

In December, in countries all around the world, we celebrate Christmas with decorations, presents and special meals.

Let's have a look at this event with some texts proposed by Christiane Kind

The story of Christmas-tree balls

There is a long tradition of decorating a tree at Christmas time. In the 15th century, "Christmas trees" were decorated with fruit and flowers, especially in the eastern part of France.

This tradition suffered a blow in the mid-1800s – in 1858 to be precise – when a severe drought hit this region. As the end-of-year festivities approached, a glass-blower at Goetzenbruck in the Vosges, had the idea of creating imitation fruit, with great success. The Christmas-tree ball came into being.

The glass-works in the region seeing the opportunity of a good market, launched into the arena, before being outstripped by industrial production. In order to preserve local artisans, the CIAV (Centre international d'art verrier) was set up in 1992 at Melsenthal in the Moselle. Visitors are welcome every day to see the glass-blowers at their task.

Original text in French

Tree of knowledge, tree of good and evil, the victory of life amidst death, this is the heritage of the pine tree.



This

Xmas

I would
Like to put
Up a tree in my
Heart, and instead
Of hanging presents,
I would like to put the
Names of all my friends.
Close friends and not so close
Friends. The old friends, the new
Friends. Those that I see every day
And the ones that I rarely see. The ones
That I always remember and the ones that
I sometimes forget. The ones that are always
There and the ones that seldom are. The friends of
Difficult times and the ones of happy times. Friends
Who, without meaning to, I have hurt, or without meaning
To have hurt me. Those that I know well and those I only know
By name. Those that owe me little and those that I owe so much.
My humble friends and my important friends. The names of all those
That have passed through my life no matter how fleetingly. A tree with
Very deep roots and very long
And strong branches so that
Their names may never be
Plucked from my heart. So
That new names from all

Over may join the existing ones. A tree with a very
Pleasant shade so that our friendship may take a
Moment of rest from the battles of life. "May the
Happy moments of Xmas brighten every day of
The new year". These are my sincere wishes.

Source Unknown

Is it not interesting that the most beautiful Christmas trees can be found in cities of mixed cultures and religions like New York or Singapore.

Please share with us your pictures of the decorations in your town.

We wish you all the best for the coming year.

Joy, Friendship and, why not, Tolerance.