The Knights Templar III

Effects on European Culture
Renaissance Art
Baptism, Initiation, and Mysticism

Andrew Linnell
Asking questions is OK
- Concepts herein may be difficult
- Not a religious lecture, rather we’ll try to understand the Mysteries
  - Some mysteries absorbed by the Knights Templars
  - Personal note: I am fascinated by the early Christians. I believe they understood things that are no longer understood. No conversions attempted.

Review previous 2 lectures

Initiation and the Mysteries
- Understanding the heretics
- Understanding the role of initiation in Pre-Christian Society

Wisdom of the Knights Templars hidden in:
- Architecture
- Art (why?)

Baptism as purification, a pre-cursor to initiation

Christian Initiation
Review – Before the Templars

• Where did their mystical side come from?
  – Grail Knights
    • Parsifal & Titerel, Northern Spain – Southern France where Templar founders
  – Manichaeism (and other so-called heretical streams)
    • Mani – dualism/Christianity as the middle, narrow path
    • Gnosticism; Nestorius, Arius, Marcion, Apollonaris, many others
    • Brutally destroyed – books burned with help of Roman army
    • Attempts to understand Christianity from the old mysteries
      – Importance to society of the Mysteries and the Initiates
  – Jerusalem Temple (Ark of the Covenant, Temple Legend)

• Historical perspective
  – Twilight of the Gods, closing of the Temples (from 700 BC on)
    • Plato, Aristotle, Burning of Ephesus Mystery Center, Alexander (350 BC)
  – Constantine: moving Christian center from west to east, Niceae 333 AD
    • Extermination of the Heresies; exiling of Aristotelians
  – Charlemagne and Harun al Rashid 800 AD
    • Keys to the Holy Sites in Jerusalem – Pilgrimages
    • 8th Ecumenical Council (Constantinople) in 869 – End of Spirit in Man
Review – Time of the Templars

- Great Schism. Christendom split between East & West.
- Destruction of the Cathars (followed debates) 1020-1233
  - Rise of Dominicans and Inquisition. “First Crusade”
- First Crusade to the Holy Lands in 1099
- Pope Urban II asks Hugues de Payens to return to find the Ark of the Covenant
  - King Baldwin grants Hugues and his 7 relatives a base on Mont Moriah
    - excavate Solomon’s Temple and Al Aqsa mosque
  - Something comes over the group – changes their “aura”
    - Hugues sent to Europe where their order receives praise, then an Order
    - Many join from across Europe – Monk-Knights – branches spring up
      - Compared to Hospitallers who started with same mission
- Devotion: to Mystery of Golgotha (mission: healing of Europe)
  - No longer my blood but Christ’s blood in me
  - Fearlessness and strength in battle
  - Wisdom, Beauty, Strength/Virtue (Astral, Life Body, Physical Body)
- International banking, building/architecture, commerce, Chartres
- Aristotelianism to Albertus Magnus to T.Aquinas & Roger Bacon
  - Some of Plato brought back earlier by Charlemagne
Review – End of the Templars

- Fourth Crusade, 1204 Sack of Constantinople, Relics
  - Now lose battles in Holy Lands, eventually driven out
    - Call for Templars and Hospitaller forces to be combined
    - Christian on Christian wars: Persia, Germanic tribes (Vandals), others
- Continued as important force for change in European society till end
  - Amassed great wealth – gold for alchemy/wisdom
  - King Philip seeks to seize their gold for power (1300-1314)
    - Babylonian captivity of the Pope (Avignon) – Philip's boyhood friend, 1305
    - 1307: Torture of Templars, forced “confessions” – burning at the stake
    - Smear campaign – secret declaration of innocence by the Pope Clement V
    - Council of Vienna 1314 – forced by Philip to condemn the Templars
    - “Curse” of Jacques de Molay – both Philip and the Pope dead within 1 yr.
  - Templars rounded up across Europe save Scotland & Portugal (1311)
    - Scottish rites of the Freemason
    - Replay of the Destruction of Manichaeists and other heretics
- Great Famine (1315-17) followed by the Black Plague (1340s)
- Birth of Renaissance. Role of Florence. Templar school
  - Resurrection of Greece. Christian & Greek Mythology themes in art
Background Material

