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THE MASTERS AND THE PATH OF OCCULTISM

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The Masters and the Path of Occultism by Gottfried de Purucker.

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The northern European peoples had a habit of celebrating the Easter-Festival of Spring by sending eggs, colored or otherwise, as gifts to each other. It was a pagan custom among them long before the Christians adopted it. Why, we may well ask? Out of the apparently inanimate and senseless egg comes a living being. *Omne vivum ex ovo*, "Every living thing springs from an egg," be it small or be it great. The egg, therefore, was a *symbol* of the resurrection of life, this mystic, symbolic idea centering around the germ of life enclosed within a relatively senseless encasement or body, which is the egg; but that germ within the egg is a living and working entity; growing: wonderfully, mysteriously, marvelously: in time assuming the form and the content of the individual to be born from the egg; and one day the egg bursts and the entity comes forth -- the fledgling, the chick, the human being; for the human life-germ is a cell -which is an egg -- also.

Sending an egg was therefore a symbolic message, and was meant to say: "Brother, with this gift of the symbolic egg, symbol of the new life to be, I hope that you too will soon break the infolding 'egg' of the lower self, the personal man; and that, having broken the shell of your personal being, you may step forth as the Master within." It therefore meant: Seek initiation; break the shell of the lower personal man and step out as the living germ to be developed into an entity fit to live in the larger world of the spiritual. The egg, therefore, mystically and symbolically, represented the 'birth' of the living Christ -- his resurrection from out the tomb of the material encasement.

The personal man must be 'crucified,' i.e., 'slain' -- metaphorically speaking -- in order that the Christ within may resurrect or arise. Why not ally yourself with your own inner divinity, the real spiritual and intellectual essence of yourself? There is the source of all Wisdom and of all Knowledge. In becoming at one with this inner source you attain the Great Peace. You reach the Great Quiet, and mighty strength. You touch the vast reservoir where are stored up all the greatest forces of the Universe; for the very heart of each one is in actual fact the heart of the Universe -- a 'heart' which is not localized but is everywhere, called the 'heart of the Universe' because it is the central focus of consciousness of every entity that exists.

The Pathway of Beauty, the Pathway of Peace and Strength, the Pathway of the Great Quiet, is within. This is the Pathway that the great Sages and Seers of all the ages have taught. Follow that Pathway. It will lead you to the heart of the Sun, the Master and Guide of our Solar System. And later, if you follow it, it will conduct you to a destiny still more sublime. Yet that sublime destiny is only the beginning, only the beginning of something grander; for evolution, growth, expansion of consciousness, go on for ever: and when the Theosophist becomes the Occultist, when theory is exchanged for practice, then the Path of Occultism is discovered to be this Path which goeth onwards for ever.
