

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, April 30, 2017*

YEAR A - THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER

Greetings and welcome my brethren. Last week we discussed the theory of progressive emanation from a pure & primitive Source, solitary, undefiled and undefilable, to a multiplicity of changable and corruptible beings. The key to understanding corruptibility is the notion of mutability or changability. Mutability is a dual-edged sword, for without it there could be no heavenly hosts, no aeons, no expressions of the Divine. But also this changability - because it is infinite in potential - allows for an infinity of forms that are not in concert with the laws of equilibrium that govern the Pleroma.

Now, if this were a clockwork emanation, where, once begun it was merely left to run its course - a sort of Gnostic deism - then there would really be no hope for ascension from our current state. In fact, entropy would guarantee the successive weakening of emanations until there was no longer a sufficient trace of the divine laws to even bind forms together. All would ultimately descend into an inert chaos. We see this principle clearly in every aspect of the physical cosmos. A spinning top slows and falls over, a sun expends its fuel and fades into an ember, and your car will leave you stranded on the road if you don't keep it fueled in some way, whether by gas or electricity.

The same principle may be applied to the human soul and to the continuity of consciousness. The salvation of the soul does not concern the false dichotomy of an eternity in heaven or hell, of pleasure or suffering; rather, it concerns the very existence or non-existence of consciousness.

The soul, in our tradition, is seen as a sort of connective tissue, binding the spirit to the body. As such, it is the seat of consciousness, interpreting the impressions coming from both realms. If it ignores or cuts itself off from either, the whole organism will be out of balance. If the physical is ignored, if the necessary energy is not furnished to maintain normal functions, it will break down and fall into disrepair before its appointed time. The soul, having aligned itself solely to the spiritual, may have been "saved" from annihilation, but it has violated other laws by not fulfilling its mission here below.

The above scenario, though far from ideal, is still better than the situation of the soul focusing only upon the physical, to the neglect of the spiritual. For, if the soul is not sufficiently spiritualized at the time of physical death, it is in danger of being attached entirely to the physical form and of suffering the same fate of dissolution. This soul "energy" is not lost, of course, but it is no longer a cohesive consciousness.

In short, the evolution and ascension of the soul is only possible through a continual influx of divine or spiritual energy from the Pleromic realms. And because we have evidence of this soul-growth, we know that divinity is active and participative even in this realm of darkness. And the very mutability that is the root of our "fall" is also the mechanism by which we may return to our spiritual home in the Pleroma of Light.