

THE VERMONT LODGE OF RESEARCH #10

**ESOTERIC SYMBOLISM OF THE 17TH DEGREE
KNIGHTS OF THE EAST & WEST**

THE FRANCKEN MANUSCRIPT 1783

Brother Eric Ginette in his prologue to the last performance of the 17th degree 'Knights of East & West' said that a complete handwritten copy of the Stephen Morin French Scottish Rite rituals was made by Henry Francken in 1783. Francken had previously established a "Lodge of Perfection" in Albany, NY in 1767. The degrees in this Lodge consisted of the original 25 Morin degrees in the Francken ritual manuscript. Later, in a document known as the "Constitutions of 1786", the degrees were expanded to 33 in number which became the foundation of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite council that was founded in Charleston, South Carolina in 1801.

Looking at the text of the 17th degree in the Francken ritual manuscript, one finds in two separate places reference to a certain apocalyptic seal. The seal is described as follows:

"A man vested in white robes, girded with a gold cincture, round his right hand 7 stars; his head surrounded with a glory; a long white beard; a 2 edged sword across his mouth, surrounded and lighted by 7 candlesticks"

In the question and answer monologue between the candidate and hierophant that follows, explanation of the symbols in this seal are revealed. The explanations are fairly mundane, but it is clear that this so-called seal described as "the draught of the Council is a heptagon in a circle" is the central symbol of this 17th degree.

In looking at this ritual's explanation in Albert Pike's *MORALS AND DOGMA*, Pike actually begins the chapter with a drawing of this heptagon in a circle as shown below in plate no. 1. To it he adds a lamb in the foreground below the feet of the king. His musings about the degree mostly describe the sources of the ancient wisdom and finishes the lecture saying "Hence we are called Knights of the East and West because their doctrines came from both. And these doctrines masonry has garnered up in her heart."

Plat no. 1



Two ideas do play a prominent role in his lecture.

First, the doctrine of the WORD, which he says appears in all the creeds of the ancient world wisdom, as *Ormuzd* of the Zoroastrians, the *Ainsoph* of the Kabbalists, the *Nous* of Platonism and Philonism and the *Sophia* of the Gnostics. The WORD is the emanation from the supreme deity or LOGOS which is the created world. Pike says "The Logos is the vehicle by which God acts on the universe and may be compared to the SPEECH in man." This correspondence with human speech is very important to remember later in connection to the sword in the mouth of the king in the apocalyptic seal of this degree.

Secondly, the doctrine of the seven planets and their genii, the seven stars and the names of the seven planetary archangels .

THE SEVEN APOCALYPTIC SEALS

Now, precisely what is an apocalyptic seal?

To begin an explanation we have to move from Pike to his mentor in France,

Eliphas Levi. Levi was born in Paris in 1810 and lived an occultist life in France as a contemporary life with Albert Pike born here in the USA in 1809. Levi was a catholic, a high degree mason and considered the greatest occultist of the 19th century. That Levi was a mentor of Pike is well known. Huge portions of Pike's *MORAL AND DOGMA* have been quoted or copied verbatim from Levi's occult books published in the 1850's in France. In particular, at the end of Levi's *HISTORY OF MAGIC* is a table of his "seven apocalyptic seals" which seem to have been published for the first time in Western occultism. (See plat no. 2) Note that the drawing on the upper right side is our 17th degree apocalyptic seal. This differs slightly from Pike's, there being no lamb in the foreground. Levi does not give an explanation of the symbolism contained in the seals. He does say this much.

"It was at the epoch of the Gnostic and Manichaeian heresies that the Tarot must have been lost to the Church, at which time also the meaning of the divine Apocalypse perished. It was understood no longer that the seven seals of this Kabalistic book are seven pantacles, the representation of which we give (below plat No. 2) and that these pantacles are explained by the analogies of the numbers, characters and figures of the Tarot."

Although it appears that Levi was the source of the occult seals that made its way into Scottish rite masonry, the history of apocalyptic seals goes back to the ninth century Spain. There has always been a tradition in the Catholic church in Europe of creating magnificent illuminated manuscripts. In addition to the usual illuminated pages of bibles, such as the magnificent Book of Kells, there existed a tradition of esoteric Christian commentary alongside the illuminated manuscripts drawn from the *APOCALYPSE* or Book of Revelation of the New Testament.

