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PAPERS (3014)**

BOX 25

FOLDER 65

A DREAM ON

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 1989

ZERO - all of them here.

A DREAM ON CHRISTMAS EVE

12/24/89

Galileo

IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE... AND I WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS. / BUT
HAVING SAID THAT, / MAY I BE IRREVERENT AND ASK, / "WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?"
RIGHT THIS IS NO HUMBUG! / I AM ALWAYS EAGER TO PUT UP OUR CHRISTMAS TREE /
Human (WHICH GIVES OFF SUCH A POWERFUL ENERGY OF LOVE), / AND I AM ALWAYS
RELUCTANT TO TAKE IT DOWN. / I JOKE ABOUT LEAVING IT UP UNTIL EASTER, /
AND SOMETIMES WE VERY NEARLY DO. / (EASTER BUNNIES REALLY LOOK GOOD
AS ORNAMENTS. / OR ~~THESE~~ ^{AT LEAST} HEARTS FOR VALENTINES DAY.) CHRISTMAS IS JOY.

IT IS ALWAYS SAD, TO ME, / TO HEAR PEOPLE TALK OF CHRISTMAS AS A BURDEN, /
WITH THE CHIEF REASON FOR ENGAGING IN THE CELEBRATION: / "BECAUSE WE
HAVE ALWAYS DONE SO," / IT IS ALMOST AS IF IT WERE LIKE A "GREAT
HISTORIC CREED," ~~AND~~ ^{OR THE CHURCH} THAT WE HAVE A RELIGIOUS OBLIGATION TO MEET.

? DID YOU KNOW THAT THE OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS AS A HOLIDAY / WAS NOT
ESTABLISHED IN AMERICA / UNTIL THE LAST HALF OF THE 19th CENTURY? / DID YOU
KNOW THAT THE EARLY PILGRIMS NOT ONLY FROWNED ON CHRISTMAS / BUT ANY EVIDENCE
OF ITS CELEBRATION / WAS AGAINST THE LAW / WITH A FINE OF FIVE SHILLINGS, /..
AND THOSE WHO WERE SO FINED / EITHER PAID UP OR WENT TO JAIL? / AND LOOK
AT US NOW!! / THE SANTA CLAUS SYNDROME, / AND THE PRESSURE-LADEN INVOLVEMENT
OF GIFT-GIVING / AND PARTYING / AND THE LICENSE FOR IRRATIONAL BHAVTOR, /
(AS JIM BISHOP PUTS IT, / "FOR KISSING THE WRONG PERSON UNDER THE
MISTLETOE....") - THIS IS THE CHRISTMAS THAT AMERICA HAS EXPORTED TO
MOST OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD - / NOT ~~EX~~ACTLY THE AMERICAN DREAM.

IN ANSWERING THE QUESTION: / "WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?" / WE MUST LOOK BEYOND
THE SIMPLISTIC ANSWER, / THAT IT IS THE BIRTHDAY OF JESUS. / ACTUALLY, THE
DATE OF JESUS' BIRTH IS UNKNOWN. / DECEMBER 25th WAS SET ASIDE FOR THE
CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS / IN THE FOURTH CENTURY, A.D., / BY AN OBSCURE
ROMAN HISTORIAN, / AND QUITE ARBITRARILY. / IN ROMAN MYTHOLOGY / IT WAS
BELIEVED THAT THE UNIVERSE WAS ORIGINALLY CREATED AT THE VERNAL EQUINOX /
MARCH 25th. BY SIMILAR REASONING IT WAS HELD / THAT THE INCEPTION OF
THE NEW CREATION ~~IN CHRIST~~ / MUST HAVE BEEN ON THE SAME DAY OF THE YEAR /
WHICH WOULD BRING HIS BIRTH NINE MONTHS LATER, DECEMBER 25th. /

AND...THERE IS ANOTHER PARALLEL TRADITION THAT MAN HAS ALWAYS HAD A STRONG NEED FOR
TRANSCENDENT LIGHT. / MOST PAGAN CULTURES HAD SOME KIND 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 DECEMBER 22nd. / IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE
JEWISH HANUKKAH AND
THEIR FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, ALSO COMES AT THIS SEASON. / THUS IT COULD BE THAT JESUS' BIRTH WAS
SET 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 HOST. /

