

Angels and Advent Day 10

The Visit of the Wise Men

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12



Matthew 2:1-12:

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod,^{*} behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star^{*} at its rising and have come to do him homage. ³When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.^{*} ^{5^b} They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” ⁹After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰They were overjoyed at seeing the star, ^{11^{*} ^c} and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Reflect:

There is a Russian folktale of an old woman, Babushka, who was at work in her house when the wise men came from the East and passed on their way to Bethlehem to find the Christ Child. "Come with us," they said to her, "we have seen His star in the East, and we go to worship Him."

Babushka replied, "I will come, but not now as I have much housework to do, and when that is finished, I will follow and find Him." But her work was never done, and the three Kings went on their way across the desert, and the star shone no more in the darkened heavens.

Babushka never found the Christ Child, and the legend has it that she is still living and searching for Him. Though she did not find Him, out of love for Him, she takes care of all His Children. The tradition is that she believes that each poor child whom she warms, feeds and cares for may very well be the Christ Child whom she neglected so long ago to go to.