

## THE STRONG GRIP OF THE LION'S PAW

A correspondent wishes to know what determines the time of Easter each year and being a Freemason he also wishes to know what connection there is between the resurrection of Christ at Easter and the resurrection of Hiram Abiff in the Masonic symbology.

When our serial article on the Christian Mystic Initiation is finished, we will continue the subject with another article dealing with Initiation and called "Freemasonry and Catholicism." In those articles the subject mentioned by our correspondent will be thoroughly ventilated. In the meanwhile, we will briefly outline the Masonic legend which is necessary to know in order to understand the subject referred to.

The Masonic legend says that in the beginning Jehovah created Eve, and the Lucifer spirit Samael united with her, and from this union Cain was born. Then Samael left Eve and she became virtually a widow and Cain was the son of a widow and from him descended all the craftsmen of the world, including Hiram Abiff, the grand Master-workman on Solomon's temple, to whom Jehovah revealed the design for His temple; but Solomon was unable to execute the design and therefore compelled to engage Hiram Abiff, a cunning craftsman, a son of Cain and therefore the son of a widow.

High mystic Masons recognize the fact that, from the cosmic viewpoint, Hiram Abiff is symbolized by the Sun. While the Sun (Hiram) is in the northern signs—Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo—he is among faithful friends and followers, but when, in the course of the year, he enters the southern signs—Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius—he is assaulted by the three conspirators, as recorded in the Masonic legend, and finally slain at the winter solstice, to be again resurrected as he climbs toward the equator, which he crosses at the vernal equinox.

The Masonic legend relates that the Queen of Sheba journeyed from afar to see the wise Solomon of whom she had heard so much. She was also shown the beautiful temple and wanted to see the cunning craftsman, the master-builder and his workmen who had wrought such a marvel. But there has always been enmity between the sons of Cain and the sons of Seth. Even when they have cooperated, they have never trusted each other fully and Solomon feared that his beautiful fiancé might become enamored of Hiram Abiff, and therefore he endeavored to call the workmen himself, but none responded. They "knew the voice of their shepherd," Hiram Abiff (the Sun in Aries, the sign of the lamb). They were trained to obey his call and would heed no other voice. Therefore Solomon was finally forced to send for Hiram Abiff and request that he call his artisans, and the moment he lifted his hammer (1° Aries, which is the sign of his authority and exaltation), they came in a multitude that could not be numbered, each one eager to do his will.

In the spring the Sun (Hiram) enters Aries 1°, the sign of his exaltation. This sign is shaped like the hammer which Hiram raised and all the workmen on the temple (the Universe) rush to do his bidding and carry on his work when he ascends to the throne of his dignity and authority in the northern heavens. He is their shepherd because at the vernal equinox he enters Aries 1°, the sign of the ram or lamb. Him they hear, but these nature forces take command from no other than the Sun in Aries, the Easter Sun.

This is the cosmic interpretation, but according to the law of analogy, Hiram, the son of Cain, must also be raised to a higher degree of Initiation and only the Sun-Spirit about to soar into the heavens could accomplish the feat. Hence Hiram was re-born as Lazarus and raised

by the strong grip of the Lion's paw. He had been a leader of the craftsmen during the regime of Jehovah and His creature Solomon. By this initiation he was raised up for the purpose of being a leader in the Kingdom of Christ and helping the same people on in a higher phase of their evolution. Therefore he became a Christian, charged to explain the mysteries of the Cross, and as a symbol of this mystery the Rose was added thereto, and this mission was embodied in his symbolic name, Christian Rosenkreuz.

The rose is called the emblem of mystery in general, but most people are not aware that this addition of the rose to the cross was the origin of that symbolic significance. The rose is the emblem of the mystery of the cross because it explains the path of chastity, the transmutation of blood from passion to love. Lazarus, therefore, became Christian Rose-Cross and the Rosicrucians are the special messengers of Christ to the sons of Cain, as Jesus is to the sons of Abel.

The Pharisees knew a great deal of the occult origin of these two classes of humanity and therefore the Lazarus miracle was to them the crowning crime of the Christ. They became seriously alarmed then that their national religion would be superseded by another if any more such signs were performed, for they sensed that it was an initiation of a higher nature than they knew of and that it boded an entrance into a higher cycle. Before the Christ, all the religions were race-religions, suited to the people to whom they were given, and suitable only for those people. All these religions were Jehovah religions, for as the Father was the highest Initiate of the Saturn Period, so Christ the Son was the highest Initiate of the Sun Period, and Jehovah the Holy Spirit was the highest Initiate of the Moon Period. From Jehovah, then, come the race-religions, which endeavor to prepare mankind along the path of evolution by means of law. These race-religions are to be superseded by the universal religion of the Sun-Spirit Christ, which shall unite all men into one brotherhood. The change from one to the other and the fact that the religion of the lunar God Jehovah must precede the religion of the Sun-Spirit Christ is symbolized by the manner in which Easter is determined.

