

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Crowning Works of the Ministry

The Initiation of Nicodemus

Nicodemus was a student following the mental path. He seeks Christ "by night" or, in other words, in the darkness of human consciousness or mortal mind. Nicodemus first sought the spiritual light through reasoning about it: "We know thou art a man of God for no one else can do these miracles." As a result of his increasing enlightenment, when the Sanhedrin wished to destroy the Christ, Nicodemus stood forth bravely against them all and championed the despised cause.

The last biblical view of Nicodemus is on the night of the Crucifixion when he brings myrrh and one hundred pounds of aloes to embalm the body of his Lord.

The one hundred pounds of aloes symbolize the unbounded measure of love and service which characterized Nicodemus' life after his great illumination. The myrrh represents both the pain and the sweetness of transmutation. Wise men (Initiates) brought myrrh to the Nativity. Nicodemus, a newly made Initiate or Wise Man, brought myrrh for the Mystic Death Rite.

There is an apocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus which is rich in esotericism. In it he relates an initiatory experience described as the descent of Christ into Hades (purgatorial realms). He saw Christ enter Hades to the chanting of the twenty-fourth Psalm: "Lift up your heads, ye gates, that the King of Glory may come in." He saw Christ overcome the Angel of Death, bind Satan in adamant chains in the abyss and leave His holy cross there in Hades as a sign of victory, after which He was led by the Archangel Michael to the prophet Jeremiah. Twelve thousand (who had completed their purgation) ascended with Him from the lower regions into heaven.

What was Nicodemus that he merited

this revelation of the descent of Christ into Hades? He was one who had been "born again," as Christ had instructed him.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.

Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again.

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth; so is everyone that is born of the spirit.—*John 3:3-8.*

Man's physical body is built through the action and reaction of Fire and Water manipulated by the celestial Hierarchies, particularly the Angels and Archangels. Later in his evolutionary development, through this same action and reaction of Fire and Water, he learns to build for himself a new body of spirit — the living stone of Revelation.

Initiatory Processes

The work for humanity done by the Fire and Water Hierarchies:

Aries — gave the initial power of motion.

Leo — awakened the Divine Spirit in man and gave the germ of the dense body.

Sagittarius — Gave the link of mind.

Cancer — Awakened the germ of the Christ Spirit.

Scorpio — Originates form.

Pisces — Rules the Virgin Spirits for whom the work of evolution in our solar system is being done.

(Continued)