

THE MAGI (2016)

By Walt Wright

In this 10 x 8 painting the Magi are shown on the outskirts of Bethlehem. Following a star that suddenly appeared in the East, they brought gifts to the new born king. Many texts describe the Magi as kings however the word "magi" means magicians, which in ancient times included the study of astrology, alchemy and other sciences. Much of this developed in countries such as Greece and Spain, as well as Scotland and England. The Bible states that these wise men saw the star in the East, which meant they were West of Bethlehem, not from the Persian region to the Northeast as some scholars have stated. Also take note that when they arrived the child was in a house, no longer in the stable as many images incorrectly depict. It is also known from scripture that two years had passed at the time King Herod realized that the Magi were not returning to inform him of the child's location. This is why he had all male children slaughtered from two years of age and under.

The gifts the Magi brought were gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Although only three gifts were mentioned there could have been more than just three wise men. Frankincense was expensive incense derived from the sap of a rare cedar. Myrrh is a little more mysterious, although it is also a gum resin it was used in medicines and perfumes. Considering these gifts of alchemy and the direction of travel as well as length of time in travel, it is quite possible these men may very well have been Druids from the Mediterranean area. Having considered all these factors it was my decision to depict the Magi as being from the far West, traveling eastward toward the star. The symbols on the Magi's staff are Druid in nature. The single spiral on the Magi in red represents birth, growth and expansion of consciousness. On the staff of the Magi dressed in tan is a triquetra. This symbol represents spirit, nature and the cosmos. The staff of the Magi in green has a double spiral which represents balance and the seasonal equinoxes. Other symbols included in the painting are a Coptic cross and an amethyst orb. The light generated from the staff crystals interacting with the star of Bethlehem represents the magic of the moment. Each is a primary color; red, yellow and blue.

