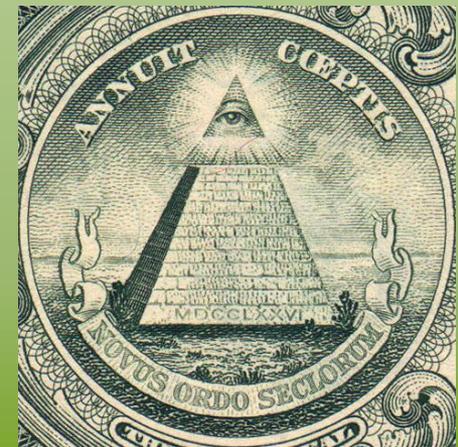




Tracking the Ancient Mysteries from Egypt to the Founding of America

Lecture 5: Vanishing of the Mysteries



Outline



- **Lectures 1 – 5:** Conceptual foundations, Egypt, Greece, The Temple Legend, Vanishing of the Mysteries
- **Lectures 6 – 10:** Early Christian Mysteries, Faith versus Knowledge, Charlemagne, Knights Templars, Cathars, Rosicrucians
- **Lectures 11 – 15:** Renaissance, Leonardo, Founding of America, Freemasonry, Mysteries for the Future

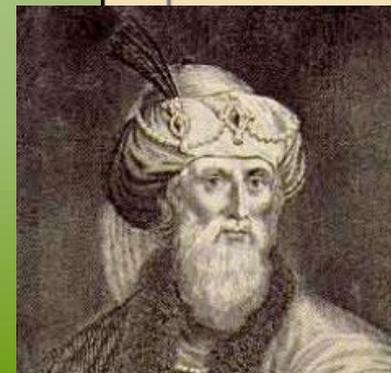
3 Keys To Remember



1. Plato & Aristotle xfer Mysteries to knowledge
 - Alexander accomplishes this [in part militarily]
 - Intellect in the soul (“I know”) grows powerful
2. What was once good can become evil
 - Magic of the bloodline vanishes
3. Role of Christianity in extinguishing the Mysteries

Ancient Texts

- Destruction of texts
- Nag Hammadi
 - 13 ancient codices with over 50 texts
 - Discovered in upper Egypt in 1945
 - Gnostic, Hermes Trismegistus, Plato
- Dead Sea Scrolls
 - 972 texts discovered 1946 - 1956
 - Khirbet Qumran
 - 11 caves near Dead Sea
 - Content of the scrolls was published between 1955 - 2009 in a 40 volume series by Oxford University Press *Discoveries in the Judean Desert*
- Josephus Flavius, historian



Nag Hammadi Texts

1. Writings of creative and redemptive mythology, including Gnostic alternative versions of creation and salvation:

- The Apocryphon of John
- The Hypostasis of the Archons
- On the Origin of the World
- The Apocalypse of Adam
- The Paraphrase of Shem

2. Observations and commentaries on Gnostic themes, such as the nature of reality, the nature of the soul, the relationship of the soul to the world:

- The Gospel of Truth
- The Treatise on the Resurrection
- The Tripartite Tractate
- Eugnostos the Blessed
- The Second Treatise of the Great Seth
- The Teachings of Silvanus
- The Testimony of Truth

3. Liturgical & initiatory texts:

- The Discourse on the Eighth and Ninth
- The Prayer of Thanksgiving
- A Valentinian Exposition
- The Three Steles of Seth
- The Prayer of the Apostle Paul
- The Gospel of Philip (also listed in 6th category)

Nag Hammadi Texts

4. Writings dealing primarily with the feminine deific and spiritual principle, particularly with the Divine Sophia:

- The Thunder
- Perfect Mind
- The Thought of Norea
- The Sophia of Jesus Christ
- The Exegesis on the Soul

5. Writings pertaining to the lives and experiences of some of the apostles:

- The Apocalypse of Peter
- The Letter of Peter to Philip

- The Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles
- The (First) Apocalypse of James
- The (Second) Apocalypse of James
- The Apocalypse of Paul

6. Scriptures which contain sayings of Jesus as well as descriptions of incidents in His life:

- The Dialogue of the Saviour
- The Book of Thomas the Contender
- The Apocryphon of James
- The Gospel of Philip
- The Gospel of Thomas

Dead Sea Scrolls

- Likely of Essene origin
- Likely hidden when Roman soldiers destroyed Jewish Revolt, 70AD
- Copies of every book in the Hebrew Bible (except the book of Esther)
- 12 copies from before 586 BC
 - Destruction of Solomon's Temple and exile to Babylonia



