

THE VERMONT LODGE OF RESEARCH #10

**ESOTERIC SYMBOLISM OF THE 15TH DEGREE
KNIGHT OF THE EAST A.A.S.R.**

WHO WAS DANIEL?

Daniel played a central character in the 15th degree. He was the wise old man of the Jews in captivity who interpreted the dreams of King Cyrus. But he was much more than that.

In a previous lecture, we discussed the seven levels of initiation in the Mithras mysteries. The first four lower levels-raven-occult-warrior and lion, liken to the Lesser mysteries of the Greek Eleusinian rites. The three higher levels-Persian-Sun hero and Father liken to the Greater mysteries of the Greek Eleusinian rites. In fact, the three higher levels actually create, implement and guide the evolution and spiritual development of a particular nation or culture. For example, the Father of a culture bears within his etheric body the actual folk spirit archangel of the nation. In the case of Moses, he bore the spirit of the archangel Michael within him. With this spirits help, Moses could see the divine plan of the culture and created laws and customs to guide the culture in its development. As law giver, the Father also bore the karma of the sins of the nation.

Daniel was a fifth level so-called Persian. But this is the name of a title, a generic name only. If one was working within the Persian nation, he was called a Persian, if within the Greek nation, he was called a Greek. When Jesus meets Nathaniel, He saith of him: " Behold an Israelite indeed in whom there is no guile!" So Daniel was an Israelite. He was inspired by the Jewish folk-soul Elijah. The folk soul of a nation inspires oracle-dreams in the sleep. He creates the myths and fables within the culture.

As an Israelite, Daniel experience the sufferings of his people. In the 15th degree Daniel says,

" their sorrows are mine....I have learned that we are brethren, that the sorrows and

shame, the affliction and despair of one, are the concern of all, and in my person, chained and clothed as I am, I stand with them and for them and plead the cause of all...let us depart to the land from which our fathers were taken.”

When Daniel addressed the spiritual world, he did so, not for himself, but as representative of his people. This is the unselfish characteristic of an Israelite. A personal petition can only go so far as an angel. A petition for the nation as a karmic group goes to the archangel, which in this case was Michael and Michael, answered his petitions in a grand and majestic way.

In his dreams, Daniel reached a higher level of communion than normal with the folk-soul. Daniel was a wise man with unusual prophetic powers, he saw the future of his folk in his dreams. To achieve this, an arrangement was made wherein he could read the mysteries of the cosmic karma revealed thru the Akashic record. A higher level initiate could see the pictures of the Akashic record during the waking state of clear consciousness. For Daniel, he could only see the pictures during his sleep. With the help of the folk-spirit, Michael, Daniel was shown the pictures of the work of the Archons, the angelic hierarchy immediately above the level of archangels. The Archai are spirits of the cycles of time. Each Archon rules for an epoch of 2160 years and the record of this time is preserved in the Akashic chronicle. The cumulative record of each epoch is held in the memory of the next higher level of angels, the Elohim, of whom Jehovah was a member as well the guiding folk- spirit of the Jewish nation.

Daniel asked that he could see the future of his people. This future of Israel was shown to him as well the destiny and karma of the Jewish nation. These pictures were presented to him by an Elohim being of the host of Jehovah (see: the man by the Tigris river clothed in linen.) But he could only see the pictures. Spirits from the lower hierarchies, angels and archangels, (see: Gabriel and Michael) had to communicate the meaning of the pictures to him. For this reason is easy to see why Daniel was unmatched in the realm for interpreting the dreams of Kings. He had been instructed by the great beings of the angelic hierarchies to understand the meaning of the pictures from the Akashic record. As such, there was no greater prophet of the future and of the three kingdoms of evil in the Old Testament. Only the

prophecies of St, John in the Apocalypse are comparable.

WHY THE CAPTIVITY?

In occultism there is the wonderful spiritual process called occultation. In the religion of Islam, there is a reign of Imams beginning with the prophet and ending with the last, wherein the end of the age is ushered in with splendor and happiness. Whether you believe there are 12 or 7 imams in succession, for both Sunni and Shiite Islam, the last imam has not yet appeared. He is in occultation, waiting to incarnate.

In occultation, there is emptiness, darkness and no time. It is an abyss into which one is thrown and must ascend out of. In the conditions of consciousness, before one can ascend to higher levels of consciousness, that of manas, buddhi and atma, one must experience the abyss after one level is completed and another level is ascended. The reason for this process is simple. The level completed must be extinguished from consciousness and put out of reach, put behind oneself. This is the experience of the abyss. Afterwards, one can begin the slow process of acquiring the next evolutionary level.

