

MYSTIC LIGHT

Adonai

PERHAPS THE MOST compelling name by which Hebrew mystics saluted their God was the name *Adonai*. The very word contains within itself a peculiar radiance, not adequately expressed in its English equivalent, *Lord*. Although it was used as a substitute for the ineffable Tetragrammaton, yet it had an inner meaning and glory of its own. By the inner eye, the eye of the spirit, it was seen as the golden disc of the sun, a glory of light encircling the form of a great Archangel.

In early Christianity the word halo referred only to the partial halo, or aura, of light surrounding the head of a saint or god; the light surrounding the whole body was a Glory. This is the personal equivalent of the Shekinah Glory.

Now when the neophyte begins to sense the inner, or spiritual worlds, he becomes aware of a Sun which shines in that world as our physical sun shines in ours. That spiritual Sun is the light of the spiritual worlds. Its heat is the warmth of the spiritual worlds. Without that spiritual Sun, the spiritual or inner worlds would perish as surely as our physical world would perish without the physical sun.

At first the Spiritual Sun, to the still untrained vision of the student-seer, is seen only as a globe of light, and its warmth is felt by the psychic senses even as physical warmth is felt by physical senses. But there comes a time when to the fully opened Eye, the Sun is seen to be the aura of that Archangel who dwells at the heart of our world, the Solar



Die Bibel in Bildern, Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1789-1853)

The Transfiguration

The Light of the Angel-in-the-Sun, the Archangelic Christ, irradiates Jesus' dense and vital bodies on Mount Tabor. He is shown above clothed in glory. So does Luke describe the halo of light surrounding Elias (9:31), absent in this portrayal. Christ "shall come in his own glory" at the Second Coming. Technically, this almond-shaped aureole, signifying great sanctity, resulting from a highly evolved body of light ether, is called the vesica piscis (literally fish bladder) or mandorla.

Logos. Hebrew seers, whose vision was open to that Angel-in-the-Sun, hailed Him by the name of *Adonai, Lord*.

Now the spiritual Sun, when seen spiritually, really consists of three great Beings, called in Christian esotericism the Father, Christ, and Holy Spirit (Jehovah); but, under certain metaphysical laws which govern spiritual phenomena, Jehovah seems to reside not in the solar orb but in the moon, and He was therefore worshiped as a moon god by the Chaldeans and Hebrews, for He works only with planets having satellites. As there is a spiritual Sun which shines in the interior world, so there is a spiritual Moon, and that spiritual Moon is Jehovah, or the Holy Spirit. Hence, the Moon is his symbol. At a still later stage, we learn that there is a spiritual

Earth, and Initiation conducts us through its nine strata to the Core of Fire at its heart, the Subterranean Fire which is also a SUN to the spiritual vision, and which was also hailed as ADONAI, Lord! For all Life is a mystery of the twofold Divine Fire such as Moses saw leaping in the Bush, and the Bush (the universe) was not consumed but nourished thereby.

When the Initiate looked into the Spiritual Sun, it was that great Archangel whom we now call Christ who was seen. And behind Him was the overshadowing blue orb of the Father, which extended itself to infinity before the spiritual vision, like the azure reaches of Heaven itself.

Such knowledge as this constituted the central core of the Hebrew Mysteries, for the Hebrews shared the Solar Mysteries in common with the rest of the so-called pagan world. Of course, ancient peoples did not use all the same names since they spoke different languages.

However, the Idea was the same in all languages, for language is the fruit of the Race Spirits who are Rays of Jehovah-God, after a manner of speaking. That is, they are channels for His influence. Technically, they are called Archangels.

It was an established faith among the Egyptians that the Spiritual Sun was the creator of life, and Moses, as an Egyptian Initiate, could hardly have been ignorant of this teaching. In fact, the Scriptures abound with cryptic references to an esoteric Sun worship, which far-reaching persecution in late centuries was never able wholly to eradicate. Even so late as Malachi we are still able to find evidences of it: "The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings." A poetic figure of speech? Surely, but fact as well. The Winged Sun was, and is, a well-known symbol of the Egyptian Mysteries.

