

Theosophy

Ellen White's Forgotten Caution

We have already taken a small look at New Age beliefs. In this newsletter, we will discuss a largely forgotten set of beliefs that Ellen White warned would try to assert itself again as the dominant religion:

“When Satan has undermined faith in the Bible, he directs men to other sources for light and power. Thus, he insinuates himself. Those who turn from the plain teaching of Scripture and the convicting power of God’s Holy Spirit are inviting the control of demons. Criticism and speculation concerning the Scriptures have opened the way for spiritism and Theosophy—those modernized forms of ancient heathenism—to gain a foothold even in the professed churches of our Lord Jesus Christ.”—*Desire of Ages*, pg. 258.

Let’s trace this religion and identify key concepts that are relevant today.

An Old Abomination

The ancient paganism practiced during the Exodus had many forms. When God was giving commands to His chosen people, He said:

“The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.”—*Deuteronomy 22:5*.

The *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary* mentions the androgyny of the Ishtar cult in its note on Deuteronomy 22:5 (2009, Vol. 1, p. 493). Zondervan cites an enlightening source on the topic—“*Gender and Aging in Mesopotamia: The Gilgamesh Epic and Other Ancient Literature*” by Rivkah Harris (2000). In this book, Harris explains that Ishtar “is androgynous, marginal, ambiguous ... She is betwixt and between ... Central to the goddess as paradox is her well-attested psychological and physiological androgyny. Inanna-Ishtar is both female and male ... [in one place stating] ‘Though I am a woman I am a noble young man’” (pp. 160, 163). She shattered all gender and socioeconomic distinctions—being both a royal queen and “the harlot of heaven ... set out for the alehouse” (p. 166). And in all this she was the role model for her followers. Among

her powers was this from a Sumerian poem: “To turn a man into a woman and a woman into a man are yours, Inanna” (p. 160).

In “*The Descent of Ishtar*” we are told of some participants in her cult: “The male prostitutes comb their hair before her ... They decorate the napes of their necks with colored bands ... They gird themselves with the sword belt ... Their right side they adorn with women’s clothing ... Their left side they cover with men’s clothing ...” (p. 170). The revel and competition ended in a bloody spectacle of self-cutting (compare to 1 Kings 18:28).

The Sumerian/Babylonian goddess Ishtar was known to the Canaanites as Astarte; to the Israelites, as Ashtar or Ashtaroth; and to the Egyptians, as Isis.

The Babylonians worshiped Ishtar as “The Virgin,” “The Holy Virgin,” “The Virgin Mother,” “Goddess of Goddesses,” and “Queen of Heaven and Earth.” They exclaimed, “Ishtar is great! Ishtar is Queen! My Lady is exalted, my Lady is Queen. . . . There is none like unto her.” They called her “Shining light of heaven, light of the world, enlightener of all the places where men dwell, who gatherest together the hosts of the nations”; and they claimed, “Where thou glancest, the dead come to life, and the sick rise and walk; the mind of the diseased is healed when it looks upon thy face.”—Durant, *Our Oriental Heritage*, 235-236.

The Israelites worshiped Ashtaroth by carving trees into occult symbols next to the altars of Jehovah. Ashtaroth was said to be the wife of El, and later, when the Israelites were sufficiently converted to Baal worship, she became Baal’s wife. She was especially popular among the Jewish women. They worshiped her by baking raisin cakes and mourning her son, Tammuz.

“Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying, As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee. But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of

2 heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men?"—*Jeremiah 44:15-19*.

Ashtaroth was known as the goddess Diana to the Ephesians; frankly, every pagan deity is a prototype of either Nimrod or his wife, Semiramis. Semiramis was originally worshiped as Ishtar. While Tammuz was her child, he was also, supposedly, Nimrod reincarnated. Among other odd things, Semiramis claimed to have hatched from an egg that fell from the sky, and her child was supposedly the son of the Sun, conceived through virgin birth. The reality is disturbing and will not be recounted here. In Babylonian mythology, Ishtar wore a crown like a tower, oddly reminiscent of Babel. She was associated with Tammuz, who was sometimes portrayed as her son and at other times as her lover. The holy day for this cult is commonly known as Easter, and it occurs on the Sunday after the mourning for Tammuz ends. Nowadays, this mourning is known to some as Lent. The mysteries of Babylon end when one understands that the mother-child cult can be traced to the deification of Eve, and the worship of the child she carries, which represents sin. I digress. Paul aimed to put to rest the spiritual superiority of women that was learned from this cult. He did this in several places:

"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."—*1 Timothy 2:11-15*.

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."—*1 Corinthians 14:34*.

In the Ishtar cult, women held high-ranking

priestess roles, known as naditu, who enjoyed special legal status and independence. Uniquely, they could also be the High Priest. They could own property, engage in business, and live in convents. Some of these priestesses were educated and functioned as scribes, scholars, and astronomers. They were considered more spiritually enlightened than men, and their words were authoritative because they could be inspired by the goddess herself. Because of the goddess's nature, men could be transformed into women by Ishtar and also become her priests. Prostitution was a part of their religious practices, and this could be inferred by the way they (be it men or women) dressed.

"And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart."—*Proverbs 7:10*.

