

# Mythology and the Bible

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**T**RUTH, like a golden thread, binds together all the religions that have been given to the world, welding them into a composite whole through which shines the eternal White Light of the Cosmic Christ.

Every religion has had an inner and an outer teaching. As St. Paul expressed it, milk for the babes and meat for the strong men. The myths or legends of the various countries have contained great religious truths that have been given to the people of those countries. Those who were ready to receive the deeper meanings concealed therein were taken into the inner sanctuary for further and more advanced instruction. Those who were content with the literal interpretations remained in the outer court and formed the vast majority of exoteric worshippers.

## I. CREATION.

According to the mythology of the Greeks, before the creation of the earth matter was in a formless state, personified as the deity Chaos. Chaos had a daughter called Nyx (Night). She was the mother of every divinity whose origin was shrouded in the darkness of uncertainty. She was also the mother of Light and of Day, who dethroned their parent and ruled in her stead. Their offspring was Eros or Cupid, who aided them in the creation of Gaea (Earth). It was the power of Eros (Love) that pierced the breast of Gaea with an arrow of life. Before this the surface of the earth was barren and desertlike. After this infusion of Love the earth was aroused from its deathlike trance, and both plant and animal life flourished.

In the above we find a statement of the same truth with which the Bible begins, which reads as follows: "In the begin-

ning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there



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was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day."

In the beginning Saturn, or Kronos (Time), became the ruler of the earth. Time must always be associated with the limitation of form. In the Rosicrucian School the Saturn Period is the first great Creative Day.

A great race of giants called Titans, also Cyclops, peopled the earth in the Hyperborean Epoch of the Earth Period. Man was then large of stature. He was plantlike in growth, the desire body not yet being developed. Cyclops means the one-eyed, referring to the pineal gland, which was then man's organ of sight

and not a dormant organ as at the present time.

Mythical Saturn was supposed to swallow each of his children as they were born. When Jupiter, the sixth child, was born, Saturn swallowed a stone by mistake, and the young god Jupiter was taken to heaven, or Mt. Olympus, where he was reared on nectar, ambrosia, and honey. There is much occult information to be found here. Jupiter represents the life and spiritual evolution of the man of the Jupiter Period. Saturn, or Time, will have no power over this "sixth child." Nectar, ambrosia, and honey represent the power of eternal life or Initiation, which will be the universal attainment of the Jupiter Period. Mythologically Jupiter eventually overcomes Saturn and rules the world in peace. Upon Mt. Olympus he dwelt surrounded by the other gods and goddesses. They lived in golden homes with ivory walls. From their celestial abode they guided the destinies of man, often disguising themselves as earth beings and mingling among men.

The most prominent of the gods were Jupiter, Neptune, Pluto, and Apollo, representing respectively the elements of Air, Water, Earth, and Fire, out of which all things were formed. Neptune ruled the sea. Around his palace waved lawns of seaweed and trees of coral, while the soft green waves were the breezes which fanned his brow. His scepter was a trident, with which he raised and stilled the storms.

Pluto's kingdom was the Land of Shades, a level, cloudy country underground. Across the meadows of this dreary land wandered the River of Sighs and the River of Forgetfulness. This was for a time the abiding place of every spirit that had been encased in mortality. Homer describes Pluto as,

"The gloomy god who never spares,  
Who feels no mercy and answers no  
prayers."

Jupiter, the King of Olympus, repre-

sented the power of Air. He watched over all the world. His hand wielded the lightnings and guided the stars. He regulated the entire course of nature. He was the last of the Olympian rulers, the best known of any of the gods, and many of his stories of love and adventure are immortalized in the constellations.

Apollo typifies Fire. His sun palace, which was built in the east in a "Land beyond the Sunrise," was crusted thick with gold and embedded with large and wonderful jewels. His chariot was also made of gold, and it shone with so great a radiance that it blinded the eyes of any but the gods. Every morning Apollo placed the sun in his chariot and drove to the eastern gates of his domain where Aurora, goddess of the Dawn, flung down the bars for her Sun God. He then penned up his stars, gathered his Hours about him, and to the heavenly strains of their rhythm he drove all through the day along the pathway of the heavens, flinging down upon the earth the brilliant light of the sun.

These myths were the Greeks' symbolical explanations of the many phenomena of nature. In this lovely poetical fashion they explained the origin of the world, of man, and of all the manifestations of nature which they saw about them. But beneath this fascinating imagery are concealed the same occult truths as are found in our Christian Bible. It has been wisely said that the myths are not to be *literally believed*, but are to be *understood*.

*(Further studies in mythology and the Bible will follow in succeeding issues.)*

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"Why were the saints, saints? Because they were cheerful when it was difficult to be cheerful, patient when it was difficult to be patient; and because they pushed on when they wanted to stand still, kept silent when they wanted to talk, and were agreeable when they wanted to be disagreeable. That was all."