

The Cauldron

THE HIGH PRIEST KING

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MELCHISEDEK THE ELDER

One of the most mysterious, yet significant, figures in the Old Testament is Melchisedek. His real identity has remained a secret to most Bible scholars and readers and if it were to be widely known it would be immediately censored. It is one of those references which, like several others with secret meanings, slipped through the net when the early Church was busy censoring Biblical texts and deciding which were to be retained as orthodox and those to be rejected as heretical. In fact the reference to Melchisedek represents a heretical view the Church will never accept because it would be regarded as blasphemy.

Melchisedek is described as the king of Salem (peace) and as 'the priest of the Most High God'. This may not be as most people presume, the Semitic storm god of war Yahwah or Jehovah; but the Absolute, the God of Gods who is beyond all human understanding. In the Biblical text the priest-king blesses Abraham of Ur and offers him a sacramental meal of bread and wine (Genesis 14: 18-20). The eucharist can be seen as an early attempt to substitute the Semitic tradition of blood sacrifice with a more civilised and enlightened alternative. Yahwah demanded 'burnt offerings' and Jewish rites of animal sacrifice survived until the destruction of Solomon's temple by the Romans in 70 CE. Details of the various sacrificial offerings demanded by Yahwah can be found in Leviticus 5-9. Also there is more than a hint of human sacrifice in the Biblical story of Abraham and his son Isaac (Genesis 22: 1-19).

The blood sacrifice element is also found in the story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4: 1-8) Abel's offering of animal sacrifices to Yahwah is still recalled in the wording of the Catholic Mass. Paradoxically it also refers in the next line to the bread and wine offered by Melchisedek. In a Sixth century mosaic Abel is depicted offering the priest-king a white lamb as a sacrifice. In front of Melchisedek is an altar covered by a white tablecloth. On it stands a gold chalice and two round loaves in the shape of sun discs. The dispute between Cain and Abel was caused by Cain attempting to substitute his brother's animal sacrifices offered to the blood thirsty Yahweh with the fruits of the earth.

In the New Testament Paul mentions Melchisedek in his Epistle to the Hebrews. This is in the context of the role of Jesus as a high priest of Israel after 'the Order of Melchisedek'. This suggests a tradition, group or hereditary bloodline of priests, or indeed priest-kings, to whom Jesus was thought to belong. Paul goes on to describe Melchisedek as 'without father, without mother, without descent . . . but made like unto the Son of God.' The phrase 'without father, without mother' is a coded reference to someone regarded as of divine origin or semi-divine. The further use of the term 'Son of God' is heretical and blasphemous from an orthodox Christian viewpoint. After the infamous Council of Nicea only Jesus could be called the Son of God. But then perhaps Melchisedek was an incarnation of one of the Ben Elohim or 'Sons of God'?

At first glance it seems strange that Paul should select an obscure Old Testament figure and compare him with the Christ. In fact if we take a closer look at this enigmatic figure, his legendary origins and esoteric symbolism it is not all that strange. Once this has been done his identification with Jesus, or the spiritual entity that overshadowed him in first century Palestine, is explained – but not in a way which would be recognized or acceptable to the Church founded in his name as we shall see.

ANGELIC GENESIS

In her epic, and much neglected, magnum opus *The Secret Doctrine* Madame Helena Blavatsky connects

Melchisedek with the primordial Titans, the giants of chaos in classical mythology, and the Kabirim (Mighty Ones), the Elder Gods of the sea and underworld who, according to Greek myth, taught humanity agriculture and smithcraft. When Blavatsky refers to the Titanic race this can be taken as a coded reference to the Nephelim – the half-human, half-angelic race of magicians who were the offspring between ‘the daughters of men’ and the Ben Elohim, the fallen angels or Watchers (see Genesis 6:1-4 and *The Book of Enoch*)

In prehistoric times the Kabirim or Kabari were known as a mysterious race who allegedly lived on the island of Rhodes in the Mediterranean. They were said to have been the first metalworkers and made bronze statues of the Gods. They also furnished the deities with weapons and taught humankind agriculture, smithcraft and the magical arts. For their ‘crime’ of teaching humanity the Kabari were destroyed by the Greek father-god Zeus in a deluge. Parallels with the Hebrew myth of the fallen angels and the Flood are obvious. The first smith according to the Bible was Tubal Cain and he is also said to have been a Kabari i.e. ‘an instructor of every artifice in brass and iron’. It is therefore not surprising that the Kabari were popularly known in folk tradition as ‘the sons of (Me1chi)Zadok’. The name ‘Zdadk’ was also an hereditary name or title used by the ancient Jewish priesthood.

THE FALLEN ANGEL

Tubal Cain is one of the incarnations or forms taken by Azazel or Azrael, the leader of the Watchers or fallen angels. In modern Cabbalistic lore Azrael is the Angel of Death and the archangel of Pluto. In astrology this planet rules buried or hidden (occult) treasure, forbidden knowledge (usually of a ‘dark’ kind i.e. unorthodox or heretical in relation to the organised established religions of the day), death, the subconscious mind and reptilian part of the brain, the regenerative and creative forces, the reproductive organs and cell formation. In modern astrology Pluto rules the Zodiac sign of Scorpio. Before the dark planet’s discovery in the 1930s this sign was ruled by Mars.