From the late ninth century to the thirteenth century there was in Spain a continuous series of illustrated Apocalypses with commentary by Beatus of Liebana. Even before this time, there existed a manuscript in Northumbria dated 700 Ad. Also, in the early eight century the theologian and chronicler Bede had written a commentary on the Apocalypse, including the highly influential division of the text into seven series of visions.



plat no. 2

In England, beginning in the mid-thirteenth century, a tradition developed separate from the Northumbrian manuscripts. Most of the texts were attributed to a man named Berengaudus. When and from where he wrote his commentaries remains unknown. Several unillustrated manuscripts survive in England from the 11th and 12th centuries. Beginning the thirteenth century, beautiful illustrated picture book type manuscripts began to appear, with the text set aside the pictures in two columns. Commentary was in latin, English and French. Two of them called the Douce Apocalypse and Trinity Apocalypse have survived and are on display at the Pierpont Museum in New York city. They are a wonder to observe and think about!

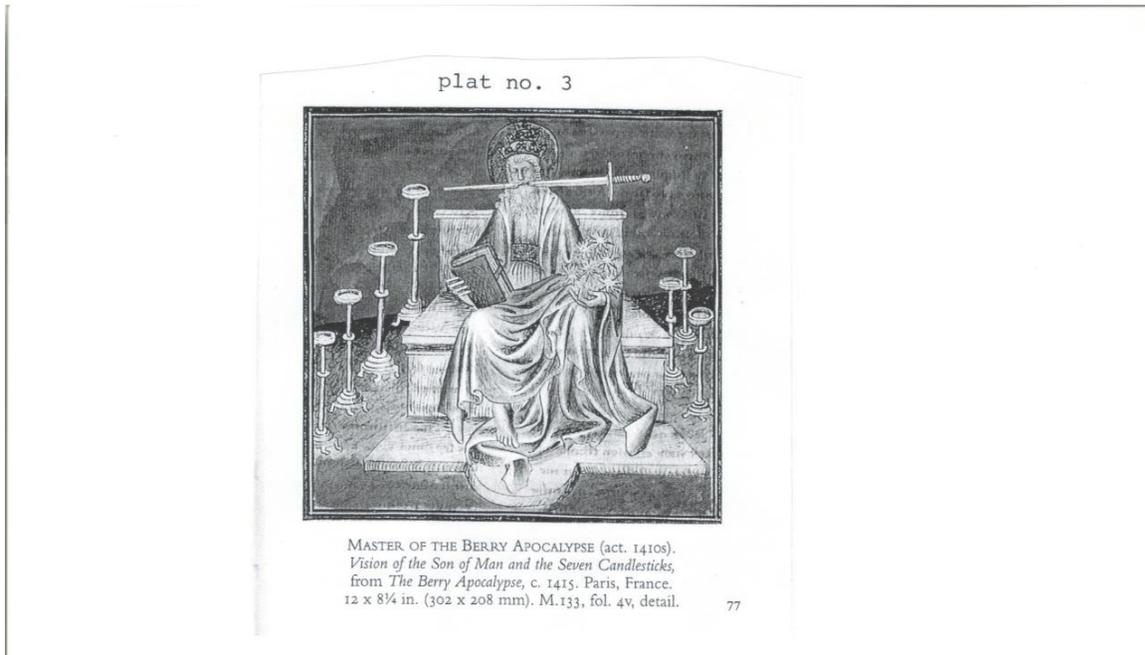
Each illustration in the picture book editions depict exact scenes and symbols taken from the Apocalypse of St. John. Each illustration abounds with symbolism, both exoteric and esoteric. Looking at the 7 apocalyptic seals above, attributed to Levi, all the symbols shown can be traced back to the illustrated Apocalypses of the high middle ages in England and France. For example, the four beasts of Isaiah, the alpha and omega, the book of wisdom, the pillars of Joachim and Boaz, the angel (Michael) treading the dragon underfoot, the woman with 12 stars above her head in the suns glory treading the moon beneath her feet and the new Jerusalem.

