

**ERIC BUTTERWORTH  
PAPERS (3014)**

**BOX 19**

**FOLDER 47**

**A ROAD, A STAR, A  
MAN**

**DECEMBER 18, 1983**

'A ROAD. A STAR. A MAN'

5. DEC. 18, 1913

'O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM,  
HOW STILL WE SEE THEE LIE!  
ABOVE THY DEEP AND DREAMLESS SLEEP  
THE SILENT STARS GO BY:  
YET IN THY DARK STREETS SHINETH  
THE EVERLASTING LIGHT;  
THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS  
ARE MET IN THEE TONIGHT.'

IT IS A WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR - WHEN WE ALL  
BECOME AS CHILDREN AGAIN//AND ENTER INTO THE  
KINGDOM OF SANTA CLAUS//AND CHRISTMAS TREES//AND  
CAROLS//AND GREETING CARDS//AND THE GIVING AND  
RECEIVING OF GIFTS.

BUT LET'S FACE IT, MOST OF US OCCASIONALLY GET  
OFF-CENTER IN THE PRESSURES OF CHRISTMAS...AND  
THE BEAUTY AND SIMPLICITY OF CHRISTMAS BECOMES  
OBSCURED IN TENSION AND CONFORMITY.

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IN THE YEAR 1247, IN ENGLAND, A HOSPITAL WAS  
CREATED UNDER ~~THE~~ THE NAME OF ST. MARY OF BETHLEHEM



PURE MAGIC! / BUT LIKE ALL MAGIC / ~~THE~~ IS ILLUSION  
INVOLVED. / FOR THE MISTLETOE MAY WELL BE PLASTIC,  
/SYMBOLIZING THE GIANT FACADE OF CHRISTMAS / THAT  
HAS BEEN PUT UP LIKE A ~~H~~HOLLYWOOD SET / ..TAKEN OUT  
OF ATTICS AND STORE-ROOMS / AND CAREFULLY ASSEMBLED  
AT THIS SEASON / SO THAT ~~M~~OST PERSONS MAY  
DUTIFULLY AND SLAVISHLY / GO THROUGH THE ANNUAL  
CHARADE.

THE SONG SINGS, 'PUT ON A HAPPY FACE.' / THE  
SUGGESTION IS MADE / TO TURN UP THE CORNERS OF THE  
MOUTH IN A SMILE / AND MAKE YOUR EYES SPARKLE IN  
JOY. / EVEN IF YOU DO NOT FEEL HAPPY, / ACT HAPPY,  
LOOK HAPPY. / IT IS A MASK. *WE PUT ON.*

*Now* IT IS TRUE THAT YOU BEGIN TO FEEL HAPPY / IF  
YOU ACT HAPPY. / ..AND THAT ~~IF~~ IF YOU GO THROUGH  
THE MOTIONS / YOU TEND TO EXPERIENCE ~~THE~~ CORRE-  
SPONDING EMOTIONS / ~~BUT~~ *YET* ...SOMETIMES BEHIND THE  
FACE OF THE CLOWN / MAY BE THE TRAGIC FIGURE OF  
A PAGLIACCI



BUT WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES/THERE IS A COMPULSION  
TO PUT ON THE FACE OF CHRISTMAS./..AND TO GET  
CAUGHT UP AGAIN ~~AND AGAIN~~/IN THE ANNUAL CHARADE.  
~~OF CHRISTMAS.~~

OH, IT IS A GL<sup>orious</sup>ORIOUS TIME OF FAMILY <sup>Reunions</sup>~~GATHERINGS~~,  
AND THE EXCHANGE OF PRESENTS,/AND GOOD FOOD,/  
AND CONVIVIAL GATHERINGS /-- BUT ALSO IT IS OFTEN  
A LICENSE FOR IRRATIONAL BEHAVIOUR/- AND AS JIM  
BISHOP PUTS IT/- "FOR KISSING THE WRONG PERSON  
UNDER ~~THE~~ MISTLETOE."  
*FOR IMBIBED CHRISTMAS CHEER RUN  
A BOTTLE - with DANGER TO SELF AND  
OTHER IN DRIVING*

