

An Epistle on the Discourse on the 8th and 9th

by Frater Apollonius 4°=7° A.`.A.`.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

It is important that before one comes to the full invocation of the Augoeides, one has first evoked the spirits of the seven sacred planets to visible appearance. These bring visions of each, their particular heaven—their particular Gnosis. Then one is ready for the 8th Heaven, which is the sphere of the zodiac about which the 7 sacred planets dance. This is the vision of NUIT in one gesture; or it can be worked out to 12 astrological workings in the spirit of the Labors of Hercules. Certainly, with attainment of NUIT, one must simultaneously discover her Lord (HADIT)—thyself; who is but the projection of the Augoeides; residing in the 9th Heaven.

"My father, yesterday you promised me that you would bring my mind into the eighth and afterwards you would bring me into the ninth. You said that this is the order of the tradition."

"My son, indeed this is the order. But the promise was according to human nature. For I told you when I initiated the promise, I said, 'If you hold in mind each one of the steps.' After I had received the spirit through the power, I set forth the action for you. Indeed, the understanding dwells in you; in me (it is) as though the power were pregnant. For when I conceived from the fountain that flowed to me, I gave birth."

When the connection is made to the Augoeides, the "fountain" of the Aethyr or even the inertia of the Universe flows through that one "[gives] birth" to the wealth of creativity; bringing new-Gnosis, as 'fresh fever from the skies.' And so one passes the shakti-pat of this creative force (the fountain) to others or one brings the prophetic vision that moves life forward and brings awe, inspiration and wonder to existence.

"My father, you have spoken every word well to me. But I am amazed at this statement that you have just made. For you said, 'The power that is in me'."

He said, "I gave birth to it (the power), as children are born."

"Then, my father, I have many brothers, if I am to be numbered among the offspring."

"Right, my son! This good thing is numbered by ... (3 lines missing) ... and [...] at all times. Therefore, my son, it is necessary for you to recognize your brothers and to honor them rightly and properly, because they come from the same father. For each generation I have called. I have named it, because they were offspring like these sons."

In the above verses, it seems like the 'father' is bringing the shakti-pat to his Disciples by awakening the inner fountain that we each carry and the flows to each of us.

"Then, my father, do they have (a) day?"

It would seem that the 'son' is asking that these brothers are also suns.

"My son, they are spiritual ones. For they exist as forces that grow other souls. Therefore I say that they are immortal."

The 'father' declares the immortality of the other Suns; having established the flow of the fountain to each themselves, that is Gnosis.

"Your word is true; it has no refutation from now on. My father, begin the discourse on the eighth and the ninth, and include me also with my brothers."

The act of inclusion would then be derived from the secret about to be given to the 'son.'

"Let us pray, my son, to the father of the universe, with your brothers who are my sons, that he may give the spirit of eloquence."

Though the 'father' or Savior is claiming the initiatory candidate (the 'son') as his progeny, he is claiming the "father of the universe" as the father of them both. This shows the idea of the Savior as someone who is an Avatar of this spiritual current (transmitted by way of shakti-pat) and not 'the' god, as postulated by the Roman heresy. The eloquence of spirit is the sophistication that it brings to the flesh in the making of the soul; that which needs to become immortal as the Spirit is already immortal. (Cf. Congealing the Soul).

"How do they pray, my father, when joined with the generations? I want to obey, my father."

(2 lines missing) ... But it is not [...]. Nor is it a [...]. But he is satisfied with her [...] him [...]. And it is right for you to remember the progress that came to you as wisdom in the books, my son. Compare yourself to the early years of life. As children (do), you have posed senseless, unintelligent questions."

"My father, the progress that has come to me now, and the foreknowledge, according to the books, that has come to me, exceeding the deficiency - these things are foremost in me."

"My son, when you understand the truth of your statement, you will find your brothers, who are my sons, praying with you."

The knowledge of this prayer; the incantation has come alive inside the 'son' and enables him to overcome his "deficiency." This is accomplished as the words become "foremost" in him, which enables the initiatory candidate to find his 'brothers'—what we might refer to as the 'elect' or other immortals.

"My father, I understand nothing else except the beauty that came to me in the books."

