

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Saturday, March 26, 2016*

YEAR C - MAUNDY SATURDAY

O God, make speed to save me; O Lord, make haste to help me. Welcome, my brethren, to our celebration of this most holy Saturday. We read in our Gospel that the lifeless body of Jesus has been removed from the Cross and placed in the tomb prepared for him by Joseph of Arimathea. As Jesus - in his spiritual body - makes his way through the depths of Tartaros, his body lies in repose, guarded by the minions of the very nervous Pharisees. They say they fear a deception. But what they truly fear is the further fulfillment of prophecy, which would bring an end to the reign of their demiurgic priesthood.

Our first reading from Trimorphic Protennoia echoes a similar tone of expectation, for we read: "The end of this age and of the evil life is near, and there dawns the beginning of the age to come, which will never change." When we hear these words, what comes to mind is the restored Pleroma, which is perfect and changeless, being outside or antecedant to the effects of time & changeability. But we get a teast of that life even now. And just as we now eagerly await, with the two blessed Marys, the Resurrection of our Lord, so do we also await his return, that is the advent of Christ consciousness within.

I must admit that when I hear the term "new age" I cringe a little bit because of the connotations it carries of snake oil & made-up religions. But when we read, as we jsut did, that, "therre dawns the beginning of the age to com..." there is really no more appropriate description than this. And this is no modern flight of fancy, these are the words of our Gnostic forebears some two thousand years ago.

But let us return to this sense of expectation. This is a very important and powerful aspect of effective prayer and ritual. I'm not talking about sitting around saying, "I hope this," or "I wish that." Such things are detrimental to the process. What I'm talking about is that feeling, once a vacuum has been created, of its impending fulfillment. The image of Christ in the tomb is the perfect representation of this. When Christ was in the world, he was the Light of the world. When he died upon the Cross a great vacuum was created, and we know how nature feels about vacuums. But this was a vacuum that only the light of Christ could fill. Those who followed him in his day knew this, and so when he passed from this world the sensation of that vacuum was palpable to them.

We can take this example of the Christ-shaped vacuum and apply it to our own prayers and workings. This is a key element of obtaining favorable results. We see it reflected in the virtue of Hope. To us, Hope is not some mere wishful thinking. It is the complement to the active principle of prayer & ritual symbolized by Love. This is seen graphically in the seal of our church. Just as Faith & Gnosis are shown to be complementary, so are Love & Hope. *Contraria sunt complementa!*

Let us take a few moments, then, to exercise this faculty. For this exercise we are going to use the image of Christ in the tomb as our guide...

(Several minutes of guided meditation)