

Candela



Newsletter of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc
Organisational Details are provided on the next page

DECEMBER 2011

ISSUE 66

Issue Theme ~ Gifts ~

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let's go on an imaginary journey...

Imagine you're the Creator before the dawn of creation. Time has little meaning for you at present, since you have forever to achieve whatever you wish so there's no need to mark time. You possess life, a vast ocean of love, infinite wisdom and unlimited power to take action. You're able to express yourself any way you choose. There's no parent, friend or rival to cause you to feel jealous, competitive or separate. Yet you feel some lack of companionship. The prospect of giving more attention to yourself no longer grabs you, so your thoughts become preoccupied with the frustrating absence of a like mind with which you can share your love. Where to find someone to resonate with, receive your bountiful love, benefit from your gifts and from your yearning to be useful?

Like the artist, you delight in expressing yourself, in using your gifts. Expressing beauty gives you immense satisfaction. Like the ultimate mathematician, you love the splendour of orderly patterns which reflect

your being. To convey a single theme in infinitely diverse ways brings you great joy. Like a master builder, you derive pleasure from constructing things that serve a functional use and achieve a meaningful purpose which supports the good of everything. Like the dancer and free child, creative playfulness brings a smile to your heart.

You know that other beings do not exist. You cannot clone yourself. Yet like a magician, you decide to create a realm consisting of an infinite number of folds from which can emerge numerous focal points through which you can share your life, wisdom, love and power of action, points which seem separate from each other.

** * continued on page 2 * **

MAIN CONTENTS

President's Message	Joe Vandermeer	1
The gift from Giving	Neville Jarvis	3
We can give gold, frankincense and myrrh too.	Julian Duckworth	4
Committee News		6
A Swedenborgian Understanding of Christmas		8
Readers' contributions		10
Two copies of this Newsletter are being sent to members as usual, the second for giving away.		

Next Issue – March 2012

Theme : " New beginnings "

Look out for our new edition of Candela in the New Year. We can all make a new beginning each day, or even each moment. We want to share some new ideas with you next year.

If you would like to contribute something on new beginnings or anything to do with newness, please send it to me by 20th February 2012.

Email to rduckworth@optusnet.com.au or by post to the registered office





SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION

of Australia Inc

ARBN 109 811 985

Registered Office:

Swedenborg Centre

1 Avon Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113

Tel: 02 9888 1066 Fax: 02 9888 1166

Email: saa@swedenborg.com.au

Website: www.swedenborg.com.au

National Committee Members:

Joe Vandermeer (President)

Ruth Duckworth (Secretary)

Neville Jarvis (Treasurer)

Dave Berrick

Robert Bryce

Caroline Neave

Jan Primrose

Carl Sarelus

Michael Chester (ex-officio)

Newsletter: Ruth Duckworth

Public Officer: Michael Chester

Please Note: The views expressed in this Newsletter are those of each contributor and do not necessarily reflect any particular position of the Swedenborg Association of Australia or its Committee.

Membership of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc. is open to anyone who wishes to pursue an interest in Swedenborg, the man, his science and his spiritual teachings.

For details on how to join, call (02) 9888 1066 or browse www.swedenborg.com.au, go to 'Organisation' in the menu and click on 'Membership.'

* * continued from page 1 * *

In order to give these focal points a sense of autonomy and freedom to act, to feel they possess a unique and independent 'self' similar to your own sense, you hide from each focal point the means by which your powers flow into it. You do not want them to be or feel mere puppets of mechanical obedience to your actions and wishes. Just like your own love and wisdom grew, you choose to allow theirs to grow by experimental discovery. For this you build them a vast and elaborate stage. On this stage they can act and reflect and so grow in wisdom, as they learn from the consequences of their actions and from the workings of this stage. All consequences of their actions obey laws you have specially designed for how their stage will operate. These laws reflect your love, wish, wisdom and sense of order. Although the laws set limits, these beings still



enjoy an immense freedom which you have provided and so feel averse to being constrained by consequences of actions and intentions that do not serve the best interest of the whole. This is part of the way you want them to learn and grow.

Each being is provided with gifts and opportunities unique to them that allow them to play a vital role in the harmonious operation of the vast community made up of individual beings. All together they form one grand companion being, which is what you seek to achieve.

