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The Feminization Of God

The true god of Gnostic thought was not viewed as a creator in the sense that we might think of creation. This unknown god was believed to have emanated the various Aeons and Archons, lesser deities, from the essence of the true being. These lesser deities were then responsible in varying degrees for the creation of various things. As the Aeons, in their emanations, drifted from the source of pure spirituality they began to develop flaws. The youngest of twenty-eight Aeons was Sophia, a female spiritual entity whose name is derived from the Greek word sophos, wisdom. Sophia was viewed as the supreme female principle. In some Gnostic writings the story is told of a passion that Sophia developed for the “Father” and therefore desired to know the unknowable. Sophia passed into the immensity of the “First Father” giving birth to a formless mass which the Gnostics called Pleroma. Sophia was finally seduced by a demon who lured her into the realm of Chaos having mistaken a beam of light as an “emanation from the First Father”. Sophia was then imprisoned by evil powers and the material world as we have it are emanations of her “sin”. A knowledge of Sophia was viewed by some as “lower wisdom” while the knowledge of the “First Father” is seen as a reflection of the “higher wisdom”. Writings have been found which record prayers to Sophia regarding her as incorruptible. The above points to the flawed wisdom of the world. The Gnostic ideas about the transcendent “First Father” who is regarded as a man-woman, is a complicated distortion of the true nature of the creator that we find in the scriptures. There is some shred of wisdom in this and perhaps a small amount of truth that has been fashioned into the lie that Paul refers to in **Romans 1**. God is characterized in the Bible as male and is referred to as our Father. It is also evident that from God came both male and female (**Gen 1, 2**). In this we might see some reflection of God’s nature since He created both male and female. It is believed by some that Sophia is a manifestation of the goddesses of the ancient world such as Isis (Egypt) and Athena (Greek). Other goddesses of the ancient world such as Diana (Greek) may also be reflections of this as well. The female deities are seen in ancient pagan religion as being purer than their male counterparts and more powerful in that they have the ability to give birth. This reflects more of a limitation in the human mind when it comes to understanding the complete nature of the God that is revealed to us in the scriptures. God is described as all-powerful. In this he is able to create a world (**Gen 1**) and to populate it with both lower life forms (animals, fish, fowl and creeping things), and to make them male and female (**Gen 1, 2**). This is true power and is free of the endless contradictory ideas that are to be found in Gnosticism. Over the centuries such ideas have not died out. They are apparently common to mankind and have resurfaced in a number of forms. One of these is the rebirth of Wiccan religion, which worships the forces of nature and reveres Gaia, the earth-mother as the source of life and creation. Others, such as extreme feminists, have surmised that evolution, accompanied by Gnostic-like beliefs see men as a flawed lower life form and hold that women are higher in the evolutionary order and capable of purer forms of love and care. The feminist influence, along with negative attitudes and actions of some men, have given rise to a rejection of the patriarchal structure of the home and spiritual life as found in the Bible. Marriage, homemaking and child bearing are seen as forms of “patriarchal slavery” and have fueled such things as the idea of “birth control” and “sexual freedom”. It is interesting that many of the extreme feminist philosophers who hold these views are also homosexual. Similar ideas influence those who write and publish volumes on the Bible in which the pronoun for God is changed to “she” or “her” rather than “he” or “him”. In a sense Gnosticism is not a singular religion but is another expression of the mind of mankind and how ignorance, rejects, complicates and distorts the knowledge of God found in the scriptures. And folks don’t like to read the Bible because it’s too hard !

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