Actually, this first apocalyptic seal is the only one of the seven that is literally taken from the Book verbatim. The other six seals are eclectic with the symbols chosen from parts of the BOOK and then put together into the picture to portray an esoteric Christian theme. It says (ch.1:12-16):

“I saw the seven golden lamp stands; and in the midst the image of the Son of Man, clothed with a garment reaching to the ankles and girt around the breasts with a golden girdle; but his head and his hair were white as white wool and snow, and his eyes were as a flame of fire; his feet were like fine brass, as if in a glowing furnace, and his voice was like the voice of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars. And out of his mouth came forth a sharp two edged sword; and the radiance of his countenance was like the shining sun.”

From the *BERRY APOCALYPSE* dated 1410 Paris is a picture of a king with a two edged sword in his mouth surrounded by seven candle sticks with stars in his left hand. (See plat no. 3) below. Put this picture in a heptagon circle and we have the first

seal of our 17th Scottish Rite degree. To me this is very strong evidence that French freemasonry has roots extending back to 15th century esoteric doctrines of the (Templar) Catholic church.



THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE 1907

During the month of May, 1907, the Theosophical Society of the European sections held its annual conference in Munich. At this time Annie Besant was its president. The German section of the society was the event host and organized the Congress under the direction of Dr. Rudolph Steiner.

Dr Steiner was a was sort-of mason. On November 24, 1905, he joined the German section of the so-called Memphis-Misraim Order. However, he never attended a Lodge meeting. Later in January, 1906, he purchased a masonic franchise from Theodore Reuss, later of OTO fame with Aleister Crowley. This charter gave him ownership of a German lodge from which he could grant degrees and charge fees for the "Great Orient of the Scottish Ancient and Accepted thirty-three degree rite of the Ancient and Primitive Memphis-Misraim rite" under the name *Mystica Aeterna*. This Rite

was combined from the two former rites by the Italian revolutionary, Guiseppe Garibaldi, who became Grand Master in Italy in 1881, followed by Guiseppe Mazzini. The only purpose for Steiner of purchasing the Memphis-Misraim rite was to conduct instruction and rituals for the Esoteric School of Theosophy of which he was a member under the direction of Annie Besant. The connection of this Rite with the Theosophical Society goes back to Madame Blavatsky who was personally initiated into the Memphis-Misraim rite by John Yarker in 1877. Yarker was a internationally famous, mason, TS member and occultist, having studied under Papus. When he was Grand Master of the combined Rite, he sold the charter to Theodor Reuss.

At the Munich conference Dr. Steiner placed the 7 apocalyptic seals against the back walls in a position to be seen between seven long pillars especially designed and made by him. Each pillar bore the sign of the seven planets and the planetary seal corresponding to each. Each day he gave a lecture on the seals and the pillars and explained their esoteric meaning. For the seals, he said:

“ Whoever studies the seals will recognize the images in the visions of the writer of the Apocalypse. Every letter, every color of the seals means something...even to the smallest detail. ..A persons shadow is the two-dimensional picture of the three-dimensional being. As the shadow is to the person, so what is portrayed in the apocalyptic seals corresponds to certain experiences of the seer in the astral world. The seals are akin to silhouettes of astral occurrences...the evolution of humanity, whose expression in the astral world must build the most essential foundations of esoteric knowledge, is shown in these seven seals.... Whoever could combine the right numbers with the right pictures was able to read it. This wisdom of numbers and pictures has been taught since primeval ages”

THE FIRST APOCALYPTIC SEAL

THE FLAMING SWORD. The first seal represents the entire evolution of humanity. That is why it appears in the very first chapter of the *APOCALYPSE*. Let us

look first at the flaming sword coming out of the mouth of the king. The king represents humanity. The sword has been represented throughout the history of various myths and religions as the organ of speech that will evolve into the future into a much higher and more perfect organ of speech. To understand this, we must go back to the beginning of human time. Before the middle of the Lemurian Age, the human was bisexual, the famous androgyne of the Adam Kadmon described in the Kabbalah, in whom was contained all ten of the sephiroth. Each person contained both a male and female part within themselves. This androgyne was however predominately feminine by nature and full of wisdom. The woman contained the male seed inside her. When the sexes separated, the male-female became the male and the female. What was previously stored up inside the androgyne as uni-sexual energy was released into halves. The energy half that was released became freed up to evolve into the higher forces of human thinking.