AS STUDENTS OF TRUTH / WE MUST BE MATURE ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THE FACT / THAT THE WHOLE
CHRISTMAS STORY IN THE GOSPELS / HAS EVOLVED OUT OF LEGENDS THAT WERE HIGHLY EMBELLISHED
THROUGH THE PASSING YEARS. / AND THERE IS PROBABLY LITTLE THAT IS HISTORICALLY
ACCURATE. / HOWEVER, THE SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD EXPERIENCING THE LIGHT. / AND THE WISE MEN
FROM THE EAST FOLLOWING THE WISE MEN FROM THE EAST FOLLOWING THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF A
STAR / TO THE PLACE WHERE THE YOUNG CHILD LAY. / HAVE IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC MEANING. / BUT WE CAN
ONLY CATCH THE MEANING / WHEN WE REALIZE THAT IT IS OUR STORY. / JESUS DID NOT COME TO
PROCLAIM HIMSELF. / BUT THE DIVINE DEPTH IN ALL PERSONS. / HE WAS NOT SETTING HIMSELF UP
AS THE GREAT EXCEPTION, / BUT HE WAS TELLING US OF OUR DIVINITY / AND SHOWING HIMSELF AS THE
GREAT EXAMPLE OF THE I AM REACHING ITS FULL PERSONAL EXPRESSION.

SO THE TWO ACCOUNTS OF THE SHEPHERDS AND WISE MEN THAT CAME TO WORSHIP THE YOUNG CHILD /
(WHICH IS OUR VERY OWN DIVINE POTENTIAL) / MAY INDICATE TWO IMPORTANT INFLUENCES ON OUR
UNFOLDING SOUL: / THE WISE MEN FOLLOWING A STAR / ARE SYMBOLIC OF DIVINE WISDOM FLOWING
FORTH FROM GOD-MIND. / AND THE SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCKS /
BY NIGHT INDICATE THE DISCIPLINED USE OF POSITIVE THOUGHTS OF THE CONTEMPORARY
WORLD.

BUT THESE LEGENDS AND THEIR SYMBOLIC PORTRAYAL / IN THE CHRISTMAS CHRECHES OF TODAY /
HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO PRACTICAL MEANING FOR YOU AND ME, / UNLESS THEY INSPIRE US TO
ACKNOWLEDGE THE CHRIST OF OUR OWN BEING. / OUR OWN SON-OF-GOD SELF....AND THEN
GET ON

THE WOLF SYMBOLIZES LIFE AT ITS LOWER LEVEL, / BECOMING CONSCIOUS OF
LIMITATION AND WANT, / BUT DREAMING OF WARMTH AND LIGHT. / ALL OF LIFE
MOUNTS UPWARD THROUGH SUCH A DEEPENING REALIZATION OF DARKNESS, / LONELINESS,
AND STRUGGLE.

SO IT IS WITH THE WOLF. / AFTER BEWAILING HIS SORROW AND LONGING / THAT
"NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE," / HE HEARS A BELL IN THE DISTANCE. / IT SOUNDS TO
HIM LIKE DIVINE SPEECH, / AND QUICKENING HIM TO...

|| "WONDER HOW 'TWOULD FEEL
TO SIT WITH MEN AND SHARE THEIR MEAL."

BECAUSE HE HAD PREYED UPON THE FOLK OF GUBBIO, / THE WOLF LIVED IN DEADLY
FEAR OF THEM, / AND THEY OF HIM.

THE DRAMA CONTINUES. / TO UNFOLD THE PICTURE OF A DISCORDANT FEAR-RIDDEN
WORLD / IN WHICH ALL LIVING CREATURES ^{AND NATIONS} ARE LONGING IN SOME WAY, / AS DID THE
WOLF, / FOR DELIVERANCE AND FREEDOM. / ~~THAT ASPIRATION EVENTUALLY DRAWS UNTO~~
~~ITSELF THE LIGHT IT MERITS.~~ ^{AS WE HAVE SEEN THAT LEADING}
^{THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD.}

THE SCENE CHANGES WITH THE APPEARANCE OF ST. FRANCIS SINGING PRAISES
TO THE SUN: / "O BROTHER SUN, ALL-FOLDING LIGHT!" / -- (WORDS VOICING THE
JOY AND GRATITUDE THAT FILLS THE ILLUMINED SOUL.)

