

Wolfram von Eschenbach's Secret of the Holy Grail¹

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Abstract

The Holy Grail is thought to be the cup Jesus drank from at the Last Supper, but this is just one of a number of metaphors for what is the greatest mystery of the last 800 years. The most significant of the Grail romances is "Parzival," written between 1195 and 1216. By examining the unique symbolism in this work by Wolfram von Eschenbach, one may come to a solution of the mystery of the Grail. It is the opinion of the author that the secret veiled behind the symbolism is related to an astronomical phenomenon involving the Divine Ratio and mystically connected to the genesis of life on Earth. This may be the first time this particular solution to the mystery of the Grail has ever been published.

Wolfram von Eschenbach: Le Secret du Saint Graal²

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Résumé

On nomme « Saint Graal » la coupe d'où Jésus a bu lors de la dernière Cène, mais il ne s'agit là que d'une parmi les nombreuses métaphores se référant au plus grand mystère des huit-cents dernières années. Le roman du Graal le plus important est «Parzival», écrit par Wolfram von Eschenbach entre 1195 et 1216. Douglas J. Meyer pense qu'en examinant l'extraordinaire symbolisme contenu dans cette œuvre, nous pouvons parvenir à une solution du mystère du Graal, et que le secret voilé derrière ce symbolisme se réfère à un phénomène astronomique conforme à la Divine Proportion et relié mystiquement à l'apparition de la Vie sur la Terre. C'est sans doute la première fois que cette explication particulière du mystère du Graal est publiée.

Wolfram von Eschenbach's El Secreto del Santo Grial³

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Resumen

El Santo Grial se cree que fue la copa en la que Jesús bebió durante la Última Cena, pero esta es solamente una de las numerosas metáforas del más grande misterio de los últimos 800 años. El más significativo romance del Grial es "Percival" escrito entre 1195 y 1216. Al Examinar el simbolismo único en este trabajo hecho por Wolfram von Eschenbach, es posible que lleguemos a la solución del misterio del Grial. Es la opinión del autor que el secreto velado atrás del simbolismo está relacionado a un fenómeno astronómico implicando la Proporción Divina y la conexión música del génesis de la vida en la Tierra. Esta puede ser la primera vez que esta particular solución al misterio del Grial se haya publicado.

Wolfram von Eschenbach O Secredo do Santo Graal⁴

Douglas J. Meyer, B.A.

Resumo

O Santo Graal é provavelmente o copo de onde Jesus bebeu na última ceia, mas esta é apenas uma das inúmeras metáforas para esse grande mistério dos últimos 800 anos. O mais significativo romance sobre o Graal é o “Parzival”, escrito entre 1195 e 1216. Examinando esse simbolismo original, no trabalho de Wolfram Von Eschenbach, um pode vir a conclusão sobre o mistério do Graal. É da opinião do autor que o segredo vendado atrás do simbolismo é relativo a um fenômeno astronômico envolvendo o Número de Ouro, e misticamente ligado ao gêneses da vida na terra. Essa pode ser a primeira vez que essa solução particular sobre o mistério do Graal foi publicada.

Wolfram von Eschenbachs Geheimnis des Heiligen Grals⁵

Douglas J. Meyer, B.A.

Zusammenfassung

Man nimmt generell an, dass der Heilige Gral der Becher sei, aus dem Jesus während des Letzten Abendmahls getrunken hat. Aber diese Vermutung ist nur eine der vielen Metaphern bzgl. eines der größten Mysterien der letzten 800 Jahre. „Parzival“ ist wohl die wichtigste Grals-Erzählung und wurde zwischen 1195 und 1216 niedergeschrieben. Wenn wir den einmaligen Symbolismus im Werke vom Wolfgang von Eschenbach genau untersuchen würden, könnten wir eine Lösung für den Symbolismus des Heiligen Grals finden. Der Autor meint, dass das Geheimnis, das in diesem Symbolismus verborgen ist, auf einem astronomischen Phänomen beruht, das den Göttlichen Geist miteinbezieht und mystisch mit der Genesis des Lebens auf Erden verbunden ist. Diese Veröffentlichung hat wohl zum allerersten Mal eine ganz ungewöhnliche Lösung für das Geheimnis des Grals entwickelt.