There is, of course, nothing wrong with Women teaching, nor anything wrong with women being educated. These are not the issue; it is the false assumption that women are spiritually superior to men that Paul was combating. The text actually indicates Paul would not allow a woman to teach her husband or usurp authority over him. This is a reversal of the order that God gave; the man is to be the priest of the house, not the woman. The man is to be to His wife what Christ is to the Church, the head. The very next verse is *1 Timothy 3:1*; it lists the qualifications for Elders/Ministers, followed by the qualifications for Deacons. Women were not to hold these positions; if they were, God would have said so. Men are to hold the position of Elder, Pastor, and Deacon for this reason; a woman is not to rule over a man. It is a corruption of the original order for it to be otherwise. This does not indicate that a woman cannot serve God, nor does it suggest she cannot teach or speak about what God has done. Instead, it teaches that a woman has the greatest duty: she has charge over the next generation of leaders—the children. It is no coincidence that the Bible lists the names of the mothers of Kings when they are good or especially evil. Why would a woman want to neglect the God-given duties of shaping the next generation? Because she has been deceived by a call to rule, a call more ancient than Babel. In aiming for what appears to be a higher duty, she falls far lower. Now you have been armed with the knowledge to recognize paganism when it appears.

Helena Blavatsky

Blavatsky was a mystic and a writer who was alive and especially active around 1870. She began having visions at the age of 11, which was

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sometime in the 1840s. Her first visions were of a mysterious Indian man; many speculate he was an “ascended master” (more on this). In her childhood, she was especially interested in esoteric books and had access to Masonic texts. In fact, she was so taken by esoteric books that she wrote them in her adulthood. While writing her first book, called “Isis Unveiled,” Blavatsky said she became aware of a second consciousness within her body. She referred to it as “the lodger who is in me.” She later stated that this second consciousness inspired much of her book. She is a co-founder of the Theosophical Society, which began in 1875. Blavatsky described Theosophy as “the synthesis of science, religion and philosophy”, and claimed it revived the “Ancient Wisdom” which underlay all the world’s religions. This revived “ancient wisdom,” she believed, was soon to spread throughout humanity, replacing dominant world religions such as Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism.

Blavatsky taught that within each human, there is an eternal, divine facet, which she referred to as “the Master,” the “uncreate,” the “inner God,” and the “higher self.” She promoted the idea that uniting with this “higher self” results in wisdom. She also dressed at times in men’s clothes, she partook in smoking, swearing, and even rejected marriage. Blavatsky actively opposed the idea of “proper” Victorian womanhood. This is because Blavatsky taught in her second book, “The Secret Doctrine,” that souls were originally androgynous and that, as mankind approached perfection (called the Seventh Race; more on this), they would become so again.

Blavatsky had her own form of the Second Advent. She claimed that Lord Maitreya (a Hindu god) would come to Earth as a messianic figure. Her ideas on this messianic figure were expanded upon by Besant and Leadbeater, two other co-founders of Theosophy (more on this).

The Theosophical Society

The Society of Theosophy only had one rule to which all members must obey. It was a commitment “To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste, or color.” Furthermore, the Society encouraged the study of Comparative Religion, Philosophy, and Science, as well as the investigation of unexplained laws of nature and the latent powers within man. This is actually where ecumenism began—in Theosophy. Theosophists were so ecumenical that there were no required

beliefs; one could even doubt Blavatsky’s teachings and still be accepted as a member. This was because the brotherhood was to be without regard to creeds. The American Branch of Theosophy, called “Krotona,” was established in Hollywood, California. The Society has many interesting accomplishments and members. Of note, in November 1889, Blavatsky was visited by the Indian lawyer Mohandas Gandhi, who was studying the Bhagavad Gita (Hindu Holy Writings) with some members of the Society. He became an associate member of Blavatsky’s Lodge in March 1891. He would emphasize the close connection between Theosophy and Hinduism throughout his life.

By 1911, the Theosophical Society was involved in projects connected to a range of progressive political causes. In England, there were strong links between Theosophy and first-wave feminism. Prominent English feminists were several hundred times more likely to join this movement than the average member of the population (“*Divine Feminine: Theosophy and Feminism in England*”—The Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science). This is why our prophet penned these words:

“Those who feel called out to join the movement in favor of woman’s rights and the so-called dress reform might as well sever all connection with the third angel’s message. The spirit which attends the one cannot be in harmony with the other. The Scriptures are plain upon the relations and rights of men and women. Spiritualists have, to quite an extent, adopted this singular mode of dress. Seventh-day Adventists, who believe in the restoration of the gifts, are often branded as spiritualists. Let them adopt this costume, and their influence is dead. The people would place them on a level with spiritualists and would refuse to listen to them.”—*1 Testimonies*, pg. 457.

Part of the feminist movement included adopting a modernized American dress that incorporated features of men’s clothing. Yes, Theosophy had its own dress reform, the dress reform of Isis/Ishtar, the clothing of Egypt, the mingling of male and female. Dress reform is a significant change that will occur in the life of every faithful Christian. To the question “how may I dress to bring God glory?” the Bible replies:

“The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.”—*Deuteronomy 22:5*.

The book “Thy Nakedness” by Gwen Shorter

4 is available at Harvestime Books. It provides an in-depth look at dress reform, including its historical background, with accompanying pictures. It is a very valuable resource. Supplies are limited.