You know that it's the freedom you have allowed them that will cause them to sometimes forget, stray, experiment and stumble in ways that are unhelpful to achieve your ultimate wish for companionship. Yet you permit and accept these transgressions as a condition of that freedom you granted them. You simply resign yourself to picking them up time and again, allowing them to try again to find your wisdom and love.

You deliberately don't design them as completed fulfilled beings, but to have something missing, a want, a need. You know that what was lacking in your own life gave you the great impetus, the conatus to begin this creative experiment. You reflected your own situation in your provision for them. You provide them with ample clues of your presence in subtle, circumstantial, indirect ways, being careful not to force them to adopt a belief that does not come from their

contemplation, love and experience. You allow the form and structure of things to symbolically provide clues leading back to you and to your ultimate wish. Their own form also gives clues to the overall goal you seek to satisfy, by giving them two separate forms expressing different parts rather than the whole. Your love and wisdom act in a unified way as one, as should they seek to unite their

expression of love and wisdom. This message you are forever trying to pass on to your creation through the symbolism of forms.

This is the part of the story where your own story begins...

On behalf of the committee may I wish you a very happy and enriching Christmas.

Joe Vandermeer



The Gift from Giving

by Neville Jarvis, Sydney

Before retiring two years ago, I was regularly asked what I would do and how I would fill my time after ceasing paid employment. A good number of suggestions were kindly offered from having more time to read and research, to writing about subjects dear to my heart from knowledge and experience acquired, to spending time on the golf course, painting (not walls and ceilings but on canvas which I had regularly mentioned) and the like. A busy working life of 40 plus years, often including hours over the weekend, hadn't allowed me to give much thought to that inevitable retirement period. I simply acknowledged the suggestions and carried on.

Every charitable act is a stepping stone towards heaven. - Henry Ward Beecher

The day arrived, one of my own choosing, and the reality of being in a whole new phase of life gradually dawned. Was it instant freedom as some had said it would be? Thankfully, there were plenty of jobs to be attended to around the home and a special retirement holiday was enjoyed in delightful Tasmania. Then an idea surfaced in my mind, one which had been embryonic over a long period – voluntary work. I had been fortunate through my life in learning and practicing a variety of skills which I believe enabled me to hold worthwhile positions in business and then helping individuals to find meaning in their lives (when managing the Swedenborg Centre – for those who do not recognise my name). These had provided a living and I had gained much personally over the years. Helping in my local community on an unpaid basis would enable me to directly give something positive with no strings attached.

When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die. - Eleanor Roosevelt

I have slowly become involved with four organisations – fund raising for the world's most well-regarded charity; a medical equipment pool entirely run by volunteers hiring out items at low-cost which patients need for a time following an operation; involvement in the local council's social day programs for the elderly; and latterly at Australia's oldest public building, managed by the National Trust, with guiding and

reception duties. A tight rein has to be kept on participation; the subtle and not so subtle pressure to give more of one's time continues and the ability to say 'no' is something which must be learned. The right balance between volunteering and life's other activities needs to be maintained.

It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving. - Mother Teresa

In two years, this has created a wonderful experience for me – meeting a whole new group of friendly, caring and knowledgeable people; seeing the gratitude of those who are helped (accepting thanks gracefully has been a challenge); picking up new skills; and learning about aspects of life and history that otherwise would have remained unknown. Decisions about what to do in this lifetime are essentially personal. The past two years have proved to me that giving and receiving are inextricably linked. And I sense that even in the short period, I have received so much more than I have given; the giving being at a more material level, the receiving much deeper. Truly an unexpected blessing!

For it is in giving that we receive. – St. Francis of Assisi

Swedenborg's teachings have meant much to me and I have, and am, trying to make them part of my being and existence. There is a long way to go. For me, the most important tenet found in those teachings relates to usefulness. Many quotations could be selected but here is one which sums up its giving and receiving aspects:

The angels in heaven get nothing but happiness out of being useful; and they receive it in proportion to their usefulness. So true is this that to them usefulness is what makes heaven. Secrets of Heaven ('Arcana Coelestia'): from paragraph 7038

Christ said: *Give, and it will be given to you (Luke 6: 38)* although in writing this article, I must beware of what he says in *Matthew 6: 1 – 4!*





WE CAN GIVE GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH TOO

By Julian Duckworth

A familiar part of the story around Christmas is that of the Wise Men's visit, following the star until it stayed over the place where the child was in Bethlehem. Then, with their declared intention of worshipping him, they went into the house and gave him their gifts, of gold, frankincense and myrrh. This trio of gifts might suggest that there were three Wise Men – which looks great on Christmas cards – but let's leave that debate well alone.

