

Levi Pennington

People

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1973

## Christmas, 1973

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## Christmas, 1973

Simon Zelotes to  
Luke, the Beloved Physician

**S**imon to Doctor Luke, my Christian Greeting.  
You do not know me, there has been no meeting.  
Though I have sought it I have found no place  
Where we could meet each other face to face.  
But you have heard of me and I of you.  
My friend Theophilus says it is true  
That you have planned to write about the life  
Of Him who in a world of hate and strife  
Has brought to many hearts His peace and love  
And built a Kingdom like the one above.  
Theophilus has told me that you seek  
Facts of the lifetime of the mild and meek  
But mighty son of God and son of man  
And I desire to help you if I can.

**I** am the second Simon, called by many  
Zelotes, and I was as crude as any  
Of that now noted Twelve who were the friends  
Of Him whose praise in heaven never ends.  
I hated Rome, and it was my desire  
To kill all Romans. With my brain on fire  
I planned assassinations. I had come,  
With rage aroar inside but conscience dumb,  
To Bethlehem to meet another one  
Pledged to rebellion which had just begun.



**T**he inn was crowded; not a foot of space  
For rich or poor, lady or lord, no place.  
As I turned back, up to the door there came  
A man 'twas clear was travel-worn and lame.  
He led an ass, and on the beast there sat  
A lady who *was* beauty -- more than that.  
Heaven was in her face, a beauty more  
Celestial than I e'er had seen before.  
But oh! so deadly weary. What to do  
I could not guess, but that in-keeper knew.  
For one more act of kindness he was able.  
He took the lead and led them to the stable.  
I spread my blanket on the ground outside.  
I hoped the pair found peaceful rest inside.

**I** woke to hear sweet music from afar.  
The air was clear; I saw each twinkling star,  
But brighter than the light that came from them  
Was that which now shone over Bethlehem.  
Coming from far but sounding very high  
Sweet voices sang "Glory to God on high",  
Caroling sweet again and yet again,  
"Peace on the earth, and God's good will to men."

**T**he voices ceased. Light faded from the sky.  
The very night seemed listening. And I  
Fell fast asleep again. 'Twas nearly day.  
When I awoke to hear a deep voice say  
"This is the place." He rapped upon the door.  
The grave man opened it, and on the floor  
Was a rude manger partly filled wiith hay.  
A lovely, sweetly smiling baby lay,  
Wrapped in a swaddling band. And by his side  
His mother sat, lovelier than any bride.

**S**ix shepherds told to us the wondrous story  
Of how the angels came through gates of glory  
And sang of praise to God and peace to men,  
Peace and good will again and yet again.

**M**y friend Theophilus thought it not amiss  
That for the first time I should tell you this.  
The others of the Twelve I have not told.  
Perhaps I should not dare to be so bold.  
I really am eager to relate  
How our blest Savior cleared my heart of hate.  
I'd like to tell you more. Some day I will  
If you desire a further story still.  
I feel that I must meet you, Doctor Luke.  
I'm sure that I can help you with your book,  
With facts I have not told to any other  
Except to Mary, Jesus' blessed mother  
Now gone to meet her son, who is her lord.  
Most of the Twelve have gone to their reward.  
We all are looking forward to the day  
When He will come again. We heard Him say  
That He will come again. and some glad day  
The blessed angel choir will sing again  
"Glory to God, and on earth peace to men."

**H**oping to meet you soon, in Christian love  
And in the name of Him who reigns above  
Your fellow servant to the very end,  
Simon Zelotes,  
ever your Christian friend.

L.T.P.

Best wishes for the Christmas season, the New Year and  
all the years to come.

Levi T. Pennington.

*With love and best wishes  
always.  
L. T. P.*