

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, May 17, 2015*

YEAR B - SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Hello, brethren. The Lord is risen & we now wait patiently to be clothed with the power from on high. Today I want to talk a little about our first reading from the Trimorphic Protennoia, or Three Forms of First Thought. Those of you who have received Baptism & Chrismation within the ACP will immediately recognize herein the source of the "5 Seals" portion of that rite. This seems like a good opportunity, therefore, to explain a little about how we devised this rite, & its import.

The Rite of the 5 Seals is mentioned throughout a number of Sehtian Gnostic texts. So, we must conclude that it was held by our ancient forebears as an important rite or ceremony. Unfortunately, however, we are given no description of how the rite was actually practiced. Our "Rite of the 5 Seals" is therefore not a perpetuation of the ancient rite, but a modern construction that incorporates material from the ancient texts.

While devising this rite we noticed some obvious correlations between the language used in this text & the classical 4 elements, with the addition of Spirit. For example, in the first of these 5 sections is mentioned "those who give robes." These "robes" seem to be emblematic of the element of Earth, that which gives form, structure, & appearance. Next we have the "baptizers" who immerse one "in the spring of the water of life." The symbolism here is so plain we need not even comment. Next comes "those who enthrone." Upon a little consideration, we can see the throne, especially the heavenly throne, as associated with Air. Then we have "those who glorify...with the glory of the Father." This radiant glory immediately brings to mind the Holy Fire. Finally, we are told of being raptured "into the place of the Light of his Fatherhood." This is certainly the ascension into the pneumatic realm, hence, Spirit.

Now, what is very interesting is that if we look at the image of a pentagram with the 4 elemental attributes & Spirit ascribed to their standard positions according to the Western Mystery Tradition, & if we ascribed the elements of the text as just mentioned, an interesting pattern emerges. If we follow the text in order, just as it's given, without changing the ordering at all, we would start at the position of Earth at the lower left, moving up to Water, across to Air, down to Fire, then up to Spirit (then returning to the starting point). Doing this, we will have traced out what is known as the Passive Invoking Pentagram of Spirit. And considering that our text tells us, after giving this formula, that one receives "the 5 Seals from the Light of the Mother Protennoia," the Passive Invoking Pentagram of Spirit seems most apt.

You see, then, that after your Chrismation, when the bishop was reciting these things & intoning the Names - Yammon, Elasso, Amenai, and so on, in different areas around you, this diagram was being traced about you, with you at the very center to receive this invocation of the 5 Seals of the Holy Spirit. And the degree to which these elements of classical Gnosticism & modern Western esotericism correlate, gives us every confidence that the construction of this rite has been guided by the Holy Spirit Herself.