



Settimo Cielo



di Sandro Magister

21 dic

"Yes, I Am Coming Soon!" Those Words Which Sing the Truth of Christmas

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In the days leading up to Christmas, at the Magnificat for Vespers there is the singing of seven antiphons, one each day, the initials of which form an acrostic that tells us that yes, Christmas is not a fairy tale, it is the true nativity of God among men, in the child named Jesus.

Just as at the end of the book of Revelation "the Spirit and the bride," the Church, say to the Lord Jesus: "Come!", and he responds: "Yes, I am coming soon!", the same thing happens in these last days of Advent. The two Latin words that the initials of the seven antiphons gradually compose are: "Ero cras." "Tomorrow I will be there." Tomorrow, when with Vespers the night of Jesus' birth will begin.

In the illustration above is reproduced the first of these seven antiphons, with its musical notation. At the beginning of each antiphon, in order, Jesus is invoked as Wisdom, Lord, Root, Key, Star, King, Emmanuel. In Latin: Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, Emmanuel.

Read starting from the last, the Latin initials of these words form none other than the acrostic: "Ero cras."

They are very ancient antiphons. They go back to the time of Pope Gregory the Great, around the year 600. The inspiration for them comes from texts of the Old Testament, and in the case of the last three, also from the New.

Here below are their original and translated texts, in capitals the invocations whose initials form the acrostic "Ero cras," and in parentheses the main references to the Old and New Testament.

It is a Merry Christmas from Settimo Cielo to its readers. The Nativity of Him who "for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven."

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I

O SAPIENTIA, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiiisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

O Wisdom, who come from the mouth of the Most High (Sirach 24:5), you extend to the ends of the earth, and order all things with power and sweetness (Wisdom 8:1):
come and teach us the way of wisdom (Proverbs 9:6).

II

O ADONAI, dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extenso.

O Lord (Exodus 6:2, Vulgate), leader of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush (Exodus 3:2) and on Mount Sinai gave him the law (Exodus 20):
come and free us with your powerful arm (Exodus 15:12-13).

III

O RADIX lesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, iam noli tardare.

O Root of Jesse, who stand as a sign for the peoples (Isaiah 11:10), the kings of the earth are silent before you (Isaiah 52:15) and the nations invoke you:
come to free us, do not delay (Habakkuk 2:3).

IV

O CLAVIS David et sceptrum domus Israel, qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit: veni et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris et umbra mortis.

O Key of David (Isaiah 22:23), scepter of the house of Israel (Genesis 49:10), who open and no one may shut; who shut and no one may open:
come, free from prison captive man, who lies in darkness and the shadow of death (Psalm 107: 10, 14).

V

O ORIENS, splendor lucis aeternae et sol iustitiae: veni et illumina sedentes in tenebris et umbra mortis.

O Star who rises (Zechariah 3:8; Jeremiah 23:5), splendor of the eternal light (Wisdom 7:26) and sun of justice (Malachi 3:20):
come and enlighten those who lie in darkness and the shadow of death (Isaiah 9:1; Luke 1:79).

VI

O REX gentium et desideratus earum, lapis angularis qui facis utraque unum: veni et salva hominem quem de limo formasti.

O King of the nations (Jeremiah 10:7) and their desire (Haggai 2:7), cornerstone (Isaiah 28:16), who reunite Jews and pagans into one (Ephesians 2:14):
come and save the man whom you formed from the earth (Genesis 2:7).

VII

O EMMANUEL, rex et legifer noster, expectatio gentium et salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Dominus Deus noster.

O Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14), our king and lawgiver (Isaiah 33:22), hope and salvation of the peoples (Genesis 49:10; John 4:42):
come to save us, O Lord our God (Isaiah 37:20).

Condividi:



21 dicembre 2018

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