be a case where it is okay for a grown-up, an Elder Brother, to do something that would be totally wrong for ordinary people like ourselves to do. But if that is the case, there had better be a good reason and explanation of it in a philosophy that purports to appeal to the reason, or else *The Rosicrucian Cosmo Conception* is likely in its inconsistency to spawn the very mediumship that it warns is counter-evolutionary in people who honestly believe that they are doing something special like Jesus did. This may seem like an excessive or alarmist reaction on the part of this writer, but the fact is that it is a frequent occurrence for someone to channel or to sit in mediumship for a so-called master. There is even a book from the world of spiritualism entitled: *Did Jesus Write This Book?*

In a previous article entitled *The Incarnation Mystery* [May/June, 2002], this writer challenged the readers of the *Rays* to think on this mystery and the *apparent* contradiction or inconsistency in our Rosicrucian literature and to submit articles to the *Rays* that try to solve the mystery, or at least explain why it was acceptable. This writer was happy to see interested responses to the article [September/October, 2002], indicating a healthy willingness to discuss issues and thereby maintain a living philosophy. He means no offense, but he was not completely happy with either the style or

the content of the responses. In style he would have preferred, well-developed article-length responses—one of the reasons for the article was to get more people submitting to the *Rays*. As far as the content is concerned, this writer will present their arguments in stripped-down, one-line paraphrases that show their structure in brief, and answer them likewise to keep this article from becoming too long.

Again, no offense is intended, only working discussion. One response was of the form “it is okay to do a bad thing to accomplish a great good,” which is something like the thinking of the Vietnam era when it was okay to destroy a village in order to save it. Another response said, in effect, “mysteries don’t have to be solved,” which is exactly the beautifully faithful but intellectually unsatisfying attitude of those of a Catholic temperament that was referred to in the original article. Another took the form of “it’s okay for initiates but not for ordinary people like ourselves,” which is similar to saying “do what I say and not what I do,” without giving any explanation why. Another response said, in effect, “we don’t have enough information” and “too much information without understanding is not good for the soul.” To the latter this writer can surely assent because that is the glaring fault of our prevalent educational system. However, to the former he cannot assent. This writer believes we do have enough information and enough understanding and that there *are* answers—or, at least, potential answers—if we are willing to study and ponder sufficiently. It is in that belief that the following tentative answer (and perhaps there will be others) is presented as a possible solution.

It seems that the solution is most likely to be found in the section of *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* entitled “Jesus and Christ-Jesus.” In that section one finds a distinction between four different levels of development in each life wave as



Fresco (c.1416), Lorenzo and Jacopo Salimbeni, Oratory of San Giovanni Battista, Urbino

### ***The Baptism of Christ***

*The sole instance in the history of the Cosmos where Life Spirit fully incarnated in the dense physical world, when the Archangel Christ dwelt as a human in the physical and vital bodies of Jesus, is witnessed by the Father, mediated by the Holy Spirit, and attested to by angels in heaven and saints and sinners on earth.*

it passes through the human stage. First, there are the ordinary humans who comprise most of the life wave. Next there are those who become Initiates, progressing beyond ordinary humanity by extraordinary effort. Then there are those who pass through all of the initiations to reach the highest state of consciousness possible for a given life wave. They are called collectively “Highest Initiates.” *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* tells us that Highest Initiates sacrifice the ordinary use of their lower vehicles in order to direct their efforts deeper into the higher spiritual worlds, presumably to do more creative work from there. Finally there is *the* Highest Initiate. This is the single individuality that is *the* central figure of the Highest Initiate class, the heart or core being of the Highest Initiate creative nucleus and, hence, the central being of the entire life wave. This section also seems to imply that there is a special activity for these single, central beings. Such a being personifies the attribute of the godhead most representatively active in the realm where the lowest vehicle of the Highest Initiate class of that life wave is situated, its

## THE VEHICLES OF THE HIGHEST INITIATES & ORDINARY HUMANITY

ZODIACAL SIGNS	THE WORLDS IN WHICH THESE ORDERS HAVE CORRESPONDING VEHICLES	SATURN ♄ PERIOD		SUN ☉ PERIOD		MOON ☾ PERIOD	
		THE HIGHEST INITIATE IS <u>THE FATHER</u>	THE ORDINARY HUMANITY ARE NOW LORDS OF MIND	THE HIGHEST INITIATE IS CHRIST <u>THE SON</u>	THE ORDINARY HUMANITY ARE NOW ARCHANGELS	THE HIGHEST INITIATE IS JEHOVAH THE <u>HOLY SPIRIT</u>	THE ORDINARY HUMANITY ARE NOW ANGELS
13	ALTOGETHER WORLD						
12	OF						
11	GOD						
10	WORLD OF						
9	VIRGIN						
8	SPIRITS						
7	WORLD OF DIVINE SPIRIT						
6	WORLD OF LIFE SPIRIT						
5	REGION OF ABSTRACT THOUGHT						
4	REGION OF CONCRETE THOUGHT						
3	DESIRE WORLD						
2	ETHERIC REGION						
1	CHEMICAL REGION						
	PHYSICAL WORLD						

pedestal or foundation, so to speak. Thus the Highest Initiate of the Lords of Mind, the humanity of the Saturn Period, is called “The Father,” whose lowest generally active vehicle is Divine Spirit and who represents the first attribute of the godhead, the will. Similarly the Highest Initiate of the Archangels, the humanity of the Sun Period, is called “The Son” or “Christ,” whose lowest generally active vehicle is Life Spirit and who represents the second attribute of the godhead, love-wisdom or imagination. Finally, the Highest Initiate of the Angels, the humanity of the Moon Period, is called “The Holy Spirit” or “Jehovah,” whose lowest generally active vehicle is in the Region of Abstract Thought and who represents the third attribute of the godhead, activity.

