

Esoteric Bible Studies

BY CORINNE S. DUNKLEE

TEXT

15. So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

16. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows.

17. Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

—*Jonah, Chapter I.*

INTERPRETATION

The book of Jonah is a widely discussed but perhaps the most misunderstood book of the Old Testament. As Moses was an Initiate of the Aryan religion and was commanded to lead his people away from the Taurian worship, so Jonah was an Initiate of the Piscean religion and was required to guide the people of Nineveh into an understanding of the spiritual principles embodied within this new phase of religion.

Jonah in Hebrew means a dove, the Dove of the Holy Spirit. During the three Cosmic Days known as the Saturn, Sun, and Moon Periods the Holy Spirit and the creative Hierarchies worked in the great deep, perfecting the inward parts of the earth and man. The earth and its humanity emerged from its watery stage of development in the middle of the Atlantean Epoch. Thus did Jonah, the Dove of the Holy Spirit, accomplish the salvation of mankind.

In its personal application Jonah refers to the ancient Initiations. While the dense body was entranced, the Ego roamed the Desire World for three and one-half days and returned to its body on the morning of the fourth day at sunrise, when the aspirant was greeted as "new-born" and given a new name. It was this knowledge which caused Christ Jesus to address Peter as Simon Barjona, or Son of the Dove. He knew him as an Initiate of the Piscean Dispensation. And again He said for the

same reason, "Simon, son of Jona, . . . thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." This does not mean any ecclesiastical organization but refers to the spiritual building not made with hands which is to be built by every man when he becomes like Jonah a son of the Dove.

The book of Jonah is one of the most interesting studies of spiritual unfoldment that is given in our Bible.

The Cycle of Rebirths

BY ROSE HAMILTON

MANY rebirths under ever varying conditions of earth life are needed before the Ego evolves the power to perceive the purpose of its tribulations in the physical body. But when the time is ripe, a quickening of consciousness takes place, certain qualities of the soul unfold, and the Ego slowly awakens to a realization of its divine attributes and the glorious destiny that awaits it when its earthly tasks are mastered.

This enlargement of consciousness marks an epoch in the evolution of the Ego: the soul awakens from a trancelike sleep and longs to express itself, it chafes against the restraints of the flesh, and through its struggles to free itself it learns the laws of its being and gradually becomes the arbiter of its destiny. Having found its real goal it no longer battles blindly against adverse circumstances, but with the light of truth as a guide it labors consciously to obtain the mastery of worldly conditions. By persistent effort it learns to profit from past experiences and errors, and by making fewer mistakes in its present life creates better conditions for its future rebirths.

During our journeyings through the world of sin and sorrow, we gain these beneficial experiences, and by making the best use of them hasten the day of our liberation from the necessity of rebirth.