

Chapter 19:

FOUNDATION OF THE SEMITIC PRIESTHOOD

After Gen. 2:17 all faculties for the development of higher intelligence, to the level of sons of God to whom nothing was impossible within our world, were available to mankind. What kind of time elements could one attach to this event? When the anthropological evolution chart is traced (see my Chapter 2) it is possible that, when man added intelligence to his initial animal instincts, his brain volume increased. Such increases can be observed millions of years ago. However, there is no advantage in knowing what kind of civilizations may or may not have existed on earth millions of years ago. I compare growing and fading civilizations with days in human life: some are very dull and useless, others are successful. What we need in the 20th century is knowledge of our recent ancestors and their civilizations, so that we can learn from the mistakes of the past and build a better future. This kind of information is contained in sacred texts such as the Bible.

Although each ancient priesthood has produced its own individual records, either in written or oral traditions, we ought not to be surprised to find similarities between them. In fact, we should expect similarities because whatever is based upon truth, and is recorded in the same system of symbolism, is often similar in its expression and action. These relationships have caused a number of scholars to ask, "Who copied from whom?" The answer is, naturally, that no one copied from anyone but all enlightened authors have their knowledge from one and the same source, namely, the soul or psyche or universal consciousness.

Gen. 2:18 - THEN THE LORD GOD (Yahweh Elohim) SAID, "IT IS NOT GOOD THAT THE MAN (Heb. "Adam") SHOULD BE ALONE; I WILL MAKE HIM A HELPER FIT FOR HIM."

Since man was given the freedom of choice, neither the Lord nor the God-given soul would impose upon him, if one does not ask for assistance. Thus, Gen. 2:18 is a response to a quest. The reason for this quest has not been described but it becomes evident in the Lord's response: an Adam, a son of

God, was alone and needed assistance. A similar situation occurred in Christ's time. In the New Testament we read:

Matt. 9:38-39 - THEN HE (Christ) SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABOURERS ARE FEW; PRAY THEREFORE THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABOURERS INTO HIS HARVEST."

There were many who either needed help or desired to learn more from Christ and His disciples but - the workers like themselves were too few. In this sense, we are to understand the situation of the Adam of Gen. 2:18, as we shall see shortly.

The key words in Gen. 2:18 are "...a helper fit for him" which originate in the Heb. words "ezer kenegdo" that translate as meaning, "an equal in power to himself". In other words, like Jesus Christ in Matt. 9:38-39, the Adam needed spiritually powerful help to assist in serving the people of their time. And how did the Lord enable the Adam to obtain "an equal in power to himself"?

Gen. 2:19 - SO OUT OF THE GROUND (Heb. "adamah") THE LORD GOD FORMED (spiritual powers, noble thoughts and emotions), AND BROUGHT THEM TO THE MAN (Adam) TO SEE WHAT HE WOULD CALL THEM.

If the Adam had named physical birds and animals, he would not have needed the Lord's help through the Adamah, for he could have observed them in nature to learn of their characteristics, and to name them accordingly.

Since Yahweh brought this new insight to him through the Adamah, there are qualities involved that are invisible to physical eyes but become visible during higher awareness. We are therefore to understand that the Adam learned how to recognize the powers typical of individual spirits, of noble thoughts and emotions, and of animal emotions in people.

Gen. 2:19 (contd.) - ... AND WHATEVER THE MAN (Adam) CALLED EVERY LIVING CREATURE (life-giving soul, spiritual or psychic energy) THAT WAS ITS NAME.

Gen. 2:20 - THE MAN (Adam) GAVE NAMES TO ALL CATTLE (Heb. "behemah" - the powers providing for the spiritual and emotional aspects of the Sacred Bull, the midbrain) AND TO THE BIRDS OF THE AIR (spiritual energies serving higher powers) AND TO EVERY BEAST OF THE FIELD (Heb. "chai" - animal emotions).

These two verses describe an extensive study of invisible energies, which was possible through the Adamah, i.e., soul or psychic sources. Human psychological aspects were compared with instinctive characteristics typical of certain species among birds and animals. As I have mentioned in Chapter 13 on symbolism, we still say that he/she is as timid as a mouse, as sneaky as a rat, as proud as a peacock, as greedy as a vulture, and so on. However, we must not imagine that the Adam went out into nature to study these species and to familiarize himself with traits typical of each. As I have mentioned in Chapter 11 on the soul or psyche, the soul has access to every kind of knowledge we may seek. This fact made an extensive study much easier for ancient sensitives than for modern experts, who rely on their five physical senses and their technical instruments.

