

Western Wisdom Bible Teachings

Lessons 1 - 14



The Rosicrucian Fellowship

MOUNT ECCLESIA
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INTRODUCTION

"The Bible has been given to the Western World by the Recording Angels who give to each and all exactly what they need for their development."
--Max Heindel

Dear Friend:

During modern times there has been much argument concerning the authenticity of the Bible. Material science has been taught in our high schools and colleges, and there has arisen in the minds of inquiring students a demand for some correlation between orthodox Biblical teachings and the discoveries of science. The casual observer can find no satisfactory harmonization, but to the deeper student, there is possible a logical correlation between the findings of science and the Holy Scriptures. This series of lessons presents such a correlation.

These lessons have been compiled from the writings of Max Heindel, a trained clairvoyant and investigator of the invisible worlds. He did not claim to give all of the truth concerning any of the subjects treated, it being generally accepted that there are seven valid interpretations for every universal truth. He simply offered certain explanations and interpretations which will stand the test of logic and unbiased investigation, as well as provide a basis for broader understanding and deeper appreciation of the Scriptures. It is our pleasure to present them to the public, believing that they will fill a real need in bridging the gap between science and religion.

There are twenty-eight lessons in the Course. They are offered on a freewill offering basis and may be taken by anyone wishing to apply for them. A copy of the Bible will be needed for reference. The lessons, together with the indicated references and notes, should be carefully read several times before written answers are attempted, as careful study and concentration upon spiritual truths bring an inner understanding and revelation not obtained from a mere reading of the text.

Much of the material embodied in these lessons may present a challenge to the thoughtful student, and we would encourage individual investigation and research. However, as it is not our purpose to give our personal interpretations of material not contained in the lessons, we hope that the student will confine his work with the course entirely to the material in the lessons. **Thus, the answers to all the questions are to be found in these lessons.**

Trusting that your study of this course will bring you much inner joy and enlightenment, and with our cordial good wishes, we are

Yours in the search for truth,
The Rosicrucian Fellowship
Education Department

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Lesson No. 1 - Origin of the Scriptures

References: Genesis, chapters 16, 17, 18, 21; I Corinthians 3:1-3; Galatians 4:22-26

There was a time, even as late as Greece, when Religion, Art and Science were taught together in the Mystery Temples, but it was necessary for the better development of each that they should separate for a time.

Religion held sole sway in the so-called "dark ages." During that time it bound both Science and Art hand and foot. Then the period of the Renaissance and Art came to the fore in all its branches. Religion was strong as yet, however, and Art was only too often confined solely to the service of Religion. Last came the wave of modern Science, and with an iron hand it subjugated Religion.

It was a detriment to the world when Religion shackled Science. Ignorance and superstition caused untold woe; nevertheless, man then cherished a lofty spiritual ideal. He hoped for a higher and better life. Therefore a state of agnosticism and materialism could not continue. Reaction must set in, for if it did not, anarchy would rend the Cosmos. To avert such a calamity, Religion, Science, and Art must reunite in a higher expression of the Good, the True, and the Beautiful than had been achieved before separation.

A spiritual religion, however, cannot blend with a materialistic science any more than oil can mix with water. Therefore, Science must be spiritualized and Religion made scientific.

In order to study the Bible intelligently, it is essential that one approach it with an open mind. Fixed, preconceived views of the Scriptures in their generally accepted versions as being the only true and inspired Word of God, infallible, are clouds which at the outset blind one to the real illumination that may come from careful, unprejudiced study. There are, however, hidden beneath the interpolations, mistranslations, pearls of truth, which it behooves every earnest student of life and being to seek, and if certain important facts are kept in mind as one studies, new light and understanding will be the reward.

In the first place, let us remember that the words of the Hebrew language, particularly the old style, run into one another and are not divided as are those of our language. Add to this that there is a custom of leaving out vowels from the writing, so that in reading much depends upon where and how they are inserted, and it will be seen how great were the difficulties to be surmounted in ascertaining the original meaning. A slight change may entirely alter the significance of almost any sentence.

In addition to these great difficulties we must also bear in mind that of the forty-seven translators of the King James version (that most commonly used in England and America), only three were Hebrew scholars, and of those three, two died before the Psalms had been translated! We must still further take into consideration that the Act which authorized the translation prohibited the translators from any rendition that would greatly deviate from or tend to disturb the already existing belief. It is evident, therefore, that the chances of getting a correct translation were very small indeed.

Nor were conditions much more favorable in Germany, for there Martin Luther was the chief translator and even he did not translate from the original Hebrew, but mainly from a Latin text. Most of the versions used in Continental Protestant countries today are simply translations, into different languages, of Luther's translation.

True, there have been revisions, but they have not greatly improved matters. Moreover, there are a large number of people in this country who insist that the English text of the King James version is absolutely correct from cover to cover, as though the Bible had been originally written in English, and the King James version was a certified copy of the original manuscript. So the old mistakes are still there, in spite of the efforts which have been made to eradicate them.

It must also be noted that those who originally wrote the Bible did not intend to give out the truth in such plain form that he who ran might read. Nothing was farther from their thoughts than to write

an "open Book of God." The great seers who wrote the Zohar* are very emphatic upon this point. The secrets of the Torah were not meant to be understood by all, as the following quotation will show.

"Woe to the man who sees in the Torah (the law) only simple recitals and ordinary words! Because, if in truth it contained only these, we would even today be able to compose a Torah much more worthy of admiration. But it is not so. Each word of the Torah contains an elevated meaning and a sublime mystery....The recitals of the Torah are the vestments of the Torah. Woe to him who takes this vestment of the Torah for the Torah itself....The simple take notice of the garments and recitals of the Torah alone. They know no other thing. They see not that which is concealed under the vestment. *The more instructed men do not pay attention to the vestment, but to the body which it envelops.*"

In the preceding words the allegorical meanings are plainly implied. Paul also unequivocally says that the story of Abraham and the two sons he had by Sarah and Hagar is purely allegorical. (Gal. 4:22-26) Many passages are veiled; others are to be taken verbatim. As in a field sown with potatoes there are not only these vegetables, but also the soil in which they are hidden, so *in the Bible the pearls of occult truth are hidden in what are often hideous garments.* The occultist who has fitted himself to possess these pearls has received the key, and sees them plainly. To others they remain obscure until they also have worked for that key. Thus, while the story of the wanderings of the children of Israel and the dealings of a certain God with them is partially true, there is also a spiritual significance that is far more important than the material history. Even though the Gospels contain the great outlines of the life of an individual called Jesus, they are formulae of Initiation showing the experiences which everyone must eventually pass through on the way to the truth and the life.

The secrecy regarding these deep matters and the invariable use of allegories, where the mass of the people were permitted to come in contact with occult truths, will also be apparent from the practice of Christ, who always spoke to the multitude in parables, afterward privately explaining to His disciples the deeper meaning contained therein. On several occasions He imposed secrecy upon them in regard to such private teachings.

Paul's methods are also in harmony with this, for he gives "milk" or the more elementary teachings to the "babes" in the faith, reserving the "meat" or deeper teachings for the "strong"—those who had qualified themselves to understand and receive them. (I Cor. 3:1-3)

The Jewish Bible was originally written in Hebrew, but we do not possess one single line of the original writings. As early as 280 B.C. the Septuagint, a translation into Greek, was brought forth. Even in the time of Christ there was already the utmost confusion and diversity of opinion regarding what was to be admitted as original, and what had been interpolated.

It was not until the return from the Babylonian exile that the scribes began to piece together the different writings and not until about 500 A.D. did the Talmud appear, giving the first text resembling the present one, which, in view of the foregoing facts, cannot be perfect.

The Talmud was then taken in hand by the Masoretic School, which from 590 to about 800 A.D. was principally in Tiberias. With great and painstaking labor, a Hebrew Old Testament was produced which is the nearest to the original we have at the present time.

Thus, though we may not contend for the divinity of the Bible or hold that it is the Word of God from cover to cover, we recognize the fact that it is a poor translation of the originals and that there are many interpolations which have been inserted at different times to support various ideas; nevertheless, the very fact that so much truth has been massed into such a small compass is a source of constant wonder to the occultist, who knows what the Book really is and has the key to its meaning. Let us then remember that *truth is many sided* and eternal; the quest for truth must also be all-embracing and never-ending.

We may liken truth to a mountain, and the various interpretations of that truth to different paths leading up to the summit. Many people are traveling along all of these paths and everyone while he is at the bottom thinks his path is the only one; he sees only a small part of the mountain, and may therefore be justified in crying to his brothers, "You are wrong! Come over to my path; this is the only one that leads to the top." But as all these people progress upward, they will see that the paths converge at the top and that they are all one in the ultimate.

It may be said most emphatically that no system of thought which has ever been able to attract and hold the attention of a large number of people for a considerable time has been without its truth; and whether we perceive it or not, there is, in every sect, the kernel of divine teachings which is gradually bringing them upward toward the top of the mountain. Therefore we should practice the utmost tolerance for every belief.

Notes:

*Zohar: A Jewish cabalistic book introduced into Spain in the 13th century by the cabalistic writer, Moses de Leon, who attributed it to Simeon ben Yohai, a second century Jewish teacher. Under the form of commentary on the Pentateuch, it contains a complete cabalistic theosophy, treating of God, the cosmogony and cosmology of the universe, the soul, sin, redemption, etc. Its contents indicate that it is the work of many authors, periods, and civilizations.

Questions:

- 1] What is essential for an intelligent study of the Bible?
- 2] What peculiarity of the words of the Hebrew language render it difficult for correct interpretation?
- 3] For whom was the Bible originally written? What proof have we of this?
- 4] Trace the steps through which the King James version has passed.
- 5] What double function do the Gospels perform?
- 6] What must we remember in our quest for truth?
- 7] Give an illustration to show why we must be tolerant of all religions.

Note: Please do not fail to read and reread the pages in which you find the answers to these questions. After carefully studying the subject matter, strive to condense your answer as much as possible, taking into consideration the principal points.

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Lesson No. 2 - The Solar Myth

References: Genesis 49; Exodus 13; Deuteronomy 33; Judges 13:16

In the religion of Judaism we hear of a God making certain promises to a man by the name of Abraham. He promised that he would make Abraham's seed as numerous as the sands upon the seashore; and we are told how he dealt with Abraham's grandson Jacob, who was the husband of four wives, by whom he had twelve sons and one daughter. These are looked upon as forefathers of the Jewish nation.

This is an astronomical allegory dealing with the migration of the heavenly bodies, as will be evident from a careful perusal of the 49th Chapter of Genesis and the 33rd Chapter of Deuteronomy, where the blessings of Jacob upon his sons show how they are identified with the twelve signs of the zodiac: Simeon and Levi share the sign Gemini, the twins; the feminine sign Virgo is allotted to Jacob's only daughter, Dinah; Gad represents the sign Aries; Issachar, Taurus; Benjamin, Cancer; Judah, Leo; Asher, Libra; Dan, Scorpio; Joseph, Sagittarius; Naphthali, Capricorn; Rueben, Aquarius; and Zebulun, Pisces. The four wives are the four phases of the Moon and Jacob is the Sun.

This is similar to the teaching we find among the Greeks, where Gaia, the Earth, is the wife of Apollo, the Sun; and among the Egyptians, where heat and moisture, the Sun and the Moon, were personified in Osiris and Isis. The sacred rivers Jordan and Ganges are also connected etymologically with the river Eridanus,* which is one of the constellations. It means "source of descent," and for agriculturists, such as were these ancient people, these rivers were the sources of the Waters of Life.

Josephus tells us that the Jews carried the twelve signs of the zodiac on their banners and camped around the tabernacle, which held the seven-branched candlestick representing the Sun and the heavenly bodies which move inside the circle formed by the twelve signs of the zodiac.

The Jews located their temples so that the four corners pointed northeast, southeast, northwest, and southwest and the sides directly north, east, south, and west. Like all solar temples the main entrance was in the east, so that the rising Sun might illumine its portal and herald each day the victory of light over the powers of darkness. Thus was brought to nascent humanity the message that the contest of light and darkness on the material plane is but the counterpart of a similar contest in the moral and mental worlds where the human soul is groping its way toward the light. The battle of light and darkness in the material world, like all other phenomena, is a suggestion of the realities in the invisible realms. Therefore, these truths were given to man as myths by divine leaders who led him until his growing intellect gave birth to arrogance which caused his benefactors to withdraw, and let him learn by the hard knocks of experience. Then he forgot them and has come to regard the ancient stories of gods and demigods as imaginary. Yet, even the early Christian Church was imbued with this knowledge of the significance of the solar myth, for the Cathedral of St. Peter at Rome is built facing the east, like all other solar temples, telling humanity of the "Great Light of the World," Who is to come and dispel the spiritual darkness which as yet envelops us—the Light-bringer Who shall bring peace on earth and goodwill among men, causing the nations to beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

The Jews greeted the Sun with the morning-sacrifice, and took leave of it at Sunset in a similar manner by an evening oblation, offering up on their sabbath an additional sacrifice to the lunar race-god, Jehovah. Him they also worshiped by sacrifice at the new moon. One great feast was Easter, when they celebrated the Passover, the time when the Sun "passes over" its easter(n) node, leaving the southern hemisphere where it winters and commencing its northern journey in its chariot of fire, hailed with joy by men as their savior from hunger and cold which would inevitably result if it always stayed in south declination.

The last of the Jewish feasts, and the most important, is the Feast of Tabernacles, when the Sun crosses its western node in the autumn, having yielded to man the "bread of life" wherewith to sustain his material being until the next return of the Sun to the northern heavens.

For the above reasons the six southern signs (Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces), which the Sun occupies in winter, are always called "Egypt," the "land of Philistines," etc., a name for something that is bad for "God's people"; whereas the northern signs (Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, and Virgo), through which the Sun passes during the fruitful season, are "heaven," "the promised land," "which flows with milk and honey."

We see this in such passages as the one where the celebration of the Passover is enjoined, to "remember thy coming out of Egypt." (Exodus 13:3) This feast is a rejoicing over the emergence of the Sun from the southern signs. The same indication is in the recorded fact that Jacob was with Joseph in Egypt when he died. At the winter solstice, when the Sun of the past year has completed its journey and reached its lowest degree of south declination, it is in the zodiacal sign Sagittarius. By reference to Genesis 49:24, where the dying Jacob speaks of the "bow" of Joseph, it is easy to identify him with the sign Sagittarius, which represents a centaur in the act of drawing his bow. Thus the story of Jacob dying in Egypt with Joseph is re-enacted each year when the Sun dies in the sign Sagittarius at the winter solstice.

The story of Samson is another phase of the solar myth. As long as Samson's hair was allowed to grow, his strength would increase. Samson is the Sun, and its rays represent Samson's hair. From the winter solstice in December to the summer solstice in June the Sun's rays grow, and it gains in strength every day. This frightens the "powers of darkness," the winter months, the Philistines, for if this Light-bringer continues to reign, their kingdom will come to an end, and they counsel together against Samson to discover wherein his strength lies. They secure the cooperation of the woman, Delilah, which is the sign Virgo, and when Samson, the Sun, passes through that sign in September he is said to have laid his head on the woman's lap and to have confided his secret to her. She shears him of his locks, for at that time the rays of the Sun begin to grow shorter and lose their strength. Then the Philistines or winter months come and carry the debilitated giant into their prison, the southern signs where the Sun is in winter. They put out his eyes or deprive him of his light and at last bring him to their temple, their stronghold, at the winter solstice. There they subject him to infamous indignities, believing they have vanquished the light completely, but with his last remaining strength the fettered solar giant shatters their temple. Although he dies in the effort, he overcomes his enemies and thus leaves the way clear for another Sun-child to be born to save humanity from the cold and famine which would result if he had remained bound in the toils of the powers of darkness, the Philistines, the winter months.

The lives of all the saviors of mankind are also founded upon the passage of the Sun around the circle of the zodiac, which pictures the trials and triumphs of the initiate, and the fact has given rise to the erroneous conclusion that these saviors never existed, that the stories are merely Sun-myths. This is wrong. All divine teachers sent to man are cosmic characters, and the ordering of their lives is in accord with the marching orbs, which contain, as it were, an anticipated biography of their lives. Each came with divine spiritual light and knowledge to help man to find God, and therefore the events in their lives were in accord with the events which the physical light bearer, the Sun, encounters, on its pilgrimage through the year.

The saviors were all born of an immaculate virgin, at the time when darkness is greatest among mankind, as the Sun of the coming year is born, or begins its journey, on the longest night of the year, when the zodiacal sign Virgo, the Virgin, stands on the eastern horizon between 10:00 and 12:00 P.M. in all latitudes. She remains as immaculate as ever after she has given birth to her Sun-child; hence we see the Egyptian goddess Isis sitting on the crescent Moon nursing her divine babe Horus; Astarte, the immaculate lady of Babylon, with her babe Tammuz, and a crown of seven stars over her head; the lady Devaki in India with her infant Krishna, and our own Virgin Mary, giving birth to the Savior of the Western World under the Star of Bethlehem. Everywhere the same story: the immaculate mother, the divine babe, and the Sun, Moon, or Stars.

Notes:

*Eridanus: a long winding constellation extending southward from Taurus and containing the bright star Achernar.

Questions:

- 1] State briefly the symbology of the story of Jacob and his sons.
- 2] What is the chief message brought to humanity by the solar myth?
- 3] What is the significance of the fact that St. Peter's Cathedral is built facing east?
- 4] What is the symbology of "Egypt," "the Philistines," etc.?
- 5] Give a brief interpretation of the allegory of Samson.
- 6] Upon what are the lives of all the saviors founded?
- 7] What are the essential features of all the stories of the saviors?

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Lesson No. 3 - The Solar Myth (continued)

References: I Chronicles 28, 29; II Chronicles 1-9; Jonah; Matthew 2:13-14; 12:40; 16:15-19; John 3:30; I Corinthians 10:4; Revelation 12

As the material Sun is weak and has to flee from the powers of darkness, so all these divine light-bringers are searched for and forced to flee from the powers of the world; and like the Sun, they always escape. Jesus fled before King Herod. King Kansa* and King Maya are his counterparts in other religions. The Baptism occurs at the time when the Sun passes through the sign Aquarius, the waterman; and when he goes through the sign of the Fishes in March we have the fast of the Initiate, for Pisces is the last of the southern signs, and all the stores laid by from the bounteous gifts of the Sun of the previous year are nearly exhausted, and man's food is scarce. The fish-food of Lent which occurs at this time is a further corroboration of this solar origin of the fast.

At the vernal equinox, March 21, the Sun "crosses the equator," and at that time the "crossification," or crucifixion, occurs, for then the Sun-god commences to give his life as food for his worshipers, ripening the corn and the grape, which is made into the "bread and wine." To do that he must leave the equator and soar heavenward. Similarly, it would not benefit humanity spiritually if their saviors stayed with them; therefore, they soar heavenward as "sons (or Suns) of righteousness," ministering to the faithful from above, as the Sun does for man when high in the heavens.

The Sun attains its highest point of north declination at the summer solstice, June 21. He then sits upon "the throne of his father," the Sun of the previous year, but he cannot remain there more than three days. Then he is carried downward toward his western node. Likewise, the saviors of mankind ascend to the throne of the Father, to be reborn from time to time for the good of mankind, which truth is embodied in the sentence of the Nicene Creed: "thence he shall return."

The movement known as the "precession of the equinoxes," whereby the Sun crosses the equator on March 21 at a different point each year, determines the symbol of the savior. At the time of the birth of Jesus, the Sun crossed in about five degrees of the sign Aries, the Ram. Consequently, Christ was "the lamb of God." (John 1:36) There was a dispute, however; some thought that owing to what is called the orb of influence, power of the Sun was really in the sign Pisces, the fishes, and that the symbol of Christ should have been a fish. As a relic of that dispute we see that to this day the Bishop's mitre is in the form of the head of a fish. At the time of Mithras, the Persian Savior, the Sun crossed in the sign of the Bull; hence we find Mithras riding on a bull. This was also the foundation for the worship of the Bull, Apis, in Egypt. At present (Nov 2001) the vernal equinox is in about 5 degrees, 14 minutes of Pisces, the Fishes, so that if a savior were born now he would be "Fish-man," like Oannes of Ninevah, changed into Jonah and the whale by the Bible.

