



Baby Jesus

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Recently, I was told that there are some people who don't want to celebrate Christmas because they don't like the title, "Baby Jesus". These people think the title is not respectful.

I was surprised to hear this, for Baby Jesus was a fact. Didn't the shepherds and wise men worship a baby Jesus? They did not wait for Jesus to grow up and preach and perform miracles before worshiping Him.

I'd guess one of the reasons why they dislike the title, "Baby Jesus", is a traditional way of thinking. That is, a baby should not be respected. A baby is just a bundle to cradle, but not to be respected. In this way of thinking, a baby is not considered as worthwhile since it uncertain whether it will grow into a child.

Furthermore, in this viewpoint, even a child is not respected in the family. A common belief is that a child should not express his/her opinion nor ask questions, so why should he or she be respected?

If we have this kind of concept in our minds, we naturally believe that "Baby Jesus" is not a respectful title.

The point of this discussion, however, is not whether a child should be respected, but that Jesus, the Son of God, was willing to become a human being, beginning with the infant stage, which is already worthy of our worship. He could have descended from heaven in an adult form, just as Adam was created, then preached and performed miracles for three years before dying on the cross. His redemption could have

been accomplished just as well, so why did He want to suffer all the growing pains like a common man?

Jesus was born in a manger, a place as lowly as a farmer's pig sty. Furthermore, the manger didn't even belong to His parents. It was loaned to them at the mercy of an innkeeper. They could have been thrown out anytime, yet, the angel proclaimed to the shepherds that this was the sign to find the Savior. Thus the sign of our Savior is poor and suffering from the very beginning.

After the shepherds found the Savior, was His condition improved? No, baby Jesus had to flee to Egypt before He was two years old. We who are immigrants should identify with this suffering vividly. Half a century ago, we fled only to other provinces in China to escape disasters or riots; the farthest we would flee was still within our own country. Today, however, we flee to other countries. We know about racial discrimination, the hardships of earning a living without the language skills and the instability of such a life. That's how baby Jesus suffered 2000 years ago.

So, readers, we must be careful! For, when we say we don't like the title of "Baby Jesus", we might unconsciously deny the perfect human nature of Him. The Word became flesh is our basis faith, and Baby Jesus is the proof of a full life of that "flesh".

Whenever I see the nativity scene, I have the urge to kneel down to worship this almighty God for His willingness to become a weak and helpless baby just because he loves me. That's how I celebrate my Christmas!