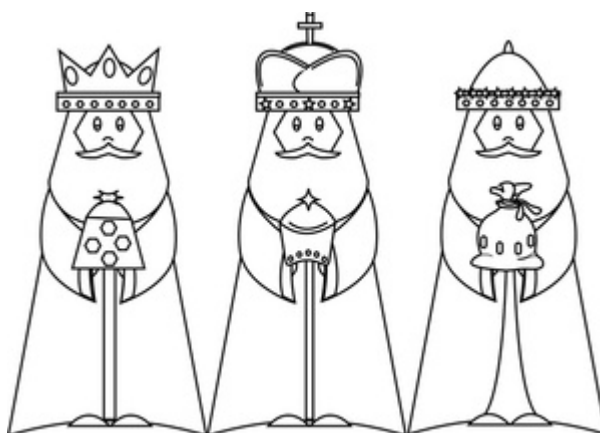
As with everything revealed to us – and Biblically, with the added help of correspondences – we can begin to make a series of connections or stepping stones between the story as it is told and its use to us in our life. So we are going to look at the idea that we too can give gold, frankincense and myrrh. Of course, we could literally do that if we had the resources and knew where to get them, but we're going to think about giving them at a deeper level. "Attitudinally" would be a good word to use here, and we will look at how each of the three gifts can morph into practical ways of being and sharing ourselves with people in the world in which we live.

The Three Gifts together

According to Swedenborg there is a trinity in everything (such as form, substance and use) so it is going to help if we look at the three gifts together first and find some practical things for us.

We are all part of this life that is always going on around us. We experience many different things in life and we have regularly changing relationships with it all. Sometimes it's great. Sometimes it's intriguing.

Sometimes it's difficult. Any one of those three can come upon us almost out of the blue and change the state we are in, almost like a roller-coaster. Sometimes the change comes because of certain happenings out there – circumstances – and sometimes they come along with noticeable mood swings when nothing outside of us has been involved in the change.



When life is great... let's flesh that idea out a bit. Things are going according to plan. Sales increase. You are fit. Someone remembers your birthday. Life feels good and looks good, and that is very much like gold. It gleams and throws the light back out reflectively. The golden sun, full and overhead, brings out all the vibrant colours in everything. You feel animated, motivated and it is a precious gift.

When life is intriguing... this is quite different and independent of good or not so good events. It could be the world of synchronicity, where strange connections and meeting-points make themselves felt but you can't say why. It could be a dawning thought in your head that just seems incredibly important to you right now. Or it might be one of those startling paradoxes, such as the idea that if we seek happiness, we won't find it. These are frankincense-like moments for us where the smoke, like thought, rises upwards as if it being drawn towards some higher source.

When life is difficult... sudden sickness maybe, or not enough motivation, or you have run out of available time. These things happen! When they do, we tend to wrap ourselves in a cloak of self-preservation or even self-pity. And in spite of the fact that we tell ourselves to snap out of it, we need our time of conservation and convalescence. Myrrh embalms and preserves lifeless bodies

– our coping time, as part of the healing process.

These three aspects can be meaningfully applied to other areas of life – to our idea about what it must be like to be any other person than us. People have glows about them – gold – people have ways that we just find intriguing or mystifying – frankincense – and there is not a single

person around who is not faced in some way or other with hardship and loss – myrrh. We can draw on gold, frankincense and myrrh to understand how it is in our relationships, in which all three gifts come to the fore and help us to work through what's needed at particular times.



You may find a few other areas in your life or in life generally where the same principles of variety and change show themselves. All three of them combine together to make for good gifts, and who would really want nothing but gold in their life?

Gold

Now, let's take a look at some of the properties in each of these three things. Gold is a precious metal that has been fished-for over centuries and it's now the set standard of most economies. How come? It is rare and it usually comes from under the ground so it is hidden, but not always.



It exists as it is in gold flakes and nuggets, unlike other metals like silver which need to be refined as ore. It's a warm colour, and it is soft and spreadable as gold leaf, and, wonderfully, it does not tarnish or blacken. So gold stays gold! Small wonder then, that it has been used as the symbol of perfect love which involves warmth, constancy and reflection out into life.

