

READERS' QUESTIONS

Determining the Time of Easter

Question: Will you please explain from the occult viewpoint why we celebrate Easter at the time we do?

Answer: Before the Christ all the religions were race religions suited to the people to whom they were given and suitable only for those people. All these religions were Jehovah religions. As the Father was the highest Initiate of the Saturn Period, so Christ, the Son, was the highest Initiate of the Sun Period, and Jehovah, the Holy Spirit, was the highest Initiate of the Moon Period. From Jehovah then came the race religions which endeavor to prepare mankind along the path of evolution by means of law.

These race religions are to be superseded by the universal religion of the Sun Spirit, Christ, which will unite all men into one brotherhood. The change from one to the other and the fact that the religion of the lunar God, Jehovah, must precede the religion of the Sun Spirit, Christ, is symbolized by the manner in which Easter is determined.

The rule in present use for determining the time of Easter is that it falls on the first Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon. This was the original time adopted by the earliest Christians who had knowledge of and regard for the occult signifi-

cance, but very soon ignorant people started schisms and fixed it at different times. This occasioned no little controversy. In the second century a dispute arose on this point between the Eastern and Western churches. Eastern Christians celebrated Easter on the 14th day of the first Jewish month or Moon, considering it to be equivalent to the Jewish Passover.

The Western Christians kept it on Sunday after the 14th day, holding that it was the commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus. The Council of Nice, 325 A.D., decided in favor of the Western use, branding the Eastern practice with the name of heresy. This, however, only

settled the point that Easter was to be held not on a certain day of the month or Moon, but on a Sunday. The proper astronomical cycle for calculating the occurrence of the Easter Moon was not yet determined, but it was finally decided to defer to the old method of fixing the festival by the Moon, and so the ancient original custom was eventually revived.

Thus Easter is now held upon the same day as required by the occult tradition to symbolize properly the cosmic significance of the event, and in this respect both the Sun and the Moon are necessary factors, since Easter is not merely a solar

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festival. The Sun must go not only past the equator, as it does on the 21st of March, but the full Moon after the vernal equinox must also be passed. Then the following Sunday is Easter, the day of Resurrection.

The light of the vernal Sun must be reflected by a full Moon before that day can dawn on earth, and there is, as said, a deep meaning behind that method of determining Easter; viz., that humanity was not sufficiently evolved to have the religion of the Sun, the Christian religion of universal brotherhood, until they had been fully prepared through the religions of the Moon, which segregated and separated humanity into groups, nations, and races. This is symbolized by the annual rise of the Sun Spirit at Easter being deferred until the Jehovistic Moon has thrown back and fully reflected the light of the Easter Sun.

All the founders of race religions (Hermes, Buddha, Moses, etc.) were Initiates in the Jehovistic mysteries. They were Sons of Seth. At their initiation they became ensouled by their particular Race Spirit, and this Spirit, speaking through the mouth of such an initiate, gave laws to his people, as for instance, the Decalogue of Moses, the Laws of Manu, the noble truths of Buddha, etc. These laws manifested sin because the people did not and could not keep them at their stage of evolution. So they made a certain debt of destiny in consequence. This destiny the human initiate founder of the religion had to take upon himself and so to be born again and again to help his people. But Christ did not need to take birth in the first place. He did it of His own free will to help humanity, to abrogate the law that brings sin, and emancipate humanity from the law of sin and death.

The Race religions of the lunar God, Jehovah, conveyed the will of God to mankind in an indirect manner through seers and prophets who were but imperfect instruments, as the lunar rays reflect the light of the Sun. The mission of these religions was to prepare mankind for the universal religion of the Sun Spirit, Christ, who manifested among us without an intermediary as the light which comes direct from the Sun, and "we beheld His glory as the Alone Begotten of the Father," when He taught us the gospel of love.

The Christian religion gives no laws, but preaches love as the fulfillment of the law. Therefore, no debts of destiny are generated under it, and Christ, who was under no necessity to be born in the first place, will not be drawn to rebirth under the Law of Causation as were the founders of the lunar race religions, who must bear from time to time the sins of their followers. When He appears it will be in a body made of the two higher ethers: the light and reflecting ethers, the golden wedding garment called *soma psuchicon* or soul body by Paul, who is very emphatic in his assertion that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. He asserts that we shall be changed and be like Christ, and if we cannot enter the kingdom in a fleshy body, it would be absurd to suppose that the King of Glory would wear such a coarse, cumbersome garment.

The priestcraft from which Jehovah drew His representatives, the prophets and founders of religions, and spiritual temple builders, are the Sons of Seth. The Sons of Cain still feel in their breasts the divine nature of their ancestor. They repudiate the indirect method of salvation by faith of the church and insist upon finding the light of wisdom themselves by the direct methods of work, perfecting themselves in the arts and crafts and building the temple of material civilization by industry and statecraft according to the plan of God, the Grand Architect of the Universe, Christ being 'the Chief Corner Stone' and each mystic Mason a 'living stone'.

In time, however, these two great streams of the Sons of Seth and the Sons of Cain must unite in order to reach the portals of the Kingdom of Christ. Before His time there was no way in which such an amalgamation could take place, but when Christ, the great Sun Spirit, came, Solomon was reborn as Jesus, into whose lower vehicles the Christ Spirit entered at the Baptism; and Hiram Abiff was reborn as Lazarus. When Lazarus was raised up by the strong grip of the Lion of Judah's paw, Hiram and Solomon, the former antagonists, sank their differences as prompted by the Christ Spirit, and both are working now for the establishment of the Kingdom of Christ. □

—Max Heindel