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IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT CHRISTMAS IS FOR CHILDREN/  
AND I WOULD ADD /- FOR THE SLEEPING CHILD THAT  
MAY LIE DORMANT WITHIN ~~US~~ ~~ME~~./ I LOVE THE  
PLAINTIVE CALL OF ELIZABETH AKERS ALLEN - 'BACK-  
WARD,/TURN BACKWARD,/O TIME IN YOUR FLIGHT./ MAKE  
ME A CHILD AGAIN,/JUST FOR TONIGHT.'/ SURELY,  
UNLESS WE BECOME AS A CHILD/AND VIEW THE WHOLE  
CELEBRATION ON THE TIPTOE OF EXPECTANCY,/ THEN ~~IS~~



▶ IN NAVIGATION THERE IS A PROCESS THAT IS CALLED TRIANGULATION, A MEANS OF PLOTTING A COURSE OR A TARGET BY MEANS OF THREE FIXED POINTS. TODAY WE ARE GOING TO DEAL WITH THREE VITAL POINTS THAT MAY HELP YOU TO CHART A COURSE THROUGH THIS SEASON OF CHRISTMAS 1983, AND ALSO THROUGH THE DAYS OF THE NEW YEAR 1984: A ROAD...A STAR...A MAN - OR SHOULD WE SAY - A PERSON. (WE DON'T WANT TO BE SEXIST.)

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▶ THERE ARE ROADS AND ROADS AND ROADS. THERE IS THE ROAD OF TRUE LOVE THAT RUNS OUT TO DOVER 'THROUGH THE FIELDS OF CLOVER ON OUR GOLDEN WEDDING DAY.' THERE IS KIPLING'S 'ROAD TO MANDALAY, WHERE THE FLYING FISHES PLAY.' THERE IS THE 'ROAD NOT TAKEN' WHICH ROBERT FROST REMEMBERED WITH A CATCH IN HIS THROAT:

// 'I SHALL BE TELLING THIS WITH A SIGH  
SOMEWHERE AGES AND AGES HENCE;



TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A WOOD, AND I -  
I TOOK THE ONE LESS TRAVELED BY,  
AND THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.'

BUT OF ALL THE ROADS THAT CRAWL ACROSS THE EARTH,  
I LOVE BEST THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM. IT IS THE  
ROAD OF WONDER. BIRTH FOR EVERY PERSON IS EMER-  
GENCE INTO A WORLD OF WONDER THAT LEAVES US WIDE-  
EYED AND BREATHLESS WITH THE RELENTLESS QUESTION  
OF CHILDHOOD - 'WHAT NEXT?'

WORDSWORTH SPEAKS SADLY OF HOW THE QUESTING  
SPIRIT OF THE CHILD FADES AWAY. HE SAYS:  
'THE YOUTH WHO DAILY FARTHER FROM THE EAST  
MUST TRAVEL, STILL IS NATURE'S PRIEST;  
AND ON HIS WAY ATTENDED BY THE VISION SPLENDID,  
AT LENGTH THE MAN PERCEIVES IT DIE AWAY  
AND FADE INTO THE LIGHT OF COMMON DAY,'

NOT SO THE FABLED THREE ~~W~~ WISE MEN FROM THE EAST,  
WHO WERE STILL CHASING DREAMS IN THEIR <sup>SEVENTIES</sup> ~~EIGHTIES~~.  
THEY LEFT THE SECURITY OF THEIR HOMES, // BADE THEIR  
LOVED ONES GOOD-BYE, // MOUNTED ~~THE~~ IR CAMELS, AND



RODE OFF INTO THE NIGHT -- ALL BECAUSE OF THE  
LURE OF THE BETHLEHEM ROAD. IT MAY BE THAT IT  
WAS THE LAST ROAD THEY EVER TRAVELED, // BUT THEY  
ACCOMPLISHED THEIR LONG TREK TO BETHLEHEM AND LAID  
THEIR GIFTS OF GOLD, // FRANK-INCENSE, // AND MYRRH -  
AT THE FEET OF THE LITTLE PRINCE.

RUSKIN ONCE SAID, 'I WOULD FAR RATHER LIVE IN  
A COTTAGE AND WONDER AT EVERYTHING, // THAN LIVE  
IN WARWICK CASTLE AND WONDER AT NOTHING.'

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▶ OUT OF THE PROPHETIC VISION OF ISAIAH, ONE OF THE  
NAMES OF THE INNER MAN OF YOU IS WONDERFUL -  
WHICH MEANS 'FULL OF WONDER.' IT MEANS MUCH  
WONDER IS IN THE HIDDEN RECESSES OF YOUR INNER  
NATURE, // THE SPIRIT OF WONDER IS IN YOUR EYES.

