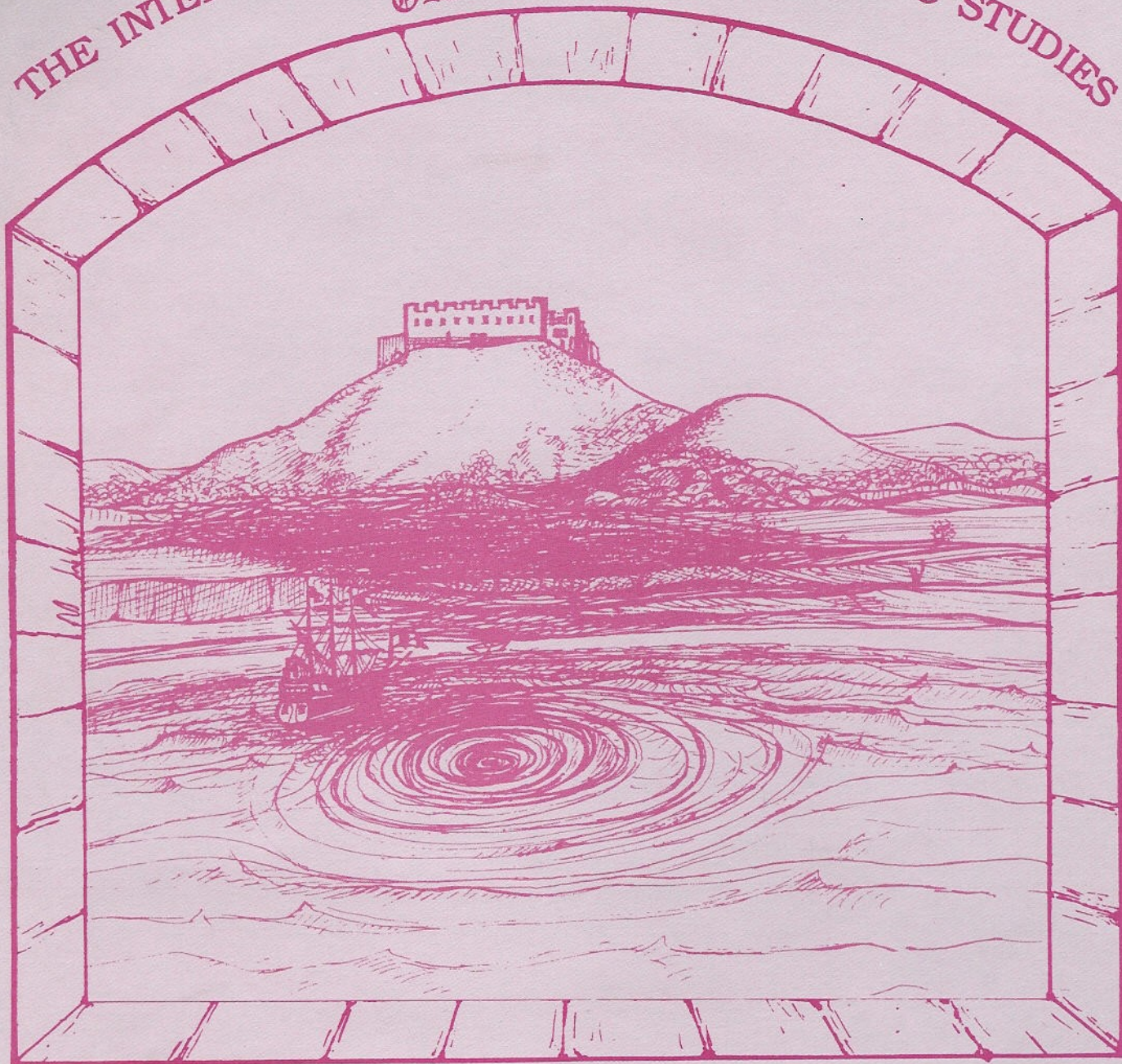


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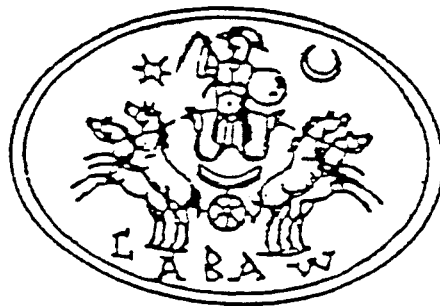
DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND MYSTICAL ENLIGHTENMENT OF MAN

THE HIDDEN CHURCH
OF THE ILLUMINATI

A Review of
The Esoteric Tradition from
Atlantis to the present day

- by -

RICHARD, DUC DE PALATINE



THE SANCTUARY OF THE GNOSIS
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THE HIDDEN CHURCH OF THE ILLUMINATI

- by -

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The present Grand Hierophant of The Order of the Pleroma, himself an Initiate of many of the Assemblies of Adepts, can truthfully claim to be in direct succession from the earliest known Mysteries of Light. It can be established beyond the shadow of doubt that Richard, Duc de Palatine is the successor of the Ancient Mystery Schools, as we shall show. There is no need for us to fabricate any form of secret history in order to induce people to join the Pleroma. One has only to study the long line of Assemblies which have existed and perpetuated the Gnosis from the last days of Atlantis before it was submerged by the waters in 9564 B.C.

History shows that there were two streams of the Wisdom Tradition deriving from Atlantis; the first migrating to Central Asia and then into India and the Chaldean Mysteries, the second from Atlantis to Egypt (Mysteries of Isis and Osiris) and then to Greece (Mysteries of Eleusis); then into Asia Minor (Mysteries of Attis and Adonis) which were blended with the Mysteries of Mithra and the Essenes. In B.C. 120 to 70 Christ came to establish the 'Mysteries of Jesus' which were a blend of all the earlier Mysteries. The successors of Christ were the Gnostics and the Essenes (Dead Sea Scrolls). From them came the Catholic Church which destroyed outwardly the Gnostic Movement in the 3rd Century.

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The main elements then merged into the Manichaeans of North Africa and Luxor of Egypt. The Tradition then moved to Italy under the guise of the Paulicians and Cathari; thereafter it showed itself in the Orders of Chivalry and then in The Templars. After the Templars were outwardly destroyed, the Tradition reappeared in The Fratres Lucis, or 'Brothers of the Light,' in Italy in 1498; then it showed itself in the Rose Cross in the 14th Century. Again, in the 18th Century, came The Unknown Philosophers, Freemasonry and Luxor in America, and then The Bavarian Illuminati which embodied the various illumined Rose Cross Orders, Alchemists and Masons. This same Order passed into England under Ill. Bro. John Yarker Jr., and finally, in 1961, it became The Brotherhood and Order of The Pleroma.

Into this unbroken line of succession from the Mysteries in the person of Richard, Duc de Palatine was blended the Apostolic Catholic Succession from the Gnostic Fathers. This means that all the lines of power and authority from the Mysteries of Antiquity now merge in the person of the present Grand Hierophant of the Pleroma, meaning that the authority is not vested in a group of people, but in a single individual - namely, Richard, Duc de Palatine.

In all the Mysteries, both ancient and modern, the central theme of the teachings was the same - the Divine Nature of Man. This central fact has never changed from one century to the next. Although the names and legends have been changed, the main theme has always been

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the same, and unless an organisation embodies this Central Doctrine, we know that it is not in line with the Esoteric Tradition of the Ages.

OUTLINE OF OUR DOCTRINE

When the Gnostic Teachings were suppressed by the Christian Churches of the East and West, the Hierophants went underground and continued to give teaching and instruction to those who were proved worthy of receiving the same. After the 3rd Century, the Pagan Mysteries were practically abolished by the Christian Emperors of the East and the Popes of the West. The Gnostics, who were the survivors of the Hierophants, divided themselves into three classes varying in profession and technique, and these classes survive to this day.

The Three Divisions of the Gnostic Mysteries were: 'The Sacerdotal', which told of the drama of the Immortal Soul in The Valley of Death where it enters a temporary trance-death. The second was 'The Military or Chivalric Orders' which followed the drama of the murdered god, which to them symbolised the Immortal Soul of Man. These two Orders were suppressed by the Christian Emperors of Rome, but continued their existence under the guise of 'Strolling Priests.' They became prominent during the Crusades and then as The Knights Templars. The basic doctrine of all these was Gnostic Christianity.

