

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

Homily delivered by Tau Phosphoros  
to the Parish of St. Ambelain  
on Sunday, December 21, 2014

YEAR B - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

My brethren, to day we have reached already the fourth and last Sunday of Advent. As we've discussed previously, the Advent Season is a time of purification and preparation for the entering of the Light into the world; that is, the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus Christ - Christmas. There are few scholars, of course, who believe that Jesus was actually born on December 25th. It is commonly accepted that this date was chosen so as to supplant the Roman Saturnalia festivals, and other similar rites throughout Christendom. The critics and detractors of Christianity love to point out this type of seeming incongruence. "Look at your own scriptures," they say, "surely shepherds would not be tending their flocks so at the end of December," and so on and so one they go.

But we know that Christmas is not about the mere celebration of a birthday. It is about the incarnation of that very incorruptible Light itself. It is not about picking a day in the calendar year and saying, "Yes, we are confident that Jesus was born on this day." It concerns the emergence - or re-emergence - of the Light of gnosis in the world. And what better symbolic representation of the return of the light may be found than that of the lengthening of days following the winter solstice. Now, today, our last Sunday in the Advent Season, is that very winter solstice. And what better manner could we ask for to celebrate these Mysteries than by the movements of the heavens themselves.

Let us, therefore, utilize this time of greatest darkness to retreat within our innermost sanctums in contemplation and meditation, to seek that perfect silence which heralds the coming of the illuminating vision. In our final preparations for this magnificent light, let us take time now to quiet our hearts & minds, to enter into those vacuous inner catacombs and become ourselves emptied of the world, that we might receive the glorious rays of the divine and be filled with the vision of the Kingdom of God.

(Begin period of contemplation & meditation.)