Mongolia and Its People

Sacred Dance, a Lama Church Ceremony.

MONGOLIA [illegible] has few rivals. In the depth of winter his owner neither feeds him nor provides him with shelter.

An extra growth of hair and thickness of hoof (for he is never shod) protect him against the bitter cold. As for his food, this intelligent little beast learns to scrape away the snow with his forefeet and find the sparse remains of the summer grass underneath.

Though paires, easily distinguished by trailing manes and tails, are kept at home for breeding purposes, Mongol ponies are exported in great numbers to China. They roam the plains freely until wanted, and are then captured in a curious way.

Two or three Mongols start out together on fleet mounts specially trained for their work. The riders carry long birch poles, like fishing rods, with a rope noose at one end.

When the chosen animal is overtaken, the noose is slipped over its neck with a dexterous twist.

One man then dismounts and, squatting upon his haunches, seizes the terrified animal by the tail. Like the proverbial dog with the tin can, he starts off at a run, dragging the man behind him. The latter slides along over the grass in his soft felt boots till the beast stops exhausted. Then he is easily thrown and a saddle fixed on his back.

Again the animal struggles, squealing like a pig meanwhile, but a strong rider manages to mount him and after a few minutes the pony is considered tamed and fit to be ridden by Mongols, at least.

Expert horsemasters from childhood, both men and women are equally at home in the saddle. In fact, the pony is man's inseparable companion on the steppes, and the Mongol, who will never walk if he can help it, develops an unsteady, rolling gait when his duck forces him afoot.

Monasteries and Lamas.

In Mongolia monasteries are the great centers of amusement, interest, culture and wickedness. The priests exercise complete sway over the people by their unlovely religion of terror, the Tibetan form of one of the later sects of Buddhism known as the Tantric—a revival of the morbid Indian cult of Siva.

This repulsive creed, with its hideous demonology, is so well suited, however, to a land where cruel and treacherous atmospheric phenomena make man appear a helpless atom struggling against the mighty natural forces of existence that it prospers. Like frightened children, the People of the Wilderness desire to see their terrors embodied in idols which may be placated, and the cunning monks are quick to take advantage of their fears. Thus monasteries arise and grow rich.

The most famous and best kept monasteries are the abodes of the living Buddhas. The current belief is that these men are gods incarnate, and when they die, or, as the Mongols put it, "change the vehicle," are reborn into this world with the power to remember their former existence and prove their identity by using phrases characteristic of the last Buddha, selecting things that belonged to him from among many which were not his, etc.

To the foreigner a Mongol feast is a doubtful pleasure. He dislikes the idea that the unfortunate sheep have been slaughtered in the barbarous native way. It is difficult also to eat comfortably, having no attack, with only the assistance of a knife, a great expanse of fat mutton spread on a brass dish nearly two feet in diameter. Practice, however, makes Mongols expert, and in an incredibly short time each native has gobbled his share, seizing the piece of meat in his left hand and cutting it off close to his lips.

After all have gorged themselves and grown cheery with copious drafts of airak, hosts and guests mingle with the crowd in the meadow for the "fun of the fair." Many gather round a story-teller, who recites a legend drawn from the rich Mongolian folklore, some historical incident connected with the Great Khan or some quaint fairy tale inspired by the mystery of the steppes.

DADDY'S EVENING FAIRY TALE

by Mary Graham Bonner

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CHILDREN'S IDEAS

Oh, the children had many ideas since they had become the parents and had changed places with their fathers and mothers in the town of Reven-Saw.

They made great changes in the shops. They had bazaars and fairs, and they had all sorts of ideas of how to train their little daddies and mothers now that they were taking their places.

In fact having been children so recently they had more ideas than could be possibly described. But some more in the very biggest shop must be described. There was the question department and in this were packages of questions to be sold to mother and daddy children who thought at some time they might run out of them or who might forget to ask the usual and expected ones. Some of these questions were: Why does the smoke curl out of the chimney? But why does it? Why? Why did the train stop? But why did it? When is it going on? Why isn't it going on right away?

To every question there were many added ones which asked the same question just a little differently.

Many of these were sold.

There was a bargain counter of shoes and how the new parents did rush there, talking with each other about the price of shoes for children these days, and of the number they had to get.

Then there was the Bad Medicine department, while attached to it was the Only Two candy department. In the Bad Medicine department only medicines guaranteed to have a bad taste were sold, all varieties of bitter, horrible-tasting ones, and in the Only Two candy department packages were sold to each purchaser of bad tasting medicine. Only two candies were in each package and only two could be sold at a time with one dose of medicine. That was the rule.

Every department did a splendid business. People laid in supplies of things they might need at some time,

A Bargain Counter of Shoes.

for it didn't much matter when, if ever, they might need these things so long as they were to be had now at such a reasonable price.

Between the departments were tables of china and crockery so that every one had to be very careful not to knock anything over.

All the time there was a chorus singing, which was one of the best features of the shop.

The chorus sang:

Careful, children, don't touch!
Don't touch!
Don't touch!
Careful, children, don't touch!

That, it was decided, was one of the best inventions in the notion shop as it saved the parents saying it all the time. And yet the mother and daddy children kept learning it mighty fast.

But on the whole the children were very good and only when it became very late did they become fretful. Their parents were very kind and didn't scold. None of the parents wanted the other parents to think they couldn't manage their children and that they ever allowed their children to become fretful, so they seemed not to notice what they said but smiled and murmured:

"Poor little dears are sleepy. They're really never in the least cross or disobedient."

Some of the mothers and daddies fell asleep that night before they got undressed. But they had added a great deal to the fair. All the parents thought so.

