

Kabbalah, You and the Cosmic Christ — Part Three

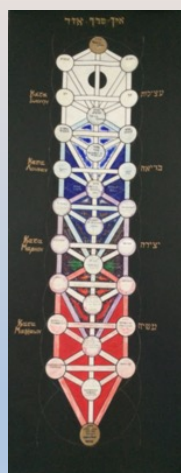
Atonement, Crucifixion Death & Resurrection

Picture by Cynthia Emerlye



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Four Worlds, Four levels of interpretation



Metaphysical

Mystical

Allegorical

Literal

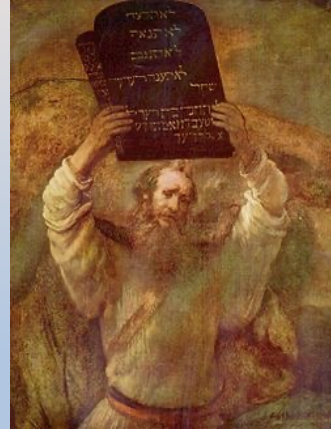


2

First and Second Halves of Life

Hebrew Testament: *the Law.*

New Testament: *where, when
and how to break it.*



3

David and the Philistines.

1 Samuel 27:9

And David smote the land
and left neither man
nor woman alive and
took away the sheep
and the oxen and the
asses and the camels
and the apparel...

Did it actually happen?

What is the story really about?
(karma)

What does it mean to me on my
spiritual journey?

What is the lesson for humanity?

4

Atonement Theory

Jews do not believe in the doctrine of original sin. This Christian belief is based on Paul's statement, "*Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned*" (Romans 5:12). The doctrine was developed by the church father, Augustine of Hippo (354-430) who claimed that hereditary sinfulness started with Adam and Eve and only acceptance of Jesus as saviour can redeem a person from sin and hell (also in 1 Peter).



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Adam and Eve at four levels

Literal: Disobedience to command.

Allegorical: First lesson in choice and consequence.

Mystical: The quickening of the Divine Child.

Metaphysical: Judging good and evil.



6

Plan A and Plan B

The theory of Atonement is Plan B:
humanity messed up and Jesus had to
come and die to save us (Dominican).

The Franciscan theory is Plan A: Colossians
1:15-20, Ephesians 1:3-14).

Franciscans never believed that "blood
atonement" was required for God to
love us. Pictured is Franciscan teacher,
John Duns Scotus (1266-1308).



7

Fr. Richard Rohr:



Did God intend no meaning or purpose for creation during the first 14.8 billion years? Was it all just empty, waiting for sinful humans to set the only real drama into motion? Did the sun, moon, and galaxies have no divine significance? The fish, the birds, the animals were just waiting for humans to appear? Was there no Divine Blueprint ("Logos") from the beginning? Surely this is the extreme hubris and anthropomorphism of the human species!

The substitutionary atonement "theory" (and that's all it is) seems to imply that the Eternal Christ's epiphany in Jesus is a mere afterthought when the first plan did not work out. I know there are many temple metaphors of atonement, satisfaction, ransom, "paying the price," and "opening the gates"; but do know they are just that--metaphors of transformation and transitioning. Too many Christians understood these in a transactional way instead of a transformational way.

How and why would God need a "blood sacrifice" before God could love what God had created? Is God that needy, unfree, unloving, rule-bound, and unable to forgive? Once you say it, you see it creates a nonsensical theological notion that is very hard to defend. Many rightly or wrongly wondered, "What will God ask of me if God demands violent blood sacrifice from his only Son?"

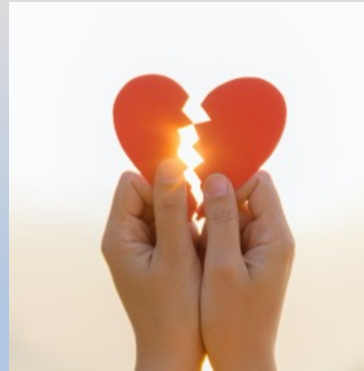
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What else could it mean?

It is the perennial story of betrayal.

Serpent betrays Eve, Adam betrays Eve.

You will be betrayed.



9

The deepest aspect of the four levels



- You will be betrayed by the body, yourself and by others
- You will suffer in body and mind
- You heal through dying (letting go) of your mind
- You will touch the Divine and resurrect

10

Jesus was on the cross for six hours

Christianity has kept him on it for 2000 years

This aspect of
Christianity is the
religion of the
suffering servant ...
Emphasized in the
Gospel of Mark ...
Focus on wounds not
healing



11

This aspect of Christianity is important...

And can be helpful ...
But also addictive and
vengeful
There is a much
deeper message.



The Volto Santo (Holy Face) is a wooden effigy that is said to be a true image of Christ, carved by Nicodemus at the crucifixion (San Martino, Lucca).

12

We can hang on that cross for ever...