Nowadays, feminists believe in “empowering” women by allowing them to kill their own “unborn” children. It’s labeled “women’s rights.” Unfortunately, America has also adopted the androgyny of Theosophy, barring, of course, the Miniskirts and Yoga pants, which very likely had their origins in spiritualism or Theosophy too (Mary Quant’s religion is not known). One step at a time, Satan is in it for the long game. The fruits of Theosophy are all around us today.

Prominent scientists who have belonged to the Theosophical Society included the inventor Thomas Edison (who invented the light bulb, the electric utility system, motion pictures, and many other things), the biologist Alfred Russel Wallace (a naturalist who championed evolution), and the chemist William Crookes (who made discoveries fundamental in the development of nuclear physics).

Theosophy also exerted an influence on the arts and was especially formative for many early pioneers of abstract art. It was created to visually present and preserve spiritual concepts. Abstract art served (and likely still serves) as a form of spiritual indoctrination for the principles of Theosophy.

The Russian composer Alexander Scriabin, whose musical works were heavily influenced by mysticism, became interested in Theosophy while living in Brussels from 1909 to 1910. Other composers whose music was influenced by theosophical concerns include Gustav Holst, Luigi Russolo, Cyril Scott, and Edmund Rubbra. If you have not had the misfortune of listening to any of their music, I will describe it in the words of Ellen White:

“A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing. The powers of satanic agencies blend with the din and noise to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit’s working.”—2 *Selected Messages*, pg. 36.

“The Holy Spirit has nothing to do with such a confusion of noise and multitude of sounds as passed before me last January. Satan works amid the din and confusion of such music,

which, properly conducted, would be a praise and glory to God. He makes its effect like the poison sting of the serpent.”—2 *Selected Messages*, pg. 37.

“Those things which have been in the past will be in the future. Satan will make music a snare by the way in which it is conducted.”—2 *Selected Messages*, pg. 38.

Even if the lyrics aren’t a snare, the way in which the music is conducted can be. Even a hymn can be conducted in a way that encourages the workings of wicked spirits. Furthermore, we know that music sets the stage for worship, as seen in Daniel Chapter 3. It should be no surprise that these theosophical techniques have been refined to produce the music we have today.

The Society encouraged several beliefs, including the immortality of the soul, Karma, and reincarnation. The Society also encouraged a vegetarian diet. Additionally, it was Non-dualist. Dualism is the belief in two separate and distinct principles or entities, such as good and evil or the mind and the body, and these exist independently of each other. Non-dualism teaches the distinctions between entities are not real, but are constructs of the mind. Basically, they believe that everything is interconnected and, at the core or reality, there is no difference between anything. This means you can siphon energy off a tree by hugging it since you are both part of the “Universe.” Techniques that aid in Non-dual experiences include: meditation, altered states of consciousness (Drugs), drumming, music, and dance. These can effectively cultivate non-dual experiences.

The Secret Doctrine

I have now become keenly interested in knowing the teachings of Blavatsky’s book “Secret Doctrine.”

Blavatsky claims that to understand her writings, people must grasp the principles upon which her views are based. The first principle she taught is that there is only one truth. She asserted it is causeless and timeless, and therefore unknowable and non-describable. “It is be-ness not Being,” She claimed, “God is latent in every atom in the Universe, and is the Universe itself.” All things come from it, but not by creation; it is merely by a change of condition from unseen spiritual energies to what can be seen: Manifestation. She claimed

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that the universe had thoughts and feelings that manifest as physical realities and impressions in humans. A prime example of this poisonous and unbiblical philosophy can be seen in the heresy of Kellogg. Here is an example of the conclusion of these theories.

“Among other views, they held that those once sanctified could not sin, and this they were presenting as gospel food. Their false theories, with their burden of deceptive influence, were working great harm to themselves and to others. They were gaining a spiritualistic power over those who could not see the evil of these beautifully clothed theories. Great evils had already resulted. The doctrine that all were holy had led to the belief that the affections of the sanctified were never in danger of leading astray. The result of this belief was the fulfillment of the evil desires of hearts which, though professedly sanctified, were far from purity of thought and practice. This is only one of the instances in which I was called upon to rebuke those who were presenting the doctrine of an impersonal god diffused through nature, and the doctrine of holy flesh.” —*Evangelism*, pg. 600.

Linked to these concepts is the idea of immediate righteousness without any effort. It is righteousness by feeling, not by faith. Remember God is a person, not a feeling, force, or essence. Jesus Christ is God veiled in the Flesh; He is the express image of the Father.

“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”—Hebrews 1:3.

This means the Father is a Being and not an unknowable non-describable bundle of power and feeling.

The second principle asserted is that this causeless, timeless, unknowable, and non-describable truth is engaged in an endless cycle of manifestation. This prepares the way for the third principle: the Hindu concepts of Karma and reincarnation. These Hindu concepts are where Theosophists get the vegetarian diet from, and the spiritualists of today get Veganism. This is also a

twisted form of the Bible verse “Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.” Theosophists are willing to quote the Bible, but only such verses as agree with what they teach.

