

Western Wisdom Bible Study



Symbols

He riseth from supper and laid aside his garments; and took a towel and girded himself.

After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciple's feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

—John 13: 4,5

This act of Christ Jesus is given only in the Gospel of John. It follows the institution of the Sacrament of the Last Supper, and is of far greater significance than is generally understood.

In the Old Testament the shew bread and the first fruits of the harvest were brought to the Temple and dedicated. Later this food was eaten by the priests, and not by those who had brought it. Now, after the institution of the Last Supper, all food is to be understood as a symbol of life and all are to share reverently in its use—which is, of course, to build a pure temple for the Living God within.

But the verses quoted follow this symbolic act. Presumably before eating, all of the cleansing and purifying rites used in the past were performed. Now these verses begin, “He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments.” Here we have the symbolic act of laying aside the physical vehicles and working in the higher bodies. The Christ, using the physical and vital bodies of Jesus, had all seven vehicles at His command, so when He laid aside His garments (those lower ones of Jesus) He must have been acting in His own vehicles as a Cosmic Being.

After laying aside His garments, He “took a towel, and girded himself.” This can only mean that He took His tools and prepared Himself for His work. In the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead as given in this same gospel, we have the expression as translated in the King James Version “he groaned in his spirit.” A better translation would have been, “he raised his vibrations.” In these verses the author says he “girded himself,” or prepared for the work at hand.

Now that He is ready to do the work for which He was destined, “before the world began,” He “poureth water in a basin and began to wash the disciple’s feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.” This water or emotional force, that He called into being is now being used to cleanse the cosmos during the Piscean Age. But this incident has wider and deeper implications than that of aid during the Piscean Age only.

On page 221 of the *Cosmo-Conception* is a list of the twelve great Creative Hierarchies, listed under their zodiacal signs. The first five have already passed to their liberation as far as this planet Earth is concerned. The other seven, beginning with Virgo, whose Hierarchy is known as the Lords of Wisdom, and continuing down through the signs to Pisces—the Virgin Spirits who are humanity of the present Earth Period—are still actively engaged in evolving for themselves higher vehicles. The Archangel Christ, who passed through a phase of development comparable to our present humanity cycle under the constellation Capricorn (we celebrate His birth on December 25 in the first degrees of the Capricorn month), has accepted the task of helping our human life wave, the Piscean Virgin Spirits, to purify itself and be able to develop and progress faster than it ordinarily would have been able to do.

The cosmic significance of this act as written down by the Evangel John should be meditated upon and expanded until the mind and the heart of the student is glowing with an inner light all his own. □