Frankincense

The aroma of burning frankincense is said to represent life itself and one of its chief qualities is the speed and lightness of how it rises upwards. It's the resin of a Boswellia tree, a very ordinary straggly-looking tree which offers up this amazing gum from within. Therein is a touch of mystery. And today, frankincense – which can even be chewed – is being found to be beneficial for a huge range of complaints, including depression, healing wounds, air purification, germ control, and recently, it has been having beneficial effects on some brain tumours. Its aroma is balsamic, lemony, with conifer undertones.



Myrrh

Myrrh is another resin taken from small thorny trees which grow best on dry, arid, stony ground. The bark is slashed and the resin bleeds out profusely, coagulating rapidly into large waxy forms which darken over time. Its ancient use has always been in embalment and corpse preservation. Unlike frankincense, it is inedible because it has an extremely bitter taste and yet its perfume is rich and almost

intoxicating. It is used in many cultures' medicines for the heart and liver and it is apparently able to lower bad cholesterol and raise good cholesterol. It has a long religious association with death and the word 'myrrh' is the same origin as Mary or, older, Miriam, which means 'bitterness, grief' but also 'fragrant', sweet-smelling'.



Somewhere in that apparent contradiction is the clue to the place of hardship or loss in human life.

It is all too easy to table these three gifts which the Wise Men presented to the Christ child as the representatives of our life's offerings to God –

The good of love in celestial life

The good of love in spiritual life

The good of love in natural life

What we would do better with this is to go further with it, and, in some way that is meaningful to us, incorporate the qualities of gold as described, and of frankincense and of myrrh, into our spiritual practice as we honour the divine presence in our midst.

God has given freedom not only to man but also to every beast, and indeed something analogous to freedom to inanimate things, a gift to be received by all according to their own nature; moreover, He provides good for all, but it is the recipients who turn that good into evil.

The sun provides light and heat for all, but recipients like the plants of the earth, receive these in different ways; the useful tree and shrub in one way, and the thorn and bramble in another; or the harmless herbs in one way and the poisonous in another.

In like manner the Lord enters by influx into every man with spiritual heat and light, which are in essence the good of love and the truth of wisdom; but man receives them according to the direction in which he turns either towards God or towards himself.

True Christian Religion 491



Secretary's Report

Ruth Duckworth

We held out Annual General meeting on Friday 23rd September. The new committee was elected and it as follows.

President ~ Joe Vandermeer

Treasurer ~ Neville Jarvis

Secretary ~ Ruth Duckworth

Rob Bryce

Dave Berrick

Jan Primrose

Caroline Neave

Carl Sarelius

We held our first committee meeting in November with Dave Berrick who lives in Alice Springs attending by skype link up. The committee is keen to be of service to our wider membership and if you have any ideas of ways we could serve you please contact us at he registered office or to the Secretary at rduckworth@optusnet.com.au

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Deborah Martin Murphy

Russell Passfield

Robert Bryce

Mr George Poulos

+++++

Introducing our new committee members

Dave Berrick – Alice Springs

Hi, I began reading ES in about 1983 after seeing a small ad in the Sydney Morning Herald that said

"Searching for life's purpose? Read Emanuel Swedenborg." I took to it like a dog to a bowl of water on a hot day and read everything available. Then I put it away for a number of years with the thought that I would pick it up again later in life when I thought I would appreciate it more. So a few years ago I began reading it all again and am currently into the vol. 10 of the AC.

I have received so much from the Lord through ES that I am happy to be given the opportunity to give back in whatever small way I can to assist in bringing about His coming. Heaven knows there is nothing else that will save the day. So thanks to everyone for allowing me to serve on the committee.

Robert Bryce –Sydney

My name is Robert Bryce. I am immensely grateful to the Lord for Emanuel Swedenborg and his labours and dedication in bringing forth the body of writing he has left the world. My personal journey through his works started in 1987 and I have sought nourishment ever since from his writings in my quest to love and understand our Lord and live accordingly.

I originally trained as a shipwright and now work as



an engineer in the maritime industry. I hope that my personal and professional experience will benefit my contribution to the

work of your committee.

CAROLINE NEAVE – Sydney

I live in Sydney, the single parent of a teenage boy, as well as being keeper of a rather large menagerie. One dog, two birds, several goldfish in outdoors ponds and bathtubs as well as indoor tanks, a marine aquarium and a 3 metre carpet python. I think this nurturing streak must be my chief love. It also means I need to feel loved and nurtured myself, and being so warmly welcomed into the Committee has been a great boon for my emotional and spiritual development. Thank you.