Essenes & the Dead Sea Scrolls



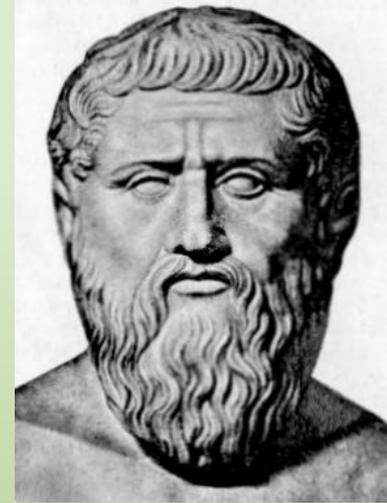
- Josephus places them with Sadducees and Pharisees
 - Essene quarter and gate in Jerusalem
 - High emphasis on learning as step towards initiation
 - Understanding of scriptures through “illumination” from initiation
 - Sons of Light were those initiated to join battle against Darkness
 - Zoroastrian 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*

Wikipedia Mystery References



- Plato, an initiate himself, mentions the Mysteries specifically in his famous dialogue on the immortality of the soul, the *Phaedo*, "our mysteries had a very real meaning: he that has been purified and initiated shall dwell with the gods" (F.J. Church trans).
- Plutarch, writing to his wife on the death of their daughter, says, "because of those sacred and faithful promises given in the mysteries...we hold it firmly for an undoubted truth that our soul is incorruptible and immortal. Let us behave ourselves accordingly" (translation by Hamilton).
- Plutarch: "When a man dies he is like those who are initiated into the mysteries. Our whole life is a journey by tortuous ways without outlet. At the moment of quitting it come terrors, shuddering fear, amazement. Then a light that moves to meet you, pure meadows that receive you, songs and dances and holy apparitions" (Hamilton)
- Cicero writes, "Nothing is higher than these mysteries"

Plato (424–347 BC)

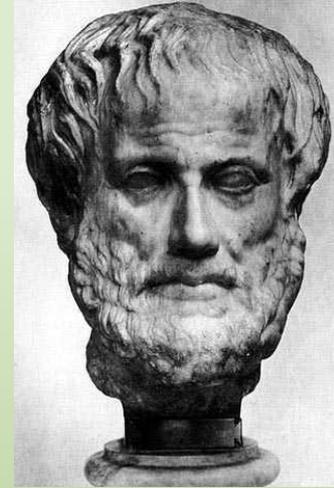


- Student of Socrates and Ephesian Initiate
- From *The Republic*:
- Three principles of the human soul
 - Rational, Love/Desire, Deed Doer
 - Thinking, Feeling, and Willing
 - Three Soul principles reflected in the functions of the State
 - Spirit aligned with third Soul principle
- “[Soul] immortality is demonstrated by the previous argument, and there are many other proofs; but to see her as she really is, not as we now behold her, marred by communion with the body and other miseries, you must contemplate her with the eye of reason, in her original purity; and then her beauty will be revealed”
- “The soul which cannot be destroyed by an evil, whether inherent or external, must exist for ever, and if existing for ever, must be immortal”
- “The soul, when choosing a new life, must of necessity become different”
- And all coming to birth must drink from “the river of Unmindfulness”

School of Athens (Raphael)



Aristotle (384 – 322 BC)



- Student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great
- The most important founding figures in Western philosophy
- Created a comprehensive system of Western philosophy
- Ethics, aesthetics, logic, science, politics, and metaphysics
- Physical sciences profoundly shaped medieval thinking until replaced by Newton (1642-1727 AD)
- Zoological sciences, some of his observations were confirmed to be accurate only in the 19th century.
- Earliest known formal study of logic which was incorporated in the late 19th century into modern formal logic
- His metaphysics profoundly influenced philosophical and theological thinking in the Islamic and Jewish traditions well into the Middle Ages
- Etheric elements flow from the heart to the head and there, as they contact the brain, cool down
- Aristotle was well known among medieval Muslim intellectuals and revered as "المعلم الأول" – "The First Teacher"
- It continues to influence Christian theology, especially the scholastic tradition of the Catholic Church

Geography

ABC = Traditional region of Anatolia
 ABC = Region of Greek settlement





Greek Mystery Centers: *Delphi*



- The Temple of Apollo was built on intersecting geographical fault and ley lines at Delphi
 - Built on the slope of a 900 foot cliff
- Pythia, high priestess of Apollo would sit a golden tripod
- 560 BC King Croesus of Lydia wanted to find the best oracle in the world
- Every major Greek and Roman leader, soldier, or politician would either personally travel to Delphi or send emissaries to Delphi to consult the Oracle
- Last recorded oracle was given in approximately 360AD for the Emperor Julian the Apostate of Rome
- Theodosius the Christian emperor abolished the Delphi oracle