This great allegory, like so many others, is also pictured upon the firmament, for it was first enacted in heaven before it was staged on Earth, and we still see in the starry sky "Jonah, the Dove," and "Cetus, the Whale." The terrestrial application of this allegory will be given in a subsequent lesson.

The four letters said to have been on the cross of Christ and the method of fixing Easter in commemoration of the event, also go to show the cosmic character of the occurrence. These letters, I.N.R.I., are commonly supposed to have meant *Jesus Nazarenus Rex Judaeorum*, but they are also the initial letters of the Hebrew names of the four elements—lam (water), Nour (fire), Ruach (air), labeshah (earth). It would be foolish to fix the anniversary of the death of an individual, as Easter is fixed by the Sun and Moon, but it is the proper thing in respect of a solar festival and a cosmic character, related to the Sun as spiritual light-bringer to physical luminary.

When the Sun leaves his throne at the summer solstice, about June 21, he passes through Cancer and into the sign Leo, the Lion of Judah (July 24 to August 24). Then we have the Catholic feast of the Assumption on August 15, in Leo. Thence, onward to his western node, the Sun

proceeds through Virgo, the sign of the Virgin (August 24 to September 23). Thus the Virgin is born from the Sun, as it were.

This brings to mind the astronomical solution to that passage in the 12th Chapter of Revelation: "I saw a woman clothed with the Sun and the Moon under her feet." That phenomenon happens every September just after the new Moon; for viewed from our earth, the Sun covers or clothes the sign Virgo all through September, and as the Moon is leaving the conjunction of the Sun, it appears to be beneath the Virgin's feet. When John the Baptist is represented as saying concerning Christ that "he must increase but I must decrease" (John 3:30), he is symbolizing the Sun at the summer solstice when it must decrease in light for the coming half year, while Christ by his birthday at Christmas is identified with the newborn Sun, which increases the length of the day until the beginning of summer.

Ragon, the eminent French Masonic authority, says that the legend of Hiram Abiff, the "Widow's Son," the Grand Architect of Solomon's Temple, and hero of the Masonic Legend, is an astronomical allegory representing the Sun from the summer solstice downward. The Temple of Solomon is our solar universe which forms the great school of life for our evolving humanity; the broad lines of its history, past, present, and future, are written in the stars, its main outlines being discernible to anyone of average intelligence. In the microcosmic scheme, the Temple of Solomon is also the body of man wherein the individualized spirit or ego is evolving, as God is in the great universe.

Hiram Abiff, the Grand Master, is the Sun which travels around the twelve signs of the zodiac, enacting there the mystic drama of the Masonic Legend. At the vernal equinox the Sun leaves the watery sign Pisces, which is also feminine and docile, for the belligerent, martial, energetic, fiery sign Aries, the ram or lamb, where it is exalted in power. It fills the universe with a creative fire which is immediately seized upon by the innumerable billions of nature spirits who therewith build the temple of the coming year in forest and fen. The forces of fecundation applied to the countless seeds slumbering in the ground cause them to germinate and fill the earth with luxuriant vegetation while the Group Spirits mate the beasts and birds in their charge so that they may bring forth and increase sufficiently to keep the fauna of our planet at normal levels. According to the Masonic Legend, Hiram Abiff used a hammer to call his workmen, and it is significant that the symbol of the sign Aries, where this wonderful creative activity commences, is shaped like a double ram's horn, which resembles a hammer.

During the summer the Sun calls forth songs of gratitude from all that breathes, hence Hiram, who represents it, can give the Word, that is to say life to all. When the Sun enters the southern signs at the fall equinox, September 21, nature becomes mute, and Hiram, the Sun, can no longer give the sacred Word; he meets the three murderers, the zodiacal signs Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius, which the Sun goes through in October, November, and December. The first strikes him with a 24-inch rule, emblematic of the 24 hours the Earth takes to revolve upon its axis. The second strikes him with an iron square, symbolizing the four seasons, and at last the mortal blow is given by the third murderer with a mallet, which being round, signifies that the Sun has completed its circle and dies to give room for the Sun of another year.

The initiates of the temples in Egypt were called "phree messen," which means "children of light," because they had received the light of knowledge, and it is this which has been changed into "Freemason."

Thus we see that the contest of Light and Darkness in the physical world is closely connected in the scriptures of the different religions with the contest of the powers of spiritual light and life against those of darkness and ignorance. This truth is universally spread among all people in all ages. The myths of the dragon slayers embody the same truth, where the Greeks tell of the victory of Apollo over Python, and of Hercules over the dragon of the Hesperides; the Norseman tells of the contest of Beowulf slaying the fire-drake, of Siegfried slaying the dragon, Fafner, and of St. George and the Dragon. In our materialistic age these truths are temporarily relegated to oblivion or regarded as fairy stories without any basis in truth, but the time will come and is not far distant when these myths will again be restored to honor as embodiments of great spiritual truths.

Notes:

*Kansa: In Hindu mythology, a king of Mathura, son of Ugrasena and second cousin of Krishna.

** Occult science teaches that nature spirits are evolving beings who build the plants, form the crystals of the rock, and with numerous other hierarchies are working around and about us unseen, but nevertheless are busy in making that which we call nature.

*** A group spirit is an entity functioning in the spiritual worlds and possessing a spiritual body composed of many separate animal spirits, as a man has a body composed of many cells, each with an individual consciousness. The group spirit itself cannot function in the physical world, but it evolves by sending the different animal spirits into a form of body which it creates.

Questions:

1] How did the fast originate?

2] What occurs at the crucifixion in the solar myth?

3] What determines the symbol of each savior?

4] Why is Christ called "the Lamb of God"?

5] What is the significance of the letters "INRI" which were on the Cross?

6] Give the astronomical solution to the passage: "I saw a woman clothed with the Sun, and the Moon under her feet."

7] Summarize the cosmic application of the legend of Hiram Abiff.

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Lesson No. 4 - The Tabernacle in the Wilderness

References: Genesis 6, 7, 8, 9; Exodus 3-14, 25-40; Hebrews 9

We read in the Bible the story of how Noah and a remnant of his people with him were saved from the flood and formed the nucleus of the humanity of the Rainbow Age in which we now live. It is also stated that Moses led his people out of Egypt, the land of the Bull, Taurus, through waters which engulfed their enemies and set them free as a chosen people to worship the Lamb, Aries, into which sign the Sun had then entered by precession of the equinoxes. These two narratives relate to one and the same incident, namely, the emergence of infant humanity from the doomed continent of Atlantis* into the present age of alternating cycles, where summer and winter, day and night, ebb and flow, follow each other. As humanity had then just become endowed with mind,** they began to realize the loss of the spiritual sight which they had hitherto possessed, and they developed a yearning for the spirit world and their divine guides, which remains to this day, for humanity has never ceased to mourn their loss. Therefore, the ancient Atlantean Mystery Temple, the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, was given to them that they might meet the Lord when they had qualified themselves by service and subjugation of the lower nature by the Higher Self. Being designed by Jehovah it was the embodiment of great cosmic truths hidden by a veil of symbolism which spoke to the inner or Higher Self.

In the first place, it is worthy of notice that this divinely designed Tabernacle was given to a chosen people, who were to build it from freewill offerings given out of the fullness of their hearts. Herein is a particular lesson, for the divine pattern of the path of progress is never given to anyone who has not first made a covenant with God that he will serve Him and is willing to offer up his heart's blood in a life of service without self-seeking. The term "Mason" is derived from *phree messen*, which is an Egyptian term meaning "Children of Light." In the parlance of Masonry, God is spoken of as the Grand Architect. *Arche* is a Greek word which means "primordial substance." It is said that Joseph, the father of Jesus, was a "carpenter," but the Greek word is *tehton*—"builder." It is also said that Jesus was a *tehton*, a "builder." Thus every true mystic Freemason is a child of light, a builder, endeavoring to build the mystic temple according to the divine pattern given him by our Father in Heaven. To this end he dedicates his whole heart, soul, and mind. It is, or should be, his aspiration to be "the greatest in the kingdom of God," and therefore he must be the *servant of all*.

The next point which calls for notice is the location of the temple with respect to the cardinal points, and we find that it was laid directly east and west. Thus we see that the path of spiritual progress is the same as the star of empire; it travels from east to west. The aspirant entered at the eastern gate and pursued the path by way of the Altar of Burnt Offerings, the Brazen Laver, and the Holy Place to the westernmost part of the Tabernacle, where the Ark, the greatest symbol of all, was located in the Holy of Holies. As the wise men of the East followed the Christ star westward to Bethlehem, so does the spiritual center of the civilized world shift farther and farther westward, until today the crest of the spiritual wave which started in China on the western shores of the Pacific has now reached the eastern shores of the same ocean.

The ambulant nature of this Tabernacle in the Wilderness is therefore an excellent symbolical representation of the fact that man is migratory in his nature, an eternal pilgrim, ever passing from the shores of time to eternity and back again.

The Court of the Tabernacle was an enclosure which surrounded the Tabernacle. Its length was twice its width, and the gate was at the east end. This gate was enclosed by a curtain of blue, scarlet, and purple fine twined linen, and these colors show us at once the status of this Tabernacle in the Wilderness. We are taught in the sublime gospel of John that "God is Light," and we know that this light, which is God, is refracted into three primary colors by the atmosphere surrounding our earth, viz., blue, yellow, and red. It is a fact well known to every occultist that the ray of the Father is blue,

while that of the Son is yellow, and the color of the Holy Spirit's ray is red. Only the strongest and most spiritual ray can hope to penetrate the seat of consciousness of the life wave embodied in our mineral kingdom, and therefore we find about the mountain ranges the blue ray of the Father reflected back from the barren hillsides and hanging as a haze over canyons and gulches. The yellow ray of the Son mixed with the blue of the Father gives life and vitality to the plant world, which therefore reflects back a green color, for it is incapable of keeping the ray *within*. But in the animal kingdom, to which unregenerate man belongs anatomically, the three rays are absorbed, and that of the Holy Spirit gives the red color to his flesh and blood. The mixture of the blue and red is evident in the purple blood, poisoned because sinful. But the yellow is never evident until it manifests as a soul body,** the golden "wedding garment" of the mystic Bride of the Mystic Christ evolved from within. (Matt. 22:11-12; I Cor. 15:44)

Thus the colors on the veils of the Temple, both at the gate and at the entrance of the Tabernacle, showed that this structure was designed for a period previous to the time of Christ, for it had only the blue and the scarlet colors of the Father and the Holy Spirit together with their mixture, purple. But white is the synthesis of all colors, and therefore the yellow Christ ray was hidden in that part of the veil until, in the fullness of time, Christ should appear to emancipate us from the ordinances that bind, and initiate us into the full liberty of the Sons of God, Sons of Light, Children of Light, Phree Messen or Mystic Masons.

The Brazen Altar was placed just inside the eastern gate, and it was used for the sacrifice of animals during the temple service. The idea of using bulls and goats as sacrifices seems barbaric to the modern mind and we cannot realize that they could ever have had any efficacy in that respect. The Bible does indeed bear out this view of the matter, for we are told repeatedly that God desires not sacrifice but a broken spirit and a contrite heart, and that He has no pleasure in sacrifices of blood. In view of this fact it seems strange that sacrifices should ever have been commanded. But we must realize that no religion can elevate those whom it is designed to help if its teachings are too far about their intellectual or moral level. To appeal to a barbarian, religion must have certain barbaric traits. A religion of love could not have appealed to those people, therefore they were given a law which demanded "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." There is not in the Old Testament any mention whatever of immortality, for these people could not have understood a heaven nor aspired to it. But they loved material possessions, and therefore they were told that if they did right, they and their seed should dwell in the land forever, and their cattle should be multiplied, etc.

The Altar was made of brass, a metal not found in nature, but made by man from copper and zinc. Thus it is symbolically shown that sin was not originally contemplated in our scheme of evolution and is an anomaly in nature, as well as in its consequences, pain and death, symbolized by the sacrificial victims. But while the Altar itself was made from metals artificially compounded, the fire which burned thereon unceasingly was of divine origin, and it was kept alive from year to year with the most jealous care. No other fire was ever used, and we may note with profit that when two presumptuous and rebellious priests dared to disregard this command and use strange fire, they met with an awful retribution and instant death. (Leviticus 10:1-2) When we have once taken the oath of allegiance to the mystic Master, the Higher Self, it is extremely dangerous to disregard the precepts then given.

We are told by the apostle Paul that the Tabernacle in the Wilderness was a shadow of greater things to come. It may therefore be of interest and profit to see what is the meaning of this Brazen Altar, with its sacrifices and burning flesh, to the candidate who comes to the Temple in modern times. In order that we may understand this mystery, we must first grasp the one great and absolutely essential idea which underlies all true mysticism, viz., that these things are *within* and not without. It is not the Christ without that saves but *the Christ within*. We must build the Tabernacle within our own hearts and consciousness. We must live through, as an actual inner experience, the whole ritual of the service there. We must become both the altar of sacrifice and the sacrificial animal lying upon it. We must become both the priest that slays the animal and the animal that is slain. Later we must learn to identify ourselves with the mystic Laver, and we must learn to wash therein in spirit. Then we must enter behind the first veil, minister in the East Room, and so on through the whole Temple service, until we become the greatest of all these ancient symbols, the Shekinah Glory—or it will avail

us nothing. In short, before the symbol of the Tabernacle can really help us, we must transfer it from the wilderness of space to a home in our hearts so that when we have become everything that that symbol is, we shall also have become that which it stands for spiritually.

Notes:

* Occult science teaches that Atlantis was a continent which existed between Europe and America, where the Atlantic Ocean now lies. As the heavy fogs of Atlantis condensed more and more, the increased quantity of water gradually inundated that continent, destroying the greater part of the population and the evidences of their civilization. Great numbers were driven from the doomed continent by the floods, and wandered across Europe.

** Occult science teaches that man is a complex being who possesses:

(1) a *Dense Body*, which is the visible instrument he uses here in this visible world to fetch and carry; the body we ordinarily think of as the whole man.

(2) a *Vital Body*, which is made of ether and pervades the visible body as ether permeates all other forms, except that human beings specialize a greater amount of the universal ether than other forms. That ethereal body is our instrument for specializing the vital energy of the Sun.

(3) a *Desire Body*, through which we express our emotional nature. This finer vehicle pervades both the vital and dense bodies. It is seen by clairvoyant vision to extend about sixteen inches outside the visible body, which is located in the center of this ovoid cloud as the yolk is in the center of an egg.

(4) a *Mind*, which is a mirror, reflecting the outer world and enabling the Ego to transmit its commands as thought and word, and also compel action. The Ego is the threefold spirit which uses these vehicles to gather experience in the school of life.

The *Ego* is the threefold spirit which uses these vehicles to gather experience in the school of life.

The mind was given to man in the Atlantean Epoch, and while reason benefited him in many ways, it shut from his vision the soul of things which had previously spoken to him, and the gaining of the intellect, which is now man's most precious possession, was at first but sadly contemplated by the Atlantean, who mourned the loss of spiritual sight and power which marked the acquisition of mind.

*** The two higher ethers of the vital body, the light and reflecting ethers. These are attracted by living a life of "loving, self-forgetting service to others."

Questions:

- 1] To what do the stories of Noah and Moses refer?
- 2] Why was the Tabernacle in the Wilderness given to humanity upon their emergence from Atlantis?
- 3] How does the Tabernacle symbolize the path of spiritual progress?
- 4] Of what is the ambulant nature of the Tabernacle symbolical?

5] What is the significance of the colors of the curtain in the Court of the Tabernacle?

6] Describe the Brazen Altar.

7] What does it signify to the modern candidate for Initiation?

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--Max Heindel

Lesson No. 5 - The Tabernacle in the Wilderness (continued)

References: Genesis 6- 9; Exodus 3-14, 25-40; Hebrews 9

The Brazen Laver was a large basin which was always kept full of water. It is said in the Bible that it was carried on the backs of twelve oxen, also made of brass, and we are told that their hind parts were toward the center of the vessel. It appears from the memory of nature, however, that these animals were not oxen but symbolical representations of the twelve signs of the zodiac. Humanity was at that time divided into twelve groups, one group for each zodiacal sign. Each symbolic animal attracted a particular ray, and as the holy water used in Catholic churches is magnetized by the priest during the ceremony of consecration, so also the water in this Laver was magnetized by the divine Hierarchies who guided humanity.

There can be no doubt concerning the power of holy water prepared by an individual of strong and magnetic personality. It takes on or absorbs the effluvia from his vital body, and the people who use it become amenable to his rule in a degree commensurate to their sensitiveness. Consequently, the Brazen Lavers in the ancient Atlantean Mystery Temples, where the water was magnetized by divine Hierarchies of immeasurable power, were a potent factor in guiding the people in accordance with the wishes of these ruling powers. Thus the priests were in perfect subjection to the mandates and dictates of their unseen spiritual leaders, and through them the people were made to follow blindly. It was required of the priests that they wash their hands and feet before going into the Tabernacle proper. If this command was not obeyed, death would follow immediately on the priest's entering into the Tabernacle. We may therefore say that the keyword of the Brazen Laver was "consecration."

The Brazen Laver is the symbol of sanctification and consecration of the life to service. As Christ entered upon His three year ministry through the baptismal waters, so the aspirant to service in the ancient Temple must sanctify himself in the sacred stream which flowed from the Molten Sea. And the Mystic Mason endeavoring to build the temple "without sound of hammer" and to serve therein must also consecrate and sanctify himself.

Having mounted the first steps upon the path, the aspirant stands in front of the veil which hangs before the Mystic Temple. Drawing this aside he enters into the East Room of the sanctuary, which was called the *Holy Place*. No window or opening of any sort was provided in the Tabernacle to let in the light of day, but this room was never dark. Night and day it was brightly illuminated by burning lamps.

Its furniture was symbolical of the methods whereby the aspirant may make *soul growth by service*. It consisted of three principal articles: the *Altar of Incense*, the *Table of Shewbread*, and the *Golden Candlestick*.

The Golden Candlestick was placed on the south side of the Holy Place so as to be to the left of any person who stood in the middle of the room. It was made entirely of pure gold, and consisted of a shaft or principal stem, rising upright from a base, together with six branches. These branches started at three different points on the stem and curved upward in three partial circles of varying diameter, symbolizing the three periods of development (Saturn, Sun, and Moon Periods) which man went through before the Earth Period, which was not half spent. This latter period was signified by the seventh light. Each of these seven branches terminated in a lamp, and these lamps were supplied with purest olive oil, which was made by a special process. The priests were required to take care that the Candlestick was never without a light. Every day the lamps were examined, dressed, and supplied with oil so that they might burn perpetually.

When the priest stood in the Center of the East Room of the Tabernacle, the Seven-branched Candlestick was *on his left*, toward the *south*. This was symbolical of the fact that the seven light-givers or planets, which tread the mystic circle, dance around the central orb, the Sun, and travel in

the narrow belt comprising eight degrees on either side of the Sun's path, which is called the zodiac. "God is Light," and the "Seven Spirits before the Throne" are God's ministers; therefore *they are messengers* of light to humanity. They have guided us on the path of evolution. Furthermore, as the heavens are ablaze with light when the Moon in its phases arrives at the "full" in the eastern part of the heavens, so also the East Room of the Tabernacle was filled with Light, indicating visibly the presence there of God and His seven Ministers, the *Star Angels*.

Among the chief articles in the East Room of the Temple is the Table of Shewbread. Upon this table there were two piles of shewbread, each containing six loaves, and upon the top of each pile there was a little heap of frankincense. The aspirant who came to the Temple door "poor, naked, and blind" has since been brought to the light of the Seven-branched Candlestick, obtaining a certain amount of cosmic knowledge, and *this he is required to use in the service of his fellow man*; the Table of Shewbread represents this in symbol.

