

BEST WISHES



MISSED SOMETHING

Pa: "It's a terrible thing. I sold my car and mortgaged my house and land, all to send my son to the university. And all he does there is smoke, drink, and take girls out to parties."
 Pal: "Oh, so you're regretting it?"
 Pa: "Certainly. I should have gone myself."

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Shepherds and Kings

AND she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

From near at hand and from distant lands there came visitors to Bethlehem. There were kings and there were shepherds. They followed the same star. Somewhere in the streets of the little town these columns met, and there was talk between the wise men and the shepherds as to the nature of their mission. They exchanged such information as they had about the birth of the King of Kings and where He was to be found.

One of the royal party leaned down from his camel to listen to a shepherd who said, "We were in the field watching our flock and suddenly an angel appeared. We were very much frightened. And the angel said to us, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And then suddenly the sky was filled with a great light and voices sang, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.'"

"And the light faded and we began to talk to each other and we decided to leave just one man with the flock and we went up to Bethlehem to see this thing which is come to pass and which the Lord has made known to us. And we were in great haste."

And the king who sat high above the shepherd got down from the back of his camel to hear the story more clearly, and the shepherds clustered around him to learn what signs he and his party had received which brought them from far countries to Bethlehem.

And the eldest of the wise men explained, "For us it was a star, a new star in the heavens, and it seemed to us that the star beckoned, and we gathered together treasures of gold and frankincense and myrrh."

And he pointed to the great retinue behind him and the camels heavily laden with bales and bundles of precious stuffs. And the shepherds seemed ashamed and said, "We have



brought nothing. We came straight from the field when the angel spoke to us. And we were in great haste."

And all the shepherds were abashed in the presence of the three kings and their servants and their camels bearing the burdens of rich gifts. They could see and detect the place of their destination at the end of the street. The star shone directly on the stable. And because it was only a small place and the party of the kings was large the shepherds made as if to step aside so that these great men from a distant land might go first with their precious gifts for the King of kings. But the eldest of the wise men waved to the shepherds to join his servants and not to humble themselves.

"Whether it be from far or near," he said, "we are on the same mission. We should enter into the house together."

But the shepherds were still reluctant, and one of them answered, "First must come your servants with your precious gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. We have told you we bring nothing. We came straight from the fields, and even if we had not come in great haste there is nothing we possess fit to bring as a gift to the King of kings. We will linger and tarry here until you have given over your treasure."

The city was dark and still, but in this street there was a babble of voices and the sound of camel drivers calling to the great beasts to kneel so that they might dismount and unfasten the thongs which held in place the treasure chests and the sacks of incense.

And the cavalcade drew up before the door with clatter, noise and tumult. The shepherds were silent, for they had seen many wonders in a single evening, and not the least



of these were the kings of the East and their camel train.

And in the street the servants opened cedar chests and revealed great bars of gold heavier than the stones which lay in the meadow where the flocks had been left to graze. And the eyes of the shepherds opened wide again as when they saw the light of angels and heard the voices from the heavens.

Through the narrow door and up to the manger itself strode the kings and great bearded men bearing treasure. The timid shepherds followed and ranged themselves in the back of the room against the walls of the stable, for they were affrighted to be in the presence of princes and of the King of kings.

The eldest of the wise men said, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and are come to worship Him. And we bring with us rich treasures of gold and frankincense and myrrh."

And Mary, the mother, looked up at the great throng and paid no heed to the gifts of gold and incense but placed her finger upon her lips and said to the shepherds and to the kings, "The baby sleepeth." —By H. B.



Nazi Bombs Hit London Orphanage



The top age is three at this London orphanage which was recently hit by a Nazi bomb. The bomb exploded only 10 feet from the babies' dormitory, and, very fortunately, there were no casualties. The children are here pictured playing in the shadow of the orphanage ruins, quite unaware of their narrow escape from death.

Much of the happiness that these Holidays bring bring us is derived from reflecting upon the pleasant associations that come into our lives, and we are grateful for your friendship. Christmas Greetings to you and to yours and to all about you and may the New Year be a good year for you, one in which you will prosper abundantly and be happy.

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