Kabbalah, Genesis & Exodus Part One

This is the story of the nation who first perceived of one God – a God with many aspects – and who discerned the Divine tapestry of creation



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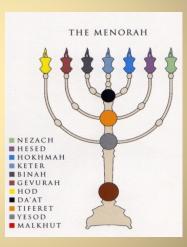
The Pargod

The patterns of the Universe Depicted as a great tapestry encompassing all time



What is Kabbalah?

Kabbalah means
'receive.' This is the
oral tradition known as
'The Soul Of The
Torah'



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All Traditions must update for each generation

"Cultural patterns change; Universal Law does not" — Z'ev ben Shimon Halevi

We must try to understand the meaning of the age in which we are called to bear witness. We must accept the fact this is an age in which the cloth is being unwoven. It is therefore no good trying to patch. We must, rather, set up the loom on which coming generations may weave new cloth according to the pattern God provides



Mother Mary Clare, of The Sisters of the Love of God

Four Levels of Interpretation

- Literal
- Allegorical
- Metaphysical
- Mystical



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In the beginning... The Elohim created the heavens and the earth Why?

To Create a Womb for the Divine Baby — The Blueprint



Also known as
Adam Kadmon,
The Word
or
The Cosmic
Christ

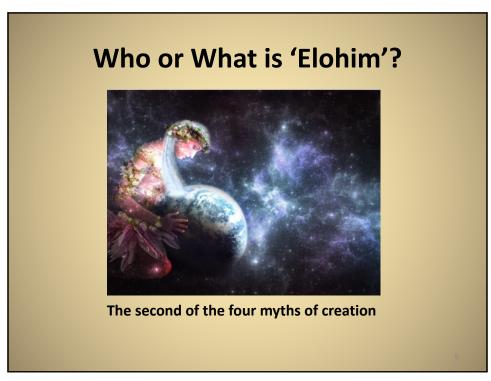
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Joseph Campbell

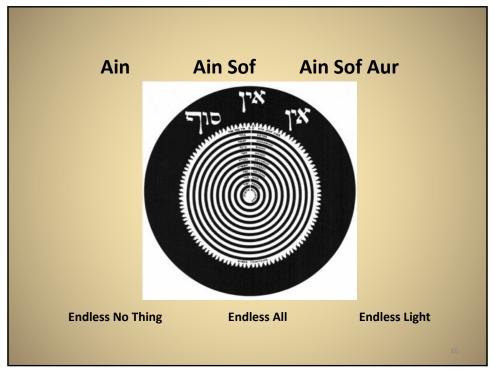
"Half the people in the world think that the metaphors of their religious traditions, for example, are facts...

"Myth offers a greater Truth than anything in the realm of mere logic. Myth is much more important and true than history. History is just journalism and you know how reliable that is."





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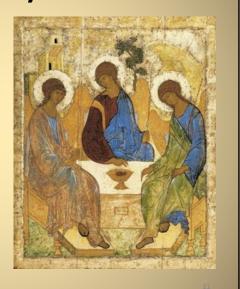


Trinity

The Law of Threes: three working in harmony together creates a fourth

Expansion and Contraction emanating from the Source give birth to the Light of Creation

Source becomes Ayin and Ayin Sof – three in one giving birth to Ayin Sof Aur



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The Universe was

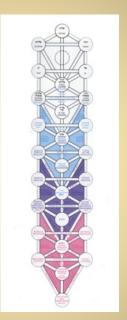
Called forth

Created

Formed and

Made

(Isaiah 43:7)



Azilut (Adam Kadmon)

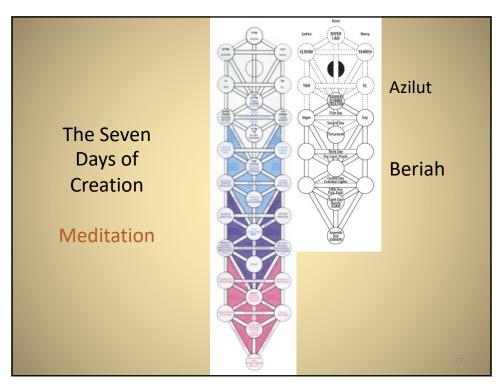
Fire

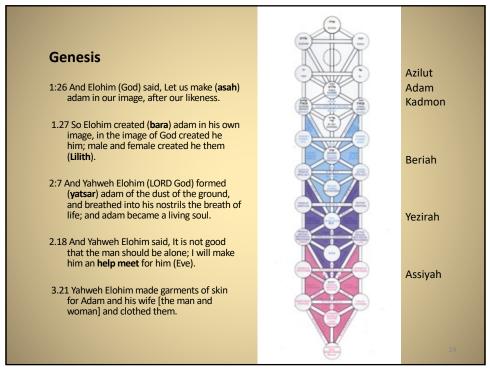
Beriah

Air

Yezirah Water

Assiyah Earth





The Fall

The start of the
Bible's consistent
theme: betrayal,
karma and
redemption

Mystically, the Eden story is a set-up



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A Word About Original Sin

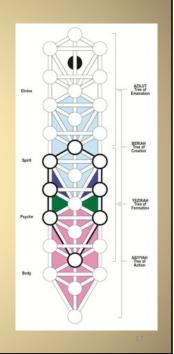
- St. Augustine's *Redactions* (354-430)
- St. Anselm (1033/4–1109)
 Penal Substitutionary
 Atonement
- Unknown in Judaism



Literal

When they lived in Eden,
Adam and Eve were spiritual
beings living in the world of
forms – souls not yet
manifest; eternal

Once they were given 'coats of skin' they became physical beings so they encountered death



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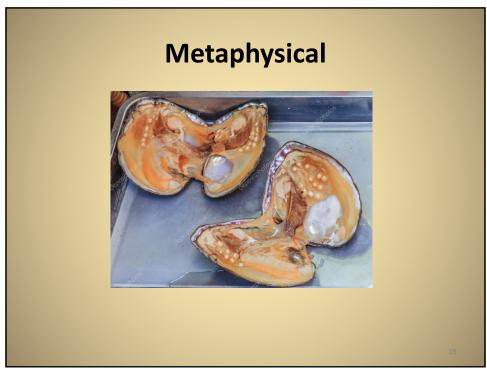
Allegorical

Children disobey. It is how we learn boundaries and how to live in our tribe

It teaches us our 'foundation'

No boundaries means no 'safe container' for the ego to learn the laws of cause and effect





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Mystical

What does this story mean for humanity and the whole of creation?

Humanity is still eating from that tree...



Why This Matters

"If you can only own the light in you and not the dark then the dark will come to rule you. If you won't acknowledge your own shadow you will project it onto others and call them bad, evil, the enemy. The world is not in a dilemma because of 'the bad guys'. It is in this mess because of all the 'good guys' running around projecting their unknown darkness onto others and then feeling justified in 'fixing' them. Or if that doesn't work, killing them in the name of God, progress or peace."

Danaan Parry, pioneer in conflict resolution.

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Questions?

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Homework and Discussion

There is no specific homework but if you want to read the stories of Cain and Abel and of Noah, looking at them at the four levels, please do.

Please email me any questions.

With grateful thanks to:

- Z'ev ben Shimon Halevi
- Adam Simmonds (Spirit of Kabbalah blog)
- Dr. Margaret Barker
- Fr. Richard Rohr
- Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault
- Danaan Parry

P.S. Don't believe a word I say. This is my truth; your job is to find your own. ☺