“Faith begins where Reason sinks exhausted. [...] For the Master, the Compass of Faith is above the Square of Reason; but both rest upon the Holy Scriptures and combine to form the Blazing Star of Truth.”⁶

Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient
And Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*

The Essential Grail Symbolism in “Parzival”

The most significant of all the Grail romances is “Parzival” composed between 1195 and 1216 by a Bavarian knight, Wolfram von Eschenbach. In this version, the Grail is uniquely a stone. Referencing a stone or rock is the key to finding illuminating Biblical passages, especially of a “rejected stone.” Von Eschenbach claims he based his version upon privileged information he received from a scholar from Provence, France named Kyot. Kyot himself received his knowledge from a manuscript he found laying neglected in the corner of a library in Muslim possessed Toledo, Spain. The author of the text was Flegetanis, an astronomer who wrote of the marvels of the Grail.

The first clear point to make about this medieval text is that the astronomer Flegetanis is von Eschenbach's primary source of the Grail knowledge. All rests upon him for whatever plausibility Wolfram von Eschenbach may have in delivering the Grail secret to the world in carefully encoded symbolism. Von Eschenbach tells us that Flegetanis had a Hebrew mother and a heathen father and lived in Muslim Spain. The following passage sets Parzival apart from all the other versions of the Grail story because it is explicit in providing concrete clues leading to the Grail.

For the infidel Flegetanis was able to define for us the recession of each planet and its return, and how long each revolves in its orbit before it stands at its mark again. All human kind are affected by the revolutions of the planets. With his own eyes the heathen Flegetanis saw – and he spoke of it reverentially – hidden secrets in the constellations. He declared there was a thing called the Grail, whose name he had read clearly in the constellations. A host of Angels left it on Earth.⁷

The text says Flegetanis saw “with his own eyes,” hidden secrets in the constellations, and that a host of angels brought the Grail, “whose name he had read clearly in the constellations,” from heaven to earth. Flegetanis was able to trace the path of the planets and “how long each revolves in its orbit before it stands at its mark again,” as well as “define for us the recession of each planet and its return.” Recession is the apparent retrograde motion of the planets in the zodiac caused by the perspective of being on a planet in orbit around the sun. Flegetanis saw “hidden secrets” in the constellations and the name of the Grail in the constellations! It is probable that no one has ever before published a Grail theory based upon this passage about Flegetanis to identify these “hidden secrets.” Von Eschenbach's passage sets his work apart and reveals the secret that will make it possible to find the Holy Grail. The first step would be obtaining sufficient astronomical knowledge of the planets to have the ability to mark or trace planetary orbits around the sun. Thus, the determined individual has a great task to test his/her mettle. This assignment would be daunting to any noble knight.

The theme developed by Wolfram von Eschenbach is that during the mythic war of the Angelic Rebellion, a host of angels brought the Grail to Earth from heaven and protected it until it became the responsibility of worthy humans. According to von Eschenbach:

When Lucifer and the Trinity began to war with each other, those who did not take sides, worthy, noble angels, had to descend to Earth with that stone which is forever incorruptible.⁸

Neutral angels brought the Grail, which is called an incorruptible stone, to Earth to keep it safe during the time of war. On every Good Friday, a dove, depicting the Holy Spirit, flies down from heaven bringing a small white wafer to the stone and then returns to heaven. The wafer gives the stone its magical powers. The Grail functions similarly to the ancient Greek mythical concept of a cornucopia or horn of plenty, producing food as well as birds, land animals, and fish. Von Eschenbach narrates:

Every Good Friday, as I say, the Dove brings it to the stone, from which the Stone receives all that is good on Earth of food and drink, of Paradisal excellence – I mean whatever the Earth yields. The Stone, furthermore, has to give them the flesh of all the

*wild things that live below the aether, whether they fly, run or swim - such prebend does the Grail, thanks to its indwelling powers, bestow on the chivalric brotherhood.*⁹

The Wartburg Castle Poetic War

In 1207, Wolfram von Eschenbach was in the court of Hurmann, Landgrave of Thuringia at Wartburg Castle near Eisenach in central Germany. There Wolfram engaged in a competition with another famous poet Heinrich von Waldeck. Wolfram and Heinrich engaged in a poetic epic battle which resulted in the epic poem “Wartburg War.” In strophe 143, one finds mention of the Grail with the tale of the Angelic Rebellion.

