

The Initiations of Man

The manifestation of the Christ consciousness and our much desired entrance into the Kingdom of God are the immediate tasks ahead, and embody our responsibility, opportunity and destiny. The Initiations by which this transformation occurs are clearly portrayed in the mystical experiences of the Master Jesus during his life on Earth, and are known as Birth, Baptism, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension. As we pass through these enlightening portals we are able to follow in the Master's footsteps. These upwardly ascending rites of passage are both actual and metaphorical and provide continually blossoming awareness to the disciple as he struggles to make his way toward the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. The existence and relevance of these initiations were demonstrated by Christ and Master Jesus, and exemplify the advancement of the humanly garbed soul as it passes through the stages of its spiritual journey and is faced with the trials and tribulations associated with blessedly unfolding expansions of consciousness. This knowledge is of great value and service to the aspirant on the path of spiritual awakening, to realize the experiences of the Master Jesus, including that of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, are reflected through the lives of all living beings. As the Christ principle unfolds in our heart and consciousness, we all must walk the Way of the Cross eventually to become soul-illuminated sons of God. Whether or not we are aware of the spiritual journey before us, all men ascend from one spiritual plateau to another on the wings of these mandatory and progressively enlightening paths of spiritual evolution.

At some point along the way of our long and arduous journey a call to service will beckon to the devoted seeker. We will learn to serve as Christ served, to love all men as he loved them, and by the strength of our spiritual dedication and the quality of our service, inspire all we meet so they too can serve, love and become members of the Kingdom. The need is for dedicated men and women who can understand the necessity of doing all they can possibly do in order to make their own unique contribution toward the uplifting and liberation of humanity. These dedicated servants devote their lives to expressing to the world the qualities of the citizens of the Kingdom of immortal souls: love, wisdom, kindness, compassion, uncompromising involvement and spiritually based freedom of hearts and minds.

Birth, the awareness of consciousness. **Baptism**, the initial experience with God-union which creates the desire to devote oneself fully to pursuing the spiritual path. **Crucifixion**, the overcoming of delusion through higher awareness so the Christ consciousness may be more fully expressed. **Resurrection**, the gradual restoring of our hearts and minds to "childlike" purity. **Ascension**, the progressive unfolding of man's spiritual nature toward increasingly broader visceral awareness which is the catalyst for deeper communion with God.

Transfiguration is the highest, all encompassing and voluntarily attainable Initiation. A supernatural glow takes place when one's thought has progressed to the point where the full force of divine mind

flows through his being. With regard to great Masters it is preordained; for the advanced devotee it can be achieved through unbridled and unrelenting dedication. Transfiguration was demonstrated by Masters of Christ's, Buddha's, Krishna's, and Moses' stature, and many others throughout the course of humanity. Not by coincidence, all Masters possess the Christ Consciousness by which they express the qualities of love, peace, light, purity, joy, guilelessness, innocence, obedience, humbleness, meekness, trust, bliss, wisdom and lack of egotism, body consciousness, selfishness and attachment. They have a super-conscious awareness of God's omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence and their own ability to serve as a conduit to manifest these divine powers for the benefit of mankind. Only when we become possessed of these qualities through prayer, meditation and self-discipline can we prepare ourselves to receive and manifest Christ Consciousness and demonstrate Transfiguration.

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