



The Clarion

CLASSES ON ZOOM.US:

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For the Secret Password, call

Peggy Heubel at (510) 926-2869

1st Sunday, December 6,

**1:00-2:30 TS : The Secret
Doctrine Dialogues**

(facilitator Henry Rutgers)

2nd Sunday, December 13,

**1:00-2:30 TS: Fundamental
Theosophy (facilitator Peggy**

Heubel)

3rd Sunday, December 20,

**1:00-2:15 LCC: Hidden Side
of Christian Festivals**

**(facilitator Deaconess Imelda
Brown)**

4th Sunday, December 27,

**1:00-3:00 TS Hermeticism:
The Golden Thread**

(facilitator Barbara Penninton)

**6:00 TS: Evolution of
Higher Consciousness**

(facilitator Peggy Heubel)

Remembering the Deer Mother of Winter

December 2020

Normally we meet at 332 Harbour Way in Richmond, close to 880; just 4 blocks from Bart.
Parking in back. We look forward to seeing you there when the pandemic is over.

Winter Solstice: Darkness Concedes to Light

By Barbara Penninton



A time of pain and withdrawal that produces something joyfully inconceivable, like a monarch butterfly masterfully extracting itself from the confines of its cocoon, bursting forth into unexpected glory." — Gary Zukav

In the Northern hemisphere, the Winter Solstice provides a mysterious opportunity for the forces of deep darkness to impel the soul into magnificent light. In this wondrous process celebrated throughout the world with greenery, arrays of stone and blessed candlelight, we are invited to jettison decaying, dark baggage and welcome the higher vibrations of brilliant light.

Winter is not a season
It's an occupation. Sinclair Lewis

The sun is in its highest position on the day of the Winter Solstice, and the earth is tilted away from the sun. The dark, cold night is the longest and the brightness of the day is the shortest. In some traditions, benevolent forces that work in the hidden realms are most powerful during the longest night. Whispers in the dark from wise ones suggest sacred secrets.

In deep meditation on the night of the Winter Solstice
Amidst the dark, daunting long shadows
Discover a play of invincible regeneration
Greet joyfully the glorious spirit of Spring.



At the Winter Solstice we collectively enter the dark night inherent in cycles of nature. It's a collaborative opportunity to go deep into psyche with the reassuring promise that in the rhythms of nature, light will be victorious.

Winter Solstice is a time of ending and a time of beginning
A powerful, wondrous interval for realizing immortality
A day to be forgiven and to be forgiving
A time to start anew and awaken to eternity

In the Winter Solstice is an invitation to willingly take stock of what is unnecessarily stored in deep recesses of the psyche. We all have aspects of drama locked in old memory chests. These are forms of kama-manas (distorted story bonded with primal desire) so painful we are reluctant to extract them out of dark recesses.

Nature is, at the Winter Solstice, presenting a long quiet night to extract shadow images and offer them to the healing power of the light. Even though old issues of shame, hurt, judgment, guilt and blame, are neatly hidden in a designated chest in the attic and tightly locked, the distorted energy affects our lives.

That from which we turn away grows stronger.
Joan Woodridge

If our personal baggage causes a sagging heaviness of depressed energy, this distress could trigger an involuntary Dark Night of the Soul.

If the spirit is burdened by the habits of old, it will unnecessarily struggle to come close to the Divine Union. The soul feels the torment of being forgotten by God. The despair may be sufficient to lose faith in the spiritual journey.
Saint John of the Cross

While it's momentarily comforting to stash away psychic pain, there is within each of us an evolutionary force that emphatically chooses the light of higher consciousness. As a whole being, we don't choose to live in musty, dusty attics with old injustices. We are inspired by the exceptional glory of light-infused beings and realms.

