

## ESTABLISHING THE REMEMBRANCE SUPPER

Of all the rituals and ceremonies of of the Christian religions and denominations, none have become more formalized and reduced to such precise interpretation and subjected to the almost mathematical precision of a set formula as has Jesus' establishment of the supper of his remembrance the night before ~~the~~ <sup>MS</sup> the crucifixion and death of ~~the~~ Master. While the old Passover commemorated the emergence of the Jews from a state of racial slavery into individual freedom; the becoming of a people, Jesus was instituting the ritual remembrance supper as a symbol of a new dispensation of Truth wherein the enslaved individual emerges from the bondage of ceremonialism and selfishness into the spiritual joy of the brotherhood and fellowship of the liberated faith-sons of the Living God, The Paradise Father.

Notwithstanding the Master's effort to establish this new sacrament of his remembrance, his followers during the intervening centuries saw to it that this ritual of suggested meanings became regulated to the status of sacred form and ceremonial consecration.

"In instituting this remembrance supper, the Master, as was always his habit, resorted to parables and symbols. He employed symbols because he wanted to teach certain great spiritual truths in such a manner as to make it difficult for his successors to attach precise interpretations and definite meanings to his words. In this way he sought to prevent successive generations from crystallizing his teaching and binding down his spiritual meanings by the dead chains of tradition and dogma. In the establishment of the only ceremony or sacrament associated with his whole life mission, Jesus took great pains to "suggest" his meanings rather than to commit himself to "precise definitions". He did not wish to destroy the individual's concept of divine communion by establishing a precise form; neither did he desire to limit the believer's spiritual imagination by formally cramping it. He rather sought to set man's reborn soul free upon the joyous wings of a new and living spiritual liberty." URANTIA BOOK p. 1942:3

"Notwithstanding the Master's effort thus to establish this new sacrament of the remembrance, those who followed after him in the intervening centuries saw to it that his express desire was effectively thwarted in that his simple spiritual symbolism of that last night in the flesh has been reduced to precise interpretations and subjected to the almost mathematical precision of a set formula. Of all Jesus' teachings none have become more tradition-standardized." URANTIA BOOK p. 1942:4

"This supper of remembrance, when it is partaken of by those who are Son-believing and God-knowing, does not need to have associated with its symbolism any of man's puerile misinterpretations regarding the meaning of the divine presence, for upon all such occasions the Master is really present. The remembrance supper is the believer's symbolic rendezvous with Michael of Nebadon. When you thus become spirit-conscious, the Son is actually present, and his spirit fraternizes with the indwelling fragmeny of his Father." URANTIA BOOK p. 1942:5

The following ceremony I suggest is by no means precise or standardized and can be performed by any one person or group at any time or any place. There need not be a priest, minister, or any other cleric officiating. Hopefully, the individual's concept of divine communion, worship, will remain free and ever vibrant as he participates in the supper of remembrance *which* I am suggesting as an alternative for our group worship. I would hope that this ritual would not limit the believer's imagination for this supper by formally cramping it in any way.

#### THE ~~RITUAL~~ REMEMBRANCE SUPPER

Before, during, or after a meal or group meeting one member of the group should stand and take a glass of the common beverage and recall Jesus' words at the last supper. "Take this cup, all of you, and drink of it. This shall be the cup of my remembrance. This is the cup of the blessing of a new dispensation of grace and truth. This shall be to you the emblem of the bestowal and ministry of the divine Spirit of Truth. And I will not again drink this cup with you until I drink in new form with you in the Father's eternal kingdom." 1941:7

This cup could then be passed around the room or all present could have a cup of their own out of which to drink at this time. Another member of the group or the same individual as before should now take up some bread, and after a few moments of silent meditation, break it and distribute it to the group saying, "Take this bread of remembrance and eat it. <sup>[DO NOT TALK WITH MOUTH FULL]</sup> I have told you that I am the bread of life. And this bread of life is the united life of the Father and the Son in one gift. The word of the Father, as revealed in the Son, is indeed the bread of life." 1942:2

The reading should continue here after another period of silent worship. "When you do these things, recall the life I have lived on earth among you and rejoice that I am to continue to live on earth with you and to serve through you. As individuals, contend not among yourselves as to who shall be greatest. Be you all as bretheren. And when the kingdom grows to embrace large groups of believers, likewise should you refrain from contending for greatness or seeking preferment between such groups." 1942:6

"There was nothing of sacred form or ceremonial consecration about either the supper or the building. The remembrance supper was established without ecclesiastical sanction." 1943:1

"When Jesus had thus established the supper of the remembrance, he said to his apostles: "And as often as you do this, do it in remembrance of me. And when you do remember me, first look back upon my life in the flesh, recall that I was once with you, and then, by faith, discern that you shall all sometime sup with me in the Father's eternal kingdom. This is the new Passover which I leave with you, even the memory of my bestowal life, the word of eternal truth; and of my love for you, the outpouring of my Spirit of Truth upon all flesh." 1943;2

The ritual I have just elaborated on has the full ~~and total~~ capacity to bring us all together in a spirit of worshipful communion. The remembrance supper is for all denominations and faiths. There is no confining dogma associated with the celebration of this supper. The ritual emphasizes unity in diversity and a trusting faith in the substance of things not seen and the evidence of things hoped for. It is the ceremony of remembrance of our own sonship, through Michael, with the Paradise Father of all matter, mind, and spirit."

I would hope that others will elaborate on this remembrance supper in the spirit of freedom and individuality. Singing, dancing, drama, or recordings and films could be used to elucidate the meanings that this supper has for the participating individuals. Progress is the watchword of the universe, and under no greater auspices here on this world do we have the opportunity for spiritual progress than joining in worshipful communion as sons and daughters of God as in a sacrament instituted by our own creator Son while he lived in the flesh on our planet, Urantia, nearly 2000 years ago, as the man Jesus of Nazareth.

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