What is experienced by the individual is also passed thru by the nation in its development, as well the whole of humanity. The infant Jesus of the Matthew gospel went into occultation in Egypt, so it is a common spiritual event. As such, so too the nation of Israel went into occultation during the Babylonian captivity.

Now the classic symbol for this process of occultation is the astrological sign of Cancer. Here there is a spiraling in towards a center-then a small gap-then a spiraling outwards towards the periphery. For sure these two spirals represent the cosmic centripetal and centrifugal forces that work towards a center like gravity and towards the periphery, like the expanding galaxies in deep space. The secret however is in the center. These two spirals are not one connected continuous line as some may think or as incorrectly drawn. In the center where the two spirals meet there is a gap! This gap is the abyss and a certain JUMP must be achieved to bridge this gap.

Jumps actually do occur in material evolution. The scientist Stephen Jay Gould has

developed an entire evolutionary paleontology based upon his theory that biological evolution proceeds by jumps, not by slow changes over long periods of time, in the Darwinian sense.

In nature we see the seed from the old plant being sown in the ground and in the spring a new plant comes alive in birth. For the secular scientist, something material, however small, must pass over from the old plant seed into the new plant. But this is not so, the old plant and seed are entirely dissolved and dead to the world. The physical condition has completely passed away, into the abyss, but the spiritual condition has remained over. It is this retained spirit that jumps the gap between death and a new life in the plant. When one looks at the seed with clairvoyant vision, one sees the tiny material seed and from it proceeds a long comet like tail extending many lengths. Sort of like a picture of the brain and the spinal cord attached as a long snake extending from out the skull. This tail is the spirit!

So too in all evolutionary processes. In the human, to pass from one condition of consciousness, to another, it is the inner strength of will that jumps the gap. In transitions from the mineral to plant, to animal, to human kingdoms, a gap must be overcome. It is always the spirit that bridges the gap, in both the macrocosm and microcosm. It is interesting that in the ancient wisdom besides the symbol of the vortices of Cancer, the symbol of the ass and its foal, stood for the process of jumping the gap. Very ancient symbols of the constellation of Cancer were often represented by the ass and foal. There are also some very misunderstood symbols of Jesus riding an ass.

THE MERGING OF TWO MYSTERY TRADITIONS

Now it is very important to understand that the Divine plan of the incarnation of Christ within the genealogical line of David could not have occurred without the captivity of the Jewish nation in Babylon. It was here in the abyss of the occultation that two ancient mystery streams of wisdom met and merged. The first stream was that of the Jewish mystery tradition which espoused that the kingly Messiah would be born of the Kingly line of David. The second stream was that of the ancient mystery wisdom of the Persians that within their Kingly line of Zarathustra, a messiah would also be re-born.

The ancient wisdom taught that a great avatar type soul had to be born of a certain class, either of a priestly class or a kingly class, whichever predominated at the time. For example, when the Gautama Buddha was about to incarnate, the wife queen of king Suddhodana had a dream of a glorious white elephant descending from the sky to enter her womb. The king's dream interpreters said that the queen was to bear a son who would be either a great king or great priest. Of course, the Buddha was sort of both, being a great religious teacher born into a kingly family. The birth of this Buddha merged the two classes of priest and king into one person.

As we now know from the extensive writings of the Dead Sea Scrolls of the Essenes, as well the ancient Jewish book, *THE TESTAMENTS OF THE TWELVE PATRIARCHS*, the Jews were expecting TWO messiahs, a kingly Messiah and a priestly Messiah, in two separate persons. This is the story on one of those two messiahs, the Kingly Messiah, as revealed in the Matthew gospel. (The Luke gospel tells of the birth of the Priestly Messiah.)

Years ago, I was reading the *ANACALYPSIS*, a book by the erudite 19th century masonic theosophist, Godfrey Higgins. In it he referred to the astronomical cycle of the NEROS, or more correctly, the naros. It was a cycle of approximately 600 years derived from the ancient Persians. Further spiritual research provided that it was the incarnational cycle of the great Persian avatar, naros or more commonly, Zarathustra. This name was also recorded by the ancient druids of Ireland by the name Zeradusht. Zarathustra was the single most advanced initiate participating in the ancient mysteries. During his incarnations in ancient India, he absorbed the ancient wisdom of the seven rishis. In his Persian initiations, he created the Persian religion of Zoroastrian Mazdaism with the great books of the Zend-Avesta and the hymns of the *GATHAS*. This is the religion of which king Cyrus speaks in the 15th degree with a reference to Ahura Mazda, the great spirit of the sun. During the Egyptian cycle, he taught Hermes, who bestowed the mysteries of Osiris and Isis as well the many wisdom books of Thoth. During the Jewish cycle, he was the teacher of Moses. When Moses fled Egypt after killing a man, he met at a well the seven daughters of Jethro, one of whom he married. That Moses married of the seven was a ruse for his initiation by Zarathustra, then incarnated as Jethro.

