

## Esoteric Bible Studies

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FAMOUS SONGS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

### VII.—*Jotham's Parable.*

#### TEXT

8. The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us.

9. But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

10. And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us.

11. But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?

12. Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us.

13. And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

14. Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, and reign over us.

15. And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

—*Judges 9:8-15.*

#### INTERPRETATION

When we familiarize ourselves with the Rosicrucian Philosophy, we shall prove for ourselves the truth of the statement of our revered leader, Max Heindel, when he said that the Rosicrucians hold the key to the deeper or esoteric mysteries of the Christian religion, and also the key to the textbook of this religion, our Christian Bible.

This parable of Jotham, considered by scholars to be one of the beautiful songs of Old Testament literature, both conceals and reveals truths concerning man's spiritual evolution which have been known and practiced by those who were ready for the development it brings. These truths in secret or hidden form have been concealed in legend and fable and passed on down through the ages for those who were able to read between the lines, for those who could lift the

veil and discover the occult gems concealed there.

The olive tree as used throughout the Bible symbolizes *regeneration*, typified astrologically and alchemically by Neptune, the planet of supreme spiritual power.

The fig tree symbolizes *generation*, typified astrologically and alchemically by the moon, the planet of fecundation.

The bramble symbolizes *degeneration*, typified astrologically and alchemically by Mars, the planet connected with the misuse of the sacred creative fire within man.

By the process of generation carried on at a propitious time under the guidance of the angels man was treading the path to God, following the highway of evolution as originally planned. From this path he strayed into the byway of degeneration, led by the Lucifer spirits. To escape from this he must have the aid of beings more highly advanced than he before he could regain his original place in God's divine plan. This was the reason for the great sacrifice of the glorious archangel, the Christ.

When man realizes these truths, he becomes the candidate of the Masonic legend, traveling toward the *east* in search of *Light*. This brings him to the path of *regeneration*, where the Lords of Mercury stand ready to further his quest.

The ancient alchemists in describing this development connected the angels from the moon with the element salt, the Lucifer spirits from Mars with the element sulphur, and the Lords of Mercury with the metal known as mercury. They referred also to a mysterious substance, Azoth, by which they meant the sublimated essence of spiritual power, ruled by the planet of divinity, Neptune.

The spinal cord, the home of the coiled and sleeping spinal serpent fire, was to

the alchemists of medieval days the crucible in which gross matter was transmuted into gold. This cord is divided into three parts under the rulership of the moon, the Lucifers, and Mercurians. The great power of Neptune plays through the spinal spirit fire flowing up the central spinal canal. The raising of this fire to the head is the great work of everyone who follows the Christ on the Way of Attainment. This process is given in many ways throughout that wonderful book of Christian Initiation, the Bible, when we have eyes to see and *hearts prepared by pure living* to receive.

This wonderful process of purification and regeneration is outlined for us here in the Book of Judges. The vine symbolizes aspiration or idealism; it is the vision without which nothing is accomplished and without which the people must perish, Isaiah tells us. Those who put their dependence in the bramble, or the life of the senses, are trusting only in a shadow which must ever prove fleeting, transitory, and unreal. It is the fire of the bramble which ever destroys the cedars of Lebanon. It was commanded that Solomon's temple be built entirely of the cedars of Lebanon.

When the spinal spirit fire is gradually lifted to the head by pure and regenerate thoughts, words, and deeds, it touches and sets into vibration the pineal and pituitary glands, the spiritual organs of the head. This fire then radiates through the entire body, and causes the auric radiance always pictured about the body of saints and Initiates. Such a one has become a *living stone*. This was the development of Peter when he was designated by the Master as the *rock* upon which the church was founded.

### What "Short Memories!"

*"I am convinced that there is no part of the United States that has not been improved by the prohibition law.*

*"The year before the war broke out*

*in Europe there were, in Jersey City, twelve hundred saloons, across the bars of which, on Saturday night, eighty-five thousand men could be seen squandering their week's wages.*

*"In doorways, on the sidewalks, in gutters, as the night wore on, were to be seen helpless men and women.*

*"These were not homeless people. They were American workers, and the money they had squandered was money needed for their poor families.*

*"How short are the memories people have! In what industrial center in America does anything of this sort happen today?"*

*"Eighty per cent of that suffering among the families of the common laborers was wiped out by prohibition.*

*"In less than a year you could have seen the difference."*

*—Evangeline Booth.*

### The Optimist

I sing a song to the optimist,  
To the man that is brave and strong,  
Who keeps his head when things go right,  
And smiles when things go wrong.

I am proud of the genial optimist,  
His radiant voice and speech;  
He helps to smooth the rugged path  
Of all within his reach.

I like the way of the optimist  
Who looks for the bright and best;  
He scatters sunshine as he goes  
And leaves his fellows blest.

I am glad to meet the optimist  
With his message of good cheer.  
He carries hope and confidence  
To those assailed by fear.

So here's a song to the optimist  
Who joyously works and sings,  
And daily shows this weary world  
The way to better things.

*—Grenville Kleiser.  
In "Health Culture."*