Understanding the Mystics and the Heretics
Man Amongst the Nine Hierarchies

Three Hierarchies each with three sub-hierarchies = 9 levels

Levels of consciousness

Ascension of the Virgin, Francesco Botticini (1446-1497)

(Photograph © The National Gallery London)
Hierarchies and Man

- **First: Father / Will**
  - Seraphim: Love
  - Cherabim: Harmony
  - Thrones: Will

- **Second: Son / Feeling**
  - Kyriotetes: Wisdom
  - Dynamis: Movement
  - Exusiai / Elohim: Form

- **Third: Holy Spirit / Thinking**
  - Archai: Personality/Age
  - Archangel: Folk/Groupings
  - Angeloi: Messenger/Twilight – Guardian Angel

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Human states of consciousness
1. Awake consciousness
2. Dream consciousness
3. Dreamless sleep consciousness

Soul activities
1. Thinking
2. Feeling
3. Willing
Understanding Greek and Gnostic Views

- The Elements (World wide concept)
  - ** Tradition | Earth | Water | Air | Fire | 5th (Quintessence) | Other**
  - Greek: Earth Water Air Fire Ether/Idea N/A
  - Latin: Earth Water Air Fire Quintessence N/A
  - Hindu: Earth Water Air Fire Ether/Sound/Light Thought
  - Buddhist: Earth Water Air Fire Ether/Sound/Light Thought
  - Japanese: Earth Water Wind Fire Void Consciousness

- Plato: Reality is in the Idea. Idea is a real living being
  - Goethe: archetypal form

- Physical world is not the reality, rather semblance, image
- Reality is full of beings, above and below the human
- Reality was created by a hierarchy of gods who had led humanity but had gradually been withdrawing – their work completed. Crisis arises (around 800BC): how to know what to do, where to go?
- Temples closing. Initiation failing. After twilight comes darkness.
- Knowledge of reincarnation vanishing. Most of wisdom not written, rather oral (and secret) tradition. (e.g. Grimm Fairy Tales)
- Response: Grasp the knowledge – learning centers (Alexander)
Greek Conception of the Human

Human Soul Principles Developed with the Hierarchies

- **Consciousness** – Dianoetikon
- Intellectual – Kinetikon
- Sentient – Orektikon
- **Ego**
  - Astral – Aisthetikon
  - Etheric – Threptikon
  - Physical – Gaia

Base Human Members

- **Pneuma** – Spirit
- Psyche – Soul
- Soma – Body

1 Thessalonians 5:23, Paul refers to human nature as consisting of body, soul, and spirit

Far Future Result by the Human

- Atman
- Buddhi
- Manas

Self Development

- **Ego** – love
- Astral – wisdom
- Etheric – beauty
- Physical – strength
Why Was It Difficult to Understand Christ?

- Prevailing view of reality:
  - Total separation of Divine and physical worlds
    - Spirit and matter: Reality and illusion: Pure and impure
    - Human flesh, from darkness/evil, not worthy of divine spirit
    - Only an initiate could, through raising consciousness, experience & understand the spiritual world
- Christian Creed: God became Man, suffered, and rose
  - Was God born as a man or did God become Man?
  - Is the substance of Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and Man the same?
- Various heretic claims:
  - Christ and Jesus were two distinct entities. Christ unites with Jesus at baptism but leaves him on the cross
    - Because the Divine is above and thus cannot experience death
  - Christ only appeared to be human, but never had a physical body. Christ “descends” only as far as the air element.
  - Christ-Jesus had no human soul, the Logos takes its place
- Christian view that [a] God entered Earth becoming Man was the most fundamental change to traditional wisdom
The Legend of the Battle of Dark & Light

This is the Gnostic view of the Mission / Meaning of Humankind

• The Spirits of Darkness wished to storm the Kingdom of Light. They came to its borders for the attack. They were, however, able to achieve nothing. Now they were to be punished by the Kingdom of Light. But in the Kingdom of Light there is only good. Thus the Demons of Darkness could only have been punished through good. Therefore the Spirits of the Kingdom of Light took a portion of their own kingdom and mingled it into the Kingdom of Darkness.

