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PAPERS (3014)**

**BOX 20
FOLDER 39**

**YOUR CHRISTMAS
STAR**

DECEMBER 23, 1984

'AND LO, THE STAR WENT BEFORE THEM/UNTIL IT CAME
AND STOOD/WHERE THE YOUNG CHILD WAS.' THUS IS
BORN/A COLORFUL TRADITION/THAT IS CELEBRATED/ALL
OVER/THE CHRISTIAN WORLD/EVERY YEAR. AND AMONG
ALL THE MANY/LOVELY SYMBOLS/WITH WHICH CHRISTMAS
/HAS BECOME IDENTIFIED,/THE CHRISTMAS STAR/IS THE
MOST UNIVERBSAL.

THERE ARE STARS/AND STARS/AND STARS./THE LITTLE
CHILD'S/'TWINKLE, TWINKLE/LITTLE STAR,/HOW I
WONDER/WHAT YOU ARE.'// AND THE DREAMER'S/
'STARLIGHT,/STARBRIGHT,/FIRST STAR/I'VE SEEN
TONIGHT./ I WISH I MAY,/I WISH I MIGHT,/GRANT
THE WISH/I WISH TONIGHT.'// THERE IS TENNYSON'S
'SUNSET AND EVENONG STAR,/AND ONE CLEAR CALL
TO ME.'// AND EMERSON'S / 'HITCH YOUR WAGON/TO
A STAR.'// BUT BEST OF ALL TO ME,/IS THE CHRISTMAS
STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

IT IS OFTEN SAID/THAT CHRISTMAS/IS FOR CHILDREN.
AND I WOULD ADD//- FOR THE SLEEPING CHILD/THAT
LIES DORMANT/WITHIN US ALL. I LOVE THE PLAINTIVE
CALL/OF ELIZABETH AKERS ALLEN/-- 'BACKWARD,/TURN
BACKWARD,/O TIME IN YOUR FLIGHT./MAKE ME A CHILD
AGAIN,/JUST FOR TONIGHT.'/ AND UNLESS WE BECOME
AS A CHILD/AND VIEW THE WHOLE/CELEBRATION ON THE
TIPTOE/OF EXPECTANCY...THEN IT IS/AS/IT HAS BEEN
FOR RELIGION GENERALLY -/WHERE THE SPIRIT/HAS
BEEN BURIED IN FORM/ AND THE TRUTH/LIES UNDIS-
COVERED/THROUGH THE PERPETUATION OF DOGMA/-- SO
THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION/HAS DEVOLVED FOR SO
MANY/INTO WHAT PHILIP WYLIE CALLS/'THE HOPPED-UP/
PRESSURE-LADEN,/STATUS-SEEKING,/COMPETITIVE
DEGRADATION/OF CHRISTMAS.'
OH,/I SEE THE OUTER CELEBRATION/AS A LOVELY THING.
THE CHRISTMAS TREES/ON PARK AVE./THE DECORATED
HOMES/IN THE COMMUNITIES,/THE BREATHTAKING

DISPLAYS ON FIFTH AVE./AND AT RADIO CITY/-- THE
BELL-RINGING/SALVATION ARMY LASSIES,/THE VARIED
ARRAY OF SANTA CLAUSES/WITH THE SUIT/AND MANNER
THAT/DOES NOT QUITE FIT,/AND THE FRAGRANCE OF
CHESTNUTS/BEING ROASTED ON A CRUDE/STOVE AND
BEING HANDLED/BY GRIMY HANDS./ ALL THIS IS/CHRIST-
MAS IN NEW YORK.

OF COURSE/THERE IS SO MUCH MORE./ HOW EASILY
WE CAN PACK THE TREES/AND GARLANDS/AND BELLS/
AND RETURN THEM TO STORAGE/FOR ANOTHER YEAR/
HOW QUICKLY THE STORES/CAN CHANGE THEIR DIS-
PLAYS/TO JANUARY WHITE SALES./ HOW SOON THE
STREET SANTA CLAUS/RETURNS TO HIS PLACE/IN LINE
AT THE UNEMPLOYMENT/COMPENSATION OFFICE.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY/MAY WELL HAVE BEEN/OVER-
DRAMATIZED/AND OVER-SENTAMENTALIZED./ THUS IT HAS
BECOME IRRELEVANT/AND UNREAL./ LIKE A MOVIE THAT
WE WATCH FOR AN HOUR/AND HAVE A GOOD CRY OVER/

AND THEN GO OUT/INTO LIVES OF ROUTINENESS/NOT
THE LEAST BIT CHANGED/BY THE EXPERIENCE.