Greek Mystery Centers: *Eleusis*



- Celebration of Eleusinian Mysteries began in late Sept.
 - Initiation ceremonies held every year for the cult of Demeter and Persephone
 - Celebrated Persephone's return, 4 mo. when Persephone with Hades = dry Greek summer
 - Homer's *Hymn to Demeter*, King Celeus learns the secret rites and mysteries of her cult, becomes one of the original priests

Greek Mystery Centers: *Eleusis*



- **Around 300 BC, the state took control [church and state issue]**
 - Two centers: lesser and greater
 - Two families, Eumolpidae and Kerykes ran the mystery center
 - Led to a vast increase in the # initiates
- New requirements for membership: Freedom from "blood guilt"
 - No murders, not a barbarian: able to speak Greek
- Men, women, and slaves initiated
- In 170 AD, Temple sacked by the Sarmatians
- Rebuilt by Marcus Aurelius who was then allowed to become the only lay person ever to enter the anaktoron
- Emperor Julian was the last emperor to be initiated into the Eleusinian Mysteries

Greek Mystery Centers: *Eleusis*



- The Roman emperor Theodosius I closed the sanctuaries in 392 AD
- The last remnants of the Mysteries were wiped out in 396 AD, when Alaric, King of the Goths, invaded accompanied by Christians "in their dark garments", bringing Arian Christianity and desecrating the old sacred sites
- The closing of the Eleusinian Mysteries is reported by Eunapius, a historian and biographer of the Greek philosophers.
- Eunapius had been initiated by the last legitimate Hierophant who had been commissioned by the emperor Julian to restore the Mysteries
- The very last hierophant claimed the rank of Father in Mysteries of Mithras

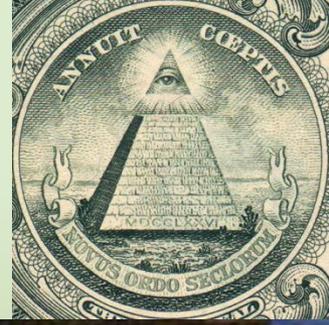


Mikveh (Body Cleansing)

- Bath – baptism?
- Full immersion
- Near death experience
- John the Baptist
 - Essene?
 - I baptize with water; the one who follows me will baptize with fire
- One must be clean to enter the spirit



Greek Mystery Centers: *Dionysus and Ariadne*



- Male and Female initiations
- Myth of Daedalus and Minotaur
 - The middle way between extremes
- Cultivation of vineyards – wine cult
 - The living god in its life cycle
 - The underworld god in its fermentation
- Intoxicating and disinhibiting effects of wine - possession by a god's spirit?
- Led to loss of knowledge of past lives
 - Live your life to its fullest



Fear of Spiritual Death



- Schools were closing – inability to penetrate to high level
- Crisis amongst initiates – what if the ability to penetrate to the spiritual worlds is lost to humanity?
- Kali Yuga – the Dark Age – had come
- We cannot betray the Mysteries but will there be enough knowledge transferred to the future so that Mankind will once again seek the spiritual world and its guidance?
- Will Evil win out and Mankind fail to achieve its goal?

Greek Mystery Centers: *Ephesus*



- The mythical founder of the city was a prince of Athens named Androklos
 - Had to leave Athens after the death of his father, King Kadros
 - According to the legend, he founded Ephesus on the place where the oracle of Delphi indicated
- 560 BC, conquered by the Lydian king Croesus
 - He treated the inhabitants with respect
 - He funds Temple construction of marble
- Was one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World
- 52 AD Christianity comes, Paul lived in Ephesus
- Gospel of John written here, c 90–100
- Mary may have died here

Symbolic End of the Mysteries

July 21, 356 BC:

- Herostratus seeking fame
- Burns Temple of Artemis/Diana at Ephesus
- Same day Alexander was born
 - Plutarch remarked that Artemis was too preoccupied with Alexander's delivery to save her burning temple
- Edict of Thessalonica from emperor Theodosius I 392
- What remained of the temple was destroyed in 401 AD
 - Mob led by St. John Chrysostom
 - Columns used in Hagia Sophia, [360,] 415, 537
 - Mother Church of Constantinople



Ephesus



- Trained Heraclitus, Pythagoras, Plato, Aristotle
- Combined Oriental and Greek Mystery wisdom
- **Alexander** inspired by Aristotle to build Alexandrias to record the many Mysteries and their oral traditions before they are lost and to found a spiritual Ephesus existing far and wide
 - At least 20 such cities were built
 - Plutarch: Olympias, mother of Alexander, on the eve of the consummation of her marriage to King Philip, dreamed that her womb was struck by a thunder bolt, causing a flame that spread "far and wide" before dying away
- Not an imposed Aristotelian knowledge – he works a harmony of Hellenistic and local civilization
 - Hailed as a savior, a deliverer from spiritual fetters