• Thereby a leaven, so to speak, came into the Kingdom of Darkness and a kind of vortex arose. Death became pulled into the vortex, whereby it consumed itself. It now carried within itself the seed of its own destruction. There then arose from the Kingdom of Light the Archetypal Man of the human race who must mingle with the Kingdom of Darkness and overcome it.

• Prologue to John’s Gospel: “the Light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not”

• Paul: “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light”
Daedalus: Dualism & Mithraism

- Daedalus attempts to escape his prison, the Labyrinth, in which he was imprisoned at the hands of King Minos of Crete [brain-bound thinker], son of Zeus and Europa. [note: Menes, Manas, Manes, Minos variations]
  - The Labyrinth's original purpose was intended to hold Minotaur [Minos + Taurus] who has a man’s body but a bull’s head. The defeated Greeks are obliged to send annually 7 male youths and 7 maidens to be fed to Minotaur. Ariadne provides Theseus with a thread to escape the labyrinth after killing Minotaur.
- Daedalus was imprisoned on the island with his son Icarus. Daedalus, the master craftsman, was imprisoned because it was he who built the faux cow for the queen [soul] Pasiphae to climb into such that she could copulate with the bull [Taurus].
- Daedalus fashioned a pair of wings for himself and his son, made of feathers and wax. Before they took off from the prison, Daedalus warned his son [future human] to fly neither:
  - Too close to the sun, as the wax would melt, nor
  - Too close to the sea, as the feathers would become sodden

\{ Duality \}

- ‘Let me warn you, Icarus, to take the middle way. Travel between the extremes.’
- Overcome by the sublime feeling that flying gave him, Icarus soared through the sky joyfully ['drawn by desire for the heavens'], but in the process he came too close to the sun, which melted his wings. Icarus’ body fell into the sea. [Lucifer pulls our soul to him leaving the body to Ahriman]
- Illuminates the Greek Soul about 800 BC with its picture-thinking wisdom
  - Human soul needs wings to cross from the prison of the body to spirit-land
Manichaeism: Uniting Religions


- Founded in about 240 AD by Manes, aka Mani (216-277)
  - Born as Corbicius in Babylon to Iranian parents; son of a widow
  - Grows up with a Jewish mystic group, the Elkasites, a branch of Essenes
- Mani presented himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ
  - In the 4th century, Manichaean Coptic papyri identify Mani as the promised Paraclete (The Holy Ghost)
  - According to St. Cyril of Jerusalem (315–386, Doctor of Church):
    - Mani’s teacher was Terebinthus, Matraiya Bodhisattva, whose teacher was Scythianus of Alexandria who writes Doctrine of Dualities in India in 50 AD
- Mani’s teaching unites Christianity, Gnosticism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Taoism (and more)
  - Spreads rapidly west to Spain and east to China.
- Dualities: dry-wet, warm-cold, light-dark, life-death, acid-alkaline
  - Christ path is the middle path
- Manichaeists were brutally exterminated, all books destroyed
Initiation: General Remarks

- Initiates led tribes, ethnic groups
  - Intermediary between a people and their folk-spirit (god)
- Before Christ:
  - Hierophant placed the elect into a death-like sleep
    - Life body (etheric body) leaves with Astral and Ego
  - Lasted 3 days in the Holy of the Holies
  - Elect has a guide who shows spirit-land and explains the relationship of spirit to matter, of beings to things, of macrocosm to microcosm (human)
  - Afterwards the elect becomes a perfect; takes on a new name
    - When cardinal becomes pope, he takes on a new name – similar
- Baptism (immersion) – Life body lifted out of physical briefly
  - Meant as purification for later initiation
- After Christ:
  - Lazarus and Paul (formerly Saul) done in public
  - Gospel writers and others early Christians were Perfects – i.e. Initiates
Spreading of Christianity

- 72 disciples in pairs venture in different directions (Luke 10:1)
  - Portray Christ as the culmination of the local religion, e.g. Paul in Athens
  - Many were partially initiated
    - Process with levels, not an event
    - Mithraism defined 7 levels