'EXCEPT YE TURN AND BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN'  
RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON THE BETHLEHEM ROAD, FOR  
UNLESS YOU DO, YOU CANNOT FIND THE JOYS EITHER  
OF CHRISTMAS // OR OF LIFE. 'WOW!' ERIC BERN



THE SECOND POINT OF OUR TRIANGULATION - IS A STAR

'AND LO, THE STAR WENT BEFORE THEM TILL IT CAME  
AND STOOD WHERE THE YOUNG CHILD WAS.'

THERE ARE STARS ANS STARS AND STARS....THE  
LITTLE CHILD'S 'TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR,  
HOW I WONDER WHAT YOU ARE.' // THE DREAMER'S  
'STARLIGHT, STARBRIGHT, FIRST STAR I'VE SEEN  
TONIGHT, I WISH I MAY, I WISH I MIGHT, ~~REX~~  
GRANT THE WISH I WISH TONIGHT.' // TENNYSON'S  
'SUNSET AND EVENING STAR AND ONE CLEAR CALL  
FOR ME.' // AND OF COURSE EMERSON'S 'HITCH YOUR  
WAGON TO A STAR.'

BUT BEST OF ALL I LOVE THE STAR IN THE EAST,  
THE CHRISTMAS STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

G. K. CHESTERTON, ENGLISH PHILOSOPHER, WROTE,  
'AMONG ALL THE STRANGE THINGS PEOPLE HAVE FOR-  
GOTTEN, // THE MOST UNIVERSAL LAPSE OF MEMORY IS  
THAT BY WHICH THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN THEY ARE  
LIVING ON A STAR! // OFTEN WE HAVE BEEN TOLD TO  
'HITCH YOUR WAGON TO A STAR' - AND ALWAYS AND



ALWAYS THE STARS HAVE BEEN UP THERE MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY AND HOPELESSLY UNATTAINABLE. AND TO THINK THAT ALL OUR LIVES WE HAVE BEEN LIVING ON A STAR! THAT MEANS THAT THE MATERIALS AND THE TOOLS WITH WHICH TO MAKE LIFE GLORIOUS ARE AT HAND. WE ARE SURROUNDED BY INFINITE POTENTIALITIES AND POSSIBILITIES. WE NEED NO LONGER ATTEMPT TO READ OUR DESTINY IN THE STARS. OUR <sup>LIFE</sup> DEPENDS ON HOW WE LIVE ON THIS STAR.'

CERTAINLY//WE NEED TO HITCH OUR WAGON TO A STAR - TO REACH FOR SOMETHING - THOUGH IT BE THE MOON. THE CHRISTMAS STAR IS THE STAR POINTING TO THE CHRIST - AND WHAT COULD BE HIGHER FOR AN ASPIRATION, AN EXPECTATION, A LIFE GOAL?

BUT THE GOAL IS NOT SIMPLY TO ACCEPT THE STORY OF THE BIRTH OF THE BABE IN THE MANGER. THAT IS A BEAUTIFUL STORY. BUT ~~WE ARE~~ WE ARE LIVING ON A STAR - THE STAR THAT ANNOUNCES THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST WITHIN EACH OF US.



THIS IS THE GOAL -A GOAL HIGH ENOUGH TO KEEP US  
WALKING, // WORKING, // REACHING, / WITH STARS IN OUR EYES

//MANY OF US HAVE NOT GOTTEN AS FAR IN LIFE AS WE  
HOPED WE WOULD//BECAUSE OUR STAR WAS NOT HIGH  
ENOUGH. HOW HIGH IS YOUR STAR, //HOW COMPLETE IS  
YOUR SELF-IMAGE. HITCH YOUR WAGON TO THE STAR  
OF THE CHRIST. /// IT IS WITHIN YOU. /// IT IS YOU.  
YOU ARE THE STAR. YOU ARE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE.  
YOU ARE THE CHRIST.

THEN CHRISTMAS WILL HAVE NEW MEANING. THE CHRIST-  
MAS STAR WILL BE A STAR OF RENEWED HOPE THAT YOU  
CAN BE HEALED, THAT YOU CAN GO ON TO SUCCESS,  
THAT YOU CAN BE THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE.  
FOLLOW YOUR CHRISTMAS STAR AND, AS JESUS PROMISES,  
'ALL THINGS WILL BE POSSIBLE TO YOU.'