THERE IS A MEETING BETWEEN ST. FRANCIS AND THE WOLF. / THE WOLF CONFESSES
HIS SHAME AND GUILT, TOGETHER WITH HIS LONGING TO BE A MAN: / WHILE
ST. FRANCIS CONFESSES HIS OWN WOLFISH SINS. / AND HE POINTS THE WAY:

"WILT THOU EARN
A MAN'S OWN PEACE? / THEN WORK AND LEARN!
BACK TO THE WORLD; AND THERE MAKE GOOD
ALL THOU HAS DREAMED OF BROTHERHOOD."
HOPE AND LOSE AND HOPE AGAIN,
AND REMEMBER AND FORGET
WITH US ALL, FOR MEN ARE MEN,
BUT NOT BROTHERS, NO NOT YET!"

LATER THERE IS A SIGNANT SCENE / IN WHICH THE WOLF PULLS BACK, / SAYING,
"I DON'T WANT TO BE A MAN / UNTIL MEN STOP ACTING LIKE WOLVES."

THE CLIMAX OF THE PLAY TAKES PLACE ON CHRISTMAS EVE / AROUND ^A CRECHE ERECTED
BY SAINT FRANCIS. / THE WOLF OF GUBBIO, / IN AN ACT OF HEARTBROKEN CONTRITION,
DISSOLVES FEAR AND ANTAGONISM / AND EARNs HIS PLACE IN THE RANKS OF LOVE
AND BROTHERHOOD. FRANCIS SINGS:

"OH, AND THE VERY STARS SHALL SING
FOR THE JOY OF THIS GLAD THING.
THO WE CROWN HIM YET WITH THORN,
THO WE LAUGH HIM ALL TO SCORN,
LOVE, - LOVE IS BORN."

AND ST. FRANCIS CONCLUDES:

"AND IF THERE BE OUT YONDER ANY WOLF,
OR GREAT OR SMALL, BEHOLD -
COME LITTLE BROTHER WOLVES, COME HITHER...
OUT OF THE COLD."

SO, IN THIS SYMBOLIC WAY, / THE AUTHOR DEALS WITH THE REBIRTH OF LIGHT /-
THE LIFTING UP OF THE BESTIAL NATURE OF MAN / TO THE AWARENESS OF THE
INHERENT DIVINITY / -- THIS IS WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT!

▶ THERE IS A PROFOUND TRUTH / IN THE LEGEND OF THE MANGER OF BETHLEHEM, / THAT
TELLS OF EVEN THE LOWLY ANIMALS / COMING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIVITY. /
EVERY LIFE-WAVE ON EARTH / IS LITERALLY FILLED WITH EXALTATION / WHEN THIS
FLOW OF DIVINE LIGHT PENETRATES THE HEART OF THE PLANET! / CAN YOU ACCEPT
THIS COSMIC INSIGHT? / CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT TONIGHT / A BURST OF TRANSCENDENT
LIGHT / WILL DAWN IN YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS? / PUTTING IT INTO THE CHRISTMAS
SYMBOLGY, "IS THERE ROOM IN MANGER OF YOUR HEART? CAN YOU LET THE
LIGHT BE REBORN?"

+ +
[JOHN WAS SINGING OF THIS EXPERIENCE WHEN HE SAYS: "IN HIM WAS LIFE; AND
THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MAN. AND THE LIGHT SHINETH IN THE DARKNESS;
AND THE DARKNESS APPREHENDED IT NOT... THERE WAS THE TRUE LIGHT WHICH
LIGHTETH EVERY MAN COMING INTO THE WORLD."

▶ FOR SO LONG MAN HAS BEEN FIGHTING HIS WAY THROUGH THE DARKNESS, / SOMETIMES
AS UNCHRISTLIKE AS THE LOWLIEST OF CREATURES. / BUT THE MIND OF MAN HAS
DREAMED OF HIS POTENTIAL FOR GOOD, / LIKE THE FURGE OF THE WOLF OF GUBBIO.

OFFER CITED

▲ THERE IS A TEST OF WHETHER CHRISTMAS/IS REALLY HAPPENING TO YOU AND IN YOU. IT IS THIS: /"CAN YOU LOOK AT THE DOWNTRODDEN, /THE DISEASED, /THE IGNORANT, /EVEN THE MISGUIDED - AND SAY NOT, "I ~~REJECT~~ ^{REJECT} YOU FOR YOUR SQUALOR, /YOUR IGNORANCE AND YOUR DEVIATE WAYS"/ BUT RATHER, /."I ~~REJECT~~ ^{REJECT} YOUR SQUALOR AND IGNORANCE AND CRIME, / BUT I SALUTE THE DIVINITY WITHIN YOU. / AND I AM WILLING TO WORK WITH YOU / TO RELEASE YOUR DIVINE POTENTIAL. / AND TO BRING LIGHT IN ^{TO} THE WORLD IN WHICH WE ALL LIVE."

IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE REALLY TAKE SERIOUSLY THE SPARK OF LIGHT IN ALL PERSONS, / AND COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE BIRTH OF LIGHT /- WE WOULD REALIZE THAT A MEETING SUCH AS THIS ^{TODAY} IS NOT AN END, / BUT A PREPARATION FOR WORK TO BE DONE. / WHICH COMES NEXT. / AS CHRISTMASING BECOMES A DAILY EXPERIENCE OF "LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE". - ~~FIGHTING~~.

PART 5
I HAVE RECENTLY RE-READ A STORY FROM THE 16th CHAPTER OF THE "AQUARIAN GOSPEL" -- A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF JESUS' SEVENTH BIRTHDAY:

Where we live → "JESUS' GRANDPARENTS, JOACHIM AND ANNA, / HAD A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR HIM. / AND JESUS STOOD BEFORE THE GUESTS / AND SAID, "I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT, / AND IN MY DREAM / I STOOD BEFORE A SEA, / UPON A SANDY BEACH. / THE WAVES UPON THE SEA WERE HIGH, / A STORM WAS RAGING ON THE DEEP. / SOMEONE ABOVE GAVE ME A WAND. / I TOOK THE WAND / AND ~~TOUCHED~~ ^{TOUCHED} THE SAND, / AND EVERY GRAIN OF SAND / BECAME A LIVING THING. / THE BEACH WAS ALL A MASS OF BEAUTY AND OF SONG. / I TOUCHED THE WATERS AT MY FEET, / AND THEY WERE CHANGED TO TREES, / AND FLOWERS, / AND SINGING BIRDS / AND EVERYTHING WAS PRAISING GOD. / AND I HEARD A VOICE THAT SAID, "THERE IS NO DEATH."

"THEN GRANDMOTHER ANNA / LAID HER HAND ON JESUS' HEAD / AND SAID, "I SAW YOU STAND BESIDE THE SEA. / I SAW YOU TOUCH THE SAND AND WAVES. / I SAW THEM TURN TO LIVING THINGS. / AND THEN / I KNEW / THE MEANING OF THE DREAM. / THE SEA OF LIFE ROOLS HIGH; / THE STORMS ARE GREAT. / THE MULTITUDE OF MEN ARE IDLE, / LISTLESS, / WAITING, / LIKE DEAD SAND / UPON THE BEACH. / YOUR WAND IS TRUTH. / WITH THIS YOU TOUCH THE MULTITUDES, AND EVERY MAN BECOMES A MESSENGER / OF HOLY LIGHT AND LIFE. / YOU TOUCH THE WAVES UPON THE SEA OF LIFE; / THEIR TURMOILS CEASE, / THE VERY WINDS

BECOME A SONG OF PRAISE. / THERE IS NO DEATH, / BECAUSE THE WAND OF TRUTH CAN / CHANGE THE DRYEST BONES TO LIVING THINGS, / AND BRING THE LOVELIEST FLOWERS FROM STAGNANT PONDS, / AND TURN THE MOST DISCORDANT NOTES TO HARMONY AND PRAISE."

SO..THIS WAS JESUS' DREAM ON CHRISTMAS EVE. / .THE EVE OF HIS 7th BIRTHDAY. / (MIND YOU THE "AQUARIAN GOSPEL" IS NOT SCRIPTURE. IT IS AN INTERESTING ACCOUNT PURPORTEDLY INTUITIVELY SENSED BY ONE NAMED LEVI.)

(CARL SANDBURG) ONCE SAID, / "NOTHING HAPPENS UNLESS FIRST A DREAM." / AND IT JUST COULD BE THAT THE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JESUS' LATER MINISTRY / HAD THEIR INCEPTION IN JUST SUCH DREAMS AS THIS.

DREAMS, TO ME, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WAKING THINGS / NOT NOCTURNAL FANTASIES. / THY HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED IMAGES AND PLANS / GIVING LIFE TO MY HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS. / AS THIS DREAM OF JESUS MAY HAVE BEEN.