- St. Augustine says that St. Ambrose initiated him in 385 in Milan and helped him understand the gospels “by lifting the mystic veil by force of the spirit”
  - “What is now called the Christian religion already existed among the ancients and was not lacking at the very beginnings of the human race. When Christ appeared in the flesh, the true religion already in existence received the name Christian.”
Names of the Seventy Two

- James "the Lord's brother", author of the Epistle of James, and first Bishop of Jerusalem
- Mark the Evangelist, author of the Gospel of Mark and Bishop of Alexandria
- Cleopas
- Symeon, son of Cleopas, 2nd Bishop of Jerusalem
- Barnabas, Bishop of Milan
- Justus, Bishop of Eleutheropolis
- Thaddeus of Edessa (not the Apostle called Thaddeus) also known as Saint Addai
- Ananias, Bishop of Damascus
- Stephen, of the Seven Deacons, the first martyr
- Philip the Evangelist, of the Seven, Bishop of Tralia in Asia Minor
- Prochorus, of the Seven, Bishop of Nicomedia in Bithynia
- Nicanor the Deacon, of the Seven
- Timon, of the Seven
- Parmenas the Deacon, of the Seven
- Timothy, Bishop of Ephesus
- Titus, Bishop of Crete
- Philemon, Bishop of Gaza
- Onesimus (Not the Onesimus mentioned in the Epistle to Philemon)
- Epaphras, Bishop of Andriaca
- Archippus
- Silas, Bishop of Corinth
- Silvanus
- Crescens
- Crispus, Bishop of Chalcedon in Galilee
- Epenetus, Bishop of Carthage
- Andronicus, Bishop of Pannonia
- Stachys, Bishop of Byzantium
- Amplias, Bishop of Odissa (Odessus)
- Urban, Bishop of Macedonia
- Narcissus, Bishop of Athens
- Apelles, Bishop of Heraklion
- Aristobulus, Bishop of Britain
- Herodion, Bishop of Patras
- Agabus the Prophet
- Rufus, Bishop of Thebes
- Asyncritus, Bishop of Hyrcania
- Phlegon, Bishop of Marathon
- Hermes, Bishop of Philippopolis
- Parrobus, Bishop of Pottole
- Hermas, Bishop of Dalmatia
- Pope Linus, Bishop of Rome
- Gaius, Bishop of Ephesus
- Philologus, Bishop of Sinope
- Lucius of Cyrene, Bishop of Laodicea in Syria
- Jason, Bishop of Tarsis
- Sosipater, Bishop of Iconium
- Olympas
- Tertius, transcriber of the Epistle to the Romans and Bishop of Iconium
- Erastus, Bishop of Paneas
- Quartus, Bishop of Berytus
- Euodias, Bishop of Antioch
- Onesiphorus, Bishop of Cyrene
- Clement, Bishop of Sardice
- Sosthenes, Bishop of Colophon
- Apollos, Bishop of Caesarea
- Tychicus, Bishop of Colophon
- Epaphroditus
- Carpus, Bishop of Beroea in Thrace
- Quadratus
- John Mark (commonly considered identical to Mark the Evangelist), bishop of Byblos[3]
- Zenas the Lawyer, Bishop of Diospolis
- Aristarchus, Bishop of Apamea in Syria
- Pudens
- Trophimus
- Mark, Bishop of Apollonia
- Artemas, Bishop of Lystra
- Aquila
- Fortunatus
- Achaicus
- Biff-Levi bar Alphaeus
Paul and Paulicians

• Paul: a highly educated, Pharisee, named Saul
  – Persecuted Christians until his Damascus Initiation
  – Worked throughout Greece and Balkan area
    • Luke, a doctor and gospel writer, often travels with Paul
  – Romans 16:25-26 “according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all nations”

• Paulicians (beginning around 630 AD) believed they followed Paul’s mystical teachings
  – The founder of the sect was Constantine of Mananalis, in SE Turkey.
    • He studied the Gospels, the Epistles, and Mani. He vigorously opposed the increasing dogma of the church.
    • Regarded himself as called to restore the pure Christianity of Paul
    • 687 stoned to death by order of the emperor but group spread to Balkans
  – From 845-852, Empress Theodora had 100,000 Paulicians executed
  – Religious views were dualistic like Manichaeism. Some points:
    • Christ came down from heaven to emancipate men from matter, i.e. the physical body, and to transform the world
    • Reverence for the Cross considered heathenish; no reverence for Mary
  – Likely source or influence of the Cathars who are later brutally destroyed
Other Examples of Christian Mysteries

