

A Christmas Present





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*The stars shine brightly as the fog rolls in from the distant bay,
The darkness of the valley temporarily engulfed by a hazy mist christening the rolling hills.
A perfect moon peeks periodically through the drifting clouds while
A bright star in the heavens attracts and captivates my soul.
Its magnetic light draws my eyes and searching spirit upward as
I reflect upon the meaning of the season, the birth of a savior,
The gifts of the holidays, the beauty and wonder of Christmas and
Its sacred message of love, honor, respect and appreciation...*

*Two thousand years ago three weary travelers crossed a stark, harsh land
Following that beckoning star; a trio of wise men, searching for answers.
Their difficult journey and lifelong questions ended in the middle of a stable
Where a young Babe lay majestically in the comfort of a crumbling cradle.
Cows, sheep, and goats surrounded the manger as the
Magi bowed before Him and laid their gifts at His feet.
Their carefully chosen, precious gifts were significant and meaningful,
A most humble expression of their honor and respect...*

*Years later, Christmas songs softly permeate the winter's night.
A crowded shopping mall bustles with excitement as thousands of shoppers
Weave their way through walkways framed with vivid and vibrant decorations
As they search through the colorful, frosted windows.
The dazzling lights of the holiday season have beckoned them here
To pay tribute to their loved ones as they thoughtfully seek the perfect gift.
These tenderly chosen symbols of gratitude and love will be carefully placed beneath
Their colorfully adorned Christmas trees to await the excited unveiling by family and friends...*

*As the rolling fog dissipates into the chilling air, a night of contemplation comes to a close as
My thoughts return to the true meanings of this special season.
I think of a young Infant whose birth drew precious offerings from weary wise men but
Whose life and lessons were His most significant and enduring gifts.
I reflect upon the colorful packages we give in sincere love and appreciation.
The presents of this season are truly meaningful, but our greatest treasures
Are in a life well lived, in the offering of our selfless acts to make the lives of others better.
A lasting legacy that shines long after the fading ribbons and bows have disappeared...*

*May this holiday season inspire us to appreciate the true meaning of "A Christmas Present"
As we complete the eternal cycle of giving and receiving.
May we emulate and honor Him through the acceptance of His unselfish love
And serve others through the generous gift of our daily lives.*