We come now to the third class, that of 'The Artisan.' They learned to 'close the lips,' and, as Art was vital to the Church, they were protected. From them

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came the body of masons who were guilds of workmen who wandered over the face of medieval Europe and who were the descendants of the Dionysiac Artificers. In Rome they appeared as the Roman Collegia and, at the Fall of Rome, some moved to Arabia whilst another section moved into Lombardy and thence into France. They also moved into India, China and Babylon by the way of old Egypt and Palestine.

The Secret Schools; that is to say, the Inner Schools beyond the public Mysteries of Greece, Egypt and Rome, were neither fraternal nor political, nor were their ideals the same as those of modern Masonry or Rosicrucianism. They were essentially philosophical and religious institutions. Those who were admitted to the Secret Schools were consecrated to the service of The Hidden Church of The Illuminati.

The Discipline used in The Hidden Church was called 'The Arcane Discipline' and it was in definite practice in the Christian Church between the 1st and 4th Centuries. Those who followed it were known as the Arcane or Gnostic Christians and they kept their doctrines secret and taught the exoteric doctrines along the same lines as the Ancient Mysteries. We know from the writings of many of the Christian Fathers that this system was divided into grades, and these were known as: 'Catecomenoi' or learners, 'Pistoi' or faithful, 'Photozomenoi', Illumined or Baptised, 'Menuemenoi' or Initiated, and 'Teleipomenoi' or Perfected.

Within the Gnostic Arcanum this three-fold division was kept alive until the 16th

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Century when the Chivalric, Masonic and Sacerdotal were separated. Within the Arcane Church we have the division of $3 \times 3 = 9$, the name being the Perfected Man. These three were shown as the inner division, symbolised by baptism, communion and consecration by chrism. This division has been carried on into the Pleroma as purification, illumination, and then perfection. The second division is comprised of the Deacon, Priest and Bishop; they are shown in the esoteric portion of the Gnostic Church as meaning that every Initiate passes through these three stages, but when the Gnostics were finally suppressed, the Catholic Church reserved these three offices for their clergy. Finally, we have the third division as the Monks, Members and Catechumens, and they represent the exoteric division of the Church.

We must also remember that the Druids had this $3 \times 3 = 9$ division in their own system, and when they were destroyed they reappeared as the Culdees and had rites which resembled the Pagan Mysteries. In the so-called 'Apostolic Constitutions' the Church is compared to a ship, the minister or bishop is the captain, the deacons become the mariners, and the congregation are the passengers. This is also shown in the Egyptian, Grecian, Chaldean, Ionic, Gnostic, Druidic and Grail Mysteries. They all refer to the age-old three divisions within the Hidden Church.

In the 'Stromata' of Clemens Alexandrinus, the organisation of the Arcane Church is shown as 'Degrees of Glory in Heaven corresponding with the dignities

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of the Church below.' Meaning that the $3 \times 3 = 9$ system refers to the invisible anatomy of man - the Immortal Spirit, the Divine Soul and the Human Soul. Each aspect is made up of three vestures or Robes of Glory. These three sets of three Robes of Glory make up the whole man, which was also shown as the number Nine. Dionysius the Areopagite states that the divisions were based upon the heavenly and ecclesiastical hierarchies.

In the Catholic Gnostic Mass this threefold division is called upon in the Preface: Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones which comprise the powers of the Secret Hidden Church; then we have the Dominions, Virtues and Powers making up the Esoteric Church, and then Principalities, Arch-angels and Angels making up the Exoteric Church. In these, one will see that the three sets of three represent the powers inherent within the three aspects of man.

It is obvious that we can only skirt the exoteric and esoteric histories of the Hidden Church, but we will endeavour to give some hints for the reader to continue his own investigations. If there are any of our readers who are Masons, let them take note: The Speculative Masonry which came into being in 1717 is based upon spurious constitutions, and they have changed the Legend from the Drama of the Christos to that of Hiram Abiff. By so doing, they have destroyed the last vestige of connection with the ancient Gnostics and the Mysteries.

The first three degrees which constitute the Craft or Blue Lodges should con-

stitute the outer or Exoteric aspect of the Hidden Church. Then we have the 4th to the 18th degrees which constitute the Esoteric Church, and then from the 28th to the 33rd degrees you have the Hidden Church. The word 'Lodge' has the same meaning as 'Church' or 'Ecclesia,' therefore, up to 1717, the Operative Masons were also divided into three classes patterned upon the divisions of the Mysteries.

Now it is obvious that there is a definite connection between the Pleroma and the Gnostic Mystery System, otherwise how could it be possible for the Pleroma to have direct connections with the Gnostics?

One of the most sacred and closely guarded secrets contained within the Mysteries and their successors was the Knowledge of the Hidden Church which we know as The Invisible Empire of Light (Trans-Himalayan Brotherhood) and the methods whereby an advanced Initiate could gain admittance to the Empire. But although many seek the Path which leads to the Empire, very few are chosen, because very few are prepared to undergo the superhuman tests of courage and fortitude. These tests are not symbolical as given in the Speculative Masonry of today, but they are, as they were in olden days, actual tests. Of the hundreds who wait at the doors for admission, very few realise their objective.

Before we can continue with our discussion we must try to trace the line of descent from the Mysteries to the

present day Order of the Pleroma. The Kabbalists owe their system to Esdras, and it was carried on to the time of the Roman occupation of Jerusalem. Philo states, "The Law of Moses is like a living creature whose body is the literal sense, but the soul is the more inward and hidden meaning, covered under the sense of the letter." They claim that the Kabbala is divided into 'three veils,' indicating the Exoteric, the Esoteric and the Hidden Church, or the Vestibule, the Holy Place and the Sanctum Sanctorum. These three are again divided into $3 \times 3 = 9$, and the One - the Ain Soph Aur, the Supreme Mystery. So we have The Chaldean Book of Numbers and Nercaba, The Sepher Zepirah and then the Mishna and Gemara. Those books can be read three ways according to the ability of the student. They had their own passwords, signs and countersigns somewhat similar to the present Masonic Royal Arch Degree. From them came the Essenes. But it must be remembered that Moses or Meishe received his wisdom from that of the Egyptians blended with the Chaldeans of India.

The Essenes were a branch of the Assideans and the Chasidim and were the Hierophants of the Egyptian Mysteries when Ahmasis ruined the sacred Temples, and they sought protection within the Temple Order at Basra. Their hidden records state that Jeshu ben Pandira (Jesus), a nephew of Queen Salome (the widow of Alexandrinus or Alexander Jannuai II, King of Judaea), went to Egypt and became a Hierophant and then returned to the Essenes and proclaimed the Mysteries. He was stoned to death and hung on a tree at Lydia about the year 71 B.C.

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as indicated in the Gemara. These Essenes were called the Jewish Gnostics, but this is not strictly correct as they were influenced by Adonis in Syria, Serapis in Egypt, Dionysius and Bacchus in Greece, and also by the Mysteries of Mithra. It is logical, therefore, to state that Jesus tried to blend all these systems into what is known as the Mysteries of Jesus. There is also evidence that when the Essene Church faded in about 300 A.D., beginning with the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in 78 A.D., the Catholic Church came into being. We leave the inference to the reader to work out!

There is also evidence to show that the Essenes were but a branch of a yet wider movement directed by a group of powerful Adepts. Linked to them we also find the Therapeutae of Egypt who flourished at Alexandria, the real birth-place of Christian Gnosticism. Then we have the Nazarenes, sometimes called Sabians, the followers of Sabius who lived on the shores of Galilee. The Ebionites, whom Jerome called the genuine primitive Christians, were linked to the Nazarenes in a common bond, and we find that Paul, Joseph, Samson and Samuel all claimed to be Nazars. From them came the founders of the Christian form of The Arcane Discipline which had survived publicly until the end of the 4th Century and then faded from public knowledge to re-emerge in later centuries under different names and guises.

Secret history states that Jeshu ben Pandira (Jesus) founded the 'Mysteries of Jesus' in 74 B.C. and, after his death in

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71 B.C., the Mysteries remained secret until 46 A.D. when Paul of Tarsus became the Grand Hierophant. There are many statements made by him which link him to the Hidden Church. In fact, his 'Illumination' and the qualifications demanded for this power are identical to those taught in the Pleroma. From Paul came the Christian Gnostics themselves, and this evidenced by the statements of Marcion 136 A.D., and Prodicus, 120 A.D. He was followed by Valentinus and Basilides about 130 A.D. Then there were Simon Magus, Menander, Cerinthus and Dosethius, and after them came Saturninus of Antioch.

