

Biblical Symbolism – II

T109 The Inner Teachings 19th June 1940 Pembroke Hall, London

Invocation:

Let those present open their consciousness to the radiant human spirits who dwell in the land of light, and to angels and archangels who come to minister unto men*, and to the presence of the elder brethren, those advanced members of humanity ever serving in God's plan to help forward the spiritual evolution of man. And, being conscious of this great company, let us in unison with them raise our spirits in prayer to the Most High Father–Mother God, that we may participate in the blessing of the Holy Spirit, the Son of God. May we claim our brotherhood with this spiritual life, and receive the blessing of this power, wisdom and love, remembering that truth is eternal. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

*[*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction.]*

During this hour of communion may all the barriers of the lower mind be broken down, so that the higher mind, the vehicle of the ego, may bring through to each the truth of our real being and of our home in the spheres of light to which we are all attached, even the lowliest and meanest of men. All should remember that humanity is a vast family of the same Father–Mother God, and that within the soul of every man burns the light of the divine. Death does not separate those who would serve humanity and as soon as man aspires to heavenly communion he is in the company of holy men. When we say 'holy' men we do not mean the pious and sanctimonious, but wholesome, healthy, harmonious, joyous, radiant friends who can companion us through the classrooms of earth, and through the universities of a higher degree.

Many questions were asked at our last gathering relating to Moses, and these we will endeavour to answer, but first remember that the story of the Exodus of the children of Israel out of the land of bondage is symbolical, containing profound esoteric truths of which some must necessarily be veiled; for they are secrets only to be revealed to one made ready for the higher initiations into the holy mysteries, but here and there we may draw aside the curtain, and give food for thought; we may scatter seeds, and if you nurture them and meditate you will, we hope, find guidance in your search for the Promised Land. The Promised Land: is there a heart here that does not feel joy stirring at the anticipation of such a fulfilment? The very words inspire the soul with desire to be steadfast on the path of light. We must and will find that Promised Land.

We would correct the idea that the truths of Egypt were no older than Atlantis. Atlantis, many people think, was in existence eleven or twelve thousand, or perhaps fifty thousand years ago—a great age. But we are not thinking of time in any such sense. In very, very ancient days, this wisdom of the Gods was taught to men of earth by the gods themselves. The holy light was established on the earth in the holy places, to be given out only when men had qualified to receive the light (or teaching). God then revealed to His children, to, shall we say, the chosen ones of God, the great secrets of His own being; the macrocosm revealed truth to

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the microcosm so that the latter might contact the records of eternity and see in the full light these mysteries of the universe. This teaching of the gods necessarily has to be closely guarded; it was never written—no record could be read by the profane. The secrets were communicated to the spirit of man ‘in the silence of the temple’—the temple being the body of the initiate, and the heart its secret chamber.

Certain symbols which remain quite unintelligible today were engraved on stones. The materialist has no means of interpreting this writing, nor of reading that which the signs of the zodiac and the planets reveal in the heavens. Some of these ancient Atlantean records are included or enfolded in both the Old and the New Testaments, but the Bible is intended to be read both by those who know and those who do not. Those with a degree of esoteric knowledge can read into the stories in the Bible a certain mystery teaching. Those who know not find simple stories which will help them to be contented and to endeavour to be what they call ‘good’. The Bible, in common with other religious writings, guides man no matter where he is on the path of spiritual evolution.

Thus we may find in the story of the Exodus, led by the initiate Moses, the teachings of initiation. In masonic schools are three simple degrees before the master mason is created. In the story of Moses we find that nine plagues (or shall we call them miracles?) were inflicted on the Egyptians by Moses. Here we find the three degrees of the three degrees of the holy mystery schools.

May we interpolate here a reference to an incident which took place before the visitation of the plagues? Do you remember that when Moses first went before pharaoh he cast down his rod and it became a serpent? That, startling as it seems, was nothing unusual, because pharaoh called to his magicians and they too were able to do likewise, but the snake of Moses was able to consume all the other snakes. Here is profound truth. The snake, of course, refers to that slumbering fire in man’s being known as kundalini**. The lesser snakes symbolise the powers in other parts of the body; the power of kundalini draws all these into itself when it is functioning in perfect power and wisdom and love.