• Origen (185–254). Egyptian taught at Alexandria.
  – Name = “Son of Horus”
  – One of the most distinguished of the early fathers of the Christian Church
  – Neo-Pythagorean (Hermes), a Platonic, and a Gnostic
  – God was not Yahweh but The First Principle. Christ, the Logos, was subordinate

• Clement of Alexandria (died 217 A.D.), a Christian writer whose education had been pagan, wrote “Thus the Lord did not hinder us from doing good while keeping the Sabbath, but allowed us to communicate of those divine mysteries, and of that holy light, to those who are able to receive them. He did not disclose to the many what did not belong to the many; but to the few to whom he knew that they belonged, who were capable of receiving and being moulded according to them. But secret things are entrusted to speech, not to writing, as God confided the unutterable mystery to the Logos, not to the written word.”
Clement of Alexandria on Mark’s Secrets

• “As for Mark, then, during Peter's stay in Rome he wrote an account of the Lord's doings, not, however, declaring all of them, nor yet hinting at the secret ones, but selecting what he thought most useful for increasing the faith of those who were being instructed. But when Peter died a martyr, Mark came over to Alexandria, bringing both his own notes and those of Peter, from which he transferred to his former book the things suitable to whatever makes for progress toward knowledge.

• Thus he composed a more spiritual Gospel for the use of those who were being perfected. Nevertheless, he yet did not divulge the things not to be uttered, nor did he write down the hierophantic teaching of the Lord, but to the stories already written he added yet others and, moreover, brought in certain sayings of which he knew the interpretation would, as a mystagogue, lead the hearers into the innermost sanctuary of that truth hidden by seven veils. Thus, in sum, he prepared matters, neither grudgingly nor incautiously, in my opinion, and, dying, he left his composition to the church in 1, verso Alexandria, where it even yet is most carefully guarded, being read only to those who are being initiated into the great mysteries.”
Christian Mystic Sources

- Their purpose: to understand the Mystery of Golgotha
  - Gnosticism, Hermes, Plato, Pythagorus, Zoroaster, others
- Templars: Mysticism based on the Mystery of Golgotha & Easter
- Temple Legend (Solomon, Hiram, and the Queen of Sheba)
- Gospel of John
  - Baptism 1:32 (purification for the Divine Ego)
  - Lazarus 11:43 (change from old to new Initiation)
  - Nicodemus (be born anew) 3:3
  - Son of Nain 4:50
  - Son of Man
  - 7 Signs, 7 I Am’s, 7 Agapes
- Revelations
  - “I was in the spirit,” “sent in signs by the angel of God,” “here is wisdom,” many other obvious mystical statements
- Luke 9:49 “Do not forbid him; for he that is not against you is for you.”
  - Mystics thrived until Roman form came to Christianity
Hermes Trismegistus

Floor mosaic in the Cathedral of Siena. Contemporary with Moses, communicating to a line of adepts a parallel wisdom, from Zoroaster to Plato. Plato's Timaeus and Critias state that in the temple of Neith at Sais, there were secret halls containing historical records which had been kept for 9,000 years. Clement of Alexandria claimed the Egyptians had 42 sacred writings by Hermes, encapsulating all the training of Egyptian priests.
Hermes Trismegistus

- During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, the writings attributed to Hermes Trismegistus known as Hermetica enjoyed great credit and were popular among alchemists. The "hermetic tradition" therefore refers to alchemy, magic, astrology and related subjects.
- The texts are usually distinguished in two categories the "philosophical" and "technical" hermetica. The former deals mainly with issues of philosophy, and the latter with magic, potions and alchemy. Among other things there are spells to magically protect objects; hence the origin of the term "Hermetically sealed".
- Islamic traditions say he "was a "civilizing hero," an Initiator into the mysteries of the divine science and the wisdom that animates the world; he carved the principles of this sacred science in hieroglyphs, was the Initiator of Pythagoras, and was the first teacher of alchemy.