The God-given grains of wheat in the twelve loaves represent the *opportunities for soul growth* given by God, which come to all through the twelve departments of life represented by the twelve houses of the horoscope, under the dominion of the twelve divine Hierarchies known through the signs of the zodiac. *But it is the task of the Mystic Mason, the true temple builder, to embrace these opportunities, to cultivate and nourish them so that he may reap therefrom the Living Bread which nurtures the soul.*

We do not, however, assimilate our physical food *in toto*; there is a residue, a large proportion of ash is left after we have amalgamated the quintessence into our system. Similarly, the shewbread was not burned or consumed before the Lord, but two small heaps of frankincense were placed on the two stacks of shewbread, one on each pile. This was conceived to be the aroma thereof, and was later burned on the Altar of Incense. Likewise the soul sustenance of service gathered daily by the ardent Mystic Mason is thrown into the mill of retrospection* at eventide when he retires to his couch and performs there this scientific exercise.

Let the Mystic Mason take particular note, however, that the loaves of shewbread were not the musings of dreamers; they were not the product of speculation upon the nature of God or light. *They were the product of actual toil*, of orderly systematic work, and it behooves us to follow the path of actual service if we would garner treasure in heaven. Unless we really *work* and *serve* humanity, we shall have nothing to bring, no bread to "shew," at the Feast of the Full Moon; and at the mystic marriage of the higher to the lower self we shall find ourselves minus the radiant golden soul body, the mystic wedding garment, without which the union with Christ can never be consummated.

At the Altar of Incense, incense was offered before the Lord continually, and the priest who stood before the altar ministering was at that time looking toward the Mercy Seat over the Ark, though it was impossible for him to see it because of the *second veil* which was interposed between the first and second apartments of the Tabernacle, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Incense symbolizes the extract, the aroma of the service we have rendered according to our opportunities; and just as the sacrificial animal upon the Brazen Altar represents the deeds of wrong doing committed during the day, so the incense burned upon the Golden Altar, which is a sweet savor to the Lord, represents the virtuous deeds of our lives.

In the westernmost end of the Tabernacle rested the "ARK OF THE COVENANT." It was a hollow receptacle containing the *Golden Pot of Manna, Aaron's Rod that budded, and the Tables of the Law which were given to Moses*. While this Ark of the Covenant remained in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, *two staves were always within the four rings of the Ark* so that it could be picked up instantly and moved. But when the Ark was finally taken to Solomon's Temple, the staves were taken out. (II Chronicles 5:7-9) This is very important in its symbolical significance. Above the Ark hovered the Cherubim, and between them dwelt the uncreated glory of God. "There," said He to Moses, "I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony."

The glory of the Lord seen above the Mercy Seat was in the appearance of a cloud. The Lord said to Moses, "Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat." This manifestation of the divine Presence was called the *Shekinah Glory*. Out

of this cloud the voice of God was heard with deep solemnity when He was consulted on behalf of the people.

As the Cherubim and the Father Fire which hover above the Ark represent the divine Hierarchies which overshadow mankind during his pilgrimage through the wilderness of matter, so *the Ark which is found there represents man in his highest development*. When the aspirant stood at the eastern gate as a child of sin, *the law was without as a taskmaster* to bring him to Christ. But when *through sacrifice and service* he has finally arrived at the stage of evolution represented by the Ark in the western room of the Tabernacle, the *Tables of the Law* are WITHIN. He has then become emancipated from all outside interference with his actions; not that he would break any laws, but because *he works with them*.

Notes:

*Occult science teaches that everything that has ever happened has left behind it a picture in the Reflecting Ether, the World of Thought, and the World of Life Spirit (spiritual worlds which we do not contact through the five senses). Ability to read in these regions is a latent faculty possessed by all humanity and will eventually be acquired by everyone. The exercise of Retrospection consists of going over the events that have occurred during the day, beginning in the evening and tracing them back to the morning, and giving praise and blame to oneself where due.

Questions:

- 1] Describe the Brazen Laver as shown in the memory of nature and state its significance.
- 2] Name the three principal articles of furniture in the East Room.
- 3] Describe the Golden Candlestick and state its symbolical meaning.
- 4] What is the symbolical representation of the Table of Shewbread?
- 5] What is the value of the retrospection exercise to the Mystic Mason?
- 6] Of what is incense the symbol?
- 7] What does Ark of the Covenant represent?

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 --Max Heindel

Lesson No. 6 - The Tabernacle in the Wilderness (continued)

References: Genesis 6- 9; Exodus 3-14, 25-40; Hebrews 9, 10; John 6; II Corinthians 5

Manas, mensch, mens, or man, is readily associated with the manna that came down from heaven. It is the *human spirit* that descended from our Father above for a pilgrimage through matter, and the Golden Pot wherein it was kept symbolizes the golden aura of the soul body.

Although the Bible story is not in strict accordance with the events, it gives the main facts of the mystic manna which fell from heaven. When we want to learn what is the nature of this so-called *bread*, we may turn to the sixth chapter of the Gospel of St. John, which relates how Christ fed the multitudes with *loaves and fishes*, symbolizing the mystic doctrine of the 2,000 years which He was then ushering in, for during that time the Sun *by precession of the equinoxes* has been passing through the sign of the fishes, Pisces, and the people have been taught to abstain at least one day during the week (Friday) and at a certain time of the year, from the fleshpots which belonged to Egypt or ancient Atlantis. They have been given the Piscean water at the temple door, and the Virginian wafers at the communion table before the altar when they worshiped the Immaculate Virgin, representing the celestial sign Virgo (which is opposite the sign Pisces).

Christ also explained at that time in mystic but unmistakable language what that *living bread*, or manna, was, namely, the Ego. This explanation will be found in verses 33 and 35, where we read: "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world... I am (*ego sum*) *the bread of life*." This, then, is the symbol of the Golden Pot of manna which was found in the Ark. This manna is the Ego which gives life to the organisms that we behold in the physical world. It is hidden within the Ark of each human being, and the Golden Pot, or soul body, or "wedding garment," is also latent within every one. It is *the house not made with hands*, eternal in the heavens, wherewith Paul longed to be clothed, as said in the Epistle to the Corinthians. (II Cor. 5)

The wand of the magician, the holy spear of Parsifal, the chalice of the Grail King, and the budding *Rod of Aaron* are emblems of the divine creative force, which works wonders of such a nature that we call them miracles. Let it be clearly understood, however, that no one who has evolved to the point in evolution where he is symbolized by the Ark of the Covenant in the West Room of the Tabernacle ever uses this power for selfish ends. When Parsifal, the hero of the soul myth by that name, had witnessed the temptation of Kundry and proved himself to be emancipated from the greatest sin of all, the sin of lust and unchastity, he recovered the sacred spear taken by the black magician, Klingsor, from the fallen and unchaste Grail King, Amfortas. Then for many years he traveled in the world, seeking again the Castle of the Grail, and he said, "Often was I sorely beset by enemies and tempted to use the spear in self-defense, but I knew that *the sacred spear must never be used to hurt, only to heal*."

And that is the attitude of everyone who develops within him the budding Rod of Aaron. Though he may turn this spiritual faculty to good account in order to provide bread for a multitude, he would never think of turning a single stone to bread *for himself* that his hunger might be appeased. Though he were nailed to the cross to die, he would not free himself by spiritual power which he had readily exercised to save others from the grave. Though he were reviled every day of his life as a fraud or charlatan, he would never misuse his spiritual power to show a sign whereby the world might know without the shadow of a doubt that he was regenerate or heaven-born. This was the attitude of Christ Jesus, and it has been and is imitated by everyone who is a Christ-in-the-making.

The Western Room of the Tabernacle was as dark as the heavens are at the time when the lesser light, the Moon, is in the western portion of the sky at eventide with the Sun; that is to say, at the New Moon, which begins a new cycle in a new sign of the zodiac. In the western most part of this darkened sanctuary stood the Ark of the Covenant, with the Cherubim hovering above, and also the

fiery *Shekinah Glory*, out of which the Father of Light communed with His worshipers, but which to the physical vision was invisible and therefore dark.

We do not usually realize that the whole world is afire, that fire is in the water, that it burns continually in plant, animal, and man; yet, there is nothing in the world which is not ensouled by fire. The reason why we do not perceive this more closely is that we cannot dissociate flame from fire. But as a matter of fact, *fire* bears the same relation to *flame* as *Spirit* does to *body*. It is the unseen but potent power of manifestation. In other words, the true fire is dark, invisible to the physical sight. *It is only clothed when consuming physical matter*. Consider, for illustration, how fire leaps out of the flint when struck, and how a gas flame has the darkened core beneath the light-giving portion; also how a wire may carry electricity and be perfectly cold, yet it will emit a flame under certain conditions.

At this point it may be expedient to mark the difference between the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, Solomon's Temple, and the later Temple built by Herod. There is a very vital difference. Both the *miraculously enkindled fire* on the Brazen Altar in the eastern part of the Tabernacle and the invisible *Shekinah Glory* in the distant western part of the sanctuary were also present in Solomon's Temple. These were thus sanctuaries in a sense not equaled by the Temple built by Herod. The latter was, nevertheless, in a sense the most glorious of the three, for *it was graced by the bodily presence of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whom dwelt the Godhead*. Christ made the first self-sacrifice, thereby abrogating the sacrifice of animals, and finally, at the consummation of His work in the visible world, *rent the veil* and opened a way into the Holy of Holies, not only for the favored few, the priests and Levites, but that WHOSOEVER WILL may come and serve the Deity whom we know as our Father. Having fulfilled the law and the prophets Christ has done away with the *outward* sanctuary, and from henceforth the Altar of Burnt Offerings must be set up *within* the heart to atone for wrongdoing; the Golden Candlestick must be lighted *within* the heart to guide us upon our way; as the Christ *within*, the *Shekinah Glory* of the Father, must dwell *within* the sacred precincts of our own God consciousness.

Paul in his letter to the Hebrews gives a description of the Tabernacle and much information about the customs used there, which it would benefit the student to know. Among other things, note that he called the Tabernacle "a shadow of good things to come." There is in the ancient Mystery Temple a promise given which has not yet been fulfilled, a promise that holds good today just as well as upon the day it was given. If we visualize in our mind the arrangement of things inside the Tabernacle, we shall readily see the shadow of the Cross. Commencing at the eastern gate there was the Altar of Burnt Offerings; a little farther along the path to the Tabernacle itself we find the *Laver of Consecration*, the Molten Sea, in which the priests washed. Then upon entering the East Room of the Temple we find an article of furniture, the Golden Candlestick, at the extreme left, and the *Table of Shewbread* at the extreme right, the two forming a cross with the path we have been pursuing toward and within the Tabernacle. In the center of the second veil we find the *Altar of Incense*, which forms the center of the cross, while the Ark placed in the westernmost part of the West Room, the Holy of Holies, gives the short or upper limb of the cross. In this manner the symbol of spiritual unfoldment which is our particular ideal today was shadowed forth in the ancient Mystery Temple, and that consummation which is attained at the end of the cross, the achievement of getting the law *within* as it was within the Ark itself, is the one that we must all concern ourselves with at the present time. The light that shines over the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies at the head of the cross, at the end of the path in this world, is a light or reflection from the invisible world into which the candidate seeks to enter when all the world has grown dark and black about him. Only when we have attained to that stage where we perceive the spiritual light that beckons us on, the light that floats over the Ark, only when we stand in the shadow of the cross, can we really know the meaning, the object, and the goal of life.

At present we may take the opportunities which are offered and perform service more or less efficiently, but it is only when we have by that service evolved the spiritual light *within* ourselves, which is the *soul body*, and when we have thus gained admission to the West Room, called the Hall of Liberation, that we can really perceive and understand why we are in the world, and what we need in order to make ourselves properly useful. We may not remain, however, when access has been gained. The High Priest was only allowed to enter *once a year*; there was a very long interval of time

between these glimpses of the real purpose of existence. In the times between, it was necessary for the High Priest to go out and function among his brethren, humanity, and serve them to the very best of his ability; also to sin, because he was not yet perfect, and then re-enter the Holy of Holies after having made the proper amends for his sins.

Similarly it is with ourselves at this day. We at times attain glimpses of the things that are in store for us and the things we must do to follow Christ to that place where He went. You remember that He said to His disciples: "Ye cannot follow me now, but ye shall follow me later." (John 13:36) And so it is with us. We have to look again and again into the darkened temple, the Holy of Holies, before we are really fit to stay there; before we are really fitted to take the last step and leap to the summit of the cross, the *place of the skull*, the point in our heads where the spirit takes its departure when it finally leaves the body, or off and on as an Invisible Helper.* That Golgotha is the ultimate of human attainment, and we must be prepared to enter the darkened room many times before we are fitted for the final climax.

Notes:

*Occult science teaches that those who have by lives of purity and service built the "wedding garment," or soul body (composed of the two higher ethers of the vital body), may function in this vehicle in the spiritual realms, consciously or unconsciously, according to the stage of development.

Questions:

- 1] Explain the symbology of the Golden Pot of Manna, giving Bible references.
- 2] Explain the symbology of the budding Rod of Aaron.
- 3] What is the relation of the spirit to the body?
- 4] Explain the difference between the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, Solomon's Temple, and the Temple built by Herod.
- 5] What does the Shekinah Glory symbolize?
- 6] What was the work of Christ Jesus for humanity in connection with Initiation?
- 7] Summarize your understanding of the symbology of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness.

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Lesson No. 7 - The Creation

References: Genesis, Chapter 1

The opening sentence of Genesis is a very good example of what was stated in the first lesson about the interpretation of the Hebrew text, which may be changed by differently placing the vowels and dividing the words in another way. There are two well-recognized methods of reading this sentence. One is: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth"; the other is: "Out of ever-existing essence (of space) the twofold energy formed the double heaven."

Much has been said and written as to which of these two interpretations is correct. The difficulty is that if a certain explanation is true, all others must be wrong. But, emphatically, this is not the way to get at truth, which is many-sided and multiplex. Each occult truth requires examination from many different points of view; each viewpoint presents a certain phase of truth, and all of them are necessary to get a complete, definite conception of whatever is under consideration.

The very fact that this sentence and many others in the vestment of the Torah can thus be made to yield many meanings, while confusing to the uninitiated, is illuminating to those who have the key, and the transcendental wisdom of the wonderful Intelligences who inspired the Torah is thereby shown. Had the vowels been inserted, and a division made into words, there would have been only one way of reading it and those grand and sublime mysteries could not have been hidden therein. That would have been the proper method to pursue if the authors had meant to write an "open" book of God; but that was not their purpose. It was written solely for the initiated, and can be read understandingly by them only. It would have required much less skill to have written the book plainly than to have concealed its meaning. No pains are ever spared, however, to bring the information, in due time, to those who are entitled to it, while withholding it from those who have not yet earned the right to possess it.

Regarded by the light thrown upon the genesis and evolution of our system, it is plain that both renderings of the opening sentence of the Book of Genesis are necessary to an understanding of the subject. The first tells that there was a beginning of our evolution, in which the heavens were created; the other interpretation supplements the first statement by adding that the heavens and the Earth were created out of the "ever-existing essence," not out of "nothing," as is jeeringly pointed out by the materialist. The Cosmic Root-substance is gathered together and set in motion. The rings formed by the inertia of the revolving mass break away from the central part, forming planets, etc., as the modern scientist, with remarkable ingenuity, has reasoned out. Occult and modern science are in perfect harmony as to the *modus operandi*. There is nothing in these statements inconsistent with the two theories, as will presently be shown. Occult science teaches that God instituted the process of formation and is constantly guiding the System in a definite path. The modern scientist, in refutation of what he calls a foolish idea, and to demonstrate that a God is not necessary, takes a basin of water and pours a little oil in it. The water and the oil represents space and fire-mist respectively. He now commences to turn the oil around with a needle, bringing it into the form of a sphere. This he explains represents the Central Sun. As he turns the oil ball faster and faster, it bulges out at the equator and throws off a ring, the ring breaks and the fragments coalesce, forming a smaller ball, which circles around the central mass as a planet circles around the Sun. Then he pityingly asks the occult scientist, "Do you not see how it is done? There is no need for your God, or any supernatural force."

The occultist readily agrees that a Solar System may be formed in approximately the manner illustrated. But he marvels greatly that a man possessing the clear intuition enabling him to perceive with such accuracy the operation of Cosmic processes, and the intellect to conceive this brilliant demonstration of his monumental theory, should at the same time be quite unable to see that in his demonstration he himself plays the part of God. He was the extraneous power that placed the oil in

the water, where it would have remained inert and shapeless through all eternity had he not supplied the force that set it in motion, thereby causing it to shape itself into a representation of Sun and planets. His was the Thought which designed the experiment, using the oil, water, and force, thus illustrating in a splendid manner the Triune God working in Cosmic substance to form a Solar System.

The attributes of God are Will, Wisdom, and Activity. The scientist has *Will* to make the experiment. He has ingenuity to supply ways and means for the demonstration. This ingenuity corresponds to *Wisdom*, the second attribute of God. He has also the muscular force necessary to perform the action, corresponding to *Activity*, which is the third attribute of God.

Further, the universe is not a vast perpetual-motion machine, which, when once set going, keeps on without any internal cause or guiding force. That also is proven by the experiment of the scientist, for the moment he ceases to turn the oil-ball the orderly motion of his miniature planets also ceases and all return to a shapeless mass of oil floating on the water. In a corresponding manner, the universe would at once dissolve into "thin space" if God for one moment ceased to exert His all-embracing care and energizing activity.

The second interpretation of Genesis is marvelously exact in its description of a twofold formative energy. It does not specifically state that God is Triune. The reader's knowledge of that fact is taken for granted. It states the exact truth when it says that only two forces are active in the formation of a universe.

When the first aspect of the Triune God manifests as the Will to create, it arouses the second aspect (which is Wisdom) to design a plan for the future universe. This first manifestation of Force is Imagination. After this primal force of Imagination has conceived the Idea of a universe, the third aspect (which is Activity), working in Cosmic substance, produces motion. This is the second manifestation of Force. Motion alone, however, is not sufficient. To form a system of worlds, it must be *orderly* motion. Wisdom is therefore necessary to guide Motion in an intelligent manner to produce definite results.

Thus we find the opening sentence of the Book of Genesis tells us that in the beginning, orderly, rhythmic motion, in Cosmic Root-substance, formed the universe.

The second interpretation of the opening sentence also gives us a fuller idea of God when it speaks of the "twofold energy," pointing to the positive and negative phases of the One Spirit of God in manifestation. In harmony with the teaching of occult science, God is represented as a composite Being. This is accentuated in the remaining verses of the chapter.

In addition to the creative Hierarchies which worked voluntarily in our evolution, there are seven others which belong to our evolution, and are co-workers with God in the formation of the universe. In the first chapter of Genesis these Hierarchies are called "Elohim." The name signifies a host of dual or double-sexed Beings. The first part of the word is "Eloh," which is a feminine noun, the letter "h" indicating the gender. If a single feminine Being were meant, the word "Eloh" would have been used. The feminine plural is "oth", so if the intention had been to indicate a number of Gods of the feminine gender, the correct word to use would have been "Elooth." Instead of either of those forms, however, we find the masculine plural ending "im," added to the feminine noun "Eloh," indicating a host of male-female, double-sexed Beings, expressions of the dual, positive-negative creative energy.

The plurality of Creators is again implied in the latter part of the chapter, where these words are ascribed to the Elohim: "Let us make man in our image"; after which it is inconsistently added, "He made them male and female."

The translators have here rendered the puzzling word "Elohim" (which was decidedly not only a plural word but also *both* masculine and feminine) as being the equivalent of the singular, sexless word "God." Yet could they have done differently, even had they known? They were forbidden to disturb existing ideas. It was not truth at any price, but peace at any price that King James desired, his sole anxiety being to avoid any controversy that might create a disturbance in his kingdom. The plural "them" is also used where the creation of man is mentioned, clearly indicating that the reference is to the creation of ADM, the human species, and not Adam, the individual.

Six creative Hierarchies (besides the Lords of Flame, the Cherubim, the Seraphim, and two unnamed Hierarchies which have passed into liberation) were active in assisting the Virgin Spirits which in themselves form a seventh Hierarchy.*

The Cherubim and the Seraphim had nothing to do with the creation of Form; therefore they are not mentioned in the chapter under consideration, which deals principally with the Form-side of Creation. Here we find mentioned only the seven creative Hierarchies which did the actual work of bringing man to where he acquired a dense physical form, through which the indwelling spirit could work.

