

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
dto the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, April 9, 2017*

YEAR A - PALM SUNDAY

Good morning everybody! Today is the sixth and final Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday. Holy Week begins tomorrow as we count the days down to the crucifixion and glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will be meeting briefly every day from now until Easter Sunday.

Our first two readings today have a very interesting correlation. In our first reading, which is from our continued study of the Hymn of the Soul, we read of the "robe of glory" that our hero had to shed before coming into Egypt to seek the pearl; a luminous vestature that he will re-don upon completion of his mission. Then, in our second reading from Philipians, we read about how Jesus put off his Divine form to take on the form of a slave in order to dwell with men. So, we see here not only a type of the Christ, of the Redeemer, but also of man himself who upon incarnation puts off his body of glory in order to assume the fetters of forgetfulness, which is the physical form.

Just as Jesus will resume His Divine vestature upon His return to the Pleroma, so too will the human spirit take on the original Body of Light upon the completion of the mission of humanity, the reintegration of the primitive Adamas into his first properties. It is the hero's journey, of which divine emissaries have shown the way, and which each person must accomplish individually, and which humanity must also accomplish collectively.

In reading our Gospel of the day, from Matthew, especially the account of how Simon of Cyrene took up the cross of Jesus to carry it, I was reminded of a legend that has persisted throughout certain branches of Christianity that it was not, in fact, Jesus who died upon the cross, but rather Simon. Now, leaving aside that speculation for a moment, it led to a further contemplation and revelation, which is: just as there are three Marys which occur in the narrative of Jesus, and which analysis we will leave for another time, there are also three Simons: Simon Peter, Simon of Cyrene, and Simon of Samaria - the Magus.

Interestingly, each of these Simons may be seen as taking up the work of Jesus in three different planes. Simon of Cyrene takes up the labors of Jesus on the hylic plane, physically carrying his cross; Simon Peter, as head of the exoteric Church, takes up the psychical work of Jesus; and finally, Simon Magus, considered to be the father of Gnosticism and likely a fellow initiate of the mystical school of John the Baptist, takes up the pneumatic work.

Now, it is not for us to choose one path over the other, for we exist in all three planes simultaneously, and we must look to each of the Simons for guidance in how to act and operate upon each plane effectively carrying out the mission of our Lord.