

The Two Great Events in Temporal Existence

The Absolute (God the Absolute) exists. It is atemporal, and It is the only permanent Reality. It is Existence Itself. It is Existence beyond time or space. It is No-thing-ness.

There is also, in this phase, temporal existence, which is within time and space and which is made up of innumerable things.

Two Great Events

There are two Great Events in temporal existence. The first is the manifestation of God the Creator from the Absolute.¹ The second Great Event is the creation of the Universe by God the Creator from the Absolute.

These Great Events are directly cognized by fully enlightened people, people who are in Unity Consciousness. However, for most people, these Great Events are, at best, whispers from the past. Even though most of us have not (yet) cognized the Great Events, these events are of paramount importance to us. Thus, we are drawn to them, even as rumors.

The Great Events are described in the creation myths of many cultures.² And they are often alluded to at the beginning of the sacred books, such as the Jewish Torah, of many of the world's religions. Because we are drawn to the Great Events so strongly, people around the world have attached *worldly events* to the Great Events as *symbols* of the Great Events.

The Great Events of temporal existence happened many eons before the planet Earth was formed. No event that has ever happened on Earth, nor any event that could ever happen on this tiny speck of dust in such a vast Universe, could be significant enough to be ranked as a "Great Event" in temporal existence.³ Earthly events can only mirror in a minor way, or be symbolic of, the two Great Events.

¹ God the Creator is the only Being who is not created; the only Being who is begotten from the Absolute without any intermediary.

² See for example *Primal Myths, Creation Myths Around the World*, Barbara C. Sproul, HarperCollins Publishers, New York, 1991 and *In the Beginning, Creation Stories from Around the World*, Virginia Hamilton, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, New York, 1998.

³ There is, perhaps, one exception. And that exception is when a human being enters the state of Unity Consciousness. (Refer to *The Evolution of Human Consciousness*, Chapter 3: States of Consciousness.)

Primary Symbols

The principal worldly events that are associated with the Great Events are the changing of the seasons,⁴ specifically the transition from fall to winter (winter solstice) and from winter to spring (spring equinox).

- The transition from fall to winter is used as a symbol of the first Great Event—the manifestation of God the Creator.
- The transition from winter to spring is used as a symbol of the second Great Event—the creation of the Universe.

The first Great Event, we can think of as the triumph of Light over Darkness. God the Creator is “the Light”,⁵ and the Absolute can be thought of as “the Darkness.”⁶ Thus, the manifestation of God the Creator from the Absolute can be thought of as the triumph of Light over Darkness.

On earth, in the fall, the days get shorter and shorter. At this time of year, we might ask ourselves: “Will the days continue to get shorter and shorter, so that darkness overtakes us completely? Or will the days become longer again and light win out over darkness?” Then, just as we might be giving up hope, something seemingly miraculous happens: The days *do* begin to get longer! This is surely the triumph of light over darkness. And this event is cause for celebration. In fact, this event is celebrated in many cultures all over the world on or about the shortest day of the year, during the change of seasons from fall to winter.

The fact that the days do not continue to get shorter is symbolic of the victory of Light over Darkness. Thus, celebrations that occur on or about the shortest day of the year are *the celebration of the manifestation of God the Creator from the Absolute*.

The second Great Event, the creation of the Universe by God the Creator from the Absolute, we can think of as the triumph of Life over Death. The Universe (all created things and beings) is the Glory⁷ of God the Creator; it is the “Life” of God. And, from the point of view of a person in the ordinary states of consciousness, the Absolute is certainly death.

This second event is celebrated on or about the first day of spring, when life begins to return to a world in which, seemingly, everything has died. This is symbolic of the victory of Life over Death. (Will winter go on forever, so that death overtakes us completely? Or will winter end

⁴ Created beings have celebrated the two Great Events since these beings were first created (we can say, from the beginning of time). The Great Events are now celebrated on the Earth by human beings at times during the year that are *symbolic* of the events. Each of these Great Events is true for the entire Universe. And the Universe contains trillions and trillions of galaxies, each of which contain billions and billions of stars, many of which have planets around them, some of which can support life (sentient beings such as human beings). Each of the unimaginably large number of planets on which sentient beings might live is a tiny speck of dust in an enormous Universe. Our speck of dust, the Earth, just happens to be tilted on its axis by about 23 degrees, which gives us the seasons of the year. Our symbols for the Great Events are based on the changes in those seasons. Sentient beings, if any, on another planet can choose any symbol(s) they like to represent the Great Events for their planet.