After a description of each part of the work of Creation it is said, "and Elohim saw that it was good." This is said seven times, the last time being on the sixth day, when the human form had been created.

It is stated that on the seventh day "Elohim rested." This is all in accord with our occult teaching of the part taken by each of the creative Hierarchies in the work of evolution down to the present Period. It is also taught that in the present Epoch the Gods and creative Hierarchies have withdrawn from active participation, that man may work out his own salvation, leaving the necessary guidance of ordinary humanity to the "Elder Brothers who are now the mediators between man and the Gods."

Notes:

*Occult science teaches that in the beginning of a Day of Manifestation a certain Great Being (designated in the Western World by the name of God, but by other names in other parts of the Earth) limits Himself to a certain portion of space, in which He elects to create a Solar System for the evolution of added self-consciousness.

He includes in His own Being hosts of glorious Hierarchies of, to us, immeasurable spiritual power and splendor. They are the fruitage of past manifestations of this same Being and also other Intelligences, in descending degrees of development down to such as have not reached a stage of consciousness as high as our present humanity.

At the beginning of our scheme of manifestation there were twelve great Hierarchies active: two nameless, Seraphim, Cherubim, Lords of Flame, Lords of Wisdom, Lords of Individuality, Lords of Form, Lords of Mind, Archangels, Angels, and the Virgin Spirits.

Questions:

- 1] For whom was the Bible originally written?
- 2] State the two methods of reading the opening sentence of Genesis.
- 3] Explain the first method or interpretation.
- 4] Explain the second interpretation.
- 5] State in one concise sentence what the opening sentence of Genesis tells us.
- 6] What is the meaning of the term "Elohim"?
- 7] What is meant by the statement that "on the seventh day the Elohim rested"?

"The Bible has been given to the Western World by the Recording Angels who give to each and all exactly what they need for their development."
--Max Heindel

Lesson No. 8 - The Creation (continued)

References: Genesis, Chapter 1.

Having satisfied ourselves that the beginning of our System and the work of the creative Hierarchies, as described by occult science, harmonize with the teachings of the Bible, we will now examine the Bible account of the different "Days of Creation" and see how they agree with the occult teachings relative to Saturn, Sun, and Moon Periods; the three and one half Revolutions of the Earth Period; and the Polarian, Hyperborean, Lemurian, and Atlantean Epochs, which have preceded the present Aryan Epoch.*

Naturally, a detailed account could not be given in a few lines like the first chapter of Genesis, but the main points are there in orderly succession, very much like an algebraical formula for Creation.

The second verse proceeds: "The Earth was waste and uninhabited, and darkness rested upon the face of the deep; and the Spirits of the Elohim floated above the deep." In the beginning of manifestation that which is now the Earth was in the Saturn Period, and in exactly the condition described. It was not "without form and void," as expressed in the King James version. It was hot, and thus well-defined and separate from the deep of space, which was cold. It is true that it was dark, but it could be dark and still be hot, for "dark" heat necessarily precedes glowing or visible heat. Above this dark Earth of the Saturn Period floated the creative Hierarchies. They worked upon it from the outside and molded it. The Bible refers to them as the "Spirits of Elohim."

The Sun Period is well described in the third verse, which says, "And the Elohim said. Let there be Light; and there was Light." This passage has been jeered at as the most ridiculous nonsense. The scornful query has been put, How could there be light upon the Earth when the Sun was not made until the fourth day? The Bible narrator, however, is not speaking of the Earth alone. He is speaking of the central "fire-mist," from which were formed the planets of our system, including the Earth. Thus when the nebula reached a state of glowing heat, which it did in the Sun Period, there was no necessity for an outside illuminant; the Light was within.

In the fourth verse we read: "The Elohim differentiated between the light and the darkness." Necessarily, for the outside space was dark, in contradistinction to the glowing nebula which existed during the Sun Period.

The Moon Period is described in the sixth verse, as follows: "And Elohim said, Let there be an *expansion* (translated "firmament" in other versions) in the waters, to divide the water from the water." This exactly describes conditions in the Moon Period, when the heat of the glowing fire-mist and the cold of outside space had formed a body of water around the fiery core. The contact of fire and water generated steam, which is water in expansion, as our verse describes. It was different from the comparatively cool water, which constantly gravitated toward the hot, fiery core, to replace the outrushing steam. Thus there was a constant circulation of the water held in suspension, and also an expansion, as the steam, rushing outward from the fiery core, formed an atmosphere of "fire-fog" condensed by contact with outside space, returning again to the core to be reheated and perform another cycle. Thus there were two kinds of water, and a division between them, as stated in the Bible. The dense water was nearest the fiery core; the expanded water or steam was on the outside.

This also harmonizes with the scientific theory of modern times. First the dark heat; then the glowing nebula; later the outside moisture and inside heat; and, finally, incrustation.

The Earth Period is next described. Before we take up its description, however, we have to deal with the Recapitulations. The verses quoted and the descriptions given will also correspond to the recapitulatory Periods. Thus what is said of the Saturn Period describes also the condition of the System when it emerges from any of the rest Periods. The descriptions of the Saturn, Sun, and Moon

Periods would therefore correspond to the first three Revolutions of our present Earth Period, and the following would correspond with conditions on Earth in the present Revolution.

In the ninth verse we read, "And Elohim said, Let the waters be divided from the dry land. . .and Elohim called the dry land Earth." This refers to the first firm incrustation. Heat and moisture had generated the solid body of our present Globe.

The Polarian Epoch: The ninth verse, which describes the Earth Period in this fourth Revolution (where the real Earth Period work commenced), also describes the formation of the mineral kingdom and the Recapitulation by man of the mineral stage in the Polarian Epoch. Each Epoch is also a Recapitulation of the previous stage. Just as there are Recapitulations of Globes, Revolutions, and Periods, so there are on each Globe, recapitulations of all that has gone before. These Recapitulations are endless. There is always a spiral within a spiral—in the atom, in the Globe, and in all other phases of evolution.

Complicated and bewildering as this may appear at first, it is really not so difficult to understand. There is an orderly method running through it all and in time one is able to perceive and follow the workings of this method, as a clue leading through a maze. Analogy is one of the best helps to an understanding of evolution.

The Hyperborean Epoch is described in verses 11 to 19 as the work of the fourth day. It is here recorded that Elohim created the plant kingdom, the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars.

The Bible agrees with the teachings of modern science that plants succeeded the mineral. The difference between the two teachings is in regard to the time when the Earth was thrown off from the central mass. Science asserts that it was before the formation of any incrustation which could be called mineral and plant. If we mean such minerals and plants as we have today, that assertion is correct. There was no dense material substance, but nevertheless the first incrustation that took place in the central Sun was mineral. The Bible narrator gives only the principal incidents. It is not recorded that the incrustation melted when it was thrown off from the central mass as a ring broke, the fragments afterward coalescing. In a body as small as our Earth, the time required for recrystallization was so comparatively short that the historian does not mention it, nor the further subsidiary fact that the melting process took place once more when the Moon was thrown off from the Earth. He probably reasons that one who is entitled to occult information is already in possession of such minor details.

The plants of the incrustation of the central fire-mist were ethereal, therefore the melting processes did not destroy them. As the lines of force along which ice crystals form are present in the water, so when the Earth crystallized, were those ethereal plant-forms in it. They were the molds which drew to themselves the dense material forming the plant-bodies of the present day and also of the plant-forms of the past, which are embedded in the geological strata of our Earth globe.

These ethereal plant-forms are aided in their formation when the heat came from outside, after the separation of the Earth from Sun and Moon. That heat gave them the vital force to draw to themselves the denser substance.

The Lemurian Epoch is described in the work of the fifth day. This Epoch, being the third, is in a sense a Recapitulation of the Moon Period, and in the Biblical narrative we find described such conditions as obtained in the Moon Period—water, fire-fog, and the first attempts at moving, breathing life.

Verses 20 and 21 tell us that "Elohim said, Let the waters bring forth life-breathing things... and fowl...and Elohim formed the great amphibians and all life-breathing things according to their species, and all fowl with wings."

This also harmonizes with the teaching of material science that the amphibians preceded the birds.

The student is invited to note particularly that the *things that were formed were not Life*. It does *not* say that Life was created, but "things" *that breath or inhale* life. The Hebrew word for that which they inhaled is *nephesh*, and it should be carefully noted, as we shall meet it in a new dress later.

The Atlantean Epoch is dealt with in the work of the sixth day. In verse 24 the creation of mammals is mentioned, and there the work *nephesh* again occurs, explaining that the mammals

"breathed life." "Elohim said, Let the Earth bring forth life-breathing things... mammals...;" and in verse 27, "Elohim formed man in their likeness: male and female made they (Elohim) them."

The Bible historian here omits the a-sexual and hermaphrodite human stages and comes to the two separate sexes, as we know them now. He could not do otherwise, as he is describing the Atlantean Epoch, and by the time that stage in evolution was reached there were neither sexless men nor hermaphrodites, the differentiation of sexes having taken place earlier—in the Lemurian Epoch. That which afterward became man could hardly be spoken of as man in the earlier stages of its development, as it differed but little from the animals. Therefore the Bible narrator is doing no violence to facts when he states that man was formed in the Atlantean Epoch.

In verse 28 (all versions) will be found a very small prefix, with a very great significance: "Elohim said, Be fruitful and RE-plenish the earth." This plainly shows that the scribe who wrote it was cognizant of the occult teaching that the life wave had evolved here, on Globe D of the Earth Period, in previous Revolutions.

The Aryan Epoch corresponds to the seventh day of Creation, when the Elohim rested from their labors as Creators and Guides, and humanity had been launched upon an independent career.

This ends the story of the manner in which the Forms were produced. In the succeeding lessons the story is told from the point of view which deals a little more with the Life side.

Notes:

*Occult science teaches that the evolutionary scheme is carried through five Worlds (the Physical World, the Desire World, the World of Thought, the World of Life Spirit, and the World of Divine Spirit), or Cosmic Root-substance of varying rates of vibration, in seven great Periods of manifestation during which the Virgin Spirit, or evolving life, becomes first, man—then, a God. The names of these seven Periods, or successive rebirths of the Earth, are as follows: the Saturn Period, the Sun Period, the Moon Period, the Earth Period, the Jupiter Period, the Venus Period, and the Vulcan Period.

It must not be thought that the above-mentioned Periods have anything to do with the planets, which move in their orbits around the Sun in company with the Earth. In fact, it cannot be too emphatically stated that there is no connection whatever between these planets and the Periods. The Periods are simply past, present, or future incarnations of our Earth, "conditions" through which it has passed, is now passing, or will pass in the future.

The three first-mentioned Periods (the Saturn, Sun, and Moon Periods) have been passed through. We are now in the fourth, or Earth Period, which is divided into seven Revolutions on seven successive Globes. Our passage on the lowest of these Globes is divided into the Polarian, Hyperborean, Lemurian, Atlantean, Aryan, and two other Epochs which are unnamed. The three and one-half Periods already behind us have been spent in gaining our present vehicles and consciousness. The remaining three and one-half Periods will be devoted to perfecting these different vehicles and expanding our consciousness into something akin to omniscience.

Questions:

- 1] Name the Periods and Epochs of manifestation as mentioned in occult teachings.
- 2] Describe briefly the conditions existing in each, correlating with verses in Genesis.
- 3] What is meant by recapitulation?
- 4] What should we particularly note was *created*?

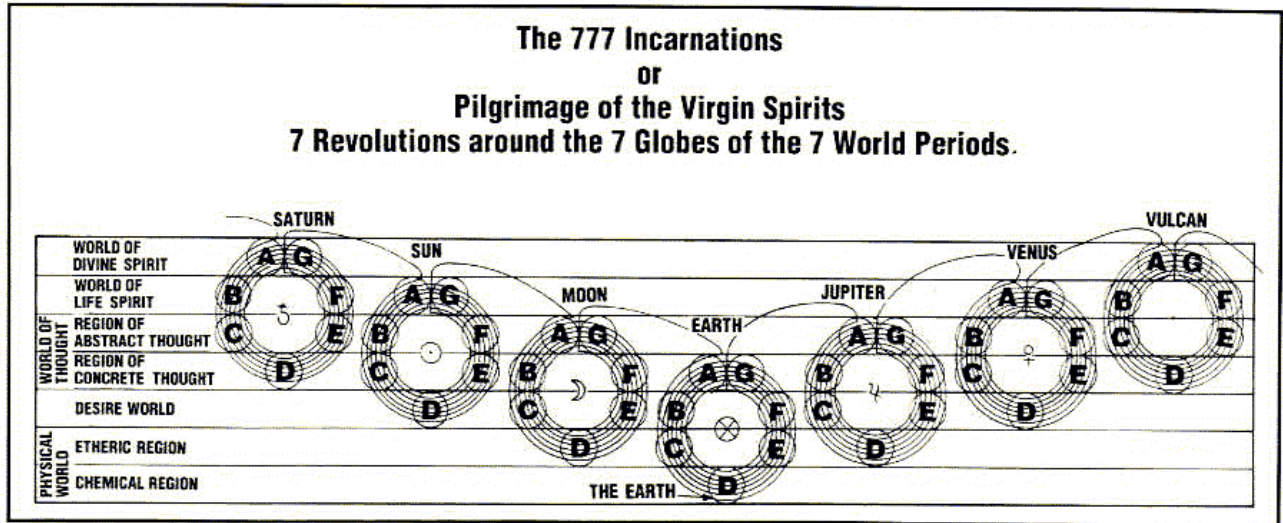


DIAGRAM 8

- 5] Explain how it is true that "man was formed in the Atlantean Epoch."
- 6] What is the significance of the prefix "Re" placed before "plenish"?
- 7] What are the characteristics of the present Aryan Epoch?

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Lesson No. 9 - The Creation (continued)

References: Genesis, Chapters 1, 2, and 5

There has been much learned discussion concerning the discrepancy between, and especially the authorship of, the creation story of the first chapter and that which starts at the fourth verse of the second chapter of Genesis. It is asserted that the two accounts were written by different men, because the Being of Beings, the name of Whom the translators have rendered as "God" in both the first and second chapters of the English version, are, in the Hebrew text, called "Elohim" in the first chapter, and "Jehovah" in the second chapter. It is argued that the same narrator would not have named God in two different ways.

Had he meant the same God in both cases, he probably would not, but he was not a monotheist. He knew better than to think of God as simply a superior Man, using the sky for a throne and the Earth for a footstool. When he wrote of Jehovah he meant the Leader Who had charge of the particular part of the work of creation which was then being described. Jehovah was and is one of the Elohim. He is the Leader of the Angels who were the humanity of the Moon Period, and he is Regent of our Moon.

As Regent of our Moon, He has charge of the evil degenerate beings there, and He also rules the Angels. With Him are some of the Archangels, who were the humanity of the Sun Period. They are the "Race Spirits."

It is the work of Jehovah to build concrete bodies or forms by means of the hardening, crystallizing Moon forces. Therefore, He is the giver of children and the Angels are His messengers in this work. It is well known to physiologists that the Moon is connected with gestation; at least they have observed that it measures and governs the periods of intrauterine life and other physiological functions.

The Archangels, as Spirits and Leaders of a Race, are known to fight for or against people, as the exigencies of the evolution of that race demand. In Daniel 10:20, an Archangel, speaking to Daniel, says: "And now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia will come."

The Archangel Michael is the Race-Spirit of the Jews (Daniel 12:1), but *Jehovah is not the God of the Jews alone; He is the author of all race-religions which led up to Christianity*. Nevertheless, it is true that He did take a special interest in the progenitors of the present degenerate Jews—the Original Semites, the "seed-race" for the seven races of the Aryan Epoch. Jehovah, of course, takes special care of a seed-race, in which are to be inculcated the embryonic faculties of the humanity of a new Epoch. For that reason He was particularly concerned with the Original Semites. They were His "chosen people"—chosen to be the seed for a new Race, which was to inherit the "Promised Land"—not merely insignificant Palestine, but the entire Earth, as it is at present.

He did not lead them out of Egypt. That story originated with their descendants and is a confused account of their journey eastward through the flood and disaster out of the doomed Atlantis into the "wilderness" (the Desert of Gobi in Central Asia), there to wander during the cabalistic forty years, until they could enter the Promised Land. There is a double and peculiar significance to the descriptive word "promised" in this connection. The land was called the "promised land" because, as land or Earth is suitable for human occupation, it did not exist at the time the "Chosen People" were led into the "wilderness." Part of the Earth had been submerged by floods and other parts changed by volcanic eruptions, hence it was necessary that a period of time elapse before the new Earth was in a fit condition to become the possession of the Aryan Race.

The Original Semites were set apart and forbidden to marry into other tribes or peoples, but they were a stiff-necked and hard people, being yet led almost exclusively by desire and cunning, therefore they disobeyed the command. The Bible records that the sons of God married the

daughters of men—the lower grades of their Atlantean compatriots. They thus frustrated the designs of Jehovah and were cast off, the fruit of such crossbreeding being useless as seed for the coming Race.

These crossbreeds were the progenitors of the present Jews, who now speak of "lost tribes." They know that some of the original number left them and went another way, but they do not know that those were the few who remained true. The story of the ten tribes being lost is a fable. Most of them perished, but the faithful ones survived, and from that faithful remnant have descended the present Aryan Races.

The contention of the opponents of the Bible, that it is a mere mutilation of the original writings, is cheerfully agreed to by occult science. Parts of it are even conceded to be entire fabrications and no attempt is made to prove its authenticity as a whole, in the form we now have it. The present effort is simply an attempt to exhume a few kernels of occult truths from the bewildering mass of misleading and incorrect interpretations under which they have been buried by the various translators and revisers.

Having disentangled from the general confusion the identity and mission of Jehovah, it may be that we can now find harmony in the two seemingly contradictory accounts of the creation of man, as recorded in the first and second chapters of Genesis, in the first of which it is written that he was the last, and in the second that he was the first created of all living things.

We note that the first chapter deals chiefly with the creation of Form, the second chapter is devoted to the consideration of Life, while the fifth chapter deals with Consciousness. The key to the meaning, then, is that we must differentiate sharply between the physical Form and the Life that builds that Form for its own expression. Although the order of the creation of the other kingdoms is not as correctly given in the second chapter as in the first, it is true that if we consider man from the Life side, he was created *first*; but if we consider man from the standpoint of Form, as is done in the first chapter, he was created *last*.

All through the course of evolution—through Periods, Globes, Revolutions and Races—those who do not improve by the formation of new characteristics are held back and immediately begin to degenerate. Only that which remains plastic and pliable and adaptable for molding into new Forms suitable for the expression of the expanding consciousness, only the Life which is capable of outgrowing the possibilities for improvement inhering in the forms it ensouls, can evolve with the pioneers of any life wave. All else must struggle on behind.

This is the kernel of the deeper teaching. Progress is not simply unfoldment; not simply involution and evolution. There is a third factor, making a triad—Involution, Evolution, and **Epigenesis**.

The first two words are familiar to all who have studied Life and Form, but while it is generally admitted that the involution of spirit into matter takes place in order that Form may be built, it is not so commonly recognized that the *Involution of the Spirit runs side by side with the Evolution of Form*.

From the very beginning of the Saturn Period up to the time in the Atlantean Epoch when "man's eyes were opened" by the Lucifer Spirits, and as a consequence the activities of man—or the Life-force which has become man, were chiefly directed inward; that very same force which he now sends out from himself to build railways, aircrafts, computers etc., was used internally in building a vehicle through which to manifest himself. This vehicle is threefold, like the spirit which built it.

The same power by which man is now improving outside conditions was used during Involution for purposes of internal growth.

The Form was built by Evolution; the Spirit built and entered it by Involution; but the means for devising improvements is Epigenesis.

There is a strong tendency to regard all that is as the result of something that has been; all improvements on previously existing forms, as being present in all forms as latencies; to regard Evolution as simply the unfolding of germinal improvements. Such a conception excludes Epigenesis from the scheme of things. It allows no possibility for the building of anything *new*, no scope for originality.

