

Cain, Crime, and Forgiveness

by Andrew Linnell

Rudolf Steiner's lectures on the Temple Legend picture for us a time of major transition, that is, from the realm where Eden existed to the physical Earth. Original humans, existed as beings of the astral plane¹ who had an etheric body that was used as one's vehicle for earthly existence, similarly to how one uses a car today. Although a physical world was forming down below, humanity was, at this time, destined for an evolution that stayed above the physical. At least that was the intention of Yahweh and the Elohim working with him. But another spiritual being whom we call Lucifer, as an Elohim also wanted to participate in this evolution. Through the Temptation, humanity received through Lucifer the impulse to develop freedom. During the course of human evolution, the Divine beings were able to turn this crime of humanity into something *potentially* good.

By consuming of the fruits of the Tree of Knowledge, humanity had to change to compensate for this addition to their overall being. The fruit of this acquired godly knowledge would become our freedom. But how could real



¹ In most esoteric traditions, the human being is seen as composed of pneuma (spirit), psyche (soul), and body (soma) with the members of the body being physical, etheric or life body (aka prana and chi or qi), astral, and Ego or I. With these, each human is related to the four kingdoms: mineral, plant, animal, and human.

freedom come about when each human was surrounded by the spiritual world that was working into each human? The Divine had to cause humanity to fall into a world where there would be separation, where eventually mankind would no longer experience the spiritual world. For real freedom to develop as the gift of Lucifer, the spiritual world would need to gradually withdraw from humanity's everyday experience. Human consciousness, therefore, would need to descend from the realm of the consciousness of divine beings to a newly created realm wherein humans would eventually reach an awake consciousness within its separated world, a world experienced through sensory perception. Into matter we fell and into physical bodies where no two bodies could occupy the same space. In realm of Eden, this law of separation did not apply.

At the time of the Fall, the physical world needed more time to develop and to harden so that we could stand upright upon it. All beings associated with humanity also had to fall into matter. This included the animal and the plant kingdoms. Into what was a fiery world at the time of Eden we descended. Over time, this fiery world would need to cool to where first air could appear, then water, then solid matter. All living creatures were present during all of these cooling ages that lasted for millions of years, living their lives according to different principles than those that have existed for the past 13,000 years. The lifeless, in this creation story, precipitates out of the living. There is no special moment where a chemical accident occurred and life somehow arose within a mineral substance. Further, there is no need for another special moment when, without spiritual intervention, some living organism was bequeathed consciousness. Here, consciousness

is the origin of earthly existence. And the fossil records become when those descending beings come bodily into the mineral realm.²

Now for a story about the Legend of the Battle of Darkness with Light that is attributed to Mani³ who brought a form of Christianity to the East, especially Persia in the 3rd century. Mani was known as the Son of the Widow. This Manichean legend illustrates their spiritual current that seeks to deal with evil according to Christian principles.

The Legend tells us that in a time long ago, the Spirits of Darkness wanted to take the Kingdom of Light by storm. Darkness reached the borders of the Kingdom of Light. They hoped to conquer it but they failed to achieve anything.

Now it fell upon the Kingdom of Light to administer appropriate punishment. But in this realm, there was nothing which was in any way evil for all of it was only good. Thus, the beings of Darkness could only have been punished with something that was good. The Spirits of Light took a part of their own kingdom and mixed it with the materialized Kingdom of Darkness! When the mingling of a part of the Kingdom of Light with the Kingdom of Darkness, the mix became a kind of leaven within the materialized part of the Kingdom of Darkness. This ferment produced a chaotic whirling vortex. Into this swirling vortex, fell Death. Therefore, it continually consumes itself and carries within itself the germ of its own destruction.

Because of this battle, mankind was brought into existence. This Legend calls Primeval Man what was sent down from the Kingdom of Light to be mixed with the Kingdom of

² Dates of the fossil records is based on assumptions about the decay rates of radioactive elements. It is assumed that the rate of decay has remained constant. There is no proof of this assumption.

³ Mani [216 Ctesiphon, Iraq – 274 Gundeshapur, Iran] was the prophet and the founder of Manichaeism, a Christian religion strongly influenced by Gnosticism. It spread widely from China to France but its members were brutally exterminated from the 3rd century into the Middle Ages.