Essenes and the Dead Sea Scrolls

- Josephus places them with Sadducees and Pharisees
  - Essene quarter and gate in Jerusalem
  - High emphasis on learning as step towards initiation
  - Understanding of scriptures through “illumination” from initiation
  - Sons of Light were those initiated to join battle against Darkness
    - Zoroastrian influence?
  - Used a Sun-based calendar rather than Moon-based Jewish

- Dead Sea scrolls (discovered 1947)
  - Testament of the 12 Patriarchs: Two Messiahs expected
    - King lineage and priest lineage (Compare to Temple Legend)
  - Damascus Document: Two become a compound being

- Nag Hammadi: earthenware pot found 1945 with 12 codices contain excerpts from Plato and Hermes
  - Discourse on the 8th and 9th Level of Consciousness: about initiation
  - The Apocalypse of Adam, Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Philip
Establishing Christmas: A Roman Affair

- Not a concern with early Christianity
  - All about Easter and Golgotha
    - Key to understand the Knight Templars
- When Christianity center moved from West to East, Constantine had Christmas established as Dec. 25th (East celebrates on Jan. 6th)
  - Winning view: Christ as Jesus, born of Virgin Mary, escaping original sin
  - Winter solstice at the time, day begins at sunset (Dec. 24th)
  - Compromise: Baptism (Epiphany) celebrated on Jan. 6th, 12 days later
    - Where is the Slaughter of the Innocents? Luke is very detailed but no mention.
      - John is 6 months older than Jesus – neither worry, neither need escape
      - Matthew traces back through father from Abraham, Luke thru son to Adam
      - From Abraham: Matthew 42, Luke 57 generations (and 77 from Adam)
      - From David: Matthew – Solomon (king), Luke – Nathan (priest)
- “Compounding” described in Scene at the Temple, age 12
Matthew Story: Line of King
- Born about 4BC
- Zarathustra, Zoroaster
- Foremost in Earth knowledge
- Highly developed Ego
- Cain lineage
- Preparation 7x6 generations
  - From Abraham
- Physical from Joseph, Life from Moses, Astral from Hermes, Ego Zarathustra
  - Go to Egypt for Hermes
- At 14.11, Ego joins other Jesus
  - Puberty – develop astral
  - This Jesus withers and dies
  - 3 year diff – 3 years of Christ?

Luke Story: Priests
- Born about 1BC
- Pure Tree of Life, 2nd Adam
- No Earth knowledge
- Full of love, but no Ego
- Abel/Seth lineage
- Preparation 7x11 generations
  - From Adam
- Physical from Joseph, Life from withheld Adam, Astral from G.Buddha
  - Perfected Astral of Buddha
- At 12, Ego of other Jesus enter
  - Must have Ego to continue
- 3x6 more years – members are ready
Merging of Streams: Cain & Abel, Temple Legend

Reproduction by Depatie Bros for monastery

Luke story: Matthew story:
Priest-Abel  King-Cain
Christmas Conclusion (for the Mystics)

• The Fall of Man had to be redeemed
  – Through Lucifer an ego, albeit a lesser ego
  – Withholding of the Tree of Life (uncorrupted Life body)
  – Streams of Cain and Abel/Seth

• Gesture before Christ: Out of One Comes Many
  – Abraham the father of nations

• Two bodies had to be prepared for Christ
  – The task for preparation through the blood line belonged to Jews
    • Streams of Cain and Abel reunited to allow for Second Adam
  – As Christ goes before us to prepare a place for us in Heaven

• Birth of Christ at Baptism

• Gesture after Christmas: From Many into One
  – Beginning of Recapitulation of BC cultural epochs → Rome, Greece
Greek Cultural Influence

- Romans borrowed Greek gods and culture
  - Greek sculpture as spoils of Roman victory
- After sacking of Rome, it becomes discarded, buried
- Knights Templars bring Greek learning back to Europe
- Plato (Chartres) and Aristotle (Aquinas) re-emerge
  - For a new age to come soon (Consciousness Soul in 1413)
- In 1400s, Greek culture rises again
  - Relics dug up in Roman cities – a kind of resurrection
- Merging of Greek and Christian in art and ideas
- Renaissance arises from Templar cultivation
  - Spread of Christian mysteries with Greek knowledge - conscious
  - Gothic cathedrals – work in the unconscious
  - Establish numerous mystery schools – survive Templar tragedy
    - One in Florence
Raphael: School of Athens

- Peter and Paul? Plato and Aristotle? Cain and Abel?