If winter comes, can Spring be far behind. Percy Bysshe Shelley

Ken Wilber describes this force of yearning for higher consciousness as Eros. This divine Eros is passionate

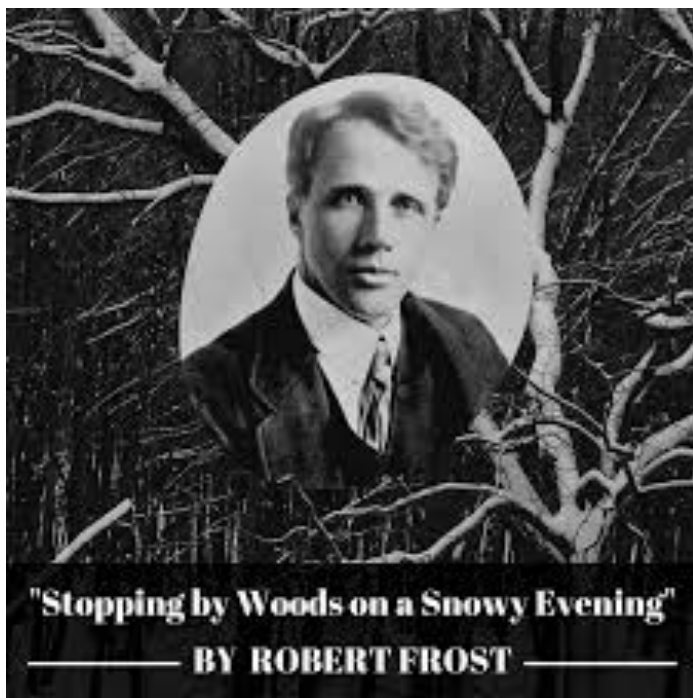
love for the spiritual vibrations of the World Soul. It can be activated by a spiritual being, a teacher, the sense of our higher self. Eros pulls us out of the darkest night to the glowing light of Sophia, cosmic wisdom.

Our evolutionary, soul journey is long
Strive in this bleak darkest night
Release what you know is wrong
Travel in nimble bliss to ecstatic light

Not all evolutionary journeys upward are smooth and elegant. There are times of going into the darkness of our astral lives and seeking old issues that we have locked in "wound chests." The winter solstice is a wonderful time to discover what thrives in the dark and needs to be healed in the light.

In the immortal words of Robert Frost (Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening)

The woods are lovely dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep.



THE BIG DIPPER

Homage to the Winter Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere

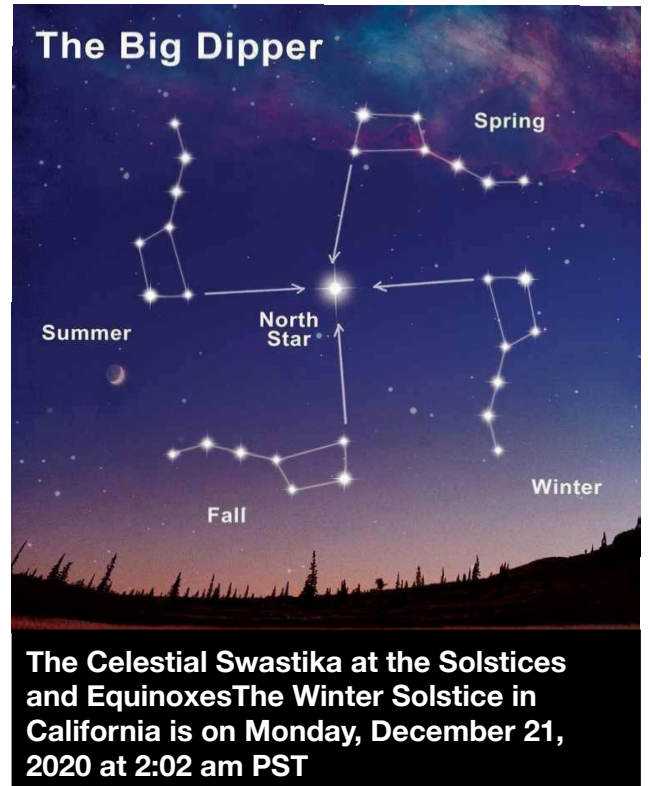
By Peggy Heubel

This article on the Big Dipper was excerpted in part from www.constellation-guide.com.

NOTE: The Big Dipper is seen from the Northern Hemisphere, only. The Southern Cross is perhaps the Big Dipper's Southern Hemisphere counterpart.