Darkness. Thus, mankind is a mixture of Light and Darkness. It is, thus, for Mankind to conquer, through death, what should not have been there; that is, the Darkness within his own being. This legend is reflected in the opening lines of John's gospel where it says "In Him was life and this life was the light of mankind. This light shines in the darkness of each soul, and this darkness comprehends it not." [John 1:4-5]

To assist humanity in its future home upon the physical earth, divine beings brought into human evolution other beings who knew about the physical, who were within their own evolution in the physical and sub-physical. It would be their task to cool down the physical earth, to harden it, to bring death into the teeming life state of the early earth so that rock could form upon which we humans could stand as upright beings.

We see our intended archetype in this uprightness. Our heads were to be directed to towards the heavens from where we could receive our thoughts and then apply them through the work of our hands upon the earth, an earth upon which we do not sink into but stand upon. These beings that were called upon to assist humanity's descent to the physical earth are known as Ahrimanic⁴ beings in Anthroposophy⁵ or Mephistopheles⁶ beings in some other traditions⁷. Just as each of us has a guardian angel, each of us also has an Ahrimanic double, or doppelganger. Through this double, our body was outfitted

⁴ Ahriman is a name from Zoroastrian-Persian lore of the prince of darkness who opposes the Christ or the Sun being

⁵ Anthroposophy is a spiritual scientific society organized originally by Rudolf Steiner in 1913 and reorganized in 1923 after its center, the Goetheanum was burned by an arsonist associated with a group known as the Thules who were the spiritual foundation for the Nazi party.

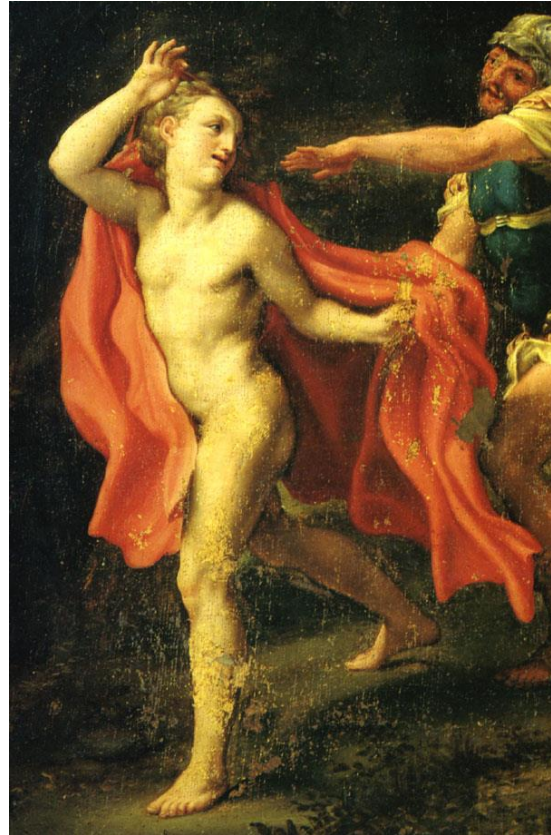
⁶ Mephistopheles is the name Johann Wolfgang von Goethe gave to this class of beings

⁷ In Christian traditions, Lucifer and Satan were once separate spiritual beings but by the 5th century they were combined into one devil to oppose the Trinity. For early Christians, Satan would be equivalent to Ahriman

with nerves that transmit electricity and can react to a hot surface without us first having to think “ouch, that’s very hot” before we move our hand away. Our double joins us just before birth and stays with us all through our life, leaving only just before death.⁸

When one who is very old and near death has suddenly become lucid, it likely is because their double has fled. Such a person will typically die within a day. The double flees from impending death. When one has a near-death experience (NDE), the double has separated from the physical body as well allowing for conscious experiences.

Thus, the double has served our evolution. It was brought into human evolution to help us deal with our new home, the physical earth. It is of the Ahrimanic-double’s nature to desire to make our body more and more mechanical because its nature is from below as our nature is from above. It delights in robots and prosthetic limbs for amputees. One day, in another two thousand years, human bodies will have succumbed to climate change, to poor nutrition, to poor water, to poor air, to poor light, so that our limbs will wither. When this happens, teens and young adults of this future time will opt for prosthetic limbs that will



⁸ Some Christian traditions called the young man who, naked, escapes capture in the Garden of Gethsemane when Judas brings Roman soldiers to capture Christ-Jesus via a kiss.

give them super-human strengths rather than to continue with their paltry arms or legs. Our double will rejoice. Their evolutionary goal will seem to be within their grasp.

