

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, May 28, 2017*

YEAR A - SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Greetings and welcome my brothers on this seventh and final Sunday of our Easter Season. Our continuous reading of the beautiful Gnostic scripture, the Second Treatise of the Great Seth, concludes as well today. Although not of any great doctrinal significance, I do want to point out a couple of interesting images shared by both our first reading and the Epistle reading of 1st Peter. In the Second Treatise we read of Yaldabaoth and his archons "in a conflagration of fiery cloud." And then we read of the "fiery ordeal" that is come to test us, and we are warned of the devil who "walks around as a lion roaring." The most common depiction of Yaldabaoth is, of course, as a serpent with a lion's head.

Now, as I said, the above correlations of imagery do not necessarily represent any great doctrinal revelation. But such correlations should always be noted, for they may point toward some subtle message that is to be communicated to us. It is not for me, however, to interpret this correlation for you; for it is not a matter of exegesis, but rather of personal revelation. That is, we are not looking at two passages related doctrinally, which are subject to a critical evaluation. It is a question of an imagery that may serve as a point of meditation and contemplation, much in the way that we practice lectio divina, and which may lead to some personal insights.

This is a very interesting time in the liturgical year, being after the Ascension yet before Pentecost. This period represents a sort of spiritual vacuum. But it is not a bad thing. It is not the sort of spiritual vacancy that one feels during the dark night of the soul, but rather an eager expectation. And this "vacuum" also creates an opportunity for incredibly powerful spiritual operations. The entire period from shortly before Easter until shortly after Pentecost is powerful in general, largely because of the energy raised and concentrated by the Christian faithful during this time, as suggested by our late brother in the Gnosis, and the namesake of our Parish, Bishop Robert Ambelain in his discussion on the fashioning of the Episcopal Liturgy. In truth, there are many factors contributing to the spiritual power and potential of the Easter season. But the entire season, in fact the entire liturgical year starting from Advent, culminates at Pentecost.

At Pentecost there is a veritable explosion of spiritual energy in which we all participate. But it is during the period immediately preceding this great release that is to be found a grand reservoir of concentrated spiritual energy which may be utilized by the theurgist for healings and all manner of spiritual works. In giving it just a little thought, you will discover many events that have come to fruition at Pentecost. First, the very Church itself is considered to begin at Pentecost; the Congress of 1908 of papus and others commenced at Pentecost; our own Apostolic Church of the Pleroma came into being as an independent living entity at the Feast of Pentecost. And the list could go on and on with examples of persons and groups who, knowingly or unknowingly, took great advantage of this spiritually powerful period to accomplish great works. There is a great mystery here, let those with ears hear...