Going over and over and
round and round the wound
and seeking retribution

Or we can choose to die to
the problem

Once we do that, resurrection
is a done deal

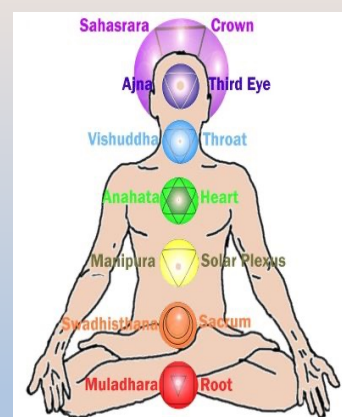


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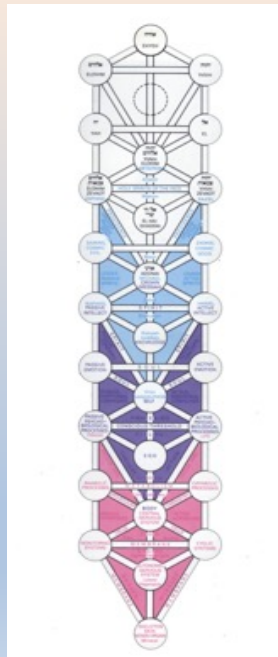
We have learnt 'woundology'

Post two world wars and since the coming of the 1960s and the New Age we have learnt to communicate from the heart chakra – beforehand, whole marriages were lived out in just the lower three chakras so limiting the need for divorce (Caroline Myss).

This development means we are more open to love ... And our wounds.



14



And the ladder...

Note that most triads belong to more than one world but that four side triads in each world are alone. Our wounds are stored in the side triads of the psychological world of Yezirah.

Wounds are not *feelings*. Those come and go. Wounds are deep.

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Wounds are sub-conscious and/or unconscious

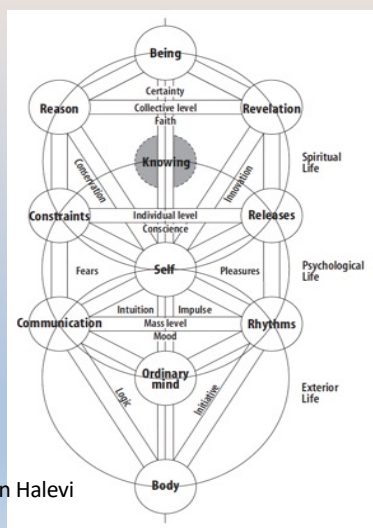


Image:
Z'ev ben Shimon Halevi

Side triads are said to be unconscious but I believe that the lower ones are subconscious – we can access the memories

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Wounds are unforgiven betrayals

Judas betrayed [paradidome] Jesus with a kiss

Matt 26:49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him [kataphileo – to kiss many times, tenderly] Similar in Mark and Luke

The kiss was genuine – but is seen as the greatest part of the betrayal – hypocrisy. This story is repeated in all three Synoptic Gospels [synoptic – seen together]

Without Judas there would be no resurrection and no Christian story



Judas is also betrayed by representations like this making him big-nosed and dark-skinned

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John 18:2

And Judas also, who betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.

Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.

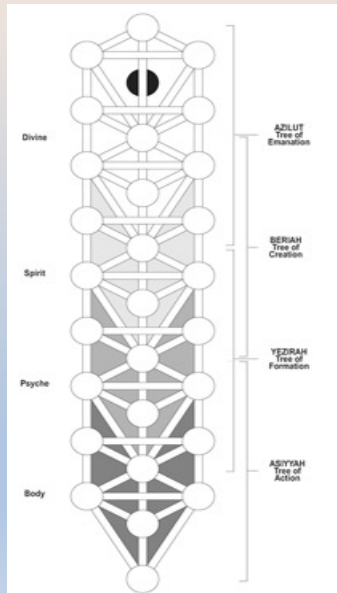
Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom do you seek?

They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus said unto them, I am he. And Judas also, who betrayed him, stood with them.



18

Jesus' words on the cross



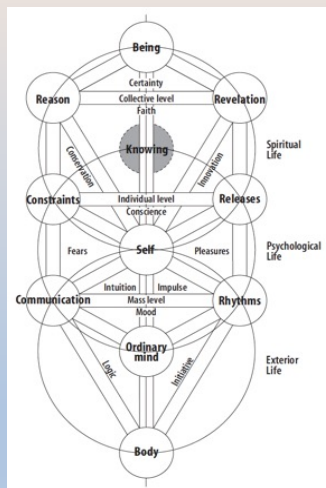
Woman behold thy son ... Behold thy mother ... I thirst ... It is done (John)

Father forgive them they know not what they do ... Today you will be with me in paradise ... Father into thy hands I commend my spirit (Luke)

My God, my God why have you forsaken me? (Matt & Mark)

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Betrayal is held in the side triads