The rule in present use for determining the time of Easter is that it falls on the first Sunday following the Paschal full Moon. This was the original time adopted by the earliest Christians, who had knowledge of and regard for the occult significance, but very soon ignorant people started schisms and fixed it at different times. This occasioned no little controversy. In the second century a dispute arose on this point between the Eastern and Western Churches. Eastern Christians celebrated Easter on the 14th day of the first Jewish month or Moon, considering it to be equivalent to the Jewish Passover. The Western Christians kept it on the Sunday after the 14th day, holding that it was the commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus. The First Council of Nicea, 325 A. D, decided in favor of the Western use, branding the Eastern practice with the name of heresy. This, however, only settled the point that Easter was to be held not on a certain day of the month or moon but on a Sunday. The proper astronomical cycle for calculating the occurrence of the Easter moon was not yet determined, but they finally deferred to the ancient method of fixing the festival by the Moon, and so the ancient original custom was finally revived. Thus Easter is now held upon the same day as required by the occult tradition, and necessary to properly symbolize the cosmic significance of the event. In this respect both the Sun and Moon are necessary factors, for Easter is not merely a solar festival. The Sun must not only go past the equator, as it does on the 21st of March, but the full Moon after the vernal equinox must also be passed, and then the following Sunday is Easter, the day of Resurrection. The light of the vernal Sun must be reflected by a full Moon before that day can dawn on earth and there is, as said, a deep meaning hidden

behind that method of determining Easter; viz., that humanity was not sufficiently evolved to have the religion of the Sun, the Christian religion of universal brotherhood, until they had been fully prepared through the religions of the Moon, which segregated and separated humanity into groups, nations, and races, and this is symbolized by the annual rise of the Sun Spirit at Easter, being deferred until the Jehovistic Moon has thrown back and fully reflected the light of the Easter Sun.

All the founders of race religions—Hermes, Buddha, Moses, et cetera—were initiates in the Jehovistic mysteries. They were Sons of Seth. At their initiation they became ensouled by their particular Race Spirit and this spirit, speaking through the mouth of such an initiate, gave laws to his people, as, for instance, the Decalogue of Moses, the laws of Manu, the noble truths of Buddha, et cetera. These laws manifested sin because the people did not and could not keep them at their stage of evolution. So they made a certain debt of destiny in consequence. This destiny the human initiate founder of the religion had to take upon himself and so he had to be born again and again to help his people. Thus Buddha was born as Shankaracharya and had a number of other rebirths. Moses was re-born as Elijah and John the Baptist; but Christ, on the other hand, did not need to take birth in the first place. He did it of His own free will to help humanity, to abrogate the law that brings sin and emancipate humanity from the law of sin and death. The Race-religions of the lunar God Jehovah conveyed the will of God to mankind in an indirect manner through Seers and Prophets, who were but imperfect instruments, as the lunar rays reflect the light of the Sun. The mission of these religions was to prepare mankind for the universal religion of the Sun-Spirit Christ, Who manifested among us without an intermediary, as the light which comes direct from the Sun, and “we beheld His glory as the alone-begotten of the Father” when He taught the Gospel of Love. The Christian religion gives no laws but preaches Love as the fulfillment of the law; therefore, no debts of destiny are generated under it, and so Christ, Who was under no necessity to be born in the first place, will not be drawn to Rebirth under the law of Causation, as were the founders of the lunar Race-religions, who must bear from time to time the sins of their followers. When He appears it will be in a body made of the two higher ethers—the Light and Reflecting ethers—the golden wedding garment called *soma psuchicon* or soul-body by Paul, who is very emphatic in his assertion that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.” He asserts that we shall be changed and be like Christ, and if we cannot enter the Kingdom in a fleshly body it would be absurd to suppose that the King of Glory would wear such a coarse cumbersome garment.

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

In time, however, these two great streams of the Sons of Seth and the Sons of Cain must unite in order to reach the portals of the kingdom of Christ. Before His time there was no way in which such an amalgamation could take place, but when Christ, the great Sun-Spirit, came, Solomon was re-born as Jesus, into whom the Christ-Spirit entered at the baptism and Hiram Abiff was re-born as Lazarus. When Lazarus was raised up by the strong grip of the Lion of

Judah's paw, Hiram and Solomon, the former antagonists, sank their differences, as prompted by the Christ-Spirit, and both are working now for the establishment of the kingdom of Christ. It was this the Pharisees in some way sensed or surmised, and hence their fears that this Jesus would initiate many people and subvert them from the race-religion to which they (the Pharisees) were wedded.