If one will read 'Pistis Sophia' in the three layers of meaning, one will find the exoteric, the esoteric and The Arcane Discipline clearly shown. Later we find Clement of Alexandria, a pupil of Ammonius Saccas, himself an Initiate of the Mysteries of Serapis and Isis. He transmitted his Gnosis to Origen, and it was he who attempted to blend the Jewish and the Egyptian into one.

The Ophites were a Gnostic Fraternity in Egypt. Their conception of Jesus was that he allowed the Immortal Spirit to descend into the Christos, who in turn descended into Jesus the Man. Thus Jesus became the God-Man in the flesh. This teaching is again identical to that of the Pleroma. The Christos is the Eternal Pilgrim, and was always shown as being overshadowed by a Living Serpent with three heads, the three-fold nature of the Soul, and they also claimed that the Good Serpent (Soul) descends to earth.

The Gnostics also drew heavily upon

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the College of Rabbis at Babylon who also held to the $3 \times 3 = 9$ system. The College was founded at Babylon after the destruction of Israel. Samuel was the chief of a College at Ramah; Elisha at Jericho, and Hillel had a regular dual school and became a founder of the Sect of Pharisees; hence we know the reason for the latter putting Jesus to death, being as he was a Hierophant of the hated Egyptian Mysteries. Then we have the Carpocratians of Alexandria whose founder was a direct descendent or disciple of Jeshu ben Pandira, and who claimed that Jeshu derived the Mysteries of his religion from the Temple of Isis in Egypt. They also had their grips, signs and words, symbols and degrees, and used the $3 \times 3 = 9$ system of Initiation.

Bardesanes was born at Edessa and taught a Gnostic system composed of Indian, Chaldean and Egyptian Mystery Teachings. He also followed the earlier Gnostic sects in their degrees and initiatory system. From him, perhaps indirectly, came Mani of Persia who became a Gnostic and who derived his teachings from Buddhist, Brahmin and Egyptian sources. He also had three grades made up of $3 \times 3 = 9$, and this Gnostic sect in common with the others had secret initiations and forms of recognition. In fact, the present three Masonic Initiations possess the same grips and signs as the Manichaeans, such as 'signa, oris, manum et finus,' or a word, a grip, and of the breast.

So the contest between Catholic Christianity and Gnostic Christianity can be resolved into this: The historical Jesus, the Christ of the Church; and the second, the ancient Christos of the Cult of Serapis.

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with a spiritual Christos to be developed within the Soul of each Perfected Gnostic. ②
So we find that the Roman Section followed the views of Peter (?) and the Jewish Gnostics. The Gnostics, in opposition to the Church, followed the teachings of Paul, Origen and the British Culdees. It was entirely due to the lack of The Arcane Discipline that a conflict ensued between the two opposing ideas, resulting in the Mythos being taken as literal history by one, and the same Mythos being interpreted spiritually by the other. It was, however, the Church which won in the end, combining the two aspects and teaching both exoterically.

With the collapse of the State Mystery Systems, the Hidden Schools still continued in close secrecy until the time of Jeshu ben Pandira who, in order to perpetuate the Hidden Wisdom or the Gnosis, founded his own Mysteries. Then came the great Gnostic Doctors who gave to his Church a practical philosophy. They too drew upon all the existing Mystery Religions; as St. Augustine states: "What is nowadays called the Christian religion was in existence among ancient people, and has continually existed from the very origin of the human race ..." When the Church destroyed the great Gnostic Movement and the last public sect, that of the Manichaeans, the Church took over and claimed that Christianity stemmed from the life and death of an unknown (to secular history) Jesus of Nazareth.

In the 6th Century the Manichaeans were put to the sword. Some escaped to Europe, others gave much to the Sufis and

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the Dervishes of Islam. In 657, the Gnostic Manichaeans reappeared as The Paulicians in Armenia who followed the teachings of Paul, Marcion and Mani, but the Roman Church instigated their destruction by the sword. They emerged again as The Cathari in Southern France who were again exterminated by the Roman Inquisition. They perpetuated in close secrecy The Arcane Discipline and the Gnostic teachings. In the 8th Century, St. Benedict founded his Order and retained many of the Gnostic teachings and the Discipline.

Some of the persecuted Gnostics took the names of the Euchites, the Bogemils, the Albigenses, and later, as the Lollards, they travelled all over Europe seeking those who were spiritually worthy and continuing secretly to teach The Arcane Discipline and above all the grand Mythos of the Soul.

In the 8th Century there appeared a Society calling itself The Holy Vehm of German Westphalia, and then in Spain there appeared a Society designated The Hermandad. Both of these again followed The Arcane Discipline and held to the Gnostic Christos. Then came The Alchemists who were originally Gnostics and who taught the Mystic Marriage of the Sun and Moon, or the Divine Soul and the human soul of Man.

Sufficient information has been given to show with proof that up to the 8th Century Gnosticism survived in various forms from its inception many hundreds of years before the beginning of the Christian era. It is obvious that the link

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between Masonry and other Secret Orders is to be found in Gnosticism and The Arcane Discipline.

HISTORIC CHRISTIANITY

With regard to Historic Christianity, there is evidence to state that this did not come into its own until about the 4th Century, and no earlier. We know now that, whilst The Mysteries of Jesus were known to have existed between 71 B.C. and 46 A.D., very few individuals knew anything about them. It was only in the 2nd Century that Valentinus was ordered to allow some portion of the secret rituals to fall into the hands of the Jewish Gnostics. Before he obeyed his orders, however, he stripped the manuscripts of the Keys to make them innocuous and to keep inviolate The Arcane Discipline and reserve it for those who had advanced spiritually enough to appreciate it. Those who received this document, being carnal men, did not have the insight to know that it was a Mystic Drama concerning the Christ-Soul and the human soul (Jesus), and they claimed, therefore, that it was the history of their god and accepted the exoteric version and proceeded to take from the old religions those portions which would give them the foundations of a historical man.

In spite of the deliberate mistranslations and interpretations of the original gospel, there is still sufficient within the New Testament to give to the discriminating student the teachings of The Arcane Discipline and the method whereby he or she may effect The Mystic

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Marriage. It is because they do not have the Discipline that the Church is failing every day. This also applies to the present day Masons and the other so-called Mystic Orders one finds in the West today. The very fact that they do not follow the Principles of The Arcane Discipline shows with absolute certainty that they are not the real descendants of the Gnostics or the Ancient Mysteries from Atlantis.

See Ignatius Donnelly: "Atlantis".

FROM THE 8TH TO THE 14TH CENTURY

We have seen that up to the 8th Century the Gnostic tradition was still flourishing in various parts of Europe and in the Middle East. There is sufficient evidence in extant writings to show that the Gnostics were the descendants of the pagan Mystery Schools and they also retained The Arcane Discipline. It is interesting to note that even at this late date, the various Gnostic sects divided their doctrines into three aspects, namely: The Sacerdotal, The Military and The Artisan. These became the Exoteric, the Esoteric and the Hidden Church. These three divisions are known today as Masonry, the Occultists and the Mystics. Unlike the days of old, these three divisions of the Mysteries have today become separate and in many cases antagonistic to one another.

In reality, these divisions are also divided into $3 \times 3 = 9$ as we shall show. Masonry is divided into three main groups of stages or Initiations. The first three are exoteric, the next three are the esoteric, and the final three the Hidden Church, but, as with the Church, these divisions are interpreted exoterically.

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When we come to Occultism we again find these three showing themselves. You have the ordinary member making up the outer or exoteric section, then you have the Inner Schools making up the esoteric, and the Initiates and Princes of Light making up the Hidden Church. Again, in Mysticism these three are shown. You have the beginner along the path of purification, and then the path of Illumination, and finally the Hidden Church of the Perfected Ones which is composed of the Princes, Mediators, Messengers and so on.

Plato states that the Perfect Man is symbolised by the number 10. This means that the 9 with the Immortal Spirit, fulfilling the Law of Permutation or the Revolution of the Spiritual Self; so we have the first set of three - the human soul (three vehicles); then the second - the Divine Soul (three vehicles) and finally the next three - the Immortal Spirit which becomes One with the Godhead making up the Perfect Man, or Ten - the Alpha and Omega of Evolution.