*Shall I then bring the crown,
that was made by 60,000 angels?
Who wished to force God out of the Kingdom of Heaven.
See! Lucifer, there he is!
If there are still master-priests,
Then you know well that I am singing the truth.
Saint Michael saw God's anger, plagued by this insolence.
He took Lucifer's crown from his head,
In such a way that a stone jumped out of it,
Which on earth became Parsifal's stone.
The stone which sprang out of it,
he found it, he who has struggled for honor at such high cost.*¹⁰

The following similar account appears in “The Secret Teachings of All Ages” by Manly P. Hall, the founder of the Philosophical Research Society.

*Like the sapphire Schethiya, the Lapis Exilis, crown jewel of the Archangel Lucifer, fell from heaven. Michael, archangel of the sun and the Hidden God of Israel, at the head of the angelic hosts swooped down upon Lucifer, and his legions of rebellious spirits. During the conflict, Michael with his flaming sword struck the flashing Lapis Exilis from the coronet [crown] of his adversary, and the green stone fell through all the celestial rings into the dark and immeasurable Abyss. Out of Lucifer's radiant gem was fashioned the Sangreal, or Holy Grail, from which Christ is said to have drunk at the Last Supper.*¹¹

Lucifer has associations that many people are unfamiliar with. For instance, the name Lucifer means light bringer (*luce* light + *ferre* bring). There is a cave in the south of France in Saint-Baume that in Roman times was the center for worship of the goddess Diana Lucifera, the light bringer or Illuminatrix. Lucifer is also the Latin name of the second planet from the sun; more commonly called Venus after the goddess of love. Thus the mythic Lucifer that most people think of as a malevolent male supernatural being therefore has mythic associations with goddess worship. The conflict of Christianity with earlier goddess worship is therefore likely to be part of the ideological conflict that the myth of Lucifer and the Angelic Rebellion represents.

Persecution of Heliocentricity

*It is possible that the theory of the Grail explained here provides the only concrete reason as to why the medieval Catholic Church would have wanted to prevent the accurate development of astronomy and outlawed heliocentricity as a heresy punishable with death. The usual reason given to explain this phenomenon of propaganda and enforced ignorance, was that it did not put the earth at the center of God's creation. But the real reason may have to do with the orbital harmonics of Earth and Venus. The reader will find information that associates the pentagram with an astronomical phenomenon in *Dictionary of Symbols* (1994) by Karl G. Liungman:*

From the sixteenth century until the eighteenth century the pentagon, as a structure closely associated with the pagan goddess through the celestial movements of the planet Venus, was common as a basic design for fortresses.¹²

This is not commonly known!¹³ Karl further wrote, "The sign is the structure that results if one plots the movements of the planet Venus *as seen from the Earth in the zodiac.*"¹⁴ This is not exactly true, as any attempts to reproduce the pentagram this way, such as when one observes Venus over time in the zodiac using astronomical software, will fail. One must instead employ the heliocentric perspective to produce the pentagram. Consider the literal perspective of looking at the constellations from the surface of the Earth or the alternative viewpoint of the sun. The following figure shows clearly how a different constellation will be pointed to from these different locations. Therefore, if the astronomer Flegetanis gave instructions on reading the "name of the Grail in the constellations" then the constellations would be different given the perspective used with the Sun at the center. An entirely different view of the heavens will be the result.

