

I lay there in that sharp, clear atmosphere of wakefulness that so often was sleep's substitute. The atmosphere seemed particularly "high" that night, and my mind, abnormally active, traveled out with its thoughts to dwell again with those who suffered and strove and fought. My mind drifted into a narrative trend, and I found myself lying there in that brilliant wakefulness telling the things I saw and felt with some inner sense, and describing them in a clear-cut form, sentence upon sentence. It was a most graphic picture of the battlefields, and I was going from one complete narrative sentence to another, feeling, seeing it all perfectly. It was a glorious heart picture of the superb things our boys were daring under such horribleness. When the last throbbing sentence had been mentally spoken in that great clearness in which my brain

was dazzlingly delving, I fell into a short sleep.

Dressing next morning I felt no resentment that I could not get at my magazine. The day, however, strangely let me go home early in the afternoon, and I proceeded to the long desired perusal of the magazine. The first article I chose almost stunned me. Yes, honestly, it was word for word exactly as I had "read" it the night before. Word for word, sentence for sentence, I had read that article mentally. Explain it—I cannot. Are our minds capable—given impetus or motive power enough—of going through darkness and paper and absorbing a mental picture of an entire article, word for word? I only know I was neither asleep nor dreaming nor walking in my sleep, but most intensely awake when I did it.

Esoteric Bible Studies

BY CORINNE S. DUNKLEE

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST JESUS

VI.—*The Transfiguration, and Later Works.*

With the Transfiguration began the deepest esoteric teachings of the Master, Christ Jesus. Gradually as they were able to bear it He endeavored to lead His disciples into an understanding of the inner meaning of His mission to the world. In that tremendous and awe-inspiring scene of the Transfiguration, which has been called the Feast and the Victory of Light, He was teaching the three of His innermost circle: John, the best beloved, which means the most spiritually advanced; James, the first to lay down his life for the cause of the new religion of Christianity; and Peter the Rock, symbolizing the power of faith and works upon which has been builded the Christian religion throughout the world. He was teaching them to function amid the glories of the World of

Life Spirit, His own particular realm. They had learned to raise their vibration sufficiently high to see Him clothed in His glorious body built of the material of this celestial plane. This is the body John was attempting to describe when he tells us that "we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father."

St. Peter says: "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty." And St. Luke, who wrote at the dictation of Peter, said, "And as He prayed the fashion of His countenance was altered, and His raiment was white and glistening."

St. Mark adds, "And His raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow, so as no fuller on earth can white them."

St. Matthew gives the most detailed account of this sublime experience that is

to be found in all the Gospels. He no doubt was given these very words many times by Peter, James, and John after the great Teacher had gone from them back to His home in the World of Life Spirit. Matthew says: "And He was transfigured before them, and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light."

The disciples were lifted to that sublime height in order that they might learn to read in the eternal records of God's Book of Remembrance, which are to be found there. For in the World of Life Spirit, which is the realm of the Christ consciousness, is the record of all that has been and all that will be enacted upon the earth plane. It was here that they traced the lives of Moses and Elijah, who were both re-embodiments of the same ego. Here Christ Jesus taught them to read the imperishable records of His own sublime ministry and of the decease "which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem."

The Transfiguration marked a crisis in His career. After that He gave the deeper esoteric work to the disciples, and performed the greatest of His acts for mankind. From the dazzling glory of the Transfiguration He came down from the Mount to spend His few remaining days upon the earth in tender, loving ministries and healing for the sick and sorrowing. The bright radiance of heaven He brought down served to produce surcease from the degradation and woe of those who surrounded Him in the world. Our supreme lesson to be gained from the Transfiguration is that the only real reason for great spiritual attainment is that we may become more efficient helpers and servers in the lowly places. From His great spiritual exaltation, which we can but dimly comprehend at present, the Master returned to find only the cross awaiting Him. If we are worthy to follow Him, we shall pray and work and strive to attain only that we may become more humble, more loving, and occupy a larger field of self-effacing usefulness.

The mystic marriage which took place at Cana in Galilee has been termed by many Bible commentators the first miracle of the Master. This is because St. John begins his gospel with this, the account of the turning of water into wine. John's gospel is the story of the attainment of the Initiate, and the first step in this attainment must be the mystic marriage between the lower and the higher selves. Hence instead of being the first miracle, this story marks the beginning of an extremely high state of development.

Christ was teaching deep mystic truths to those ready to receive them in His talk with Nicodemus (which we discussed in the "Rays" of May, 1927), also in His visit with the woman of Samaria and His teaching her how to drink of the water of everlasting life. (This is a truth which every neophyte must learn before the doors of Initiation are unbarred for him). The lifting of the spinal spirit fire is found in the story of Zaccheus (described in the "Rays" of June, 1928.) All of these things have to do with the later development of the disciple, and are concealed within the various important events of the three years' ministry.

The act which was the most memorable was the raising of the Widow's Son of Nain, or the raising of Lazarus, both of which refer to the same occurrence and mean esoterically the giving of the first of the Great Initiations to humanity. These Initiations belong directly to Christ's regime. When we are accounted worthy to receive them, we shall be entitled to bear the name of *Christian* or *Christian Rose-Cross*, for our body will be the White Cross garnished with the roses of the purified blood. We shall then be able to speak the *lost Word*, which when found makes the Master Mason.

More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of.

—Tennyson.