There is still some confusion in the minds of modern scholars as to what we mean by the Sacred Mysteries. The 'Mysteries' were called by the Greeks 'Teletai' or 'finishings' and this was used in conjunction with the word 'mou' which meant 'Keeping a closed mouth.' The Mysteries, therefore, were observances, generally kept secret from the profane and uninitiated, in which were taught by dramatic representation and other methods the nature of the human Spirit and its relation to the human soul, and then the method of its purification, illumination and restoration to its higher life to

become the Perfect Man.

The Teacher in the Mysteries was known as 'The Hierophant' or 'The Old Man.' He represented to the Candidate his Divine Soul, and was veiled to symbolise that the Soul is always veiled to the uninitiated and unpurified. The only part of the Hierophant which was allowed to be seen was his feet, symbolising the human soul of Man. As the neophyte passed through each Initiation the Hierophant, by the clever use of lights, became progressively visible to the neophyte. This symbolised the man becoming more and more purified in order to allow the glory of the Soul to become visible to the human soul. The Hierophant became the revealer or 'Patar' of the Mysteries of God in the same manner as the Divine Soul becomes the revealer of the Mysteries to the human soul of Man.

Plato and many of the other Initiates state that the Mysteries were highly religious, moral and beneficent. It was considered that if the neophyte passed through the Nine Initiations within the School he was eligible to become a Member of the Hidden Church of Illumined Souls. G. R. S. Mead states: "In short, the Mysteries were in every country a series of dramatic performances in which the mysteries of cosmogony and nature in general were personified by the priests, and neophytes who enacted the parts of the various gods and goddesses, repeating supposed scenes (allegories) from their respective lives. These were explained in their hidden meaning to the candidates for Initiation and incorporated into philosophical doctrines." This is, in fact, the

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exoteric teachings of The Arcane Discipline.

The Roman Church, having borrowed all their rites and dogmas from the Pagan Mysteries, shows this connection with the Mysteries in the consecration of a Cardinal. The candidate is commanded to "keep his eyes and mouth shut on his consecration." This was also the injunction given to the Mystae or first grade Initiate. The Masonic System also has the same injunction, but not the modern Rosicrucian Systems. The drawing of the right hand across the throat indicates that they have to keep their mouth closed at all times concerning their supposed Mysteries. The Mystae was blindfolded, slipshod and had a cable-tow put round his neck when he took his Initiation. The rest of the Obligation can be found in the ancient Schools, but again it is missing from the present-day Rosicrucian Systems. We feel at liberty to divulge these details as they have already been exposed many times over the last two centuries and, Masonically speaking, may be found by anyone with the price of the necessary book!

Christian Gnosticism grew out of the teachings of Jeshu ben Pandira (Jesus), who was himself a Hierophant of the Mysteries of Isis and Osiris at Sais in Egypt, so it is logical to assume, in spite of the lack of substantiating evidence, that Jeshu and the Gnostics faithfully carried on the Tradition intact. It would seem that Jeshu was the vital link between the Mysteries and the later Gnostics, just as Gnosticism is the vital link between the Orders of Labour, Quest, Military and Masonic Orders. We must now pose this question: If the

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Masons and Rosicrucians are the direct descendents of the Gnostics, why is it that they have failed to carry on The Arcane Discipline and the Legend of the Christos?

Just as the Hierophant was the sole expounder of the esoteric secrets and doctrines, He would naturally sit in the East. It was also forbidden to pronounce His name before uninitiated persons. Therefore, an Initiate was one who had been received into the esoteric secrets and had had revealed to him the Mysteries of the Immortal Spirit. We find that the word 'Initiation' comes from the Latin 'initia' which means 'the basic or first principles of a science.' The original initiatory system was abolished with the fall of the last of the public Mysteries at Arles in France in the 7th Century. The only kind of Initiation now known to the public is merely a type of initiation, but these are definitely not the real Initiations.

In brief, the Mysteries represented the passage of the Soul from a higher life into mortal life, and then from mortal life into finite death, and the varied experiences of the disembodied Soul in the world of subjectivity. In this day, the secrets of Initiation have been lost except within the Hidden Assemblies of Adepts in Europe, America and the East, and here we are not referring to the Masonic, Rosicrucian or any other fancy-named order or orders. The latter ask their candidates to pass through sundry meaningless ceremonies to be initiated into a self-concocted solar

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legend, be it that of Hiram Abiff or Christian Rosenkreutz.

In order to show clearly that Jesus and Paul were, as is shown in Christian Writ, Initiates of the Pagan Mysteries, the word 'Innocents' was a nickname given to the Initiates of a system before the Christian era. Jeshu refers to the 'Innocents', and we find that the Innocents of Lydia were put to death by Alexander Jannai, to the number of several thousands, about 100 B.C. This historical fact gave rise to the legend of the 40,000 innocent babes murdered by Herod while searching for the infant Jesus. The former is a little-known historical fact whereas the second story is a fable, as Herod was dead four years before the supposed birth of Jesus.

The Alchemists came into existence long before Christianity, and we find that most of them were Gnostics who formed themselves into Secret Brotherhoods beginning with Emperor Julian. We also find that there appeared a long line of Gnostic-Alchemists such as Cedrinus, 491; then Zosimos the Panopilite, Morienus, the Calid, the son of Gized the Second, Sultan of Egypt about 725. Geber came about 730; then came Avicenna about 980. From this time they migrated to Spain and Germany. Then we have Gerhard of Cremona, 1130; Arnold of Villanova, 1240; Roger Bacon, 1215; Albertus Magnus, 1270; Raymond Lully, 1320, and many others. This branch became merged into The Order of The Rose Cross and The Knights Templars.

The Order of The Temple was formed in 1118 and also retained the $3 \times 3 = 9$ system

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of discipline until 1313 when they were shamefully destroyed. After this the remainder of the High Knights went underground and continued their work. In 1498, a group of Initiates met in the City of Florence to form The Fratres Lucis. They restored The Arcane Discipline and remained in secret in spite of the Church's attempt to destroy them. There is a suspicion that Dante was one of their number. They joined with the Alchemists and the the Rose Cross Orders.

These were followed by the founding of The Quest of The San Grael in England, France and Germany to which certain of the Templar and Gnostic traditions were blended, as well as that of the Culdees of England.

Many of the survivors of the Albigenses reappeared among the Troubadours or strolling-players and they also carried on the $3 \times 3 = 9$ system and The Arcane Discipline.

In 1115 there appeared at Cologne a society called The Magical Union; their allegory was the Rose and the Cross. They also used the $3 \times 3 = 9$ system, and their doctrines were based upon the Christos Myth of Gnosticism. In 1282 there appeared another compact school which was the first to use the word 'Macon' which was later corrupted into 'Masonry.' John Tauler, a Dominican monk, established a society embodying the Rose and the Cross in the early part of the 14th Century. The members recognised each other by secret grips and also followed The Arcane Discipline. In the same year there appeared another society called The Fraternitas Rosae Crucis, and then in 1378, Christian Rosenkreutz founded

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The Brotherhood of The Rose Cross. There is evidence to show that Paracelsus was also a member of the Rose Cross, and became the Monarch of The Rosicrucian Society.

At Lubeck about 1485 there existed a Guild of Compass Brothers. In 1480 there existed a School in Rome called The Platonic Academy; its objects were the revival of the Platonic and Gnostic teachings. In the same year The Brotherhood of The Trowel existed at Florence, and this continued until the 18th Century. The above societies taught the Gnosis under the guise of the Rose and the Cross and embodied The Arcane Discipline. In the 16th Century, Cornelius Agrippa established in Paris and elsewhere a secret body known as The Theosophical Society, and he also formed a branch in London in 1510. In 1498 there was a Rose Cross Society called The Fraternitatus Rosarii at Selswick in Denmark which was connected with The Arcane Discipline. A Society called The Militia Crucifera Evangelica is known to have existed at Lunenburg in 1571 and taught the doctrines of the Inner and Outer Man symbolised by the Rose and the Cross. In 1570, Michael Maier stated that The Brethren of The Wise Men existed in his day, and this was later revived as The Brethren of The Golden Rosy Cross.