Sometime over the next five thousand years, with our body withered, we'll separate from our double who will, by then, have its desired earthly body prepared for itself. While we will return to a life similar to that when we descended from Eden; that is, a life where our lowest member is our etheric body, our double will move on to an independent existence. The double's in that future time will have a body with great intelligence but one without life. In that future time, they will be able to mechanically clone themselves to attain a kind of immortality and we may have found a way to give them some semblance of life, but a life that would be less than the life of a plant, a life somewhere between the mineral kingdom and the plant kingdom.

Hopefully, we will be able, by then, to ascend: to leave behind the physical so that our lowest member will be our etheric or life body. But for that to happen, we'll need to clean up our karma first. Karma can only be resolved here in the physical while we are incarnated on the earth.

But how many more lifetimes might I have to fix my karma? If we assume the modern sequence of about 700 years between incarnations, then one has about six or seven incarnations left to seek all their necessary resolutions and forgivenesses.⁹ The task to clean up all of one's karma with so few incarnations left may seem overwhelming!

The crime during the transition from Eden to Earth was the fratricide of Cain. Both Cain and Abel were born of Eve, thus they were half-brothers. We learn in Rudolf Steiner's

⁹ This calculation is based on the decline of birth rates and esoteric laws that place the end of sexual procreation just before the year 6000 AD.

lecture cycle *The Temple Legend*¹⁰ that Abel was born of a non-sexual union¹¹ of Adam with Eve while Cain was born of a non-sexual union of Eve with her creator, another unnamed Elohim.¹² Adam here means mankind. Thus, Abel arose through Adam while Cain arose through the act of a god, a member of the Elohim. Humans at this time were androgynous. Union did not mean sexual intercourse but a spiritual intercourse and thus the expression “he knew her and she conceived.” Steiner points out that the sexes do not separate until after the moon had separated from the earth. This separation of the moon occurs during this transition phase from Eden to Earth that Steiner calls the Lemurian Epoch.¹³ The first human born out of sexual procreation will not occur until the Atlantean Epoch. This will be Seth who becomes the replacement for Abel who was killed by his half-brother Cain.

The Temple Legend describes how both the Cain and the Abel androgynous lines continued into the next Epoch called the Atlantean Epoch when new humans began to emerge from sexual procreation as a mix of their parents. Eventually, even the Cain and the Abel lineages would separate in male and female as sexual procreation overtook all of humanity. The bloodline, that had already been important, now determined one’s profession. Although one of the Cainites had killed one of those of the Abel lineage, the karma fell on the whole lineage since they each shared the blood of their ancestors – they were essentially clones!

¹⁰ Rudolf Steiner, *The Temple Legend*, Rudolf Steiner Press, revised edition, 2002

¹¹ It was not until Seth was born that sexual procreation began. Before this existed the four androgynous lineages of Adam, of Eve, of Cain, and of Abel.

¹² This author reasons that this other Elohim likely was Lucifer

¹³ Modern science has recently come to the conclusion that the moon did evolve with the earth as one body and later separated about 4 billion years ago. Some scientists claim that a foreign body they call Theia, collided with the earth to cause the moon to separate.

Then, during the Atlantean Epoch, the Abel lineage, according to the Bible, looked upon the daughters of Cain and found them fair and took for them wives.¹⁴ Again, a decree from Yahweh was violated; the Cain and Abel bloodlines were not to have been mixed. The result of the sexual union of the Sons of God with the Daughters of Men were the Nephilim, the giant men. This led, according to Rudolf Steiner, to black magic and eventually to the destruction of Atlantis via the Deluge.

Yet evolution continued. Post-Atlantean culture arose in a much different world. The rainbow was the sign of the change to the earth, its waters, and its atmosphere. Now nations arose with ethnic groupings. Cultural ages succeed cultural ages. At some point, the great wisdom concerning the past and the future of the human being was grasped by King Solomon who could envision how to express this in the form of a Temple. Solomon received the “blueprint” but had no experience, no knowledge on how to build such a temple. Nearby was a master builder of mythical proportions, Hiram Abiff. Solomon sent for Hiram and Hiram came with his master builders. While the temple was being built, Balkis, the Queen of Sheba came to witness this construction. The Ethiopians traditionally have claimed Balkis as one of their own. She marveled at the temple and at the beauty of King Solomon. She agreed to marry him.