Philo (20 BC - 50 AD)



- Hellenistic Jewish philosopher of Alexandria, Egypt
- Considered to be the reincarnated Plato
- Philo used the term Logos to mean the creative principle
 - Logos as divine wisdom
 - Logos as the image of God after which the human mind (nous) was made
 - God's "blueprint for the world"
- Philo followed the Platonic distinction between imperfect matter and perfect idea
 - The logos was necessary, he taught, because God cannot come into contact with matter

Plutarch (46 - 120 AD)



- Initiated into the Apollo Mysteries
 - Served as high priest of the temple of Apollo, Delphi
- His writings and lectures led him to become a celebrity in the Roman empire
 - Guests came from all over the empire; congregated for serious conversation
 - Many of these dialogues were recorded and published (*Moralia*)
 - Influenced Renaissance writers, Shakespeare, and Emerson
- *Moralia* includes
 - *On the Decline of the Oracles*
 - *On the Fortune or the Virtue of Alexander*
 - *On the Worship of Isis and Osiris*
 - *On the Malice of Herodotus*
 - *On the Delays of the Divine Vengeance*
 - *On Peace of Mind*

Plutarch (46 - 120 AD)



- “For the god addresses each one of us as we approach him here with the words ‘**Know Thyself**,’ as a form of welcome, which certainly is in no wise of less import than ‘Hail;’ and we in turn reply to him ‘**Thou art**,’— (*discussion of the coming and going of Beings*) –
- But we have a ridiculous **fear of death**, we who have already died so many deaths, and still are dying! For not only is it true, as Heraclitus used to say, that the death of fire is birth for air, and the death of air is birth for water, but the case is even more clearly to be seen in our own selves: the man in his prime passes away when the old man comes into existence, the young man passes away into the man in his prime, the child into the young man, and the babe into the child. Dead is the man of yesterday, for he is passed into the man of to-day; and the man of to-day is dying as he passes into the man of tomorrow.
- Our senses, through ignorance of reality, **falsely** tell us that what appears to be is.”
 - *Moralia, De E apud Delphos, 392 A–E. (The E at Delphi, 17 and 18.)*

Who References Plutarch?



The founders of America:

- Samuel Adams, Peyton Randolph, Patrick Henry, Samuel Davies, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Henry Lee, John Jay, George Mason, Gouverneur Morris, and Thomas Jefferson, to name just a few

Stream to American Freemasons:

- Cain→Hiram→certain Mysteries →Templars→Masons
- 1723 Ben Franklin PA Lodges
- 1733 St. John's Lodge Boston: Paul Revere, Tea Party
- 1752 George Washington, Fredericksburg, VA
- Many associated with Scottish Grand Lodge

Transition from Ancient Mysteries to Christianity



Augustine:

- “What is called the Christian religion today (200CE) existed already among the ancients and was present with the beginnings of the human race.
- But when Christ appeared in the flesh the true religion which was already in existence, received the name of Christian.”
- Mystical marriage, e.g. Gospel of Thomas “Many are standing at the door, but the unified ones are the those who shall enter the Marriage Chamber”
- Becoming a “*name*”, e.g. Gospel of Thomas “This one is no longer a Christian, but a Christ” and St. Paul “No longer I but Christ in me”

Mystery Center Closings



- Constantine accepts Christianity
 - His mother was Christian
 - Romanization of the Church “hierarchy”
- Council of Nicea, 325 AD.
 - Attain consensus in the church → Nicene Creed, divinity of Jesus-Christ
- Julian the Apostate: born: 330 AD, Constantinople, Roman Emperor from 361 to 363, murdered trying to restore the Mithraic and Persian Mysteries within the Empire
- Theodosius I closed the Greek Mystery Centers in 392 AD
- Arian Christians under Gothic King Alaric sacked 396 AD
- 525 Emperor Justin I allowed intermarriage between social classes, Justinian marries Theodora
- 527 - 565: Justinian the Byzantine Emperor – destroyed remnants
- 553 Second Council of Constantinople: recognized that nothing could be done in the Church contrary to the emperor's will and command

Summary Points from Tonight



1. Plato & Aristotle xfer Mysteries to knowledge
 - Alexander accomplishes this [in part militarily]
 - Intellect in the soul (“I know”) grows powerful
2. What was once good can become evil
 - Magic of the bloodline vanishes
3. Role of Christianity in extinguishing the Mysteries

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