In 1614 there appeared the 'Fama' and 'Confessio' of J. V. Andrea, and it is known that Andrea founded his own society called The Christian Fraternity. In 1622 there also existed at The Hague a Rosy Cross Society with branches in many countries in Europe. The question which the

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reader may be prompted to ask is: If the story of Christian Rosenkreutz is fictitious, how is it that there existed Rose Cross Societies long before Andrea published the 'Fama' and 'Confessio'? It is obvious that the modern bodies styled 'Rosicrucian' have nothing to do with the original Rose Cross bodies, since they lack the $3 \times 3 = 9$ system and The Arcane Discipline.

We have now come to the beginning of the 17th Century, and we must leave this section and revert to the beginnings of the Culdees in England.

There is no clear evidence that Masonry existed by 1717, but we know that before this date there existed The Arcane Colleges which combined the three-fold division of activity. Circa 46 - 52 A.D., there existed a College of Roman Artisans at Chichester, England, which had originated at Rome and Alexandria. When the Romans left England, the members of the College broke up and migrated to various towns and formed the Guilds devoted to the work of building, and from them came what was to be known as the Guilds of Operative Masons. At the same time, we know that the three Archdruids became Archbishops, and the Chief Druids became Bishops. This was done upon the acceptance of Christianity by King Lucius in 155 A.D. These bishops, monks and priests of the Christian Britons became known as the Culdees, 'The Servants of God,' and they carried The Arcane Discipline with them and embodied it within the framework of Celtic Christianity. They were considered by Rome to be heretical, of course.

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Their principle Colleges were at York, and they spread their teachings to Bath and as far as Hadrian's Wall, but they were not 'Masonic' as we understand the term. They were known as 'The Arcane College', with the Artisans as an integral part of the Discipline.

It was from England in 589 that Columban went to Burgundy and established The Arcane Colleges in France and Germany. European so-called Masonry is derived from these Culdees of France. Prior to the 5th Century, the construction of their churches was after the model of the ancient Egyptian temples which were divided into three sections corresponding to the exoteric, the esoteric doctrines, and the Hidden Church. In 524, Arthur, son of Uther Pendragon, defeated the Saxons and then called a Council at York. Arthur was a Romanised Briton, and founded the Legend of The San Grael embodying the Druidic and Culdee doctrines blended with The Arcane Discipline from the Roman College at Chichester.

The Holy Grail is the Soul of Man, inheritor and guardian of the Divine Spark within wherein dwells an ever-shining and vital mirroring of the Divine Soul-Life. This legend, although essentially Christian in its origin, contains many of the most abstruse doctrines drawn from the Gnostic Mysteries. Joseph of Arimathea represents the state of man before the Fall. The Cycle of Merlin and Arthur is the exoteric cycle, the Cycle of Gawain and Lancelot represents the esoteric, and Percival and Galahad represent the Hidden Church. In this, the Soul

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becomes the abiding place of the Divine Presence. The Castle of the Grail is the human temple of the Holy Spirit through the Soul, and, in the Gnostic Mass of the Holy Grail, the Celebrant is the Soul itself, 'a priest for ever after the Order of Melchisedek.'

With conquest of England and the Teutonic nations, the Arcane Colleges became extinct in so far as the Military and Sacerdotal sections were concerned. These two sections began to fade from public knowledge and remained in existence under a veil of the closest secrecy, but the Artisans remained in their Guilds using their own discipline and landmarks with their main headquarters at York. At the same time the Roman Collegia was forced to close and fled to Lake Como where it became known as The Magistri Comacenes who hired themselves out to the Lombards. They also migrated to England, France and Germany, and carried with them the ancient rules of their craft.

In 597 Augustine came to England and Romanised the Celtic Culdee Church and brought with him Roman Masons to rebuild the Churches. The main body of Culdee Craftsmen reformed themselves into Building Guilds, and while the Church still needed to build churches and monasteries, these Craftsmen were protected by the Church, not from choice but by necessity.

The fact that there have existed from very ancient times Bands or Colleges of Builders does not infer that they were

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Photograph of the author -
Richard, Duc de Palatine

'Masons.' Even up to 1717, the Guilds were separate and had their own rituals and doctrines. It is extraordinary that in the year when Speculative Masonry was fully established in England and France, the Roman Church declared against them. There seems to be no attempt to explain this important fact. Why did the Church suffer the Building Guilds for so long and then suddenly change and rule against them? We say that, from the 18th Century, what is known as 'Masonry' changed its purpose and the real Grand Masters withdrew from the Guilds and formed 'Secret Masonry.'

In the 18th Century, the hidden Adepts of the Mysteries remained in the background. They still retained The Arcane Discipline and the $3 \times 3 = 9$ division, and the doctrines were fundamentally Gnostic and Culdee. As far as the 'Gentlemen Speculative Masons' were concerned, the Secret Masons are absolutely unknown. It was due to the retirement of the Illumined Masters that Speculative Masons changed the Legend of the Christos into the Legend of Hiram Abiff. This act by Anderson broke off all connection with the great Gnostic stream which began in the 4th Century and faded in the 18th, at least from public knowledge.

THE 18TH CENTURY TO TODAY

From the beginning of the 18th Century all traces of The Arcane Discipline and the Gnostic Tradition seemed to have faded from public knowledge, but it still remained in Europe. It became a

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closely guarded secret among the Adepts of the Hidden Church. It was with the withdrawal of the Master Adepts behind their veil of silence that there began to be formed many spurious and clandestine bodies with equally spurious histories. Because no one could lay hold to the Adepts of the Templars, Rose Cross and Gnostics, these new organisations denied their existence. This opened the way to unscrupulous men who concocted fabulous histories for their bodies and passed them off to their unsuspecting dupes, and they created spurious rituals with the outward sign of authenticity. Into this mystery-mongering and spurious orders stepped the Jesuits of Paris and Berlin who finalised the creation of spurious Masonic, Templar and Rose Cross Orders.

Actually there is very little real evidence and information left about the aims, means and doctrines of the various Secret Fraternities. This is due to the terrible obligation which each brother was obliged to take - The Sodalian Oath - that he would not reveal any of their teachings or aims or the means to implement their purpose. There is another reason why the public cannot find the meeting places of the Adepts: because there are none! The Illumined Adept has the ability to create many thought-images of Himself simultaneously on the emotional region (astral); these thought-images are the simulacra of the Adept's Soul. They are activated by the consciousness and become perceptible to the inhabitants on the emotional region.

For fear of persecution by the Roman and Protestant Churches, the Adepts could

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not show themselves to their pupils, so when a pupil was ready, the Adept made himself known through one of these simulacra whilst the pupil was out of his body during sleep state. There he was taught and trained, but even when he returned to the body he still remembered his Oath and training and kept his lips sealed lest the slightest indiscretion would bring upon him the wrath of the Church. This meant that the Assemblies were actual in name only as far as this physical plane was concerned, but were actual in fact in the Inner Realms of the Spirit. Hence the reasons why so little factual evidence is available to the student.

This means that you had the genuine Adepts and the spurious adepts. The histories from the 18th Century abound with the machinations of the spurious adepts, and from them have come the present bodies styling themselves Templars, Rose Cross and Hermetic Orders, including many of the present High-Grade Masonic Rites. Because they are self-created orders, they are devoid of any spiritual connection with the Adepts of the Hidden Church. We are fully aware of the so-called claims made by the various societies and have patiently sifted through them. When we have rejected the fabulous histories, what have we left? Simply the results of a group of very fertile speculations which, when placed against the extant sources of knowledge, fact and history, prove themselves to be worthless and can be thrown into the dustbin where all rubbish is normally disposed of.

The great European Adept who used the nom-de-plume of 'The Comte de St. Germain' inspired the formation of The Alumbrados

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of France and The Mystics of Belgium, then The Theosophical Illuminati at Wilhelmsbad which became merged with The Bavarian Illuminati of 1776. They were the depositaries of The Arcane Discipline as their rituals show. In 1776 The Order of The Illuminati was formed in Bavaria by Adam Weishaupt, and he also was inspired to restore The Arcane Discipline and the $3 \times 3 = 9$ system of degrees. Their doctrines were based upon those of Mani of Persia and the early Gnostics.

The $3 \times 3 = 9$ system was made up of the following:

- 1^o, Novice,
- 2^o, Minerval, and
- 3^o, Minor Illuminee,

These constituted the exoteric section. Then we have:

- 4^o, Major Illuminee,
- 5^o, Directing Illuminee - Masonically, now equal to their own Scottish Knight, and
- 6^o, Epat,

These constituted the esoteric section, and then we have:

- 7^o, Regent,
- 8^o, Mage, and finally,
- 9^o, King Man.