The Big Dipper is associated with a number of different myths and folk tales in cultures across the world. In Hindu astronomy, the asterism (pattern or group of stars) is called Sapta Rishi, or The Seven Great Sages. In eastern Asia, it is known as the Northern Dipper. The Chinese know the seven stars as the Government, or Tseih Sing. In Malaysia, the asterism is called Buruj Biduk, or The Ladle, and in Mongolia, it is known as the Seven Gods. In an Arabian story, the stars that form the bowl represent a coffin and the three stars marking the handle are mourners following it. The name of the star Alkaid (or Benetnash), located at the tip of the handle, refers to that story.

In the UK and Ireland, the asterism is known as the Plough, and sometimes as the Butcher's Cleaver in northern parts of England. The old English name is Charles' Wain (wagon), which is derived from the Scandinavian Karlavagnen, Karlsvognen, or Karlsvogna. Charles or Karl was a common name in Germanic languages and the name of the asterism meant "the men's wagon," as opposed to the Little Dipper, which was "the women's wagon." An even older name for the stars of the



Big Dipper was Odin's Wain, or Odin's Wagon, referring to Scandinavian mythology

In Slavic languages and in Romanian, the Big and Little Dipper are known as the Great and Small Wagon, and Germans know the Big Dipper as Großer Wagen, or the Great Cart. The Romans knew the seven stars as the "seven plough oxen," or Septentrio, with only two of the seven stars representing oxen and the others forming a wagon pulled by the oxen.

Some Native American groups saw the bowl as a bear and the three stars of the handle either as three cubs or three hunters following the bear. The second interpretation is linked to a folk tale explaining why the leaves turn red in autumn: the hunters are chasing a wounded bear and, since the asterism is low in the sky that time of year, the bear's blood is falling on the leaves, making them turn red.

In more recent history, black slaves in the United States knew the constellation as the Drinking Gourd and used it to find their way north, to freedom. The folk song, "Follow the Drinking Gourd," gave runaway slaves directions to follow the Big Dipper to get to north. In Africa, the seven stars were sometimes seen as a drinking gourd, which is believed to be the origin of the name the Big Dipper, most commonly used for the figuration in the U.S. and Canada."



On another (metaphysical) note: The Big Dipper is a major worldwide feature in the night's sky and its traverse through the heavens has been of particular importance to travelers on sea and on land for thousands of years because it circles around Polaris, the Polar Star. "Polaris does not mark the exact location of the north celestial pole, but is very close to it. It lies in line with the Earth's northern axis of rotation, almost directly above the Earth's North Pole and, for hypothetical observers at the pole, the star would be directly overhead. With the rotational axis pointed almost directly at the star, Polaris does not rise or set for northern observers. Because it is so near the north celestial pole, it appears motionless in the sky and other stars appear to move in a circle around it. This makes Polaris extremely useful in navigation and astrometry."