An overview of the book “The Secret Doctrine”: The book presents the Authors twisted views on God based on the above principles. It claims God is not a person at all but “the omnipresent Reality: impersonal, because it contains all and everything.” The impersonality of God was a fundamental concept in Blavatsky’s theosophical views. She borrowed many ideas from Hinduism and rephrased the concept Paul gave: “what is seen is temporary, what is unseen is eternal.” She claimed the unseen was an “eternal essence,” and deified it. Somehow, she arrived at the conclusion that this means everything in the world has consciousness and is connected. The final principle of the first volume of “The Secret Doctrine” is “as above so below.” This is interpreted to mean that the universe must act on thoughts and feelings, even though it isn’t a person, and that what you physically see has spiritual implications. This was the essence of her first volume. The second volume dealt with the races of mankind, while the third seems to reiterate some of her previous points. It was published after her death, and Besant helped finish it.

Two Health Messages

At this point, it is essential to highlight the differences between the Adventist and Theosophical health messages. The Adventist Health message was primarily given to free the mind from the control of Satan and grant discernment. It is the goal of the Great Deceiver to put light for darkness and darkness for light, to make error appear truth and truth appear error. But it is the will of God for man to clearly discern between what is common and what is Holy, between what is truth and what is error. There are two things God commanded for this purpose.

“Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your

6 generations: And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;”—*Leviticus 10:9-10*.

This command was given because of Nadab and Abihu’s course of action. As priests of God, they were called to be Holy as God is Holy, but they drank Alcohol and perverted their judgment. God destroyed them for mingling the sacred with the common. Immediately following this story, God gives the dietary restriction in *Leviticus 11*. He ends with this statement:

“For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the Earth. For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy. This is the law of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the waters, and of every creature that creepeth upon the Earth: To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.”—*Leviticus 11:44-47*.

God calls us priests:

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”—*1 Peter 2:9*.

He still commands us to be Holy:

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (an archaic word for behavior); Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”—*1 Peter 1:15-16*.

As noted in our newsletter “An Appeal For Sobriety” (WM 3363-3364), Alcohol is not the only substance that perverts judgment. The final test to come upon the world requires discerning the difference between a sacred day and a common day. Think ye that any will be saved from confusion who willingly impair their own judgment for pleasure? Will someone who cannot discern between what is Holy and what is not Holy be able to keep the Sabbath? Christ has purchased, at the greatest cost to Himself, the power for us to overcome every besetting sin. Dare we sell our birthright for a moment of pleasure and satisfaction?

All the other blessings that follow the health message are secondary benefits. Our health message calls Psychoactive compounds sinful indulgences. Yet Ellen White would not place clean meat and dairy on the same level:

“Tea, coffee, tobacco, and Alcohol we must present as sinful indulgences. We cannot place

on the same ground, meat, eggs, butter, cheese, and such articles placed upon the table. These are not to be borne in front, as the burden of our work. The former—tea, coffee, tobacco, beer, wine, and all spiritous liquors—are not to be taken moderately, but discarded. The poisonous narcotics are not to be treated in the same way as the subject of eggs, butter, and cheese. In the beginning animal food was not designed to be the diet of man. We have every evidence that the flesh of dead animals is dangerous because of disease that is fast becoming universal, because of the curse resting more heavily in consequence of the habits and crimes of man. We are to present the truth. We are to be guarded how to use reason and select those articles of food that will make the very best blood and keep the blood in an unfevered condition.”— 3 Selected Messages, pg. 287.

If meat, eggs, and dairy now impair judgment, should they not also be put away? Yes, but Ellen White was careful because God gave mankind clean meat out of necessity. To call meat eating a sin is contrary to biblical teaching. But to keep eating meat and dairy when it is not a necessity is to fall under the same condemnation the Israelites did when they lusted after quail.

The health message of Theosophy holds to no such principles. It is based on Karma. They believe that Karma affects your future manifestations, so the more love and kindness you show others, the better your future will be. If you rob bees of their honey, eat meat, dairy, or eggs, or even wear leather, you are hurting higher manifestations, and this will result in a worse future reincarnation. To them it is a sin! Additionally, Psychoactive compounds are encouraged, especially Chocolate/Cacao and Green tea. When your goal is to speak to demons, you would want Satan to have greater access to the mind. Yet many remain woefully unaware they are dealing with demons. The power of Satan to deceive is great!

While I am entirely plant-based myself, I recognize that the plant-based lifestyle, when divorced from the call to abstain from Psychoactive drugs, is the lifestyle of spiritualists. Unfortunately, Adventist Health reform has become more Spiritualist than Adventist in recent years. The purpose has been lost sight of; many keep it merely to preserve their life in this sinful world for a scant few more years. I am not encouraging the use of dairy or meat, but calling the sin of Green/Black/Oolong Tea, Nicotine, Chocolate, Marijuana, CBD (Yes, it is psychoactive, and so is nutmeg), and Alcohol consumption by its proper name. These are sins and should be removed from the diet entirely. Any-

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thing that weakens discernment should be. Isn't it odd that many Adventist doctors teach contrary to the great light given by God through His prophet? They do this because Science teaches otherwise. Shouldn't we recognize that the principles of Theosophy are dominant in science? Unfortunately, SDA doctors who are slaves to these darling idols lead others down the same path every chance they get. No matter how many men rally behind this rebellious course, it does not justify their indulgences in the least. Of course, it doesn't help that these substances impair discernment. The snare is very well made, but we are not ignorant of Satan's devices.

