

For here, working on the realm of fuller causation, the consequences of a blunder take on disastrous and devastating proportions. Before a human being can be qualified for such responsibility he must have lived through and conquered every possible type of temptation; he must have gained unquestioned stability and poise by going through, over and over and over again, all the various details of daily life. It means in this material life that he has seen for an instant a vision of heavenly beauty, and has quickly lost sight of it again in the press of karmic duty. But he must hold the vision as an ever present incentive to live true through all the petty trials of daily life, and he is learning by faithful living to

attain the outstanding characteristic of absolute stability.

Repetition takes on at one and the same time its most distressing and its most glorious aspect. It promises complete fulfillment of one's destiny by self-conquest on the material plane, but it demands a devotion so keen, so meticulous in its detail, that through this very necessity and because of man's limited faculties the goal is often lost sight of during the work of training, and only the sweat of apparently futile effort is present in one's consciousness. But the will to carry on regardless, drives him on from a point back in his subconsciousness where the memory of the vision has not been shattered.

Esoteric Bible Studies

BY CORINNE S. DUNKLEE

FAMOUS SONGS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

As we devoted the lessons of 1930 largely to a study of the New Testament, in 1931 we shall take up for our consideration some of the famous songs of the Old Testament. The oldest fragments of Hebrew that we have are to be found in the songs incorporated in the Bible.

The oldest, the "Lament of Lamech," is said to be a fragment preserved from before the Deluge. It is so old that its Hebrew words are not clearly understood. Other very ancient ones are the "Song of Moses and the Israelites over the Destruction of Pharaoh's Army," and the "Song of Deborah, Prophetess and Poetess." This latter dates to about 1200 B. C.

These songs should prove to be fields of very fascinating research and investigation for the student of esoteric Christianity, for they are filled with gems of deepest occult value. So we

hope for a year of prayerful study and meditation in this new series that will be productive of much soul growth for us all.

The Lament of Lamech

"And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

"If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold."

—Genesis 4:23-24.

In the Song of Lamech we find the age-old lament of all humanity, namely, the lament of having yielded to the seductions of the lower nature against the aspirations of the higher. It is an example of two souls being housed within the same breast as in the case of Faust.

The word Lamech means "strong." *He was a descendant of Cain, and the Father of Noah.* Adah in Hebrew signifies an ornament, the higher nature, and Zillah a shadow, or the lower nature.

Through the weakness of the mind, represented by Lamech, in coalescing with the desire body the lament of Lamech has become the universal lamentation of all mankind. "I have slain a man to my wounding and a young man to my hurt."

Noah's Curse on Canaan and Blessings on Japheth and Shem

"And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.

"And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

"God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant."—*Genesis, 9:25-27.*

The word "Noah" means rest. Noah represents the most advanced pioneers of the fifth Root Race. Canaan means lowland. *Canaan was the son of Ham*, or darkness, the lower nature of man. Shem signifies the awakened love or wisdom principle in man manifesting through the heart. The word Japheth means to enlarge, and represents the mind power which must become spiritualized. The mind is the path, Max Heindel tells us, and the process of its spiritualization is the chief work of our present fifth Root Race. The curse of Canaan means only a statement of law. In this song of Noah he is simply outlining the process of spiritualization of mind.

Isaac's Blessings for Jacob and Esau

"And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed:

"Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine."

—*Genesis, 27:27-28.*

"And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;

"And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother: and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck."—*Genesis, 27: 39-40.*

Isaac represents the ego, Jacob the higher nature, and Esau the lower. This accounts for the fact of Esau's hatred for Jacob, and also contains the reason for Esau being the favorite child of Isaac. Man is still prone to cling to his lower self. The Bible is a most optimistic textbook of the soul's evolution. And even though Isaac predicts that for a time Esau will throw off the yoke of Jacob's power, still the word Jacob means to supplant, and the eventual redemption of man consists in the transmutation of the lower nature into the higher; or as Isaac sings, "God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine."

The Unseen--A Story

BY MONA WANDANITA HILLE

(Concluded)

"**J** DID," whispered Lea. Nelle suddenly became filled with the feeling that she was not alone. Yet she saw no one.

"I thought I heard Lea," she said to herself—in her mind.

"Oh, you did, you did!" cried Lea in despair, "Only listen, Nelle!"

But Nelle walked away unheeding and wondered at her strange half-real imagination.

Lea wandered off again, wondering, hoping, musing. He was happy to have had Nelle see him and hear him for a moment, if only in a semiwakeful state. But it hurt him to think that animals are more sensitive than human beings in that matter, for Neptune had heard him whistle long ago that day when Mammy Egypt had found Nelle crying in his stall.

Mammy Egypt! That name brought a ray of hope. Perhaps he could make