

# TEEN PAGE

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## ADVICE FROM A TREE



*Stand up tall and confident.  
Sink your roots into the earth.*

*Be content with your  
natural beauty.*

*Go out on a limb.*

*Drink plenty of water.*

*Remember your roots.*

*Enjoy the view!*

*Ilan Shamir - arranged*

### THE BABY FROM THE STARS

Know you've been loved this Christmas



#### **LOVED THIS CHRISTMAS (YOU ARE)**

A vlogger Dan Rackham, a church community worker from Toxteth has released a spoof video of the famous John Lewis 'Man on the Moon' advert to show viewers what Christmas is really about. Watch it on youtube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoxTF\\_31yyE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoxTF_31yyE)

#### **Jesus' birth was announced with a message:**

**"Peace on Earth Goodwill to all people!"**

Not a religion, but an Announcement. And it was meant for the whole world and everybody in it. So no one was to have exclusive rights to the promise of Peace and Goodwill from God. Peace on earth and Goodwill was to come by the man christened as Jesus. Jesus was the way to reconnect us with God because he was God.

### THE CHRISTIAN REVOLUTION

It's hard for us to imagine just what an appalling revolution the life of Jesus caused because we cannot imagine what it was like before. It was terrifying for the Romans because it turned their whole civilization upside down.

Just imagine, one day you are living the Roman way, like school, well ordered, strict discipline, a hierarchy of authority from the Head Teacher through teaching assistant right down to you. For the Romans it was a whole list of Pagan Gods with Jupiter at top through Vesta goddess of Rome then Caesar then all the rulers down to the slaves at the bottom. No human rights - just do what you are told. It is a tough life for everyone but especially for the slaves. Lots of them.

For a Roman the whole world order depended on the hierarchy of gods to man. It was the obvious Natural Order. If the gods were not satisfied the world would end in chaos and terror.

If you were a Roman citizen you had a persona - that's where we get our word person. If you were a slave you did not have a persona - you were not a person. It was not possible for a Roman to imagine a slave being equal to a Roman citizen or having any 'rights'.

Then imagine a few years later a group of people who do not bow to Jupiter, they are actually living together while treating all people equally as well as slaves. Even wealthy Romans have sold-up and joined them.

How could it happen? It had never happened before. All civilizations were based on slavery. Without slaves nothing could be done. The world was being turned upside down. It was an unimaginable Revolution.

It all started because of a seemingly impossible and unique event: a man who had been executed like a slave was God. Impossible, but suddenly everything changed and even a slave could be equal to anyone. The idea was unique, a one-off and it never happened in non-Christian countries. Even so it was happening and that is what the story of Christmas means: God became a man and all people became of equal and infinite value to God and so to each other. Let's be honest, the idea that a people are equal could never have been dreamt up by a Roman or by the Enlightenment (European Intellectuals).

So let's give credit where it is due and thank God and praise Him for that unbelievably amazing event we call Christmas when he became the Son of God in the form of a baby born to Mary in a manger and so set us free.



### LONDON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Covent Garden, Bond Street  
Regent Street, South Molton Street  
The Strand, Oxford Street.

Worth a visit but what's  
missing...?

*(Christmas actually)*