What was previously united in a single human organ, divided itself, into a duality. The female egg lost the ability to fertilize itself from its own body. It became infertile and will so become in the future. With the separation of the sexual organs, the infertile female could only be fertilized from outside by the male organ seed.

The wisdom that formerly prevailed in the female androgyne, separated. In a man, wisdom had a female character and in a woman, wisdom had a male character. The male wisdom became active and the female wisdom became passive. The passive wisdom now consists of higher intuitions and revelations passing into the female cognition, but with a male character. The story of Cain and Abel reflects this ancient duality. Cain has the male wisdom that receives the revelations that work outward in tilling the soil and raising crops. The Abel wisdom is female in nature and rejects anything coming from the outside that needs to be worked upon. The Sons of Abel became the priestly line of the Old Testament, symbolized by the herdsman instinct. The Sons of Cain became the craftsmen, artisans and builders that worked and created human products.

In masonry, this historical duality is fully represented by the Solomon priesthood represented as the Son of Abel and the craftsman and building artesian Hiram Abiff as

the Son of Tubal Cain. Solomon could not build the temple from his own wisdom and had to send for Hiram Abiff to build it. This is the Temple legend. The Old Testament is the female wisdom of the Sons of Abel. The Temple legend is the male counterweight represented by masonry!

In my previous lectures on the Temple Legend, I quoted the following prophecy from the legend:

" A son shall be born unto thee whom thou shalt indeed not see, but whose numerous descendants shall perpetuate thy race, which, superior to that of Adam, shall acquire the empire of the world; for many centuries they shall consecrate their courage and genius to the service of the ever-ungrateful race of Adam, but at last, the best shall become the strongest, and restore on the earth the worship of fire. Thy sons, invincible in thy name, shall destroy the power of kings, the ministers of the Adonais' tyranny. Go, my son, the genii of fire are with thee! "

Hiram is summoned by Solomon to build the Molten Sea. This is a symbol for the transformation of the mineral kingdom through sacred art, as practiced by the craftsmen of the Sons of Cain and their heirs, the freemasons. The son born to Hiram would bring forth a new race. This new race arises after the destruction of the (1) monarchy of kings and (2) tyranny of the priesthood who ruled Western civilization until the masonic revolutions of the past four centuries. This new race will create a new human being that will bring forth propagation through one individual, again, a return to the androgyne of the past Lemurian Age.

However, the former androgyne was female in nature, but in the future, it will be male in nature. The form of the androgyne female is obviously much older than the form of the male that separated off. For this reason, the female form will atrophy and die off before the male form. The male form must then have the power within itself to reproduce from out of itself, or else the human race will become extinct. It is in the male form that in the future, will bear the birth of humans. Since this impulse comes from the Sons of Cain as prophesied, it was necessary to exclude females from freemasonry!

The atrophy of the female form will progress over the next millennia. After

millennia, a time will come when females will not become pregnant. At the same time, male sperm will become less and less potent. At the present time we can see the beginning of this process. Fertility rates in the general population of nations and cultures reflect different causes. However, in the individual fertility rates of persons in northern Europe, scientists have shown some 20% of the general population is impotent!

There is a powerful connection between what lives in our speech and the reproductive forces in a human. Look at the similarity of form between the larynx and the uterus. In the female the larynx has stopped evolving. In the male it is just beginning. There is a power in our speech that is similar also to the power of reproduction. Creative speech just has not evolved yet. Just as the Logos created the forms of the universe from His spoken WORD, so in the future, the male larynx will create human life forms just by speaking its creative WORD.

The male larynx will become a reproductive organ. It is the elevation of the lower reproductive forces of the base chakra to the higher forces of the throat chakra through a reciprocal evolution of the organs of the larynx and the uterus. We can also see this correspondence in the change of the voice of the male during puberty. The change in the voice is a creative power. This is the wisdom of the flaming sword.

