

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## Culmination of the Ministry

### *The Rite of the Crucifixion*

(Continued)

And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.

And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him.

But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and your children. --- *Luke 23:26-28.*

There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;

(Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem. --- *Mark 15:40-41.*

It is only as students of esoteric Christianity that we discover the unifying principle that binds the religions of the world together and places them all, in ever-ascending steps, at the feet of the Christ. Every world Teacher has been a high Initiate and every religion holds some phase of Initiation as its highest goal. They each lead to the throne of the Christ, whose mission was to bring the spiritual power of the Greater Mysteries to the world.

Josephus says that punishment by crucifixion was introduced into Palestine during the reign of Alexander Jannaeus, 104-74 B.C., and that many Pharisees were put to death in this way. It was the common form of capital punishment during the early Christian era. Tradition says that all of the Twelve with the exception of John followed their Master to the cross.

In primitive times it was customary to place a board at the head of the cross bearing a statement of the vic-

tim's crime. That all might understand the inscription placed upon the cross of Christ Jesus, it was written in three languages: Greek, the language of culture; Latin, the language of power; and Hebrew, the language of religion. The one in Latin read: *Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum* abbreviated as *I.N.R.I.* Esoterically deciphered in Hebrew, "I am" (I) symbolizes water; "Nour" (N), fire; "Ruach" (R), air or spirit; and "Iabeshah" (I), earth. Alchemically they symbolize salt (I am and Iabeshah); sulphur (Nour); mercury (Ruach). "Ruach" also symbolizes the sublimated essence of spiritual power, Azoth. Herein lies the secret of the meaning of the Crucifixion which shows us why each one must *individually* follow Christ upon the path which leads *unto this place*, unto Golgotha, the place of the skull.

*Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum* therefore contains a great mystic formula. Christ Jesus was the type of perfection for the entire human race, so it was essential that the letters *I.N.R.I.* be placed above the cross and in several languages. This is not the Path for a single race or creed but for all mankind.

Every detail of the story of the Crucifixion is fraught with mystic meaning. The *two thieves* who were crucified with Him, the *seamless tunic* for which lots were cast, the *piercing* with the *lance*, and the issue of *blood and water* from His side, the *seven last words*, and the *burial* in the *new tomb* cut in the *solid rock* in the *garden* facing *Golgotha*, are all details worthy of deep and earnest meditation, for they will yield much light upon the subject of Initiation that may be found in no other way.

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essence within us. It is at present turned downward, and therefore typifies the first Adam, who squandered this essence. Therefore the injunction of St. Paul that if we are to become the second Adam, or Christ, we should keep the seed within. We must lift this spiritual essence to the heart, and transmute passion into the love of the Christ. This ascending Scorpio force then sets the heart ablaze with the divine fire of love, which radiates through Gemini in noble deeds of mercy and brotherly love.

The pelvis is ruled by the mutable fire sign Sagittarius, which also rules the sciatic nerve, the hips, and the thighs.

The knees are ruled by Capricorn, and the lower legs and ankles by Aquarius. Saturn, ruler of Capricorn, also rules the joints and the bony structure. Saturn's crystallizing influence makes it possible for man to have a skeleton and an upright position. The latter is necessary in order for the Ego to become an indwelling intelligence and rule its vehicles.

Pisces, the twelfth house sign of confinement, sorrow, and compassion, rules the feet. Through its influence man learns to put his feet upon the steep path and walk through the narrow gate which leads him to the realms of holiness. Through its ruler, Jupiter, man gains an understanding of the true aim and goal of life.

Thus we see how the various parts of man come under the control of the twelve divine Intelligences represented by the signs of the zodiac. The earthy signs represent the dense body and its counterpart, the vital body; the watery triplicity represents the desire body; the airy triplicity represents the mind; the fiery triplicity symbolizes the spiritual self, which is potentially divine.

Through the medium of the three triplicities we are to develop our latent spirituality. The sign Sagittarius, the grail cup, contains the base es-

sence of the passionate fire of Mars through its relation to Scorpio. This fire must be lifted to the fixed sign Leo, the heart; thence it must travel to the cardinal fire sign Aries, arousing into vibratory activity the holy Trinity enthroned within this Golgotha, the place of the skull. When the transmutation of the lower into the higher nature has been accomplished, and the latent force of the divine man turned into dynamic spirit force, man will at last be able triumphantly to cry out with the Christ, "Consummatum est!" --- "It is accomplished!"

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*(The esoteric meaning of these details may be found in Volume 5 of The New Age Bible Interpretation by Corinne Heline. ---Editor).*

And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent. --- *Matt. 27:51.*

The earthquake was caused by a change in the atomic vibration of the Earth as the Christ Spirit began functioning within the planetary body. The vibratory rate of every particle of the Earth's envelopes was accelerated and its substance lightened.

The great veil which hung before the Holy of Holies within the Temple, and which was so heavily embroidered in gold, silver, and precious stones that three hundred priests were required to lift it, was rent asunder. The veil before the Temple of Initiation had been both literally and figuratively rent in twain so as to open the way henceforth for whosoever will.

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