

## In Whose Image?

If we look at Adam as being the Archetypal or natural man, we are informed by the scripture that he was created in God's image. Indeed, man has mind, intelligence, reason and a nature destined to be ennobled through the Incarnation. However, the scriptures also inform us that the Divine Image had been defaced by sin.

If a portrait has been defaced, it can only be successfully restored to its former glory by the artist who first painted it. It necessarily follows, that following the fall, the Divine Image can only be restored by the Great Artist Himself. In the mystery of our Lord's Incarnation, human nature has been re-drawn according to the perfect conception within the mind of God. This profound mystery is an eternal realization of perfection that the spiritually evolving mankind has for his ultimate aspiration.

The image and inscription on a coin is often not legible if it is too badly soiled. But when it has been cleaned, both appear. The soul that has been besmirched by sin may lose all sign of the image in which it was made. With the assistance of true repentance, cleaning and purification, our soul begins the passage of restoration of the characteristic features of a child of God.

When coins become badly defaced, they have to be re-minted. Thus in the fire of the Sacred Passion the coin of human nature is re-minted and the inscription of Divine possession once again shines brightly. The trials and tribulations of any lifetime may be our soul's re-minting for God's treasury.

The journey of the Magi also known as the Three Wise Men gives us a mystical interpretation of the life of prayer.

These Oriental Sovereigns seemed to have all they needed to satisfy their material senses and wellbeing. Their first condition may represent the life which was focussed on finding satisfaction in material things. Therefore following a call from the depths of their soul to leave their comfortable life and seek the spiritual. They followed a star as an outward sign and the urge from deep within themselves as the inner, undeniable call.

This urge is something which we have all felt in one form or another. It is not enough to rest in the material, but we must seek the spiritual. Sometimes we get tired, maybe give up the quest for a while, but the call to the spiritual cannot be denied. God is Spirit, and we must worship Him in spirit. Because we ourselves, created in God's image, are spiritual beings.