During this study the Adam of Genesis 2 established, in truth, the system of symbolism for his priesthood. Since ancient sensitives studied natural forces from their cosmic origins to their various purposes in serving life on earth, such studies included astronomy, astrology, an accurate calendar, mathematics, physiology, psychology, psychic sciences, and so on, in the course of time. Let us look up into the night sky for a moment. For instance, the constellation Orion, in its physical appearance, looks like an irregular rectangle of four stars, and three in the middle. It surely does not have the appearance of the Hunter, Orion. However, the ancients did not name the constellations according to their physical appearances but the powers which they radiate to the earth, and their impact on living beings. Orion rises in September and inspires in certain species the instincts of hunting and gathering supplies for the forthcoming winter. Human beings, who have the freedom of choice, may reject such cosmic influences, or accept and interpret them according to their desires. A priest may re-energize his hunt for more souls, a collector for specific items, and so on. In the spring Orion vanishes below the horizon. Back to Genesis 2:

Yet the aforementioned extensive knowledge was insufficient for the Adam; it did not serve his purpose:

Gen. 2:20 (contd.) - ...BUT FOR THE MAN (Adam) THERE WAS NOT FOUND A HELPER FIT FOR HIM.

The Adam had not yet found an equal in power to himself. Thus the next step was taken.

Gen. 2:21 - SO THE LORD GOD CAUSED A DEEP SLEEP TO FALL UPON THE MAN (Adam), AND WHILE HE SLEPT TOOK ONE OF HIS RIBS AND CLOSED UP ITS PLACE WITH FLESH.

When this version of verse 21 is taken at face value, it appears to describe minor surgery where a rib is lost but nothing is gained, especially not in a spiritual sense. The biblical meaning is very different.

DEEP SLEEP: in various passages of the Bible, whenever an individual experiences a deep sleep or trance, he has either visions or, when becoming conscious again, all of his former questions or prayers have been answered. The Greek words used for such a sleep are "hypnos, ekstasis" (see Gen. 28:16).

THE RIB: Heb. "tselach", translates as "an aspect of the personality". The alert Bible reader will find that the only aspect of one's personality that is acceptable to the Lord is the power of profound, wholehearted faith.

TO TAKE, TOOK: Heb. "laqach", translates a "to take, to receive".

FLESH: Heb. "basar" is, in a physical sense, the physical body. In a spiritual sense, it is the body of the individual spirit.

Now we can trace the meaning of Gen. 2:21. So Yahweh Elohim caused a deep trance to come upon the Adam, and while he was in trance, the Lord received or accepted his wholehearted faith and filled its place with individual spirit, namely, the kind of spiritual powers which the Adam required to establish an equal in power to himself.

Spiritual development is always a step-by-step method. Although the Adam of Gen. 2:18-25 was a son of God who, evidently, had a variety of powers over the forces of nature, he was in need of a particular kind of power that is outlined in the next verse.

Gen. 2:22 - AND THE RIB (power of Adam's faith) WHICH THE LORD HAD TAKEN (accepted) FROM THE MAN (Adam) HE MADE INTO A WOMAN AND BROUGHT HER TO THE MAN (Adam).

The word "woman" (Heb. "ish-shah") was not used in this verse but only in verse 23. In my KJRSV a footnote is attached to the word "woman" in Gen. 2:23, showing that this word was used for the first time in the Bible in this verse. The Hebrew word used in verse 22 is "ish-sheh" which translates as "sacrifice" or "Sacrificial".

This religious or psychic practise is described by Ezekiel in Ezek. 39:17-21 but translations are poor because, obviously, the translator took symbolic terms at face value and adapted the text to it. I understand from Ezekiel that the "sacrificer" gains insight into and control of life-forces, which are aspects of the soul or psyche and not of this world. (Sons of God have power over all terrestrial forces.)

Moses understood and practised the Sacrificial. Like other great teachers he chose his successors with utmost care, "reading" their spiritual nature and abilities, and increasing their psychic powers by laying on of hands.