[*Exodus 7 : 10]

[**See ITs T 233, T 194 and T 119 particularly.]

Now the records become distorted: the so-called plagues visited upon the children of Egypt are not related in proper sequence; in places the whole story becomes involved, therefore we can only deal with broader aspects and leave you to think out details for yourselves. The Israelites were commanded to slay a lamb, we are told, and the blood of that lamb was to be smeared upon the two door pillars of each Israelite house, that each house so protected might be spared when the first born of each family were struck down. In the New Testament we hear Christ referred to as the ‘Lamb’ of God, who shed his blood for man’s salvation. This is an ancient piece of symbolism, for a deep esoteric significance attaches to the bloodstream. The Lamb of God is slain, and its ‘blood’ is the salvation of humanity. The two pillars (a masonic reference) leading into the house were smeared with blood, and this sign told the angels of death that they were not to enter. That sign was therefore the sign of salvation.

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(Incidentally some of you will know that the skin of the lamb has a considerable masonic significance.)

To go deeper, in the mystery schools death was considered an initiation. The 'death' initiation was important, and the initiated one was later referred to as the first born. Did not Jesus say that a soul must be re-born ere it could know God? So it would seem that this aspect of the story has become so involved that it is difficult to more than hint at its actual meaning. Be that as it may, we can read into the story many of the simple mysteries with which many of us are already acquainted.

The series of plagues visited upon the Egyptians were really tests which all neophytes undergo: the first three plagues or tests signify the testing of the body—the first degree; the next three plagues or tests the testing of the soul; the final three the testing of the spirit. Necessarily many details in connection with these plagues cannot be revealed in this semi-public gathering. We give you sufficient to enable you to ponder and think for yourself, and to work it out. We would make reference to the plague of water being turned into blood. We find the same truth referred to when Jesus turned the water into wine. The transforming of water into blood is one of the mysteries of alchemy, and the knowledge of this is given to the prepared neophyte when ready to be initiated.

A question was asked about the Red Sea. The crossing of the Red Sea is usually accepted as being a purely physical happening, even the actual site is known we think. In the first place, the colour 'red' has a deeper meaning than appears on the surface. Red means the astral body, the storm and stress of the emotional life. The astral body is likened to the sea by the occultists because of its instability. By some magic a passage way was made across the Red Sea. We would suggest that this does not refer to any material happening but has a spiritual meaning, relating to the passage or passing of the soul through the spheres of spiritual consciousness. The soul escaping from the house of bondage, from pharaoh and his armies, must cross a 'sea' of emotional instability. Beyond lies the wilderness, and again beyond lies the Promised Land. The writer who gave this mighty piece of symbolism to the world had no illusion about what awaits the soul on the spiritual path. There are other explanations of course, some suggest that the soul crosses the Red Sea into incarnation on earth. Others suggest that this refers to the bridge built in the brain between the two centres of consciousness. These are ideas which you may work upon for yourselves. Whatever you do, lay any suggestion which we make by the side of your intuition and delve deeply. We would not dogmatise upon these profound mysteries. It is for the individual to find truth. We give you ideas and suggestions only.

We doubt whether these things actually took place on the physical plane. We would not be dogmatic but, according to our reading of the mysteries, we are only concerned with the esoteric interpretation of these stories which we believe and know contain the wisdom and teaching of the Gods.

I was asked to explain the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, appointed to guide the Israelites in the wilderness. During man's life in incarnation that cloud of light is always with

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him—you have it with you now; a clairvoyant can see that light which guides your earthly pilgrimage; a light which you have gradually brought into operation through your many lives on earth. We told you that when the eternal spirit of man first journeyed from the Godhead, as it was born it was the perfect jewel, the perfect child of God, but it was as a babe, unable to think, speak, walk and act for itself, but as the divine spark grows in consciousness through all its journeys ‘from labour to refreshment’ and from ‘refreshment to labour’—during all earth experiences—that child of God gathers to itself that soul body, or the ‘cloud’ which, as the babe grows, becomes brighter and stronger and greater and guides the child as it wanders in the wilderness of earthly life.

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