THE SEVEN PLANETS. In the right hand of the King are our seven planets represented by their traditional symbols from astrology. In addition, there are seven candlesticks and seven fires around the circumference of the heptagon. This succession of 7 X 7 X 7 can affectionally be called the “the power, the kingdom and the glory.”

The Power refers to the Sanscrit word Manvantara drawn from the many thousand year old Hindu philosophy tradition derived from the *VEDAS*. There are 7 manvantaras, namely in order, Saturn, Sun, Moon, Earth, Jupiter, Venus and Vulcan. These particular names are drawn from the Rosicrucian tradition, but they have many names from many cultures drawn from the Ancient Wisdom. Each manvantara represents a full major cosmic cycle of manifestation consisting of 7 x7x 7 x7 x 7x 7x 7 sub-cycles. Each manvantara has a beginning, a middle and an end, after which the inflow of manifestation comes to an end. It is the outward breath of Brahma.

At the end of this divine breath, comes a cycle of rest called Pralaya, again referring to a Sanscrit word drawn from the Hindu philosophy tradition derived from the *VEDAS*. Pralaya was called by the Greeks-CHAOS, from out of which came the elements necessary to start a new cycle of manifestation. For the Greeks, from out of chaos came the cosmos. During this period of rest, all the cosmic elements break down from their entrapment in matter and differentiate in an unstructured chaos. This period of time is the in-breath of Brahma. After Brahma fully breathes in, He exhales a new cycle of manifestation. There are six periods of pralaya between the seven manvantaras.

Each manvantara unfolds a cycle of seven sub-cycles called Rounds by the Theosophical Society of the 19th century. And each of the seven Rounds unfolds a series of seven sub-cycles called Globes. These are the planet building cycles from which proceed all the life kingdoms of minerals, plants, animals, mankind and the nine angelic hierarchies.

We don't need to get into the specifics of this cycle of cycles of cycles. It is sufficient to know and research, if interested, that this was the ancient wisdom given to members of the Theosophical Society beginning with H. P. Blavatsky's *THE SECRET DOCTRINE* published in 1875 and later with A. P. Sinnett's *ESOTERIC BUDDHISM* in 1883.

Since the planetary cycles of the manvantaras has been known since ancient India, this esoteric wisdom has been incorporated into the various cultures. We are now in the fourth manvantara. Look at the famous Mayan calender with the circle divided into four quarters. Each of these quarters represents one of the four manvantaras. The Mayan know that we are now in the fourth quarter. The Mayan long calendar represents the sub-cycles of globes and races. The so-called 'end of the world prophecy' of the Mayan long calendar that ended last December 21st (2012) was just the end of one of these cycles, not the end of the world, after which, a new cycle begins.

The Rosicrucians taught of these cycles during the middle ages. In that time, Christian esotericism called the 7 x 7 x7 cycles of Manvantaras, Rounds and Globes, the Power, the Kingdom and the Glory. In the protestant church, this has made its way into the doxology of the Lords Prayer first published in the King James version of the

bible in 1611. Although the Catholics never used this doxology in the Lords Prayer until after the 2nd Vatican Council, it has been around for a thousand years and said at every mass, hidden in the prayer of the minor oblation:

“Through Him, and with Him and in Him, is to You god the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all power and glory, world without end, amen.”

In this prayer, the trinity of the Father, the Son(as Him) and the Holy Spirit is made to correspond to the Kingdom (as ‘world without end’), the power and the glory.

Likewise, in the Greek orthodox liturgy, the priest says;

“For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, unto the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

The spheres of the manvantaras of Saturn, Sun and Moon correspond to the past kingdoms of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit! When Christians realize that even in the doxology of the Lords Prayer is preserved the most esoteric of the ancient wisdom, maybe they can look to heaven when they pray.

