

Reflection the Epiphany 6th January 2023

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Matthew writes: *And suddenly the star they had seen rising went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight.* Mtt 2:9-10

How often the sight of a star fills us with delight. It is awesome to stand outside and behold a star-studded night. The stars, it seems, have always called us to greatness. They stir up within us a sense of mystery. Poets write and sing about the stars. Artists paint them.

We are told to follow our star. And yet, for all our romanticizing about the stars, if the truth be known, they sometimes lead us to places we would rather not go. A star marks our path with light and guides us to deeper insight. With that deeper kind of seeing comes new responsibilities. It is not always easy to follow a star.

Long ago three who have been called wise journeyed to the small, insignificant town of Bethlehem. They followed a star that led them to the powerlessness of God lying in a manger. It was the last place on earth one would expect to find the Creator of the stars, yet that is where those beams did shine. We call such a moment an Epiphany. An Epiphany is a manifestation of the Divine Presence right in the midst of daily life.

Those who have tried to follow the Creator of the stars often find themselves in the midst of an Epiphany. They are called to follow stars that seem beyond their reach. ... And what about you? What is your current Epiphany? Where is your sky all shining with stars? And which stars are calling you?

"Epiphany"

Creator of the Stars, God of Epiphanies, You are the Great Star.

You have marked my path with light.

You have filled my sky with stars, naming each star,
guiding it until it shines into my heart, awakening me to deeper seeing,
new revelations and brighter epiphanies.

O Infinite Star Giver,

I now ask for wisdom and courage to follow these stars
for their names are many and my heart is fearful.

They shine on me wherever I go:

The Star of Hope

The Star of Mercy and Compassion

The Star of Justice and Peace

The Star of Tenderness and Love

The Star of Suffering

The Star of Joy.

And every time I feel the shine,
I am called to follow it, to sing it, to live it
all the way to the cross and beyond.

O Creator of the Stars,
you have become within me an unending Epiphany.

What would have happened if it had been three Wise Women instead of three Wise Men?

They would have asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought practical gifts.

But what they would have said when they left...?

“Did you see the sandals Mary was wearing with that gown?”

“That baby doesn’t look anything like Joseph!”

“Can you believe that they let all of those disgusting animals in the house?”

“And that donkey that they are riding has seen better days too!”

“Want to bet on how long it will take until you get your casserole dish back?”