

SOUL LIGHT - Fifty Nine

Christmas Message

Please accept Trudi and my thanks for all your well wishes for the festive season. Thanks also to those who respond to my articles during the year.

One person wrote this week:

"I felt I was the only person feeling like a Christmas Grinch. After I read your message, I was in the bank and people were talking behind me. They were saying exactly what you said. Christmas has lost its true meaning, or rather people have. I live in a low socio-economic area, many of these people spend more than they can afford at this time of year. If only they could see their own self worth and love who they are and realize how much they already have. I want to shout from the roof tops. STOP and see how much you have, enjoy it and be happy".

On a lighter note to finish the year, let me share with you a bit of nonsense.

Remember the Christmas song.....

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Twelve drummers drumming
eleven pipers piping
ten lords a' leaping
nine ladies dancing
eight maids a' milking
seven swans a' swimming
six geese a' laying
five gold rings
four calling birds
three French hens
two turtle doves
and a partridge in a pear tree

According to the US PNC Bank, those 364 gifts were valued at US\$12, 623 in 1984 and US\$21,465 this year – almost a 100% increase and that's in spite of any recession! Main increases were the five gold rings, up 43% for the year. There was no overall increase in wages for pipers, drummers, lords or maids – with just the ladies dancing, up 15%.

I'm not sure if that included Pole Dancers.

The 12 Days of Christmas traditionally start on Boxing Day.

Originally a French song, it became popular in England as a singing game in 1780. One person would sing a line and everyone would repeat it. Then just the next line and everyone would have to repeat both, etc....Whoever tripped up on the words would have to give the song Leader a kiss or a sweet or suchlike.

The Scottish version would probably have been harder to sing but certainly described a heartily lusty Scottish approach to the festive season...". a good stuffing without bones, two breasts of veal, three joints of beef, four pigs' trotters, five legs of mutton, six partridges with cabbage, seven spitted rabbits, eight plates of salad, nine dishes for a chapter of canons, ten full casks, eleven beautiful full-breasted maidens, and

twelve musketeers with their swords”.
Makes me feel sorry for the twelfth musketeer....

A clever Catholic in the late 19th century used the song as a reminder of the Catholic catechism:

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--
Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight Maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace,
Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten Lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the
Apostles' Creed

Enjoy the song any way you wish. Remember it's not the song that matters- but how
you sing each song. It's not the season that matters but how you season each day.

Trudi and I wish everyone a peace-filled festive season, wherein love for all sentient
life overflows. Happy Christmas!

Les