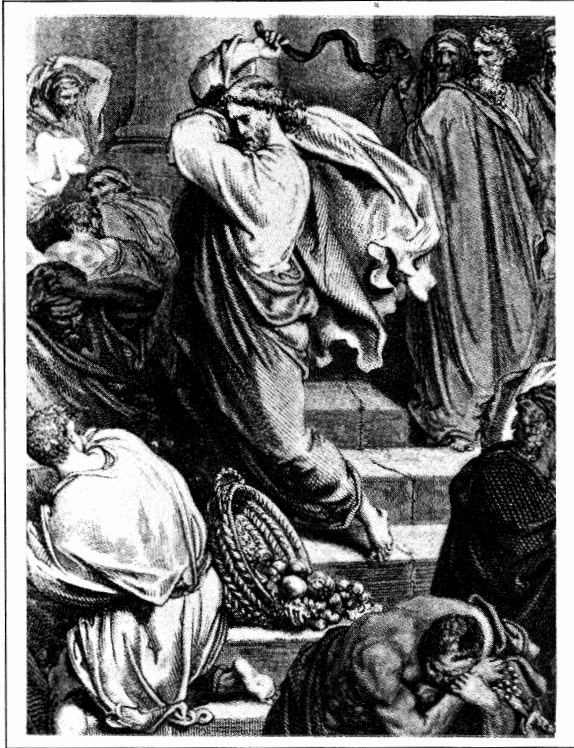


Western Wisdom Bible Study



Jesus Casts Out Demons

And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding.

So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told everything, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils.

And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts.

—Matthew 8:28-34

Until recent years the Western World has thought of demonology as “superstition,” but the increasing interest in the teaching of occult philosophy has begun to dispel this belief and bring about a better understanding of what actually exists in cases of “devil” possession.

During the time when Christ Jesus was performing His mission of teaching and preaching to humanity, various types of possession, or obsession, were common. This is attested by the numerous instances mentioned in the

Gospels and other historical records. Exorcism often was attempted by those practicing the healing art. However, the Christ, as indwelling Planetary Spirit of our planet, has cleansed its desire body to such an extent that the evil Spirits and elemental beings no longer have the hold on humanity they once had. Nevertheless, obsession still exists among the lesser developed peoples of the world and to some extent in our own modern society.

The term “swine” is symbolical of the lower desires, and in this case of exorcism, the obsessing entities were returned to their native habitat, the lower Desire World. Water also is symbolical of the emotional nature, so that we may interpret the statement that the swine “perished in the waters” to mean that the evil influences were transmuted by the power of the Christ in the cleansed desire stuff.

It is hardly probable that so exalted a being as Christ Jesus would have condemned any sentient creature, even swine, to death.

Christ Jesus was of course the Master Exorcist, for all obsessing entities knew and obeyed His voice. Today more and more ministers and healers are learning to use the power of the Christ Name to free individuals from evil influences. The more one unfolds the Christ within by living purely and selflessly, the more able is he to protect himself from all outside entities and to help others do the same. As Max Heindel stated:

“When we live lives of purity, when our days are filled with service to God and to our fellowmen, and with thoughts and actions of the highest nobility, then we create for ourselves the Golden Wedding Garment, which is a radiant force for good. No evil is able to penetrate this armor.” □