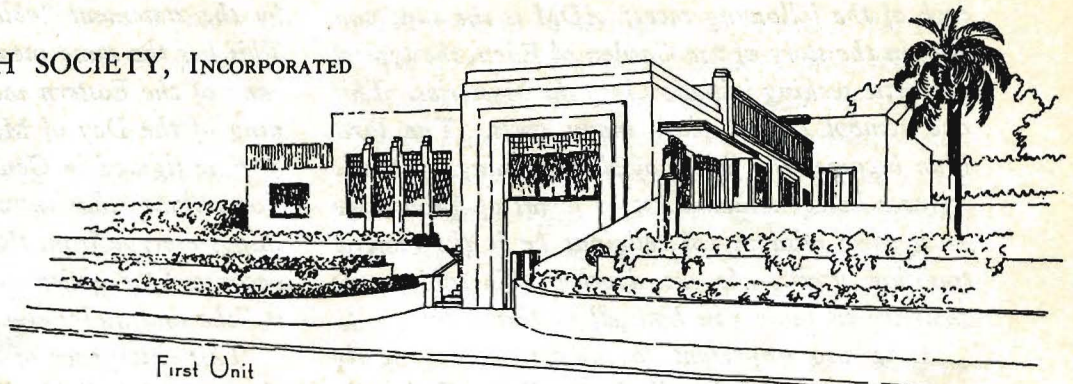


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BIBLE COURSE SERIES

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THE STUDENTS MONTHLY LETTER

Letter No. 2

THE SECRET DOCTRINE IN THE BIBLE

Part II

Dear Friend:

We have already suggested that the story of Adam and Eve as given in the opening chapters of Genesis is an allegorical exposition of the cosmic processes which resulted in the differentiation of the human species.

It is important to realize that the secret doctrine concealed in the Bible must be discovered with the aid of certain keys... Each of the myths, fables and symbolic figures has at least seven complete and distinct interpretations. In other words, to open the door, that is unweil the secret, the key must be turned seven times in the lock. In the ancient Mystery rituals the key was an important emblem of discovery or enlightenment. Neophytes received symbolic keys as part of their investures. In the Mithraic Rites candidates were taken through seven doors, which they unlocked; and in the Egyptian Mystery of the resurrection of the soul the aspirant was brought to the gates of fulfillment and was interrogated by the keepers of the gates.

It may seem strange that one story or account may have several meanings, but such is the working

of the Cabala. In the original Hebrew there were numerical and letter cyphers to aid in the decoding of the hidden information. Translation and editing have destroyed these older Cabalistic patterns and it is now necessary to have recourse to the fascinating field of comparative religion in order to unlock the Biblical secrets.

ADAM AND EVE

As an example, ADM (Adam) is, first of all, species or kind, meaning a particular generation or genre. ADM is also a symbol of Adonai, the creating Lord. ADM is also Aries the first sign of the Zodiac; ADM is the incarnating ego, the father of the multitudes; ADM is the human principle perpetuated forever in the seed; ADM is again Protogonos, the ideal or archetypal pattern, Plato's Idea or Logos; ADM is the universe "whose body nature is, and God the soul;" ADM is the first race of humanity and by analogy the first sub-race of

each of the following races; ADM is the sun; and also, in the story of the Garden of Eden, the typical neophyte seeking initiation into the Mysteries. This one symbol indeed plays many parts. The First Man becomes the figure of all first things. Of the sciences he is mathematics; of forms of knowledge he is pure wisdom; of religions he is the esoteric tradition itself. As we develop this subject we shall try to show you how all of this is true.

It is also important to remember that nearly every personality described or discussed in the Bible is primarily a symbol and not an historical individual. It is a great mistake to believe that there is great spiritual virtue in the perpetuation of history or the worship of ancestors. The virtue lies not in the accepting of the sacred writings but in the discovery and application of the ever living truths secretly hidden in the Scriptural books of the world.

The creation of Adam is described in Genesis 2:7. The Creating Power formed man "of the dust." In the Cabala this man is called Adam Kadmon or the species formed of the red earth. The meaning of red earth in this sense is most obscure but certainly has no reference to physical soil. In a cosmic sense the universe is fashioned of a fiery nebula, and the whirling fire-mist from which the Cosmos was formed is the red earth.

The ancient writings, in describing the generation of the physical bodies of the animal and human kingdoms, declare these vestments "coats of skins" to have been exuded from the auras or superphysical bodies of a divine race which dwelt in space, i.e., the earth's outer atmosphere. This teaching requires considerable explanation.

Man consists of three parts or natures. The first is the divine principle, a spiritual substance identical with spirit and space. The second part is a sidereal nature, sometimes called the soul, and constitutes a superphysical body—the "luminous chiton," the garments of glory, or aura. The third part is the sublunary nature, the objective body with its several systems—muscular, arterial, glandular, etc. Man as Spirit dwells in the substance of the One, or undivided from the Divine Principle. In the Bible this state of identity with the Supreme is expressed

by the statement "abiding in Abraham's bosom." This has the same meaning as the Samadhi or Nirvana of the Eastern metaphysicians. At the beginning of the Day of Manifestation—that great cycle of time figured in Genesis as the Seven Days of the Formations—the innumerable natures of living things emerge from the Original Unity, and "God" becomes "the gods;" whereas the Cabala expressed it, "the multitudes emerge from the simple unities."

This emergence of the gods is their descent into the state of individualized living things. The Primordial Sparks robed themselves in the "luminous chitons" or superphysical bodies. The gods are therefore described as spheres of light, and of this order of beings is man himself—inwardly a divine nature participating in the Supreme Effulgency. This is explained in the Bible by the placing of spiritual humanity (Adam—Eve) in the Paradisiacal sphere called Eden. Here souls dwelt garmented only in light and truth, the auras, as yet undefiled by contamination with physical matter. The records of this ancient time are preserved in the mythologies of all classical civilizations. It is beautifully described in the Gnostic Hymn of the ROBE OF GLORY wherein the paradisiacal state is represented as the homeland or fatherland which all exiled humanity is seeking. With this key, the mystery of Eden is easily unlocked.

EDEN AND THE ANGEL OF THE FLAMING SWORD

The Adamic being is given dominion over the Garden, always a symbol of the astral world, what Levi the transcendentalist calls the astral or magical light. The same allusion to the garden occurs in the story of Parsifal. Here Klingsor attempts to delude the Knights of the Grail by creating a magical garden filled with the enchantments of the senses. In some of the ancient books the universe is called a garden and the planets and suns are flowers blossoming in space.

With Adam (the human life wave) abides also the seeds and germs of the several other kingdoms. In Genesis 2:11 the Creating Power fashions the