

Mani, Herald of the Future Mysteries

“The difference between Esoteric Brotherhoods before and after Christianity is that before the advent of Christianity their chief mission was to guard the sacred tradition; afterwards, it was to form and mould the future. Esoteric science is not abstract and dead but active and living.

Christian esotericism is derived from the Manicheans whose founder, Manes, lived on the Earth nearly three hundred years after Jesus the Christ. The essence of Manichean teaching relates to the doctrine of Good and Evil. In ordinary thought, the Good and the Evil are two irreducible qualities, one of which — the Good — must destroy the other — the Evil. To the Manicheans, however, Evil is an integral part of the cosmos, collaborating in its evolution, finally to be absorbed and transfigured by the Good. The great feature of Manicheism is that it studies the function of Evil and of suffering in the world.”

Rudolf Steiner, An Esoteric Cosmology II, The Mission Of Manicheism