

Santa, in himself, is not evil or sinful — and it should not be said that he is. Whatever evil or sinfulness there might be in him, was put there by us. We are the ones who gradually have introduced him as the replacement of the Baby Jesus. We are the ones who made Santa the central figure of the entire Christmas celebration.



In modern times, we seem to have lost the ability (as we once had) to keep the noise of the occasion separate from the Holiness of the Feast. Consequently, we permitted the frenzied traffic of the market place to overcast the awesome, silent beauty of the Stable. In answer to the call of the market place, gift swapping has become our uppermost concern, and in too many cases, the One in whose honor the celebration is for, is the only One Who gets

nothing! This is all wrong, and we must go about correcting it, but in ways that will not tarnish the thinking of our little children.

Baby Jesus is celebrating His Birthday, and all things — even Santa — must be in His worshipful — and adoration — service! If we find it necessary to exchange gifts at Christmas time, there is nothing wrong with it, and if we employ the services of Santa to help us distribute them, there is nothing wrong with that — either. HOWEVER, we must be certain that the most special and wonderful gift of all — the centerpiece gift of the entire festivity — be kept back for us to deliver to Baby Jesus. Santa has nothing to do with this one Gift. We all — father, mother and all the children — must take this gift to Bethlehem where the Baby now is. He cannot be found in any other place. Most probably we shall have to travel in the darkness of the night — in the quiet of the night. The night may be cold, but if we look up in the heavens, we shall, without doubt, see a Star: a very beautiful and bright Star. It is the beautiful Star that once led the shepherds to the Manger. That same Star will lead us, too: if we have Faith and the desire to be led. The brilliance of the Star is there for all to see, but few will see it, as it shines ever brightly over the gloom and loneliness of the noisy jungle.

By this time, Santa will have left us — on to other places where he will leave his many gifts. He will no longer be with us as we travel alone, in the quiet of this most precious night, to the place where Life began!!! When, at last, we arrive, we see the holy shepherds already there, kneeling in silent adoration. Father and mother, kneel also, and motion to the little children to kneel. Then, in the silent magnificence of that priceless and precious moment, we all, *in silence*, give the Baby Jesus our best gift: ***our hearts!!!***