

The Star of Bethlehem in our hearts

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The coming of Jesus Christ was a gentle event in the midst of a tumultuous time. Jerusalem, Bethlehem, all of Israel were under enemy occupation and foreign rule. Soldiers were everywhere. The common man was forced to pay part of his precious little money to maintain the Roman occupation forces.

A special star shone. Gently, silently, brightly a star appeared for all to see. It did not appear, as in a dream or vision, to only one person. It did not appear for only a select few to find, educated scientists or astronomers of the day who studied the skies. The star radiated for anyone to see. Shepherds in the field saw it. Wisemen saw it.

Why didn't everyone see it? The star heralded the coming of the Christ, the spiritual ideal of God. Those who looked up, who were not so busy with themselves and their own plans, saw the new light. Those who were expecting a sign to show them the way to Christ saw the special star and identified it as the answer to their prayer. Those who were pure in heart, willing to be led and to follow, found the star. And so the shepherds and the Wisemen were led by the illumination of divine Spirit to the humble manger where the Christ-child lay. Of all the people in Bethlehem, in the countryside, in the capital, these few saw and recognized and came.

It takes spiritual sense to recognize spiritual things. Gentleness to respond to gentle events. Humility to follow not the crowd but spiritual intuition.

The Christ is here. At this Christmas time, the Christ is gently, silently shining. May we be willing to be still. Expectant to see a sign of spirituality amidst the neon and materialism. May we be wisemen and wisewomen and follow the leading of spiritual sense until we find the Christ.

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