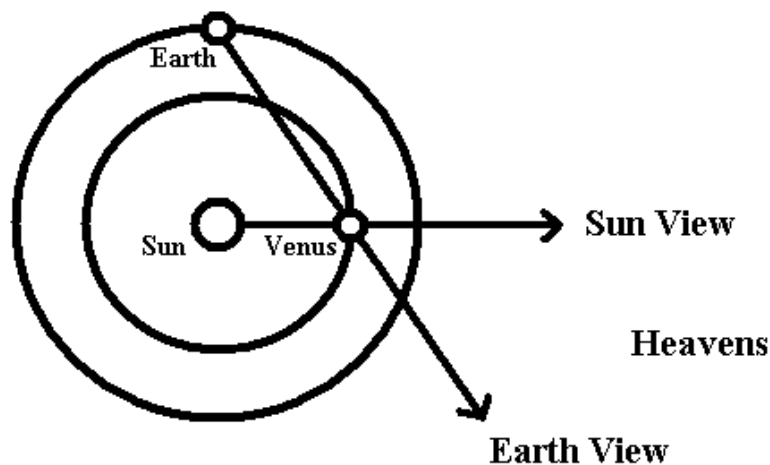


Figure 1. The Error of Geocentric Perspective

The Pi ratio (3.14) is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. The Phi ratio (1.618) is a ratio that is found abundantly in life on earth. The circle represents God and infinity like the serpent eating its tail. It is fairly well known that Exodus 3:14, "I am that I Am" is a circular reference to God and associates God with Pi as 3.14 is the value of Pi. The Phi ratio exists infinitely in the pentagram or five-pointed geometric star. Phi is also called the Divine Ratio, because it is a ratio or proportion, which is found everywhere in life forms on Earth. Leonardo da Vinci's famous drawing "Vitruvian Man" literally embodies this ratio.

If Venus traces a pentagram in the physical heavens above, then the Phi ratio exists in the planetary orbits above, as well as in life forms here on Earth below. This idea seems to perfectly embody the Hermetic principle "As above, so below; as below, so above." As Phi exists in the heavens above, so it exists below on Earth. As life exists below on Earth, so it may have originated in the heavens above! The fact that this is not a well-known phenomenon, argues that this astronomical knowledge has been suppressed. Might this be the solution of one of the greatest occult mysteries of all time? Indeed, *Might this be the hidden secret of the Holy Grail?* Whoever might be truly serious about studying this concept would need to acquire a working knowledge of the astronomical sciences. Anyone with a background in math and software development might study the authoritative work *Astronomical Algorithms* by Jean Meeus.¹⁵

The Crown of Lucifer / Venus

The meaning of the crown of Lucifer/Venus referenced in the passages above (of *Wartburg War* and *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*) is obvious if one knows that since about 4,000-3,200 BC people have associated the planet Venus with the pentagram star. The archaeological evidence linking Venus to this icon in the distant past are proof that the exact astronomical knowledge of the forbidden Copernican cosmology was present at the dawn of civilization. It is this knowledge that may be the essential secret and truth preserved in the symbolism of the Holy Grail of Christ.

The example provided here begins at the superior conjunction of Earth and Venus on June 6, 9:30 a.m. 2000 Eastern US time. One could use almost any modern astronomical program and enter this date, and advance the time 584 days to trace the graphic shown. Such programs would need to have a way to display the solar system rather than just the view from Earth's surface. The primary harmonic period between Earth and Venus is 2,920 days or eight Earth years (8x365). Wherever Earth and Venus are in relation to each other, 2,920 Earth days later, they will be in the same place in their respective orbits. By starting in superior conjunction, a second superior conjunction occurs exactly eight Earth years later. The harmonic period that produces the pentagram is based upon the factor of five, as 2,920 divided by five equals 584 days. This astronomical period has a similar relation to both the Earth year and the Venus year for 584 days are precisely 1.6 Earth years (584/365) and 2.6 Venus years (584/224).

