

I present one of Eliphas Levi's books here with some short quoted issues starting from page 7 thru 14, commented by me - here is the complete pdf of Levi's book:

The History of Magic, by Eliphas Levi, free download here:

<https://www.pdfdrive.com/the-history-of-magic-e18934656.html>

...If the download would fail, the book is available from the relevant bookseller, Martin Lindemann 30.Dec.2022

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My comments to some issues of the book (Martin Lindemann)

Keywords: "False" Gnostics...Levi distinguishes himself from in his eyes "false" Gnostics (and Kabbalah) in many places in the book. E.g. here:

3. Book, VI. chapter , page 210

Such intervention of woman in the priesthood was always the dream of false Gnostics, for in so equalising

the sexes they introduced anarchy into the family and raised a stumbling-block in the path of society. Maternity is the true priesthood of women ; modesty is the ritual of the fireside and the religion thereto belonging. This the Gnostics failed to understand, or they understood it too well rather, and in misguiding the sacred instincts of the mother they cast down the barrier which stood between them and complete liberty for their desires.^...

Objection dear Constant/Levi! Because here Levi fixes the woman too one-sidedly on her role as a mother (which always triggers overpopulation favored by Abraham?...!, I believe). On the other side of the evil there is also the fact that purely male priests and popes who cannot stand their celibacy too often neglect their offspring(?) - As the outcast Liliths of Paradise of Adam and Eve shows, the feminist one can definitely accept a female role equal to a man even as a childless woman. One can credit Eliphas Levi that - apart from in Michelangelo's painting of the Fall of Man (Sistine Chapel) Lilith was only discovered as an astrologically active point in the personal horoscope around 1930. So, decades after his death.
<https://www.astro.com/astrowiki/en/Lilith>

page 211

...The natural function of imagination is to evoke images and forms, but in a condition of abnormal exaltation it can also exteriorise forms, as proved by the phenomena of monstrous pregnancies and a host of analogous facts which official science would do more wisely to study rather than deny stubbornly. Of such are the disorderly creations which religion brands justly under the name of diabolical miracles and of such were those of Simon, the Menandrians and Marcos. In our own days a false Gnostic named Vintras, at present a refugee in London, causes blood to appear in empty chalices and on sacrilegious hosts. The unhappy being then passes into ecstasies, after the manner of Marcos, prophesies the downfall of the hierarchy and the coming triumph of a pretended priesthood, given up to unrestricted intercourse and unbridled love.^

After the protean pantheism of the Gnostics came the dualism of Marcos, formulating as religious dogma the false initiation prevalent among the pseudo-Magi of Persia. The personification of evil produced a God in competition with God Himself, a King of darkness as well as a King of Light, and there is referable to this period that pernicious doctrine of the ubiquity and sovereignty of Satan against which we register our most energetic protest. We make no pretence in this place of denying or affirming the tradition concerning the fall of angels, deferring herein, as in all that concerns faith, to the supreme and infallible decisions of the Holy, Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church. But assuming that the fallen angels had a leader prior to that apostasy, the event

in question could not do otherwise than precipitate them into total anarchy, tempered only by the inflexible justice of God. Separated from that Divinity which is the source of all power, and more guilty by far than the others, the prince of angels in rebellion could be nothing but the last and most impotent of all outcasts.

^ It will be seen in a later section that this charge against Vintras rests upon the evidence of persons expelled from the sect which he founded, and, so far as I am aware, it has not been put forward seriously.

Divine Synthesis and Realisation of Magia

But if there be a force in Nature which attracts those who forget God towards sin and death, such force is no other than the Astral Light, and we do not decline to recognise it as an instrument in subservience to fallen spirits. We shall recur to this subject, prepared with a complete explanation, so that it may be intelligible in all its bearings and all its orthodoxy.^ The revelation of a great secret of occultism thus effected will make evident the danger of evocations, all curious experiences, abuses of magnetism, table-turning and whatever connects with wonders and hallucinations.

