



Tongues of Angels

By Evelyn O. Shih

In this , the Christmas season, we always hear about the songs of the angels. Actually, the Bible never mentions that angels sing; only that they called to each other in the temple, they had their own language and they praised the Lord by saying. Why, then, do we have this lovely misunderstanding that the angels sing?

First of all, an angel's voice sounds like music to our ears. Oh the contrary, our modern music sounds like yelling, groaning and fighting. So you see, our singing voices are worse than our speaking voices. Do you know that the Chinese language is more musical than others? We should take advantage of this characteristic and speak nicely.

Secondly, angels speak comforting words. In the Bible, almost every time an angel appeared, he began speaking with the word, 'don't be afraid'. By saying this he wanted to calm the listener and show that his message would be comforting, not threatening; and helping, not scolding and forcing.

I recall when I was a small child, I felt so afraid whenever an adult wanted to talk to me. If he or she cared to pat my head and say, 'don't be afraid' to me first, I felt sure it would take away a lot of my fear. Now that I am old, I always remind myself not to be intimidating to youngsters. I try to use my smile to say,

'don't be afraid'.

Thirdly, angels only relayed the messages from God. That is, comfort must come from God; otherwise it would become false hope from Satan which would lead one into sin. So, our job is to discern whether the message agrees with the Bible, or not. We should also be careful when we advise others. We Chinese have so many years of tradition and it is easy to include the superstitions in our advice, so we must be aware of where our advice originated.

Fourthly, angels used love to relay their messages. St. Paul said, "*If I speak in the language of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging symbol.*" This passage proves that the angels' language is love.

Love is the essence of language. With love, any language sounds like music to our ears.

Love is the motive of language. With love, the language becomes effective in our hearts.

I want to emphasize this next point; that is, if you have no love in your heart, to avoid saying hurtful words, please don't say anything until you can return to the source of love, our Lord, for a 'recharge' of His love.

In conclusion, I truly wish that our daily words will be as lovingly misunderstood as an angel's song, making people happy and glorifying God.

