

Series of talks on Masonism by the late father Mytilenaeus of Larissa

Translated and adapted by J.F.

Part III

Gnosis is a mystical religion with a strong emphasis on philosophical flair; what we call Gnosticism. After all, Gnosticism was but an amalgam of political and religious views and so it is that we also meet this Gnosis in Masonism too, which is a blending (syncretism) of many religions, as a rule of ‘natural’ i.e. pagan religions (exceptions are: Christianity = Divine Revelation and Judaism = ½ Divine Revelation).

We also find sacramental religions making it to the list that find a place in the new lodges; both Hellenic religions (such as the Eleusinian and the Orphic mysteries) and those of Egypt and of India (such as the mysteries of Isis etc.) This way since AD 1717 Masonism begins its formation into a syncretistic religion; something whose truth the masons deny in every possible way. But they are betrayed by their own teachings: for the moment they introduce a deity (not the god that their members believe in but they **introduce** a god, a brand new deity of a different ‘size’), it automatically becomes a religion.

This syncretistic religion of masonry has all the characteristic elements met in religion. In order for something to be characterised as a religion we need three things:

1. the deity (god);
2. the man; and
3. the relationship between man with god.

In our case, we have man, of course. Who is the god? The god is the GAOTU (= Great Architect of the Universe). When the initiation takes place we have nothing else but this bridging, namely number 3.

Maneras, a great Greek Mason, says that “*GAOTU is god*”. ‘But are you not Christians?’ we ask them. ‘Yes we are’, they reply, ‘but when we gather together with others who do not believe in what we call Father, Son and Holy Spirit, then we talk about an abstract ‘unspecified’ god and we do not fight over it; we all talk about god using this abstract ‘universal’ term for god’. So are we talking about an **imaginary** god, a **made-up** god? Something like the ... Esperanto that will unite men?

It is a sham. They believe **only** in the GAOTU. And who is he? He is creation; in other words, a form of pantheism. More specifically, the GAOTU is the Sun who architects life and the cosmos. The giver of life, who animates and vitalises everything; especially man: in other words, sheer idolatry.

Creation = god. God = the ‘all’, the ‘everything’ (= *pan*). And for us Greeks who is the Sun deity? Apollo, the one who destroys and the one who brings life (the ἀπολύων, from the verb ἀπόλλυμι = destroy).

GAOTU = the god Apollo of the Hellenes, the personification of the Sun; it is from this fact that he also receives the name of *Phoebus* (Φοῖβος): the god who can see all things (this is what *Phoebus* means) together with the name of the oracle god who can see everything; for since he is a god of knowledge (since he knows everything), he can also give oracles. It is for this reason that the oracle of Delphi used to be dedicated to *Apollo the Phoebus*.

The GAOTU is also identified with Osiris, the Sun deity of the Egyptians. Also, in Masonism we find the deification of the Sun represented with a story which is real but which the masons simply use allegorically in order to express the Sun, the god Sun. It is the story of Hiram (cf. 3rd degree of initiation). Hiram had been a real person in history; he had been that Syriac who had worked together with Solomon in order to rebuild the so-called Temple (of Solomon). The Old Testament does not write anything more about him; just that he had worked together with Solomon. And when we come to examine the 3rd degree of initiation, we shall see that the Masons there mythologise this historical persona and thus once again come to express the Sun. When we study the 3rd degree we shall also see what stance they have adopted on the movements of the Sun during the winter and summer solstice.

A nature-worshipping religion, a pagan religion... After all, the Masons themselves admit that Masonism is a direct descendant of the Egyptian mysteries. As LeBitter tells us, “*the meagre laboratory of the Masonic lodge is nothing else but the caves and the shadows of the oak trees and of the cedar trees themselves and the unknown depths of the pyramids and the crypts of the majestic temples of Isis*”. And we derive all this directly from their own rubrics and not from those of the “profane” ones, as they call us.