"This is what you call the beauty of the soul, the edification that came to you in stages. May the understanding come to you, and you will teach."

"I have understood, my father, each one of the books. And especially the ... (2 lines missing) ... which is in [...]."

"My son, [...] in praises from those who extolled them."

"My father, from you I will receive the power of the discourse that you will give. As it was told to both (of us), let us pray, my father."

"My son, what is fitting is to pray to God with all our mind and all our heart and our soul, and to ask him that the gift of the eighth extend to us, and that each one receive from him what is his. Your part, then, is to understand; my own is to be able to deliver the discourse from the fountain that flows to me."

The vision of the 8th is the vision of Universal Mind; an expansion of consciousness to encompass the ALL. This vision is literally being planted into the mind of the 'son' by the 'father' with a laying on of hands; the shakti-pat. That vision which flows to the mind of the 'father' is then planted in the mind of the 'son'.

The vibratory chanting of the vowels was a technique for invocation practiced by the Pythagoreans in the Greek Mystery Schools. The Greek name for God is a specific combination of vowels: IAO (pronounced: eeeeeeeahhhhhhohhhhh).

"Lord, grant us a wisdom from your power that reaches us, so that we may describe to ourselves the vision of the eighth and the ninth. We have already advanced to the seventh, since we are pious and walk in your law. And your will we fulfill always. For we have walked in your way, and we have renounced [...], so that your vision may come. Lord, grant us the truth in the image. Allow us through the spirit to see the form of the image that has no deficiency, and receive the reflection of the pleroma from us through our praise.

To have come through the 1st through 7th heavens is to have driven one's chariot in the tradition of the Merkabah mystic. These were specific visions that were basically taught in this ancient Jewish system. And as both Jewish and Greek Magick both seem to have evolved from the ancient Egyptian mystery schools, the similarity of approach is reasonable to surmise.

"And acknowledge the spirit that is in us. For from you the universe received soul. For from you, the unbegotten one, the begotten one came into being. The birth of the self-begotten one is through you, the birth of all begotten things that exist. Receive from us these spiritual sacrifices, which we send to you with all our heart and our soul and all our strength. Save that which is in us and grant us the immortal wisdom."

The embrace is the transference; the actual moment of shakti-pat—when the vision is transferred. That it is an embrace is reflected in Masonic ritual at the 3rd Degree in the Blue Lodge; when the most sublime Masonic secrets are transferred.

"Let us embrace each other affectionately, my son. Rejoice over this! For already from them the power, which is light, is coming to us. For I see! I see indescribable depths. How shall I tell you, my son? [...] from the [...] the places. How shall I describe the universe? I am Mind, and I see another Mind, the one that moves the soul! I see the one that moves me from pure forgetfulness. You give me power! I see myself! I want to speak! Fear restrains me. I have found the beginning of the power that is above all powers, the one that has no beginning. I see a fountain bubbling with life. I have said, my son, that I am Mind. I have seen! Language is not able to reveal this. For the entire eighth, my son, and the souls that are in it, and the angels, sing a hymn in silence. And I, Mind, understand."

In Thelemic cosmogony, NUIT is the Universe; the body of stars that surrounds us and is within us:

AL:1.27 "Then the priest answered & said unto the Queen of Space, kissing her lovely brows, and the dew of her light bathing his whole body in a sweet-smelling perfume of sweat: O Nuit, continuous one of Heaven, let it be ever thus; that men speak not of Thee as One but as None; and let them speak not of thee at all, since thou art continuous!"

"What is the way to sing a hymn through it (silence)?"

"Have you become such that you cannot be spoken to?"

"I am silent, my father. I want to sing a hymn to you while I am silent."

"Then sing it, for I am Mind."

"I understand Mind, Hermes, who cannot be interpreted, because he keeps within himself. And I rejoice, my father, because I see you smiling. And the universe rejoices. Therefore, there is no creature that will lack your life. For you are the lord of the citizens in every place. Your providence protects. I call you 'father', 'aeon of the aeons', 'great divine spirit'. And by a spirit he gives rain upon everyone. What do you say to me, my father, Hermes?"

That which is the "rain" that pours "upon everyone" is the Aethyr or in Greek terms: Chaos. Silence is the 4^{th} Power of the Sphinx; Gnosis is the 1^{st} —of one's volition (Will) one then 'dares' the Initiation, which takes a moral courage.

