

## Many Capricorns Achieve Greatness

One astrologer ruined his reputation by writing in bad humor, "People born under the sign of Capricorn, which extends from Dec. 21 - Jan. 19, get about the worst break in the astrological calendar." He attached significance to the Capricorn's being synonymous with goat, and made inference that Capricorn people tend to be thick in skull, obstinate, and "goats" by circumstance.

This interpretation is belied by the numbers of persons born Capricorn under old or new calendars, who have achieved unflinching greatness in pursuits requiring open-mindedness, imagination, excellence in talents. (After all, billy goats are adept in meeting obstacles head on or leaping over them!) The only circumstance suggestive of Capricorn people being ill-fated is having birthdays in such proximity to Christmas and New Years Day as to deprive them in younger years of birthday parties of their very own.

Primacy of Capricorn astrologically begins coincidentally with winter

solstice in Northern Hemisphere, summer solstice in Southern Hemisphere, prevalence of Hallycyon Days everywhere. Evidence of its being a favorable time genetically for possession by babies of attributes of success any endeavor productive of greatness is apparent in even a brief roll of persons whose birthdays occurred between Dec. 21 and Jan. 6 - the Twelfth Night when Yuletide festivities traditionally ended. A merely representative few:

Dec. 21: Benjamin Disraeli, statesman; Jean Henri Fabre, naturalist.

Dec. 22: Deems Taylor, musician.

Dec. 23: Charles Saint-Beuve, writer, philosopher; Anthony Trollope and Ward Greene, novelists; Giacomo Puccini, composer.

Dec. 24: Christopher "Kit" Carson, Far Western trailblazer; Humphrey Bogart, actor; Howard Hughes, financier; Ava Gardner, actress (one of the beauties of whom Hughes was enamoured).

Dec. 25: Isaac Newton, scientist; Paul Manship, sculptor; Evangeline Booth, humanitarian; Robert L. Ripley, "Believe It or Not" artist-creator; Rebecca West (nom-de-plume of Cecily Fairfield) and Michael Sadler, novelists; Gladys Swarthout, opera diva; Cabell "Cab" Calloway, musician.

Dec. 26: Thomas Gray, poet; George Romney, artist; Mrs. Eden Southworth, novelist.

Dec. 27: Johann Kepler and Louis Pasteur, scientist; Marlene Dietrich, actress.

Dec. 28: St. John Ervine, dramatist; Woodrow Wilson, statesman.

Dec. 29: Charles Goodyear, inventor; Andrew Johnson, statesman; Pablo Casals, musician.

Dec. 30: Rudyard Kipling, poet-novelist; Stephen Leacock, mathematician-humorist.

Dec. 31: Henri Matisse, artist.

Jan. 1: Paul Revere, silversmith, engraver, and patriot; J. Edgar Hoover, FBI chief.

Jan. 2: James Wolfe, soldier; Arthur Rodzinski, musician; E. Simms Campbell, popular comic artist.

Jan. 4: Louis Braille, humanitarian; Augustus John, painter.

Jan. 5: Stephen Decatur, naval commander; Zebulon Pike, soldier-explorer.

## Christmas Lives In Legend And Lore

Twinkling on trees, glowing from windows, glittering everywhere, Christmas lights reflect, today, the candles of an earlier time.

A candle in the window can light the Christ Child on his way, says Irish legend.

Nativity scenes in homes and churches depict the animals of the Manger - and on Christmas Eve, the cattle, the sheep and all the animals present at the Nativity are given the gift of speech.

So says the lore of Christmas.

Blossoming on the holiday scene, greens and flowers spread their beauty and fragrance, reminding all of the living wonder of Christmas.

In legend, all flowers bloom at midnight on Christmas Eve, just as they did more than 2,000 years ago.

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The legend and lore of Christmas expresses the simple faith that lies at the heart of this happy, holy time.

Some of the most delightful of legends are told in carols.

From France comes the "Carol of the Birds." Its words recount how the birds flew to Bethlehem to behold the Christ Child.

Each bird, as it flew, sang a special song of praise and rejoicing.