'MAKE ME A CHILD AGAIN JUST FOR A MOMENT...'

JOS~~EPH~~PH AND MARY/~~CAME~~ RIDING INTO BETHLEHEM,/ 'AND
WHILE THEY WERE ~~WAS~~ THERE/SHE BROUGHT FORTH/HER
FIRSTBORN SON/AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER,/FOR THERE
WAS NO ROOM/FOR THEM IN THE INN.' How TRAGIC

IT IS INTERESTING/HOW WE READ INFERENCES/INTO
SCRIPTURAL WORDS/ACCORDING TO A MODERN/FRAME OF
REFERENCE. FOR INSTANCE,/THE WORD 'INN'/CONJURES
UP AN ENGLISH PUB/OR A HOLIDAY INN MOTEL...WITH
A BAR/AND LOUD-LAUGHING REVELERS. THE FACT IS
THE BIBLICAL TERM 'INN'/MEANS A 'KHAN'/WHICH WAS
LITTLE MORE THAN/A PROTECTIVE ENCLAVE,/WITH FOUR
WALLS BUT NO ROOF. ^{COLD} THESE WERE CARAVAN REST STOPS
/PLACED A DAY'S JOURNEY APART/ON THE WELL-TRAVELED
ROADS.// BY TAKING THEIR DONKEYS/AND CAMELS/INTO

IMPLICATIONS FAR BEYOND/THE DRAMATIC BEGINNING.

THE KHAN AT NIGHT/THEY WERE PROTECTED/FROM WILD ANIMALS AND THIEVES. BUT MARY AND JOSEPH/FOUND REFUGE IN A CAVE/NEAR-BY/- PROBABLY EVEN LED THERE/BY THE VERY INN-KEEPER/WHO HAS BEEN PILLO-RIED/AS THE SYMBOL OF THE/HARD-HEARTED BUSINESS.^{MAY}

IN THE MATTHEW SCENARIO,/THREE WISE MEN,/SOMETIMES CALLED, THREE KINGS/CAME FROM THE EAST/FOLLOWING A STAR. THE ACCOUNT SAYS,/ "THEY SAW A STAR IN THE EAST AND FOLLOWED IT/TO THE PLACE WHERE THE/YONG CHILD LAY." BUT THEY ACTUALLY TRAVELED WEST. SO THEY WERE NOT BEING GUIDED/BY A HEAVELY BODY. THEY WERE MAGI,/SO THAT OBVIOUSLY THEIR GUIDANCE/WAS FROM AN ASTROLOGICAL SIGN.⁰⁶

▶ I POINT THESE THINGS OUT/TO CHALLENGE YOU TO/SEE SOMETHING MORE IN CHRISTMAS/THAN THE TRADITIONAL STORY/THAT IS MADE UP OF EMBELLISHMENTS/AND CLICHE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE/THAT JESUS' BIRTH/HAD IMPLICATIONS FAR BEYOND/THE DRAMATIC BEGINNING.

OF A NEW RELIGION. THE UNIVERSE IS / TOO GRAND / AND
INTELLIGENT / TO BE ENCOMPASSED BY ONE / SECTARIAN
CONCEPT, / OR LIMITED TO ONE • / 'BIRTHDAY OF A KING'

ACTUALLY, / THERE ARE NO RECORDS / THAT TELL WHEN
JESUS WAS BORN, / AND IT IS REALLY / NOT IMPORTANT.
HE DID NOT COME / TO IMPRESS US WITH HIS DIVINITY,
/ BUT TO CELEBRATE / OUR DIVINITY, / ..SHOWING US THAT
IN HIS OVERCOMING / THERE IS A GREAT / EXAMPLE OF
THE 'I AM' / REACHING ITS FULL / PERSONAL EXPRESSION
IN MAN.

HAVE YOU FOUND / YOUR CHRISTMAS STAR? WHEN I WAS
A CHILD, / ENCOURAGED BY MY MOTHER, / MY BROTHERS
AND SISTER AND I / USED TO GO OUT INTO THE / NIGHT
ON CHRISTMAS EVE / TO SEARCH THE SKY / FOR THE STAR
OF THE EAST...AND WE WOULD USUALLY / COME HOME
ANNOUNCING / THAT WE HAD FOUND IT. AND PERHAPS
WE DID, / FOR WHAT REALLY COUNTS / IS THE ATTITUDE
THAT LOOKS FOR STARS, / ^{MAGI CHASING STARS AT 70!} THAT LOOKS UP IN EXPECTANCY.