Now since anyone can get the numerology of the time cycles from the publications of the 19th century theosophists, I think it important to discuss what is not said about the time cycles. The first seal represents the entire evolution of humanity, from beginning to end. Notice that the 7 days of the week are named after the 7 planets in every culture since time immemorial. The manvantara of Saturn-Saturday occurred many millions of years ago. It was a planetary condition consisting only of the warmth or fire element. It was a nebula of all darkness like a black hole that extended from the center of our present sun to the perimeter of orbit of the planet Saturn. Then it condensed during the following pralaya and kicked out a planet, Saturn. The darkness of the old Saturn sphere remains in our present sun as those dark sun spots!

The manvantara of sun-Sunday, called Old Sun was a planetary condition consisting of the pre-existing condition of the warmth/fire element remaining over from

Old Saturn to which was added the element of Air. The spiritual part of the warmth of Old Saturn rose to become light. The physical part of the warmth fell to become air. It was a nebula of all light that extended from the center of our present sun to the perimeter of orbit of the planet Jupiter. After the sun-Sunday manvantara ended, it condensed during the following pralaya and kicked out a planet, Jupiter.

The next new planet to emerge from the chaos was what is called Old Moon. It was also condensed into a sphere like our present sun, but another element, that of water, was added to the pre-existing elements of warmth and air. The spiritual part of the air element of Old Sun rose to become sound and the physical part of the air fell to become water. It was a planet of water that extended from the center of our present sun to the perimeter of orbit of the planet Mars. During this manvantara, the sun split apart into the sun and moon. The moon orbited the sun like a planet, but it did not rotate, always keeping one side facing the sun like our present moon does now. So like our present moon, one side was always in sunlight and one side always in darkness. As a remembrance of this cycle, we have ancient plants on the earth now that grow all year long, as if in sunlight all year long, in the coniferous trees, that grow even in the winter. Our deciduous trees that evolved during the next manvantara, are seasonal in their growth, reflecting the motion of the earth around its axis. This orbiting moon eventually fell back into the sun and all was later merged during the pralaya. After which the planet Mars was kicked out.

After the moon-Monday manvantara ended, the planet mars was kicked out. The next planet to emerge from the chaos is our present Earth solar system. At the beginning of any new manvantara, the first three cycles are repeated. This is a great principal of evolution called recapitulation. So at the beginning of the Earth manvantara, the first three cycles are repeated. First a Saturn is formed. Then a sun is formed and leaves a Jupiter behind, which is a repetition of Old Sun; then a moon is formed and leaves a Mars behind, which is a repetition of Old Moon. Then the earth emerges united with the sun and our moon. Over time, the earth separates out of the sun in one combined large planet containing within itself, our moon. Later, the moon separates out from the earth body, as lunar slag, leaving behind on the moon, all the backward and

undeveloped forms and forces, unnecessary for future evolution. This is symbolized by the serpent, a creature with a spinal column but unable to rise above the ground.

Our earth also condensed into a sphere, but another element, that of the mineral kingdom, was added to the pre-existing elements of warmth, air and water. The spiritual part of the water element of Old Moon rose to become life and the physical part of the water fell to become the mineralized earth as we know it today. Mercury and Venus later condensed from out of the sun as we have our present planetary condition of the solar system.

So after the beginning of our earth manvantara, the earth consists below in the physical sphere of the four ancient elements of fire, air, water and earth. For good reason, these four elements are at the heart of all ancient cosmologies of world creation from China to Plato. Aristotle wrote his entire physics on these elements. Above the earth, we have the three higher ethers of light, sound and life, making seven in all. This is the basis of the ancient wisdom. During the earth manvantara was added the three ethers of LIGHT from the sun, SOUND from the Logos and LIFE in the kingdoms of nature.

The Rosicrucians added to this ancient wisdom that when the Christ was crucified and went into the earth during Holy Saturday, the Christ united with the entire earth elements, and their spiritual beings, becoming the great Spirit of the earth. By uniting with the earth, the Christ is joined at the hip with humanity and will follow the evolution of humanity during the following manvantaras of Jupiter, Venus and Vulcan, forever and unto the end of time.

What will happen during the following three manvantaras? All evolution rises to a higher level. All the fixed suns in solar systems were once planets. The planet evolves into the sun and the sun displaces itself into a fixed star in a constellation. Our present planet Saturn is evolving to become the next earth, when our earth becomes the new sun of our solar system and our sun arises into a fixed star in a constellation.