Also, we should note that the Lodge (which is constructed in imitation of Solomon’s Temple) has a portico in the east (like we have the templon) and the portico has many compartments for the initiations (these things are necessary); and we find two columns before entering the main temple: columns J and B. They represent the corresponding two columns that had been present in Solomon’s temple (an accurate description can be found in the books of Kings). So, the masonic temple is constructed in imitation of Solomon’s temple. After all, they consider Solomon to be one of their patrons (it is their right to believe this, of course; how much that stands to scrutiny though is a different matter altogether!) Thus, at the deeper end of the temple, which is called Orient, we find only two ‘icons’: an icon of the Sun and an icon of the Moon. (It is called an Orient because this area is orientated according to the pattern E-W-N-S which is of great importance because in this area the Sun moves at the four points of the horizon. In fact twice a year, during the summer and autumn equinox, the masons call for a feast (a meal) in honour of the GAOTU.) Very often, photos are published showing the Masons surrounded by these two icons; something that also indicates that they worship these two heavenly bodies; where, according to the ancient Hellenes, the Moon had been the sister of the Sun. In antiquity, we find gods together with hetaeras for we deal with issues of fertility. This way, we see that in the Hellenic tongue the word for sun is Helios (Ἥλιος) which is masculine form. And the word for the earth is Gaia (Γῆ) which is feminine form. It is not a chance thing that one is masculine and the other one feminine. For the Sun, as a masculine deity that he is, fertilises the deified earth who goes by the name of Dimitra or Δήμητρα. (ΔΗ = ΓΗ =

Gaia + MHTHP = Mother. Even in everyday speech we often say ‘we buried him in MOTHER Earth’ or we speak of ‘MOTHER Nature’... She gives us our crops; it is nothing but an issue of fertility. Of course, in the revealed Truth, Christ Himself is of masculine gender but we cannot talk here about any form of fertility.) So the Sun deity, namely the GAOTU, fertilises Gaia and fertility is thus worshipped. With the Egyptians (since Masonism also studies the Egyptian mysteries), Apollo’s place is taken by Osiris, who is the Sun deity. Dimitra’s place is taken by Isis. Osiris and Isis gave birth to Horus. He was a deity, but in reality he represents Man. In other words, Man is the result of the fertilising action of the Sun with the Gaia: the automatic genesis of the life of the species and that of Man. In other words, the matter, under the influence of solar phenomena, begins to show certain effects; certain signs of life. And this scientific phenomenon is turned into an object of worship and into an event of initiation.

Unfortunately, such elements of idolatry have survived till our days [in certain parts of Greece]. End of the Meatfare period, approaching Clean Monday¹, and we find people carrying about images of masculine genitals in order to show that they worship properly! Their excuse is that this is ‘how we found things’; this is ‘what has been handed down to us’ since antiquity! And they worship fertility. If you ever go to Delos (the sacred island of the ancient Athenians) you will find a statue that shows highly accentuated fertility genitals; in fact one can also find a (headless) statue of Isis there, clearly of a later period. Worshipping fertility: so that our cows may give us many calves; so that we may have many children etc.

So, Horus needs to become aware of and to participate in the ones who gave birth to him and who sustain him. Who are they? They are the Sun and the Gaia. According to the masons, this knowledge² is the true wisdom which is hidden from the ‘profane’ ones; from those who are unaware of this situation. This way, for example, we find the Eleusinian mysteries of antiquity: they had been nothing else but a reenactment of fertility and of the ones being initiated into the mystery of fertility. That is all it had been; nothing more than this. We meet the same beliefs in Egypt. Also, we should note that the sharing, the participation in the godhood (in the deity, in the divinity), what we translate in English as *initiation*, is called *myesis* or ΜΥΗΣΙΣ = introduction (initiation) to the knowledge of the mysteries. And the word MYSTERY stems precisely from the word *mysterion* or ΜΥΣΤΗΡΙΟΝ = the ἀπόκρυφος or *apocryphos* (= hidden) teaching; the root of the word *apocryphal*³. The ritual or ceremony that takes place aiming at this precise initiation to the mysteries is called *mystagogy* or ΜΥΣΤΑΓΩΓΙΑ = (ΜΥΣΤΗΣ = mystic + ΑΓΩΓΗ = education). And *myesis* offers the mystic a deep knowledge of the divine (i.e. of god) but also bliss; for this way man can come to know very well who god is and who he (or she) is...

It is from such **blindness** that the love of the true God helped us escape!

¹ Meatfare Week is part of the pre-Lenten period leading to Clean Monday (or Ash Monday) when Great Lent begins.

² Recall again that *gnosis* lit. means *knowledge*.

³ As a matter of fact, apocryphal, esoteric and other secret teachings can also be thought of as examples of *mysteries* in this sense of the word. The word is borrowed in Christianity but of course it receives narrower and specified semantics (e.g. the Orthodox sacraments, the Mystery of the Holy Trinity etc.)