Arius had prepared the way for Manicheanism by his hybrid creation of a Son of God distinct from God Himself. It was equivalent to the hypothesis of dualism in Deity, inequality in the Absolute, inferiority in Supreme Power, the possibility of conflict between the Father and the Son, and even its necessity. These considerations, and the disparity between the terms of the divine syllogism, make inevitable the rejection of the notion. Is there any question whether the Divine Word can be good or evil

can be either God or the devil P But this was the great dilemma involved by the addition of a diphthong to the Greek word $\omega\upsilon\lambda\omicron\upsilon\alpha\iota\omicron\gamma$ ^ by which it was changed to $\omega\upsilon\lambda\omicron\upsilon\kappa\omicron\nu\alpha\omicron\iota$.

In declaring the Son consubstantial with the Father, the Council of Nicaea saved the world, though the truth can be realised only by those who know that principles in reality constitute the equilibrium of the universe.

Gnosticism, Arianism, Manicheanism came out of the Kabalah misconstr^ted. The Church was therefore right in forbidding to its faithful the study of a science so dangerous ; the keys thereof should be reserved solely to the supreme priesthood. The secret tradition would appear as a fact to have been preserved by sovereign pontiffs, at least till the papacy of Leo III, to whom is

attributed an occult ritual said to have been presented by him to the Emperor Charlemagne. It contains the most secret characters of the Keys of Solomon. This little work, which should have been kept in concealment, came into circulation later on, necessitating its condemnation

by the Church, and it has passed consequently into the domain of Black Magic. It is known under the name of the Enchiridion of Leo III and we are in possession of an old copy which is exceedingly rare and curious.^ The loss of the Kabalistic keys could not entail that of the infallibility of the Church, which is ever assisted by the Holy Spirit, but it led to great obscurity in exegesis, the sublime imagery of Ezekiel's prophecy and the Apocalypse of St. John being rendered completely unintelligible. May the lawful successors of St. Peter accept the homage of this book and bless the labours of their humblest child, who, believing that he has found one of the keys of knowledge, comes to lay it at the feet of those who alone have the right to open and to shut the treasures of understanding and of faith.

...keyword (german) Martin Luther

5th book, chap. V page 347

It may have been that Dante was never read and he would assuredly not have been understood by Luther. This notwithstanding, the mission of the Ghibellines, made fruitful by the potent thought of the poet, raised up the empire against the papacy by slow degrees ; it was continued from century to century under various names, and in the end it made Germany protestant. It was certainly not Luther who produced the Reformation ; it was the latter which took possession of Luther and impelled him forward. This square-shouldered monk could boast only obstinacy and daring, but he was the needful instrument for revolutionary ideas. Luther was the Danton of anarchic theology ; superstitious and rash he believed that he was obsessed by the devil ; it was the devil who dictated his arguments against the Church, made him declaim, spout nonsense, and above all things write. The inspiring genius of all the Cains asked nothing at that time but ink, preassured that, given this fluid flowing from the pen of Luther, there would be presently a sea of blood. Luther was conscious of the fact, and he hated the devil because he was another master; one day he threw the ink-horn at his head, as if to satiate him by the violent libation. The episode recalls that jocular regicide who daubed his accomplices with ink when he signed the death-warrant of Charles I.

The device of Luther was: "Turk rather than papist; " and as a fact protestantism at its root is, like Islamism, simple Deism organised into a conventional cultus, or if it differs therefrom it is only by its remnants of Catholicism imperfectly effaced. From the standpoint

of the negation of catholic dogma, the protestants are Moslems with a few superstitions the more and a prophet the less.

Men renounce God less unwillingly than they give up the devil, as the apostates of all times have proved abundantly. Speedily subdivided by anarchy, the disciples of Luther had but one bond of belief in common; all had faith in Satan, and this spectre, magnifying in proportion as their spirit of revolt took them the farther from God, reached terrible proportions at last. Carlostad, archdeacon of Wuirtemberg, being one day in the pulpit, saw a black man enter the temple, take a seat in front of him and stare at him with dreadful fixity through the entire length of his sermon. He became anxious, left the pulpit and questioned the assistants ; but no one had seen the phantom. Carlostad returned home in a state of dismay ; he was met by the youngest of his sons, who said that a stranger in black had inquired for him and promised to return in three days. There was no room for doubt in the mind of the hallucinated archdeacon; that stranger was the spectre of his vision. A fever was brought on by his terror, he retired to bed and died before the third day.