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THE THIRD POINT OF TRIANGULATION IS THE MAN -  
THE PERSON. THERE ARE MEN AND MEN AND MEN. WE



HAVE ALL KNOWN GREAT PERSONS//AND WE HAVE KNOWN  
PATHETIC LITTLE PERSONS//WHOSE LIVES ARE ONE  
SUCCESSION OF OPPORTUNITIES MISSED//ROADS NOT  
TAKEN,//AND DEFEAT AND DISCOURAGEMENT//NONE IS  
GREATER THAN HE WHO WAS BORN IN THE MANGER OF  
THE INN OF BETHLEHEM ON THAT NIGHT SO LONG AGO.  
///AND NONE IS MORE PATHETIC THAN THE KEEPER OF  
THE INN.

NOBODY KNOWS HIS NAME. LIKE ~~THE~~ EVERYONE ELSE,  
HE LIVED A PRECARIOUS EXISTENCE ON THE BORDER  
BETWEEN ENOUGH AND NOT ENOUGH. ONLY ON SPECIAL  
TIMES, WHEN JERUSALEM WAS CROWDED, THE OVEFLOW  
WOULD FILL THE INN AT BETHLEHEM.

THE INNKEEPER ~~W~~AS NOT DELIBERATELY UNKIND.

HE WASN'T IN BUSINESS FOR HIS HEALTH. HE TOOK  
ONE LOOK AT THE EXPECTANT MOTHER AND THE DUSTY  
FATHER AND TOLD THEM 'THERE WAS NO ROOM IN ~~THE~~  
THE INN.' HE PROBABLY HAD AN EXTRA ROOM - HOTEL



ALWAYS DO HAVE. BUT IT WOULD BRING A PRETTY PRICE WHEN ~~T~~HE RIGHT PERSON CAME ALONG.

BEFORE WE ARE TOO HARD ON THE POOR CHAP, WHO MISSED HIS CHANCE TO BECOME THE HOST AT THE GREAT MOMENT IN ALL HISTORY - WE SHOULD PONDER THE CONDITION OF THE INN OF OUR OWN MIND AND HEART. IS THERE ROOM WITHIN US FOR THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST IDEA? DO WE ALWAYS CAREFULLY MAKE ROOM FOR SPIRITUAL THINGS, DO WE TAKE TIME FOR MEDITATION?

OR ARE WE OFTEN SO PREOCCUPIED, //OUR LIVES SO CROWDED, //OUR INTERESTS SO MANY AND ~~V~~ARIED, //THAT THERE IS NO ROOM? AND YET, ISN'T IT TRUE THAT WE ALWAYS FIND TIME TO DO WHAT WE REALLY WANT TO DO, WHAT SEEMS IMPORTANT TO US? FOR INSTANCE, ~~WE~~ SOMETHING WE WANT AND WE SAY WE CAN'T AFFORD IT -- BUT IF WE REALLY WANT IT AND IT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE, WE FIND A WAY TO GET IT.



REVELATIONS - 'BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK.' // WE NEVER KNOW, // IN THE HAPPENINGS OF EVERY DAY, // WHEN SOME ONE LITTLE ACT DONE OR LEFT UNDONE - MANY ULTIMATELY PROVE TO BE A GREAT MOMENT IN OUR LIVES. A WISE MAN HAS SAID, 'GREAT DOORS SWING ON SMALL HINGES.'

SO EVERY TIME AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE, // FOR LOVE // PRESENTS ITSELF TO US, // IT COULD BE THE CHRIST KNOCKING AT THE DOOR OF OUR HEARTS.

AND EVERY TIME WE TURN BRUSQUELY AWAY WITH OUR 'TOO BUSY, TOO LITTLE TIME, NOT ENOUGH MONEY,' HE IS UNWORTHY' -- WE PROCLAIM NO ROOM AT THE INN

AN EMERGENCY ONCE OCCURRED IN A SMALL EASTERN TOWN AND A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO SEEK LODGING IN THE SMALL HOTEL. AMONG THEM WAS A QUIET UNASSUMING COUPLE IN NEED OF SPECIAL CARE. THE HOTEL WAS FULL WHEN THEIR TURN CAME, BUT THE MANAGER GAVE UP HIS OWN ROOM FOR THE NIGHT AND



GRACIOUSLY WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO DO LITTLE KINDNESSES AND THUS MAKE THEIR STAY PLEASANT.'