Blavatsky and Race

As described in Blavatsky's book "The Secret Doctrine" (published in 1888), she believed in a root race from which seven sub races sprouted. Mixing in some evolutionary ideas, she claimed these seven races correspond to stages of human evolution. At the time she was writing, she claimed the fifth Race had appeared and was called the Aryans. She claimed this Race would soon be replaced by the sixth, heralding the coming of Maitreya. His teachings would aid in the final evolution to the seventh Race.

The fruit of these ideas is evident in Hitler's actions. He shared a lot of Blavatsky's thoughts. He claimed the blood (where he theorized the soul resided) of the Aryans contained specific spiritual energies, the "cultural energies" or "racial primal elements," as he often called them. He believed that everything mankind called higher culture was the product of the "spiritual and creative energies" inherent in Aryan blood. To quote him:

"All the human culture, all the results of art, science, and technology that we see before us today, are almost exclusively the creative product of the Aryan. This very fact admits of the not unfounded inference that he alone was the founder of all higher humanity, therefore representing the prototype of all that we understand by the word "man." He is the Prometheus of mankind from whose bright forehead the divine spark of genius has sprung at all times.... Exclude him-- and perhaps after a few thousand years darkness will again descend on the Earth, human culture will pass, and the world turn to a desert."—*Mein Kampf*, pg. 290.

Ah, yes, the world becoming a desert without the Master race to save it, a hellish spark of genius. Brilliant, it looks like the environmentalists took notes. Historians deny Hitler's involvement

in the occult; thus, little research has been done on the esoteric influences in his ideas. It is well known that Hitler criticized occultists, Freemasons, and astrologers; he even persecuted some of them when he came into power. And yet, in his nightly monologues to his assembled guests, Hitler revealed his belief in the very ideas that these groups were perpetrating. Ample evidence of this is provided in his references to reincarnation, the lost continent of Atlantis, and Hans Horbiger's world ice theory, as well as in his conviction that the early myths and legends of cosmic disasters and struggles between giants and gods are actually mankind's vague memory of a disaster that destroyed a humanity that already possessed an advanced degree of civilization.

In Nazi Germany, the leading figures of Ariosophy (the philosophy that Aryans are a master race) were two Austrian occultists, Guido von List and Lanz von Liebenfels. Guido von List (1848-1919) was a free-lance author who turned increasingly to mystical and occult themes in his writings. His supporters formed the Guido von List Society in Vienna in 1903. It soon became one of the leading Viennese occult groups. Its members included the well-known Theosophist Franz Hartmann (a doctor who, among many things, wrote articles on yoga and popularized the subject within Germany), the chief of staff of the Austro-Hungarian army, wealthy merchants in Vienna and Germany, and the affluent Munich industrialist Friedrich Wannieck, who largely financed the Society. The primary purpose of the Society was to circulate and perpetuate List's books and ideas. For a brief description, see Goldstein, "On Racism and Anti-Semitism in Occultism and Nazism," pp. 62-64.

To close this section, we will quote the sentiments of Lanz von Liebenfel as a demonstration of this ideology. He wrote a series of occult works that presented his Ariosophical philosophy. His major work, "Theozoologie" (Theo-zoology), written in 1904, contains the essence of his thought:

"The Aryan hero is on this planet the most complete incarnation of God and of the Spirit." —Wilfried Daim, *Der Mann, der Hitler die Ideen gab*, pg. 180. Jews, as well as other inferior races, were characterized as "animal-men" who must someday be eliminated by genetic selection, sterilization, deportations, forced labor, and even "direct liquidation." The elimination of the "animal-man" made possible the coming of the "higher new man." (Ibid., pp. 184-88).

This is where Theosophist ideas brought the

8 world in the 1930s and 40's. Hitler set himself up as the occultist messianic figure. Although Hitler had many ideas related to Blavatsky, he was by no means a theosophist, because he believed in a "pure" brotherhood of only one race, whereas theosophists believed in a brotherhood without regard to race. He wasn't ecumenical enough to join the club.

We will now contrast these warped ideas with the truth:

"The Saviour longed to unfold to His disciples the truth regarding the breaking down of the "middle wall of partition" between Israel and the other nations—the truth that "the Gentiles should be fellow heirs" with the Jews and "partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel." Ephesians 2:14; 3:6. This truth was revealed in part at the time when He rewarded the faith of the centurion at Capernaum, and also when He preached the gospel to the inhabitants of Sychar. Still more plainly was it revealed on the occasion of His visit to Phoenicia, when He healed the daughter of the Canaanite woman. These experiences helped the disciples to understand that among those whom many regarded as unworthy of salvation, there were souls hungering for the light of truth. Thus Christ sought to teach the disciples the truth that in God's kingdom there are no territorial lines, no caste, no aristocracy; that they must go to all nations, bearing to them the message of a Saviour's love. But not until later did they realize in all its fullness that God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us." Acts 17:26, 27."—*Acts of the Apostles*, pg. 20.

Of course, theosophists had an answer to this, too. They claimed that all the world was one blood but not one Race.

"Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them."—*Proverbs 5:6*.