Balkis then asked to meet the builder of the temple. When her eyes met those of Hiram, a fire was lit in their blood. Their mutual sexual desire was interwoven with a beholding of greatness, of stature regarding earthliness. We may see in Balkis the human soul symbolically portrayed as the six-pointed star of David with one upward-pointing triangle devoted to the wisdom of Solomon and of the spirit while the other downward-pointing

¹⁴ See Genesis 6:1–4.

triangle indicating the fiery passion of the human will for working upon the earth. The latter represented by Hiram's masonic knowledge. One night, when Solomon got drunk, Balkis slipped off her wedding ring and ran to meet Hiram. They spent the night together. She returned just before dawn. The next day, Hiram was killed by three of his apprentices who Hiram had found lacking and had not promoted. Earlier these three had maliciously added substances to what would be a mix of metals to form Hiram's masterpiece, the Molten Sea. As this became a ruinous fire, Hiram was called to step into the fire where he was taken to the center of the earth by Tubal Cain. There Hiram met Cain. He was told that he would have a son and this son would father those who would be leaders for future humanity. Hiram was given tools with which he would repair the damage to the Molten Sea. Hiram returns and does complete the Molten Sea. But then he is killed by the three apprentices. In this legend, we are not told who his son was. Was Balkis impregnated by Hiram that one night? Rehoboam becomes king after Solomon and is listed in Matthew's lineage. But the mother of Rehoboam was Naamah the Ammonite,¹⁵ not Balkis. Thus, the lineage promised to Hiram must not be a bloodline. When Balkis is seen as representative of the human soul, then this event would be a spiritual fertilization of the human soul.¹⁶

¹⁵ 1 Kings 14:21: "Now Rehoboam, Solomon's son, reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king; he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city where the Lord had chosen from all the tribes of Israel to put his name. Rehoboam's mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite." See also 1 Kings 14:31: "Rehoboam rested with his ancestors and was buried with his ancestors in the city of David. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite. His son Abijam[a] became king in his place."

¹⁶ Rudolf Steiner, *The Temple Legend*, lecture 5, 4Nov1904, "Hiram is the representative of the initiates among the Sons of Cain belonging to the fourth and fifth epochs. The Queen of Sheba is the soul of humanity — every female character denotes the soul in esoteric terminology. She has to choose between the detached piety which does not concern itself with worldly conquest, and the masterful wisdom which is achieved through the overcoming of earthly passions and desires. She is the representative of the true human soul, taking her position between Hiram and Solomon and uniting herself with Hiram in the fourth and fifth epochs, because he is still engaged in building the Temple."

Now we move forward in time to the Christmas stories of Matthew and Luke. Each describe a birth of a boy named Jesus. Traditional Christianity has long thought these were different tellings of the same story. But on closer examination, one finds that the families are quite different, even from different towns. In Matthew, per order of King Herod, all children two and younger were slaughtered while in Luke there is no mention of this tragedy. The story in Luke is traced back through David's son Nathan who was a priest. It is shepherds, in Luke, who come to welcome the child. In Matthew, the lineage is traced through David's son Solomon and his son Rehoboam who, as we've seen, were kings. In Matthew, it is the three magi who come to welcome this child. Matthew's lineage is traced back to Abraham while Luke's goes back through Seth to Adam who was a Son of God – and, as we've seen, this was the Abel lineage! The Matthew story gave us a kingly lineage which points to Cain as the spiritual fertilizer of the soul!

Before Christ could become a human for all of humanity, the karma of the fratricide of Cain had to be resolved. This required a human act. When the Luke Jesus was twelve, he was accidentally left behind in Jerusalem. There, in the Holy of the Holies, behind its curtain, the two Jesus boys met and merged. The spiritual members of the Matthew Jesus joined with the Abel lineage's physical body of the Luke Jesus. That is why, when his parents found him, they were so amazed at his knowledge that he was sharing with the doctors of the temple. This was a profound example of forgiveness. The Luke Jesus 'died' again but now the Cain spirit of the Matthew Jesus took on the destiny of this Jesus to become Jesus of Nazareth. Later, at age thirty, the Christ would be born into this body at the baptism.