1 Cor 2:7 Paul places Dionysius the Areopagite in charge of the School of Athens to cultivate the “hidden wisdom of God”

Two Streams
1. Heavens
2. Earth
Sandro Botticelli: Birth of Venus

Uffizi Gallery, Florence

Venus as Virgin Mary?

Earth
Water
Air

Where is Fire?
• ans: within - right hand on heart – birth of conscious love

Note: copper hair and sea shell - alchemy
• Indescribable Beauty
• Greek cultural expression of beauty reemerges
• Importance of the Etheric/Life body
• Etheric makes beautiful forms
  – Nature & human
• A life without beauty = Issues for next life
• Templars: Strength, Beauty, & Wisdom
Venus and Mars, Raphael, 1483

- Venus and Mars:
  - What relationship to Christianity? Cosmic Christ?

- Notice the goat legs and horns depicting (playful) demons
Baptism & Initiation
What Does [John’s] Baptism Mean?

• Who was John?
  – Messiah would not come until Elijah reincarnates (this is John)
    • See Mark 9:11-13 and Matthew 17:10-13 & 27:47
    – John: a Voice crying in the wilderness “Make straight the way for the Lord.”
      • Christ is the Word, the Logos
    – The witness of Christ sent by God
• What relationship does John have to Jesus? To Christ?
  – Luke’s story: Mary visits Elizabeth, John leaps in the womb
  – Grunewald’s Crucifixion: “He must increase; I must decrease”
  – John as the height and the last of old Man – Jesus as vessel for new
• Water to cleanse – the purification of the soul to receive the divine I Am (Ego)
  – He [Christ] will cleanse with Fire (Divine Ego)
• Submerged until near drowning to loosen the etheric, astral, and ego from physical body
  – Afterwards dim spiritual awareness continues allowing one to see what to purify
  – For Jesus, the dove descends and remains upon him
    • For the heretics & mystics, this is when Jesus becomes Jesus-Christ
• John is arrested and later beheaded (“on a silver platter”)
  – John’s spirit remains with Christ and his disciples to continue the witnessing
Fra Angelico, c. 1441

- Baptism of Christ
- Two angels
- St. Francis (Franciscans) and St. Dominic (ans)

"No sooner had Jesus been baptized and come up out of the water than the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit from God descending like a dove to alight on him. And there came a voice from heaven saying, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I take delight.' (Matthew 3:16-17)."
Verrocchio 1475, Piero della Francesca 1442
Arian Baptistry in Ravenna, Italy. 5th Century

Right to left:
- John the Baptist,
- Jesus receiving the Spirit (Dove)
- God of the Jordan River

Circled by 12 Apostles

Built by Ostrogoth King Theodoric the Great
What Happens at Jesus’ Baptism?

• What was common to all paintings?
  – Dove (Logos) descends and remains with Jesus

• Mystic perspective
  – Zarathrustra Ego sacrifices his members for Christ, the Logos
    • Earlier he had sacrificed his members to enter Luke-Jesus
  – Jesus becomes Jesus Christ whose incarnation is consummated

• Birth of the Son of God, God *becoming* Man
  – Christ refers to himself as the “Son of Man”
  – Now will the spirit penetrate the body all the way to the bones
    • Thus, no bones were broken during these 3 years
  – Suffering death will complete God becoming Man

• Mark and John begin with baptism (not birth)
  – Luke genealogy *after* baptism, Matthew before
    • Luke genealogy (and gospel for humanity) makes sense only by going all the way back to Adam
    • Matthew writes for the Jews, hence to “our father, Abraham”
Raphael, 1518, Baptism of Jesus
Christian Initiation

Lazarus and Paul
In 1516 the archbishop of Narbonne, Giulio de' Medici, commissioned a Raising of Lazarus from Sebastiano Luciani. The painting was intended as a companion piece to Raphael's masterpiece the Transfiguration, commissioned earlier that year from the archbishop. As well as following the Transfiguration chronologically, the theme of Lazarus's resurrection was especially appropriate for the cathedral at Narbonne, which had relics of Lazarus.