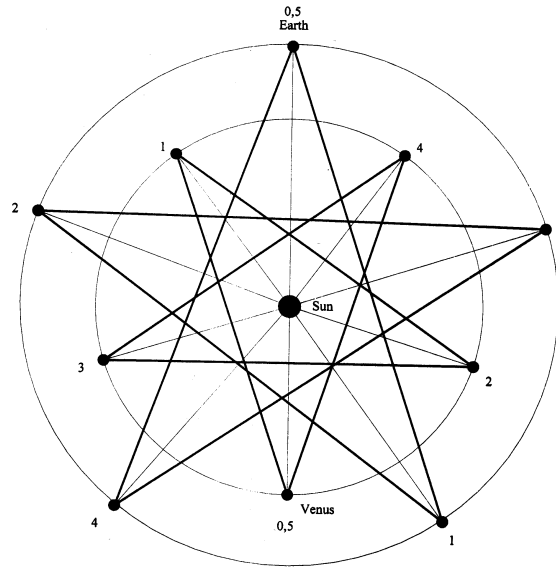


Figure 2. Venus - Earth 584-Day Harmonic

This means that both Venus and Earth return to where they last were plus an additional 0.6 rotation, and both planets are again in line with the sun. Since 0.6 times 360 equals 216° and 216 divided by 72 equals three, and as the number of degrees between each point of a pentagram is precisely 72°, both the Earth and Venus trace out a pentagram clockwise as one would by hand without lifting pen from paper. The matching points on both pentagrams occur because of the planets being in superior conjunction with the sun on that date. One might ask how this planetary dynamic evolved.

The Grail Secret

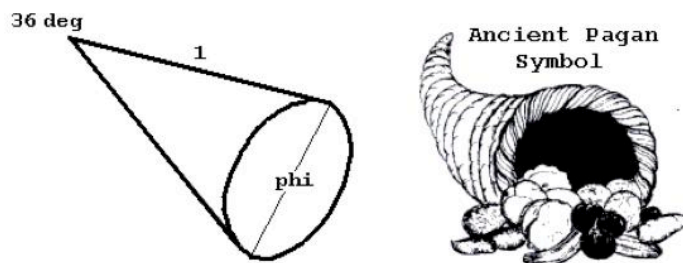
Concisely, it is the opinion of the author that the secret of the Holy Grail is a teaching about Christ, or about the man Jesus, that was rejected by the builders of the early Christian Church with the dire consequence of making science and the Truth heretical. The Grail is a metaphor of both the Phi ratio (1.618) and the indisputable fact that the pentagram star exists in the heavens above like an enormous *Signpost of God* traced by the orbital conjunctions of Earth and Venus every eight years. The connection to Venus is the Grail's connection to goddess worship. The Phi ratio is an essential part of the design of life, and it exists in the human body, which is why it is also called the Divine Ratio.

The pentagram as the proper symbol of the divine ratio became the most loathsome symbol in Christianity and remains so till this day. People associate it with Satanism and witchcraft. The whole “point” of the pentagram with each tip being one tenth of a circle or 36° degrees is that it is the origination point of the divine ratio. The mathematical proportion of the length of any two equal length rays originating from a 36-degree point is in Phi ratio to the distance between the two end-points. The angle of 36° degrees is further connected with the “Beast of Revelation” because adding the integers from 1 to 36 inclusive yields the number of the Beast or 666, where 666 is an encoded form of the pentagram star.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{36} i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} = (36 \times 37) / 2 = 666$$

Figure 3. Formula for 36° = 666 = 1.618

The values of 1.618 and 36° degrees and 666 are therefore all representations of the Phi ratio. This associates the Grail knowledge with the mythical beast, and this reinforces the interpretation of the Grail secret as *possibly the greatest heresy of all time*. It is the tip of the Lucifer crown that is the Phi ratio and which is mythically lopped off by St. Michael to fall to earth and be re-fashioned into the Holy Grail. This is the most significant interpretation of Revelation 13:18, “Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.” (New King James Version) Paradoxically, this indicates the rejected knowledge of Christ because teachings of Venus or goddess worship conflicted with the patriarchal teachings of Jehovah. Evidence of this conflict of interests can be found in the recently discovered Gnostic gospels, particularly of Thomas and especially Phillip, in which one reads, “When we became Christians we had both a mother and a father.”¹⁶



From the Grail comes life on Earth. Wolfram von Eschenbach, "I mean whatever the Earth yields." 666 = 1+2+...36, 36 degrees => Phi Ratio is the Cornucopia of Abundance, the Amalthean Horn.

