The Secrets of Gnostic Easter
Greek πίστις, "faith, trust, knowledge from observable experience," derived from Πειθώ peitho, "to prevail," "to grow in confidence," or "persuasion"; power, as in Pistis Sophia.

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

—James 2:14-26
Here we think a note upon faith should be of interest. Initiates say that its meaning has been misunderstood. Faith, as the world uses it, possesses no spiritual nature; though in the secondary system it means power and energy applied to action. All success in Yoga (from the Sanskrit yug: reunion, the Latin religare, religion) comes from this application; for the true quality of faith is a Solar force that illumines the mind and attracts to it atoms of power and energy. More human wrecks have resulted from the misconception of this quality than man realizes. —M. *The Dayspring of Youth*
Ignis Natura Renovatur Integram: “Fire unceasingly renews nature”

In Necis Renascor Integer: “In death I am reborn intact and pure.”
Examine yourselves, whether ye be in πίστις, prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? — 2 Corinthians 13:5

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. — Matthew 5:27-28

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. — 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

The eye is the illumination of the soma (literally: body, but could indicate soul or self). If thine eye be singular (aplous: clear, simple, uncomplicated, pure), thy whole self (sōma) will be full of light. Yet if thine eye be impure (ponēros), thy whole self (sōma) shall be full of darkness. Therefore, if the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness. — Jesus, Matthew 6:22-23

I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. — John 8:12

Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light. — Luke 11:35-36
Rabbi Simeon says: “Woe to the man who says that the Torah came to relate stories, simply and plainly, and simpleton tales about Esau and Laban and the like. If it was so, even at the present day we could produce a Torah from simplistic matters, and perhaps even nicer ones than those. If the Torah came to exemplify worldly matters, even the rulers of the world have among them things that are superior. If so, let us follow them and produce from them a Torah in the same manner. It must be that all items in the Torah are of a superior nature and are uppermost secrets. —Zohar
The Mysteries of Ishtar and Lent

Traditionally, Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days (מ Mem, the waters) until Good Friday. One avoids beef (ש Shin, fire) and eats fish (נ Nun).

Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God.

—John 20:17

This is how, before the Ascension, the Initiate has to descend to the submerged worlds in order to destroy the most intimate roots of evil. Thus, the Initiate penetrates into truly infernal regions, impossible to describe with words. The Ascension comes precisely forty days after the Resurrection of our Chrestos.

—Samael Aun Weor, The Seven Words
During these forty days that precede the Ascension [of the Astral Body, the Khrestos], the Initiate is totally prohibited from all sexual contact, since he must maintain his aura totally luminous and serene, free of any passionate wave. Only after the forty days, can the Initiate continue practicing his rite of Sexual Magic. But during those forty days preceding the Ascension, the Initiate must transmute his sexual energy through the mind. During these forty days preceding the Ascension of our Astral Body, we have to inevitably descend into the abyss in order to definitively cut off all relationships, all roots, all ties with the creatures of evil. There we meet our former colleagues of evil, and there they ridicule us and attack us incessantly. There we have to live, or better said, relive all those tenebrous scenes of the past, and in this way we cut off the roots that unite the tree of our life to the abysses of evil. Now the Initiate will comprehend why the Master must abstain from the sexual rite with his spouse for those forty days. It is necessary that the aura be brilliant and luminous in order to defend oneself from the potencies of evil, and in order to make it easier for the Hierarchies to do the work of uprooting our Astral vehicle from the putrescence of evil. This labor is very heavy for the Hierarchies.

Now the devotee of the Path will comprehend the esoteric meaning of Lent. The authentic Lent is not before the Crucifixion of the Master, but after his Crucifixion. But already the Catholic Church and the other Neo-Catholic, Protestant, Adventist sects, etc., lost the tradition of all of this. —Samael Aun Weor, *The Seven Words*
Ishtar אִישָׁתָה אִישׁ “Ish, “fire; man,” or אִשָּׁה Isha, “woman.”

 предназначается Tar, “to describe, depict, represent, narrate,” also reminiscent of the Greek Tartarus, hell or inferno, as well as “Taurus,” Zodiac of the Bull, relating to the earth element and planet Venus.

 אוֹר Aur, “light.”

Ishtar אִישָׁתָה contains almost the same letters as ברֵאשִית Bereshit, “In wisdom,” or “In the beginning,” the opening line of Genesis; Ishtar only lacks the letter ב Beth, signifying “House” and “Wisdom,” Chokmah.
Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. —Matthew 7:13-14

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. —John 5:28-29

Jesus answered, 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. —John 3:5-6

I am the resurrection, and the life: he that πιστεύω in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and πιστεύω in me shall never die. —John 11:25-26

The Narrow Way to Life

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The Perfect Matrimony
Christ and the Virgin