

# The Sign of the Prophet Jonas

*Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.*

*But he answered and said unto them, an evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:*

*For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

*The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.*

*The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgement with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*

—Matthew 12:38-42

The esoteric and astrological interpretation of the allegory concerning Jonah and the whale is given by Max Heindel as follows: "Christ said concerning the multitude of materialistic Jews: 'A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign, and there shall no sign be given unto it but the sign of the prophet Jonah'; and much speculation has been the consequence among equally materialistic Christians in latter times. Some have contended that an ordinary whale did swallow the prophet and later cast him ashore. Churches have divided on this as on many other foolish issues. But when we consult the occult records we find an interpretation which satisfies the heart without doing violence to the mind.

"This allegory, like so many other myths, is pictured upon the film of the firmament, for it was first enacted in heaven before it was staged on

the Earth, and we still see in the starry sky 'Jonah, the Dove,' and 'Cetus, the Whale.' But we will not concern ourselves so much with the celestial phase as with its terrestrial application.

"'Jonah' means dove, a well recognized symbol of the Holy Spirit. During the three 'days' comprising the Saturn, Sun, and Moon revolutions of the Earth Period, and the 'nights' between, the Holy Spirit with all the Creative Hierarchies worked in the Great Deep perfecting the inward parts of the Earth and men, removing the dead weight of the Moon. Then the Earth emerged from its watery stage of development in the middle Atlantean Epoch, and so did 'Jonah, the Spirit Dove,' accomplish the salvation of the greater part of mankind.

"Neither the Earth nor its inhabitants were capable of maintaining their equilibrium in space, and the Cosmic Christ therefore commenced to work with and on us, finally at the baptism descending as a dove (not in the form of a dove, but as a dove) upon the man Jesus. And as Jonah, the dove of the Holy Spirit, was three Days and three Nights in the Great Fish (the Earth submerged in water), so at the end of our involuntary pilgrimage must the other dove, the Christ, enter the heart of the Earth for the coming three revolutionary Days and Nights to give us the needed impulse on our evolutionary journey. He must help us to etherealize the Earth in preparation for the Jupiter Period."

"The queen of the South" refers to the composite soul of humanity, which will in time yield to the Christ, indicated here as "greater than Solomon."