How does this happen? The Christ is spiritual being that remained behind during each of the three previous manvantaras. When the creation at the end of each manvantara went into pralaya and re-emerged at a higher level for the next cycle, the

Christ remained behind while retaining within Himself all the forces that evolved during the creation in that cycle, that of the Father from Old Saturn, that of the Son from Old Sun and that of the Holy Spirit from Old Moon. When the earth manvantara began, the Christ was the highest spirit within the sun. As the sun logos, He retained within Himself the trinity of forces of -Father-Son and Holy -Spirit. This is one meaning of the triune godhead, three in one.

When the Christ died to the earth and united with it, He carried with Him all the forces of our sun since He was the solar Logos, descended from the sun to the earth. When a man dies, he dies and ascends to the sun. In the simplest human triune nature of body-soul and spirit, when a man dies, he leaves his body on earth, his soul goes to the moon sphere of purgatory and his spirit arises to the sun sphere of heaven.

For the Christ, he died to the earth in **reverse order**. When He descended from the sun sphere to the earth, He left His **spirit** on the sun. (His spirit would be called Atma in traditional Hindu philosophy). His **soul** united with the earth during the descent into the subterranean spheres of the earth interior during Holy Saturday and the planet earth itself, became His **body**.

Modern astronomy teaches that all the planets are slowly drawn in orbit back into the sun. As well the moon falling into the earth and disintegrating when it approaches the so-called Roche Limit. This is of course the planetary pralaya chaos of the ancient wisdom, known for thousands of years in myths like the Greek god Kronos swallowing his children. It is only the angular momentum from the rotational motion of each planet around its axis that keeps gravity from sucking the planets into the sun. So if the Spirits of (Rotational) Motion pack up and leave their respective planets, the planets will stop spinning and fall back into the sun.

So at the end of the last of the seven manvantaras, our earth and all the planets, reunite with the sun. There it will become united with the left behind spirit of the Christ in the sun sphere. The pralaya after the last Vulcan manvantara is represented in the APOCALYPSE as the New Jerusalem. From out of the chaos, a new solar system will emerge with Saturn becoming the new earth, our earth becoming the new sun and our sun displacing itself into the constellation of Aries. Aries is of course symbolized by the

ram. Christ is not yet the ram, He is only a baby lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The ancient symbol of Christ as the sacrificial lamb of God reflects this wisdom. Note also, the lamb in the foreground of the Albert Pike seal.

Evolution does not progress as described by Darwin, the biologist or Charles Lyell, the geologist. It is not a long string of events beginning with the very small and simple and compounding into the very large and complex. It is a process of successive manifestations of the separate elements laid over pre-existing planetary conditions, with a repeat of the conditions of the previous manvantara during the first cycles of the new manvantara. There was no big bang. Our universe is a steady state condition, infused by the in breath and out breath of Brahma. The evolutionary process of the seven elements is as follows:

OLD SATURN
Warmth/fire

OLD SUN
Light

OLD MOON
Sound

EARTH
Life

Warmth
air

light
warmth
air
water

Sound
light
warmth
air
water
earth



THE GLOWING BRASS FEET. The quote from the *APOCALYPSE* said of the King that “ his feet were like fine brass, as if in a glowing furnace.” This is an obvious reference to the element of fire. Fire or warmth was the only condition during the first manvantara of Old Saturn. The human archetype first developed on Old Saturn out of fire and in the last Vulcan manvantara, man will return also to a sole condition of fire. The future Jupiter, Venus and Vulcan manvantaras develop in reverse order to the scheme, above. As in the beginning, so in the end. However, during the process, mankind will have risen three levels above the mineral Kingdom condition of the Earth manvantara. In the Jupiter manvantara, there will be no mineral Kingdom, as was the situation during Old Moon. There the lowest Kingdom will be the plant Kingdom. Likewise, during the Venus manvantara, the lowest Kingdom will be the animal Kingdom, as was the situation during Old Sun. Finally, during the Vulcan manvantara, the lowest Kingdom will be the human Kingdom. After which, the planets dissolve into the sun and become the New Jerusalem.

