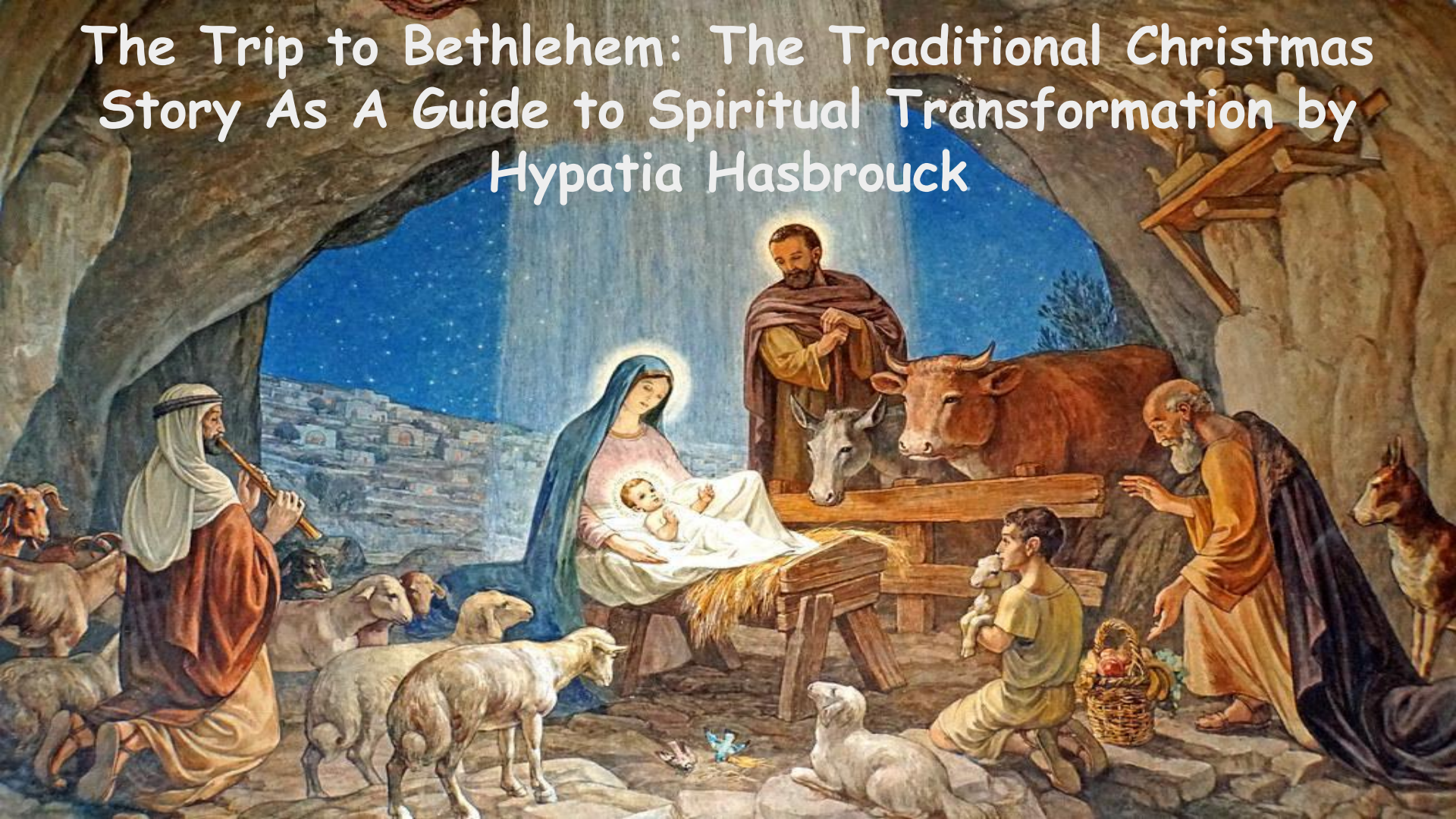


The Trip to Bethlehem: The Traditional Christmas Story As A Guide to Spiritual Transformation by Hypatia Hasbrouck





Foundations for the Journey

**Stage One: Renunciation - Weakening
Egocentricity, the Herod**





Stage Two: Follow the Star - Wisdom

The Star

- Ideas that come from God, no human reasoning
- Truth
- The compelling conviction of the Christ idea
- Spiritual Aspiration