HE DIDN'T KNOW IT, // AND IT WAS ~~REALLY~~ UNIMPORTANT TO HIM, // BUT HIS GUESTS WERE MR. AND MRS.

JOHN JACOB ASTOR. LATER WHEN THE WALDORF-

ASTORIA HOTEL WAS BUILT, // MR. ASTOR WOULD HAVE

NO ONE ELSE FOR HIS NEW MANAGER // THAN THE

MANAGER OF THAT SMALL HOTEL --● AND THUS,

GEORGE C. BOLDT BECAME THE GREATEST HOTEL MAN

OF HIS DAY. THE CHRIST <sup>KNOCK</sup> KNOCKED AT THE DOOR,

AND HE MADE ROOM IN THE INN.

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IN OUR DAY WHEN THERE IS SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON

GREAT AND SMALL, ON PRESTIGE JOBS AND WORKING

MASSSES, ON CULTIVATING THE RIGHT PEOPLE AND

TURNING AWAY FROM THOSE WHO CAN'T DO US MUCH GOOD

- WE MIGHT BRING INTO SHARP FOCUS THE MANGER

STORY OF JESUS, THE SON OF A LOWLY CARPENTER,

BORN IN A STABLE.



THIS WOULD SEEM TO PUT HALOS AROUND PLUMBERS AND  
BRICKLAYERS AND BOOKKEEPERS OF ALL KIND -  
PROVING FOR ALL TIME THAT, TO GOD, THERE ARE  
NO UNIMPORTANT PEOPLE.

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AND SO TODAY -- LET US REMEMBER THE POINTS OF  
TRIANGULATION:

THE ROAD

THE STAR

THE MAN

THE ROAD OF WONDER, OF ROMANCE, OF ADVENTURE <sup>(wow!)</sup>

THE STAR OF THE CHRIST ON THE INNER HORIZON,  
THE LURE OF THE INFINITE POTENTIALITIES WITHIN.

THE MAN - THE INNKEEPER WHO COULDN'T FIND  
ROOM AND HIS ETERNAL REMINDER OF AN OPPOR-  
TUNITY MISSED -- THE CHALLENGE TO ACTUALLY  
LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, FOR  
LOVE AND FORGIVENESS - ~~THE~~ MAKE ROOM FOR  
THE CHRIST - THE PERSON WE ALL MIGHT BE.

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SO THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE COMPLAINS, 'LOOK WHAT  
THE WORLD IS COMING TO!' POINT OUT WITH GREAT  
ENTHUSIASM, 'BUT LOOK WHAT IS COMING INTO THE  
WORLD!'



THEN CHART A NEW COURSE WITH THE ROAD, THE STAR,  
AND THE MAN. YOU WILL ~~K~~~~E~~~~E~~~~P~~ PEACE IN YOURSELF,  
AND YOU WILL BRING PEACE TO YOUR WORLD. TAGORE  
SAYS - 'IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO CARRIES THE CANDLE;  
AS LONG AS ~~H~~ BRINGS THE LIGHT.'

---

HENRY VICTOR MORGAN --

'FROM OUT OF THIS STATE OF STRIFE AND HATE,  
FROM OUT OF EARTH'S NOISE AND FUSS,  
THERE WILL YET ARISE A MAN GOD-SIZE  
WHO WILL STAND FOR THE WHOLE OF US.

OUR EARS ARE SORE WITH THE NOISE AND ROAR  
OF THE PARTIALIST'S RANT AND FUSS,  
WHO STANDS ~~FOR~~ HIS CLASS AND NOT FOR THE MASS,  
FOR THE GREATEST AND LEAST OF US.

IN CHILDHOOD'S DAY WE WERE TAUGHT TO PRAY  
TO ONE WHO WAS FATHER TO ALL,  
WHO STRENGTHENED THE WEEK, PROTECTED THE MEEK,  
AND NOTICED THE SPARROW'S FALL.

WE WERE TOLD OF A MAN,  
A WONDERFUL MAN,  
THE GREATEST THIS EARTH E'ER TROD  
WHO TOLD EACH MAN WHEREVER HIS CLAN



TO MEASURE HIMSELF WITH GOD.

SO WE WAIT TODAY AND DEEPLY PRAY  
IN THE MIDST OF EARTH'S NOISE AND FUSS,  
FOR A MAN TO ARISE, IN LOVE & GOD-SIZE,  
IN THE HEART OF EACH ONE OF US.'