

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, November 29, 2015*

YEAR C - ADVENT SUNDAY

Greetings, my brethren. I am so happy to return to you on this first Sunday of our Advent Season. Today is the first day of our new Liturgical Year, & it is the time for our preparation for the incarnation of the Light & Life. This refers, of course, to the birth of Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago. But it also means for us the awaiting of the Light & Life to awaken within our own consciousness, that we may be its very embodiment; that the Light & Life might incarnate in us.

Our Liturgical Year C has for its focus the Gospel According to Luke. Our Gospel reading today, like that of every Advent Sunday (see years A&B), is apocalyptic - that is, revelatory - in tone. Apocalyptic imagery serves us very well as a meditative gateway to the inner realms. Our reading this year begins very interestingly, "And there will be signs in the Sun & the Moon & the Stars..." We aren't going to get into a discussion of this today, but it must be commented that this wording causes us to contemplate an astrological reference. It is not surprising to find this in Luke, as we have noted elsewhere. For a partial treatment of this topic, please see our paper, "The Gnostic Gospel of Luke."

Let us turn our attention to our first reading from the Book of Thomas. This dialog between Thomas and Jesus is rather reminiscent of some of the dialogs between Hermes & Tat in the Corpus Hermeticum. Not just the style, but even the content seems to suggest a Hermetic influence. Here, Jesus says that the bodies that come from above - that is, the pneumatic - are not like the visible - hylic - bodies. "Rather, they live from their own root, & their crops nourish them. But the visible bodies feed on creatures that are like them, & so the bodies are subject to change. Whatever is subject to change will perish & be lost..." In these statements we find a doctrine that is both Gnostic & Hermetic.

It is all Gnostic, really, but the particularly Gnostic doctrine I'm referring to concerns the corrupt & corruptible nature of this sublunary world. The so-called orthodoxy would have us believe that we live in a perfect creation, & that Man is the corrupt influence in the world. But it is obvious to anyone with eyes to see that the world tends toward destruction & entropy. It is only the spiritual element - which is the true essence of Humanity - that mitigates this decay. And as we read above, even the living beings, if they are incarnate, can only sustain themselves by feeding off of the life of other living things. But the beings that are from "above" - the pneumatic beings - are self-sustaining.

This brings us to a very ancient Hermetic doctrine concerning the emanations of the All. We are taught in the Mystery Traditions that from the Mind of God emanates two types of energies. The one we may call "fixed" and the other "mutable." The latter, the mutable or changeable energies, are what constitute the infinite chain of creation, from the highest to the lowest. But as we read in our text, "Whatever is subject to change will perish...and henceforth has no hope of life." But the other energy, the fixed, is unchanging, remaining pure and incorruptible throughout all the planes. It is the essence of Life itself. It is the interplay between these fundamental forces that constitutes the basis for the Royal Art of Alchemy, & enables the mystical union of Spirit & Soul - the former gradually perfecting the latter. Think on these things as you meditate upon the scripture over the coming week.