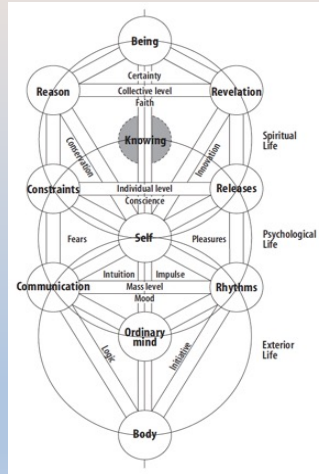
Forgiveness is the healing of betrayal

Jesus came to teach us how to forgive – to overcome betrayal

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Betrays of self and others

Guilt
Fear
Blame
Shame (paralysis)
Laziness
Passive anger and aggression
Apathy
Judgment
Criticism
Humiliation



Addictions
Over-giving
Over-doing
Excessive mercy (turning a blind eye/co-dependency)
Active anger and aggression
Adultery
Gossip
Carelessness
Obsession

Side triads have lots of positive-seeming aspects too but they are bi-polar by nature

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What is the Christian story trying to teach us?

Betrayal is a vital part of spiritual growth

- We **will** be betrayed
- No one can betray us without our permission
- If we view it as betrayal it will crucify us – and we will crucify the other
- The longer we view it as betrayal the longer we remain on that cross

22

What is the Christian story trying to teach us?

- To end the crucifixion we must forgive
- We must *die to the problem*
- As soon as we 'die' (i.e. stop feeding the problem) we are resurrected

But isn't forgiveness easier said than done? Yes indeed

23

The Jesus Prayer

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"

The other hurt us once. Our memories hurt us a thousand times (six hours or two thousand years on a cross of martyrdom)

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We use our wounds as weapons

- I can't forget ... I am paralysed ... I can't move on ... You can't expect me to do that/help/earn money/learn anything
- If I could only know *why* then I could perhaps recover a little

We use wounds to deny our own power. If we believe that the other who hurt us holds all the power we do not have the energy to grow or to heal



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We forgive from the soul

- To forgive we have to use consciousness
- To forgive we have to rise above the side triads of emotion
- To forgive we have to say 'it's over' – i.e. let go of the power of the other to hurt us
- To forgive we have to realise that our repetitive thoughts are acts of self-betrayal (self-crucifixion). *We are feeding vampires*



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How to forgive

- Tell the story of your wound three times only
- Ho'oponopono (to 'make right')
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ho'oponopono>
- Pray for help (the power of this should not be underestimated)
- Understand the nature of Spirit and how it is directed



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Prayer to forgive

Dissolve in me all desire to hurt
 Dissolve in me all hatred and spite
 Dissolve in me all anger and fear
 Dissolve in me all justification and judgment
 Dissolve in me all guilt and self-hatred
 Dissolve in me all unforgiveness
 I give these people and these situations (including myself) to
 you, God, that the Christ consciousness may lift them from
 my heart and free my spirit. Set me free that I may serve as
 a channel of thy Grace. Amen

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Theresa of Avila/Caroline Myss

Theresa's *Interior Castle*

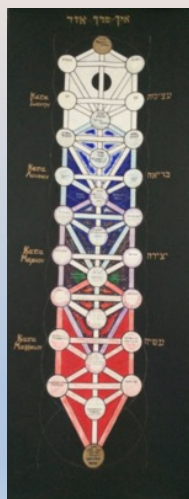
Caroline's *Entering the Castle*

- All wounds heal if allowed to do so (cancer and cut)
- Wounds that do not heal are poisoned or kept open.
- Unhealed wounds require huge amounts of energy to keep them open
- Unhealed wounds *eat* life-force/spirit
- Release just one bit of that spirit back and it will strengthen you to heal all the others



29

Your Soul can end these agreements



Three statements:

Nothing has hurt me (literal)

This agreement is over (psychological)

I claim my Spirit back (spiritual)

30

Through the words of Jesus

Three statements:

(I am betrayed)

Nothing has hurt me
(literal)

This agreement is over
(psychological)

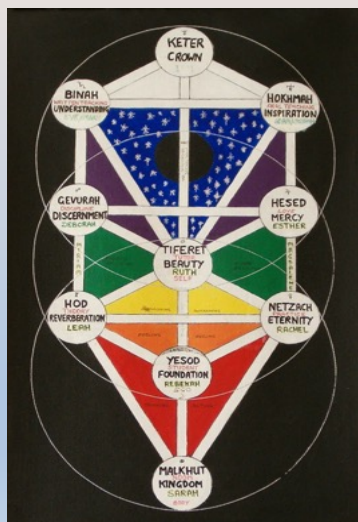
I claim my Spirit back
(spiritual)

Nothing has hurt me
This agreement is over

I claim my Spirit back

31

Spirit feeds Soul. Soul floats above side triads – it does not drown in them



Nothing has hurt me
(I am alive)

This agreement is over
*(agreement to let this
continue to feed off
my spirit)*

I claim my Spirit back
(I live in the now)

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