Figure 4. Phi Ratio as Horn of Plenty

That Lucifer is the Latin name for the planet Venus reveals the enduring tradition of associating the planet with a female deity. Lucifer is the only “male” deviation known for describing Venus. Saint Michael removing her crown dethrones her, and Lucifer descends into Sheol or Hell and becomes mythically changed into a male. The gem that is knocked off the crown and falls to Earth is the Divine Ratio and Lucifer’s Crown is the pentacle traced by the orbital conjunctions of Earth and Venus.

Why Is the Grail Secret a Heresy?

The underlying reason the Grail is heresy is because the Grail Secret interprets the rock upon which Christianity was originally built, not as the man Peter (upon which, using the concept of apostolic succession, the Roman Catholic Church claims authority), but rather as the Phi Ratio or 1.618. The rock upon which the church is built comes from Matthew 16:18: “Upon this rock I will build my church.” Consider the possibility that this verse was placed in scripture precisely where it is because the rock upon which the church was originally built was the Phi ratio. *This is the ratio of life that exists in our physical bodies and multitudinous life forms on the earth, and that ratio 1.618 is contained in the chapter and verse of Matthew 16:18.* It is too significant to be chance that the verse, upon which the Catholic Church claims its authority, encodes the Phi ratio and references a “rock,” or that Parzival symbolizes the Grail as a stone and uses an astronomer (Flegetanis) as the source of Grail knowledge. It exceeds the possibility of the coincidental placement of this Biblical verse along with the corroboration of other scripture referencing the Morningstar or the planet Venus. The Phi ratio fits perfectly the symbolism of the white wafer brought by a dove down from heaven to the stone, which gives it the mythical power to produce all life on Earth. It also perfectly fits the gem being lopped off the crown of Lucifer (the 36° point of the Venus pentagram), which falls to Earth, is found by Parzival, and is refashioned into the Holy Grail. To put it differently, this solution to the Grail mystery fits more symbols than any other. More than any other solution to the Grail symbolism, this is the only one that fits the symbolism of the astronomer Flegetanis clearly reading the name of the Grail in the constellations.

The most common Protestant interpretation of Matt 16:18 is that the rock is Christ himself and not St. Peter. Biblical commentator Matthew Henry writes, “This is articulus stantis et cadentis ecclesia—that article, with the admission or the denial of which the church either rises or falls; ‘the main hinge on which the door of salvation turns.’”¹⁷ The interpretation that the rock is a metaphor for Phi is sharply in contrast. The Goddess and the Grail symbolized by the pentagram as a burning star were symbolically cast out of heaven in the book of Revelation, which modern scholarship dates to ~90 CE.¹⁸ “And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood; and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.” (Rev 8:10-11 KJV).

Wormwood (also called *Artemisia Absinthium* and named for the Greek goddess of the hunt – Artemis) is a plant that produces absinthe, a mind-altering and alleged brain-damaging alcoholic drink. Within about forty years after the time of Jesus, Phi became the “stone rejected by the builders.” Along with this, they rejected the Goddess, the pentagram, and the knowledge of the orbital harmonics of Earth and Venus, and heliocentricity became a heresy. The symbolism of this passage means this “blazing star” could alter the mind or damage one’s perception of religious teachings. However, understanding the Phi ratio as the rock upon which Christ built his church, explains the conclusion of the Bible where Jesus declares that He is “the bright and morning star,” (Rev 22:16) or the divine pentagram of Venus. *Therefore, by His words the pentagram may be a more fitting symbol for Christ than the cross.*

As one ponders this idea, and becomes aware of how difficult it would be for some people if they were told this without suitable preparation, one might consider how well this interpretation fits the symbolism from Parzival, “Every Good Friday, as I say, the Dove brings *it* to the stone.”