ABOUT TEN YEARS/AGO THERE WAS A LOT OF INTEREST/
IN THE APPEARANCE IN OUR SKY/OF THE COMET KAHOUTEK.
WE WERE GIVEN A DESCRIPTION/OF WHAT TO LOOK FOR/-
A TRAIL STRETCHING UPWARD/IN THE SKY/LIKE A
GIANT/EXCLAMATION POINT. OLGA AND I/SPENT MUCH
TIME LOOKING FOR IT -/AND WE BELIEVE/THAT WE DID
SEE IT. I REMEMBER GETTING/QUITE CAUGHT UP/IN
KAHOUTEK FEVER --/ I PUT A LARGE EXCLAMATION POINT
/ON MY DESK WHERE I WOULD/REMEMBER TO KEEP MYSELF
/IN THE SPIRIT OF 'WOW!' THIS IS THE CONSCIOUSNESS
THAT TRANSCENDS/THE DESPAIRING CRY -/'LOOK WHAT
THE WORLD/IS COMING TO'. INSTEAD/HOLDING TO THE
VISION -/'LOOK WHAT IS COMING/INTO THE WORLD!'
THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT/- SHOULD BE THE HOPE/AND
EXPECTATION/OF WONDERFUL THINGS/FOR ONESELF AND
FOR MANKIND./ 'WOW!'

THE CHRISTMAS STAR/IS THE STAR POINTING/TO THE
CHRIST -- AND WHAT COULD BE HIGHER/FOR AN ASPI-
RATION,/AN EXPECTANCY,/A LIFE GOAL?

HOWEVER/THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO ACCEPT/THE STORY
OF THE BIRTH/OF THE BABE IN BETHLEHEM. IT IS A
COLORFUL STORY,/AND ONE THAT/GIVES US FEELINGS/
OF NOSTALGIA. BUT WE ARE LIVING/ON A STAR/- AND
THE STAR ANNOUNCES TODAY/THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST
SPIRIT/WITHIN EACH OF US. THIS IS THE GOAL/--
A GOAL HIGH ENOUGH/TO KEEP US WALKING,/WORKING,/
REACHING -/WITH STARS IN OUR EYES. *wow!*

SOME OF US HAVE NOT GOTTEN/AS FAR IN LIFE/AS WE
HOPE WE WOULD/BECAUSE OUR STAR/MAY NOT HAVE BEEN
HIGH ENOUGH. HOW HIGH IS YOUR STAR? HITCH YOUR
WAGON/TO THE STAR/OF THE CHRIST IN YOU,/AND KNOW
THAT YOU ARE/LIVING ON A STAR -- IT IS WITHIN YOU,
/YOUR VERY OWN POTENTIALITY.

THEN YOUR CHRISTMAS/WILL HAVE NEW MEANING. IT
WILL FOCUS/ON YOUR CHRISTMAS STAR -/- THE STAR OF
HOPE/THAT YOU CAN BE HEALED, THAT YOU CAN GO ON
TO SUCCESS,/THAT YOU CAN BECOME THE PERSON/YOU
REALLY WANT TO BE.

AND YOU KNOW,/THIS IS REALLY THE MESSAGE/OF
CHARLES DICKENS' 'CHRISTMAS CAROL', WHICH IS OFTEN
^{READ OR} ~~READ~~ ^{OR} ~~DRAMATIZED~~ ^{DRAMATIZED} AT THIS SEASON. THE SAD THING IS
THAT/THE EMPHASIS IS ALL WRONG,/THUS THE REAL
MEANING/IS PERVERTED. IT IS NOT JUST THE STORY
OF BOB CRATCHIT/AND TINY TIM/BEING HARASSED BY
A MEAN OLD MAN,/EBENEZER SCROOGE. IT IS A DRAMA-
TIC STORY/OF MARVELOUS METAMORPHOSIS/THROUGH THE
EMPHASIS OF THE/CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

I HAVE LONG BEEN/ON A CAMPAIGN TO RECOVER/DIGNITY
FOR SCROOGE. I FEEL HE HAS BEEN GIVEN/A 'BUM RAP.'
HE HAS BECOME/THE CLASSIC CARICATURE/OF THE MEAN,/

SELFISH, / MATERIALISTIC PERSON, / AND WE RIDICULE HIM / AND ALL THOSE WHO CRY OUT, / 'BAH, HUMBUG!'