For some of us, involvement with the Swedenborg Association provides an opportunity to feel part of a community even though many of the links to that are privately experienced. Reading Candela, borrowing from the library or stocking up our own bookshelves are great ways of belonging. Not everyone can take part in the group activities but we can all feel a shared sense of purpose.

Membership of the Committee requires me to take that next step towards commitment, and rewards me with renewed energy and focus. Write statements perhaps, but a definite obligation to "put my money where my mouth is".



MY BOOK REVIEW



Wish list from Michael Chester

Would you like to have a go at writing a book review for one of the books at the Swedenborg Centre? Here are some titles that I would like reviews for. Please contact me for further information.

michael@swedenborg.com.au

A book review on Amazon for George Trobridge, *Swedenborg: Life & Teaching*.

A book review on Amazon for Emanuel Swedenborg, *Charity: the practice of neighborliness*.

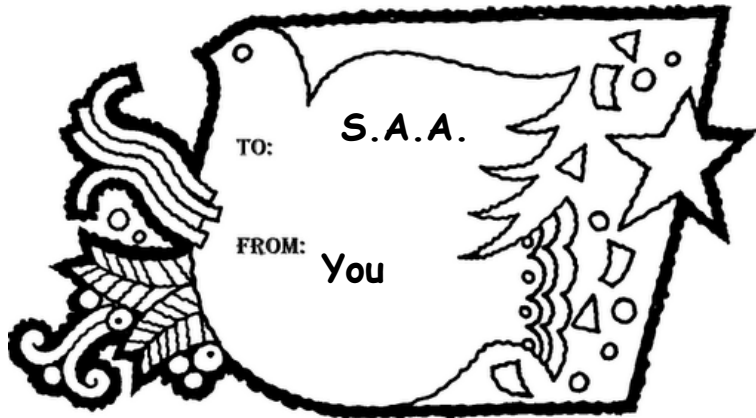
Receive book reviews on any of Dr Groves' books for later inclusion to the www.swedenborg.com.au website. Send to info@swedenborg.com.au with Book Review in title.

More reviews on any of the Wilson van Dusen books listed on Amazon.

These two books on Amazon

George Trobridge: *Swedenborg: Life & Teaching*

Charity: the practice of neighborliness



Do you have a gift that you can offer to the Swedenborg Association of Australia? Could you explain an idea from the writings in every day terms? Are you a poet, an artist, photographer or do you have brilliant computer skills? Or maybe you could take up Michael's offer to write a book review. Do contact us if you would like to help.



Did you know that our President Joe Vandermeer is a very keen photographer? I love this photo of him, taken by Caroline Neave.
Editor



A SWEDENBORGIAN UNDERSTANDING OF CHRISTMAS

By Wayne Kasmar ~ Sydney

At Christmas time I often think about the radically different way that Swedenborg explains the way everything is. His explanation of how God actually goes about creating all things is entirely new when compared with the notion that many people assume is the truth of the matter. Because it is talking about such a fundamental thing, this new way of seeing things allows us to see everything in a new light, including what God's incarnation over 2000 years ago was about.

There is a sense of mystery surrounding the Advent of Christ. For many there has never really been a satisfying explanation of it. Using the alternative ideas we find in Swedenborg's writings, however, it is surprisingly easy to explain it in a clear, rational and satisfying way.

The conventional idea of how God approaches the creating of everything is to imagine that he essentially brought everything into existence at some point in the past in a single great act of creation. Thereafter he did not need to provide any more creative power as he had invested his creation with the ability to continue existing in and of itself.

Swedenborg challenges this belief system. He stated that God creates all things moment to moment, and were he to ever, even for an instant, withhold his creative power from something, that something would immediately and simply cease to exist.

I personally have come to believe that Swedenborg's statement can be legitimately interpreted in seeing God as being what I call the Cosmic Author. Just as an author maintains his fictional world in his imagination; so does Swedenborg's God of perpetual creating. Should an author stop thinking of his fictional world, it simply ceases to exist in exactly the same way as Swedenborg explains the universe would cease to exist should God's conscious awareness of it be somehow taken away.