This was known to Early Christians but was lost by the fourth century. The Essenes expected two messiahs, one priestly and one kingly. The Gnostic texts of Nag Hammadi also spoke of the coming of two messiahs. This knowledge came to Leonardo da Vinci through the texts and teaching of one of the most remarkable people of the early Renaissance, namely George Gemistus Plethon. Plethon came to Florence in 1438 as an envoy to a council that was asking for military help for Constantinople. The assistance was not given but Plethon offered a trunk of texts and a series of lectures that led to the forming of the Platonic Academy in Florence.

Here in Florence, Leonardo, when he was 29 was busily painting his *Adoration of the Magi*, when he received knowledge of the two Jesus boys as well as Cain and Abel. Perhaps Leonardo received an initiation at that time. As a result of receiving the profound wisdom of the two Jesus boys, their combining in the Temple, and his understanding of Cain and Abel, Leonardo had to abandon his *Adoration* painting and went on to develop his masterpiece, the *Virgin of the Rocks*. In this next painting, Leonardo revealed this mystery. But because this was in an age when the Inquisition was still putting heretics to death, Leonardo had to be crafty to reveal this secret. He not only includes it in his painting but he also worked it through the paintings of his students!

Now you too know the human mystery that enabled the Christ being to enter human evolution for all of humanity. In resolving the karma of Cain and Abel, human freedom was not trampled. Moreover, through the deed of Christ on Golgotha, human freedom becomes the basis for the resolution of karma. Christ becomes the Lord of Karma through whom the wisdom needed for each karmic situation is given. Through Him, comes the Truth that shall make you Free.

In our age, your physical body is your temple. Your Holy of the Holies is hidden within. Your soul is Balkis and the two triangles make the six-pointed star, the symbol of the holy grail. At Christmas, in the days following the winter solstice, when nature is withdrawn and cold drives one inside, into their own temple, is when there may be born in you, your Son of Man. Just as the two Jesus boys of Luke and the Matthew, resolved the karma of Cain and Abel, through strength, wisdom, and love your karma and the karma of those you love may also come to be resolved.

The pictures that now follow tell this story via paintings. Now you can read this story told by the art of Leonardo da Vinci and his students.



The original *Virgin of the Rocks* by Leonardo da Vinci now hangs at the Louvre in Paris. Modern art historians as well as Leonardo's contemporaries, lacking the knowledge you now possess, concluded that the child on the right was the Christ child (even though Christ would not be 'born' until the Baptism) while the boy on the left must be John the Baptist.

The next painting is by Leonardo's student Bernardino de Conti. Clearly he was quite aware of the first painting as he copied the background. But here, the children are



