Fundamentals of Gnostic Mysticism

The Second Pillar of Gnostic Wisdom

chicago gnosis

Mysticism

Mystery (Greek) myst**é**rion, originating from the root word Myein, "to close the eyes," and relating to Mystikos: "initiate."

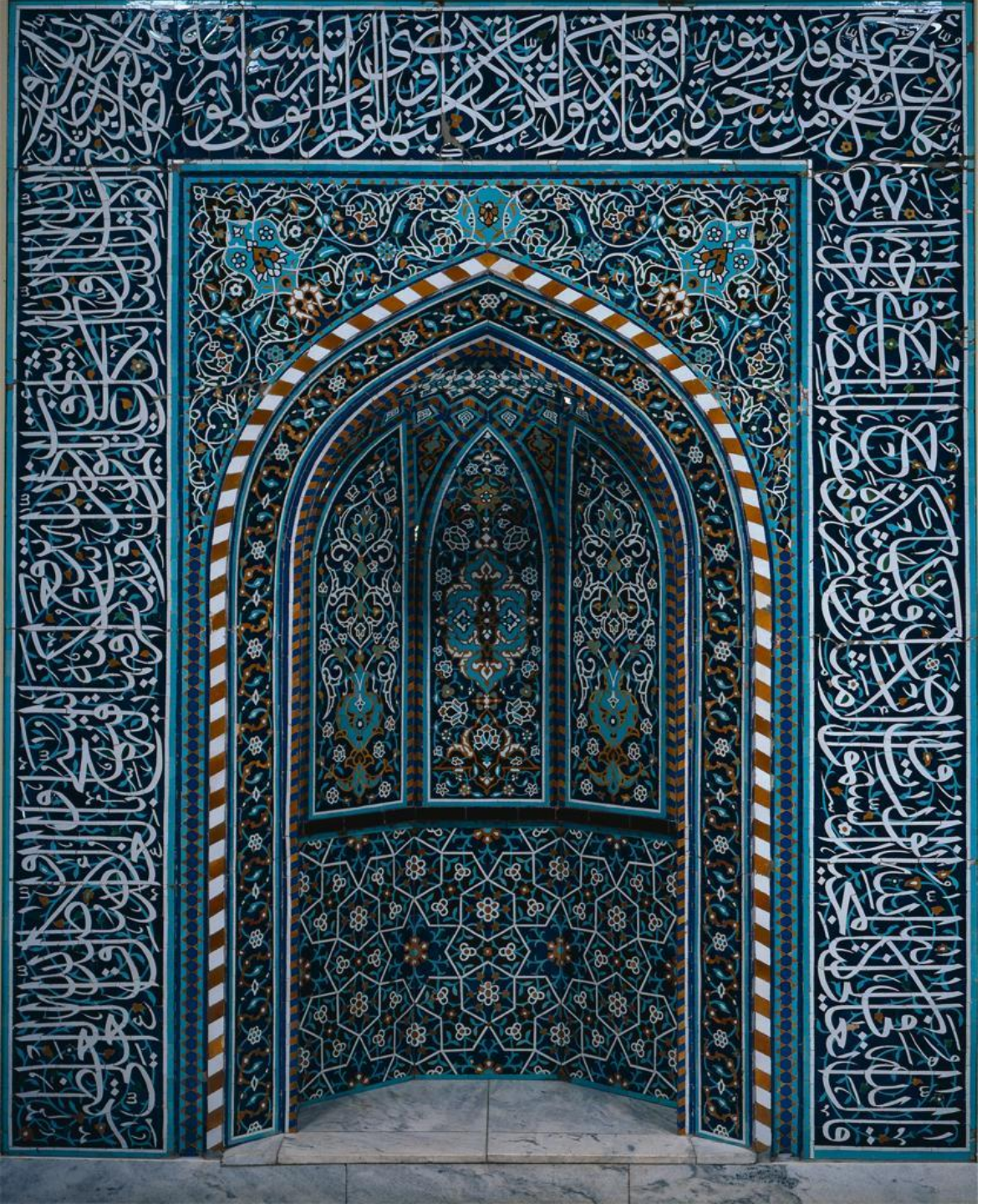
Before the Soul can see, the Harmony within must be attained, and fleshly eyes be rendered blind to all illusion.
—H.P. Blavatsky, *The Voice of the Silence*

Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.
—1 Corinthians 2:6-7

There is an incontrovertible mass of evidence indicating the existence of initiated philosophers possessing a superior knowledge of divine and natural laws. There is also sufficient proof that these initiates were the agents of a World Fraternity or Brotherhood of Adepts that has existed from the most remote time. This overfraternity has been called the Philosophic Empire, the Great School, the College of the Holy Spirit, and the Invisible Government of the World. References to this sovereign body of "the ancient ones of the earth" occur in the sacred writings, the philosophical literature, and the mystical traditions of all races and nations of mankind. ...[we] have referred to the stream of the secret doctrine as Humanism. The term is not used in its popular sense, but to describe the grand program of the Mystery Schools for the emancipation of man from bondage to ignorance, superstition, and fear.

–Manly P. Hall, *Orders of the Quest*



He it is Who has sent down to thee the Book: In it are verses basic or fundamental (of established meaning); they are the foundation of the Book: others are allegorical. But those in whose hearts is perversity follow the part thereof that is allegorical, seeking discord, and searching for its hidden meanings, but no one knows its hidden meanings except Allah. And those who are firmly grounded in knowledge say: "We believe in the Book; the whole of it is from our Lord:" and none will grasp the Message except men of understanding.

–Qur'an, Al-Imran [3:7]

Yeshua said,
Know what is in front of your face
and what is hidden from you will be disclosed.
There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed.

His students asked him and said to him,
Do you want us to fast?
How should we pray?
Should we give to charity?
What diet should we observe?

Yeshua said,
Do not lie and do not do what you hate.
All things are disclosed before heaven.
There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed,
nothing covered that will remain undisclosed.
—The Gospel of Thomas 5-6

The Sermon on the Mount, by Carl Heinrich Bloch, used by permission of the National Historic Museum at Frederiksborg in Hillerød, Denmark

Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. —Matthew 7:13

Initiation

- formal admission or acceptance into an organization or club, adult status in one's community or society, etc.
- the ceremonies or rites of admission; rite of passage.
- the act of initiating.
- the fact of being initiated.

Initiation is life itself, lived intensely, with rectitude and with love.
—Samael Aun Weor

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.
–Luke 9:23

Mystical Birth

Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I say unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.
–John 3:5-8

Yeshua saw some babies nursing. He said to his students, these nursing babies are like those who enter the kingdom.
They said to him, then shall we enter the kingdom as babies?

Yeshua said to them,
When you make the two into one, and when you make the inner like the outer, and the outer like the inner and the upper like the lower, and when you make male and female into a single one,
So that the male will not be male nor the female be female, when you make eyes in place of an eye, a hand in place of a hand, a foot in place of a foot, an image in place of an image, then you will enter the kingdom.
—The Gospel of Thomas 22

His students said to him,
Is circumcision useful or not?

He said to them,
If it were useful, fathers would produce children
already circumcised from their mothers.
But the true circumcision in spirit is altogether valuable.

Yeshua said,
How miserable is the body that depends on a body,
and how miserable is the soul that depends on both.
—The Gospel of Thomas 53, 87

Mystical Death

And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted *thereof*, he would not drink.

And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

And sitting down they watched him there;

And set up over his head his accusation written,
IESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDAEORUM.
—Matthew 27:33-37

Yeshua said,
Blessings on the lion if a human eats it,
making the lion human.
Foul is the human if a lion eats it,
making the lion human.
—The Gospel of Thomas 7

Sacrifice for Humanity

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

—Matthew 4:17-20

The results are always that which speak; it serves no purpose to have good intentions if the results are disastrous. —Samael Aun Weor

"Love is the law, but conscious love."

—Gnostic Axiom

And he said,
Humankind is like a wise fisherman who cast his net into the sea and drew it up from the sea full of little fish.
Among the fish he found a fine large fish.
He threw all the little fish back into the sea and easily chose the large fish.
Whoever has ears to hear should hear.

Yeshua said,
Look, the sower went out, took a handful of seeds, and scattered them.
Some fell on the road and the birds came and pecked them up.
Others fell on rock and they did not take root in the soil and did not produce heads of grain.
Others fell on thorns and they choked the seeds and worms devoured them.
And others fell on good soil and it brought forth a good crop,
Yielding sixty per measure and one hundred twenty per measure.

(60 + 120 = 180 = 1 + 8 + 0 = 9)
—The Gospel of Thomas 8-9