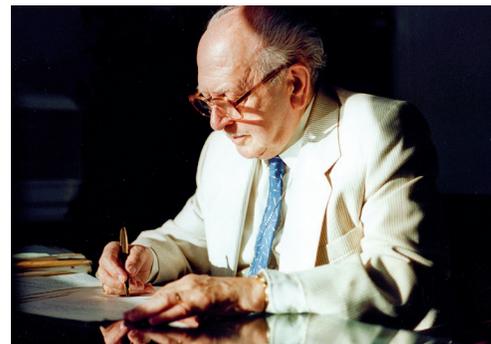


SO THAT JESUS BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM



Text by Raoul Auclair never published in the paper or review of the Lady's Work.

Like the two recently published articles, this third one also dates from 1971, and after the Annunciation and the Visitation, it presents the Birth of Jesus. With all the richness of his usual style, Raoul showed us how, in obeying Caesar, Mary and Joseph accomplished God's will and hastened the end of Caesar's empire.

– Editorial Staff

The true Light – the one of which all the other lights are but a shadow – the true Light – the one that enlightens every man because it is there, hidden, but alive and burning in the innermost depths of man's profoundness, an eternal lamp glowing in the shrine of the heart of his heart –, the Light of the Word which draws its brilliance from the Father's Light – *Lumen de Lumine* –, the Light came into the darkness. And the darkness is the world. And the world at that time was Rome.

Now, coming into the world, not to vanquish it, but to convince it; not to force it to submit, but to give it back – put it right side up so as to give it back to His Father – Jesus, from His mother's womb, was submissive to the world, submissive to Rome and to Caesar.

"In those days Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole world. Everyone went to register, each to his own town."

Let us consider Caesar's empire, this universe; the sun of Rome was illuminating all peoples and shining all the way to the far-off marches of the old world, Galilee.

Augustus spoke. And behold, right away, a very humble family in a very humble village was forced to leave its home, go through the mountains, cross the desert because he, Joseph, this poor man, was a descendent of David and he had to go and register in the land of his forefathers. And Mary, his wife, was pregnant and about to give birth!

Now, Augustus who governed the whole world, who spoke and all the earth listened, who commanded and all

the peoples obeyed, he obeyed God's word without realizing it, For it was necessary, as Yahweh had decreed and as the prophets had written it, that the Messiah Savior be born in Bethlehem. And so that Jesus would be born in

Bethlehem, that Mary and Joseph would go there, nothing less was required than Caesar setting the entire Empire on the move!

Caesar was more than a king. He was a god. He was honored on altars. And more precisely: he was the "Prince of the world" of that time.

Today, the Prince of the world is ruling once again and even more powerfully, more fearsome because he is more elusive, concealed, multifarious, omnipresent and so seducing! Never, no never, has the world been under the yoke of the Prince of this world to such an extent!

How can we overcome him?

We are not victorious over those with power through force since they are the ones who hold this power. What power, twenty centuries ago, could have gotten the better of Rome? There was

none. And no one thought there could have been one.

And yet, yes, there was, out there, very far away, a very simple man and a very gentle woman walking behind a donkey along the roads of Israel. And their footsteps, silent on the ground, echoed infinitely in heaven as though this was the rhythmic pounding march of legions attacking the Empire of the world.

It is true. And the Empire of the world fell that day because Mary, giving to Caesar what belonged to Caesar,



was obeying Caesar, and Caesar, without realizing it, was obeying God.

Mary, as a human being, was “free” to utter her “Fiat”. But as a subject of Rome, she was not free to disobey Caesar.

But what then does being free mean?

Freedom is not found in the hesitation between a yes or a no. Freedom is not a choice left to us. God has already chosen for us. He created us free so that we might “freely” say “Yes”. Only he who does God’s will is free; and the one who believes he can free himself from this takes on all the chains with which sin binds him.

Adam was free until the day he turned away from Yahweh’s will. After that, he was this convict, this slave, bound to the ball and chain of the earth.

But behold, today, the New Adam comes to set right in obedience what the first Adam upset in disobedience. Because God wanted man, fallen into the “no”, to get up again in the “yes”, the Word has come, today, to give a human “yes” to the Father’s love.

But why, him, God?

Adam’s “no” opened to man the abyss of death. Only an abyss can fill the abyss. Only the abyss of God could fill the abyss of death. Thus, God consented to be born so as to be able to die.

And there, that night, in Bethlehem of Judea, there was the first obliteration of God in this infinitely frail flesh of a newborn in Mary’s arms... He was there, defenceless, helpless, a stranger in this world He made but which got rid of Him... The world ruled by the Prince of this world... However, because that authority was just, and since this was the just chastisement for sin, He would bend to the authority of Caesar.

He obeyed Caesar from His mother’s womb. He obeyed Caesar in front of Pilate at the hour of the consummation.

Caesar was the master of His body. However, Jesus, “freely”, in His freedom as the Son of man, obeyed God by doing, as Scripture says, all His Father’s will.

Raoul Auclair

THE EPIPHANY OF THE “THREE LITTLE KINGS”

(Excerpts from a radio recording – by Raoul AUCLAIR)

That night, a night like all the other nights, and yet, one which would be the last night of the earth’s night without hope, the shepherds were sleeping in the field on the hillside where Booz, an ancestor of Jesus according to blood lines, met Ruth at the time of the barley harvest [cf. the Book of Ruth, chap. 4].