'CHRISTMAS CAROL'

BUT THE ~~STORY~~ IS A STORY / OF PERSONAL GROWTH, / THE MIRACLE OF CHANGE, / AND THE REALITY OF THE DIVINE POTENTIAL / THAT IS ALWAYS PRESENT / IN EVEN THE MOST DEPRAVED PERSON. // IN THE END / SCROOGE BECAME A SENSITIVE EMPLOYER, / A SECOND FATHER TO TINY TIM. / ..AND HE VOICED A STRONG COMMITMENT:

'I WILL HONOR CHRISTMAS / IN MY HEART, / AND TRY TO KEEP / IT ALL THE YEAR. I WILL LIVE IN THE PAST, / THE PRESENT, / AND THE FUTURE. THE SPIRITS OF ALL THREE / SHALL STRIVE WITHIN ME. I WILL NOT SHUT OUT / THE LESSONS THEY TEACH.'

SO INSTEAD OF BEING / THE VILLAIN OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY, / SCROOGE SHOULD BE THE HERO - / MUCH IN THE SENSE / THAT PAUL TRANSCENDED HIS PAST / AND BECAME A HERO / IN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION. UNLESS WHAT HAPPENED TO SCROOGE / HAPPENS IN SOME WAY TO EACH

OF US,/WE CANNOT RIGHTLY SAY/WE ARE INTO CHRIST-
MAS,/OR AT LEAST WE ARE NOT/LETTING IT GET INTO US
AS BROTHER ANGELUS SINGS -/- 'THOUGH CHRIST A
THOUSAND TIMES/IN BETHLEHEM BE BORN,/ IF HE'S
NOT BORN IN THEE,/ THY SOUL IS ALL FORLORN.'

I WOULD LIKE YOU/TO TAKE A LOOK/AT YOUR PROGRAM
FOR TODAY. FOCUS ON THE/UNITY LOGO ON THE COVER.
THIS IS A SYMBOL/THAT HAS EVOLVED IN MY CONSCIOUS-
NESS/OVER THE YEARS /- INSPIRED BY THE CONCEPT
OF PLOTINUS/THAT THE UNIVERSE/IS AN INFINITE
PROCESS/THAT IS EVER RUSHING,/STREAMING,/ AND POUR-
INTO US/FROM ALL SIDES/WHILE WE STAND QUIET.
NOTICE HOW THIS/TAKES THE SHAPE OF A STAR --
SHOWING THAT IN THE COSMIC PROCESS/UNFOLDING AS
YOU,/YOU ARE A STAR. PUT YOURSELF IN THE PICTURE.
'WOW!' I AM A STAR!

CERTAIN SEERS AND SENSITIVES/HAVE LONG TALKED

OF THE 'AURA' / THAT SURROUNDS EVERY PERSON, AND WHICH IS MORE VIVID / WITH PERSONS IN A HIGH CONSCIOUSNESS. I SEE THIS AURA / AS THE NON-MATERIAL FIELD / OF FORCE / THAT IS THE REALITY / OUT OF WHICH THINGS TAKE SHAPE, / AND FROM WHICH THEY RECEIVE / THE FLOW OF SUPPORT / FROM THE UNIVERSE. IN SHORT / IT IS MY CONTENTION / THAT THE AURA DOES NOT / EMANATE FROM THE ^{Body}~~PERSON~~, / BUT THE ^{Body}~~PERSON~~ PRECIPITATES FROM THE AURA -/- THE FORCES FORMING THE STAR, / WHICH IS THE PLAN / FOR PERFECT MAN.

FROM THE EARLIEST DAYS / MAN HAS SENSED THE UNIVERSAL ORDER, / AND HAS INTUITIVELY KNOWN / THE MEANING OF / AND THE NEED FOR / TRANSCENDENT LIGHT. MOST SO-CALLED / PAGAN CULTURES / HAD SOME FORM OF ANNUAL CELEBRATION / OF THE REBIRTH OF LIGHT / AT THE WINTER SOLSTICE, / THE TIME WHEN THE SUN / IS AT ITS GREATEST DISTANCE / FROM THE CELESTIAL EQUATOR -/- ABOUT DEC. 22ND. AND IT IS LIKELY / THAT CHURCH HISTORIANS, /

WHO REALLY HAD NO IDEA/WHEN JESUS WAS ACTUALLY BORN,/SET THE DAY AT THIS TIME/ BY DESIGN/TO SYMBOLIZE THE RE-INFUSION/OF THE PLANET/WITH AN ENERGY FORCE/BRINGING VIBRATORY RHYTHMS/TO LIFT THE EARTH/TO THE KIND OF/'PEACE ON EARTH/GOOD WILL TO MEN'/SUNG BY THE HEAVENLY HOSTS.

▶ SO TODAY, DECEMBER 23, 1984,/WHEN THE WORLD STANDS IN SUCH/DESPERATE NEED FOR LIGHT,/THERE IS A CRYING NEED/FOR A RENAISSANCE OF THE/EARLY CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE -/A RETURN TO MEANINGS WITHIN FORM,/TO COMMITMENT BEYOND DOCTRINE.

