

FROM MAX HEINDEL'S WRITINGS

The Holy Grail

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND the mystery of the Holy Grail, it is necessary for us to go back to the time when the Earth first came out of Chaos. Then the Earth was dark, and man was embedded in it. Life was working in it to dig him out. Adam was of the earth earthy, as the minerals are now.

Then we come to the second, the Hyperborean, Epoch, where man has a dense and vital body; that was the plant stage. His food was the plants, and we hear of Cain as an agriculturist. Next comes the Lemurian Epoch, and man gets a desire body. He has three vehicles, like the present animals.

Then we have that stage where he is to have food of a nature that will feed all three bodies. This he gets from living animals, as when Abel was a shepherd.

Next we come to the fourth Epoch, the Atlantean, where man evolved mind. Thought always breaks down tissue and causes decay, therefore man must have something in the food line which is prone to decay in his body, so he begins to eat the decaying carcasses of animals. We hear that Nimrod was a mighty hunter.

Finally he comes to that stage where he is to forget his spiritual nature. He is to think only of this life as the one life for him, and therefore he must have something to help him to forget. This stage is ushered in by Noah and the few that were saved with him, who were the pioneers in the present Aryan Epoch. He is the one who cultivates the wine stock and makes the wine that is to help man forget. Man is temporarily to forget the spiritual part of his nature in order to develop fully the material aspect, so Christ changes the water to wine which is symbolically represented in His first miracle.

Thus man became more and more material, and

more thoroughly immured in his physical vehicle. Now an impulse must be given to lift him out, and wine is being changed back to water. We have accomplished the conquest

of the material world, as evidenced in our wonderful progress here in the West. Now we are to return to the use of water, that we may regain on a higher level that spiritual vision which we have lost. That is what the mystery of the Holy Grail aimed at: to purify man so that he might be able to regain his spiritual sight. As we give our children picture books today, we were given the myths in previous times, that they might work upon our feelings and prepare us to understand.

There were two characteristics which were very marked about the knights of the Holy Grail: purity and harmlessness. The two qualities go together.

It was Nimrod, the Atlantean, who first killed to eat, who inaugurated the social evil. Though we injure the animals when we kill them, we injure ourselves the more, for we have ever that social evil in consequence. And when we speak of the social evil, we do not mean only that which we commonly call the social evil, but any intercourse whatsoever except that which is performed as a sacrifice to provide a body for an incoming Ego.

Now when we understand the connection between the social evil and flesh eating, the taking away of life from others, then we can understand why the Knights of the Holy Grail were pure and harmless. Until that time comes when Parsifal



breaks his bow, when he will no longer take life, when he says, "I will no longer take into my body those particles that cry out for separate existence, I will live the pure and harmless life," he cannot feel true compassion.

In the mystery of the Holy Grail, man was told: You see all around you the various kingdoms in the world. There is man, animal, plant and mineral. The life which is in each of these kingdoms is the one universal life of God, which manifests through all these various forms. When the forms decay it becomes necessary to provide other forms in their places, hence the generative activity which serves this purpose. In the plant kingdom, which is beneath you, that activity is pure, chaste and immaculate. There is no passion connected with it in any respect.

In the kingdoms of the Gods, which are beyond you, it is also carried on as a process of regeneration which is pure and holy. But in the kingdoms which stand between the plant and the gods, conditions are the reverse of chaste. Man and animal are passionate. Man is, in fact, the inverted plant. The plant is unashamed and stretches its creative organ, the flower, towards the sun, a thing of beauty and delight, pure, chaste and passionless. Man turns his creative organ toward the earth; he hides it with shame because it is filled with passion. In time man is to become a god, he is to use his creative ability for the benefit of others and not for sense gratification. And so in time man must become plant-like on a higher scale.

Therefore, you see this symbol: The pod of the plant which holds the seed is the grail cup, and the spear which brings that seed forth from the flower is the ray of the sun. You, also, must learn to take the solar force, which is the builder of all forms, and use it in your creative organ without passion, so that that which you create shall be immaculately conceived and not as now begotten in sin.

The juice of the plant flows through its green stem and leaves uncolored, pure and chaste. Your blood is red and filled with passion, but in the regeneration that blood must be cleansed by the spiritual force which will come to you from the spiritual sun, as the forces from the physical sun bring forth the juice of the plant. And having become thus regenerated, you will die as a man to

The story is told of how Lucifer, when he strove with the Archangel Michael over the body of Moses, lost the choicest gem in his crown. It was dislodged in the struggle. This beautiful gem, comparable to none, was an emerald named "Exilir." It was thrown into the abyss but was recovered by the Angels and from that the chalice or Holy Grail was made which later was used to hold the Cleansing Blood that flowed from the Savior's side when it had been pierced by the centurion's spear. Let us first note the fact that this jewel was an emerald: it was green, and green is a combination of blue and yellow, and is, therefore, the complementary color of the third primary color, red. In the Physical World red has the tendency to excite and energize, whereas green has a cooling and a soothing effect, but the opposite is true when we look at the matter from the viewpoint of the Desire World. There the complementary color is active, and has the effect upon our desires and emotions which we ascribe to the physical color. Thus the green color of the gem lost by Lucifer shows the nature and effect thereof. This stone is the antithesis of the Philosopher's Stone.

—Mysteries of the Great Operas, pp 150-151

be resurrected a God.

This conception is also embodied in the Communion Cup used in the churches. It is not a wine cup, but a cup which we may look upon as containing the very essence of life in pristine purity—a quickening spiritual essence. The other emblem held up to the pupils of the mysteries as an ideal to be realized by him was the holy spear, symbolized by the sunbeam that comes down and opens the flower. The sunbeam is the representation of the spiritual power which is working to bring forth all through the universe, a power most potent.

The Elder Brothers of the Rosicrucian Order, and kindred others, which, we may say, in their totality represent the Holy Grail, live on the love and essence of the unselfish service which they gather and garner as the bees gather honey, from all striving to live the life. □