The occultist believes the purpose of evolution to be the development of man from a static to a dynamic God—a Creator. If the development he is at present undergoing is to be his education and if, during its progress, he is simply unfolding latent actualities, where does he learn to create?

If man's development consists solely in learning to build better and better Forms, according to *models* already existing in his Creator's mind, he can become, at best, only a good *imitator*—*never a creator*.

Questions:

- 1] Who is meant when the term "Jehovah" is used in the Bible?
- 2] Describe the work of this Being.
- 3] Why were the Original Semites called the "chosen people"?
- 4] From whom have the present Aryan Races descended?
- 5] Name the three factors constituting the triad of progress.
- 6] State the arguments in favor of epigenesis.
- 7] What does occult science teach to be the object of evolution?

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--Max Heindel

Lesson No. 10 - The Creation (continued)

References: Genesis, Chapters 1, 2 and 5

In order that man may become an independent, original Creator, it is necessary that his training should include sufficient latitude for the exercise of the individual originality which distinguishes creation from imitation. So long as certain features of the old Form meet with the requirements of progression, they are retained, but at each rebirth the evolving Life adds such original improvements as are necessary for its further expression.

Starting with the simplest organisms, the Life which is now Man built the Form to suit its necessities. In due time, as the entity progressed, it became evident that new improvements must be added which conflicted with the lines previously followed. A new start must be given it in a new species, where it could retrieve any previous mistakes which experience taught would preclude further development if the old lines were adhered to, and thus the evolving life would be enabled to progress farther in a new species. When later experience proved that the new form also was inadequate, inasmuch as it could not adapt itself to some improvement necessary to the progress of the evolving life, it too was discarded and still another departure made, in a form adaptable to the necessary improvement.

Thus by successive steps does the evolving Life improve its vehicles, and the improvement is still going on. Man, who is in the vanguard of progress, has built his bodies, from the similitude of the amoeba up to the human form of the savage, and from that up through the various grades until the most advanced Races are now using the best and most highly organized bodies on Earth. Between deaths and rebirths we are constantly building bodies in which to function during our lives, and a far greater degree of efficiency than the present will yet be reached. If we make mistakes in building between lives, they become evident when we are using the body in Earth life, and it is well for us if we are able to perceive and realize our mistakes, that we may avoid making them afresh life after life.

But just as the builder of houses would lag commercially if he did not constantly improve his methods to meet the exigencies of his business, so those who persistently adhere to the old forms fail to rise above the species and are left behind, as stragglers. These stragglers take the forms outgrown by the pioneers, as previously explained, and they compose the lower Races and species of any kingdom in which they are evolving. As the Life which is now Man passed through stages analogous to the mineral, plant, and animal kingdoms, and through the lower human Races, stragglers were left all along the way who had failed to reach the necessary standard to keep abreast of the crest-wave of evolution. They took the discarded Forms of the pioneers and used them as stepping stones, by means of which they tried to overtake the others, but the advanced forms did not stand still. In the progress of Evolution there is no halting place. In evolving Life, as in commerce, there is no such thing as merely "holding your own." Progression or Retrogression is the Law. The form that is not capable of further improvement must degenerate.

Therefore there is one line of improving forms ensouled by the pioneers of the evolving Life, and another line of *degenerating* forms, outgrown by the pioneers but ensouled by the stragglers, as long as there are any stragglers of that particular life wave to which those forms originally belonged.

When there are no more stragglers, the species gradually dies out. The Forms have been crystallized beyond the possibility of being improved by tenants of increasing inability. They therefore return to the mineral kingdom, fossilize, and are added to the different strata of the Earth's crust.

The assertion of material science that man has ascended through the different kingdoms of plant and animal which exist about us now to anthropoid and thence to man, is not quite correct. Man has never inhabited forms identical with those of our present-day animals, nor the present-day anthropoid species; but he has inhabited forms which were similar to but *higher* than those of the present anthropoids.

The scientist sees that there is an anatomical likeness between man and the monkey, and as the evolutionary impulse always makes for improvement, he concludes that man must have descended from the monkey, but he is always baffled in his efforts to find the "missing link" connecting the two.

From the point where the pioneers of our life wave (the Aryan Races) occupied ape-like forms, they have *progressed* to their present stage of development, while the Forms (which were the "missing link") have *degenerated* and are now ensouled by the last stragglers of the Saturn Period.

The lower monkeys, instead of being the progenitors of the higher species, are stragglers occupying the most degenerated specimens of what was once the human form. Instead of man having ascended from the anthropoids, the reverse is true—the anthropoids have degenerated from man. Material science, dealing only with Form, has thus misled itself and drawn erroneous conclusions in this matter.

The same relative conditions are to be found in the animal kingdom. The pioneers of the life wave which entered evolution in the Sun Period are our present-day mammals. The different grades correspond to the steps once taken by man, but *the forms are all degenerating under the management of the stragglers*. Similarly, the pioneers of the life wave which entered evolution in the Moon Period are found among the fruit trees, while the stragglers of that life wave ensoul all other plant forms.

Each life wave, however, remains definitely confined within its own borders. The anthropoids may overtake us and become human beings, but no other animal will reach our particular point of development. They will reach a similar stage, but under different conditions, in the Jupiter Period. The present plants will be the humanity of the Venus Period, under a still greater difference of conditions, and our minerals will reach the human stage under the conditions of the Vulcan Period.

It will be noted that the modern evolutionary theory, particularly that of Haeckel, would, if it were completely reversed, be in almost perfect accord with the knowledge of occult science:

The monkey has degenerated from man.

The polyps are the last generation left behind by the mammals.

The mosses are the lowest degenerations of the plant kingdom.

The mineral kingdom is the final goal of the forms of all the kingdoms when they have reached the acme of degeneration.

A corroboration of this is found in coal, which was once vegetable or plant forms; also in petrified wood and fossilized remains of various animal forms. Common stone or rock, which no scientist would admit had its origin in another kingdom, is to the occult investigator as truly mineralized plants as coal itself. The mineralogist will learnedly explain that it is composed of hornblende, feldspar, and mica, but the trained clairvoyant, who can trace it back in the Memory of Nature through millions of years, can supplement that statement by adding: Yes, and that which you call hornblende and feldspar are the leaves and stems of prehistoric flowers, and the mica is all that remains of their petals.

The occult teaching of evolution is also corroborated by the science of embryology in the antenatal recapitulation of all past stages of development. The difference between the ovum of a human being and of some of the higher mammals, and even of the higher developments in the plant kingdom, is indistinguishable, even under the microscope. Experts are unable to tell which is animal and which is human. Even after several of the initial antenatal stages have been passed through, the experts cannot differentiate between animal and human embryo.

But if the animal ovum is studied through the entire period of gestation, it will be observed that it passes through the mineral and plant stages only, and is born when it reaches the animal stage. This is because the Life ensouling such an ovum passed through its mineral evolution in the Sun Period, its plant life in the Moon Period, and is now forced to stop at the animal stage in the Earth Period.

On the other hand, the Life which uses the human ovum had its mineral existence in the Saturn Period, passed the animal stage in the Moon Period, has still some scope for Epigenesis after it has reached the animal stage, and therefore goes on to the human. Nor does it stop there. The father and mother give the substance of their bodies for the building of a child's body, but, particularly in the higher Races, Epigenesis makes it possible to add something which makes the child different from the parents.

Where Epigenesis is inactive in the individual, family, nations or Race, there evolution ceases and degeneration commences.

Questions:

- 1] Describe how the evolving Life improves its vehicles.
- 2] Who are the stragglers of our live wave?
- 3] What are the only two paths open to evolving life?
- 4] What relation do the anthropoids have to human beings?
- 5] What is true concerning the confines of each life wave?
- 6] What is the acme of degeneration of all forms?
- 7] What does a study of the human ovum reveal in regard to evolution?

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 --Max Heindel

Lesson No. 11 - The Creation (continued)

References: Genesis, chapter 1 and 2

From our study of previous lessons, we find that the two Creation stories harmonize very well. One deals with Form, which was built up through mineral, plant and animal and reached the human last. The other tells us that the Life which now ensouls human forms was manifested anterior to the Life which ensouls the forms of the other kingdoms.

One of these accounts of Creation would not have been sufficient. There are important particulars hidden behind the narrative of man's creation in the second chapter. The seventh verse reads: "Then Jehovah formed man from the dust of the Earth, and blew into his nostrils the breath (*nephesh*), and man became a breathing creature (*nephesh chayim*)."

In other places in the King James version *nephesh* is translated "life," but in this particular instance (Gen. 2:17) it is rendered "living soul," thus conveying the idea that there was a distinction made between the life that ensouled the human form and that which ensouled inferior creations. There is no authority whatever for this difference in translation, which is purely arbitrary. The life-breath (*nephesh*) is the same in man and beast. This can be shown even to those who stand firmly upon the Bible as authority, for even the King James version distinctly states (Eccles. 3:19,20): "...as one dieth, so dieth the other; yea they all have one breath (*nephesh*); so that man hath no pre-eminence above a beast:... All go unto one place."

The animals are but our "younger brothers," and though they are not now so finely organized, they will eventually reach a state as high as our own, and we shall then have ascended still higher.

If it is contended that *man* received his soul in the way described in this seventh verse of the second chapter of Genesis, and that he could have received it in no other way, it is pertinent to ask where and how *woman* received her soul.

The meaning of the chapter, and of the inspiration of the breath of life by Jehovah, is very plain and clear when we use the occult key, and it has the further and immense advantage of being logical.

The fact that the regent of the Moon (Jehovah), with His angels and archangels, was the principal in this action, fixes the time when this creation occurred. It was between the early and the middle parts of the Lemurian Epoch, and must have been after the Moon was thrown out from the Earth, because Jehovah had nothing to do with the generation of bodies before the Moon was thrown off. The forms were then more ethereal. There were not dense and concrete bodies. It is possible to make such bodies only by means of the hardening and crystallizing Moon-forces. It must have been in the first half of the Lemurian Epoch, because the separation of the sexes, which is recorded later, took place in the middle of that Epoch.

At that time man-in-the-making had not yet commenced to breathe by means of lungs. He had the gill-like apparatus still present in the human embryo while passing through the stage of antenatal life corresponding to that Epoch. He had no warm, red blood, for at that stage there was no indwelling individual spirit. The entire form was soft and pliable and the skeleton soft like cartilage. Before the later date, when it became necessary to separate humanity into sexes, the skeleton had grown firm and solid.

The work done by Jehovah was to build dense, hard bone substance into the soft bodies already existing. Before this time, i.e., during the Polarian and Hyperborean Epochs, neither animal nor man had bones.

The grotesque and impossible manner in which the separation of the sexes is said to have been accomplished (as described in the common versions of the Bible and, in this particular case, in the Masoretic text also) is another example of what may be done by changing vowels in the old Hebrew text. Read in one way, the word is "rib" (*tsad*); but in another, which has at least as good a claim to consideration with the additional advantage of being common sense, it reads "side" (*tsela*). If we

interpret this to mean that man was male-female and that Jehovah caused one side or sex in each being to remain latent, we shall not be doing violence to our reason, as we would by accepting the "rib" story.

When this alteration is made, the occult teaching as previously given, harmonizes with that of the Bible and both agree with the teachings of modern science that man was bisexual at one time, before he developed one sex at the expense of the other. In corroboration of this, it is pointed out that the fetus is bisexual up to a certain point; thereafter one sex pre-dominates, while the other remains in abeyance, so that each person still has the opposite sex organs in a rudimentary form and therefore is really bisexual, as was primitive man.

Apparently the Bible narrator does not wish to give, in this second creation account, an accurate picture of the whole of evolution, but rather to particularize a little more what was said in the first chapter. He tells us that man did not always breathe as he does now; that there was a time when he was not separated into sexes; and that it was Jehovah who effected the change, thus fixing the time of the occurrence. As we proceed, it will be found that much further information is given.

During the earlier Epochs and Periods the great creative Hierarchies had worked upon humanity as it was unconsciously evolving. There had been only *one common consciousness* among *all* human beings, one group-spirit for all mankind, as it were.

In the Lemurian Epoch a new step was taken. Bodies had been definitely formed, but they must have warm, red blood before they could be ensouled and become the abode of indwelling Spirits.

In nature no process is sudden. We would get a wrong idea were we to imagine that air blown into the nostrils could put a soul into an image of clay and galvanize it into life as a sentient, thinking being.

The individual spirit was very weak and impotent and quite unfitted for the task of guiding its dense vehicle. In that respect it is not yet very strong. To any qualified observer, it is evident that the desire body rules the personality more than does the Spirit, even at our present stage of advancement. But in the middle of the Lemurian Epoch, when the lower personality—the threefold body—was to be endowed with the light of the Ego, the latter, if left to itself, would have been absolutely powerless to guide its instrument.

Therefore it was necessary for someone much more highly evolved to help the individual Spirit and gradually prepare the way for its complete union with its instruments. It was analogous to a new nation, over which, until it becomes capable of forming a stable government for itself, some stronger power establishes a protectorate, guarding it alike from external dangers and internal indiscretions. Such a protectorate was exercised over evolving humanity by the Race Spirit and is exercised over the animals by the Group Spirit, in a somewhat different way.

Jehovah is the Most High. He is Race-God, as one might express it, having dominion over all form. He is the Chief Ruler and the highest Power in maintaining the form and exercising an orderly government over it. The Archangels are the Race Spirits, each having dominion over a certain group of people. They also have dominion over animals, while the angels have dominion over the plants.

In the tenth and eleventh chapters of Daniel we are given an insight into the workings of the invisible government of the Race Spirits, the powers behind the throne. Daniel is much disturbed in spirit; he fasts, for fully *three weeks*, praying for light, and at the end of that time an Archangel, a Race Spirit, appears before him and addresses him: "Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me *one and twenty days* but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia." After he explains to Daniel what is to happen, he says: "Knowest thou wherefore I came unto thee? *and now I will return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come....*and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince." The archangel also says: "In the first year of Darius the Mede, even I stood to confirm and to strengthen him."

The Archangels have dominion over races or groups of people and also over the animals, for these two kingdoms have desire bodies and the Archangels are expert architects of desire matter, because in the Sun Period the densest globe was composed of that material, and the humanity of

that Period, who are now Archangels, learned to build their densest vehicles of desire stuff as we are now learning to build our bodies of the chemical elements whereof our Earth-globe is composed. Thus it will be readily understood that the Archangels are peculiarly qualified to help later life waves through the stage where they learn to build and control a desire body.

For analogous reasons, the Angels work in the vital bodies of man, animal, and plant. Their densest bodies are composed of ether and so was the Globe D in the Moon Period when they were human.

Jehovah and his Archangels, therefore, hold a similar relation to Races that the Group Spirit does to animals. When individual members of a Race have evolved entire self-control and government, they are emancipated from the influence of the Race Spirit and kindred beings.

The Ego works directly through the blood. The Race Spirit guides the Races by working in the blood, as the Group Spirit guides the animals of its species through the blood. So also does the Ego control its own vehicles, but with a difference.

The Ego operates by means of the *heat* of the blood, while the Race (i.e., tribal, or family) Spirit works by means of the *air*, as it is drawn into the lungs. That is why Jehovah, or His Messengers, "breathed into man's nostrils," thereby securing admission for the Race Spirit, community-spirits, etc.

Before the advent of Jehovah, when the Earth was yet a part of the Sun, there was one common Group Spirit, composed of all the creative Hierarchies, which controlled the entire human family, but it was intended that each body should be the temple and pliable instrument of an indwelling Spirit and that means an infinite division of rulership.

Jehovah came with His Angels and Archangels and made the first great division into Races, giving to each group the guiding influence of a Race Spirit—an Archangel. For each Ego He appointed one of the Angels to act as guardian until the individual Spirit had grown strong enough to become emancipated from all outside influence. This occurred in the Atlantean Epoch.

Questions:

- 1] With what do the two stories of creation deal?
- 2] What Biblical authority is there for the statement that all life is one?
- 3] When did the inspiration of the breath of life by Jehovah take place?
- 4] Describe the form of man as it was at this time.
- 5] What is the occult teaching in regard to the "rib" story?
- 6] What is the particular work of Jehovah? Of the Archangels?
- 7] What was the work of the "Guardian Angels"?

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--Max Heindel

Lesson No. 12 - Individualization of Man

References: Genesis 5; Deuteronomy 25

Christ came to prepare the way for the emancipation of humanity from the guidance of the differentiating Race and Family Spirit, and to unite the whole human family in One Universal Brotherhood.

He taught that "Abraham's seed" referred to the *bodies* only, and called their attention to the fact that before Abraham lived [the] "I"—the Ego—was in existence. The threefold individual Spirit had its being before all Tribes and Races and it will remain when they have passed away and even the memory of them is no more. The threefold Spirit in man, the Ego, is the God within, whom the personal, bodily man must learn to follow. Therefore did Christ say that to be His disciple, a man must forsake all that he has. His teaching points to the emancipation of the God within. He calls upon man to exercise his prerogative as an individual and rise above family, tribe, and nation. Not that he is to disregard kin and country. He must fulfill all duties, but he is to cease identifying himself with part and must recognize an equal kinship with *all* the world. That is the ideal given to mankind by the Christ.

Under the rule of the Race Spirit, the nation, the tribe, or family was considered first—the individual last. The family must be kept intact. If any man died without leaving offspring to perpetuate his name, his brother must "carry seed" to the widow, that there might be no dying out (Deut. 25:5-10). Marrying out of the family was regarded with horror in the earliest times. A member of one tribe could not become connected with another without losing caste in his own. It was not an easy matter to become a member of another family.

All these customs resulted from the working of the Race and tribal Spirit in the common blood. To admit as a member one in whom that common blood did not flow would have caused "confusion of caste." The closer the inbreeding, the greater the power of the Race Spirit, and the stronger the ties that bound the individual to the tribe, because the vital force of the man is in his blood. Memory is intimately connected with the blood, which is the highest expression of the vital body.

The brain and nervous system are the highest expressions of the desire body. They call up pictures of the outside world. But in mental image-making, i.e., imagination, the blood brings the material for the pictures. Therefore, when the thought is active the blood flows to the head. When the same unmixed strain of blood flows in the veins of a family for generations, the same mental pictures made by great-grandfather, grandfather, and father are reproduced in the son by the Family Spirit, which lived in the hemoglobin of the blood. He sees himself as the continuation of a long line of ancestors who *live in him*. He sees all the events of the past lives of the family as though he had been present. Therefore he does not realize himself as an Ego. He is not simply "David," but "the son of Abraham"; not "Joseph," but "the *son* of David."

By means of this common blood men are said to have *lived* for many generations, because through their blood their descendants had access to the Memory of Nature, in which the records of the lives of their ancestors were preserved. That is why, in the fifth chapter of Genesis, it is stated that the patriarchs did not personally attain to such a great age, but they lived in the consciousness of their descendants, who saw the lives of their ancestors as if *they* had lived them. After the expiration of the period stated, the descendants did not think of themselves as Adam or Methuselah. Memory of those ancestors faded and so it is said that they died.

The earlier Races would not have dared to disobey the injunction issued by the tribal God not to marry outside of the tribe, nor had they any inclination to do so, for they had no mind of their own.

The original Semites were the first to evolve Will, and they at once married the daughters of men of other tribes, frustrating temporarily the design of their Race Spirit and being promptly ejected as evildoers who had "gone a whoring after strange gods," thereby rendering themselves unfit to give

the "seed" for the seven Races of our present Aryan Epoch. The Original Semites were, for the time being, the last Race that the Race Spirit cared to keep separate.

Later, man was given free will. The time had come when he was to be prepared for individualization. The former "common" consciousness, the involuntary clairvoyance or second-sight, which constantly held before a tribesman the pictures of his ancestors' lives and caused him to feel most closely identified with the tribe or family, was to be replaced for a time by a strictly individual consciousness confined to the material world, so as to break up the nations into individuals, that the Brotherhood of Man, regardless of exterior circumstances, may become a fact. This is on the same principle that if we have a number of buildings and wish to make them into one large structure, it is necessary to break them up into separate bricks. Only then can the large building be constructed.