The richness and clarity of this new way of looking at creation gives a tremendous sense of wonder to all the other things that

Swedenborg says. It really animates his whole system of thought into a warm and living marvel. Gone is any sense of it being a rather dry intellectual construct. It is now a compelling drama, and never more so than with the coming of God on earth.

Whilst there are difficulties surrounding the Christmas story, the actual Advent was accomplished in a very simple manner. The Cosmic Author was able to simply write himself into the story that he was writing about humanity on earth. Let's first look at the reason why he came to earth at all.

Any author has in mind where his story is going, and naturally so does the Cosmic Author. Right from the beginning he had in mind that the human race would develop and change just as individual human beings do. Just as an individual grows up and goes through stages of mental development, the human race went through ages in its history when it developed in its ability to understand God and its own relationship with him.

The first three such ages correspond to the three ages of childhood when successively the emotional part of the person is primarily developed, then the mental part, and lastly the physically active part. As babies, we basically soak up and experience love. After we acquire speech we then undergo the most intensive period of learning in our lives. Then, from about the age of seven, our understanding has reached a point where we have acquired a level of responsibility that allows us to go relatively free of adult supervision to explore the world and interact with it.

Corresponding with these stages are the ages of the human race

when people related to God firstly through the emotions, secondly their mental life, and lastly, their outer life of activity. All three ages ended up badly when people sought to take selfish advantage of the blessings they had been given; in much the same way a child is prone to do.

This brought things to a crisis. As a person is made up entirely of these three levels of life, there were no further levels to which God





could appeal to the human race to live spiritually. All three parts of the collective human person had become thoroughly natural and worldly. On the level of individual human life, the balance of spiritual influences from heaven and hell, which when striking an equilibrium makes human free will possible, was on the verge of being lost. This meant that people on earth were starting to be forced to act wrongly and speak falsely no matter how much they felt like doing otherwise.

Generations of those from all the three ages of mankind had passed into the spiritual world and made their homes in hell and were in such numerical strength that their influence on their descendents on earth was overwhelming. Only God was powerful enough now to do anything to bring them in line so that they would not be directly challenging the influence of the angels within the minds of people.

But this presented God with a problem. Were he to approach the hellish spirits directly they would end up being destroyed. Their love of evil and falsity would be annihilated by contact with and exposure to his infinite love and wisdom. And as their love is their very life, consequently they themselves would be destroyed.

As Cosmic Author, God could no more destroy the spirits of hell than he could the angels of heaven. An author loves all the characters that feature in his stories. He might not like the way they personally think, speak or act, but as integral parts of his stories, and children of his creative imagination, he loves them all.

So if he could not approach the spirits of hell, he had to let them approach him. If he were able to enter the world that he was creating, as though he was just another human being, the hellish spirits could draw close to him, through the human nature he had taken upon himself. Because human nature had hit rock bottom at that time, it could completely veil the divinity deep within him.

In this way the spirits of hell could safely draw close to him and plant in his mind the sort of destructive and malignant suggestion that they regularly do in our minds. Whenever he would be able to resist the alluring charms of selfishness and self-centredness that prove so attractive to our lower minds, he would break the spell that the hells had cast over humanity.

By allowing himself to repeatedly undergo this experience of temptation he could gradually undermine the confidence of the hellish spirits and their ability to control human lives. So he wrote himself into the story for this reason.

But it was not as simple as that. To allow the hells to draw close to him and to cause him truly agonising episodes of temptation, he had at such time to be completely unaware of his divinity. Consequently there was always the very real possibility that he could actually give in to the temptations and the redemption of mankind would be lost. If he were to give into just one small temptation it would be the start of a decline that would not stop until it had deteriorated completely. Because the human nature that he had taken on was so natural and worldly, having passed through the decline of the three ages, the hells would hold all the aces in this game.

So as the Author of the story of man he had to consider how he himself would react to every little situation if he were an ordinary human on earth at this time of spiritual destitution. He had to ask himself, "What would I do in this situation?" or "How would I react should that occur?" for every little thing that would happen to him if he himself were introduced as a person into the world that he had created (and was still creating) in his imagination.

By ensuring everything that he thought, said and did accorded with the divine love and wisdom deep within him, Jesus Christ, the one God of Creation, but also the Son of God (in the same way a character that an author creates is that author's child) was able to pull off the impossible. He never gave in to a single temptation. Even though every time he was in the temptation state he had no awareness of his own divinity, he stayed true to his dedication to live according to God's ways.