⁵ “Let there be Light.” (Gen 1:3)

⁶ The Absolute is neither Darkness nor Death. However, because It is No-thing-ness, it can be misunderstood in these terms. (And certainly, from the point of view of a person in the ordinary states of consciousness, the Absolute means darkness and death to the ego. (Refer to *The Evolution of Human Consciousness*, Chapter 3: States of Consciousness.)

⁷ The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: God the Absolute, God the Creator, and God the Creation.

and Life win out over Death?)

This event, also, is celebrated in many cultures all over the world but, this time, during the change of seasons from winter to spring.

The fact that winter does not continue is cause for celebration and is symbolic of the victory of Life over Death. Thus, celebrations that occur on or about the first day of spring are *the celebration of the creation of the Universe by God the Creator from the Absolute*.

Primary symbols tend to be universal, found all over the world.

Secondary Symbols

The second layer of symbols is associated with and depends upon the first layer of symbols. The second layer of symbols comes from our religious stories, our religious myths. In our myths, we associate events in the myths with the winter solstice and spring equinox. (These events might or might not be actual events that occurred on earth, but in any case, they are events that are portrayed in our stories.) Examples of second level symbols of the Great Events might be a holy child is born or a man dies and then rises from the dead.

Secondary symbols tend to be the same within one religion with regional differences.

Tertiary Symbols

The third layer of symbols is associated with and depends upon the second layer of symbols. The third layer of symbols grows out and is an extension of our celebrations of the holy days. They are popular, perhaps superficial, manifestations of the holy days. Examples of third level symbols of the Great Events might be as follows:

Symbolic of the first Great Event:

People exchanging gifts under an evergreen tree on the 25th of December.

Symbolic of the second Great Event:

Women parading town Fifth Avenue in New York City all decked out in pastel-colored dresses with bonnets decorated with flowers in early April

Tertiary symbols tend to be different in different regions, but they tend to have similar themes such as lights or bright colors.

Additional Notes

What follows are additional notes for this essay. They are random thoughts that relate to the principal topic. However, they have not been integrated into the main body of the essay.

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There are, perhaps, three layers of symbols that we on earth have associated with the Great Events. The three layers are as follows:

Changes in seasons

Holy days that are a part of our stories (our myths)

Manifestations in the popular culture.

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At each layer the symbols become more particular to the culture. Change in seasons: entire world. Myth: varies by religion. Popular culture: varies by location. (For example, all Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Dec 25 (or thereabouts). However, there might be evergreen trees in Germany and ??? in Mexico.

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All of the symbols of the Great Events are good and are important. This is true because they act as pointers to the underlying Reality. People who are accustomed to celebrating the Great Events, no matter how superficially, can be introduced to the truth of the Great Events more easily than those who have no experience at all with the concept. "Oh, that's what that means!"

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The great events are real. Four layers: One is Reality and the other three are representations of (symbolic of) that Reality.

Thus far, we have two layers of ?. The first layer is the Great Event. The second layer is the symbol attached to the Great Event. On Earth, people have developed two more layers (layers three and four), which are progressively "superficial". The third layer is the level of the story (or myth) and the fourth layer is the level of popular culture.

Our stories (myths) are tied to the event on Earth that represents the Great Event.

The stories (myths) that develop all around the world represent the universal truth of the Great Event.

Even the manifestations in popular culture are similar in different places around the world.

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Without Christmas, there would be no Easter. Without Easter, Christmas would have no meaning.

Without the manifestation of God the Creator, there would be no God the Creation. Without God the Creation, God the Creator would have no meaning.

Christmas:

Let there be Light!

Easter:

“God has victory over Death”

“God Is Risen.”

“God takes on the sins of the world.”

What is “Death”? Death is Non-Existence. The ceasing of the functions of the body is not death. The mind and soul go on. Death is Non-Existence.

In bringing forth Creation from the Absolute (which is Non-Existence), God the Creator has been “victorious” over Non-Existence. God the Creation has risen from death.

God the Creator takes on responsibility for the Creation. He takes on the responsibility for the actions of all of Creation.