These unhappy heretics were afraid of their own shadows ; their consciences had remained catholic and consigned them to hell without pity. Walking one evening with his wife Catherine de Bora, Luther looked up to heaven, which was bright with stars, and said in an undertone, as he sighed deeply: "Ah, beautiful sky, which I shall never see ! " ** What ! " exclaimed his wife. " Do you then think that you are condemned ?" Luther answered : ** Who knows whether God will not punish us for having been unfaithful to our vows ? Supposing that Catherine, seeing his lack of self-confidence, had cursed and left him, it may be that the reformer, overcome by the Divine Warning, would have recognised his criminal offence in betraying that Church which was his first spouse and would have turned weeping towards the cloister which he had left wilfully. But God, Who withstands the proud, doubtless found him unworthy of this saving affliction. The sacrilegious comedy of Luther's marriage was the providential punishment of his pride, and as he remained obstinate in his sin, that punishment was always with him and derided him to the end. He died between the devil and his wife, appalled at the one and exceedingly embarrassed by the other. Corruption and superstition are well paired together. The epoch of the dissolute Renaissance, equally persecuting and credulous, was certainly not that of the second birth of reason. Catherine de Medicis was a sorceress, Charles IX consulted necromancers, Henry III played at

devotion and debauch. It was the heyday then of astrologers, though a few of them were tortured from time to time, to make them change their predictions. There were, moreover, the court sorcerers, who dabbled a little in poisoning and deserved the hangman's rope. Trois-Echelles^ the magician of Charles IX, was a juggler and rogue ; one day he made confession to the King and his misdeeds were not peccadillos ; the King forgave him, but promised his cure on the gallows if he had a relapse; he did relapse, and was hanged in due course.^

Note: Considering Levi's biography as an unordained priest with 5(?) children by 2 wives, the way he dismisses Luther here is a bit mean. All 4 children of Levi's first wife died. When he married his wife at 32, she was only 16 (fr/en.wiki) All their (four) children died before they grew up. His first wife got divorced. The Paris court recognized her well-formulated justification that she was too young at the wedding - which her father had probably threatened to force on the two of them at the time. The marriage was declared invalid. His probably 5th -illegitimate- child also knew him, even if it didn't bear his name. In any case, no reason to clobber Martin Luther so one-sidedly for breaking celibacy and his marriage to Catherine. SELF-KNOWLEDGE doesn't always seem easy, even for great magicians....

...Further burning of heretics until French. Revolution... Here is a crass sentence from the Frenchman Levi, in which he writes about the pyres of the 17th century leading to the Enlightenment of the 18th century (of a Voltaire):

V. Book, chap. VI, page 372

Both priests were condemned to the flames, and—to increase the horror—a living man and a corpse were bound to the same stake. The punishment of Mezentius, that fiction of a pagan poet, came so to be realised by Christians; a Christian people assisted coldly at the sacrilegious execution, and the ministers did not realise that in thus profaning at once the priestly office and the dead, they gave a frightful precedent to impiety.

When the call came, the eighteenth century arrived to extinguish the fires with the blood of priests, and, as it happens almost invariably, the good paid for the wicked.

At the beginning of that century the burning of human beings still proceeded ; though faith was dead, hypocrisy abandoned the youthful Labarre to the most horrible tortures because he refused to uncover when a procession went by. Voltaire was then in evidence and conscious in his heart of a vocation like that of Attila. While human passions were profaning religion, God sent this new destroyer to remove religion from a world which was no longer worthy of it. In 1731, a young woman of Toulon, named Catherine

Cadiere, accused her confessor, the Jesuit Girard, of seduction and Magic. She was a stigmatised ecstatic who had long passed as a saint. Her history is one of lascivious swoons, secret flagellations and lewd sensations. Where is the sink of infamy with mysteries comparable to those of celibate imagination disordered by dangerous mysticism } The woman was not believed on her mere word and Father Girard escaped condemnation ; the scandal for this reason was not less great, but the noise which it made was echoed by a burst of laughter : we have said that Voltaire was among us. Superstitious people till then had explained extraordinary phenomena by the intervention of the devil and of spirits ; equally absurd on its own part, the school of Voltaire, in the face of all evidence, denied the phenomena themselves.