"Concerning these things, I do not say anything, my son. For it is right before God that we keep silent about what is hidden."

"Trismegistus, let not my soul be deprived of the great divine vision. For everything is possible for you as master of the universe."

"Return to <praising>, my son, and sing while you are silent. Ask what you want in silence." What he had finished praising, he shouted, "Father Trismegistus! What shall I say? We have received this light. And I myself see this same vision in you. And I see the eighth, and the souls that are in it, and the angels singing a hymn to the ninth and its powers. And I see him who has the power of them all, creating those <that are> in the spirit."

The 8^{th} heaven beyond the 7 is perceived and even a vision of the divine—the 9^{th} —that "who has the power."

"It is advantageous from now on, that we keep silence in a reverent posture. Do not speak about the vision from now on. It is proper to sing a hymn to the father until the day to quit (the) body."

"What you sing, my father, I too want to sing."

"I am singing a hymn within myself. While you rest yourself, be active in praise. For you have found what you seek."

"But is it proper, my father, that I praise because I am filled in my heart?"

"What is proper is your praise that you will sing to God, so that it might be written in this imperishable book."

"I will offer up the praise in my heart, as I pray to the end of the universe and the beginning of the beginning, to the object of man's quest, the immortal discovery, the begetter of light and truth, the sower of reason, the love of immortal life. No hidden word will be able to speak about you, Lord. Therefore, my mind wants to sing a hymn to you daily. I am the instrument of your spirit; Mind is your plectrum. And your counsel plucks me. I see myself! I have received power from you. For your love has reached us."

"Right, my son."

"My son, write this book for the temple at Diospolis in hieroglyphic characters, entitling it 'The Eighth Reveals the Ninth."

In Thelemic terms, the vision of NUIT (the 8^{th}) must instantly correspond with the vision of the 9^{th} (Hadit) as NUIT is the fabric of stars that are each their own HADIT. One cannot perceive one without the other as they are integrally married to one another.

The practicing Mage or Merkabah Mystic would naturally write down his vision or his experience in a holy book; these books being called in ancient times, apocalypses. The song contained therein is the song of prophecy; the gateway vision of the higher realms—the Hekaloth (heavens).

"I will do it, my <father>, as you command now."

"My <son>, write the language of the book on steles of turquoise. My son, it is proper to write this book on steles of turquoise, in hieroglyphic characters. For Mind himself has become overseer of these. Therefore, I command that this teaching be carved on stone, and that you place

it in my sanctuary. Eight guardians guard it with [...] of the Sun. The males on the right are frogfaced, and the females on the left are cat-faced. And put a square milk-stone at the base of the turquoise tablets, and write the name on the azure stone tablet in hieroglyphic characters. My son, you will do this when I am in Virgo, and the sun is in the first half of the day, and fifteen degrees have passed by me."

The time in which the Gnostic codices were created was the inauguration of the Age of Pisces; but also the Manifestation of Sagittarius—that would comprise the Age of Pisces, as well as two more to follow: Aquarius and Capricorn. Sagittarius is the Manifestation of Truth; its sacred stone being turquoise.

"My father, everything that you say I will do eagerly."

"And write an oath in the book, lest those who read the book bring the language into abuse, and not (use it) to oppose the acts of fate. Rather, they should submit to the law of God, without having transgressed at all, but in purity asking God for wisdom and knowledge. And he who will not be begotten at the start by God comes to be by the general and guiding discourses. He will not be able to read the things written in this book, although his conscience is pure within him, since he does not do anything shameful, nor does he consent to it. Rather, by stages he advances and enters into the way of immortality. And thus he enters into the understanding of the eighth that reveals the ninth."

"So shall I do it, my father."

"This is the oath: I make him who will read this holy book swear by heaven and earth, and fire and water, and seven rulers of substance, and the creating spirit in them, and the <unbegotten> God, and the self-begotten one, and him who has been begotten, that he will guard the things that Hermes has said. And those who keep the oath, God will be reconciled with them and everyone whom we have named. But wrath will come to each one of those who violate the oath. This is the perfect one who is, my son."

Love is the law, love under will.

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