TODAY I HAVE A WISH FOR YOU AND FOR THE WORLD
~~TWENTY-TWO YEARS AGO, / IN THE CENTER NEWS LETTER, / THEN CALLED~~
~~"CHALLENGE." / I FEATURED A PIECE WHICH I CALLED, / "MY CHRISTMAS DREAM."~~
SLIGHTLY REVISED
I WOULD LIKE TO READ IT TO YOU. ~~FOR~~ YOU MAY AGREE THAT ITS MESSAGE IS VERY TIMELY AND RELEVANT TO OUR WORLD TODAY: *YOU MAY CLOSE YOUR EYES AND LET THE DREAM OF YOUR WISH FOR YOURSELF*
READ THE CHALLENGE

SU DE IT OPEN EYES

NOW...I AM GOING TO SUGGEST THAT TONIGHT, / AT SOME QUIET TIME WHEN YOU CAN BE ALONE, / THAT YOU POUR OUT YOUR HEART IN YOUR DREAM ON CHRISTMAS EVE / --FOR YOURSELF, / YOUR LOVED ONES / AND ESPECIALLY FOR THE WORLD. / IT NEED NOT BE A LITERARY MASTERPIECE, / ..JUST ARTICULATE YOUR HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS, / IN A POSITIVE AND EXPECTANT CONTEXT. / AND I SUGGEST THAT YOU MAKE THIS A PROGRESSIVE, / YEAR-LONG PROJECT, / ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~. SECURE A SMALL NOTEBOOK AND CALL IT YOUR DREAM DIARY. / USE IT LIKE A "CHRISTMAS CLUB" ACCOUNT AT THE BANK / INTO WHICH YOU MAKE OCCASIONAL DEPOSITS THROUGH THE YEAR / WHENEVER YOU HAVE A VISION FOR YOUR LIFE OR FOR THE WORLD.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW ONCE SAID, / "LIFE IS A FLAME WHICH IS ALWAYS
BURNING ITSELF OUT, / BUT WHICH CATCHES FIRE AGAIN EVERY TIME A
CHILD IS BORN." / AND IN A VERY REAL SENSE / A "CHILD IS BORN" IN
YOU / EVERY TIME YOU GIVE EXPRESSION / TO A HEARTFELT DREAM PROJECTION
IN FAITH IN YOUR CHRIST POTENTIAL / TO GIVE WAY TO THE DIVINE FLOW.

I LOVE THE STORY OF THE MAN / WHO ATTENDED A MEETING IN A QUAKER MEETINGHOUSE /
NOT KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT IT. / THE CONGREGATION SAT IN SILENCE /
FOR A VERY LONG TIME. / The man was puzzled, / and WHISPERED TO THE
MAN NEXT TO HIM: / "WHEN DOES THE SERVICE BEGIN" / THE MAN REPLIED
IN A WHISPER: "WHEN THE MEETING ENDS."

AS WE HAVE SAID IN RECENT WEEKS, / "CHRISTMAS IS NOT A HOLIDAY TO
OBSERVE. / IT IS SOMETHING TO DO. / DURING THE ADVENT SEASON WE HAVE
BEEN CALLING IT "CHRISTMASING." / THE IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW / IS
THAT THE TRUE CHRIST MASS / BEGINS WHEN THE DAY OF CELEBRATION IS
OVER. / HAVE YOUR CELEBRATION WITH FRIENDS AND FOOD AND GIFT-GIVING.

Happy Christmas BUT IF YOU ARE ALONE / WITHOUT A FAMILY / *Don't waste time in Sec. Prog.* IN A WAY YOU ARE BLESSED /
FOR YOU CAN GET A HEAD START IN YOUR CHRISTMAS DREAM DIARY / AND
IN THE WORK WE ARE ALL CALLED TO DO. / THE NEW CONSCIOUSNESS TO
REVEAL, AND A NEW LIGHT TO SHINE.

REMEMBER, IT IS CHRISTMAS WHENEVER AND WHEREVER THE HUMAN HEART /
TOUCHED BY HIM WHOSE EVER-LIVING SPIRIT / IS THE EVER-GIVING SPIRIT /
IS MOVED TO THE EXPRESSION OF UNSELFISH LOVE / THUS EXPERIENCING
THE TRUE SOLSTICE OF THE SPIRIT, / THE REBIRTH OF LIGHT.

HOW OFTEN AND HOW EASILY WE SAY, / "MERRY CHRISTMAS" / CERTAINLY
HAVE A MERRY TIME, BUT THE WORLD CALLS FOR LIGHT AND PEACE. HOW
MUCH BETTER TO IDENTIFY WITH THE COSMIC "FESTIVAL OF LIGHT - SAYING
TO ONE ANOTHER, "HAPPY CHRISTMAS OF LIGHT" -- IT IS A DEEPER AND
MORE CREATIVE MEANING.

NOW A MINUTE OF REFLECTION ON YOUR DREAM OF CHRISTMAS EVE.