As for the next day—well, it was a holiday and so they could sleep late.

The parents only hoped they would!

Phil Was Decisive

Phil came to play on my back porch as was his custom.

After a short time he suddenly called in at the open door: "I'm going home now."

Going to the door, I said: "Oh, you're not going home already, are you?"

"When I say I are, I are," was his decisive reply.

Did You?

Did you ever see a blue bottle fly?
Or a ship spar?
Or a sugar bowl?
Or a vine run?
Or a biscuit box?
Or a rail fence?
Or ginger snap?
Or a skate fish?

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of the Evening School, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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Lesson for December 20

CHRISTMAS LESSON

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 2:1-15.

GOLDEN TEXT—"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."—Luke 2:11.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Wise Men Visit the Baby Jesus.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Wise Men Follow the Star.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Christmas Spirit.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Prince of Peace.

Note: For this Sunday's lesson the lesson committee has given us an option of a Christmas lesson or a summary of Paul's life. It is presumed that most teachers will prefer the Christmas lesson since Paul has been the central figure for six months.

I. The Wise Men Seeking Jesus (vv. 1-2).

These wise men who sought Jesus were either Arabian or Persian astrologers, students of the stars. The appearance of an unusual star attracted their attention. Perhaps they were acquainted with the famous prophecy of Balaam (Num. 24:17). Doubtless through the influence of the Jews who remained in Chaldea, or the direct influence of Daniel extending to this time, they had become acquainted with the hope of a Messiah. The light they had was dim, but they lived up to the best they had. We learn from them:

1. That All True Wisdom Leads to the Savior, for He Is the Fullness of Wisdom.

2. That God's Word Shall Not Return Unto Him Void (Isa. 55:11).

The seed cast upon the Eastern waters brought forth fruit after many days. This ought to bring confidence to many ministers and Sunday school teachers who have not as yet seen the fruit of their labors.

3. The Grace of God Calls Men From Unexpected Quarters.

Some who have the least opportunities give the greatest honor to Christ, while others, blessed with the richest opportunities, shut Him out.

II. Herod Seeking to Kill Jesus (vv. 3-8).

The news brought by the wise men struck terror to Herod's heart. He was not alone in this, for all Jerusalem was troubled with him. A glimpse at the social customs in and about Jerusalem in that day will enable us to understand why this news brought uneasiness to the people. They were living in the greatest luxury. Beautiful apparel, sumptuous feasts, palatial houses, etc., led to gross immorality. We can thus readily see why Herod and all Jerusalem should be troubled. They did not want a Savior who would save them from their sins; they wanted to continue in them. Herod demanded of the priests and scribes information as to where Christ should be born. They were soon able to tell him. These people had a technical knowledge of the Scriptures but had no heart for the Savior as set forth therein. Conditions much like these prevail today. This reception of the Savior shows that perverseness of heart is the cause of so many being indifferent to Christ, and of their opposition to Him when His claims are presented. It is true today that the luxuries of wealth, the frivolities of the fashion-lovers, and the gross immoralities to which these lead, make Jesus Christ unwelcome in many quarters.

III. Jesus Found (vv. 9-12).

The wise men, having obtained the desired information, started immediately to find Jesus. As soon as they left the city the star which had guided them from the East appeared again to lead them on; not that it had disappeared from the sky, but no doubt the city buildings shut out its light. The star guided them to the place where Jesus was. When they found Him they worshiped Him. In this they displayed true faith. They did not see any miracle, only a babe, yet they worshiped Him as king. Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29). Note God's overruling providence in all this. Many hundred years before the prophet had said that Christ should come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). God so ordered affairs that Mary should be brought to that city to give birth to Christ. Let us be assured that nothing can thwart the divine purpose. God so ordered that these men should depart another way, thereby defeating Herod's wicked purpose. Through these wise men the Lord gave gifts into the hands of Joseph and Mary before their going to Egypt. Doubtless this served a good purpose in meeting their expenses during their stay there. Truly all things work together for good to them that love God (Rom. 8:28).

Life

Life is but a day, and the hours flee. Soon it is high noon, then afternoon, evening, night, when all service ceases. —R. P. Anderson.

Simplicity and Purity

"Simplicity and purity are the two wings by which a man is lifted up above all earthly things."

A Wrong Deed

A wrong deed should be immediately repented of and confessed.

W[illegible] R[illegible]

OH, w[illegible] free [illegible] tism. To [illegible] joints a[illegible] [illegible]ies — free from t[illegible]zing pain!

How [illegible]en have you longed fo[illegible] some r[illegible]lief as you suffered torture from swollen, inflamed muscles and joints—how often have you said you would give anything in the World for a few hours comfort!

But you didn't know that all you had to do to get real relief from this nerve wracking misery was just to build rich, red blood, did you? You didn't know that rheumatism had to be stopped from the inside by destroying the impurities that cause it—by building millions of red cells in your poor, weak blood, did you?

Until you fill your system full of healthy, rich, red blood you will never end your rheumatism. S. S. S. will surely help you. That's because S.S.S. [illegible]

S. S. [illegible] ing th[illegible] the bloo[illegible] vanishes [illegible] —you begin [illegible] gry again a[illegible] your food—stre[illegible] power fill your [illegible] you are vigorous [illegible] blooded and ready [illegible] action. Know this joy [illegible] living again! Take S. S. [illegible] rheumatism!

Get S. S. S. from any dru[illegible] larger bottle is more econom[illegible]

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Progress consists of swapping old troubles for new.—Columbia Record.

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Solomon was so busy giving advice that he probably had little time to take much of it.

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HAS HE FITS? [illegible]

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BAIT [illegible]

Pure White registered Jefferson Collie [illegible]

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