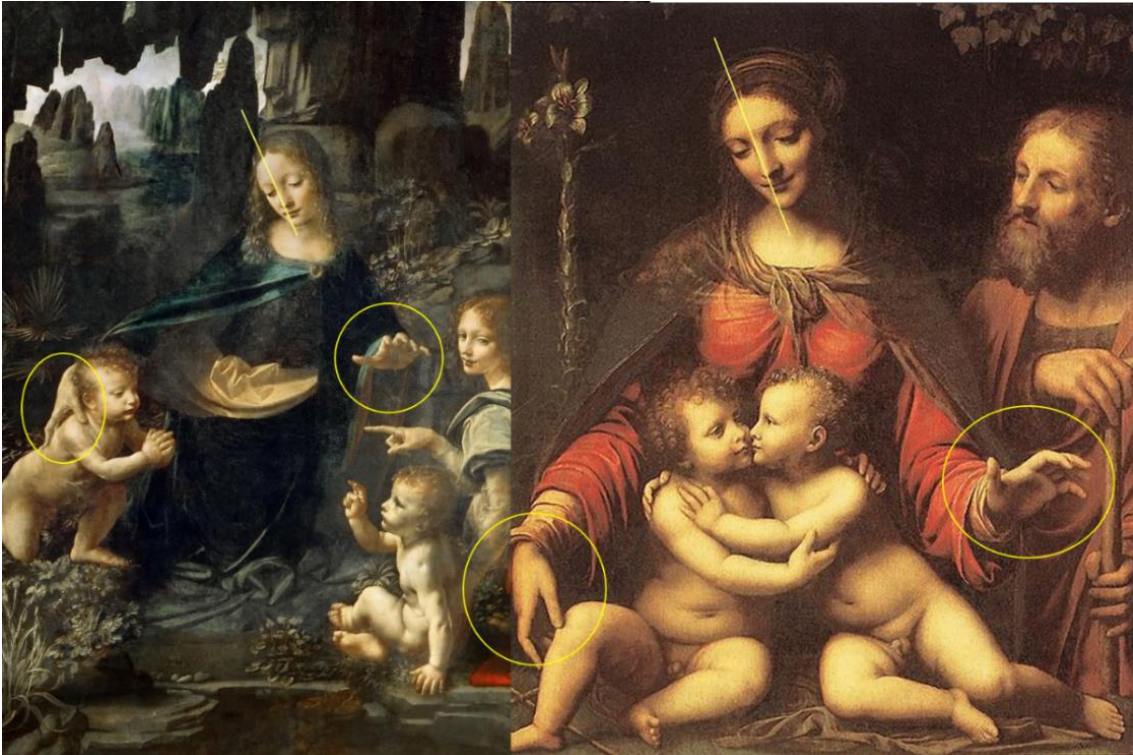
embracing! Look closely at their



haloes. The child on the left is the same child who is on the right in *Virgin of the Rocks*. This is confirmed by the hand just above his head; the gesture of this hand is identical to that of the central figure of *Virgin of the Rocks*. The next painting is called today *Holy Infants Embracing*. It used to be called *Kissing Babes* but online searches using this name typically brought the

researcher to a porn site. Very many of Leonardo's students painted this embracing scene of two boys. Where did this scene come from? Nothing in the New Testament has such a scene. But in the Gnostic text *Pistis Sophia* we find a scene of two boys, both with mothers named Mary, who embrace and kiss but in this text the boys are twelve. But Leonardo did not portray twelve-year old boys but toddlers. Why? Because Leonardo had already been accused (and acquitted) of sodomy with a group of men. Depicting the scene with the purity of infants would keep his accusers at bay.

Our next image compares the *Virgin of the Rocks* with a Madonna painting by Bernardino Luini, another one of Leonardo's students. Here we again see similar hand gestures of the central feminine figure. We see her head has the exact same tilt. But, instead of the two boys on separate sides of the Madonna, they are in the exact embrace of the above paintings.



These students of Leonardo knew of his masterpiece, *Virgin of the Rocks*. They also knew the secret of who was depicted in the painting and they conspired to reveal it without being caught by the Inquisition.



This becomes obvious in the next painting again by Bernardino de Conti called the *Three Holy Children*. Here we see the two children from *Virgin of the Rocks* with the boy in the middle claiming, by virtue of his staff, to be John the Baptist. The boy on our left has royal robes behind him as he kneels. The boy on the right has the three long nails hammered into his head as his halo. This clearly claims that it will be this

child who is nailed to the cross. By placing John the Baptist in this painting Conti is telling us that the boy on our left cannot be John.

The next painting by Leonardo's student Bernardino di Betto, who was known as Pinturicchio, shows the scene after the merging of the two boys. We see Joseph and Mary weeping for their child entering from our right. The doctors of the Temple have thrown their books of knowledge on the ground as the child in the middle surpasses their wisdom. On the left, we see the other child, with socks on his feet, being led away. The child in the middle stands directly on the earth, full of the earthly wisdom attained

through Cain coupled now with that from Abel. We also see the hierophant in purple and



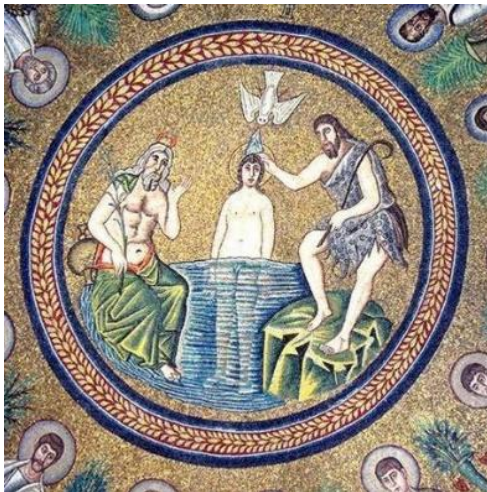
standing with him are four each symbolic of the four members of the human being that just participated in this merging.

