

and beyond all the royal progeny of the proudest intellect, enshrined in the veritable holy of holies of the human heart. Hope is but a rainbow with which Fancy paints the black overhanging firmament, a golden shaft of sunlight with which she gilds Life's rugged mountain peaks—a melody most divinely

sweet with which she cheers the fainting soul of man.

But greater than Faith, greater than Knowledge, brighter than the star of Hope which gilds the cradle and illumines the grave, is Charity, for 'tis the incarnation of heavenly law, the divine essence of eternal Love.

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## Esoteric Bible Studies

BY CORINNE S. DUNKLEE

### TEXT

#### FAMOUS SONGS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

17. And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

18. (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)

19. The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!

20. Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

21. Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.

22. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

23. Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

24. Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

25. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places.

26. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

27. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

—II *Samuel*, 1:17-27.

### INTERPRETATION

Each one of the famous old songs of the Bible outlines a definite step upon the path of attainment. The mystical power of the words of this Book of Books is such that though the inner meaning of these songs has long been forgotten, yet they are still studied and revered by scholars and students. As we approach the new age of scientific religion, gradually these hidden meanings are again being revealed to us, and we are beginning to understand and appreciate the real occult message and purpose of this Great Book.

The Books of Samuel are considered by scholars as among the most difficult and complicated to be found in the entire Bible. Origen tells us that these two books in the original Hebrew canon were united and formed only one book. Samuel was the third of the so-called "earlier prophets." This same condition also occurred in the Books of the Kings. Originally the four books, First and Second Samuel and First and Second Kings were called the first, second, third, and fourth "Books of the Kingdom." This refers not only to the origin of the monarchy as has long been generally supposed, but also esoterically to the definite establishment of the way of Initiation which was to be founded for the pioneers of the 5th Root Race through the *House of David in the little*

town of Bethlehem. Every event in the lives of David and Solomon bears an occult significance in relation to this new way of Initiation.

David has been called the half-way house of consciousness between Adam and Christ. He represents a certain, definite place in the evolution of the Christ power within man.

The trials, tests, and conflicts of David and Saul represent the efforts to blend the potencies of fire and water, or the passions and emotions, within the aspirant. Many frailties and weaknesses are exhibited within both these characters, which the honest and sincerely introspective student may discover within himself as he endeavors to walk the way that will some time make of him a king in the city of Jerusalem.

Jonathan, meaning, "Jehovah hath given," is one of the most beautiful and attractive characters delineated in the entire Old Testament. He typifies the highest ideal of friendship, the Aquarian. The love of Jonathan and David has been proverbial through the ages. Jonathan esoterically represents the higher or spiritual nature and Saul the lower or carnal man. David's lament is that the lower has not been fully overcome and its powers transmuted and blended into the higher. This work is the principal aim of the occultist.

He begins his famous lament with the admonition that the children of Judah be taught the use of the bow. Judah represents Leo or the heart, and the bow the sacral plexus. In regeneration the fire of the body must be raised from this plexus to the heart. Its eventual path must be between the heart and head. Until this development is ours, always "the beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places."

Gath and Askelon were both among the chief cities of the Philistines, symbolizing materiality. Gath was the home of Goliath, the giant of evil whom David slew at the very beginning of his career. Max Heindel says that always before a

definite work leading to Initiation can be done upon the vital body a certain amount of cleansing and purification must be accomplished within the desire nature of the candidate.

Gilboa, where the battle was fought, is described as a hilly country. Mountains mean spiritual consciousness. Many, many times for each one of us Jonathan is slain in the high places, and the lament of David becomes our own.

Saul had been anointed with oil, which refers to the work of blending the lower nature with the higher. This work, while not fully done, was in the process of being accomplished, therefore "the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty."

The attainment of perfection through regeneration will be the evolution of the foremost among mankind in the Aquarian Age. When through this cleansing and renewing process there shall be those who come forth as "Flowers of the Fire," they shall verily be, as David sings, "swifter than eagles and stronger than lions."

For one who has made the supreme dedication of spirit, soul, and body in this quest, life can hold no other interest or purpose. The things of the world fall away. The joys and sorrows of the personal life become as shadows. Such a consecrated one truly sings with David: Very pleasant hast thou been unto me. Thy love to me is wonderful, passing the love of women (or any personal or finite thing.)

### A Wish for Thee

"The hope thine own heart holds most dear,  
Too sacred for the tenderest ear,  
The longing, God alone doth hear  
When in the night He bendeth near,  
Thine own dear wish, whate'er it be,  
Wish I all o'er again for thee."

—Selected.