Humanity will live in each of these successive Kingdoms. During the Jupiter cycle, Man will create thru the larynx, plant forms. Likewise, during the Venus cycle, Man will create thru the larynx, animal forms and during the Vulcan cycle, man will create living human beings from out the larynx, humans in the human kingdom. At the present time, our words coming from out of the larynx, are created in the element of air. During the last Vulcan cycle, our words coming from out of the larynx, are created in the element of fire, represented by the flaming sword.

IN CONCLUSION. The apocalyptic seals had their first origin in Spain and Northumbria, at a time when the catholic church engaged in and preserved the ancient wisdom in a christianized form. By the times of the high Middle Ages in Christian Europe, the Rosicrucians recast the ancient wisdom drawn from its obvious Catholic sources in the monasteries and that of Templar masonry in Scotland, into a Protestant form concurrent with the Reformation that had stormed Europe. This was accomplished by King James 1st when he passed over the pond from king of Scotland to king of England in 1601.

In my past lectures on the TEMPLE LEGEND, I have shown the Rosicrucian influences on freemasonry, particularly with the introduction of the 3rd degree. When the higher degrees of freemasonry began to evolve throughout Europe, I suspect the Rosicrucians put together the seven apocalyptic seals that we see in the Eliphas Levi form shown above. I further suspect that the Rosicrucians secretly passed the seven seals into the higher degrees of freemasonry, such that they ended up in the hands of Eliphas Levi as the representative of the highest level of esoteric masonry in (France) Europe. He had received similar esoteric legacies during his lifetime as shown by his collection of the secret treatises of the *Mystical Chronology* by the abott Johannes Trithemius, which like the seven seals, were theretofore unknown in Europe.

This first seal shows the evolution of all humanity over the entire length of the seven manvantaras. This is the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega of the *APOCALYPSE*. From my knowledge, none of the other six seals have been presented into masonic degrees. Each of the following six seals reveal esoteric wisdom more relevant to the following four manvantatras and it is possible, their symbolism will be incorporated further into masonry as is proper for the time. No wine before its time is an old maxim of the ancient wisdom.

In fact, the seventh seal in the Levi format is written in Hebrew and translated means the New Jerusalem. The seventh seal presented by Dr. Steiner at the Munich congress is totally different, and is only understood thru the Rosicrucian wisdom tradition. This may be intended to show that freemasonry is receptive to the wisdom of the first six seals, but not to the seventh.

I have tried to show some more of the great mysteries of masonry. The great wisdom of the East has been preserved in the West. The Rosicrucians have christianized this wisdom and poured it into masonry in a symbolic form. The four Scottish Rite degrees of the Rose Croix (15-16-17-18) preserve this Rosicrucian wisdom. Whether or not the Rose Croix Chapter degrees drew from the Templar tradition of Robert the Bruce who is said to have established the "Knight of the Rose Cross" degree in 1314, we may never know. It is known that the title of the Rose Croix was first known when a chapter was created in Aaras France by the Scottish pretender

to the throne, Prince Charles Edward, established a “Degree of Rose Croix” previously known as the Degree of the Knight and Pelican. Albert Mackey says that,

“It is probable that the Rose Croix Degree has been borrowed from the Rosy Cross of the Scottish Royal Order of Heredom, but in passing from Scotland to France it greatly changed its form and organization, as it resembles in no respect its archetype, except that both are eminently Christian in their design.”

I suspect the Christian design came from the Rosicrucians, after all, the title Rose Croix is just an angleisation of the German word Rosicrucian. It must not be forgotten from whence these degrees came. The changes made to this 17th degree render it unrecognizable from the Francken ritual in which it was more like a preamble to the 18th degree. However, it would be most appropriate to show the diagram of this first seal during our next degree exemplification, in memory of the Francken ritual. Masonry is not just a social exercise of gentlemen, but once initiated, we are part of a far reaching divine plan of the future for us Sons of Cain!

Respectively submitted,

By: Stephen Cosgrove

April 10, 2013