

## THE MORNING STAR

*It is the hour before the Dawn: Darkness, Confusion, and Humanity anxiously waiting for the Light. At last, after so many ages of striving, of regretting, of praying before empty shrines, THE MESSENGER COMES – THE MORNING STAR. Herald the day of liberation has come. His Head covered with the Helmet of Inspiration. His Eyes face Infinity and Eternity – Eternity and Infinity gaze through His Eyes. In His Hands the Star of Wisdom, The Morning Star, the Flame that will burn up all human sorrow. Clothed in White Linen, the Symbol of the Purity of His Purpose, and the Simplicity of His Presence; His shoulders broad enough to carry the World's burden; His Arm strong enough to fight ignorance and fear. The Messenger strides onwards, overcoming the night, trampling down prejudice, confusion, stupidity and apathy; leaving in their stead a wake of Loveliness, Symmetry, Reason, and Power. His Knowledge dominates the four elements of Nature: Air, Fire, Earth, and Water are conquered and made obedient to His Word. The Double Star, the Star of sorrow becomes the Star of Joy, is the device engraved on the lintel above His Head. He is the Messenger, the Master of the Hour, the One in whom all are embodied all who strive for the Advancement and Liberation of their Brothers. He it is who carries the Light.*

This picture is considered the masterpiece of Princess M. Eristoff, a renowned Russian artist, member of the French National Society of Fine Arts, in Paris, whose wonderfully living portraits and extraordinary mystic subjects have won high honors at the French "Salon," and the cousin of Baron Eugene Fersen. It was painted during the first years of the Great War, at the request of Baron Eugene Fersen, of Moscow, Russia. It represents, in allegorical form, the transition NOW in process in the evolution of Humanity.

Profound night envelopes the desolate earth. A few stars smolder dully through the blanketing clouds, and intensify the oppressive gloom below. Across the dreary waste comes a Being clad in white, his serene countenance illumined by the light he bears before him, his eyes fixed upon Infinity and Eternity. And through his eyes Infinity and Eternity look out upon the world. The helmet that encircles his brow is as if carved from the deep blue of an untarnished firmament, and holds written in its gleams Determination and Inspiration from above. His simple garment of white is lustrous with Purity of Purpose. And the light cradled in his strong hands in the Morning Star, Herald of the New Day, whose approaching glory even now stains the remote horizon with a greenish glow of promise. A golden cross flames in the heart of the Star, standing united with it as the emblem of a New Era, in which Love purifies Mind, and Gentleness refines Energy. Broad are the shoulders of this Bearer of the Light—broad enough to carry the burden of the whole world—and bare are his strong limbs. No coverings guard his

feet from the sharp stones that strew his path, or blunt the keen fangs of heat and cold and storms; yet his steps do not falter; he moves tranquilly on, strong in the knowledge of his mission, dispelling the mists and obscurity by the radiant splendor of that Star. At the Touch of his bruised foot spring forth bluebells, ringing joy to the hearts of men, and his blood waters a flowery trail for those who will follow. On the stone panel beneath his feet is engraved the great message he brings to the world. "Men of the Earth, Brothers in Eternity, arouse your souls! Awake! The hour so long waited for, the promised hour, has come. Over the dark firmament of suffering Humanity is rising the Morning Star, heralding the day when you will understand that man's most sacred duty is to be Man – that is, to manifest Life, Intelligence, Truth, and Love. There is no higher aim, no vaster problem, and those who realize this will break the fetters with which Ignorance and Fear have bound unconscious Humanity, will stand up, and know themselves to be the Eternal Manifestation of the Unmanifest, Witnesses of the Great ALL, Sons of the Absolute, whom you call – God."

This realization brings to man powers before unknown, because so great. The four giants who serve Nature, the Elements, - Air, Fire, Earth and Water – are laid prostrate at his feet, dominated by him.

The two aspects of the Star – Phosphorus, the Morning Star, the Star of Gladness, announcing to Humanity the glorious birth of a new day, and Hesperus, the Evening Star, the star of mystery and sadness, warning Humanity of the approaching darkness – unite to form henceforth a single Star. And on the side of Hesperus, a triangle, falling amid streaks of lightning, symbolizes Humanity's involution while on the other side, the side of Light, is seen the flame of Love lifting the same human triangle back to the realm of Eternal Harmony. A dark swastika, protected by the fiery cross, adorns the left capital of the two pillars a further symbol of the same idea of involution, and is contracted to the luminous swastika of evolution which burns from the shadow of the same cross on the right capital.

Malcolm Thurburn, the author of this mystical frame, is an English/Scottish artist whose novel and original ideas have created a great sensation in America and Europe. Both artists, Princess Eristoff and Malcolm Thurburn, have embodied their very souls in this picture, and thereby endowed it with an extraordinary appeal which mere technical perfection could never impart. There more one sees it, the more fascinating it grows and a living messenger to those who possess it, of wonderful times to come. It is a picture which brings blessings and harmony to the homes where it abides. And above all, it is a real companion, because it is A PICTURE WITH A SOUL.