Zarathustra is well known in occultism as a recurring personality like Melchizadek or Elijah. When Nietzsche needed a personality to espouse his philosophy of eternal recurrence and his idea of the human superman, he chose Zarathustra, which were introduced in his poem, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*.

The name Zarathustra is two-fold. First, as the great initiate who incarnates every 600 years to renew the mystery wisdom and second, as a title, like the Israelite or King Arthur or the Master of the lodge, appointed to the person who continues the tradition of his mysteries during his incarnation. It is because of this two-fold practice of the ancient mysteries that our university professors can never give a date certain of when a certain great initiate like Zarathustra, or Hermes or Orpheus or Pythagorus or Dionysius the Aeropagite or King Arthur was born or an age when he lived! Because these names appear as the Master of the Lodge or mystery school over hundreds of years during a particular mystery cycle.

Now, a funny thing happened to the Jews on the way to Babylon. Zarathustra had instituted a new mystery school in Babylon during the 70 year captivity. The name he used during this incarnation was Zarathas. Pythagorus was there as well all the great initiates of the Jewish mystery tradition, like Ezechiel and Daniel. Imaging the conversation between Daniel telling Zarathas his visions of the future and Zarathas telling Daniel the story of the ancient history of the world. It must have been quite a party.

In an old 13th century collection of stories preserved in a Syriac manuscript entitled, *THE BOOK OF THE BEE*, by a Nestorian bishop, was an ancient prophecy dating back to the 6th century B.C. connected with the destiny and mission Zarathustra. It says in part:

“A child shall be conceived in the womb of a virgin, and shall be formed in her members without any man approaching her. And He shall be like a tree with beautiful foliage and laden with fruit..... and they will take Him and crucify Him upon a tree and heaven and earth shall sit in mourning for His sake. He will go down to the depths of the earth, and from the depths He will be exalted to the height; then He will come with the armies of light and be born aloft upon white clouds; for He is a child conceived by the word which establishes nature.

When (his teacher) Gushnasp says to Him- (Zarathustra)- “ whence has this one, of whom thou sayest these things, his power.?” Zaradosht (Zarathustra) says to him:

“ he shall descend from my family; I am He and He is I; He is in me and I am in Him. When the beginning of his coming appears, mighty signs will be seen in heaven and his light shall surpass that of the sun. And when that star rises of which I have spoken, let ambassadors bearing offerings be sent by you. He is the king of kings”

This quotation from the ancient book pretty much sums it all up. During the exchange of mystery wisdom during the captivity, the Jewish initiates told Zarathustra that their kingly Messiah would be born out the line of David. But they certainly did not know WHEN for their mysteries had become corrupted by the occultation. Zarathustra told the Jewish initiates that he will again incarnate in (around) 600 years and HIS body would become the vessel for the incarnation of the Matthew Jesus. It was this incarnating Zarathustra described in the gospel of St. Matthew whom the magi visited in a house bearing gifts after following a star that guided them to Bethlehem in full accord with the prophecy of *THE BOOK OF THE BEE* .

This esoteric mystery wisdom resulting from the merging of the two mystery streams during the captivity was passed on in secrecy to the Essenes at Qumran located by the Dead Sea. This was the true priesthood dedicated to the victory of the Sons of Light and using a true solar calendar. They collected and wrote down their preserved mystery wisdom in the Dead Sea Scrolls. The other exoteric priest hoods of the Pharisees and Sadducees had their own preserved mystery wisdom, but certainly not of the quality of that passed to the Essenes. For the Essenes had the calculations of the 600 year cycle of the Persian naros, the Zarathustra, and could predict exactly WHEN the kingly Messiah would come and prepare the mystery schools for the great event.

King Darius was of course informed of the alliance made between the Jews and Persians and graciously liberated the Jews to return and rebuild their temple under the guidance of Zerubbabel. King Darius was a major player in this drama and one must also

wonder why history wrote itself out this way to have the Persian empire restored in all its splendor, wisdom and glory.

Respectively submitted,

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