Our last image is not a painting but a mosaic from the 5th century done by a branch of

Christianity that followed

the teachings of Arius. Their belief was that Christ entered the body of Jesus of Nazareth

at the baptism in the form of a dove. With Jesus are John the Baptist and the God of the



river Jordan.

Now, let's wrap up by returning to the Legend of Light and Dark. The Manichaeon thought which lies in this story is that the kingdom of darkness has to be overcome by the kingdom of light, not by means of punishment, but through mildness; not by resisting evil, but by uniting with it in

order to redeem evil as such. Because a part of the light enters into evil, the evil itself is able to be overcome.

What is evil? Esoteric lore says it is nothing but an ill-timed good. As an analogy, let us assume that we have to do with a virtuoso pianist and an excellent piano technician. Both are perfect in their own sphere. First, the technician builds the piano and then hands it over to the pianist. The pianist proves to be a virtuoso. Here both are equally good. But should the technician go into the concert hall instead of the pianist and start hammering away, he would then be in the wrong place. Something good would have become something bad. With this analogy, we can see that evil is a misplaced good.

When what is especially good at one time or another, strives to be preserved, to become rigid, it then curbs the progress of further development. Then it becomes evil because it opposes the good. Extending this, we can say that evil was part of the divine but it comes at the wrong season.

The Manichean impulse can be viewed in this profound sense: that good and evil are fundamentally the same in their ending. If you interpret it in this way you can understand what Mani intended to bring about.

The soul was always known in esoteric lore as the 'mother' in all mystical teachings and the instructor was the 'father', the heavenly Father and the earthly Mother. This was the basis to the Egyptian mythology of Osiris and Isis; they were the two forces present in the soul. One force, the instructor, representing the divine that flowed directly into man, was Osiris. The soul herself was Isis, the one who conceives, who receives the divine, into herself. Thus, she is the mother.

In our age, according to the myths of Osiris, the father has withdrawn. Osiris was dismembered by Set. The soul, Isis, is widowed. No Father, no instructor exists in our age. Humanity is now thrown back onto itself. It must find the light of truth within its

own soul in order to act as its own guide. Everything of a soul nature has always been expressed in terms of the feminine. Therefore, according to the esoteric wisdom of this mythology, the feminine soul element which exists now in a germinal state is being developed to become a self-directing feminine principle that no longer requires an outside divine enabler. This is what Mani called the 'Widow'. And that is why he called himself the 'Son of the Widow'. Mani attempted to prepare that stage in human soul development when one will come to seek for their own soul-spirit light.

Interestingly, the 6th of January is the same date as that on which, in ancient Egypt, the Festival of Osiris was celebrated; that is, the Festival of the Re-finding of Osiris. As you know, Osiris was overcome by his enemy Set (or Typhon) who throws his body into the waters of the Nile river. Isis seeks and eventually finds him. This re-finding of Osiris, the Son of God, is represented in the Festival of the 6th of January. The Festival of the Three Kings is the same Festival, but in its Christian form. This Festival was also celebrated among the Assyrians, the Armenians and the Phoenicians. Everywhere it is a Festival connected with a kind of universal baptism — a rebirth from out of the water. This in itself points to the connection with the re-finding of Osiris.

Who are the Magi? They represent the Initiates of the three preceding epochs of culture. They were the Initiates of mankind up to the time of the coming of Christ, the Bringer of the Love that is free of egoism, the resurrected Osiris. The Three Kings or Magi are representatives of the humans of Lemuria, the Atlantis, and the current Epoch humans. They bring three offerings: Melchior brings gold, the symbol of wisdom, of intelligence, Balthasar brings frankincense which is the universal symbol for an offering that has

something to do with Intuition, and Caspar who offers myrrh that is the symbol of the dying of the lower life and the resurrection of the higher life.

A star shines before the Magi and leads them to a cave or grotto in Bethlehem. The cave is the body wherein dwells the soul. Plato's allegory of the cave comes to mind here. The human body is seen as a cave in which the soul dwells and looks out upon an illusionary, shadowy world. Only by "turning around" does one come to see reality.

A renewal of Christianity has begun. Evolution marches on. Our crimes are many, our karma runs deep. But Christ's love for each of us, offering us wisdom and strength, is present in our age. Christ, more than any being, respects our freedom. Only out of our free deeds, inspired by a love learned from Christ, can we save our humanity.