

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Revelation of St. John the Divine

THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man: and his number is six hundred threescore and six.

—*Revelation 13:11-18.*

Just as water, or the sea, is used to symbolize the emotional nature, so is earth used to indicate the material side of man's being. The "beast coming up out of the earth," materialism, has been allowed to become the greatest danger in man's present stage of evolution. This is due largely to the fact that, as taught in occult philosophy, "The mind was given to man in the Atlantean Epoch to give purpose to action, but as the Ego was exceedingly weak and the desire nature strong, the nascent mind co-

alesced with the desire body; the faculty of cunning resulted and was the cause of all the wickedness of the middle third of the Atlantean Epoch."

Through this "beast," the materialistic side of man's nature, the "first beast," or lower desire nature, gained more power—"he had power to give life unto the image of the (first) beast." The things of the earth: possessions, position, and worldly fame, have furnished the "material" for the exercise of the lower desires during the materialistic age through which we have been passing. Seeming miracles, those of industrial and scientific achievement, are indeed wrought in the name of this "beast."

The Sons of Cain, who originated and are particularly clever in the arts and crafts, are descended from the fiery Lucifer Spirits, and are naturally proficient in the use of fire. "These people believe in works rather than faith, and by their dauntless courage and inexhaustible energy they have transformed the trackless wilderness of the world into a garden full of life and beauty, so lovely in fact that they have forgotten the Garden of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, whence they were expelled by the decree of the lunar God Jehovah. Against Him they are in constant rebellion... They have lost their spiritual sight and are imprisoned in the forehead of the body where it is said Cain was marked."

The digits of "six hundred three score and six," 666, added give nine, the number of humanity, or man, during the present material stage of his evolutionary journey. The "beast" of materialism exists for all, individually as well as collectively and must eventually be transmuted through love and service to others.

(To be continued)