

## *The Second Stanza of the Great Invocation*

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The Second Stanza repeats the words used in the first “From the Point of Light/Love within the Mind/Heart of God, Let light/love stream forth into the minds/hearts of Men. Let Light/Love descend on earth.

We are, with the words of the Second Stanza calling on the presence of Love and merging it in essence with the presence of Light. Light can be seen as intelligence, love can be seen as compassionate empathy. When they are blended together we get that rare human being who is soundly grounded on this earth and sees it through the acquired lens of inspired perception. This lens, spun from the sturdy threads of the soul, sees humanity’s tapestry as it truly is, a creation of evolution in constant motion.

Last week we heard such a beautiful presentation on the evoking of light, an essence of the mental plane often associated with the Buddha. Now we turn to the essence of love so often associated with the Christ. These two brothers, pioneers, way-showers are incomplete without the other. And so, one follows the other until their paths cross not be chance on a city street but by design inside the physiology of us all.

The last line of this stanza captures most of my attention. “May Christ return to earth.”

And I will be honest. I used to wonder why we should long so intently for the return of the Christ. The lion’s share of the work associated with preparing the way for the return of the Christ figure must be shouldered by a load-weary humanity. It simply seemed like too much to ask.

I thought that when the Christ returns we’d probably get it all wrong anyway – mucking up the new gospels that would need to be written and creating general chaos between religious ideologies. In the end, my conclusion was that perhaps the Christ should just stay home. These were my thoughts a while back. Years down the road I have come to understand the longing.

This return will not be the same as the last time. Humanity is older, somewhat wiser and technology has enabled lightning fast communications. And this time, he’s not trying to convince us of anything. We will have figured right action out on our own.

When He returns, it’s said that his earthly presence will generate a kind of explosion of activity reflecting “his” type of consciousness. One result will be the liberation in humanity of the quality of intuitive love. Another result will be that the concept of, and actions associated with, “hate” will be abolished. The world will instead be populated by groups formed of the multitudes of men and women who will, with utter devotion, promote goodwill and right human relations. So great will their numbers be, that they will become the most influential

force in the world. This is what the presence of the Christ will bring, and given the current situations on earth, there are very good reasons to long for it.

It's said that He recites the Great Invocation daily. Imagine Christ saying the words "Let Christ return to earth" day after day after day. The power of HIS wish to return surely electrifies ours. He wants to take the intelligence of his brother and mix it with his own essence to create what we call loving understanding and he *wants* to set it loose on the sphere of the earth where it will touch and alter all life and matter, sweeping it forward to its intended expression.

So, how can we move this along? What has to happen first? It was decided by the Christ in 1945 that before he could return, humanity had to bring about the initial stages of establishing right human relations and the principles of sharing. The **Initial** stages.

Aren't we there?

Look at the fact that the United Nations exists – and look at its key topics of constant consideration: Human Rights, Humanitarian Aid, Disarmament, Global Food Distribution, Democracy, Peacekeeping.

Look at the outreach coming from the millions of religious centers of all beliefs – including volunteers traveling to places of crisis, global work with the homeless and parentless, relief for refugees, the building of wireless networks and distribution of technology so that all the earth's people can be educated.

Look at the writings coming from the millions of educational institutions around the world extolling Goodwill and tolerant understanding. Look at the growing global movement towards acknowledgement of the exquisite value of life. Look at an East Indian holy woman named Amma who rose, through utter devotion to the principle of love, to become the chair of the C20 Summit in Jaipur, India. This summit merges the people's aspirations with the world leaders at G20 Summit in New Dehli. #youarethelight

All these things reflect the emergence in the human consciousness of right human relations, sharing, compassion, global awareness - and these are just reflections of a few. There are millions.

So are we there? Is it time?

There is a story from the Bhagavad Gita which was shared with me by the Sisters of the Bhrama Kumaras who have headquarters just down the hall from us here in New York. I'll paraphrase it here.

The story goes that demons were harassing devotees of God and these demons were especially disruptive when the people were in prayerful ceremony. This made them pray even more intently but it didn't seem to slow the demons down. Finally, the spiritual leaders called out to

God saying "Aren't you seeing what is happening down here? We can't even worship you in peace without these demons trying to stop us. Can't you intervene?"

The deity replied "Do you see this Urn? It is the Urn of sin. When the Urn of sin is full, then can I intervene. Just a little bit more...."

We are just on the verge. The urn of sin can hold just the tiniest bit more. And behind it, stands the Christ calling for his own return.

From where we now stand, holding the higher human virtues solidly in view for all to see, we can confidently set our eyes to the horizon. It's time. Where should we look? Matthew from the gospels guides us.

"For as lightning that comes from the East, is visible even in the West, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."

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