VII. Book, chap. 7 – Summary, Conclusion

Page 503 about Osiris, Sun-god Hermes...

Amongst other issues

page 506 *The riddles of the Sphinx with his alchemical explanation of Her's 4 astral ancient elements seams really perfect: wings of the air, bull's body of the earth, breasts of water, lion's claws of fire, combined with a human head. And his answer to the Sphinx's questions about life and death...*

Jesus versus Napoleon as a magical black and white duality of the world soul?

Page 515: Apollonius of Tyana and Synesius were simply wonderful philosophers; they cultivated the true science but did nothing for posterity. At their period the Magi of the Gospel reigned in the three parts of the known world, and the oracles were silenced by the cries of the babe of Bethlehem. The King of Kings, the Magus of all Magi, had come into the world and the ritual-worships, the laws, the empires, all were changed. There is a void in the world of marvels between Jesus Christ and Napoleon. That incarnate word of battle, that armed Messiah who was the bearer of the last name, came blindly and unconsciously to complete the Christian message. This revelation had so far taught us how to die, but the Napoleonic civilisation has shewn us how to conquer. The two messages—sacrifice and victory, how to suffer, to die, to strive and to overcome—contrary as they, are in appearance—comprise in their union the great secret of honour. Cross of the Saviour and cross of valour, you are incomplete when apart from one another, for he only knows how to conquer who has learned self-devotion, even to death, and how can this he

attained except by belief in eternal life ? Though he died in appearance. Napoleon is destined to return in the person of one who will realise his spirit. Solomon and Charlemagne will return also in the person of a single monarch ; and then St. John the Evangelist, who according to tradition shall be reborn at the end of time, will appear as sovereign pontiff, the apostle of understanding and of love. The combination of these two rulers, announced by all the prophets, will bring about the wonder of the world's regeneration. The science of the true magician will be then at its zenith, for so far our workers of miracles have been for the most part sorcerers and bondsmen—that is to say, the blind instruments of chance.

Note: you could now classify everything as completely "crazy"...(?) But German Chancellor Ms. Merkel never dreamed that the tsarist/lenin-stalinist idea of the Soviet Union would be resurrected in the strongly plutonic Putin in 2022.... I believe. Eliphas Levi also believes in the magical worldview. As far as tables/chairs, etc. are concerned, this is of course physically crazy and - at least - impossible from today's point of view. But as a -Pisces topic(..!)- soul map, not a too bad principle?...! As a humanistic, free-thinking Aquarius with Moon-Mars-Pluto-in-Pisces, he is a bit of the - however very well informed - "Karl May" of the astrological-magical worldview (without apparently being reasonably well versed in astrology himself??)! However, due to his extensive personal networks, which fr.en.wiki reports, he must have had very good access to "secret" books from monastery holdings, among other things. His Ptolemaic world view puzzles a description of the soul from antiquity up to the 19th century for the most part very perfectly. Even if (his) Pisces Moon, as is often the case, cannot always distinguish between inner dream fantasy and physical reality. Pluto moon forces him to -felt- "truth". Where he wrote such books around 1850, Neptune (partly also Jupiter) were both in Pisces together for the last time. Just like now in 2022, when fears, scientific misjudgments and conspiracy theories are blooming again from all sides. Around 1850, the chemist August Kékulé also dreamed of the structural formula of the benzene ring, countless basics of chemistry (and physics??) were -so to speak invented- "dreamed"...?? (And then of course also evaluated with logical reason...) In any case, it fits as a forerunner of Carl Jung's Red Book of -possibly psychiatric- dreams perfectly in Jung's world of a collective unconscious - even if it sometimes seems crazy. Postmortem Levi influenced e.g. Rudolf Steiner but also the rest of the occult-esoteric scene of the industrial age. In his time he appeared quite self-confident, but probably comparatively modest, a socialist, and not without personal life crises, reveals fr/en.wiki, M.L. 12/30/2022