

A CHRISTMAS FANTASY

(A sermon delivered by Rev. Irvin on  
Dec. 25, 1883)

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One Day around the great white throne

Gathered angels, archangels, and all the heavenly hosts,

Even Death, who only moves at God's command,

Stood that day beneath the great white Throne.

God sat on the great white Throne weeping,

With his head in his hands, he sat there weeping.

At the sound of God's weeping,

The heavenly hosts stopped their celestial chores,

And raced to their father's Throne.

On that awful morning when God cried, creation put on its robe of mourning;

The moon hid its face;

The morning stars stopped singing together.

The trees no longer clapped their hands,

And the sun refused to shine.

On that awful day when God cried,

Every creature behind the battlements of glory wept too.

And it seemed that God's great loving heart would burst with its grief.

It seemed that God wept a thousand years,

And, then, in a voice more tender and sad than had ever been spoke before,

God spoket

"My children on earth don't love me,  
And only now and then do they heed my commands.  
I've watched over them,  
cared for them ~~safely~~ more tenderly  
Than any shepherd ever cared for his sheep.

"I've given my children a fruitful land,  
A land flowing with milk and honey.  
When they cried unto me in Egyptland  
I heard their cry; I <sup>Answered</sup> ~~answered~~ them in their distress.  
With a mighty hand I fought their battles.  
I gave them food and drink while crossing  
A dry and thirsty land.

"But Cain still kills His brother, Abel;  
Selfishness and greed still make millions starve;  
Their sins like thorns infest the ground  
Unfaithful and rebellious, they go whoring after other gods.  
They have forgotten my commandments,  
And only when they are trouble do they remember me.

"They kill without mercy!  
They hate without cause;  
They are arrogant and proud.  
Sin covers my earth as the waters cover the sea.

"More times than there are stars in ~~the~~ number

I have forgiven my children when they cried,  
 'Father, forgive us, and try us one more time'.

Each time I have forgiven;  
 Each time they have done no better;  
 And my heart overflows with their grief and sorrow.

"Tho my right hand is full of mercy,  
 My left hand demands a day of justice".

Then God put his head in his hands and said -  
 Said in tone that reminded the angels  
 of David weeping over Absalom -

"Perhaps it would be better if I blew out the sun  
 Like a candle in the wind, or if I let the sun kiss  
 The earth and turn it into a fiery ball".

Then there was a long painful silence;  
 The destiny of the human race hung in the balance,  
 Hung in the precarious balance in the great mind and heart  
 of God.  
 And all the heavenly hosts bowed their heads and trembled  
 In the painful silence of that awful day.

Then the long, awful silence was broken,  
 Brokn by a voice that sounded like the rolling of mighty  
 waters.

It was the voice of the one who someday would be called by  
 the sons of /the/

Of men, the Lily of the Valley, the bright and morning star,  
The stone hewn out of the mountain, the Rose of Sharon, the  
Prince of Peace.

The son of God, God's chosen son, God's only son,  
Stood before His father's throne to plead for the sons of  
earth.

Stood before his father's throne to plead like a mighty  
intercessor

For all the lost and all the lonely in his father's world.

And in tones mixed with love and with eloquence,

This is what he said:

"Father, prepare me a body and I'll go down;

Wrap me up in human flesh and I'll go down,

I'll go down and reveal your loving face more

Clearly than the world has ever seen before.

I'll rescue the perishing, care for the dying;

~~Sheath~~  
~~Send~~ them in pity from death and the grave.

I'll build a highway from earth to heaven,

So that even a fool or a wayfaring man can find the way.

I'll break the power of canceled sin!

I'll set the prisoners free."

And God looked into the face of his only son;

God looked into the face of his chosen son;

And he opened his mouth and he said to his son:

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"Patriarch, Lawgiver, Prophet, Priest and King,

Have all gone before you.

They were rejected, stoned and slain.

They'll treat you worse.

They'll laugh you to scorn;

They'll spit on you, my son;

They'll curse you and beat you till the blood

Comes trickling down;

They'll nail your body to a cruel tree and

Hang you up to die between earth and sky."

Then, he, who was to become the North star for every  
pilgrim who had

Lost his way, answered his father and said:

"I'll bear their grief and I'll carry their sorrows;

I'll be wounded for their transgressions; I'll be  
bruised

~~bruised~~ for their iniquities; I'll even pour out

My soul unto death to reveal the depth of thy love

To the sons of men".

And God smiled <sup>up</sup>on his beloved Son, and God nodded his head  
and said:

"Greater love hath no man than this"

Then God called that great, bright angel, Gabriel,

And Gabriel stood in the shining presence of God,

And God said to Gabriel:

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"Begin the mighty preparation for the coming  
Of my son to dwell among men.  
Go down, Gabriel, to a city of Judea;  
Tell my righteous servant, Zacharias,  
That his prayers Before the altar have been heard.  
Tell him, tho he is old and his wife long past the  
Age of childbearing, that she will conceive and bear  
A son. That his son is to be called John, and he shall  
Be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb.  
He shall precede my son Jesus and be his voice in the  
Wilderness crying 'Make in the desert a highway for our God'.

And Gariel obeyed God's command.

Then, once again, God called Gabriel, and Gabriel waited for  
God's command.

And God said:

"Go down, Gabriel, go down, go down to a city of Galilee;  
Find the sweetest and purest of all Israels's maidnes;  
Find the Virgin Mary and tell her you bring good news from me"