

## Priest 2

Just before the start of last Sunday's service, our dear Temple sister Nashoma Carlson transitioned from this plane to the next in her quiet, classy, mindful way. Nashoma was a bright light, a wonderful friend, and a mentor to many of us. Today, in honor of her touch in our lives, we will hear the final lesson in Volume 2 of the Temple Teachings, which talks about Messengers from God and the importance of each individual's daily labor on our mutual evolutionary path. Bless you on your way, dear Nashoma.

### LABOR

The power of the Sun surges through all of its creations. From its inner work of the winter solstice, it brings forth renewed greater glories at the vernal equinox. Each cycle of regeneration is eloquent witness to the law of reincarnation in all kingdoms of nature, spiritual as well as material.

The new forms of life are hopefully greater manifestations of the timeless perfection that is the ever-existing Mind of God. It endows the various kingdoms of its nature with renewed impulse toward its own perfection.

In the human kingdom these impulses, these ideals of divinity, are as yet but poorly accepted. These fragments of God are abused and mutilated and crucified on the cross of their violation — by hatred, greed, passion, lust, and all unbrotherliness. Yet even from those abuses are the qualities and principles of God reborn. Just as each individual's daily life is the result of their past lives, so will future incarnations reap the effects of those actions today.

Every basic religion of this humanity from its opening cycle has symbolized divine guidance by the descent of its Avatars, Angels, and Messiahs to the level of Their younger brothers and sisters — our human family — to endow us with the light and power needed to bring us closer to the Godhead. This has been universally symbolized as the crucifixion of the Christ, of His spirit, by man's inhumanity.

This is not simply an abstraction. Each day's labor by each individual is made possible only through the daily labor of all who have gone before on this evolutionary path, through the building toward a better life or the destruction of it, the incorporation of the Golden Rule on the material plane of existence or the rejection of it. The Golden Rule has ever been the first law or truth or principle of every Avatar.

Let us enter the silence as we meditate on these words. **Priest 2 sits.**

**Priest 1 stands:**

Every Great Leader comes to us when we need Him most, when the heart is sorest pressed, vision the dimmest, pain the greatest, during the symbolic severity of winter.

This sacrifice of Love and Service is made by Them to enable us to rise above our own despair. It is not a salvation by vicarious atonement, for we alone must account for our own conduct. Nature itself demands complete restitution for our use or abuse of all its kingdoms, substances, forces. No God, no Angel can restore any imbalance for us. We must do it ourselves.

And so, year after year, age after age, wondrous Messengers from God have come to us from Their celestial heights of evolution in the long dark winter of our defiant abuse of Their Golden Rule. And They show us how to transmute and redeem that very discontent itself — by endurance, sympathy, courage — into self-responsibility. Our separateness becomes unity, our war becomes peace, our earth becomes heaven. Transcendent glory is resurrected in the springtime growth of consciousness reborn in the light of the new Spiritual Sun.

Humankind cannot remain changeless. We must either advance or retrogress. All change of whatever form is achieved only through the destruction of the old form, hopefully to be replaced by a more sensitive awareness in a new form. This response to immutable law is unrecognized in the pain and suffering that accompanies the change. In our loneliness we cry out, forsaken. When our consciousness of change becomes aware of its newly won form of greater bonds with all others and with God, we sing with all Nature of the glory of God's Messengers.

Let us enter the silence as we meditate on these words.

**Priest 1 sits.**