

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Friday, March 25, 2016*

YEAR C - GOOD FRIDAY

O God, make speed to save me; O Lord make haste to help me. Greetings to you all, and welcome on this day of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our temple is veiled in black, and the image of Christ Crucified is prominently displayed. Today we celebrate the Mystery of Death.

Death, and the forces behind it, is something mentioned and touched upon from time to time by us, being an integral part of the human experience, but there is no other time like Good Friday, when we acknowledge and celebrate Death itself. For today we do not merely acknowledge that death exists and that it is something that must be coped with; nor do we merely acknowledge or celebrate the death of a fellow human being. This is not even just the death of a god, as in the venerable traditions of old. It is the acknowledgment & celebration of the power of Death over the very embodiment of Divinity, over Life itself.

Now, we know that this is temporary, and that there is no true and ultimate victory of Death over Life. If this were the case, then death would truly be something to be feared & despised. But because we can see it as part of a larger process, we can acknowledge its greatness and celebrate this terrible & mysterious force.

Death is transition. It is the transition from one state to another. But we should not look upon it as an instantaneous transition, but rather as the process of transition and transformation. Jesus descended from the Pleroma into the Cosmos. This was his first death. And in that "death" (which we here below call "life") he went through all the necessary stages to bring forth his true mission & reveal his true identity. But then he had to endure yet another death, the one we are accustomed to, in which he had to descend to realms even lower and more chaotic than our present darkness. We will have to traverse these realms as well..

We can relate this concept to the alchemical phase of putrefaction. During this stage there is a transformation that occurs at the cellular level. Bonds are broken down & recombined, so that eventually an entirely new, refined substance will emerge. But the new life can only occur through the powers of death, destruction, entropic force. These are the forces that we typically oppose, rallying the powers of Light & Life to fight against them - and rightfully so. We cannot allow the dark forces to prevail against us. But neither can we ignore their presence or their crucial role in the over-all plan of the divinization of Humanity.

There is a school of thought among some mystics and occultists that advocate for a sole focus upon the powers of Light & Life. Now, we agree that these principles should dominate any healthy spiritual philosophy. As Gnostics we refer to ourselves as Children of Light. But we do not believe that it is healthy or constructive to ignore the so-called powers of darkness. Even this vague terminology of "darkness" is misleading, for there are at least two different conditions referred to by this term. First, there are the Demiurgic & demonic forces - those forces above-mentioned that we spend so much effort combatting. But there is also the darkness that is anterior to the Light, which gave birth to the Light, and which is the Source of the Pleroma itself. And we readily admit that both types of Darkness, and all of the gradations of Light in between them, must be understood and put to use for Humanity's ultimate rectification. So let us immerse ourselves today in thoughtful contemplation of Death, Mortality, and the multi-faceted powers of Darkness.