

There was no Room in the Inn

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The Christmas story tells of Mary, being great with child, on her way with her espoused husband to Bethlehem. But, as the evening set in, they could not find place in the inn. Taking the story literally, with our Western ideas about comfort and hospitality as background, we might feel some irritation towards the innkeeper - who, seemingly without batting an eyelid, turns away this very pregnant woman, indirectly forcing her to take refuge in a stable on this cold winter's night. Perhaps this irritation makes us miss exactly the image that the story is trying to portray. Without these details the tale certainly would have been a very different one.

Perhaps we could view the inn as an image of earthly comfort - warmth, food and a bed, for example. That there was no room for them in the inn shows us that in all likelihood the Christmas story is not at all about history. In fact, by using the inn as symbol for worldly comforts, it shows us that the story is not in the least about mundane matters, but entirely about that that occurs in the stable. Bethlehem, the house of bread, becomes in this sense the symbol of the human body and the inn is symbolical of the stomach, or the solar plexus. The child Jesus cannot be born here - Jesus, the then still-to-become instrument of the Christ.

The first glow of the imminent dawn commences in the heart -call it the awakening of the heart chakra if you will- and the heart is symbolised by the stable (or the cave, in other nativity stories). The word Advent means the coming, and this does not make of the Nativity the end of the story, but only the beginning. It is the onset of the journey of the kundalini -the so-called serpent fire- a power that in first instance is still slumbering and has, through correct application, shot through the lower chakras to now fully awaken the heart chakra. That the inn is full might just indicate that the solar plexus chakra is already fully empowered and that it is necessary to pass on towards the stable, the heart. The path will lead us on to the full awakening of the throat chakra (Baptism of our Lord). It follows on to the Ajna centre on the forehead (Transfiguration of our Lord) until we reach Golgotha -the place of the skull- at Easter, or the full awakening of the crown chakra, the true Crown of Thorns. It is only then that the Christ power -a power hidden within every human- is fully operative. Only then can we say that the individual has become entirely human.

That there is no room in the inn tries to tell us, that especially during the winter season when bodily warmth is so desirable, that we need to look into our hearts to find the hidden Light shining in every creature. If we manage to find this Light, then will we be able to sing with the angel host: Peace on Earth, to men of good will.