At the death of Weishaupt, Dr. Leopold Engell revived the Order in 1880 and recruited a membership drawn from the various Illuminised Masonic, Templar and Rose Cross groups.

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Finally the Order passed under the control of Ill. Bro. John Yarker Jr., Grand Master of The Antient and Primitive Rite. He also was an Initiate of all the known Assemblies of Adepts and was recognised as one of the leading authorities on Initiatory Orders. Yarker transmitted the original Order of The Illuminati to Dr. Herbert James Monzani Heard in 1913, who then installed Dr. Hugh George de Willmott Newman on the 29th January 1945, and then in 1955, Dr. Newman installed Richard, Duc de Palatine as the Grand Master of The Order of The Illuminati, who did then withdraw the Order from the Masonic influence and consequently restored The Arcane Discipline and the $3 \times 3 = 9$ system of degrees, except that the Initiations are now taken on the inner levels whilst the neophyte is out of the body during sleep, at least for the present.

In January 1961, the Grand Hierophant changed the name of the Order from that of 'Illuminati' into that of the 'Pleroma', as it was found that it answered our purpose far more adequately, one of the reasons being that the original body was brought forward for the conditions of the 18th Century, and since we are now in the 20th Century, the conditions are not the same. Also, since this is the century when a Messenger descends from the Highest to sound the key-note for this century, the old form of procedure would not and could not meet the new conditions. It was also realised that since The Illuminati had become mixed up with the political upheavals in the 18th Century due to the

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machinations of the Jesuits, it was decided to cleanse the Order from all taint of being a political tool.

Now, you may say that all of this is very interesting, but what has it to do with me and my self-realisation of the Divine within me? My friends, the past is just as important to the present as the present is to the future. If we believe in the evolution of the Spirit, then we must know that the past, present and future is but one moment of time in the consciousness of the Father of All.

We are told that 'the law of the Medes and Persians changeth not,' meaning that the laws which govern the Spirit and Form changeth not. They were the same yesterday as they are today, and will be in the future. That which changes is the form through which the Law operates; the Law is eternal. By this means, it is logical to assume that we can verify the present through the past. If we are to accept Einstein's Theory of the Space-Time Continuum, then we must realise that Space is the distance between two given points, and the Time-sequence the passing of energy from one point to another with a continuum of consciousness between the two points.

Bearing the above in mind, you will note that about 9564 B.C. when the Island of Atlantis sunk to the present time, the energy which caused Atlantis to sink did not stop with the sinking. It continued on from then to the present time. There is a space through which the energy had to pass, but it also took time for the energy to reach us here, but there is a

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unity between the Space and the Time which is called a Continuum.

We know that the Will of God is this Continuum and Its purpose is the same today as it was millions of human years ago when this Earth became solidified and man appeared on it. Since God Himself always obeys Higher Laws than ours, we in turn obey His Laws just as mankind in the future will continue to obey the Laws of Being.

The institution of the Mysteries began after the sinking of Atlantis. There were certain flexible rules and procedures instituted by the Adepts who founded them, for they were designed to be perpetuated to the end of the occupation of this planet by the human race. Bearing in mind the Continuum of God's Will, we will see that the rules and procedure which were instituted untold ages ago must also be applicable today; notwithstanding the constant changing of the form from century to century, the fundamentals of the Mysteries have remained the same.

So in order to prove the authenticity of the present forms, we must trace our steps back to the beginning to see whether the substance and the intention has been continuous in every century up to the present day. This is the only means available to unilluminated man whereby he may check the veracity of the system of teaching he is following. Now we must ask ourselves, what are the landmarks which have survived through the centuries in spite of the changing forms? They are very simple: The imple-

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mentation of the Arcane Discipline is the first landmark to look for. The second is the $3 \times 3 = 9$ System of Initiatory Degrees; the third being an unbroken Line of Grand Masters: from the founder of the particular system you are interested in.

Then we must look for the Doctrine of the Dual Soul of Man and the method of attainment through the three stages of purification, illumination and then perfection. Then you must look for the three stages of knowledge or the veils through which the neophyte has to pass. They are the Exoteric, or outer; the Esoteric, or inner, and then The Hidden Church. Then finally, the Grand Hierophant or Master must be in the position to demonstrate the Powers and Qualities of the Soul through Illumination or Mediatorship. You may discount any claims made through a Spiritualist medium no matter how high their quality.

Now let us put these examples to the test: Let us take the Pleroma and see if it follows the ancient landmarks. It does teach The Arcane Discipline and has the Initiatory System of $3 \times 3 = 9$, which degrees are taken by the neophyte whilst out of the body at night, at least for the present. It also has the three stages, being as they are the Brotherhood giving the exoteric knowledge, the Order teaching the esoteric principles of illumination, and The Hermetic Brotherhood of Light, making up the last three degrees of this section; and finally you have The Hidden Church standing behind the outer three.

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We must also check upon the Grand Hierophant and see if he has an unbroken line of succession from the founders. This can be shown: The Power and Authority of the Pleroma is vested in the person of Richard, Duc de Palatine coming from The Illuminati, Rose Cross, Templars, the Brothers of Light, the Albigenses and the Paulicians, who were the successors of the Cathari and the Manichaeans. They owe their existence to the Gnostics, who were derived from the Mysteries of Egypt, Greece, Chaldea, who again claim that their Masters came from the Island of Atlantis. Plato states that the Emperor of Atlantis was a Divine Ruler and Grand Master of the Atlanteans. This constitutes the Philosophical Section.

The present Grand Hierophant is also a Gnostic Bishop and claims an unbroken line of succession from the College of Antioch which owed its existence to St. Paul, and he in turn claimed authority from Jeshu ben Pandira, who in turn was a Grand Hierophant of the Mysteries of Isis and Serapis. The Hierophant of the Pleroma links twelve lines of the Apostolic Succession in his person. This constitutes the Sacerdotal Section.

The present Grand Hierophant is also a Sovereign Grand Master General of three High Grade Masonic Rites:

(a) The Antient and Primitive Rite, or The Rite of Memphis, which claims for its source the Copts of Egypt who were the last of the Egyptian Initiates,

(b) The Rite of Mizraim, which is derived from the Illuminati of Avignon.

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In 1782 an Egyptian from the ancient Brotherhood of Luxor raised Gad Bedarride of Cavillon to another degree and granted him full authority. The Brotherhood of Luxor (Egyptian Branch) owes its authority to the Grand Hierophant of the Temple of Sais in Egypt. The Brotherhood also founded another branch in America just before the War of Independence and has functioned in that country ever since. Practically unknown to the general public, they are in communion with the Brotherhoods of Mt. Shasta and Yucatan.

(c) The Order of The Temple of England and Paris, which was later connected with the Order of The Illuminati, and this authority is now vested in the present Grand Hierophant. Through The Illuminati came the connections with The Rose Cross and Martinists.

Added to this list comes the Grand Inspector General of The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Masonry through New York in the United States. Then he became a 33rd Degree Mason of The Ancient and Accepted Rite which was founded by certain members of The Templar Order, and of The Rite of Perfection 25°. It also owed its existence through the Rite of Strict Observance and The Martinist Order through Martinez de Pasqually which he received from Count Cagliostro, who again received his own authority from The Comte de St. Germain, who in turn claimed to have his authority from The Christians of St. John at Basra in Persia, who, themselves, can prove an unbroken line of authority from the Gnostics. It is not

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commonly known that Basilides, the Gnostic Bishop, consecrated the first Bishop of Constantinople. This constitutes the Artisan Section.

As with the Mysteries, the doctrines of the descent of the Soul to Earth, Its death to Its spiritual heritage buried in the tomb of matter, and Its final restitution with the Immortal Spirit, was carried on by the Gnostics and their successors to the 15th Century. then it was passed on to the Rose Cross and then the Illuminati and finally into the Pleroma, being achieved through purification, illumination and then perfection.

To complete this draft of successions, brief as it is, we must add one more link of authority: The Roman Collegia sent Artisans to the town of Chichester in England between 46 and 52 A.D. They remained there until the Romans left Britain when they migrated to York to become known as The Arcane College. In 155 A.D., at the instigation of King Lucius, the Gnostic Christians who had migrated to the West of England accepted the three Archdruids as the three future Archbishops of Celtic Britain and joined The Arcane College to become known as the Culdees or Primitive British Christians. A number migrated to Avignon in France and founded a College there. The British Church still survived in spite of the Roman Church: one of the Lines of Apostolic Succession vested in the Grand Hierophant is derived from the Ancient British Church.