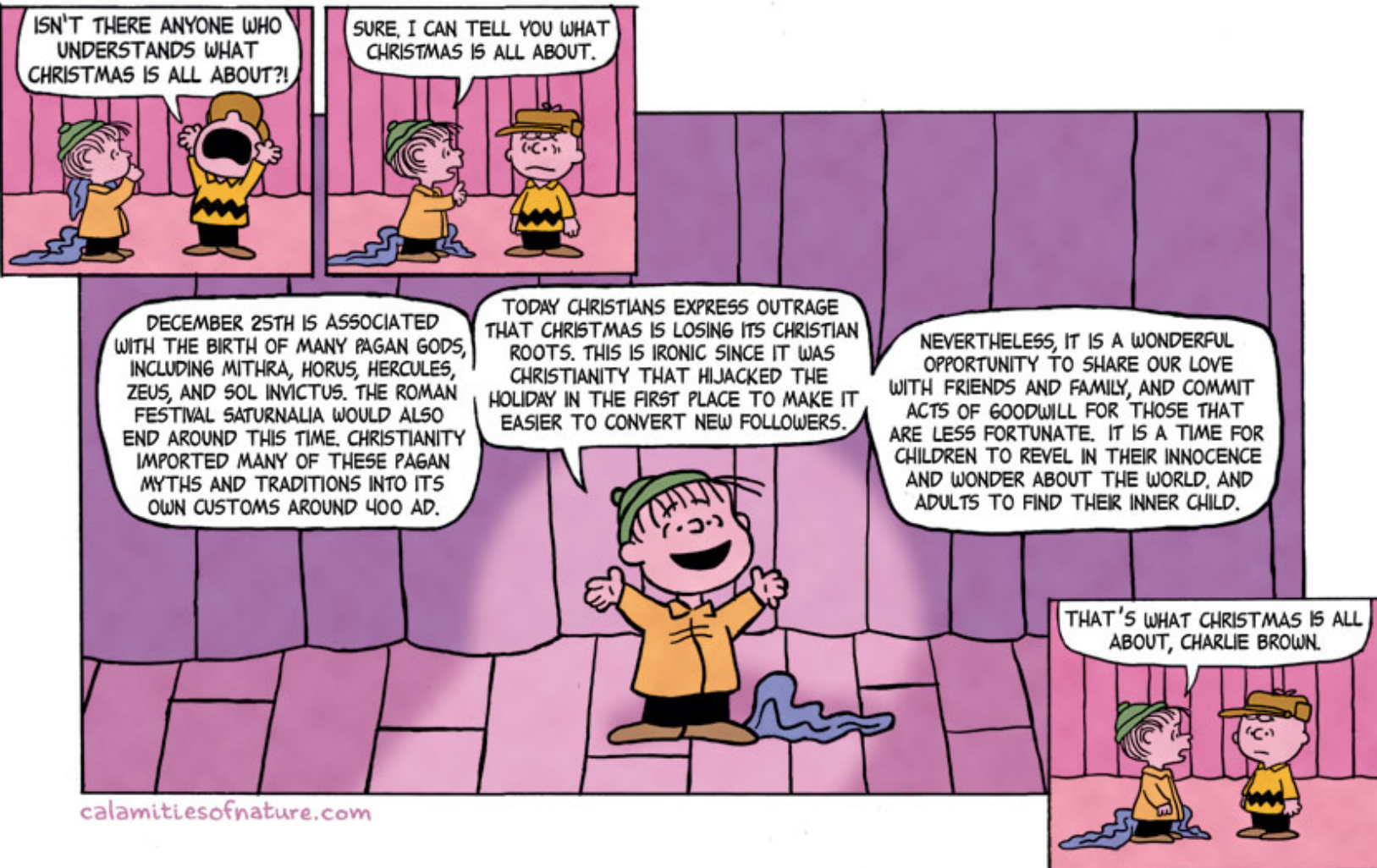
The Big Dipper represents, at Earth's solstices and equinoxes, a representation of one of the greatest esoteric symbols recognized throughout the world from ancient times—the Swastika. [Refer to diagram 1.] Earliest civilizations and societies up to the present day have recognized it as the sacred symbol for the forces behind the reflective "creation" of universal, galactic, and solar systems; known, too, as the Universal Hermetic Cross, Thor's Hammer, the Serpent-cycle of eternity, and many, many more.



And as we end this article, H. P. Blavatsky wrote in *The Secret Doctrine*, "Since Fohat crossed the Circle [of the Universe] like two lines of flame (horizontally and vertically), the hosts of the Blessed Ones have never failed to send their representatives upon the planets they are made to watch over from the beginning.' This is why the Swastika is always placed—as the ansated Cross was in Egypt—on the breasts of the defunct mystics. It is found on the heart of the images and statues of Buddha, in Tibet and Mongolia. It is the seal placed also on the hearts of the living Initiates, burnt into the flesh, forever, with some. This, because they have to keep those truths inviolate and intact, in eternal silence and secrecy to the day these are perceived and read by their chosen successors—new Initiates—“worthy of being entrusted with the ten thousand perfections.” So, let us leave this page speculating upon what might be the “real” and “esoteric” meaning of the celestial swastika revolving around our Earth's northern Polar Star—for, as we all know, there is much, much more to the Universe beyond the perceptions of our five senses and our intellectual imagination.

In Thoughtful Jest

Chosen and arranged by Odette Lardé



THE BABY JESUS STARTS TEETHING.





1-2-11

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