*ONLY the Magi see the star - the wise



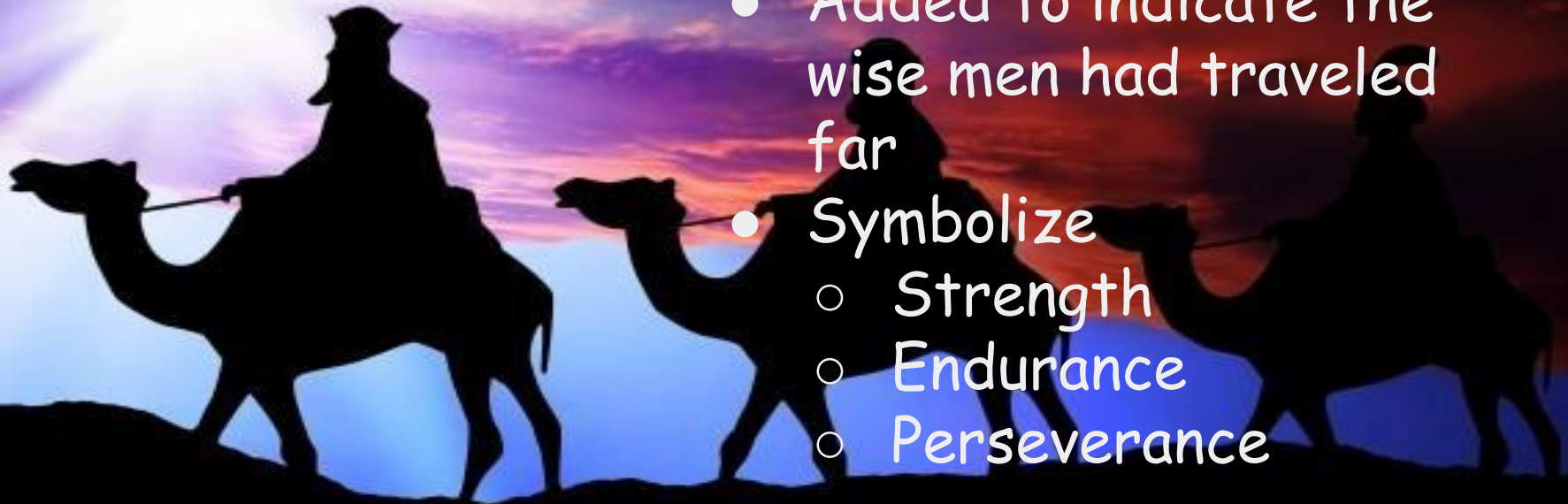
The Magi

- Greek word translated as wise men.
- Knowledgeable in many fields, usually astrologers
- Only the Magi see the star because only inner wisdom can form a conviction of the inner Christ.



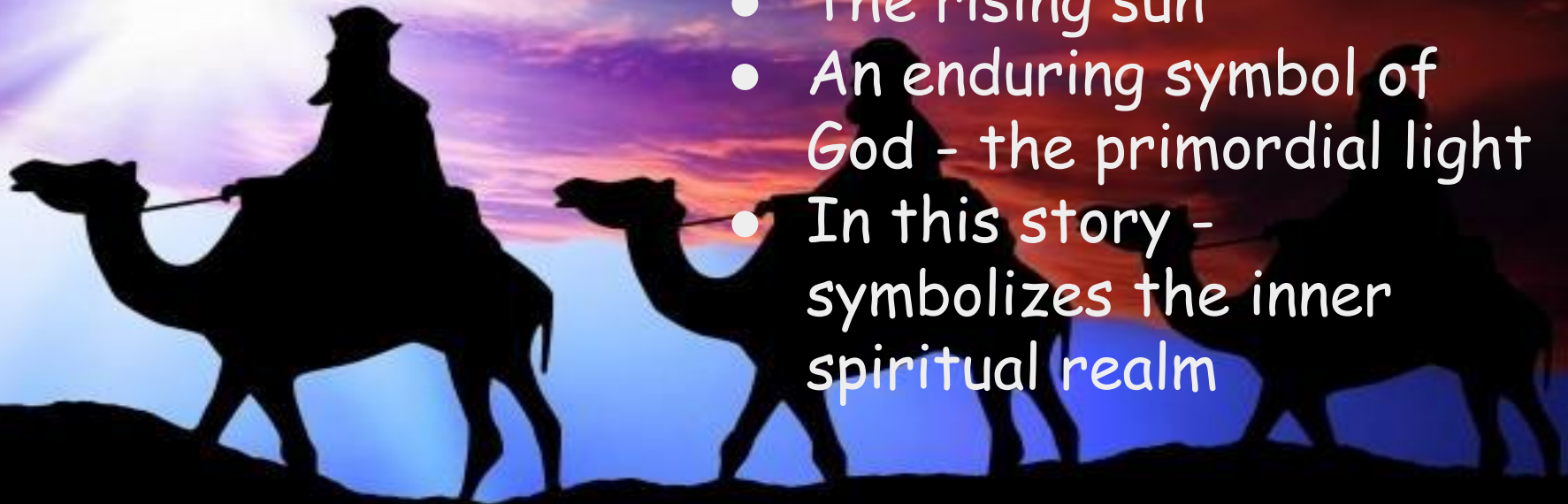
The Camel

- Added to indicate the wise men had traveled far
- Symbolize
 - Strength
 - Endurance
 - Perseverance



The East

- The rising sun
- An enduring symbol of God - the primordial light
- In this story - symbolizes the inner spiritual realm



Three

- The number for spiritual synthesis
 - Spirit-soul-body
- The completion of an inner spiritual process
 - Creation and manifestation
 - mind-idea-expression





The Twelve Powers



Proverbs 2: 1-11



Wisdom - the ability to discern the best or most God-like way to make use of knowledge and to judge on the basis of principle - righteously and impartially.



Stage two takes place BEFORE the traditional Christmas story begins.



When something stirs our inner Magi to action, the mystical trip to Bethlehem begins.



Mystical experiences take place within our own minds and hearts and can be expedited by meditation.



Meditation

