

Secrets of the Stars:

Tracing the Origins of Ancient Cults and Cabals

by Philip Gardiner

Man collects into groups, like schools of fish and flocks of birds. These groups become religions, secret societies, governments and cults. The reasons for these groupings are the same as it is for animals banding together. We come together for protection against predators, for strength in numbers. Whether you are a Freemason or a Boy Scout, the reason you join forces with others of like-race and like-mind is to gain strength and protection.

In the extensive research for my new book, *Secret Societies: Gardiner's Forbidden Knowledge, Revelations About the Freemasons, Templars, Illuminati, Nazis, and the Serpent Cults*, I found that, historically, the secret societies of the world are all connected and all derive from a similar if not the same source, and that the threads running through them all have been traced by scholars throughout the ages.

As Le Couteulx de Canteleu said in his *Les Sectes et Societes Secretes* published in 1863: “*All secret societies have almost analogous initiations, from the Egyptian to the Illuminati, and most of them form a chain and give rise to others.*”

According to an article published in the *Patriot* 1922 by G.G. or ‘Dargon’, entitled “The Anatomy of Revolution,”

“For centuries there have existed certain schools of mystical philosophy (with) . . . elements of Buddhism, Zoroastrianism and Egyptian occultism mingled with Grecian mysteries, Jewish Kabbalism, and fragments of ancient Syrian cults. Out of the hodge-podge of Oriental philosophy, magic, and mythology arose . . . Gnostic sects, and after the rise of Mohammedanism, heretical sects. . . To the same sources may be traced the ideas that inspired such political-religious movements of the Middle Ages as the Illuminati, Albigenses, Cathari, Waldenses, Troubadours, Anabaptists, and Lollards and the rise of early secret societies. The Templars are said to have been initiated by the Assassins into anti-Christian and subversive mysteries, and we find similar traces of an old and occult origin in the Alchemists, the Rosicrucians, and later mystical cults . . .”

This “*analogous*” form running through all secret societies is the underlying belief in and worship of the stars. It is this element which named them the shining ones and it is this element that is still at the root of so much misinterpreted symbolism. Even the Holy Vehm were ‘*wissends*’ who had the sun and the stars as symbols of power. This worship of the stars was known as Sabeism and the high Mason, Albert Pike, pointed out: “*The seven great primitive nations, from whom all others are descended, the Persians, Chaldeans, Greeks, Egyptians, Turks, Indians, and Chinese, were all originally Sabeists and worshipped the stars.*”

The very power of understanding the stars was jealously guarded by priesthoods around the world, from Aztec to Egyptian. The role of the priest was to interpret the movements of the stars, sun, and moon, in order to predict the future and for navigation. This jealousy forged ciphers, codes and symbols and forced the hiding and destruction of implements and tools of the trade. Many of the Freemasonic symbols we see today were never meant for building, they were meant for astrology and the logic of the stars.

These secrets of the stars were mystical to the early peoples who could not understand the magic. Secrets were passed from one generation to the next by initiates and adepts and this is how the long thread was woven, by passing on knowledge and keeping it hidden. Eventually, the secret brotherhoods no longer knew why they kept their odd symbols secret and why they said strange invocations. Yet, through tradition and dedication to their brothers, they kept alive a rich tapestry, a tapestry that I and other scholars can break down and interpret.

Hidden History

We must pull hard on the thread to unravel the tapestry, one generation at a time. According to Le Couteulx de Canteleu, the priests or leading men of the organisations followed the Egyptian hierarchy. At the highest level, there was the priest, who alone could do magic and contact the gods. At the second, we find the greater initiates, those chosen from the people and who must maintain secrecy at all costs and protect the priesthood. At the third, the lesser initiates were only told things that were deemed proper.

In this hierarchical trinity, we see the plan of most, if not all, of the world’s secret societies. The majority of Freemasons today fall into the category of the lesser initiates; they seek no more because they know of no more. Only at the highest degrees in Freemasonry are the real secrets revealed, and yet there have been some who claim to have been higher-level initiates or indeed ‘priests’ and who have since ‘spilled the beans’. Anyone who has seen these supposed secrets of white

powdered gold and even Jewish conspiracy plots will know that this is misinformation at best and money-making at worst.

Lessons for Today

Each generation tends to look forward, forgetting that our past holds intelligent and thought provoking answers to questions that are and will always be relevant. Because we begin each generation afresh, we do not see the thread running through each generation from the one before—the thread of the secret society.

In the 20th century, psychology and psychoanalysis emerged, and the clever new words that came with them. Yet, why are we arrogant enough to believe that we discovered the root of human psychological problems? This is utter rubbish—Psyche herself was a Greek goddess.

For thousands of years, man has sought answers to the conundrums of his own inner reality—the only radical change is the wording. When we say that a person is psychotic, our ancestors would have said they were touched by the spirits. Are we more advanced than our ancestors?

90% of the world's population still believes in God, yet, we still rage war in the name of religion and we pollute the environment and destroy our own homes. There is anthropological evidence to prove that ancient man was peaceful, living in harmony with his neighbor and respecting the earth and living in balance with it. As populations grew and more people occupied smaller spaces, minor wars erupted and even, violent sacrifices. Small bands of men gathered together to control those who fought, and these small bands emerged as our kings and queens, medicine men and priests, and our secret societies.

There is a lesson here for us all. Just 100 years ago, a billion people lived on the planet. Now, there are six billion and growing. Six billion people can do a lot of harm to themselves and the environment, destroying the whole for everyone. Without balance, without wisdom, without knowledge, where are we heading?

We may believe that some spark in the bio-chemical and electric brain is enlightenment, yet, it is not. Our masters tell us what to be like, what to buy, what to do and say. We no longer need to know ourselves—the TV has all the answers. And yet, what we see on TV is a reflection of greed, money and capitalism and these can be interpreted as the dark forces of human nature. Light and dark are opposite sides of the same coin. Balance is wisdom, like a coin placed upon its edge, and like a coin, it can easily be knocked over.

I desire a good life that does not include a range of cars, a yacht in every port or another million. I am a realist, and the reality is that while one man has, another does not. My evolutionary instinct is to gather goods, property and wealth for the bad times ahead, to see me through the

winter or the coming storm. The down side of this is that we grow that divisive side of our nature, greed, and somebody somewhere suffers. We join forces with others and hold our newfound cabal in secrecy, protecting it until time matures the original intention until it becomes unrecognizable—these are the origins of the secret societies of the ancients.

The ancient Chinese texts tell us that mankind has been in this situation before many times and that his greed and ‘noise’ has brought his civilization crashing down to the ground. How close are we to doing it yet again? How ‘noisy’ are we?

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A frequent media guest and public speaker, Philip Gardiner is the author of:

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Gnosis: The Secret of Solomon's Temple Revealed

The Ark, The Shroud, and Mary

The Shining Ones

The Serpent Grail