Compositional drawings for the painting were supplied by Michelangelo, who, in addition to being a friend of Sebastiano, was eager to show up his bitter rival Raphael.

The Gospel of Saint John divides the story of the miracle into three parts: Jesus bids the people take the stone from the tomb, He calls to Lazarus “Come Forth!” , and then He tells them to unbind his shroud. Sebastiano shows the third of these commands. In the background the Pharisees are depicted plotting Christ's death (why? – Initiation done in public).
Giotto (1267-1337), Raising of Lazarus
Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890)

- Raising of Lazarus

Christ as the Sun (Cosmic Christ intended?)
Who was Lazarus? What Happens to Him?

- Brother of Mary and Martha
- Tax collector, young man
- Lazarus is publicly initiated by Christ *John 11:43-44*
  - Lies as if dead for 3 days. Thomas asks if they too could experience.
    - “This illness is not unto death” *John 11:4*, “he stayed 2 days longer” *John 11:6*
    - “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him out of sleep” 11:11
    - “Lazarus is dead … but let us go to him” *John 11:14-15*
    - “Lazarus, come forth” *John 11:43*
- Prior, one being initiated found Christ in Sun Sphere (spiritually)
- Initiate changes name afterwards
  - Lazarus changes his name to John, becomes John the Evangelist
    - Not to be confused with John Zebedee, the other John disciple
- Higher members developed during initiation and afterwards
  - Easter Sunday Evening: *John 20:19-23* “he breathed on them and said to them
  ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’ [the divine I AM]
- Becomes the disciple whom the Lord loved (agape)
- [John 21:21-22] Peter, surprised that Christ has chosen him to lead His church and not John, asks Christ “what about him?” Christ answers “What is it to you that I have him remain until the time I come again?” *When is this time to be that is foretold?*
Last Supper: John or Mary?
Last Supper “Touched Up”

- John is meant to be androgynous – as is Christ
  - Embody male & female
Dan Brown and the Rose Line

• Sang Real – Royal Blood
  – Brown’s theory: Mary Magdalene had a child from Jesus

• Blood of Christ: “This is my blood”
  – Christ overcomes the blood lines – no longer is heredity important
  – Each person can become his/her own king, priest, and healer
  – Love all without regard to the blood line
  – Blood as bearer of the Ego, Divine Ego, flows into the Earth
    • Earth to become a star, a star illuminated by the 10th hierarchy

• Symbol of the Rose
  – Green sap rises, transforms into blood red – chaste, passionless
    • When our blood unites with blood of Christ it is like red rose sap
  – Rose Cross (Rosicrucian mysteries)
    • Black cross, symbolic of our materialism, out of which grows roses
    • In Christos Morimor (In Christ we die)
Summary
Knights Templars Lecture 3 Summary

- Healing of Christendom
  - Illness from 333 when center moved from west to east
  - And as a remedy for the ills of today
- Offered example of a healthy Christian life
  - Never sought notoriety, no longer my blood but Christ in me
- Carrying Europe from end of Aries age to Pisces (1413)
  - Embedded the mysteries into Art and Architecture
    - Wisdom of Aries Age would die out – had to go into form for the unconscious
      - Humankind had to sink deeper into materialism
  - Overcame ethnicities, nationalities
  - Advanced the arts of craftsmen, architects, builders for Renaissance
- Carried forward the mysteries
  - School of Chartres and others
  - Suffered same fate as the Manichaeists – total and brutal destruction
    - Mid-point was 869 when Christian Church denied the spirit in Man
    - Similar fate befell Paulicians in the East and Cathars in the West
  - Passing to Freemasonry, Rosicrucianism, and the Founding of America
Knights Templars, Lecture 4 Preview

- Mystery of Golgotha
- Easter
- Ascension
- Templar Initiation
- Death and Resurrection / Reincarnation and Karma
- America