

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, June 4, 2017*

YEAR A - PENTECOST SUNDAY

Welcome, everyone, to our Pentecost celebration. This is a very exciting time, as it is the climax, the culmination, the very pinnacle of our Liturgical Year. And, as you all know well, it marks the birth of the Church proper, in a general sense, and in the sense of the Church Militant, that is to say the physical representation of the pneumatic or archetypal Ecclesia; as well as the birth of our own Apostolic Church of the Pleroma in particular. And the term "birth" is particularly fitting, for the Spirits which animate the churches, as well as the Church in a broader sense, are vital living beings. We call them egregores.

Briefly, an egregore is a consciousness that develops whenever groups of people, even groups as small as 2 or 3, come together with a unified purpose, participating in a shared event. This is not a very technical definition, as it is rather vague, but it gets to the core of the matter. Egregores are not unique to religious or esoteric movements, they also occur in politics and in popular culture. And they may be very short-lived or they may go on for centuries. In popular culture, an egregore may be created at a concert or a rave. In the case of the latter, it is likely a one-off event, so the egregore will likely be short-lived, or linger on as not much more than a memory. But then you have phenomena like the Greateful Dead, whose egregore was comparable to moderate-sized religious movements.

In the political realm, a charismatic politician who holds frequent rallies with the same message over and over will develop an egregore. Naitons develop very powerful egregores.

Egregores can be created intentionally or involuntarily. Those created intentionally can generally maintain themselves longer, because there is a knowledge from the beginning of what is necessary to create, strengthen, and maintain an egregore. First we must understand that an egregore is primarily a psychical being. But it is given life and action upon the physical plane by being tied to physical things and events. In the case of a Church, having regularized sacraments and practicing them regularly are the chief methods of sustaining the egregore. Having printed and published material also helps to anchor the egregore to the physical. Owning real property, temples, churches, etc., where the rites may be carried out is one of the best and most successful methods of establishing the permanency of the egregore, at least if it is psychically strong to begin with.

I would even posit that reincarnation is possible for an egregore. It is not uncommon to see long "dead" movements "revived." Is it not possible that these revivals are not the mere product of a person's desire, but rather the desire of the egregore itself to be manifest once again? The new "entity" is perhaps not identical to the old one, any more than reincarnated soul is the same "person." But if the egregore was powerful enough when it was laid to rest, there is not reason to think that it could not enter into a new vehicle suitably prepared. We will continue this discussion next week.