The Archangel in the Sun was visible to the seers of every race and nation and epoch. How could it not be? Even in comparatively recent times Swedenborg, unacquainted with the Mystery teachings in this respect, suddenly had his vision opened

and saw the spiritual Sun. His followers naturally think this was a unique experience but it is nothing of the kind. Many mystics, over periods of thousands of years, have known this experience; but Swedenborg's case illustrates for us how ancient seers in pre-Christian times may also have seen the Archangelic Christ before His incarnation in Palestine. To the Persians this Archangel was Mithra; to the Chaldeans Shamash, later identified with the Word in Christendom; to the Greeks the Archangel was Apollo and Dionysus; to the Egyptians Osiris; to the Phoenicians Adonis and Osir, these being but two names of the god Osiris.

But not only was He visible in the Sun; He seemed to be really present with His worshippers

when they entered the spiritual worlds by means of the rites of the Mysteries. We have always to remember that space in our physical sense of the word is virtually nonexistent in the spiritual worlds. Space is there, but

space and distance are not synonymous spiritually. Therefore the Archangel-in-the-Sun is close at hand or far away, according to our own love of Him and understanding of His Truth.

The Spirit-in-the-Sun was worshiped as a Savior, the Savior Sun, and was understood to be the representative of the Principle of Light in the universe. As the moon shines by reflected sunlight, so Jehovah-God shines spiritually by reflected Christ-Light. Until Christ's advent, His influence reached us from without by way of the Jehovistic Principle as a channel.

Light in the spiritual world indicates the presence of Divine Intelligence; heat in the spiritual world indicates the presence of Divine Love. (But there is a "false light" and a "false heat" which pertain to the Hell consciousness.)

Now it was in keeping with divine revelation to believe that some day the Lord of Light, visible to Initiates in the Spiritual Sun (the Manicheans and Gnostics called Him Primal Man in the Sun), would descend upon the earth as an earthly Savior, bringing to an end the reign of darkness and establishing



The Winged Sun

Emblematic of the three persons of the Egyptian Trinity, the wings, the serpents and the solar orb are the insignia of Ammon, Ra, and Osiris, respectively. Variations of this emblem also symbolize the clairvoyant center in the brow.

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in its stead a New Heaven and a New Earth. Such an earthly incarnation had become necessary, said the Initiates, because of the materialism among men, which was shutting out the light of Spirit, particularly in the Occident.

The Hebrews did not look for a miraculous descent of the Messiah, or Deliverer, but held that he would be born as a man among men, having both father and mother. In the Book of Enoch He is described as pre-existing with God. This is one of the many Gnostic doctrines which the orthodox Church suppressed. Yet the book of Enoch is quoted in the New Testament in a manner which shows that Christ Jesus accepted it as a true book of revelation, and that He referred to its esoteric teachings as knowing that His disciples were already familiar with them.

From all of which, we are better able to understand Zacharias' statement in the New Testament (Luke 1:78): "Through the tender mercy of our God, whereby *the Dayspring from on High* hath visited us." Also, it helps to know that the Therapeutae prayed each day toward the rising sun, asking that the Divine Light of Truth illumine their minds.

In India it is Krishna who is worshiped as the spiritual Sun. In Egypt, the spiritual Sun was represented by a blue figure in their hieroglyphs, signifying Atum, the Father Principle or, as Max Heindel speaks of it, the invisible Father Fire. Now Krishna, in Hindu sacred art, wears *the golden robe of love* (the Hindus speak of it so), and his body is also a lovely delicate blue. He therefore stands as a prototype of a new spiritual race as yet unknown upon the earth. The Spiritual Sun is saluted in prayer by the lover of Krishna: "May that Sun who contemplates and looks into all worlds be our protection. May it illumine our intellect!" Thus in India, too, the Mysteries of the Spiritual Sun were, and are, known, although as yet India has not come to understand the connection between her own ancient doctrine and the advent of the Christ in Palestine two thousand years ago.