Besant and Leadbeater's Views

Annie Besant (more on her) and Leadbeater expounded on the theosophical "Second Advent." They said that Maitreya had previously incarnated on Earth as Krishna, a figure from Hinduism.

They also said that he had entered Jesus of Nazareth at the time of the latter's baptism (how very Gnostic-Dynamist of them) and that henceforth Maitreya would be known as "the Christ". Besant and Leadbeater said that Maitreya would again come to Earth by manifesting through an Indian boy named Jiddu Krishnamurti, whom Leadbeater had encountered playing on a beach at Adyar in 1909. The introduction of the Krishnamurti belief into Theosophy has been identified as a millenarian element. (Millenarian refers to a belief that a time is soon to come when all of Society and everything we know will be dramatically changed; it is named this because of the common 1,000-year motif. Examples include Hitler's Third Reich. Additionally, it is often referred to as a "Golden Age." Sound familiar?)

What happened to this child? Krishnamurti went through many series of painful seizures (a very biblical sign of demon possession) that he claimed aided in "perfecting" him. He famously asserted, near the end of his life, that "truth is a pathless land." He taught an immediate righteousness without any need to thoughtfully examine how one attains it. He believed this righteousness was only possible through a radical transformation of the mind, allowing one to maintain a state of choiceless awareness. Not righteousness by faith but righteousness through an absence of choices, righteousness by following feelings. Nowadays, this practice of choiceless awareness appears in a slightly more advanced form called mindfulness meditation. This is also what athletes call "being in the zone," where one moves purely from instinct rather than choice. This absence of conscious thought opens the way for the working of evil spirits.

Annie Besant

Before joining Theosophy, Besant was an excellent public speaker who addressed causes such as freedom of thought, women's rights, secularism, birth control, Fabian socialism, and workers' rights. At one point, she was even imprisoned for publishing a book on the subject of birth control. Additionally, she attacked the Bible as unreliable. In the section named "Its Evidences Unreliable" of her work "Christianity", Besant presents the case of why the Gospels are not authentic: "before about A.D. 180 there is no trace of FOUR gospels among the Christians." She held to Marxist

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ideology until she finally joined Theosophy. In her Autobiography, Besant follows her chapter on “Socialism” with “Through Storm to Peace”, the peace of Theosophy. In 1888, she described herself as “marching toward the Theosophy” that would be the “glory” of her life. Besant had found the economic side of life lacking a spiritual dimension, so she searched for a belief based on “Love”. She found this in Theosophy, so she joined the Theosophical Society, a move that distanced her from former activist co-workers. When Blavatsky died in 1891, Besant became one of the leading figures in Theosophy. She was a very busy woman, championing the freedom of India and other socio-political causes. She dropped her views on birth control and instead advocated for complete abstinence (though she did not find fault with the sin of self-abuse). She worked with Gandhi to establish schools and even became the president of the Theosophical Society. Near the end of her life, she claimed to have attained clairvoyant powers.

Alice Ann Bailey

Was a high-ranking member of Theosophy from 1917 to 1922, when there was a falling out between her and Blavatsky. Bailey wrote on religious themes, including Christianity. However, her writings are a warped version of Christianity, written through the lens of esoteric ideas. She wished to “cleanse” Christianity of its “Jewish inheritance” and divorce it from the “Jewish Bible.” This was a prerequisite for entering what she called the Age of Aquarius. She also seems to be the first person to express the concept of “The Age of Aquarius” or “New Age.” She envisioned a unified society, with a global “spirit of religion” distinct from traditional religious forms. She claimed her writings were “Ageless wisdom” from an ascended master (a demon) named Djwal Khul, who claimed to have once been a Tibetan Monk.

Alice and Foster Bailey founded “Lucifer Publishing Company” in 1922. After the first two or three years, the name was changed to “Lucis Publishing Co.” (“Lucifer” and “Lucis” come from the same word root, lucis being the Latin genitive case meaning of light. The Theosophical Society also

used the name ‘Lucifer’ for its early magazine.) The company’s activities include the Arcane School (established in 1923), World Goodwill, Triangles, a quarterly magazine called The Beacon, and a publishing company primarily intended to publish Bailey’s many books.

The Arcane School gives instruction and guidance in meditation via correspondence based on the ideas in Bailey’s books.

World Goodwill aims to promote better human relations through goodwill, which they define as “love in action.” That “action” included the support of the United Nations. No surprise considering it perfectly matched Bailey’s vision of a unified society and a global “spirit of religion.”

The “Triangles” are groups of three people who agree to link up “in thought” each day, meditate on right human relations, visualize light and love pouring into human minds and hearts, and then use the “Great Invocation.” This is a mantra given by Alice Bailey in 1937. The mantra begins with “From the point of Light within the Mind of God, let light stream forth into the minds of men ...” with the rest of the passage expressing the ideas of love, the return of “The Christ” (Maitreya) and of men acting in accordance with the plan of “God.” Each person doesn’t need to link “in thought” at the same time each day, and the ritual only takes a few moments.

Bailey’s teachings emphasize the “underlying unity of all forms of life”, and the “essential oneness of all religions, of all departments of science, and of all the philosophies”. In her book *The New Group of World Servers*, she claims the Society was established for “... promotion of international understanding, economic sharing, and religious unity.” We have a real prophet who warned us about these things before they were even conceived in the minds of vain men and women.