Deut. 34:9 - AND JOSHUA THE SON OF NUN WAS FULL OF THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM, FOR MOSES HAD LAID HIS HANDS UPON HIM...

This practise was still kept during the apostolic age:

ITim. 4:4 - DO NOT NEGLECT THE GIFT YOU (Timothy) HAVE, WHICH WAS GIVEN YOU BY PROPHETIC UTTERANCE, WHEN THE ELDERS LAID THEIR HANDS UPON YOU.

ITim. 5:22 - DO NOT BE HASTY IN THE LAYING ON OF HANDS, NOR PARTICIPATE IN ANOTHER MAN'S SINS; KEEP YOURSELF PURE.

The laying on of hands and transferring as well as manifesting psychic abilities in other persons was, evidently, the fulfilment of the Adam's needs. As we are told in ITim. 5:22, the responsibility for the actions of the one to whom a sensitive has given such powers is that of the giver, not the receiver alone. For this reason, it was of vital importance to the Adam that he could "read" the characteristics of the people around him to know who would or would not be able to deal wisely with superior powers.

Gen. 2:23 - THEN THE MAN (Adam) SAID, "THIS AT LAST IS BONE OF MY BONES, AND FLESH OF MY FLESH; SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN (Heb. "ish-shah" - woman), BECAUSE SHE WAS TAKEN OUT (received, accepted) OF MAN (Heb. "ish" - husbandman).

BONES are the substance of the physical body and hold it up; in a spiritual sense bones symbolize the substance of the spiritual body.

FLESH: as mentioned before, Heb. "basar" may refer to the physical or the spiritual body, depending upon the context in which it occurs.

WOMAN: the Heb. word "ish-shah" has the suffix "ah" which means "that which belongs to, pertains to, or is devoted to" the root word, the "ish", the husbandman.

A HUSBANDMAN: In Gen. 2:23 the title "Adam" changes to "husbandman", and I have explained earlier, and also in my Chapter 13 on symbolism, that terms used in physical family relationships were transferred to priestly or educational families. In a number of biblical passages the term "husbandman" has been interpreted for us. For instance, when Isaiah comforted the Israelites he wrote:

Isa. 54:5 - FOR YOUR MAKER IS YOUR HUSBAND,
THE LORD OF HOSTS IS HIS NAME.

The Lord, then, was the husbandman, i.e., the spiritual leader, of the wife, the congregation of Israel. Jeremiah used the same phrase with regard to Israel whom the Lord brought out of Egypt.

Jer. 31:31-32 - "BEHOLD, THE DAYS ARE COMING," SAYS THE LORD, "WHEN I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND THE HOUSE OF JUDAH, NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO BRING THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, MY COVENANT WITH THEM BROKE, ALTHOUGH I WAS THEIR HUSBAND," SAYS THE LORD.

The prophet Hosea used the terms "husbandman, wife, harlot, harlotry, widow" and so on, a number of times in his prophecies, and he also interpreted them.

Hos. 2:16 - "AND IN THAT DAY," SAYS THE LORD, "YOU WILL CALL ME 'MY HUSBAND', AND NO LONGER WILL YOU CALL ME 'MY BAAL'."

Again, as in so many other passages, the Lord Himself is the husband, the spiritual leader, of the woman or wife, the congregation of Israel and/or Judah. When this interpretation is applied to the Adam of Gen. 2:18-23, we understand that when he became a "husbandman" he became the high priest or spiritual leader of a congregation of male and female initiates, whom he had raised spiritually with the powers granted him by the Lord and who were, as a oneness, equal in power to himself.

Gen. 2:24 - THEREFORE A MAN (Heb. "ish" - husbandman) LEAVES HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER AND CLEAVES TO HIS WIFE (Heb. "ish-shah" - his congregation of initiates) AND THEY BECOME ONE FLESH (one spiritual body).

The apostle Paul repeated this verse in Eph. 5:31 and interpreted it in the next verse.

Eph. 5:32 - THIS IS A GREAT MYSTERY BUT I TAKE IT TO MEAN CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.

