

READERS' QUESTIONS

Reconciling the Teachings with the Bible— Postmortem Memories—the Value of Struggle

THE ONLY BEGOTTEN

Question: How does the Rosicrucian teaching agree with the Bible in the following particulars. You speak of Saviors and say Jesus is a Savior and class Him with Buddha and Mohammed. The Bible says Jesus is God's only begotten son (John 3 :16). The Bible also says there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12). Jesus said "No man cometh to the Father but by me (John 14:8).

Answer: If you will read the Rosicrucian teachings carefully you will find that a distinction is made between Jesus and Christ. Jesus was a man among men. When we look in the memory of nature we can find His previous lives just the same as other human beings, though He is probably the grandest and most noble soul that ever lived in a human body. But Christ is the highest initiate of the Sun period and had never lived in an earthy body before He took the body of Jesus at the baptism to directly teach men the way to the kingdom of God. Thus both Jesus and Christ are vastly above other grand and noble world



Detail (complete composition includes the *Temptation of Christ*), Oil on Canvas, circa 1580, Paolo Veronese, Brera Milan

The Baptism

At the Baptism, through the agency of the Holy Spirit, appearing as a dove, the Archangelic Christ Spirit invested the physical and vital bodies provided by Jesus.

teachers such as Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius and others.

You are right, the authorized version of the Bible says that Christ is God's only begotten son, but to understand this phrase it is not enough to rely upon the English translation. The term used in the Greek is *ton monogene* and it may be translated as "the alone begotten." The same term is used for plants that reproduce by monogenesis; that is to say, many plants have both male and female flowers enabling them to fertilize their own seed which shall develop and become like the parent plant. We know from the Bible that in the beginning man was male-female, a hermaphrodite. He was then capable of begetting another being by himself. Presently, the division of the sexes requires the participation of another being to procreate.

Therefore, the idea which the Bible wishes to convey is not that the Christ was the sole and only one begotten by the Father. That

may be the case, or it may not, we have no knowledge concerning this matter, but what we do know from the Bible passage is that the Christ was begotten monogenetically, by the Father Himself, without any intermediary. This does not apply to the physical body, however, for the dense garment Christ wore during His ministry among us was the body of Jesus, born in the usual way and traced by historians through Bible genealogy to Abraham as the ancestor of his race.

The Bible is also correct in stating that there is no other name (than Jesus) under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved, and that Jesus declared no man cometh unto the Father but by me, but we must also remember that both these sayings refer to the indwelling Christ spirit by which the body of Jesus was informed during the years of the ministry.

INVISIBLE HELPERS

Question: When one who has been working unconsciously as an Invisible Helper leaves the body at death, will he recognize those in the Spirit World with whom he has been working at night, or will those experiences leave no record?

Answer: The experiences of an Invisible Helper who works unconsciously in the Invisible worlds during the time when the body is asleep may be likened to a dream which he does not remember upon awakening, but the experiences are nevertheless stored in the seed atom and will form part of the panorama of life, so that when he leaves the body at death he will see all that has happened to him, awake or asleep, during the time when he lived in the body. Thus his recollection of what has happened will not be quite the same as if he had gone through it consciously, but he will nevertheless obtain from the life panorama a knowledge



Engraving on India paper (1825), William Blake (1757-1827), British Museum, London

JOB

*What is man... that thou shouldest try him every moment?—Job 7:17-18
Tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope—Rom. 5:3-4.*

and an idea of what has been done, so that though he will not have the same feeling as if he had been going through the experiences consciously, he will soon adjust himself to believe and understand that what seemed a dream is nevertheless a perfectly true experience.

THE VALUE OF DIFFICULTY

Question: What do we gain by struggling? Poor tired humanity is continually asking, “Why do we have so much struggle? Why is there so much suffering, sin, and sorrow in the world? Why did not God make our way easier? He could have done so. What do we gain by it all?”

Answer: For a person holding the belief of only one earth life and then heaven or hell there is no answer. But when one has some understanding of the Great Creative Plan and its method of operation, he is inclined to answer to the last question: EVERYTHING. Knowledge, individuality, soul-growth—none of these could really be ours without the experience of suffering. The plane on which we primarily experience our difficulties—physical, mental, or spiritual—shows the nature of

our greatest need at the time.

If the suffering is physical, we have at some earlier time in this present or in a prior life, or in both, failed to take proper care of our body, failed to understand that it is a temple to be kept clean and pure. If mental suffering predominates, we are probably paying for mental pain we have caused others in former times. If our trouble is of the spirit, we are paying the penalty for having neglected our opportunities, paying for the times we turned our backs on spiritual light. Whichever be the plane (for most of us it is all three), suffering is just what we need at the time, though we may not see it that way. The way we meet adversity determines our individual progress.

We will continue to “fall down” and pay the penalties until after much suffering we have learned our lessons; learned for *ourselves* what those who have preceded us learned for *themselves*. Experience must be ours. We may accept the statement of another, but we do not really know a thing until we have experienced it, lived it.

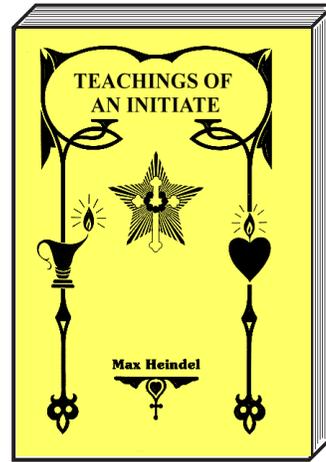
Selfishness, the love of the private self, had to be learned in order that the individual might survive. And we learned it alright! Now we are trying to unlearn it and learn unselfishness, the love of all mankind. Mentality developed through cunning. We used the thinking faculty to get the advantage of our fellow man. We must now learn to use the mind to help others. For a long time we were spiritual automatons, doing whatever our guides instructed us to do, without question. We had to be deprived of this guidance in order that we might find the light for ourselves and of our own free will follow divine guidance. This we are beginning to do. But it goes pretty hard with most of us.

“God made man for a time lower than the angels,” but he will eventually be crowned with glory and honor. This is what we gain. Some will reach the crown stage sooner—some later. We, ourselves, determine our rate of progress. Some require more suffering than others to learn the lessons. Whether by reason of this they will know more in the end than those who stood at the head of the class we cannot say.

God could have made us all happy automatons. Let us be thankful that He did not. □

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