Here are 10 things Alice Bailey wrote about that have impacted Society today.

God should be removed from education:

“The time has now come when God must be left out of this whole process... It is not the imposition of religious dogmas that is needed,

but the training of world citizens.”—*Education in the New Age*, pp. 46–47.

“The task of education in the New Age is to prepare the coming generation for world citizenship... The old dogmatic religion must give way to a universal approach.”—*Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, pg. 510.

Schools, not parents, should increasingly shape children:

“The responsibility of the state for the education of the child will be recognized. Parents will have to accept that the child belongs to the community as much as to the family.”—*Education in the New Age*, p. 137.

“The young people will be trained in the new world order... the hold of the old order upon them must be broken.”—*Discipleship in the New Age II*, p. 301.

Destroy the family structure:

“The old form of the family life, with its rules and laws, must go; it has served its purpose... the family unit will eventually be the unit of the group soul, not of physical relation.”—*Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 549.

“The new world order will inaugurate a new attitude towards family life and sex relations... the old values must give place to the new.”—*Reappearance of the Christ*, p. 81.

Make sex free, and abortion legal and easy:

“The problem of abortion will eventually be solved by recognizing the law of rebirth... The act itself is not to be condemned with such fear, but considered in terms of karma and responsibility.”—*Esoteric Healing*, pp. 277–278.

“Sex must be recognized as a natural, normal process, divorced from church interference, and approached from the angle of responsibility, not fear.”—*Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 445.

Make divorce easy & free people from life-long marriage:

“The relation between men and women, marriage as now understood, must and will disappear. Marriage will eventually be recognized as a temporary relation entered into for specific ends.”—*Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 566.

“The laws governing human relations will undergo modification; contracts and rigid ties will be superseded by spiritual affinity.”—*Destiny of Nations*, p. 123.

Promote homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle:

“The sex problem includes that of homosexuality... this condition has always existed and is today becoming more prominent. It is a passing evolutionary stage, but it must be understood and not condemned.”—*Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 546.

Debase art; make it run mad:

“The task of the new art is to create the symbols of the coming civilization, to express its spirit and its values, and not to perpetuate the symbols and forms of a past order.”—*Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 217.

“Art is today the expression of man’s revolt against the old order. It is chaotic but it is prophetic.”—*Education in the New Age*, p. 132.

Use media to promote new mindsets:

“Through the medium of the press, the radio and the platform, the new ideals will be spread. The power of the spoken word, the written word, and the massed voice is great and must be used.”—*Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 511.

“When Christ reappears, the radio, the press, and the dissemination of news will all be utilized to reach the masses everywhere.”—*Reappearance of the Christ*, p. 185.

Create an interfaith movement:

“The new world religion must be based upon truths which have stood the test of the ages... it will draw upon all the faiths. The Christian, the Hindu, the Buddhist, and the Muslim will each contribute.”—*Reappearance of the Christ*, p. 152.

“There will be the establishment of certain great festivals of the new world religion, annually celebrated, in which all men everywhere will share.”—*Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 667.

Get governments & churches to endorse the changes:

“The work of the new group of world servers is to influence the governing bodies of the nations and the religious organizations... that the Plan may be materialized on earth.”—*Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, pp. 514–515.

“Governments and rulers are the outer instruments of the inner spiritual Hierarchy. They must be impressed by disciples with the divine Plan.”—*Discipleship in the New Age II*, p. 230.

Bailey and Spiritual Formation

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Bailey aimed to create a one-world religion by combining many faiths. The primary spiritual practices of this religion are forms of Eastern meditation. Her writings have found a ready ally in the Papacy. Here are some spiritual practices that are creeping into the church that will be a part of this coming one-world religion:

Ignatian Contemplation: This imaginative form of prayer involves envisioning yourself in biblical scenes to engage more deeply with Scripture and God. It is not the same as letting the imagination picture the scenes in the Bible. This practice is actually imagining yourself there and interacting with the story and the characters. It takes the form of a prayer because of the conversation that takes place during the practice.

Lectio Divina: An ancient practice of reading a Scripture passage, then meditating on a word or phrase that stands out, and finally responding to God’s speaking through that passage. By meditating, they mean repeating the passage of Scripture in your mind until your thoughts are “quieted.” This is followed by a conversation with God based on the passage and ends with a period of thoughtless silence.

Centering Prayer: A specific form of contemplative prayer that uses a sacred word or phrase to help one move into interior silence and receptivity to God’s presence. This moving into inner silence is accomplished by repeating the sacred word until your brain is deeply relaxed.

Contemplative prayer

This is really the meat of the new world religious practices. It is described as a state of “being,” sound familiar? “It’s not about a lengthy string of words or requests but a wordless, trusting openness to the God who dwells within.” Of course, by the god within, they mean the Theosophical concept of the “higher self.” Here are some notes about the practice:

Focus on presence: The goal is to be with God and to allow God to be present in the inner stillness. This inner stillness is gained by quieting the mind; they don’t want you to talk to Him like you would a friend.

Beyond words and thoughts: It “transcends” intellectual concepts and aims for an intimate, direct experience of the divine. With no thoughts, this intimate, direct experience is solely about feeling.

