

## HOW CHRISTMAS BEGAN

Christmas began in the mind of God...long before He created time and space and anything in them. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit thought about it for an eternity. We were not there to overhear His inner thoughts but, with the gift of hindsight, and His own revelations to us, we think it went something like this:

F: So, shall I create the world or not?

S: To be or not to be...that is the question!

HSp: Why should we? Then again, why not?

F: Well there is much to be said on both sides.

S: We don't have to.

HSp: No, we don't have to do anything.

F: And we do already have a splendid unity and fellowship within ourselves.

S: It is not like we are lonely or anything.

HSp: But it would be nice to find another outlet for our infinite love.

F: As God the Father I would like to have children to love.

S: As God the Son you have me.

HSp: And me!

F: Yes of course, but we have such a perfect unity of love already.

Don't you fancy a new challenge?

S: In what way?

HSp: Like loving less than perfect creatures!

F: We could love the unlovely, heal the broken-hearted, support the weak

S: I didn't know you were a compulsive rescuer?

HSp: And if you didn't create them, there wouldn't need to be any ugly, broken-hearted weaklings.

F: We could love the ugly into becoming beautiful. Frogs could turn into princes.

S: It would give us quite a buzz to comfort the sad and help people to be all they can be.

HSp: I could enable them to do things they dare not even dream about.

F: Wouldn't it be fun to have millions of partners...co-creators...channels of our love?

S: Not robots, but willing partners.

HSp: Yes. We could be covenant partners, wedded together by our boundless love.

F: We could work together as a team – human and divine.

S: They could be our hands and feet and voice.

HSp: They could be the channels of our love to one another.

F: True, but what if they don't play along with us?

S: What if they rebel against us?

HSp: If you give them real choices, they might make wrong choices.

F: They will not be so wise as us so there is a good chance they will make mistakes.

In fact you can be sure of it!

S: But that need not be the end of the world.

HSp: No, people can learn from their mistakes.

F: But mistakes can cost a lot...an awful lot...  
S: But surely we could redeem the situation somehow?  
HSp: How?

F: We can teach them and guide them and inspire them  
S: We could give them scriptures and prophets  
HSp: Give them teachers and preachers

F: We could send them angels and signs.  
S: We could give them brains to think and hearts to feel.  
HSp: We could make them sensitive to our promptings .

F: But what if they still get lost?...fall?...fail?...blow it?  
S: I could be the Good Shepherd seeking out His lost sheep.  
HSp: And I could open their eyes and hearts to respond to you.

F: Love hurts. To have creatures to care for will cost. It is sacrificial.  
S: We know that! But love is prepared to pay the cost. I am ready to sacrifice myself.  
HSp: And I am right behind you. I will breathe new life into dry bones.

F: So, is that agreed? We shall create man and woman in our image, in other words like ourselves, able to give and to receive love – both human and divine love.  
S: And if they fall...I mean, when they fall, I will go and pick them up.  
HSp: And I will teach them to walk better the next time!

F: So how shall we go about it?  
S: I'll go down to Earth and get alongside them and show them the error of their ways and how life should be lived.  
HSp: You will need me to make sure they get the message.

F: We can prepare the way by giving scriptures and prophecies.  
S: I will not blind them by my holy light; I will rather come among them in a way that they can relate to. I know, I will come into the world in exactly the same way that they do – by being born a baby.  
HSp: The danger then is that they underestimate you and think you are just another human baby. We will need to do something special. I know, we'll arrange Angels to announce your birth, Wise Men to act as witnesses, and a Star to show them the way to go. We could also get some humble Shepherds to witness the arrival of the Good Shepherd.

F: I am sure we can get through to them and show them that we exist and that we love them.  
S: And by my sacrificial suffering I will expose their sinfulness and dent their high opinion of themselves.  
HSp: We will show them just how much they crucify us every day.

F: We will absorb the hurt and return love for hate. We will forgive them.  
S: We will bounce back from everything they throw at us including death.  
HSp: And we will put a new spirit in them. Christmas will be their birth too!

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