Madame Blavatsky says of the Roman god of war that originally he was known as the Lord of Death. He also ruled over generation and destruction, agriculture, building, masonry and architecture. He was popularly identified with Cain, with the Roman god of fire and smithcraft, Vulcan and with . . . Melchisedek. As the legendary priest-king he was known as the Just One and, according to Blavatsky he was the ruler of Terra Mater.

In Cabbalistic lore the archangel of Mars is Samael and he has sometimes been called the Lord of Death. To the Hebrews he was the evil principle and their equivalent of the Devil. The Gnostics believed he was the Old Serpent who tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden myth. To them he was not evil, but the personification of divine wisdom. Samael allegedly mated with Eve and the illicit result of their union was her first-born, Cain. Samael was also the consort and male alter-ego of Lilith, the Sumerian-Hebrew goddess of the dark moon, and first wife of Adam.

In the secret Cabbalistic and Gnostic traditions which have influenced the Luciferian Craft, the serpent in Eden was Azrael/Lucifer. In the myth of the fallen angels Azrael not only taught male humans to forge weapons and metal tools, he also taught women the arts of cosmetics, sexual pleasure and magick. In Hebrew demonology Azrael or Azazel was the scapegoat cast out into the wilderness and sacrificed to cleanse the sins of the Jewish people. He led a company of half-human, half-goat demons called the Seirim. Azazel and the Seirim also had female human followers who were believed to have the power to shape change into animal form and foretell the future as did the medieval witches.

GIFTS FROM THE STARS

In the esoteric tradition Melchisedek was said to have given three special gifts to humankind. They had not evolved on this planet, but had allegedly come from Venus, the Morning Star. The first was wheat, a symbol of growth, fertility and renewal. It is, of course, closely connected with the origins of agriculture

and with the seasonal cycle of the agricultural year. Also its attendant ancient myth of the death and rebirth of the Sacrificed God and the Sacred King mated to the Goddess of the Land. His second gift was the wild honey bee. Both the bee and its product honey were closely associated with the worship of the Great Mother Goddess in ancient cultures and the cult of divine kingship. It has been claimed that the fleur-de-lys adopted by the early French royal house and others was in fact derived from a stylised wild honey bee. It was an important symbol for the Merovingian dynasty of 'long-haired sorcerer-kings'. In pre-Christian times they worshipped Diana-Artemis as the bear goddess and were said to be descended from a mating between a human woman and a mysterious sea-beast called a quinotaur. The third and final gift was asbestos, that mysterious material with an almost magical ability to withstand heat and fire.

If we accept the scientific fact that even millions of years ago Venus was a hot, sterile world that was totally inhospitable to life then the fact that these three gifts are supposed to have originated from Earth's sister planet cannot be a reality. Instead we must view the story of these gifts and their nature in purely mythical and symbolic terms. After all, as all initiates know, myth and symbol are spiritual metaphors.

THE SANG RAEI AND THE GRAIL

Melchisedek is also closely linked with the medieval Grail Mysteries which we have explored in previous articles. In Chartres cathedral in France, built on a Druidic site, financed by the Knight Templars and dedicated to the Black Virgin, there is a statue of Melchisedek. Again it is odd that the medieval masons and architects responsible for this Gothic cathedral should have selected this obscure figure for such treatment. However, as many of them were secretly initiates of the Mysteries, they fully understood his esoteric significance, knew his real identity and what he represented in the history and evolution of this planet and the human race.

The statue of the priest-king holds a chalice which has been identified as the Grail itself. In the chalice is a stone and that reminds us of the medieval legend of Eastern origin that the Grail was carved from an emerald that fell from the crown of Lucifer. This mystical green stone is also known in arcane lore as Azoth or the Philosopher's Stone which the alchemists believed could turn lead (matter) into gold (spirit). This stone was once owned by King Solomon, whose temple features so strongly in both Templar and Masonic lore. Solomon, of course, was of the Royal House of David. It is perhaps fitting that this Luciferian stone should have been carved into a cup used at the Last Supper by another of its descendants. After his death on the cross of matter this holy vessel became the container for his sang rael or sacred bloodline.

A GREAT TEACHER

So who is the mysterious priest-king of Salem? The clues are all there plainly to be seen. To some occultists steeped in theosophical lore he is one of the Manus, the great teachers and cultural exemplars who are also known as the Masters of Wisdom. They are said to have abandoned their etheric forms and donned 'cloaks of flesh' by incarnating on Old Earth as avatars. Their task was to teach early humans the arts of civilisation and occult knowledge. In Luciferian mythology they are the Watchers.

Melchisedek is in fact one of the avatars of the World Teacher, the Lord of the World, the planetary regent of Earth. This is confirmed by one of his titles being the Father of Humanity. It is therefore not surprising that Jesus was called a priest-king after the Order of Melchisedek and 'the Light of the World' (John 8: 12 and 12:46). More explicitly in Revelations 22: 16 Jesus is quoted as saying: "I am the root and offspring of David, and the bright and Morning Star" This is another heretical passage of the Bible which escaped the censors of the early Church, and it cannot be clearer what he is saying.

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Further reading: *The Pillars of Tubal Cain* by Michael Howard and Nigel Jackson published by Capall Bann 2001.