

Purgatory is located in the lower regions of the Desire World. How much time we spend there after death depends upon our desires expressed during earth life. If we have low or even ordinary earthy desires that have become habits, we cannot leave the lower regions until we have purged ourselves of them. We cannot rise high in the air if we are loaded down with heavy material. This is a scientific fact. No more can we rise to heights of spiritual attainment, while still in this material world, if we fill our thoughts with gross material. The thing for us to do then, is to purify our thoughts and weed out gross desires here

and now; thus saving ourselves much time and suffering hereafter, for feeling and desire are intensified when we lose our physical body. What self-control we gain now is carried over into our next earth life in the emotional soul.

In astrology the watery signs of the zodiac are called the emotional signs. We can determine our emotional status by the houses they occupy in our horoscopes and by the placement of the planets therein. Knowledge is power. Therefore, it behooves us to gain as much of it as possible in order that we may begin intelligently to direct our emotional activities.

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## Esoteric Bible Studies

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### TEXT

17. And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lifted up above the earth.

18. And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

19. And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.

20. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

21. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

22. All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land died.

23. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the

heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

24. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

—*Genesis 7:17-24.*

### INTERPRETATION

Students of comparative religions will note that there is to be found a great similarity in all the stories that form the great religious books of the world. The reason for this is that in the evolution of all life there are spirals within spirals and so we find in these similar stories the development of ages long past and also the way of development for man at the present time. Practically every religious history has both a Flood and an Exodus story and describes the beginning of a new race to be formed along higher and more spiritual lines. As students of the occult we know that we are not studying these old-time stories as mere myths of ancient fancy nor are we considering only historical occurrences of the past. In the light of an esoteric study of the sacred scriptures we find them filled with beautiful and eternal

truths just as vital for our understanding and progress now as they were at the time they were first given to early humanity, many thousands of years ago.

Max Heindel tells us that the preparation for the Aryan or Christian religion was begun about 13,000 B. C., when the sun passed the last time by precession through the zodiacal sign Libra, the Balance. Different phases of the germinal religious impregnation of the people then living were carried on during the precessional travel of the sun through Virgo and Leo, and culminated when it was in Cancer about 8,000 B. C., when the last of Atlantis was destroyed by water, substantially as related by the Egyptian priests to Plato.

Before the destruction of Atlantis many of the Initiate-Priests and their chosen people migrated to various parts of the world carrying with them the esoteric teachings of the Atlantean Mystery schools. It was some of these Atlantean Initiates who established the Egyptian schools of Initiation.

The student of spiritual astrology reads in the passage of the sun through the sphere of Cancer, Gemini, and Taurus, the story of the rise, the fall, and the destruction of Atlantis. In the passing of the sun through Aries, Pisces, and Aquarius, he reads the story of the evolution of the racial development and spiritual ideals of the Fifth Root Race man. Each cyclic religion strikes a certain dominant note for its particular Great Sidereal Year, which "year" is of approximately 26,000 years duration. Different phases of development of races and countries are shown in the passage of the sun by precession through the different signs during that great year.

The Great Sidereal Year of Aries, has as its principal keynote the evolution of the Christian or Western Wisdom Religion, which is only in its infancy as yet. As the sun passes by precession through the different signs, ever grander phases of the Christian or Christ religion will be revealed. The Piscean ideal has been

the development of the churches. The Aquarian realization will be Initiation. The body will then be the holy temple of the spirit with the awakened Christ consciousness functioning within. The Capricorn-Cancer dispensation will reach a still higher development. One who understands these sublime truths can never say that the Christian religion has failed. Its spiral path leads us to undivined heights beyond man's highest dreams of heaven.

Recapitulations take place both within epochs and races and there are spirals within spirals in the stories contained in the books of Genesis and Exodus. In both the Flood and the Exodus stories we find different phases of the same occurrence. At the time of the Flood the mists which enveloped Atlantis condensed into rain and flooded the earth, leaving the clear atmosphere of the New or Rainbow Age. Noah and the Ark represent the type of man of that age who received the new covenant. The forty years wandering in the Wilderness signifies a time of preparation. Moses spent forty days upon the Mount. Christ Jesus was forty days in the wilderness; and forty days elapsed after His resurrection before the Ascension. The church also has a forty-day Lenten period in preparation for the feast of Easter.

The stories of the evolution of man in Atlantis and Egypt are interwoven for the reason that both these stories contain the truths of spiritual evolution for all humanity. It is this similarity that causes confusion when the student endeavors to place these incidents historically. Atlantis and Egypt are both referred to as the "land of darkness"; meaning that from each land man has come forth into the light of a new day or has made a forward step in the evolution of religion. The Pharaoh of Exodus symbolizes the kings of black magic in Atlantis who oppressed the people and finally caused the destruction of that continent thousands of years before the time of the historical Moses, who lived

and led his people out of Egypt only about 1300 B. C.

Man's physical body is symbolized by Egypt, or the land of darkness. The word "Moses" means "rescued from the waters," and "the water" signifies the lower nature. Moses led the twelve tribes to the Promised Land, that is, the new religion of the Lamb. Regenerate man, or Moses, the ego, by means of the mind leads his twelve spiritualized faculties to find the Promised Land of a new Christ consciousness—the heaven that is within you, as Christ Jesus stated.

As long as the serpent (spinal spirit fire) crawled upon the ground (the organs of generation), the people had all manner of diseases. When Moses taught them to lift the brazen serpent (the spinal fire) upon the cross (of their own bodies) in the wilderness (the darkness of the lower nature), then they were healed. Those who did this entered into the Promised Land (just as they do today).

The spiritual ideal for man today is found in the sign Aquarius which represents *Equilibrium*—polarity—the body of the Initiate. In Leo, the opposite pole of Aquarius, *is the love power centered—no longer in the organs of generation but in the heart*. Jacob Boehme, an Initiate, gives this picture of the Tree of Life within the body of man: "*Its roots extend no further down into the body than the heart; while its branches encircle the larynx and head*"; thus portraying the exact development of the Aquarian pioneer.

Again, as in Atlantis and Egypt, the worthy shall be separated from the unworthy, the pioneers from the stragglers, and the pioneers shall be led by another Great Teacher to find the Promised Land.

It is thus, through the evolution of religion, that humanity is climbing the great cosmic ladder of attainment through evolved self-consciousness toward a union or blending with the consciousness of God.

### He Whom a Dream Hath Possessed

He whom a dream hath possessed knoweth no more of doubting,  
For mist and the blowing of winds and the mouthing of words he scorns;  
Not the sinuous speech of schools he hears, but a knightly shouting,  
And never comes darkness down, yet he greeteth a million morns.

He whom a dream hath possessed knoweth no more of roaming;  
All roads and the flowing of waves and the speediest flight he knows,  
But wherever his feet are set, his soul is forever homing,  
And going, he comes, and coming he heareth a call and goes.

He whom a dream hath possessed knoweth no more of sorrow,  
At death and the dropping of leaves and the fading of suns he smiles,  
For a dream remembers no past and scorns the desire of a morrow,  
And a dream in a sea of doom sets surely the ultimate isles.

He whom a dream hath possessed treads the impalpable marches,  
From the dust of the day's long road he leaps to a laughing star,  
And the ruin of worlds that fall he views from eternal arches,  
And rides God's battle field in a flashing and golden car.

—Shaemas O'Sheel.

*The Little Book of Modern Verse.*

Whilst I stand in simple relations to my fellow-man I have no displeasure in meeting him. . . . But as soon as there is any departure from simplicity . . . there is hate in him and fear in me.—*Emerson.*