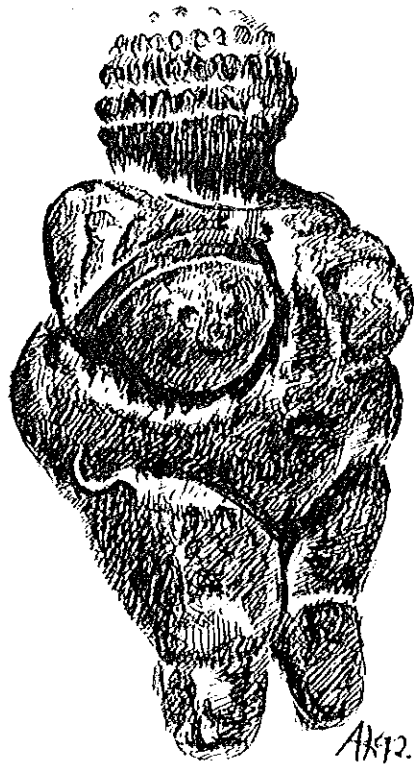
The word "Christ" is the Greek word "khristos", which translates as "an anointed one, a servant of the Lord, and the word "church" originates in the Greek "ekklesia", an assembly or congregation. He also explained the term "body" in this connection in Eph. 5:23, saying that "Christ is the head of the church, his body." Still today we speak of the "body of an organization" and use this term like the ancients did for priestly organizations.

Gen. 2:25 - AND THE MAN (Heb. "ish") AND HIS WIFE (Heb. "ish-shah") WERE BOTH NAKED AND WERE NOT ASHAMED.

As it is written, all were enlightened people who formed one spiritual body and worked for mutual goals. Thus they did not have any secrets from one another and were exposed, not naked, to each other without any reservations.

This interpretation of Gen. 2:18-25 is no doubt revealing the original record of the foundation of the priesthood of the sons of Adam. Since this record in Genesis 2 precedes that of Genesis 3, the transgression of 6000 B.C. that led to the later Dark Ages, it is logical that the foundation of this priesthood must be placed timewise into the Golden Age of Man which ended in 6000 B.C.

Archaeologists have unearthed numerous female figurines or statuettes, which are commonly called fertility goddesses or Venus goddesses. They come in all sorts of shapes and sizes and occur in stone, metal, ivory, clay, bone, wood, and so on. According to the system of symbolism most of these represent congregations of initiates, that consisted of male and female sensitives, who served the people of their homelands. The interpretation of these figurines is basically similar to that of the ancient mighty men or giants, whose oversized physical bodies symbolize their superior spiritual bodies and powers. It is the same with female statues or statuettes such as the famous Willendorf Venus which was found near Willendorf, Austria, and is about 30,000 years old. (See III. No. 29). She does not have a face because she does not represent a particular female but a congregation of initiates. Her body is quite obese which, in a physical sense,



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has been interpreted as fertility. However, it is shown obese and fertile in a spiritual sense because this congregation was powerful and has brought forth, i.e., educated, raised and sustained gifted sensitives.

Then there is a Hittite female statue (7th mill. B.C.) that was discovered in the remains of the Hittite city of Huejuek (?) in Turkey.

III. No. 30: The Hittite Venus or fertility goddess

Photo: Courtesy of

Again a very obese woman is shown, whose symbolization is the same as that of the Willendorf Venus.

Many other figurines are only torsos having female characteristics because, as stated above, they did not represent individuals but congregations.

It is interesting to note the differences in the appearance of such artifacts in different millennia. After 6000 B.C. we find versions that handle snakes, animals or instruments, some of which we shall interpret more easily after we have interpreted Genesis 3.

Such figurines have been found around the world because the biblical development of Gen. 2:18-25, the foundation of the priesthood of the sons of Adam during the Golden Age of Man, was not a unique issue. Many people of that age may well have been hunters, gatherers, fishermen, and so on, but the majority did not consist of savages. Let's face it, it needs all kinds of people to make a world, and many of the 20th century live tribal lives in jungles, deserts or in other remote areas since time began, as they say. From this viewpoint, we can estimate that the majority of earth's population lived organized life-styles and had intellectual guidance, namely, their spiritually gifted leaders who did not need wars to settle problems. And we do not know when this Golden Age commenced because individual priesthoods came into being in their own time, so that each available record would be based on individual times for existence.

Yet nothing was or is perfect! Even during the Golden Age trouble developed which, eventually, led to the war of 6000 B.C. and the Dark Ages.

30: To follow

(photo of Hittite Venus)

MISSING