The Dove descends from heaven with a sort of blueprint, from which the stone receives whatever the Earth yields. Then in turn the stone produces all living things on Earth as though a life factory. This suggests the possibility that this “it,” which is found even in our own bodies, is Phi or 1.618.

Consider this verse from the Gospel of Thomas, “Jesus said, ‘Show me the stone which the builders have rejected. That one is the cornerstone.’” (66)¹⁹ The medieval Church made this forbidden knowledge, but doing so is antithetical to the teaching of Christ, “*For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor anything that has been kept secret that should not be revealed.*” (Mk 4:22) Perhaps if someday this becomes generally known and the pentagram is restored to its rightful place in heaven, then the following passage will reverberate: “The stone which the builders rejected is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD's doing; and it is marvelous in our eyes.” (Ps 118:22-23)

The Mystical I as Phi

One of the common interpretations of the meaning of the Grail is the mystical identification with the Grail as in the concept of Christ Consciousness. In the Mystical I concept, one finds God or Christ in oneself. One of the expressions of this is, “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Matt 28:20) Knights on the quest for the Grail, after years of seeking outside themselves for the Grail, come to realize after many trials, that they are themselves the “I” or divine vessel receiving direct spiritual contact from heaven, and incidentally bypassing the clergy.

A Gnostic aphorism from the Coptic version of the Gospel of Thomas is, “Split a piece of wood, and I [Phi] am there. Lift up the stone and you will find me [Phi] there.” (77B)²⁰ The ultimate Grail secret being the Phi ratio fits this perfectly because it is found everywhere in life on Earth, from insect life under a rock, to plants and trees, to animal and human life forms. Phi is the divine spark in everyone. The Grail is not a bloodline of a man; it is the essence of blood itself in the Grail, and a symbol of this knowledge. In other words, the blood in one’s own veins, with the individual as the vessel – that person is the Grail with the divine spark.

The Grail is not just the rock upon which Christ built his church; it is the foundation stone upon which civilization was built between 5,200 and 6,000 years ago. As Albert Pike wrote, “God has been pleased to give to Science, which is the reflection of His Glory, the Seal of His Eternity.”²¹ One final thought. This knowledge has in the past been the point where, “Faith begins where Reason sinks exhausted.”²² Yet modern science has advanced greatly in the last 800 years, so the cause and effect explaining the orbital harmonics containing the Phi ratio and also in life on Earth may become a new science. Through spectroscopy one can detect chemical elements billions of light years away. Might this astronomically large *Signpost of God* lead humanity to *life* elsewhere in the Cosmos?

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⁶ Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry* (Montana USA: Kessinger Publishing Company, 1871), 841.

⁷ Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival*, trans. A. T. Hatto (London, England: Penguin Books Ltd, 1980), 232.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 240.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 240.

¹⁰ Karl Simrock, *Der Wartburgkrieg* (Cotta, Stuttgart, Augsburg 1858. OCLC 5363166), a German translation of the medieval Codex Manesse, Janaer Leiderhandschrift and translated to English.

¹¹ Manly P. Hall, *The Secret Teachings of All Ages – An Encyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic, and Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy* (Los Angeles, California: Philosophical Research Society, Inc. 1929, 1988), XCIX.

¹² Carl G. Liungman, *Dictionary of Symbols*. (New York, London: W.W. Norton & Company, 1991), 314.

¹³ In this context, it is interesting to note that the command center of the United States military is a pentagonal complex in Arlington, Virginia and is commonly known as “the Pentagon.”

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 43.

¹⁵ Jean Meeus, *Astronomical Algorithms, Second Edition* (Richmond Virginia: Willmann-Bell, Inc., 1991, 1998).

¹⁶ Willis Barnstone. (Edited with Introductions). *The Other Bible*. (New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1984), 88.

¹⁷ Matthew Henry. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*. (Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company), V, 228.

¹⁸ Elain Pagels, *Revelations – Visions, Prophecy, & Politics in the Book of Revelation*. (New York, NY: Viking 2012), 47.

¹⁹ Barnstone, 305.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 305.

²¹ Pike, 842.

²² *Ibid.*, 841.