

# THE CALIFORNIA MEDITATIONS

## THE ASSUMPTION

BY HELEN M. LUKE

Only in Christianity (and in Zen, real Zen, not Western misconception of it) is matter given its whole validity, and the Christian definition of this is the doctrine of the Assumption.

It is often held against Christianity that the woman is given a status lower than that of the Trinity. Mary, it is said, should be a Goddess fully equal to the other Three, and the primitives knew better with their moon goddesses, etc.

This criticism is based on a misconception. The doctrine of the Assumption makes it clear that humanity redeemed exists eternally in union with God. But woman does not create — she receives and brings forth — as in time, so in eternity.

The symbol of Mary bodily assumed, but precisely not a Goddess is surely a deeper thing than any other. She is Mother of God, Queen of Heaven, but she is not God. She remains completely human. Somehow it is a greater image than that of any mere Goddess.

The primitive had to deify the feminine principle, because he did not know humanity redeemed, matter taken up into Heaven but remaining forever itself — “This is my Body” — but it is still a fragment of bread. The Trinity of the Godhead does not simply enter into the material elements, join itself to the bread and wine, as God did not simply operate through man in Christ. It actually becomes the bread and wine — Christ actually was God and Man in one Person. Earth and Heaven, time and eternity, are not two but one reality. So potentially with every detail of life on earth, once it is offered in its wholeness to the Divine. The life of the Mother of God was the perfect offering, so complete that God was born of her flesh. “Figlia del tuo Figlio.” But to say that she was actually God is immediately to be landed in a kind of pantheism. Every mystic has said in effect that in the state of union man becomes God by participation. But as long as the Reality is expressed by image or concept at all it remains false to say that he is the same essentially as God, i.e. uncreated. — Christ alone is begotten, His Mother, she who gives Him birth, is created and taken up again into her Creator through union with this her Son. “Figlia del tuo Figlio.”

Jung has accused Christianity of ignoring the “fourth”, and it is true that this knowledge, implicit in the Christian Revelation from the beginning, has only now in this age been allowed officially as Dogma — that is to say recognized as absolute Truth. The ignorant imagine a new Dogma to be something thought up by the Pope and his advisers and imposed on the faithful. — On the contrary, as Jung has pointed out, it is something made explicit which before has been implicit, lying in the unconscious and consciously known by a few through the ages, but now rising with great power to the surface and demanding definition. The Pope, “moved by the Holy Spirits” (as Jung again says) merely responds.

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