

Esoteric Bible Studies

BY CORINNE S. DUNKLEE

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST JESUS

III—*The Baptism.*

6. And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

7. And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

8. I indeed have baptized you with water: but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

9. And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in the Jordan.

10. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11. And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

—*St. Mark 1: 6-11.*

INTERPRETATION

Every series of mystic rites includes a ceremonial of purification with water. The festival of the Eleusinian Mysteries included baths. The Tabernacle in the Wilderness had its Laver of Purification. So in the life of the great Way-Shower of the Christian religion, Christ Jesus, the next important step in which we must learn to follow Him is that of the Baptism. The water, of course, is only symbolic of the great inner purification. The Baptism really represents that place in the life of the neophyte where his heart has become awakened, when he is no longer content to think of himself first, when he cannot be happy and enjoy the beauties and luxuries of life while his brother man is starving and dying

for lack of the bare necessities of existence.

When a person has had the real, mystic experience of the Baptism, which is a great spiritual awakening *within*, accompanied by a great spiritual down-pouring from *without or above*, such a one can no longer say, "My country (or my family or my church) first," for he yearns to soothe, to comfort, to bring healing, peace, love, and understanding, true spiritual understanding, to the entire world.

He sorrows with the taking of the life of every condemned criminal, with the taking of the life of his younger brothers of the animal kingdom, with the downfall in reputation and character of any man or woman. He knows, or else he has never passed through this mystic rite of Baptism, that we are all parts of one great whole. And so he has come to realize that where another has failed, he has in part failed also; that he is in a certain measure responsible to God's great Laws of Love and Truth and Justice for the shortcomings of everyone else. Like the great Compassionate One he too weeps for the sins of Jerusalem.

Such a person, who has been truly baptized, understands the meaning of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. He goes forward in the light of a high and holy purpose. He lives only that he may give of himself, not only his worldly possessions, be they great or small, but of *himself* in service to others. "Present your bodies a *living* sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God." So sang one of the great and spiritually awakened seers who had passed through this holy rite of Baptism.

Upon the head of such a one rests the dove of spiritual power, and where he goes the clouds of inharmony part and

the voice of God is heard saying: "Thou art my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."

This represents the attainment which all mankind will have made at the time of the Sixth Epoch, when all separateness and all races will have been done away with; when we are once again a united whole; when every man shall seek the good of others. This is the "*pitcher of water*" which the Master told Peter and John to look for when they went into the city to prepare for the Last Supper. One who bears this pitcher of water always has an *upper chamber* (the head) *furnished and prepared*.

The Master Jesus had built the purest, most perfect body that it was possible to build. The sublime spirituality of the Sons of Seth—those who follow *the path of water, or faith*—was centered in Jesus at the time of his baptism in the waters of the river Jordan. When he arose from the *water* he was in the same state as Hiram Abiff when he came forth from the *fire*. He had left Jehovah as Hiram had left Samael, and each was ready to serve the Christ. In esoteric parlance each spirit had reached the full attainment of the Water and the Fire development respectively, and so they were both ready for the next great step known to the student of the deeper Christian mysteries as following the Christ by the blending of these two great principles *within oneself*.

The pure and holy ego known as Jesus left his body at the Baptism, and the great archangel, the Christ, descended as a dove to inhabit that body during the three years of His glorious ministry. The beautiful body of Jesus was Christ's means of ingress into the earth. The plan of redemption was made possible through the combination of Christ and Jesus. Therefore it is true in the very highest sense and also in the most literal sense too when St. Paul says, "There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."—I *Timothy* 2:5.

The Ancient Wisdom

BY PRENTISS TUCKER

Towering above all man-made institutions, like some great heaven-piercing peak which shoulders high over the mountains of the range, upon whose head the sunshine falls while yet the lower hills are wrapped in shadows, the great Teaching of the Rosicrucian Brotherhood lifts its mighty brow above the lesser hills and peaks of mortal philosophy and the speculations of ignorance and fanaticism.

When this great Wisdom first was given to men we are not told, but this we know that the pathway of the human race is strewn with the wrecks and fragments of former attempts to give this precious treasure to suffering humanity. And humanity, deluded by its superstitions and crude illusions, has ever clung desperately to the false and trampled under foot the true.

But a new day is dawning, and black-browed Superstition is weakening in the first glorious beams of the ancient Wonder-Lore divine. Up the steep paths leading toward the peak of KNOWLEDGE innumerable multitudes of men have toiled with blistered feet and bleeding hands until, climbing above the sordid levels of earth's frantic follies, they are resting their aching limbs upon its crest and bathing their souls in that supernal glory of radiant light which grows ever brighter and brighter as the Seeker climbs toward the heights, a light too dazzling for earthly eyes to behold as it scintillates and sparkles with the Wisdom of the Spirit.

Criticism

In men whom men denounce as ill
I see so much of goodness still,
In men whom men pronounce divine
I see so much of sin and blot,
I hesitate to draw the line
Between the two, where God has not.

—Joaquin Miller.