

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Abraham

The Cosmic Pattern for the Man of the Fifth

Root Race

Abraham, whose name means “father of multitudes,” was the first of the Initiate teachers sent to the new Fifth Root Race which inhabited the earth after the destruction of the Atlantean continent by the Flood. He came from Ur, the city of “light,” and settled in Haran, “a high place.” Sarah and Lot traveled with him. Sarah, meaning “princess,” signifies the feminine or love principle, and Lot, identified chiefly with Sodom, represents the lower nature. Thus, Abraham journeys away into the new land accompanied by both the higher and the lower elements within his nature.

As a pioneer, Abraham represents, astrologically, Saturn, who presides over beginnings of manifestation, and whose forces mold form out of the substance emerging from Chaos.

To the spiritually enlightened it has always been held that every place mentioned in the Bible is here and now, and that every person mentioned is you, yourself. Thus, for example, Abraham’s two wives, Sarah and Hagar typify man’s higher and lower natures, respectively, and the two sons which they bore represent the attributes and deeds which result from the activities of these two opposing natures in man. Hagar and her son Ishmael, typify the lower self; Sarah and her son Isaac, typify the higher. The name *Isaac* means joy, the joy that comes with living true to the higher self.

Abraham was first known as Abram and his wife Sarah as Sarai. With Abraham’s First Initiation the letter H was added to their names. H, a feminine let-



J. James Tissot, 1836-1902, Brooklyn Museum

The three angels who appeared to Abraham, appearing as men (Genesis, Chapter 18), are cited as an early instance of the Christian Trinity. Esoterically they represent the threefold spirit individualized as the human Ego.

ter, when added to the names *Abram* and *Sarai*, indicates that in their initiatory experiences they had awakened within them the feminine or intuitive principle. The quickening of this principle gives birth to Isaac which, in the present context signifies the joy the soul experiences when it establishes right and harmonious relations with the Over-Soul.

Abraham embodied what may be called the archetype of the Fifth Root Race. Hence the principal events which occurred in his life as recorded in the Bible are to be emulated in their essential significance by each and every individual belonging to the present Aryan Root Race.

Abraham reached that high place in spiritual attainment which permitted him to commune face to face with the very Lord of Hosts. But the higher the soul ascends, the more subtle the temptations and the more severe the tests and trials to be met and overcome. This being so, “many turned back, and walked with the Christ no more.”

In his spiritual progression Abraham eventually encountered one of the greatest of all tests on the

initiatory path, the one known as the Great Renunciation. Thus we read in Genesis (22:7-22):

And Isaac spoke unto Abraham his father, and said, My Father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt-offering: so they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

This passage reveals Abraham's complete surrender of self. He had the will, the courage, and the fortitude to meet the test successfully. In so doing he opened the door to an influx of power and illumination little dreamed by those who have not been so tried and proven. He had unquestioned faith to obey the command of the Lord (Law), whatsoever the cost. Such is the course that qualifies one for carrying out some major part in God's great plan for man. Christ's assertion that "He that findeth his life, shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake, shall find it," is a Temple teaching belonging to the ages.

Again we read in Genesis 22:13:

Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

The ram is the symbol of Aries. This sign was called "the lamb bearing one" by the ancients. In its highest aspects, the keywords for Aries are purity, service, and sacrifice. It is a sign of the resurrection. Pisces, the last sign in the zodiac, is the place of sorrow, the garden of tears, the Gethsemane on the Path. Its gate closes, but only to open on the first zodiacal sign, Aries, heralding the arrival of one new-born. Abraham had now arrived at this place in his initiatory development.

One of the supreme spiritual experiences in the life of Abraham was his meeting with Melchizadek,

who was one of the world's highest initiatory teachers. He was one of the Chief High Priests of Atlantis and Teacher of the remnant which survived the destruction of Atlantis by the Flood. Noah and his family are generic terms for that remnant.

Melchizadek gave to Abraham the profound spiritual mystery teachings which later became known in the Christian world as the Christ-mass, and which orthodox Christianity speaks of as the Holy Communion. A higher version of this same spiritual mystery was the last and most sublime teaching which the Lord Christ gave to his most advanced disciples during his three year ministry upon Earth. A still higher revelation of this sacred mystery will become central to the teaching and the ritualism of the New Aquarian Age religion.