In spite of the brief details given, it must be obvious to any observant stu-

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dent that the Pleroma and its Grand Hierophant stand in the direct line of succession with the Gnostics and the Pagan Mysteries, and the fact that it retains all the ancient landmarks within its framework should shatter once and for all any doubt in our minds that the Pleroma cannot prove its Spiritual Authority. As one member states: "If there are those who still doubt, there is one way of absolute proof. Let them follow the teachings as taught and lived by our Leader, and let their lives subsequently demonstrate to them the unmistakable validity of their Truth." Further, we can say, spend a little time studying the histories of the known Chivalric, Alchemistic, Rose Cross and Masonic Orders, and you will find a thin line of authority and succession running through and linking them to the Pagan Mysteries, and the Gnostics; then trace from the beginning of the 18th Century the movements of the many occult or spiritual bodies and you will see that they finally merge into The Order of the Pleroma, and then down to Richard, Duc de Palatine.

Is it not to be wondered that we, having in our person so many valid lines of authority, should speak out at the pretensions of many of the pseudo-occult and masonic bodies which exist today, knowing perfectly well that they are unable to prove their descent from the Pagan Mysteries.

We will now leave the rest to you - make of it what you will!

THE ARMY OF THE ELECT

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We have endeavoured to give a brief outline of the descent of the Gnosis from the days of Atlantis to the present day and how it was merged into The Brotherhood and Order of the Pleroma, but it must be clearly understood that, although the Pleroma is publicly known to the world, there are also a number of other bodies which have remained unknown to the general public. They also are the recipients of the Gnosis. There is a very definite connection between the Pleroma and the hidden bodies, and this link was forged by the Initiation of Richard, Duc de Palatine into each and every one of them. It could be said that the Pleroma is the Outer School belonging to The Hidden Church.

The Hidden Church, or The Invisible Empire of Light, constitutes the Army of Evolving Souls of all mankind. This Army is made up of the ordinary soldier in the ranks whose lesson it is to obey the regulations of the Army, but as the human soul graduates from the ranks and becomes an N.C.O., he now assumes more responsibility and graduates further and further out of the ranks as he learns more and more of the regulations and learns to accept more important responsibility in order that he shall become a captain or a colonel, and eventually a general, and so on.

As in any army, so you have the various ranks of responsibility in the Army of Souls, as every stage or initiation is successfully passed, the student-soldier is granted a commission from the King of the Empire. This process is known

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to the outer world as The Path of Holiness. This Army obeys the Will of the King under its Commanding Officer who is known in the West as St. Michael. This Hidden Church or Empire is governed in the same manner as the Kingdom of Great Britain is governed. You have the King and His Ministers of the various departments of Life. They are called The Princes of Light. Each Prince has under Him a descending ladder of Minor Officials, these being the Initiates ranging from the 1st Degree to the 4th Degree. Each one of these Initiates has around him a smaller group of pupils whom he directs in the business of the King. They are known as the Younger Brothers, whilst the Initiates are the Elder Brothers. Each Member of the Army owes complete obedience to the King of the Invisible Empire of Light.

The King rules two kingdoms, yet in reality the two kingdoms are but the life and form aspects of the One Kingdom of Light. So from age to age, from the Invisible Church a great Prince of Light becomes an Ambassador of the King and descends to earth to assume a mortal body in order to teach and help mankind along the Path of Light. These Princes have come to every civilisation and restated in the form and language suitable to the people of the Kingdom of Earth the age-old facts of his eventual restoration to his spiritual home.

In every century, seven of these Ambassadors descend to Earth and are responsible for the quickening of the seven departments of man's earthly endeavours. They deal with: Leadership,

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Teaching, Philosophic, The Artisan, The Mystic and the Organisation aspects. Each Ambassador may be a pupil of a Master or an Initiate, and it is his or her responsibility to sound the key-note for the new age. In the main, these embodiments of the Light come silently and fulfil their task and then pass away before the majority of the people realise that God has walked amongst them and the great opportunity they have missed.

Let us not run away with the stupid notion that the Ambassador is a creature from another planet or someone who must be bowed down before and adored. In fact, the Ambassador is more likely to appear to be more ordinary than yourselves. In other words, he will be, or is, a person just like the rest of us in every way. He may be born a prince or a labourer, but this concerns the outer shell only. The inner nature of the Ambassador is always veiled to the public. For instance, if he is a Century Messenger, he will have the human and the Divine Souls perfectly aligned, as in the case of Jacob Boehme and H. P. Blavatsky. He also becomes an Embodiment of God. Should the century be at the end of a minor cycle, then you will find that his human and Divine Souls are aligned with the Immortal Spirit. He then becomes the Embodiment of God The Holy Spirit; and in the case of a major cycle, he will embody the Consciousness of God the Son through his Spirit, Soul and human soul.

Within the Mysteries and the Gnostic System, this knowledge of the Invisible

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Empire of Light was only entrusted to the highest Initiates as it was considered that it was far too dangerous to be in the hands of the uneducated and uninitiated. This has been amply proved by Theosophy and its aftermath. H. P. Blavatsky states: "There is hardly a medium who has not claimed to have seen them (The Princes of Light). Every bogus swindling society, for commercial purposes, now claims to be guided and directed by 'Masters' often supposed to be far higher than ours! ... prompted either by desire for lucre, vanity or irresponsible mediumship ... had we acted on the principle of silence, such desecration would never have occurred." The Princes and their pupils adopt different tactics today, and a pupil is under a solemn obligation never to reveal to the public, not even their trusted friends, that they are a pupil of a Prince or Master.

Go into any occult society and you will hear the empty claims of being a pupil of a master. In most cases, they are the apt pupil of their own subconscious minds. Ultimately the burden of proof rests with them. We ourselves have often been told that such and such a person is a pupil of the 'Comte de St. Germain,' and we have to laugh silently to ourselves. We have never heard the Adept who used this title called by this name. We have a secret name for him, just as he has a secret name for us.

The lives of these Ambassadors embody the outlines of the Wisdom of God, each one dramatising the various stages

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in the life of the Soul of Man. Each one becomes the embodiment of God for a short period of time, then discards the mortal body and descends again to become the helper of the next Ambassador. Each Messenger teaches the three-fold stages of attainment through purification, then attaining illumination, and reaching perfection. Again, they always embodied the three levels of instruction to their pupils: the public teachings which are exoteric in nature; for their immediate pupils, the esoteric; and then, for the pledged pupils, the Knowledge of The Hidden Church.

Many of the earliest Ambassadors who founded the Mysteries were the Gods who descended to Earth and instituted the $3 \times 3 = 9$ system of Initiation. It was considered that if a neophyte had passed through the nine stages of the upward climb to the Summit he was then ready to take the 1st Initiation into The Empire of Light. Each stage of the Mysteries enabled the neophyte to become progressively spiritualised and be in the position to behold God face to face. This was the last and most awful of the Mysteries.

One will find the outlines of the Hidden Church running through their doctrines and in all the succeeding manifestations of the Gnosis up to and including the beginning of the 18th Century. One of the reasons for the withdrawal of the True Hierophants was due to the coming of the Industrial Revolution which began to sweep Europe

and the Americas. Men began to turn from spiritual things and concentrated upon the accumulation of worldly wealth. Every discovery made by man was turned towards selfish ends. This was one of the reasons for Their withdrawal and the founding of Masonry and a few of the more genuine occult bodies.

The culmination of the materialisation of science, religion and philosophy was reached at the beginning of this century (1900). In order to combat this spread of materialism, the Empire sent forth a great Adept, one of the most enigmatic personages of the century. One thing is certain: the 'Comte de St. Germain'- whatever his real patronymic may have been - had a right to his name and title. He bought a property called San Germano in the Italian Tyrol, and paid the Pope for the title. He came to reorganise the Schools of Europe, and one will find his moving hand through all the societies between 1700 and the end of the 19th Century. He also came to restore as far as possible the remaining Gnostic bodies and blend them into a single channel; that is to say, the outer bodies. His work and inspiration moved Adam Weishaupt to form The Order of The Illuminati. There is sufficient evidence to show that he was the Agent for The Templars, Rose Cross and many other Secret Assemblies. There is a suspicion that he was preparing for the Minor Messenger who was to appear in 1975. Let us see His movements: He inspired The Order of The Illuminati and showed Anton Mesmer the principles of magnetism or

Magnetic Masonry. We know that the Brothers of Light of 1498 used this form of healing and also that Paracelsus practised it in his own work. Mesmer discovered the magnetic fluid in man; he was initiated into The Fratres Lucis and the Egyptian branch of The Brotherhood of Luxor, and it was They who elected him as the Messenger for the 18th Century. His work was supervised by St. Germain. Later, Cagliostro was brought in to help, but he made mistakes and was recalled and banished to the Bastille to die there.

