

## Epiphany of the Lord

My brothers and sisters, Epiphany is still one of the most important days of the year, because it celebrates the gift of Grace for the gentile world, and not just for our Ancestors in faith in Judaism!

The amazing thing about this Gospel story, is that it is rooted in fact, and is not just a cute fable! The Magi were from Babylon, and studied for many, many years and in one way, were the first scientists in the world. They began about 500 years before Christ, and Daniel the Babylonian King chose three of the Jewish exiles and installed them into the school of the Magi. Daniel was one of them, and after the exile ended, he did not go back to Jerusalem, but remained in Babylon. It is more than feasible that these Jewish exiles: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, as they were called in the language of Babylon, passed on their Jewish literature: Torah, and Prophets the Literature of Judaism, to the school of the Magi. Therefore, these Magi, who were constantly seeking knowledge in the world and in the heavens, would have known the prophecies concerning the Messiah of the Jews.

As a matter of fact, today's science shows a perfect alignment of Jupiter, The King Planet, Regulus, the King Star, in the constellation known as Leo, the Lion. The Magi would have recognized the Biblical signs in the heavens for the tribe of Judah, the Lion, and the conjuncture of the constellation of Leo, with the constellation of Virgo, the Virgin, and the unusual appearance of the new crescent moon, in the birthing of the moon. That is what they came seeking: a new born King who would be the greatest of Kings, because His birth was being announced in the heavens, born of a Virgin, in the Land of Judah.

One more scientific fact: in 2 B.C. Jupiter the King, would have come into conjunction with Venus, merging their light and becoming the brightest star in the heavens, brighter than anything they would ever have seen in their lives. Venus was known as the Mother planet. Looking up from Jerusalem it would have been seen in the direction of Bethlehem, and Jupiter would have been in retrograde, meaning it would have appeared to have stopped over Bethlehem. Now, what does this have to do with us?

First of all, our Catholic Faith is not a fable nor a myth. The Ancient world had its seekers and scientists. They were not fools. The Magi undertook a journey of about 1500 miles, because they were seeking the Truth written in the heavens, promised by the Jewish prophets. Do we? Have we become so ambivalent that we take the promises of God for granted? God is always faithful to His promises!

Secondly, the story teaches us that God had planned from the beginning of time for the coming of His Son in human flesh, and set the clock of nature in motion for this revelation to the Gentiles. It teaches us that God's highest priority is us and our salvation. It teaches us that Jesus Christ whom we worship as God, is indeed our Saviour, Redeemer and the Divine Lover of Humanity. God wants to be discovered by us, but we must constantly seek Him on His terms, and not our own! Do we seek Him as the first priority of our lives?

When the Magi found Him, they immediately recognized Him as Divine, as King, and as High Priest! This is the meaning of their gifts. They recognize Him as the fulfillment of the signs God has written in the heavens and the Scriptures. Do we, or are we ambivalent to Him. Do we accept that He is the Divine King and Lord and master over the whole of our Lives; or, do we pick and choose what we believe and submit our lives to Him and the Gospel? The story of our Salvation in the Gospel and the teaching of the Church is not a fable or a myth- it is the truth upon which our salvation depends! Jesus still comes to us today, do we seek Him, most especially in Holy Communion- O Come, let us Adore Him!