

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, March 8, 2015*

YEAR B - THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

O God, make speed to save me. O Lord, make haste to help me. Greetings, brethren, on this Third Sunday in our Lenten Season. Last Sunday we discussed briefly the concept of alchemical rectification as it pertains to the salvation of the soul & perfecting of the physical vehicle. In this week's Epistle reading from 1st Corinthians, we read further of the role of Christ as the rectifier & reconciler which is, in the terminology of the alchemists, the Philosopher's Stone, or Stone of the Wise.

The language used in the Epistle, with references to the "Wisdom of the wise," and the "Understanding of the intelligent" cannot but remind us of those Qabalistic attributes upon the Tree of Life, Chokmah & Binah. But what are we to make of the statement that they are to be destroyed? This type of phrasing may cause us to bristle upon first encountering it. These are, after all, the final legs of our journey toward full reintegration.

But we must, as Paul cautions us elsewhere, use spiritual, or pneumatic, discernment when interpreting things of the Spirit. It is here that we must look to the language of symbolism to uncover the message. Now, there is a surface message here that may be readily grasped. It is that the so-called wisdom & understanding of those considered wise & intelligent in the sublunary world will be shown to be insubstantial and easily brushed aside by the true power of the Divine. But the use of these Qabalistic terms is no accident, and therefore instructs the initiate to seek out a deeper meaning.

So, if we are to look at Wisdom & Understanding in their archetypal forms, then we must also look to the archetype of "destruction" which is really just change or transformation, or transmutation. This becomes clearer throughout the passage as Christ is shown to be the reconciler of both Jews & Gentiles to God. That is, in addition to referring to the literal Jews & Gentiles of the period, there is a broader statement being made here concerning Christ as the keystone that unites all such dualities. The archetypal principles of Wisdom & Understanding are therefore united in Christ and made accessible to us through gnosis, which, as those of you familiar with the Tree of Life will realize, is the pseudo-sephirah of Da'ath.

Now, I realize that it may seem a little unfair of me to throw out several of these little tidbits without elaborating upon them. But these little talks are not about an in-depth critical analysis of scriptural texts. They are about planting seeds that may come to fruition in their own time. I could stand here and lecture for hours without ever bringing you closer to the Truth. For neither I nor anyone else can give you gnosis. The Church can provide the tools, the instruction, & the guidance you need to bring you to the very threshold of gnostic illumination. But the Gnosis itself is a divine gift that can only be bestowed by the Holy Spirit upon Her Elect. All that any of us can do is to stay alert and to make ourselves ready to receive that ineffable blessing.