Hope For The Holidays

As you read this article, you are probably taking a break from the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season. Amid your activities, remember that the Holiday Season carries a message of hope. This message of hope is a central part of all spiritual traditions that are celebrated during this time of year. As a result, regardless of how we choose to celebrate the Holidays, let us have hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Hope is message that is evident in the story of the Chanukah lamp, which burned for 8 days while the Jews were under siege, even though it had very little fuel oil. This is one reason we burn candles during the Holidays and why the Menorah (eight candles) is a symbol of God’s protection.

Hope is also a central theme in the African-American celebration of Kwanzaa.

The message of hope is also apparent in the Yule log that was a similar symbol in Nordic Religions. This log was placed on the hearth by the Nordic Goddess Hertha (who came down the chimney overnight) so that people could remain warm through a harsh winter. Thus the Yule Log is also a symbol that God will always provide, and we can have hope. The log is from an evergreen tree, because the evergreen remains green even under the harshest of conditions when other trees die.

The Evergreen Tree was also used by the Romans as a symbol of fertility when they celebrated Sol Invictus (the Sun God) during their celebration of Saturnalia. Ancient Romans believed that the Evergreen Tree symbolized the Mother of the Sun GOD, who was changed to a tree and brought forth her divine son from that state. The pinecones symbolized her fruit (the Son). That is why we hang brightly colored decorations on Christmas trees to this day.

Incidentally, the Ancient Roman celebration of Saturnalia was observed on December 25 for hundreds of years before Roman Emperor Justinian officially recognized Christmas Day in the 6th Century AD. December 25 also coincided with the Winter Solstice, which celebrated the return of the Sun (with all its life-giving properties) to the Earth.

Elements of each of these spiritual traditions were brought together by the Roman Empire to maintain harmony and unity among diverse groups, even though the empire covered much of the known world at that time. Each element that was melded together contained hope as a central message. When combined, these celebrations evolved as the modern observance of Christmas, and we see the underlying theme of hope even more clearly.

Christmas celebrates the birth of a new Consciousness (the Christ Consciousness) by celebrating the birth of Jesus, who embodied the Christ Consciousness. The Christ Consciousness (Also known as Spiritual Mastery, which was also embodied by other Masters) is simply the awareness of our own divinity. With the Christ Consciousness, we remember who we really are (beloved Children of God, containing all the elements of God’s divinity). This understanding can give us hope that we can master our experience and co-create joy, peace and abundance in our lives regardless of the choices that others make.

Therefore, regardless of how you celebrate the Holidays, have hope that tomorrow can be better, more productive, more abundant, more peaceful, and more joyful. The Christ Consciousness that is being birthed within you can make it so.