After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward. And Abram said, Lord God, what stilt thou give me, seeing that I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezar of Damascus?—Gen. 15:12

It was after Abraham's meeting with Melchizedek that the Lord came to him in a vision. This question he then asked of the Lord: "What wilt thou give me seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?"

This question holds the key to an understanding of one of the most occult chapters in the Bible. To interpret briefly: The name Eliezer means "help of God." It signifies the awakened powers of divinity within. Eliezer is the pious and faithful steward of Abraham's household, which here signifies the body. He is of Damascus, a city which in biblical symbology signifies a center of illumination and a place where flowers are in perpetual bloom. Hitherto barren of progeny, what Abraham now asks the Lord is, in effect, what is he to bring forth, seeing that the God within is now functioning in a center of light, and that the spirit is in command of his personal attributes and faculties.

That this was an experience in the inner realms is indicated in the statement that his meeting with the Lord was in a vision. The spiritual aspect of the entire experience is, moreover, indicated by the Lord's promise to Abraham that the heir he sought would come forth out of his own "bowels," or interior being. His spiritual offspring was to be with-

out number, as the very stars in heaven. Abraham believed because his “mortal mind,” the physical senses, his unbelieving part, gave way to his soul’s clear perception of truth on the plane of consciousness to which he had now ascended.

The Lord also promised Abraham that unto his seed would be given the land that stretches “from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.” Abraham then asked whereby he would know that such was to be his inheritance. The Lord replied enigmatically: “Take me an heifer of three years old and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.” (Gen 15:9)

He did so. But it was not a bloody sacrifice that he was called upon to perform. The entire experience recorded in this chapter occurred on a super-physical level, and the words describing it must be considered in terms of symbols if their inner meanings are to be apprehended in even the slightest degree. It must always be remembered that the deepest spiritual truths are never committed to writing but conveyed by word of mouth from Teacher to disciple in accordance with the latter’s worthiness and understanding. Insofar as they are or can be transcribed in writing, symbols and ciphers of various kinds must convey as best they can what words alone cannot do.

Since this is so, such written references as are made to the highest experiences of the soul are by their very nature obscure and enigmatic to all except those who have attained a state of consciousness that penetrates into the soul of things and makes first-hand observation and corroboration possible. The ceremonialism of the exoteric religionist is but a mutilated fragment of the glorious ritualism to be found in the Bible when this is read in the light of its esoteric content.

Returning to the question of animal sacrifice, such was not the offering of Abraham at this time. The “wings which the soul fashions for high ascent” are not built of the agony and death of any living thing, but by sympathy, compassion, and an all-embracing, unifying love which includes all God’s creatures from the highest to the lowest. The inner soul qualities requisite for the high attainment reached by an Initiate like Abraham can be

formed in no other way.

Let us apply the astrological key to the sacrifices required of Abraham. The heifer is a symbol of Taurus, and its sacrifice means renunciation of all base desires and selfish love. The goat is the symbol of Capricorn; it signifies the sacrifice of worldly power and ambition. The sheep is the symbol of Aries and represents the resurrection of the life powers through chastity and transmutation. The turtle-dove and pigeons are symbols of Libra, the Balance, and refer to the “subtle experiences that test judgment at this stage of attainment

It is also to be noted that Abraham’s sacrifice was made in Mamre, meaning strength, and near Hebron, meaning unity.

And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years.—Genesis 15:12-13

Here is an outline of all that can be given publicly concerning the process of a certain Initiation. It tells of the ecstasy of spirit which accompanies the “great darkness.” When Abraham lost consciousness on the physical plane he was awake in the inner or etheric realms. In God’s Book of Remembrance he then reads in cosmic pictures the future events connected with the Aryan peoples whom he is being prepared to lead. Abraham’s seed, the fruits of the spirit, are not in their home world when on Earth. They are strangers, passing through and serving matter, and subject to its limitations until the lower quaternary of form (400 years) has been transcended by the triune powers of spirit.

And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and! a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.—Genesis 15:17

Heat, smoke and fire are inseparable from the refining processes that lead to Illumination. That Abraham passed through the “furnace” successfully and qualified himself for higher service is clear from the covenant which the Lord made with him “in the same day” saying, “Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.” □