In 1848, H. P. Blavatsky was commissioned to act as the Messenger for the 19th Century. Her work was two-fold: to show the underlying unity of all religions and to reveal the facts concerning The Empire of Light; and secondly to reveal as much as that century could accept concerning the nature of the duality of Man and the methods of His restitution to His original purity. This latter doctrine was entrusted to a few pledged pupils in London. She was sent to Tibet to finish her three-fold training in The Arcane Discipline. She fulfilled the first stage, that of Purification; and Illumination, and it was under this natural faculty that she was able to write "The Secret Doctrine" with the help of her two Masters. We also know that 'St. Germain' gave her considerable help in her work.

It was obviously planned that The Theosophical Society should follow The Arcane Discipline when she formed the Outer Society. Within the Society itself

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she formed the Esoteric Section, and when she came to London she formed the Pledged Section, or The Hidden Church. When H.P.B. died in 1891, she left no instructions for the continuation of both the Esoteric and Hidden Sections. They ceased to exist with her death. The first split occurred in the Society when both Judge and Besant claimed to be the Head of the Esoteric Section, but, in point of fact, neither of them could claim this authority, as there was no authority to claim!

Dr. Besant went to Paris and was initiated into Freemasonry. She and a number of fellow-Theosophists formed Co-Masonry which today has become a barren and lifeless organisation. C. W. Leadbeater, a former Anglican Minister, joined with Bishop Wedgwood to form The Liberal Catholic Church, and this also has become a semi-orthodox church teaching Theosophy instead of Gnosticism. It is obvious that it was the intention of the Two Masters to form a new impulse based upon the three-fold division of the Philosophic (The Theosophical Society), the Sacerdotal (Liberal Catholic Church) and the Artisan (International Co-Masonry), but this effort was frustrated by the blindness of Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater. Since this triple movement failed to implement The Arcane Discipline and the Gnosis of the Soul, it failed in its purpose and has become a stumbling block to the reception of the new impulse. By this failure, the line of the Esoteric Tradition was broken. What happens next?

H. P. Blavatsky stated that another Ambassador for the 20th Century would

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make his or her appearance about 1975. They could be a pupil or an Initiate who would reveal and demonstrate the final proofs of the Divine Nature of Man and the method of its restitution with its original purity. Who the next Messenger will be we will have to leave to the future.

Since H. P. Blavatsky was commissioned by The Trans-Himalayan Brotherhood to act as Their Messenger under the guidance of two of Its Brothers, her work was obviously devoted to preparing the ground for the 20th Century. Her work failed to achieve the goal for which it was intended. Will the next Messenger succeed or fail? Who can tell?

If Anton Mesmer was commissioned by The Brotherhood of Luxor to be the Messenger for the 18th Century, then he too failed partially in his labours by the blunders of Cagliostro, just as H.P.B. partially failed through the blunders of the Governing Council of The Theosophical Society under the Presidency of Henry S. Olcott. Will the next Messenger also fail to achieve his or her objective through the blindness of one or a number of Their helpers?

If Mesmer was sent by The Brotherhood of Luxor, and H.P.B. by The Tibetan Brotherhood, it may be that the next Messenger will be sent forth by The Templars and Rose Cross Brotherhoods and that the Messenger for the 21st Century will be sent forth by The Esoteric Arcane College. This may be supposition, but there are certain facts which could give

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some substance to the above. When the "Comte de St. Germain" DIED, he was reported to have said that He would be away from Europe for about a century and then He would return to continue His labours for the Empire.

There are reports from various Centres that "St. Germain" is again active in Europe, England and America. In spite of the many confusing claims, both genuine and false, there seems to emerge a fairly clear picture: that this Adept is definitely working for this century. He is reported to have been in St. Petersburg in Russia before the Revolution, and to have warned the Czar of Russia of coming events. At a Council held in Paris before the last war of the Heads of many of the Assemblies, St. Germain presided. From the deliberations of this Council a directive was sent out to a number of the Brothers in various parts of the world to be prepared to work with the new impulse. It would appear to be fairly obvious that the next Messenger would work under the supervision of the "Comte de St. Germain."

It may be well to make this perfectly clear to all and sundry: The Order of the Pleroma does not claim to be the only organisation teaching and practising The Arcane Discipline. There are many small private Schools scattered around the globe following the Discipline under various forms. But what we do state is that the Pleroma is the only public body proclaiming the ancient Arcane Discipline, and that it can trace its descent and authority from the Ancient

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Mystery Schools.

The Pleroma can only appeal to and assist those individuals who have outgrown the need for Father-figures and organised spirituality, since they have realised that the real Image of the Father-Figure is not external, but is rather an internal Self, and that the method to achieve the realisation of this Real Self is by one's own personal effort. Therefore, it is logical that the achievement of the Real Man cannot be made through organised spirituality, but, on the other hand, such organised bodies can and will assist the individual for part of the way; then he is on his own. The Pleroma is not organised spirituality; it is a method to be followed in one's personal life. All that the Pleroma can do for its members is to point the way and assist the member in whatever way it can, but, in the main, the work must be done by the members alone. Hence the reason why the Pleroma cannot make any promises to you, for to do so would be gross dishonesty.

There is sufficient evidence to show that the Princes of Light do try to impress suitable individuals to form organised groups of students in the hope that such groups will become channels whereby the Will of the Father may become manifest on Earth, but there is always a danger that this effort will be frustrated by the lower nature of both the leader and the members, for when self-seeking, pride and arrogance gain the upper hand, the channel becomes clogged and the Power from on high cannot flow forth. The body con-

cerned then becomes useless in the Hand of the Father. In the main, organisations which have been formed with high and pure aspirations in the beginning generally become crystallised in their ways of thinking and behaviour and are unable to change with the ever-increasing tempo of life. They then become outmoded and useless in the New Age.

If the body follows The Arcane Discipline then it must, according to the Law of Change, also change from time to time in order to meet the conditions of the new impulse, but it is when there manifests a resistance to this change within the group that we find the group falling short of the Plan of God.

Unlike most organised bodies, the Pleroma is not strictly an organised body, since it only has one Outer Head who realises that the Will of God is directive in its drives and unchangeable in its purpose, but that its form of expression is changeable. Therefore, the Pleroma remains flexible and can change when it is necessary to change. This process of change is evident both in the writings of its Head and the framework in 1955.

There is a saying that when a body refuses to change, then it ceases to have any value in human life. In fact, it can and does act as a rigid wall to further progress for the student. Hence the reason for our criticism of most of the old-established spiritual movements. They have obviously outlived their usefulness and instead of changing with nature, they seek to retain the status quo upon which they first began. In order to retain this

status quo, they are compelled to enter into acts which are in the main antagonistic to the Will of God.

Before the Pleroma accomplishes its objective for this age, there must be further changes in its structure. It must be prepared to scrap its present form of presentation if it has been proved to be ineffectual and adopt another approach. Admittedly, there will be those members who will resent this change and will retire taking with them members of like mind who will form another body without due authority from the Empire of Light, but in spite of this and other contingencies, the main directive drive of the Outer Head will continue along the Line of the Thought of the Empire.

Finally, there is always a period of slow growth for any group. The foundation stones have to be squared and laid firmly before the superstructure is built. The stones are actually human beings who are able to fit into the foundations for the future. Each stone must be squared, levelled and oriented to the Higher Self, then the foundations will be firm and lasting. This period of preparation is nearing its end for the Pleroma when the doors will be opened to all and sundry, but until we have a band of Illuminati or partially illumined men and women to build upon, this period of change and preparation must continue until the foundation stones have been well and truly laid. This is the main reason for the slow expansion of the Pleroma. When it is ready, then the Hidden Section will be formed, that of The Pre-Nicene Catholic

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Church, and not before. One stage becomes the foundation for the erection of the next and so on, ad infinitum.

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