“Come on! Get up, shepherds!” a man in the middle of a great light said to them. “A savior is born unto you in the city of David!”

They got up and left. Since they had nothing else to offer but lambs, they brought lambs to Him who did not yet know He was the Lamb of God. (And they saw, in keeping with what had been told them, a newborn child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.) The shepherds bowed, adored and then withdrew, but not without having first greeted Madam the Virgin Mary who, looking so fresh and rested, seemed to them to be much more a fiancée than someone

who had just given birth.

The shepherds praised God for what they had heard amid the clouds, for what they had seen in the cave. And they were astonished that such a great Lord, who caused tremendous excitement in Heaven, would be something so weak on earth...

Now, while the donkey and the ox were tranquilly keeping watch here in Bethlehem, over there, in the East, there was feverish activity as camels were being loaded with all kinds of treasures. All of this because a entirely new star had appeared among the swarm of old stars. (And because the kings of those lands who were also astrologers and wise men had just recognized in this new heavenly body the star they knew was to come to announce the coming of the King of the world.) The star started moving. The Magi set out.... They travelled, following it, from hillside to hillside. That is how they reached Bethlehem.

Where the shepherds saw only a woman, very young and very beautiful, they, the Magi, who were wise men, already sensed the Virgin, all her splendor and all her mystery. Yes, already before them, the Immaculate, being both this ordinary woman and already before the beginning of the days, the One who was when nothing yet existed and who rejoiced in the presence of the Ineffable. (As she presently rejoices with a delight that is perfect, fulfilled and definite in the contemplation of the Ineffable which, at this moment, is covered with the flesh of her flesh!)

Yes, the Ineffable that had no limit, no becoming, no duration and was now there, on this day and for all days, limited, subjected to the unfolding of the days, under the grip of the hostility of a world [God] had created in gentleness and which He would have to recreate in pain and suffering.

King, contemplate! Here is the King of kings. This naked and shivering body,

this divested being infinitely deprived because stripped of his omnipotence in order to be subjected to the powerful ones of this earth, [a man] like all men, tremendously lost among the multitude of men. And who, in fact, saw Him? Only three kings. Three little kings. And not because they were kings but because they were wise men.

And one brought gold for Him who was the light, this gold which is solid light. And the second one brought myrrh for Him who would be victorious over death, myrrh which is a balm of incorruptibility. And the third one brought frankincense for Him who was "God made man", incense which is praise, honor and prayer.

Three kings, three little kings... Henceforth, all the kings of all the earth, from the East to the West, «will come, who have not yet come, but who will come, for that is the oracle. For such is the Epiphany. The Epiphany was not a feast day of that time, but for today. These kings, they brought the first fruits. But now is the time of the harvest, of the vintage, the season of the full granaries and wine cellars. The long procession of all the treasures of the earth. They were bringing the first fruits, they came as heralds of the coming, these little kings coming to meet the King of kings.

Three little kings to lead the march, and after them all the kings of the entire earth even if these latter have given up the scepter, but not the yoke. All those who think they are leading and who are being led, who are walking blindly but inevitably towards the goal where God is waiting for them. For in that time which has finally become the today, "darkness will cover the earth". And darkness is covering the earth. So, we must then believe that the time of the coming has arrived....

Already the new day, the great day about to rise is shining in this newly formed flesh. And three little kings of the earth, clothed with the glory of Sol-

omon, are paying homage to the King of kings being born in the delicateness of the lily of the fields: Gaspar, Melchior and Balthazar. And henceforth, in their wake, the long procession of the centuries. They will have to cover the entire earth, take a census of all the peoples, but behold, all are presently hastening from everywhere (Asia and Africa, America and the faraway



Polynesia). Listen! The news is spreading: He is coming! The rumour of the coming is growing, at the same time as the cry of agony of the Great Pan [*] is becoming fainter, blending into the distant murmur of the sea!... And it matters not if we are rushing there with still a few remnants of paganism on our hands and in our heads.

Men have been waiting for so long; for such a long time, men have been saying to God, "Thy kingdom come!" but they believed so little in what they were requesting, so that this kingdom could never come....

And yet, yes, the King is there, very

tiny of course and so frail. Who then will protect the King Jesus from the wrath of King Herod? Who will protect the King of the world from the raging fury of the Prince of this world? Only one: Mary! For the Father wills that the Prince of this world, who was introduced into this world by Eve, the woman, be driven out by the Woman, Mary....

But before all those kings, three kings first of all, three little kings whose Kingdom does not appear on geographical maps because they were chosen to represent all geography. Kings who will lead the march of the kings and who will cover the entire earth to take a census of the nations, inviting them to join in the procession. Now, since they had been walking for such a long time, the wealthy, the great ones and the powerful ones grew weary. So very far is this Kingdom which had been announced to them as being so close!...

The kings of the nations join the procession. Who then is attracting them and holding them there? This: the great work of the transmutation of the Light.

Soon, they will have been walking for two thousand years.

Since He took the form of a little child to come to us, is it not fitting that He should exact that we become like children to go to Him? God as child. God fully ac-

complished and with everything having to be done – fully accomplished in Jesus the head; everything having to be done in us, the members, so that we may reach the completeness of the age of the mystical body. If, in coming down to us, He willed to be born from the human womb of the Virgin Mary, then, we, men, in order to go back up to Him, must clothe ourselves with our flesh of light in the immaculate womb of the Immaculate. ■

[*] The god Pan, from Greek mythology, is a god of nature, the protector of shepherds and flocks.