A form of knowing: It’s seen as a way of knowing God more deeply, not through communication, but through the illuminating work of the Holy

Spirit. Because nothing screams modern-day relationships like two people sitting in complete silence, staring at their phones to “get to know” each other better. Not through communication but through the illumination of their phone screens.

How is it practiced?

Each of us should be aware of this incredibly secretive practice. It is surprisingly hard to find information regarding it online. Here is what I was able to find on the topic.

Find a quiet place: Choose a time and setting free from distractions.

Sit comfortably: Adopt a posture that is comfortable but helps you remain alert.

Use a sacred word: Select a simple, short word or phrase to help you return to God when your mind wanders.

Let thoughts come and go: When distractions arise, gently return to your sacred word without judgment. One description suggested speaking in the third person to foster a sense of “connectedness,” then returning to the “sacred word.”

Rest in stillness: After your prayer time, remain in stillness for a few minutes before resuming your day.

This appears in other forms (it sounds like centering prayer). The main idea of these spiritual practices is not to have an actual conversation with God but to fry the mind and feel the presence of something that isn’t God. So much for testing spirits!

Ascended Masters

Central to Theosophical belief and esoteric movements is the idea of a group of spiritual adepts known as the “Ascended Masters.” The Indian man that Blavatsky saw as a child is believed to have been an Ascended master. Many theosophists also believe he was “the lodger within” that aided her with her writings. Most Theosophists see these Masters as the real founders of the modern Theosophical movement. In Theosophical literature, these Masters are also referred to as the Mahatmas, Adepts, Masters of Wisdom, Masters of Compassion, and Elder Brothers. They are perceived as a fraternity of human men who are highly evolved in terms of both moral development and intellectual attainment. They are said to have gained supernatural powers, including clairvoyance —the ability to instantly project their soul from their body to any location (also known as astral projection). Among those whom the early Theosophists believed as Masters were Biblical figures such as Abraham, Moses, Solomon, and,

12 in the Christian Bible, Jesus, as well as Asian religious figures such as Gautama Buddha, Confucius, and Laozi, and modern individuals such as Jakob Bohme, Alessandro Cagliostro, and Franz Mesmer (the father of mesmerism or hypnotism).

Here's a plot twist! UFO religions claim contact with these ascended masters. The most famous being is called "Ashtar" or "Ashtar Sheran"; he has a whole cult dedicated to him. Ironically, as mentioned earlier, Ashtar is the Israelites' form of Ishtar, often associated with planet Venus as the morning and evening star, and further known in the Bible as Ashtaroth or Asherah. Long story short, this god is also "Mother Earth." Ashtar pictures have the features that Hitler claimed were traits of the master race, blonde hair and blue eyes. After looking at some of their websites, they believe that a sifting is taking place, where all the people who have been chipped (or marked) by Saurians (a species of evil alien that looks like a lizard) are being shaken out. The remainder are taken to a new earth on spaceships at the beginning of the age of Aquarius. They have their own form of the shaking...

A big proponent in all their pictures is the near-impossibility of discerning between male and female. Both genders appear in the same clothing, with the ascended masters being men with long feminine hair or aliens. More androgyny.

In 1994, a small group of Ashtar Command members claimed that an extraordinary event had taken place: They called it "the lift-off experience." They claimed they had been placed aboard the "ships of Light" that were circling the planet. "The Galactic Fifth Fleet" used "physical vibrational transfer," which involved raising the human consciousness (clairvoyance) from the physical dimension and transferring it to the "Light ships." The group claims that the purpose of the lift-off is to facilitate the ascension of the human Race as a whole, for which individual ascension serves as a precursor and an aid. Basically, these people had out-of-body experiences, which are essential for the "advancement of mankind on the path of enlightenment." Psychedelic drugs have greatly assisted people in attaining such out-of-body experiences. The drugs DMT and Ketamine are very effective in giving people extraterrestrial experiences, the commonly reported sightings are

"Machine Elves" and "Giant praying mantises that siphon emotions" (don't do drugs). Over 50% of people who have such encounters describe these beings as benevolent, while 20% call them gods; this study was conducted over 20 years ago. These people are clearly encountering demons; the "ascended masters" are also demons. This really is just a revival of ancient paganism: the worship of demons. And it is just as Ellen White said it would be.

After reading this, I recognized that the music of the 1970s and 1980s was inspired by many of these occultist beliefs. Androgyny was more prevalent in the 1970s and 1980s music than it is now. The song "The Final Countdown" by Europe seems to be a direct reference to the Ashtar cult. They even mention Venus (Ishtar was associated with Venus). Of course, as with all the mysteries of Babylon, occultists maintain plausible deniability.

Conclusion

Dress reform, health reform, and music reform were all introduced to protect Adventists from the effects of Theosophy. But somehow our dress reform has become more scandalous than the Theosophists were in Ellen Whites time. Our health reform is often no different than the Theosophists, with many Adventists treating meat and dairy as a sin but ignoring psychoactive compounds entirely. Don't even get me started on the music. Now the "Golden Age of America" is upon us. How long will it take for us to realize that we must come apart and be separate, or God will not receive us? It is our hope that this newsletter will aid you in discerning truth from error and right from wrong. We need discernment now more than ever.

For a finished work



Jonathan Taylor

Wisdom is justified of all her children. -Luke 7:35

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