

THE CAUSE OF SORROW AND SUFFERING

A TALK IN THE PRO-ECCLESIA

We have met again tonight for the purpose of concentrating our thoughts on the second part of the Christ injunction: "Heal the sick," for we consider this part of the Divine command just as binding upon his followers as the first part, which exhorts us to "preach the Gospel." But if we understand this commandment aright, we shall not be content with merely endeavoring to assuage the present pain, sorrow and suffering of anyone or any number of people. We shall attempt to get to the bottom of all human suffering so that by removing the main cause we may eradicate the effects. To do this, to arrive at a true conclusion concerning the origin of sorrow and suffering and the means for its permanent eradication, we must go back into the far distant past, in fact, to the beginning of physical existence.

The Bible has been given to the Western World by the Recording Angels, who give to every nation the religion that is best fitted to guide it upon the path of its spiritual and physical evolution; and if we seek for light from that source, we shall certainly find. It must be borne in mind that the Christ taught the multitude in parables, but gave to His disciples the meaning of those parables and the deeper things concerning the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. Paul also taught a different, or rather a deeper, truth to those who were strong in the faith, but gave the milk of the most elementary doctrines to babes. Similarly we must understand that besides the meaning which the Word of God carries upon its face, there is a deeper and hidden side, which we shall do well to ponder upon tonight.

Let us first grasp the idea that the Earth was not always as it is today; that there has been an immense period of formation and that this planet must have gone through various stages of development before it reached the present condition. We see in the heaven nebulae, which are now fiery. We can understand that moisture must be condensed by this fire from the cold expanse of space; we can also understand that this moisture is quickly evaporated when it comes in contact with such a fiery, whirling vortex; that the steam generated rises into space to be there condensed again by the cold, thus going through innumerable cycles of evaporation and condensation, until finally a crust is formed around the fiery core. This crust becomes harder when gradually the superfluous moisture is evaporated as a mist. The mist eventually gathers and condenses into a cloud, falling again upon the planet as a flood and leaving conditions of climate as we find them today upon the earth. These stages the Rosicrucian Teachings call the Hyperborean, Atlantean and Aryan Epochs.

We shall not speak of the first mentioned of these Æons. But during the latter part of the Lemurian Epoch, when mankind still lived on fire-girt islands of the forming crust, they were very different from humanity today. They were, in fact, giants of a bodily shape which would be repulsive to our present notions of bodily symmetry and beauty; but it differed particularly in this fact, that the Ego had not yet learned to draw within its body properly and permanently. In fact, they did not know at that time that they had bodies; they used them as unconsciously as we use our digestive apparatus. Their sight was focused altogether in the spiritual world and they saw God face to face, or rather those whom they thought were Gods; namely, the Divine Messengers who guided them

as children are guided by their parents; for at that time they had developed no will.

Being unconscious of their bodies, they knew neither birth nor death. The loss of a physical vehicle happened frequently on account of the volcanic eruptions that were the order of the day upon our forming earth; but it was like the falling of a dry leaf from the tree; it produced no difference at all in their consciousness. Neither was the birth of a new body a distracting event because all through birth and death their consciousness was focused in the invisible realm.

At certain times of the year the Angels, who have always been the harbingers of birth, herded these hosts of children into great temples where the propagative act was performed as an act of sacrifice, under the proper planetary rays. In those moments of intensely intimate contact, man's attention was temporarily drawn from the spiritual realms to the physical world, and "Adam knew his wife".

Thus the keynote of the body then conceived was in perfect tune with the harmony of the spheres at that moment and therefore parturition was painless. Health was perfect, and death had no terror for humanity of that age.

But the Angels were not all of the same nature. There were two classes, one attuned to Water, the other to Fire. It is the latter class which was apostrophized by Isaiah in that wonderful passage where he says:

*O Lucifer, Son of the morning,
How art thou fallen!*

From the Water-Spirits, or true Angels, man received the brain; but Lucifer, Spirit of Fire, is the "Light-giver." From the Fire Spirits came the light of reason.

The desire body of man was by them impregnated with a new faculty; namely, *impulse*. And as it was necessary for them to use a physical instrument for their own further development, though they were unable to create such a vehicle, they taught man that he had a dense body, and they also enlightened him concerning the method whereby he might generate a new vehicle at any time, when the old one died, regardless of planetary conditions; and man, yielding to the impulse of the Lucifer Spirits, incited by the passion they instilled, began to regard the generative act as a means of enjoyment and gratification, instead of a sacrament. Hence, the bodies born under such conditions were out of tone with the Cosmic Harmony. Therefore parturition became painful, health became impaired, and Death entered upon his reign as King of Terrors.

While Adam knew his wife only during the time when the Angels presided over the propagative act, his consciousness was focused all the rest of the time in the spiritual world. But things became radically different when man took the matter into his own hands. The oftener he knew his wife for self-gratification, the oftener and more thoroughly his consciousness became focused in the physical world, and the more he lost sight of the higher realms, until finally they have been forgotten, or almost so. Therefore birth now seems the beginning of life. It commences in pain for mother and babe; life itself is usually a path of sorrow and suffering, because in spirit we feel orphaned from our Father; and at the end stands death, the King of Terrors, to usher the spirit into what is, to our physical consciousness, a great unknown, and all because of the impulse and passion, wherewith the martial Lucifer Spirits have impregnated our desire nature. And so long as the firelight of passion taints our desire nature, this regime must continue.

The Old Testament opens with the account of how man was led astray by *the false Light* of the Lucifer Spirits, giving birth to all the sorrow and suffering in the world; it closes with the promise that the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with Healing in its wings. And in the New Testament we find the Sun of Righteousness, *the true Light*, come to save the world, and the first fact which is stated regarding Him is that He is of Immaculate Conception.

Now this point should be thoroughly understood, and should be clear from the foregoing, that it is the Luciferian taint of passion which has brought sorrow, sin and suffering into the world. Prior to the impregnation of the desire body with this demoniac principle, conception was immaculate and a sacrament. Man walked in the presence of the Angels then, pure and unashamed. The act of fertilization was as chaste as that of the flower. Therefore when the mischief had been wrought, immediately the messenger, or Angel, girded them with leaves, to impress upon them the ideal which they must learn to live; namely, chastity, like that of the plant. Whenever we are able to perform the act of generation in a pure, chaste and passionless manner as the plant does, an immaculate conception takes place and a Christ is born, capable of healing all the suffering of humanity, capable of conquering death and establishing immortality, a true light to lead humanity away from the will-o'-the-wisp of passion; through self-sacrifice to companion.

This, then, is the great ideal toward which we are striving: To cleanse ourselves from the taint of egoism and self-seeking. And therefore we look upon the emblem of the Rose-Cross as an ideal. For the seven red roses typify the cleansed blood; the white rose shows the purity of life, and the golden, radiating star symbolizes that inestimable influence for health, helpfulness and spiritual uplift that radiates from every *Servant* of humanity.