In order to accomplish this separation of nations into individuals, laws were given which prohibited endogamy or marriage in the family and, henceforth, incestuous marriages gradually came to be regarded with horror. Strange blood had thus been introduced into all families of the Earth and it has gradually wiped out the involuntary clairvoyance which promoted the clannish feeling and segregated humanity into groups. Altruism is superseding patriotism, and loyalty to the family is disappearing in consequence of the mixture of blood.

The Human Spirit is individualized, an Ego, it is evolving free will and responsibility. It is drawn to birth by the irresistible law of Consequence, so that it is beyond the power of the Race, Community, or Family Spirit to keep it from returning at the present stage of human development. By the admixture of strange blood and by intermarriage of the individuals of different tribes or nations, the leaders of man are gradually helping him to oust the Family, Tribal, or National Spirit from the blood; but with it has necessarily gone the involuntary clairvoyance, which was due to its working in the blood, whereby it fostered the family traditions in its charges. *We see that also in the case of man a faculty was destroyed by the mixture of the blood.* That loss was a gain, however, for it has concentrated man's energy on the material world and he is better able to master its lessons than if he were still distracted by the visions of the higher realms.

For aforementioned reasons, intertribal, and later international, marriages came gradually to be regarded as desirable and preferable to close intermarriages.

As man progressed through these stages, and gradually lost touch with the inner world, he sorrowed over the loss and longed for a return of the "inner" vision. But by degrees he forgot, and the material world gradually loomed up before his mind as the only reality, until at last he has come to doubt the idea that such inner worlds exist and to regard a belief in them as foolish superstition.

The four causes contributing to this condition were:

- (1) The clearing of the foggy atmosphere of the Atlantean continent.
- (2) The indrawing of the vital body, so that a point at the root of the nose corresponds to a similar point in the vital body.
- (3) The elimination of inbreeding and the substitution therefore of marriages outside the family and tribe.
- (4) The use of intoxicants.

The Race Spirits still exist in and work with man, but the more advanced the nation, the more freedom is given the individual. In countries where people are most fettered, the Race Spirit is strongest. The more in harmony a man is with the law of Love, and the higher his ideals, the more he frees himself from the Spirit of the Race.

When seen by the Spiritual vision the Race Spirit appears like a cloud brooding over a country, and it is breathed into the lungs of the people with every breath they take. In it they live, move, and have their being, as a matter of actual fact. Through this process they become imbued with the national fellow feeling which we call "patriotism," which is so powerfully stirring in time of war that all feel wrought up about a certain matter and are ready to sacrifice all for their country.

America has no Race Spirit as yet. It is the melting pot wherein the various nations are being amalgamated to arouse universal sentiment which will make all move as one in any matter. This new

race is beginning to appear, however. You may know them by their long arms and limbs, their lithe bodies, their long and somewhat narrow heads, high crowns, and almost rectangular foreheads.

Christ came to reunite the separated races in bonds of peace and good will, wherein all will willingly and consciously follow the law of Love.

The present Christianity is not even a shadow of the true Religion of Christ. That will remain in abeyance until all race feeling shall have been overcome. In the Sixth Epoch there will be but one Universal Brotherhood, under the Leadership of the *Returned* Christ, but the day and the hour no man knows, for it is not fixed, but depends upon how soon a sufficient number of people shall have commenced to live the life of Fellowship and Love, which is to be the hallmark of the new dispensation.

Questions:

- 1] What was the specific aim of the coming of Christ?
- 2] Explain briefly how Methuselah and others "lived" so long.
- 3] What quality were the Original Semites the first to evolve?
- 4] What is the purpose of individualization?
- 5] State the four factors involved in the loss of man's "inner" vision.
- 6] How is one freed from the Race and Family Spirit?
- 7] What is to be the keynote of Christianity of the *Returned* Christ?

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--Max Heindel

Lesson No. 13 - The Fall of Man

Reference: Genesis 3

In connection with the study of Genesis, a few more words must be said about "the Fall," which is the backbone and sinew of popular Christianity. Had there been no "Fall," there would have been no need for the "plan of salvation."

When the Earth came out of chaos, it was at first in the dark red stage known as the Polarian Epoch. There humanity first evolved a *dense body*, not at all like our present vehicle, of course. When the condition of the Earth became fiery, as in the Hyperborean Epoch, *the vital body* was added and man became plant-like, that is to say, he had the same vehicles as our plants have today, and also similar consciousness, or, rather, unconsciousness, to that which we have in dreamless sleep when the *dense* and *vital* bodies are left upon the bed.

At that time, in the Hyperborean Epoch, the body of man was as an enormous gas bag, floating outside the fiery Earth, and it threw off plant-like spores, which then grew and were used by other incoming entities. At that time man was double sexed, a hermaphrodite.

In the Lemurian Epoch, when the Earth had somewhat cooled and islands of crust had begun to form amid boiling seas, then also man's body had somewhat solidified and had become more like the body we see today. It was ape-like, a short trunk with enormous arms and limbs, the heels projecting backward and almost no head—at least the upper part of the head was nearly entirely wanting. Man lived in the atmosphere of steam which occultists call fire-fog, and had no lungs, but breathed by means of tubes. He had a bladder-like organ inside, which he inflated with heated air to help him leap enormous chasms when volcanic eruptions destroyed the land upon which he was living. From the back of his head there projected an organ which has now been drawn into the head and is called by anatomists the *pineal gland or third eye*, although it was never an eye, but a localized organ of feeling. The body was then devoid of feeling, but when man came too close to a volcanic crater, the heat was registered by this organ to warn him away before his body was destroyed.

At that time the body had already so far solidified that it was impossible for man to continue to propagate by spores, and it was necessary that he would evolve an organ of thought—a brain. The creative force which we now use to build railways, steamships, etc., in the outer world, was then used inwardly for the building of organs. Like all forces it was positive and negative. One pole was turned upward to build the brain, leaving the other pole available for the creation of another body. Thus man was no longer a complete creative unit. Each possessed only half the creative force, and it was therefore necessary for him to seek his complement outside himself.

Man was not at that time the wide-awake conscious being he is at present. He was more awake in the Spiritual World than in the physical; he hardly saw his body and was not conscious of the act of propagation. The Bible statement that Jehovah put man to sleep when he was to bring forth is correct. There was no pain nor trouble connected with childbirth; nor (because of man's exceedingly dim consciousness of his physical surroundings) did he know anything of the loss of his dense body by death, or of his installment in a new dense vehicle at birth.

But at that time, "their eyes had not been opened," and the human beings of that age were unconscious of each other in the Physical World, though well aware and awake in the Spiritual World. Therefore under the guidance of the Angels, who were particularly fitted to help them in respect to propagation, they were herded together in great temples at certain times of the year when the lines of force running between the planets were propitious, and there the creative act was performed as a religious sacrifice. And when the primal man Adam came into the intimate sexual contact with the woman, the spirit for the moment pierced the flesh and "Adam *knew* (or became aware of) his wife"; he sensed her physically. It is this which the Bible has recorded, using that chaste expression all through its leaves, for we are told that "Elkanah *knew* his wife Hannah, and she bore Samuel." Even

in the New Testament where the Angel comes to Mary telling her that she is to be the mother of the Savior, she answers, "How shall that be possible seeing I *know* not man?"

Sin is action contrary to law, and while humanity propagated under the guidance of the Angels, who understood the cosmic lines of force, childbirth was painless, as it is now among wild animals, which propagate only at the proper time of the year under the guidance of the Group Spirit. But when man, acting on the advice of certain spirits (the Lucifers) half-way between humanity and the Angels, undertook to create at any and all times of the year, regardless of cosmic lines of force, that sin, or "eating of the tree of *knowledge*," caused the painful parturition which the Lord God proclaimed to Eve. He did not curse her, but simply stated what would be the result of the ignorant and indiscriminate use of the creative function.

The Lucifers were a part of humanity of the Moon Period; they are the stragglers of the life wave of the Angels, too far advanced to take a dense physical body, yet they needed an "inner" organ for the acquisition of knowledge. Moreover, they could work through a physical brain, which the Angels or Jehovah could not.

These spirits entered the spinal cord and brain and spoke to the woman, whose Imagination had been aroused by the training of the Lemurian Race. As her consciousness was principally internal, a picture-consciousness of them was received by her, and she saw them as serpents, for they had entered her brain by the serpentine spinal cord.

The training of the woman included watching the perilous feats and fights of the men in developing will, in which fights bodies were necessarily often killed. The dim consciousness of something unusual set the imagination of the woman to wondering why she saw these strange things. She was conscious of the spirits of those who had lost their bodies, but her imperfect sense of the Physical World failed to reveal these friends whose dense bodies had been destroyed.

The Lucifers solved the problem for her by "opening her eyes." They revealed to her her own body and that of the man and taught her how, together, they might conquer death by creating new bodies. Thus death could not touch them for they, like Jehovah, could create at will.

Lucifer opened the eyes of the woman. She sought the help of man and opened his eyes. Thus, in a real though dim way, they first knew or become aware of one another and also of the Physical World. They became conscious of death and pain and by this knowledge they learned to differentiate between the inner man and the outer garment he wears and renews each time it is necessary to take his next step in evolution. They ceased to be automatons and become free-thinking beings at the cost of freedom from pain, sickness, and death.

That the interpretation of the eating of the fruit as a symbol of the generative act is not a far-fetched idea, is shown by the declaration of Jehovah that they will die and that the woman will bear her children in pain and suffering. He knew that as man's attention had now been called to his physical garment, he would become aware of its loss by death. He also knew that man had not yet wisdom to bridle his passion and regulate sexual intercourse by the positions of the planets, therefore pain in childbirth must follow his ignorant use of the function.

It has always been a sore puzzle to Bible commentators what connection there could possibly be between the eating of fruit and the bearing of children, but if we understand that the eating of the fruit is symbolical of the generative act whereby man becomes "like God," inasmuch as he *knows* his kind and is thus able to generate new beings, the solution is easy.

In the latter part of the Lemurian Epoch, when man arrogated to himself the prerogative of performing the generative act when he pleased, it was his then-powerful will that enabled him to do so. By "eating the tree of knowledge" at any and all times he was able to create a new body whenever he lost an old vehicle.

We usually think of death as something to be dreaded. Had man also "eaten of the tree of life," had he learned the secret of how to perpetually vitalize his body, there would have been a worse condition. We know that our bodies are not perfect today, and in those ancient days they were exceedingly primitive. Therefore the anxiety of the creative Hierarchies lest man "eat of the tree of life also," and become capable of renewing his vital body, was well founded. Had he done so he would have been immortal indeed, but would never have been able to progress. The evolution of the Ego depends upon its vehicles and if it could not get new and improving ones by death and birth, there

would be stagnation. It is an occult maxim that the oftener we die the better we are able to live, for every birth gives us a new chance.

We have seen that brain-knowledge, with its concomitant selfishness, was bought by man at the cost of the power to create from himself alone. He bought his free will at the cost of pain and death; but when man learns to use his intellect for the good of humanity, he will gain spiritual power over life and, in addition, will be guided by an innate knowledge as much higher than the present brain consciousness as that is higher than the lowest animal consciousness.

The fall into generation was necessary to build the brain, but that is, at best, only an indirect way of gaining knowledge and will be superseded by direct touch with the wisdom of Nature, which man, without any cooperation, will then be able to use for the generation of new bodies. The larynx will again speak "the lost Word," the "creative Fiat," which, under the guidance of great Teachers, was used in ancient Lemuria in the creation of plants and animals.

Man will then be a creator in truth. Not in the slow and toilsome manner of the present day, but by the use of the proper word or magical formula, will he be able to create a body.

Questions:

- 1] Describe the condition of man in the Lemurian Epoch.
- 2] Under whose direction was the propagation of man at this time?
- 3] Who were the Lucifers?
- 4] Explain how they manifested themselves to woman and what they made known to her.
- 5] Give the Bible passage in which Jehovah stated the results of "eating of the fruit" and explain its meaning.
- 6] Explain the anxiety of the creative Hierarchies lest man "eat of the tree of life also."
- 7] When the creative force has been properly transmuted by man, what power will he have?

"The Bible has been given to the Western World by the Recording Angels who give to each and all exactly what they need for their development."
--Max Heindel

Lesson No. 14 - Jesus and Christ Jesus

References: Matthew 1, 2, 3; Luke 1, 2

To understand the Mission of Christ as the Founder of the Universal Religion of the future, it is necessary that we first become familiar with His exact nature, and, incidentally, with that of Jehovah, Who is the head of such Race religions as Taoism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, etc.; also with the identity of "The Father," to Whom Christ is to give up the Kingdom, in due time.

In the Christian creed occurs this sentence: "Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God." This is generally understood to mean that a certain person Who appeared in Palestine about 2,000 years ago, Who is spoken of as Jesus Christ—one separate individual—was the only begotten Son of God.

This is a great mistake. There are three distinct and widely different Beings characterized in this sentence. It is of the greatest importance that the student should clearly understand the exact nature of these three great and exalted Beings—differing vastly in glory, yet each entitled to our deepest and most devout adoration.

Please note in the following diagram (No. 6) that "The only begotten" ("the Word," of Whom John speaks) is the second aspect of the Supreme Being.

This "Word," and It alone, is "begotten of His Father (the first aspect) before all Worlds." "Without Him was not anything made that was made," not even the third aspect of the Supreme Being, which proceeds from the two previous aspects. Therefore the "only begotten" is the exalted Being which ranks above all else in the Universe, save only the Power-aspect which created It.

The first aspect of the Supreme Being "thinks out," or imagines, the Universe before the beginning of active manifestation, everything, including millions of solar systems and the great creative Hierarchies which inhabit the Cosmic Planes of existence above the seventh, which is the field of our evolution (see diagram). This is also the Force which dissolves everything that has crystallized beyond the possibility of further growth and, at last, when the end of active manifestation has come, reabsorbs within Itself all that is, until the dawn of another Period of Manifestation.

The second aspect of the Supreme Being is that which manifests in matter as the forces of attraction and cohesion, thus giving it the capability of coming into Forms of various kinds. This is "The Word," the "creative Fiat," which molds the primordial Cosmic Root-substance in a manner similar to the formation of figures by musical vibrations, as previously mentioned, the same tone always producing the same figure. So this great primordial *WORD* brought, or "spoke," into being, in finest matter, all the different Worlds, with all their myriads of Forms, which have since been copied and worked out in detail by the innumerable creative Hierarchies.

"The Word" could not have done this, however, until the third aspect of the Supreme Being had first prepared the Cosmic Root-substance; had awakened it from its normal state of inertia and set the countless *inseparate* atoms spinning upon their axes, placing those axes at various angles with respect to each other, giving to each kind a certain "measure of vibration."

These varying angles of inclination of the axes and the measures of vibration made the Cosmic Root-substance capable of forming different combinations, which are the basis of the seven great Cosmic Planes. There is, in each of these planes, a different inclination of the axes, and also a different measure of vibration, consequently the conditions and combinations in each one are different from those in any of the others, due to the activity of "The Only Begotten."

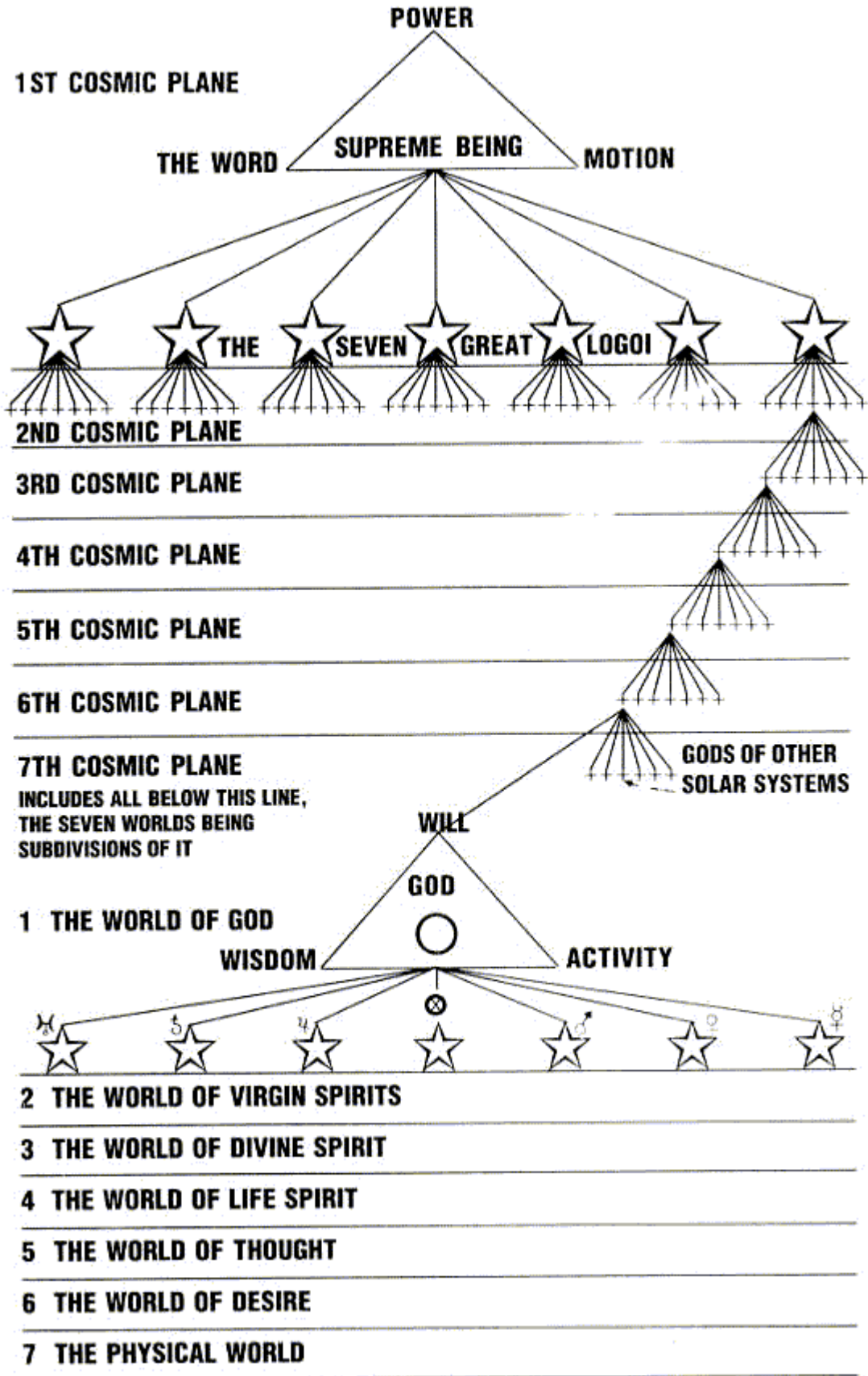


DIAGRAM 6

THE VEHICLES OF THE HIGHEST INITIATES & ORDINARY HUMANITY









ZODIACAL SIGNS	THE WORLDS IN WHICH THESE ORDERS HAVE CORRESPONDING VEHICLES	SATURN ♄ PERIOD		SUN ☉ PERIOD		MOON ☾ PERIOD	
		THE HIGHEST INITIATE IS <u>THE FATHER</u>	THE ORDINARY HUMANITY ARE NOW LORDS OF MIND	THE HIGHEST INITIATE IS <u>CHRIST THE SON</u>	THE ORDINARY HUMANITY ARE NOW ARCHANGELS	THE HIGHEST INITIATE IS <u>JEHOVAH THE HOLY SPIRIT</u>	THE ORDINARY HUMANITY ARE NOW ANGELS
13	ALTOGETHER WORLD						
12	OF						
11	GOD						
10	WORLD OF VIRGIN						
9	WORLD OF SPIRITS						
8	WORLD OF DIVINE SPIRIT						
7	WORLD OF LIFE SPIRIT						
6	REGION OF ABSTRACT THOUGHT						
5	REGION OF CONCRETE THOUGHT						
4	DESIRE WORLD						
3	ETHERIC REGION		JESUS				
2	CHEMICAL REGION		BODIES				
1							

DIAGRAM 14

Diagram 14 shows us that:

"The Father is the highest Initiate among the humanity of the Saturn Period. The ordinary humanity of that period are now the Lords of Mind.