We know that in Greece Dionysus was likewise identified with the Mystic Sun, the Light which shines in darkness, the Light that lighteth every man. Euripides says that when Dionysus came to Greece his worship was already known all over Asia, Asia Minor, Chaldea, Egypt, and Syria. Syria



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Mithra in the Form of the Lionheaded Kronos

Many Mithraic mysteries were performed in grottos and caves. Meta-time is personified as ruler of the three dimensional cosmos (bowing figures). Mithra is wrapped in serpent coils representing the spiral motions of heavenly spheres through the zodiac. He resurrects from the tomb of man-conceived time into the realm of boundless duration, from which the past and future are severed and the eternal present reigns.

here includes Phoenicia and its neighbor Palestine.

Thus we learn that the Mystery of Adonai is a universal Mystery, shared by all the ancient world, even to the name in some instances, which among the Greeks became Adonis. Adonis is the Hellenized form of the Phoenician word for Lord, and as we know, Adonis is Osiris, and Osiris is Dionysus. (Herodotus quite definitely identifies Osiris with Dionysus.)

We have mentioned that the Mystery of Adonai had its subterranean (Chthonian) aspect, as well as

celestial. This accounts for the underground temples, grottoes, and crypts in which the Solar Mysteries were frequently celebrated. The Labyrinth of Crete seems to have been a Solar Temple of this kind, The Mysteries dealt with the mysteries of the spiritual worlds and held out the hope of immortality for the soul. They taught rebirth, and ultimate salvation from rebirth when the spirit should “stand” and go no more out; hence the term “pillars of the Church.” Peter, James, and John are designated Pillars. In other words, the subterranean temple represented a descent into the grave and a rising therefrom, in the manner of an Osiris or an Adonis or a Dionysus —these three being one. It is well known that Osiris was preeminently a god of the underworld. So also was Dionysus-Zagreus as worshiped in the Orphic Mysteries: Zagreus means the Devourer (in one interpretation of the word), referring of course to death. The central Mystery of the Orphic, as of the Osirian and Adonian cults, was the death and resurrection of the god—Dionysus, Osiris, and Adonis, respectively. The Mystic Marriage also figured prominently in these cults, as it did later among the Gnostics.

Since these are Solar Mysteries, we expect them to have an allegorical connection with the progress of the Sun through the zodiac and with the life cycle of the earth and its vegetation. Pherecydes, the teacher of Pythagoras and reputed founder of the Orphic Mysteries of the sixth century B.C., made use of a cave to demonstrate the solstitial and equinoctial turnings of the Sun in its annual circuit. This reminds us of the Mithraic grottoes, and suggests also a remarkable parallel with the birth of Jesus in a grotto and His coming forth from a cave-tomb on Easter morning, events which every Rosicrucian student knows occurred at the winter solstice and vernal equinox, respectively.

There is an ancient tradition that a secret crypt existed under the Temple of Solomon in which esoteric teachings of Enoch were hidden. Enoch also is associated with the Solar Mysteries. This name means “the Initiated,” or “the Teaching,” and he was a Son of Cain. To our own day Mt. Moriah is honeycombed with artificial caverns, due to the fact that the surface of the hill was not wide enough to accommodate all of the Temple structures, and the

hill was therefore built up, tier upon tier, leaving many subterranean passageways and eaves in its interior under the Temple area.

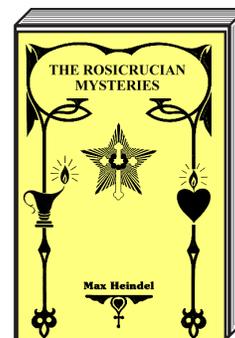
When the Christ, so long foreseen and His descent told in the Mysteries, at last did come to earth, He, as the supreme Hierophant of all Mysteries, set aside the ancient rites and the secrecy and limitation attendant upon them, saying, “Whosoever wills may come.” The ancient schools had outlived their usefulness, and with the coming of the Christian Dispensation they went into the discard—not primarily because of persecution but because an entirely new cycle was inaugurated by the Archangelic Christ. □

—Anne Phillips

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