

# Christmas and Human Unity

## Meta-Religious Significance of Christmas

**Yasuhiko Genku Kimura**  
© 2013 – 2024. All Rights Reserved.

Beneath and beyond the ever-present dialectic, or the eternal war, of contrary forces, humanity exists as human-unity in our universal spiritual identity and destiny. Jesus Christ is the ideal archetype of this spiritual identity and destiny. Astro-symbolically Christmas, his birth, portrays the universal spiritual identity, while Easter, his rebirth, depicts the universal spiritual destiny, of all humanity.

However, the significance of Christmas, of the festivity on December 25th, now celebrated as the Christian festival founded upon the nativity of Jesus Christ, precisely because of its universality, transcends and historically precedes the particular religious tradition called Christianity.

On the same day, the Babylonians celebrated the birth of Tammuz; the Persians the birth of Mithra; the Phrygians the birth of Attis; the Egyptians the birth of Osiris; and the Greeks the birth of Adonis. Also, during this period in December the Romans held their drunken Saturnalia in honor of Bacchus, the god of wine ('di-vine').

In fact, the Christian date of Christmas was set to conform to these pagan festivals only in 337 AD when Pope Julian I decreed it. To this day, the Eastern Orthodox Church does not comply with this date as the birthday of Christ. All in all throughout history there have been 136 different dates on which the various Christian sects have celebrated the birth of Christ.

Thus, the festivity on December 25th is originally not Christian but pagan, and more ancient and universal in origin. Therefore, as aforesaid, Christmas has a greater meta-religious spiritual significance beyond Christianity and is worthy of celebration by the whole of humanity because it is a celebration of the spiritual identity and cosmic unity of humanity.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the 21st day of December marks the winter solstice (from the Latin *solstitium*, "sun standing still") – the day when the Sun reaches its farthest point south. This is the longest and darkest night of the year.

According to ancient cosmology, it is at this time that the Sun's physical forces upon the Earth are at their minimum, while the Earth's psychic or astral forces are the most powerful. And the maximum of this psychic period is reached three or four days after December 21st, that is, 24th or 25th, just before the influence of the returning Sun is felt.

At midnight, at the cusp between the 24th and the 25th of December, when the Sun is directly under the Earth, and when the zodiacal sign of Virgo, the virgin, appears on the horizon, Jesus, the potential Divine Christ Consciousness, is born of a Virgin, to begin the evolutionary journey of life upon the cross of humanity towards its spiritual destiny, the divine *telos* – that is, the Rebirth (“birth from above”) or the Resurrection that is to be the realization of the human potential and the fulfillment of the divine promise that takes place on Easter.

This birth of Jesus Christ, this beginning of his life's journey, signals the dawning of the immaculate new year and symbolizes the light's (love's) eventual triumph over darkness. Thus, at midnight the Divine Christ Consciousness, immaculately conceived, is born of the womb of a virgin from the darkest of the dark.

When the mundane phenomenal world is at its darkest, the spiritual noumenal world is at its most luminous. The Luminous Numen presides over the world awakening and presages a new world aborning. The Cosmic Light illumines our path towards our divine destiny, towards our salvation and rebirth, towards the liberation and freedom and the felicity and beatitude of our soul.

This is the cosmic meta-religious significance of December 25th, now celebrated as Christmas. This is indeed a “holy night” because this is a solemn and sacred moment in nature, in the cosmic cycle, which we should observe with the same wonder, awe, and reverence with which we behold an eclipse and other wonders of the universe.

In Christianity, the immaculate conception and virgin birth of Christ (Son) is followed by the rebirth, the resurrection, of Christ (God) celebrated on Easter, which is also a pre-Christian tradition universally celebrated by different religious traditions with a profound cosmic meta-religious significance.

One of many such examples: the Phrygians (beginning around 8th century BC) celebrated the resurrection of the god, which was hailed by them as the promise that they too would issue triumphant from the corruption of the grave, that is, the physical death. This divine resurrection was celebrated on March 25,

reckoned as the vernal equinox by the people.

The spiritual significance of Christmas extends to the whole Christmas season and the whole season of winter. The Christmas season is to the year what the Sabbath is to the week, a time for spiritual reflection and regeneration. It is said that the nighttime is the daytime of the soul. The same is also true of the yearly cycle. The wintertime is the summertime of the soul. As summer is the time for physical activity, so is winter the time for spiritual activity.

John Milton once wrote (in effect) that he did not try to write in summer because his inspirations in winter were so much greater. In the wintertime the cosmic forces are with us for our spiritual illumination and therefore the wise use the season for their greater spiritual illuminations and creative inspirations.

Therefore, let us not waste this precious time for spiritual reflection, illumination and development under the pressure of banal commercialism prevalent in today's world by excessively indulging in our corporeal pleasures and glutting our physical appetites, nor by obligatorily giving material gifts to other people.

Let our giving be authentically spiritual in nature. Let our giving be the genuine expression of our love and appreciation. Let the form ("the gift") that carries our message of love and appreciation be most proper to our message that is beyond any form.

Alone let us each look deeply into his or her soul, so deeply that we can reach the innermost where our individual souls become one inter-soul in the inner bosom of the Over-Soul. Let us be illumined by the Light and Love of the Over-Soul. Let us illumine our world with our light and love. Let us together creatively think and imagine our shared future into existence in light and with love.

Christmas is the Festival of Light of one whole human race transcending any one religion or creed. Together we celebrate our cosmic spiritual identity and human unity, the light and love residing in our heart, and the common destiny that will take us all to the promised land of divine benediction and human singularity.

A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Yasuhiko Genku Kimura