If we follow this pattern into our life wave, our current humanity, we find some interesting things. The lowest generally active vehicle of the Highest Initiate class and *the* Highest Initiate of the Earth Period would be in the Region of Concrete Thought. Thus this representative of the godhead

would be generally functioning from the deepest level of any representative in our evolutionary scheme (since our solar cosmos will remanifest in successively less dense worlds in future periods) and that being would be the only representative having a foundation in a concrete reality, a sort of material anchor. There are many fascinating things that could be inferred from this, but most would be lengthy and tangential to our quest. However, there is one feature about the Highest Initiate of a life wave that is germane to our topic. There is a passage in the Bible that says “God is not a respecter of persons”—that is to say, God is not personal. This impersonality applies to the living representatives of the godhead when they assume that function. This is so even though orthodox Christian literature speaks of “God in three Persons”—there is a significant difference in the usage of *a person* versus *personal*. Thus, if Jesus did assume the role of Highest Initiate, his vehicles and his being would or could no longer be considered *his* in the same way our vehicles and beings are ours. They would,



in attitude and in effect, be the vehicles and being of the godhead and of God who works through the godhead.

He would not be an automaton to God but he would not be a personal figure either. Thus, if Jesus is the Highest Initiate of our humanity, his vehicles would be at the disposal of the godhead and giving use of them to Christ would not be a personal action or a surrender of a divine responsibility to one's vehicles because those vehicles were already the vehicles of the godhead and technically not his own. Instead of mediumship or possession it would be a transfer of consciousness of one focus of the godhead through the vehicles of another focus of the godhead, even though the mechanics would be similar to mediumship or possession.

If this tentative hypothesis is true and not merely a technicality or an abstruse sophistry, then it is important to determine if there is evidence to indicate that Jesus is, indeed, the Highest Initiate of the Earth Period. This writer will not presume to take the role of a seer and try to say that he can speak from authority, not even from his intuition, since authoritative statements are a form of self-assertion and are, hence, a source of repulsion in the Desire World. As Rosicrucian students we want reason and heart-felt sharing. This leaves us having to work with various forms of second-hand knowledge.

The Rosicrucian philosophy as shared by Max Heindel, messenger of the Rosicrucian Order, does not directly state that Jesus is the Highest Initiate of the Earth Period. Max Heindel does give that as his opinion but does not state it as a fact.

In some of the scriptures and myths of Mystery Schools that teach the idea of individuals representing attributes of the godhead, it is taught that the fourth such individual (the fourth Highest Initiate in our terms) is the first patriarch of the life wave, though it is stated in much different terminology. In our scriptures the first patriarch is Adam—not only the class of humanity called *Adam* but also the central being of that class. St. Paul, who seems a likely, viable authority on the subject (having seen into third heaven), seems to imply in First Corinthians, Chapter Fifteen, that Adam and Jesus are manifestations of the same individuality. Some modern seers have claimed the

same thing, but that might just be hearsay.

There does seem to be internal scriptural evidence right within the first chapter of St. John's gospel, which contains the baptismal description. Jesus, speaking to Nathanael after Nathanael has identified him as the "Son of God," says to him: "Hereafter ye shall see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." As we know from the writings of Max Heindel, the term "Son of God" refers to Christ in the Christ-Jesus composite, and the "Son of Man" refers to Jesus. From that, this writer infers that Christ is speaking of Jesus as an evolutionary turning point at the bottom (the most material nadir), the central figure in the ascent and descent of divine hierarchies in our cosmos or solar evolution. If that is true, it seems to be another way of saying that Jesus is the central figure of our humanity, which is the humanity at the period of deepest materialization in our evolutionary scheme—which is another way of saying the Highest Initiate of the Earth Period.

This writer realizes that these are merely conjectures from *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* and other second-hand sources; however, they *do* seem to fortify the hypothesis that Jesus is the Highest Initiate of the Earth Period, and we have to use the tools available to us if we ever hope to advance to higher tools—for that matter, even Max Heindel used inference from scripture in his writings. In any case, "now we know in part, but then we shall know even as we are known" and shall be able to see for ourselves.

There are two features of this tentative hypothesis that are morally and ethically pleasing in the face of the dilemma of dealing with the potential of mediumship or spirit possession. The first (that if Jesus is part of the godhead, it is technically not mediumship or spirit possession in the personal sense of those terms) has already been mentioned. The second is that it would be unique. There can only be one center. Therefore, no one can sit for mediumship as Jesus seemed to do, and no spirit can validly claim to be Christ in order to possess the vehicles of another in the name of incarnation.

A unique case? □

—Dexter Christianson