▶ SO THE GREAT IDEA/THAT CHRISTMAS SHOULD SYMBOLIZE/IS THE ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ REBIRTH OF LIGHT INTO THE WORLD,/THE AWAKENING IN EACH OF US TO THE DYNAMIC POTENTIAL/OF OUR GOD-SELF -- WITH ^{THE} ~~THE~~ INHERENT PROMISE/THAT AS MEN ACT ON LOVE/AND GOOD WILL,/THERE CAN BE PEACE ON EARTH.

EXPLORE NEW STEPS/IN A BIRTH OF LIGHT,/TO SEED

I LOVE THE STORY/OF THE MAN WHO WENT TO A QUAKER MEETINGHOUSE,/NOT KNOWING ANYTHING/ABOUT THE PROCESS/OF A QUAKER MEETING. THE CONGREGATION SAT IN SILENCE/FOR A LONG TIME. THE MAN WAS PUZZLED/AND IMPATIENT FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN. HE LEANED OVER/TO THE MAN SITTING NEXT TO HIM/AND WHISPERED, 'WHEN DOES THE SERVICE BEGIN?' THE MAN QUIETLY REPLIED,/ 'WHEN THE MEETING IS OVER.'

AND IN THE SAME SENSE/THE TRUE CHRIST MASS BEGINS /WHEN ~~THE~~ DAY OF CELEBRATION/IS OVER./ THERE IS SLEEVES-ROLLED-UP/WORK TO BE DONE,/THE NEW CONSCIOUSNESS TO REVEAL,/AND THE LIGHT/OF OUR PERSONAL STAR TO SHINE.

TOO VISIONARY? YOU SAY. YET/A SOCIETY THAT CAN /PUT PEOPLE ON THE MOON/AND SHUTTLE BACK AND FORTH INTO OUTER SPACE/SHOULD BE READY ~~TO~~ EXPLORE NEW STEPS/IN A BIRTH OF LIGHT,/TO SEED

THE MENTAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE PLANET/WITH NEW
THOUGHTS OF/TRANSCENDENT SOGNIFICANCE.

AND LET'S NOT/FALL BACK ON THE CLASSIC/COP-OUT
THAT YOU ARE ONLY ONE -/- WHAT CAN ONE PERSON
DO/IN THE MIDST OF SUCH/OVERWHELMING DARKNESS?
REMEMBER - YOU ARE A STAR. 'LET YOUR LIGHT
SHINE.' *wow!*

SO... CHRISTMAS SHOULD NOT BE/A SEASONAL BACKWARD
GLANCE/AT AN EVENT OF SO LONG AGO/THAT WE CAN
ONLY DEAL WITH IT/IN SYMBOLIC FORM THROUGH ASSEM-
BLING/OUR CHRISTMAS CRECHE^{WHICH}, (~~IT~~) IS A KIND OF
'PASTE-ON PIETY' OF THE SEASON, WHICH IS SO SOON
PACKED AWAY/WITH ORNAMENTS AND TINSEL/AFTER THE
PERFUNCTORY PRACTICE/HAS BEEN FULFILLED.

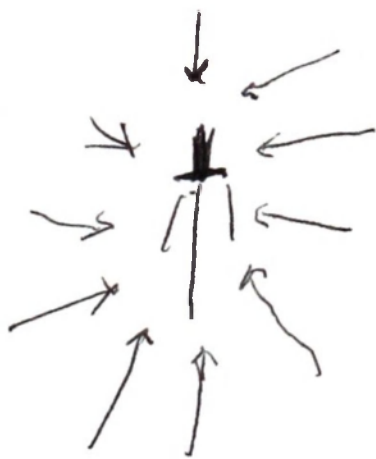
RATHER..CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE/A FORWARD LOOK. IT
IS A PROPHE~~TIC~~ DAY,/OR SHOULD BE. THE BIRTH OF
THE CHRIST,/YOUR PERSONAL CHRISTMAS STAR,/BELONGS
TO AN ORDER OF LIFE NOT YET ATTAINED,/A GLIMPSE

OF A RACE OF ^{PEOPLE} ~~HEADS~~ / YET TO BE.

▶ IN THE CLOSING LINES / OF HIS LOVELY POEM, / 'A MAN
GOD-SIZE' - HENRY VICTOR MORGAN SAYS...

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

'SPARK WHICH MAY MAY DESECRATE ---'



WONDERFUL
COUNSELOR
ALMIGHTY GOD
EVERLASTING FATHER
PRINCE OF PEACE