"The Son" (Christ) is the highest Initiate of the Sun Period. The ordinary humanity of that Period are now the Archangels.

"The Holy Spirit" (Jehovah) is the highest Initiate of the Moon Period. The ordinary humanity of that Period are now the Angels.

This diagram also shows what are the vehicles of these different orders of Beings, and upon comparison with diagram 8 (in Lesson No. 8), it will be seen that their bodies or vehicles (indicated by squares on diagram 14) correspond to the Globes of the Period in which they were human. This is always the case so far as the ordinary humanities are concerned, for at the end of the Period during which any life wave becomes individualized as human beings, those beings retain bodies corresponding to the Globes on which they have functioned.

On the other hand, the Initiates have progressed and evolved for themselves higher vehicles, discontinuing the ordinary use of the lowest vehicles when the ability to use a new and higher one has been attained. Ordinarily, the lowest vehicle of an Archangel is the desire body, but Christ, Who is the highest Initiate of the Sun Period, ordinarily uses the Life Spirit as lowest vehicle, functioning as consciously in the World of Life Spirit as we do in the Physical World. The student is requested to note this point particularly, as the World of Life Spirit is the first universal World. It is the World in which differentiation ceases and unity begins to be realized, so far as our solar system is concerned.

Christ has power to build and function in a vehicle as low as the desire body, such as is used by the Archangels, but *He can descend no farther*. The significance of this will be seen presently.

Jesus belongs to our humanity. When the man, Jesus, is studied through the memory of nature, he can be traced back life by life, where he lived in different circumstances, under various names, in different embodiments, the same, in that respect, as any other human being. *This cannot be done with the Being, Christ. In His case can be found but one embodiment.*

It must not be supposed, however, that Jesus was an ordinary individual. He was of a singularly pure type of mind, vastly superior to the great majority of our present humanity. Through many lives had he trod the Path of Holiness and thus fitted himself for the greatest honor ever bestowed upon a human being.

His mother, the Virgin Mary, was also a type of the highest human purity, and because of that was selected to become the mother of Jesus. His father was a high Initiate, virgin, and capable of performing the act of fecundation as a sacrament, without personal desire or passion.

Thus the beautiful, pure and lovely Spirit whom we know as Jesus of Nazareth was born into a pure and passionless body. This body was the best that could be procured on Earth and the task of Jesus, in that embodiment, was to care for it and evolve it to the highest possible degree of efficiency, in preparation for the great purpose it was to serve.

Jesus of Nazareth was born at about the time stated in the historic records, and not 105 B.C., as stated in some occult works. The name *Jesus* is common in the East, and an Initiate named Jesus did live around 105 B.C., but he took the Egyptian Initiation, and was not Jesus of Nazareth, with whom we are concerned.

Jesus was educated by the Essenes and reached a very high state of Spiritual development during the thirty years in which he used his body.

It may be said here, parenthetically, that the Essenes were a third sect which existed in Palestine, besides the two mentioned in the New Testament—the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Essenes were an exceedingly devout order, widely different from the materialistic Sadducees and entirely opposite to the hypocritical, publicity seeking Pharisees. They shunned all mention of themselves and their methods of study and worship. To the latter peculiarity is due the fact that almost nothing is known of them, and that they are not mentioned in the New Testament.

It is a law of the Cosmos that no Being, however high, can function in any world without a vehicle built of the material of that world. (See diagrams 8 and 14.) Therefore the desire body was the lowest vehicle of the Group Spirits who had reached the human stage in the Sun Period.

Christ was One of those Spirits and was consequently unable to build for Himself a vital body and a dense physical vehicle. He could have worked upon humanity in a desire body, as did His younger brothers, the Archangels, as Race Spirits. Jehovah had opened an avenue for them to enter the dense body of man by means of the air he inhaled. All Race religions were religions of law, and creators of sin through disobedience of that law. They were under the direction of Jehovah, Whose lowest vehicle is the Human Spirit, correlating Him to the World of Abstract Thought, where everything is separate and therefore leads to self-seeking.

That is precisely the reason why the intervention of Christ became necessary. Under the *regime* of Jehovah unity is impossible. Therefore, the Christ, Who possesses as the lowest vehicle the unifying Life Spirit, must enter into the dense human body. He must appear as a man among men and dwell in this body, because only from *within* is it possible to conquer the Race religion, which influences man from *without*.

Christ could not be *born* in a dense body, because He had never passed through an evolution such as the Earth Period, therefore He would first have had to acquire the ability to build a dense body such as ours. But even had He possessed that ability, it would have been inexpedient for such an exalted Being to expend for that purpose the energy necessary for body-building through antenatal life, childhood and youth, to bring it to sufficient maturity for use. He had ceased to use, ordinarily, vehicles such as would correspond to our Human Spirit, mind, and desire body, although He had learned to build them in the Sun Period, and retained the ability to build and function in them whenever desired or required. He used all His vehicles, taking only the vital and dense bodies from Jesus. When the latter was thirty years of age, Christ entered these bodies and used them until the

climax of His Mission on Golgotha. After the destruction of the dense body, Christ appeared among His disciples in the vital body, in which He functioned for some time. The vital body is the vehicle which He will use when He appears again, for He will never take another dense body.

At the time Christ entered the body of Jesus, the latter was a disciple of high degree, consequently his Life Spirit was well organized. Therefore, the lowest vehicle in which Christ functioned, and the best organized of the higher vehicles of Jesus, were identical; and Christ, when He took the vital body and the dense body of Jesus, was thus furnished with a complete chain of vehicles bridging the gap between the World of Life Spirit and the dense Physical World.

The significance of the fact that Jesus had passed several Initiations lies in the effect that has on the vital body. Jesus' vital body was already attuned to the high vibrations of the Life Spirit. An ordinary man's vital body would have instantly collapsed under the terrific vibrations of the Great Spirit who entered Jesus' body. Even that body, pure and high-strung as it was, could not withstand those tremendous impacts for many years, and when we read of certain times when Christ withdrew temporarily from His disciples, as when He later walked on the sea to meet them, the esotericist knows that He drew out of Jesus' vehicles to give them a rest under the care of the Essene Brothers, who knew more of how to treat such vehicles than Christ did.

This change was consummated with the full and free consent of Jesus, who knew during this entire life that he was preparing a vehicle for Christ. He submitted gladly, that his brother humanity might receive the gigantic impetus which was given to its development by the mysterious sacrifice on Golgotha.

Thus (as shown in diagram 14) Christ Jesus possessed the twelve vehicles, which formed an unbroken chain from the Physical World to the very Throne of God. Therefore, He is the only Being in the Universe in touch with both God and man and capable of mediating between them, because He has, personally and individually, experienced all conditions and knows every limitation incident to physical existence. None save He is able to feel such compassion, nor so fully understand the position and needs of humanity. None save He is qualified to bring the relief that shall fully meet our needs. He took the dense and vital bodies of Jesus that He might function directly in the Physical World and appear as a man among men. Had He appeared in a manifestly miraculous manner, it would have been contrary to the scheme of evolution, because at the end of the Atlantean Epoch humanity had been given freedom to do right or wrong. That they might learn to become self-governing, no coercion whatever could be used. They must know good and evil through experience. Before that time they had been led willingly, but at that time they were given freedom under the different Race religions, each Religion adapted to the needs of its particular Tribe or Nation.

Questions:

- 1] Explain the functions of the three aspects of the Supreme Being.
- 2] Designate specifically the identity of Christ.
- 3] State the facts concerning the identity of the man Jesus.
- 4] Why could Christ not be *born* in a dense body?
- 5] What differentiates Christ Jesus from every other Being?
- 6] Why did Christ not appear in a miraculous manner?
- 7] In what will He appear when He comes again?

Dear Friend,

We congratulate you for having completed the first half of The Rosicrucian Fellowship Western Wisdom Bible Teachings Course. We invite you to continue your studies with lessons 15 - 28 in our Bible Course. But before you begin the next booklet, test yourself on the first part of this Course.

1. On what are the lives of all Saviors of mankind founded?
2. Where is the uncreated glory of God dwelling?
3. What are Fellowship and Love?
4. What is the difference between Jesus of Nazareth and the Jesus who was born in 105 B.C.?

We trust that you have studied well and know the answers to these important questions. If not, please restudy the material here given. Unless you develop a sound foundation of learning and understanding, you will not be able to help others to your highest potential.

In fellowship,
Rosicrucian Fellowship
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Education Department

ANSWERS

Lesson 1:

1. In order to study the Bible intelligently, it is essential that one approach it with an open mind.

2. The words of the Hebrew language, particularly the old style, run into one another and are not divided as are those of our language. Also, it was customary to omit vowels from the writing. Those who originally wrote the Bible did not intend to give out the truth in such plain form that he who ran might read.

3. Those who originally wrote the Bible did not intend to give out the truth in such plain form that he who ran might read. Nothing was farther from their thoughts than to write an "open Book of God." The secrets of the Torah were not meant to be understood by all. The Bible was written for the more instructed men who do not pay attention to the vestment, but to the body which it envelops. The occultist who has fitted himself to possess these pearls has received the key, and sees them plainly. To others they remain obscure until they also have worked for that key. Thus, while the story of the wanderings of the children of Israel and the dealings of a certain God with them is partially true, there is also a spiritual significance that is far more important than the material history. Even though the Gospels contain the great outlines of the life of an individual called Jesus, they are formulae of Initiation showing the experiences which everyone must eventually pass through on the way to the truth and the life.

The secrecy regarding these deep matters and the invariable use of allegories, where the mass of the people were permitted to come in contact with occult truths, will also be apparent from the practice of Christ, who always spoke to the multitude in parables, afterward privately explaining to His disciples the deeper meaning contained therein. On several occasions He imposed secrecy upon them in regard to such private teachings.

Paul's methods are also in harmony with this, for he gives "milk" or the more elementary teachings to the "babes" in the faith, reserving the "meat" or deeper teachings for the "strong"—those who had qualified themselves to understand and receive them. (I Cor. 3:1-3)

4. Of the forty-seven translators of the King James version (that most commonly used in England and America), only three were Hebrew scholars, and of those three, two died before the Psalms had been translated! (Note: the Jewish Bible was originally written in Hebrew, which was followed by a Greek version, the Septuagint, in 280 B.C. The Talmud appeared about 500 A.D. and was improved upon by the Masoretic School.)

5. While the Gospels contain the outline of the life of Jesus, they are also formulae of Initiation showing the experiences which everyone must eventually pass through on the way to the truth and the life.

6. We must remember that truth is many-sided and eternal. The quest for truth is all-embracing and never-ending.

7. It may be said most emphatically that no system of thought which has ever been able to attract and hold the attention of a large number of people for a considerable time has been without its truth; and whether we perceive it or not, there is, in every sect, the kernel of divine teachings which is gradually bringing them upward toward the top of the mountain. Therefore we should practice the utmost tolerance for every belief.

Lesson 2:

1. The story of Jacob and his sons is an astronomical allegory dealing with the migration of the heavenly bodies, as will be evident from a careful perusal of the 49th Chapter of Genesis and the 33rd Chapter of Deuteronomy, where the blessings of Jacob upon his sons show how they are identified with the twelve signs of the zodiac: Simeon and Levi share the sign Gemini, the twins; the feminine sign Virgo is allotted to Jacob's only daughter, Dinah; Gad represents the sign Aries; Issachar, Taurus; Benjamin, Cancer; Judah, Leo; Asher, Libra; Dan, Scorpio; Joseph, Sagittarius;

Naphthali, Capricorn; Rueben, Aquarius; and Zebulun, Pisces. The four wives are the four phases of the Moon and Jacob is the Sun.

2. The Solar Myth heralds each day the victory of light over the powers of darkness. Thus was brought to nascent humanity the message that the contest of light and darkness on the material plane is but the counterpart of a similar contest in the moral and mental worlds where the human soul is groping its way toward the light.

3. St. Peter's Cathedral, like all other solar temples, reminds humanity of the "Great Light of the World," who is to come and dispel the spiritual darkness which as yet envelops us.

4. The six southern signs (Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces), which the Sun occupies in winter, are always called "Egypt," the "land of Philistines," etc., a name for something that is bad for "God's people"; whereas the northern signs (Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, and Virgo), through which the Sun passes during the fruitful season, are "heaven," "the promised land," "which flows with milk and honey."

5. The story of Samson is another phase of the solar myth. As long as Samson's hair was allowed to grow, his strength would increase. Samson is the Sun, and its rays represent Samson's hair. From the winter solstice in December to the summer solstice in June the Sun's rays grow, and it gains in strength every day. This frightens the "powers of darkness," the winter months, the Philistines, for if this Light-bringer continues to reign, their kingdom will come to an end, and they counsel together against Samson to discover wherein his strength lies. They secure the cooperation of the woman, Delilah, which is the sign Virgo, and when Samson, the Sun, passes through that sign in September he is said to have laid his head on the woman's lap and to have confided his secret to her. She shears him of his locks, for at that time the rays of the Sun begin to grow shorter and lose their strength. Then the Philistines or winter months come and carry the debilitated giant into their prison, the southern signs where the Sun is in winter. They put out his eyes or deprive him of his light and at last bring him to their temple, their stronghold, at the winter solstice. There they subject him to infamous indignities, believing they have vanquished the light completely, but with his last remaining strength the fettered solar giant shatters their temple. Although he dies in the effort, he overcomes his enemies and thus leaves the way clear for another Sun-child to be born to save humanity from the cold and famine which would result if he had remained bound in the toils of the powers of darkness, the Philistines, the winter months.

6. The lives of all the saviors of mankind are also founded upon the passage of the Sun around the circle of the zodiac, which pictures the trials and triumphs of the initiate.

7. The saviors were all born of an immaculate virgin, at the time when darkness is greatest among mankind. The stories also include an immaculate mother, the divine babe, and the Sun, Moon, or Stars.

Lesson 3:

1. When the Sun goes through the sign of the Fishes in March we have the fast of the Initiate, for Pisces is the last of the southern signs, and all the stores laid by from the bounteous gifts of the Sun of the previous year are nearly exhausted, and man's food is scarce. The fish-food of Lent, which occurs at this time, is a further corroboration of this solar origin of the fast.

2. At the vernal equinox, March 21, the Sun "crosses the equator," and at that time the "crossification," or crucifixion, occurs, for then the Sun-god commences to give his life as food for his worshipers, ripening the corn and the grape, which is made into the "bread and wine."

3. The movement known as the "precession of the equinoxes," whereby the Sun crosses the equator on March 21 at a different point each year, determines the symbol of the savior.

4. At the time of the birth of Jesus, the Sun crossed in about five degrees of the sign Aries, the Ram. Consequently, Christ was "the lamb of God." (John 1:36)

5. These letters, I.N.R.I., are commonly supposed to have meant *Jesus Nazareus Rex Judaeorum*, but they are also the initial letters of the Hebrew names of the four elements—lam (water), Nour (fire), Ruach (air), labeshah (earth).

6. That phenomenon happens every September just after the new Moon; for viewed from our earth, the Sun covers or clothes the sign Virgo all through September, and as the Moon is leaving the conjunction of the Sun, it appears to be beneath the Virgin's feet.

7. Ragon, the eminent French Masonic authority, says that the legend of Hiram Abiff, the "Widow's Son," the Grand Architect of Solomon's Temple, and hero of the Masonic Legend, is an astronomical allegory representing the Sun from the summer solstice downward. Hiram Abiff, the Grand Master, is the Sun which travels around the twelve signs of the zodiac, enacting there the mystic drama of the Masonic Legend. At the vernal equinox the Sun leaves the watery sign Pisces, which is also feminine and docile, for the belligerent, martial, energetic, fiery sign Aries, the ram or lamb, where it is exalted in power. It fills the universe with a creative fire which is immediately seized upon by the innumerable billions of nature spirits who therewith build the temple of the coming year in forest and fen. The forces of fecundation applied to the countless seeds slumbering in the ground cause them to germinate and fill the earth with luxuriant vegetation while the Group Spirits mate the beasts and birds in their charge so that they may bring forth and increase sufficiently to keep the fauna of our planet at normal levels. According to the Masonic Legend, Hiram Abiff used a hammer to call his workmen, and it is significant that the symbol of the sign Aries, where this wonderful creative activity commences, is shaped like a double ram's horn, which resembles a hammer. During the summer the Sun calls forth songs of gratitude from all that breathes, hence Hiram, who represents it, can give the Word, that is to say life to all. When the Sun enters the southern signs at the fall equinox, September 21, nature becomes mute, and Hiram, the Sun, can no longer give the sacred Word; he meets the three murderers, the zodiacal signs Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius, which the Sun goes through in October, November, and December. The first strikes him with a 24-inch rule, emblematic of the 24 hours the Earth takes to revolve upon its axis. The second strikes him with an iron square, symbolizing the four seasons, and at last the mortal blow is given by the third murderer with a mallet, which being round, signifies that the Sun has completed its circle and dies to give room for the Sun of another year.

Lesson 4:

1. These two narratives relate to one and the same incident, namely, the emergence of infant humanity from the doomed continent of Atlantis into the present age of alternating cycles, where summer and winter, day and night, ebb and flow, follow each other.

2. Upon their emergence from Atlantis, humanity began to lose their spiritual sight. The Tabernacle in the Wilderness was given to them that they might meet the Lord when they had qualified themselves by service and subjugation of the lower nature by the Higher Self.

3. The Tabernacle was laid directly east and west. The aspirant entered at the eastern gate and pursued the path by way of the Altar of Burnt Offerings, the Brazen Laver, and the Holy Place to the westernmost part of the Tabernacle, where the Ark, the greatest symbol of all, was located in the Holy of Holies. Thus we see that the path of spiritual progress is the same as the star of empire; they both travel from east to west.

4. The ambulant nature of this Tabernacle is symbolical of the fact that man is migratory in his nature, an eternal pilgrim, ever passing from the shores of time to eternity and back again.

5. The colors on the veils of the Temple, both at the gate and at the entrance of the Tabernacle, had only the blue and the scarlet colors of the Father and the Holy Spirit, together with their mixture, purple, showing that this structure was designed for a period previous to the time of Christ, whose color is yellow. White is the synthesis of all colors, and therefore the yellow Christ ray was hidden in that part of the veil until, in the fullness of time, Christ should appear to emancipate us from the ordinance that bind, and initiate us into the full liberty of Sons of God, Sons of Light, Children of Light, Phree Messen or Mystic Masons.

6. The Altar was made of brass, a metal not found in nature, but made by man from copper and zinc. Thus it is symbolically shown that sin was not originally contemplated in our scheme of evolution and is an anomaly in nature as well as in its consequences, pain and death, symbolized by the sacrificial victims. But while the Altar itself was made from metals artificially compounded, the fire

which burned thereon unceasingly was of divine origin, and it was kept alive from year to year with the most jealous care.

7. To the modern candidate for Initiation, these things are *within* and not without. The Brazen Altar is symbolical of an inner truth. It is not the Christ without that saves but the Christ *within*. We must build the Tabernacle within our own hearts and consciousness. We must live through, as an actual inner experience, the whole ritual of the service there. We must become both the altar of sacrifice and the sacrificial animal lying upon it. We must become both the priest that slays the animal and the animal that is slain. Later we must learn to identify ourselves with the mystic Laver, and we must learn to wash therein in spirit. Then we must enter behind the first veil, minister in the East Room, and so on through the whole Temple service, until we become the greatest of all these ancient symbols, the Shekinah Glory, or it will avail us nothing. In short, before the symbol of the Tabernacle can really help us, we must transfer it from the wilderness of space to a home in our hearts so that when we have become everything that that symbol is, we shall also have become that which it stands for spiritually.

Lesson 5:

1. The Brazen Laver was a large basin which was always kept full of water. It is said in the Bible that it was carried on the backs of twelve oxen, also made of brass, and we are told that their hind parts were toward the center of the vessel. It appears from the memory of nature, however, that these animals were not oxen but symbolical representations of the twelve signs of the zodiac. The Brazen Laver is the symbol of sanctification and consecration of the life to service.

2. The three principal articles of furniture in the East Room were the Altar of Incense, the Table of Shewbread, and the Golden Candlestick.

