

WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN TODAY?

"What does Christmas mean to you?"
I asked the old man on the garden swing,
"I wed my darling at Christmas
I gave her a golden ring."

"What does Christmas mean to you?"
I asked the young girl at play.
"Presents, lots of presents,
come to me on Christmas Day."

"What does Christmas mean to you?"
I asked a widow bathed in tears,
"Another lonely time has gone,
Just the same as other years."

"What does Christmas mean to you?"
I asked a tramp along the way.
"Just another cold and hungry,
Lonely, lonely day."

"What does Christmas mean to you?"
I asked a young mother with a baby in her arms.
"It was the day my young son died,
how I miss his many charms".

"What does Christmas mean to you?"
I asked the young men on the street.
Some laughed, some stared,
Some embarrassed, shuffled their feet.

None spoke of the Christ child,
born on this lovely day.
A blessed child so meek and mild,
Asleep in the fragrant hay,

I think of poor shepherds on the hillside,
Under a cold and starlit night,
I think of the angels voices,
as they filled the sky with light.

How joyous were the humble shepherds,
As they made their way that night,
To a manger at last in Bethlehem,
Bathed in a bright stars light.

I think of the three wise men,
on camels from the lands of the sun,
Who came with gifts and deep longing
To visit the Holy one.

He came such a long time ago,
He lived and died for us we know,
But the trials and woes of our time on earth,
have destroyed the beauty of the virgin birth.

Then I think of the sadness suffered,
of the trials that befall all men,
I think of the great gift offered,
Down the eons of time back then.

What does it take to shake us
Away from this shroud worn from birth?
How can we turn back the pages
to a time when God came to earth?

We must think with our hearts,
Not think with our heads,
Become like child,
not cynically dead.

We must believe that the Christ child has come
That mankind has a saviour,
the battle has been won.
We must follow the shepherds, and the three kings,
And feel all the wonder that Christmas can bring.