

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Thursday, May 5, 2016*

YEAR C - ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Lord is risen, and he has returned to the Pleroma of his Father! Greetings brethren, and welcome. Today we mark the ascension of the risen Christ, and begin the period of waiting until the arrival of the Spirit promised by Christ, who told his disciples to "remain in the city until you are clothed with the power from on high." This event is very important for the followers of Jesus, because it marks the end of their direct instruction from the Master and anticipates the beginning of their own ministry; guided by the Spirit, each in their own unique way, rather than directly by the person of Jesus. This is not merely an historical event or parable we're talking about here, it is the *type* for every initiate on the Path.

The Mystery Tradition, including our beloved schools of Christian Gnosis, follow this type invariably. last Sunday we spoke a little about Tradition. This word implies a system and a method, observed with regularity, and preserved from one generation to the next. Each of us entered upon the initiatic path with the help of a brother or sister who recommended us, who vouched for us, and who helped guide our first steps. Now, many of us have come to the Path through our own independant study, meditation, and practices, and perhaps have even made contact with one or another of the powerful egregores. But no one has ever been validly and regularly initiated into the authentic Mysteries without the assistance of another.

Throughout our initiatic journey we receive a very specific instruction concerning both theoretical and practical matters. We learn the sacred doctrines passed down from priest to acolyte, from hierophant to initiate. These fundamental doctrines which elaborate the underlying principles of the created and uncreated realms will be found to be the same among all the true schools of the Western Mysteries, be they Qabalistic, Masonic, Rosicrucian, Gnostic or otherwise. We are also taught the fundamental techniques, the formulas of creation and manifestation, the practical methods whereby we may effect a beneficent change within ourselves and around us.

This guided instruction is absolutely necessary, not to make of us mindless drones who merely recite words and act robotically, but to instill in us the venerable and time-honored doctrine so that we may each one day become worthy conservators of the Tradition. For the day will come for each who perseveres on the Path when they will have to say goodbye to their worldly masters and take up their own ministry and apostolate, guided by their knowledge and by the Spirit entrusted to them. This is what Jesus did, and this is what we strive to do. We do not train followers, we train hierophants. It is true that we are all followers, in a sense; followers of a Tradition that is greater than any one of us. But it is in our service to this Tradition and to these great Truths that we are exalted.