As he became older he started to have more conscious awareness of his divinity until toward the end of his life he was almost always aware of it. It was now only during times of temptation that he felt himself totally human and prey to the hells. But when he refused to miraculously come down from the cross and thereby effectively force people to worship him in awe, he finally achieved his goal of completely and permanently breaking the power of the hells to interfere with human free will on earth.

Only through Swedenborg's writings has the world been able to properly understand what really happened when God became incarnate some 2000 years ago. And perhaps it is only now with a more wholistic way of thinking that we can begin to understand what happened. I am sure that by seeing God as a Cosmic Author, some of the mystery of what Christmas really means will become clearer.





TOAST ON THE EVE OF EPIPHANY

By Micheal O Siadhail

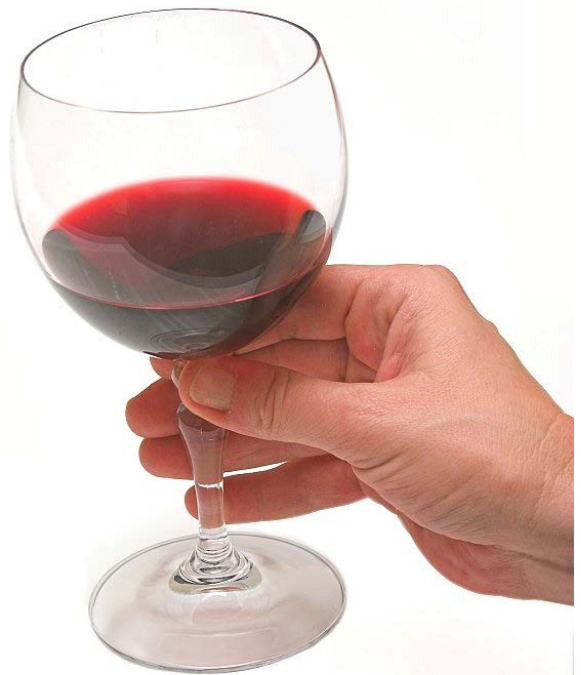
*Where is the star that signals in the east?
Tonight I am both adult and child;
I shape and plan and still am an unleashed
Tenant of my clay, never master of my history.
Ambitious and humble, I am reconciled
To bear this double witness to a mystery...*

*O give us our innocence, all green and eager
To the God of renewal, I raise this glass.*

(Sent in by Claire Dunne)



A gift should surprise, never be predictable. Or taken for granted – for thought, however fleeting accompanies each and every offering. (Yes, even socks or flying ducks for the wall!) Gifts arrive in a variety of forms – not always traditional or neatly packaged for a birthday, anniversary or seasonal celebrations such as Easter or Christmas. They take on the intangible, whereby materialistic values no longer apply. They represent the very nature of what we are and what it means to be human. The gift of a newborn, or life, of family, of time, of courage in face of adversity, of forgiveness to self and others, of compassion, of faith and of Church – where we gather to make “collect calls” to the Creator. One should never forget love – for love is the gift of oneself. Simon Guthrie, Sydney



THE WAY TO A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

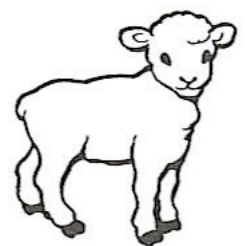
*To leave the old with a burst of song,
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
To forget the things that bind you fast
to the vain regrets of the year that's past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not worth while of the days grown old;
To dare go forth with a purpose true,
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother and sister along the road,
To do their work and lift their load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
Is to have and to give a HAPPY NEW YEAR.*

(Found by Michael Chester)

Swedenborg's words and terms

Innocence

The Latin root means harmless. Spiritual innocence is an inner willingness to be led by the Lord rather than by self. This quality is adjoined to the person and serves to help lead the person to heaven.





Discounted Items for the Quarter

As a reader of **Candela**, if you order the following titles in the December to February 2012 period, you will receive approx. 25% off the retail price (*while stocks last*). (see the discounted price and postage on the form below) Complete the Order Form (you can copy it) and return it to the Swedenborg Centre or phone on 02 9888 1066 and mention this notice.



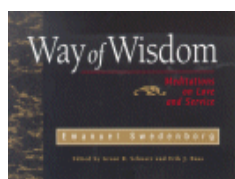
How I would help the world

by **Helen Keller**

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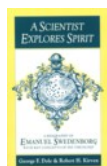
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