There's a "Carol of the Flowers," too. Summoned to the presence of the newborn Kind, every flower blossomed, and each blossom was a symbol of the Little One's virtues.

Seafaring peoples, in their own way, related nature's wonders to the miracle of the Nativity, through carols.

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## Laughing Children

What is sweeter than a candy cane?

What is brighter than a Christmas tree?

What welcomes more warmly than a holy wreath?

What remains when Christmas ends?

The smile of a child receiving a new toy and a stockingful of Christmas treats - provided through The Salvation Army because her parents could not afford them - is sweeter than any candy.

The light shining in the eyes of the ill and elderly - because The Salvation Army remembered them - is brighter than the lights twinkling on the tree.

The sincere "Merry Christmas and God bless you" of Salvation Army officers who open the doors of their centres to the

lonely and homeless is a warmer welcome than the best holly wreath.

And, when all the decorations are packed away, the faith, hope, and love that comes of sharing with others remains to strengthen us for the new year. Let us share with the less fortunate of our community by supporting The Salvation Army so that it may continue to bring the joy and true meaning of Christmas to those in need.

Illness due to respiratory disease is second only to heart disease as a cause of disability, according to the Christmas Seal People from the Norfolk-Halifax and TB and RD Association.



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## Manger Scenes Inspire Rejoicing

**Dramatizing Birth of Christ Awakens Awe and Wonder**

Creche, Christmas crib, manger scene, crib of Bethany, praesepe - in many countries, the representation of the Nativity through figures from miniature to lifesize goes by many names.

Under any name, the re-creation of the manger scene from one guiding, and abiding, purpose - bringing people closer to Christmas. The highest wonder of the Christmas story is its sheer simplicity and reality.

A Child, the Son of God, born in a manger on a starry, silent night is a concept all can comprehend because of its closeness to human experience.

Anyone who watches a child before a manger scene this Christmas will readily see, in the child's awe and enthusiasm, that re-creating the Miracle of Christ's birth is an exalting experience.

## Images Of Christmas

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and C.C. Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas" ("Twas the Night Before Christmas") have been credited with doing the most to give the favored modern concept of Yuletide joyous spirit. Both men - and in fact, most - are memorable contributors to popular Christmas-time literature - have owed much to imagery provided by artists.

Moore's verses gained impact from drawings by Thomas Nast which enlivened and expanded earlier visualizations. Dickens' Cratchits, Scrooge, Fezziwig, and other characters in "Christmas Carol" are remembered best as John Leech drew them in original editions.

Works of other English artists - William Hogarth, Thos. Rowlandson, George Cruikshank, Randolph Caldecott, John Tenniel, the pseudonym "Alfred Crowquill," among them - would be adornments of walls in a gallery of great Christmas illustrations, as would be paintings of Norman Rockwell, lithographs of Currier & Ives, drawings by A. B. Frost, Nell Brinkley, Grace Drayton in the United States; W. Ralston in Australia; Jan Steen, the Brueghels, Ludwig Richter,

Begins in Italy Christmas belongs to the people. So thought St. Francis of Assisi.

His way of helping his Italian parishioners grow closer to Christmas was to create the very first praesepe, or Christmas crib.

His carol, "The Song of the Creatures," made the Nativity still more real to them since it told of the lowly animals which were part of their lives and livelihood.

All this happened early in the 13th century. From that time, the idea of the creche or crib has spread to virtually every country on the globe.

Today, especially in Latin America and Europe, the manger scene sets the theme for a holy and happy Christmastide.

Told in Rhyme The story of the Nativity and its meaning for mankind is a favored poetic theme, as is the holiday cheer of hearth and home. Poets as diverse as William Shakespeare, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John

Greenleaf Whittier and T.S. Eliot have made their contributions.

Numerous carols first were poems - witness Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat, 'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep.'"

Probably the overwhelming winner among widely-known secular Christmas poems is Clement Clark Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

The poem, written for his own children in 1822, is popularly called, "Twas the Night before Christmas."

Inspires Music In serious music as well as popular carols, the Nativity scene lives on.

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