3. The Golden Candlestick was made entirely of pure gold, and consisted of a shaft or principal stem, rising upright from a base, together with six branches. These branches started at three different points on the stem and curved upward in three partial circles of varying diameter, symbolizing the three periods of development (Saturn, Sun, and Moon Periods) which man went through before the Earth Period, which was not half spent. This latter period was signified by the seventh light. This was symbolical of the fact that the seven light-givers or planets, which tread the mystic circle, dance around the central orb, the Sun, and travel in the narrow belt comprising eight degrees on either side of the Sun's path, which is called the zodiac. "God is Light," and the "Seven Spirits before the Throne" are God's ministers; therefore they are messengers of light to humanity.

4. Among the chief articles in the East Room of the Temple is the Table of Shewbread. Upon this table there were two piles of shewbread, each containing six loaves, and upon the top of each pile there was a little heap of frankincense. The aspirant who came to the Temple door "poor, naked, and blind" has since been brought to the light of the Seven-branched Candlestick, obtaining a certain amount of cosmic knowledge, and this he is required to use in the service of his fellow man; the Table of Shewbread represents this in symbol. The God-given grains of wheat in the twelve loaves represent the opportunities for soul growth given by God, which come to all through the twelve departments of life represented by the twelve houses of the horoscope, under the dominion of the twelve divine Hierarchies known through the signs of the zodiac. But it is the task of the Mystic Mason, the true temple builder, to embrace these opportunities, to cultivate and nourish them so that he may reap therefrom the Living Bread which nurtures the soul.

5. The soul sustenance of service gathered daily by the ardent Mystic Mason is thrown into the mill of retrospection at eventide when he retires to his couch and performs there this scientific exercise.

6. Incense symbolizes the extract, the aroma of the service we have rendered according to our opportunities; and just as the sacrificial animal upon the Brazen Altar represents the deeds of wrong doing committed during the day, so the incense burned upon the Golden Altar, which is a sweet savor to the Lord, represents the virtuous deeds of our lives.

7. The Ark of the Covenant represents man in his highest development, when man has established the Tables of the Law within.

Lesson 6:

1. The Golden Pot of Manna symbolizes the Ego, which gives life to the organisms that we behold in the physical world. It is hidden within the Ark of each human being. As Christ said, "the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven [manna] and giveth life to the world...I am the bread of life." (John 6: 33-35) The Golden Pot, or soul body, or "wedding garment," is also latent within every one. It is the house not made with hands wherewith Paul longed to be clothed. (2 Cor. 5)

2. The wand of the magician, the holy spear of Parsifal, the chalice of the Grail King, and the budding Rod of Aaron are all emblems of the divine creative force, which works wonders of such a nature that we call them miracles. Let it be clearly understood, however, that no one who has evolved to the point in evolution where he is symbolized by the Ark of the Covenant in the West Room of the Tabernacle ever uses this power for selfish ends.

3. Fire bears the same relation to flame as Spirit does to body. It is the unseen but potent power of manifestation.

4. There is a vital difference between the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, Solomon's Temple, and the later Temple built by Herod. Both the miraculously enkindled fire on the Brazen Altar in the eastern part of the Tabernacle and the invisible Shekinah Glory in the distant western part of the sanctuary were also present in Solomon's Temple. These were thus sanctuaries in a sense not equaled by the Temple built by Herod. The latter was, nevertheless, in a sense the most glorious of the three, for it was graced by the bodily presence of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whom dwelt the Godhead.

5. The Shekinah Glory of the Father symbolizes the Christ within, which must dwell within the sacred precincts of our own God consciousness.

6. Christ made the first self-sacrifice, thereby abrogating the sacrifice of animals, and finally at the consummation of His work in the visible world rent the veil and opened a way into the Holy of Holies, not only for the favored few, the priests and Levites, but that whosoever will may come and serve the Deity whom we know as our Father.

7. If we visualize in our mind the arrangement of things inside the Tabernacle, we shall readily see the shadow of the Cross. Commencing at the eastern gate there was the Altar of Burnt Offerings; a little farther along the path to the Tabernacle itself, we find the Laver of Consecration, the Molten Sea, in which the priests washed. Then, upon entering the East Room of the Temple, we find one article of furniture, the Golden Candlestick, at the extreme left, and the Table of Shewbread at the extreme right, the two forming a cross with the path we have been pursuing toward and within the Tabernacle. In the center of the second veil we find the Altar of Incense, which forms the center of the cross, while the Ark placed in the westernmost part of the West Room, the Holy of Holies, gives the short or upper limb of the cross. In this manner the symbol of spiritual unfoldment which is our particular ideal today was shadowed forth in the ancient Mystery Temple, and that consummation which is attained at the end of the cross, the achievement of getting the law within as it was within the Ark itself, is the one that we must all concern ourselves with at the present time.

Lesson 7:

1. The Bible was originally written solely for the initiated.

2. One reading of the opening sentence of Genesis is: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth"; the other is: "Out of every-existing essence (of space) the twofold energy formed the double heaven."

3. The first method of interpretation identifies God as the creator of all that is. So, there was a beginning of our evolution, in which the heavens were created.

4. The other interpretation supplements the first statement by adding that the heavens and the Earth were created out of the "ever-existing essence," not out of "nothing." The second also gives us a fuller idea of God when it speaks of the "twofold energy," pointing to the positive and negative phases of the One Spirit of God in manifestation. In harmony with the teaching of occult science, God is represented as a composite Being.

5. The opening sentence of the Book of Genesis tells us that in the beginning, orderly, rhythmic motion, in Cosmic Root-substance, formed the universe.

6. In the first chapter of Genesis, these Hierarchies are called "Elohim." The name signifies a host of dual or double-sexed Beings, indicating a host of male-female, double-sexed Beings, expressions of the dual, positive-negative creative energy.

7. It is stated that on the seventh day "Elohim rested." This is all in accord with our occult teaching of the part taken by each of the creative Hierarchies in the work of evolution down to the present Period. It is also taught that in the present Epoch the Gods and creative Hierarchies have withdrawn from active participation, that man may work out his own salvation, leaving the necessary guidance of ordinary humanity to the "Elder Brothers who are now the mediators between man and the Gods."

Lesson 8:

1. The names of the seven Periods, or successive rebirths of the Earth, are as follows: the Saturn Period, the Sun Period, the Moon Period, the Earth Period, the Jupiter Period, the Venus Period, and the Vulcan Period. Our passage through the fourth Revolution of Globe D is divided into the Polarian, Hyperborean, Lemurian, Atlantean, Aryan, and two other Epochs.

2. The second verse proceeds: "The Earth was waste and uninhabited, and darkness rested upon the face of the deep; and the Spirits of the Elohim floated above the deep." In the beginning of manifestation that which is now the Earth was in the Saturn Period. It was not "without form and void," as expressed in the King James version. It was hot, and thus well-defined separate from the deep of space, which was cold. The Sun Period is well described in the third verse, which says, "And the Elohim said. Let there be Light; and there was Light." The Moon Period is described in the sixth verse, as follows: "And Elohim said, Let there be an expansion (translated "firmament" in other versions) in the waters, to divide the water from the water." In the ninth verse we read, "And Elohim said, Let the waters be divided from the dry land. . .and Elohim called the dry land Earth." This refers to the first firm incrustation. Heat and moisture had generated the solid body of our present Globe. The Polarian Epoch: The ninth verse, which describes the Earth Period in this fourth Revolution (where the real Earth Period work commenced), also describes the formation of the mineral kingdom and the Recapitulation by man of the mineral stage in the Polarian Epoch. The Hyperborean Epoch is described in verses 11 to 19 as the work of the fourth day. It is here recorded that Elohim created the plant kingdom, the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars. The Lemurian Epoch is described in the work of the fifth day. This Epoch, being the third, is in a sense a Recapitulation of the Moon Period, and in the Biblical narrative we find described such conditions as obtained in the Moon Period—water, fire-fog, and the first attempts at moving, breathing life. Verses 20 and 21 tell us that "Elohim said, Let the waters bring forth life-breathing things...and fowl...and Elohim formed the great amphibians and all life-breathing things according to their species, and all fowl with wings."

3. As there are Recapitulations of Globes, Revolutions, and Periods, so there are on each Globe, recapitulations, in the form of Epochs, of all that has gone before. These Recapitulations are endless. There is always a spiral within a spiral—in the atom, in the Globe, and in all other phases of evolution.

4. It is "things" that breath or inhale life that were created, not Life.

5. The Bible narrator does no violence to facts when he states that man was formed in the Atlantean Epoch, for by that time the differentiation of sexes had already taken place, earlier, in the Lemurian Epoch. Prior to that time man was hermaphrodite. Earlier still he differed but little from the animals.

6. RE-plenish the earth" plainly shows that the scribe who wrote it was cognizant of the occult teaching that the life wave had evolved here, on Globe D of the Earth Period, in previous Revolutions.

7. The Aryan Epoch corresponds to the seventh day of Creation, when the Elohim rested from their labors as Creators and Guides, and humanity had been launched upon an independent career.

Lesson 9:

1. When used in the Bible, the term "Jehovah" refers to the Leader of the Angels - who were the humanity of the Moon Period,- he is the Regent of our Moon, the author of all race religions which led up to Christianity, and one of the Elohim.

2. As Regent of our Moon, Jehovah has charge of the evil degenerate beings there. It is the work of Jehovah to build concrete bodies or forms, by means of the hardening, crystallizing Moon forces. He is the giver of children and the Angels are His messengers in this work. He takes special care of a seed-race, in which are to be inculcated the embryonic faculties of the humanity of a new Epoch.

3. The Original Semites were Jehovah's "chosen people"—chosen to be the seed for a new Race, which was to inherit the "Promised Land"—not merely insignificant Palestine, but the entire Earth, as it is at present.

4. From the faithful remnant of the Original Semites, those who did not intermarry into other tribes and peoples, have descended the present Aryan Races.

5. The three factors constituting progress are Involution, Evolution, and Epigenesis.

6. There is too great a tendency to think that all which now exists is the result of something that previously existed, but if that were the case there would be no margin left for new and original effort and for new causes. The chain of cause and effect is not a monotonous repetition. There is an influx of new and original causes all the time. That is the real backbone of evolution—the only thing that gives it meaning and makes it other than an unrolling of latent actualities. This is "Epigenesis"—the free-will that consists of the freedom to inaugurate something entirely new, not merely a choice between two courses of action. This is the important factor which alone can explain the system to which we belong in a satisfactory manner.

7. The occultist believes the purpose of evolution to be the development of man from a static to a dynamic God—a Creator.

Lesson 10:

1. As an entity progresses, it becomes evident that new improvements must be added which conflict with the lines previously followed. A new start must be given it in a new species, where it can retrieve any previous mistakes which experience taught would preclude further development if the old lines were adhered to, and thus the evolving life will be enabled to progress farther in a new species. When later experience proves that the new form also is inadequate, inasmuch as it can not adapt itself to some improvement necessary to the progress of the evolving life, it too is discarded and still another departure is made in a form adaptable to the necessary improvement. Thus by successive steps does the evolving Life improve its vehicles, and the improvement is still going on.

2. Those who persistently adhere to the old forms and fail to rise above the species and are left behind as stragglers. These stragglers take the forms outgrown by the pioneers, as explained, and they compose the lower Races and species of any kingdom in which they are evolving.

3. In evolving Life, as in commerce, there is no such thing as merely "holding your own." Progression or Retrogression is the Law. The form that is not capable of further improvement must degenerate.

4. Man has never inhabited forms identical with those of our present-day animals, nor the present-day anthropoid species; but he has inhabited forms which were similar to but higher than those of the present anthropoids. The lower monkeys, instead of being the progenitors of the higher species, are stragglers occupying the most degenerated specimens of what was once the human form. Instead of man having ascended from the anthropoids, the reverse is true—the anthropoids have degenerated from man.

5. Each life wave, however, remains definitely confined within its own borders. The anthropoids may overtake us and become human beings, but no other animal will reach our particular point of development. They will reach a similar stage, but under different conditions, in the Jupiter Period. The

present plants will be the humanity of the Venus Period, under a still greater difference of conditions, and our minerals will reach the human stage under the conditions of the Vulcan Period.

6. The mineral kingdom is the final goal of the forms of all the kingdoms when they have reached the acme of degeneration.

7. But if the animal ovum is studied through the entire period of gestation, it will be observed that it passes through the mineral and plant stages only, and is born when it reaches the animal stage. This is because the Life ensouling such an ovum passed through its mineral evolution in the Sun Period, its plant life in the Moon Period, and is now forced to stop at the animal stage in the Earth Period. On the other hand, the Life which uses the human ovum had its mineral existence in the Saturn Period, passed the animal stage in the Moon Period, has still some scope for Epigenesis after it has reached the animal stage and therefore goes on to the human—nor does it stop there. The father and mother give the substance of their bodies for the building of a child's body, but, particularly in the higher Races, Epigenesis makes it possible to add something which makes the child different from the parents.

Lesson 11:

1. One creation story deals with Form, which was built up through mineral, plant and animal and reached the human last. The other tells us that the Life which now ensouls human forms was manifested anterior to the Life which ensouls the forms of the other kingdoms.

2. The life-breath (*nepshesh*) is the same in man and beast. This can be shown even to those who stand firmly upon the Bible as authority, for even the King James version distinctly states (Eccles. 3:19,20): "...as one dieth, so dieth the other; yea they all have one breath (*nepshesh*); so that man hath no pre-eminence above a beast:... All go unto one place."

3. The inspiration of the breath of life by Jehovah took place between the early and the middle parts of the Lemurian Epoch. It was after the Moon was thrown out from the Earth because Jehovah had nothing to do with the generation of bodies before the Moon was thrown off.

4. At that time man-in-the-making had not yet commenced to breathe by means of lungs. He had the gill-like apparatus still present in the human embryo while passing through the stage of antenatal life corresponding to that Epoch. He had no warm, red blood, for at that stage there was no indwelling individual spirit. The entire form was soft and pliable and the skeleton was soft like cartilage. Before the later date, when it became necessary to separate humanity into sexes, the skeleton had grown firm and solid.

5. Read in one way, the word is "rib" (*tsad*); but in another, which has at least as good a claim to consideration with the additional advantage of being common sense, it reads "side" (*tse/a*). If we interpret this to mean that man was male-female and that Jehovah caused one side or sex in each being to remain latent, we shall not be doing violence to our reason, as we would by accepting the "rib" story.

6. Jehovah is the Most High. He is Race-God, having dominion over all form. He is the Chief Ruler and the highest Power in maintaining the form and exercising an orderly government over it. The Archangels are the Race Spirits, each having dominion over a certain group of people. They also have dominion over animals, for the members of these two kingdoms have desire bodies and the Archangels are expert architects of desire matter.

7. Jehovah appointed one of the Angels to act as guardian for each Ego until the individual Spirit had grown strong enough to become emancipated from all outside influence. This occurred in the Atlantean Epoch.

Lesson 12:

1. Christ came to prepare the way for the emancipation of humanity from the guidance of the differentiating Race and Family Spirits, and to unite the whole human family in One Universal Brotherhood.

2. By means of the common blood men are said to have lived for many generations, because through their blood their descendants had access to the Memory of Nature, in which the records of the lives of their ancestors were preserved.

3. The original Semites were the first to evolve Will.

4. The purpose of individualization is to break up the nations into individuals, that the Brotherhood of Man, regardless of exterior circumstances, may become a fact.

5. The four causes contributing to this condition were: (1) The clearing of the foggy atmosphere of the Atlantean continent; (2) The indrawing of the vital body, so that a point at the root of the nose corresponds to a similar point in the vital body; (3) The elimination of inbreeding and the substitution of marriages outside the family and tribe; and (4) The use of intoxicants.

6. The more in harmony a man is with the law of Love, and the higher his ideals, the more he frees himself from the Spirit of the Race.

7. Under the Leadership of the returned Christ, the Sixth Epoch will be one Universal Brotherhood of fellowship and love.

Lesson 13:

1. In the Lemurian Epoch man's body had somewhat solidified and had become more like the body we see today. It was ape-like, a short trunk with enormous arms and limbs, the heels projecting backward and almost no head—at least the upper part of the head was nearly entirely wanting. Man lived in the atmosphere of steam and had no lungs, but breathed by means of tubes. He had a bladder-like organ inside, which he inflated with heated air to help him leap enormous chasms when volcanic eruptions destroyed the land upon which he was living. From the back of his head there projected an organ which has now been drawn into the head and is called by anatomists the pineal gland or third eye, although it was never an eye, but a localized organ of feeling. The body was then devoid of feeling, but this organ would warn him away from intense heat before his body was destroyed.

2. Man was under the guidance of the Angels when propagation was necessary.

3. The Lucifers were a part of humanity of the Moon Period; they are the stragglers of the life wave of the Angels.

4. These spirits entered the spinal cord and brain and spoke to the woman. They appeared serpentine to the woman, whose Imagination had been aroused by the training of the Lemurian Race. Inwardly speaking to her, they revealed to her her own body and that of the man and taught her how, together, they might conquer death by creating new bodies. Thus death could not touch them for they, like Jehovah, could create at will.

5. That the interpretation of the eating of the fruit as a symbol of the generative act is not a far-fetched idea, is shown by the declaration of Jehovah that they will die and that the woman will bear her children in pain and suffering. He knew that as man's attention had now been called to his physical garment, he would become aware of its loss by death. He also knew that man had not yet wisdom to bridle his passion and regulate sexual intercourse by the positions of the planets, therefore pain in childbirth must follow his ignorant use of the function. It has always been a sore puzzle to Bible commentators what connection there could possibly be between the eating of fruit and the bearing of children but if we understand that the eating of the fruit is symbolical of the generative act whereby man becomes "like God" inasmuch as he knows his kind and is thus able to generate new beings, the solution is easy.

6. The anxiety of the creative Hierarchies lest man "eat of the tree of life also" and become capable of renewing his vital body was well founded. Had he done so he would have been immortal indeed, but would never have been able to progress. The evolution of the Ego depends upon its vehicles and if it could not get new and improving ones by death and birth, there would be stagnation. It is an occult maxim that the oftener we die the better we are able to live, for every birth gives us a new chance.

7. Transmutation of the creative force will enable the larynx to again speak "the lost Word," the "creative Fiat," which, under the guidance of great Teachers, was used in ancient Lemuria in the creation of plants and animals.

Lesson 14:

1. The first aspect of the Supreme Being "thinks out," or imagines, the Universe before the beginning of active manifestation, everything, including millions of solar systems and the great creative Hierarchies which inhabit the Cosmic Planes of existence above the seventh. The second aspect of the Supreme Being is that which manifests in matter as the forces of attraction and cohesion, thus giving it the capability of coming into Forms of various kinds. This is "The Word," the "creative Fiat," which molds the primordial Cosmic Root-substance in a manner similar to the formation of figures by musical vibrations, as previously mentioned. "The Word" could not have done this, however, until the third aspect of the Supreme Being had first prepared the Cosmic Root-substance; had awakened it from its normal state of inertia and set the countless inseparate atoms spinning upon their axes, placing those axes at various angles with respect to each other, giving to each kind a certain "measure of vibration."

2. "The Son" (Christ) is the highest Initiate of the Sun Period.

3. Jesus belongs to our humanity. When the man, Jesus, is studied through the memory of nature, he can be traced back life by life, where he lived in different circumstances, under various names, in different embodiments, the same, in that respect, as any other human being. But He was of a singularly pure type of mind, vastly superior to the great majority of our present humanity.

4. Christ could not be born in a dense body, because He had never passed through an evolution such as the Earth Period, therefore He would first have had to acquire the ability to build a dense and vital body such as ours.

5. Christ Jesus possessed the twelve vehicles which formed an unbroken chain from the Physical World to the very Throne of God. He is the only Being in the Universe in touch with both God and man and capable of mediating between them, because He has, personally and individually, experienced all conditions and knows every limitation incident to physical existence.

6. Had Christ appeared in a manifestly miraculous manner, it would have been contrary to the scheme of evolution, because at the end of the Atlantean Epoch humanity had been given freedom to do right or wrong. To become self-governing, no coercion whatever could be used.

7. The vital body is the vehicle which Christ will use when He appears again, for He will never take another dense body.

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