



**THE SECRET
TEACHINGS
OF ALL AGES**

MANLY P. HALL



The Rites of Mithras





[Home »](#)



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ESOTERIC SCHOOLS OF MEDITATION, STUDY AND SERVICE

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THE RITES OF MITHRAS

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ZEND-AVESTA, OUVRAGE DE ZOROASTRE,

CONTENANT les Idées Théologiques, Physiques & Morales de ce Législateur, les Cérémonies du Culte Religieux qu'il a établi, &c plusieurs traits importans relatifs à l'ancienne Histoire des Perses :

Traduit en François sur l'Original Zend, avec des Remarques ; & accompagné de plusieurs Traités propres à éclaircir les Matières qui en font l'objet.

Par M. ANQUETIL DU FERRON, de l'Académie Royale des Inscriptions & Belles-Lettres, & Interprète du Roi pour les Langues Orientales.

TOME PREMIER.

PREMIERE PARTIE,

Cel qui comprend L'INTRODUCTION AU ZEND-AVESTA, formée principalement de LA RELATION DU VOYAGE DU TRADUCTEUR AUX INDES ORIENTALES, suivie du PLAN DE L'OUVRAGE ; & un APPENDIX sur les Monnoyes & Poids de l'Inde, sur quelques objets d'Histoire Naturelle & de Commerce, & sur les Manufatures Anciennes du Traducteur :

Ornée de Planches gravées en taille douce,



A PARIS,

Chez N. M. TILLIARD, Libraire, Quai des Augustins, à S. Benoît.

M. DCC. LXXI.

Avec Approbation & Privilège du Roi.



The Gathas



In this revelation the Supreme Being is called "Boundless Time" (*Zarvana Akarana*), because to him no beginning can be assigned; he is so surrounded by his own glory, and so far exalted beyond all human comprehension, that he can only be the object of silent veneration. The beginning of creation was made by means of *Emanations*. The first emanation of the Eternal One was Light, whence issued Ormuzd (*Ahuramazda*), the King of Light. Ormuzd is styled the Firstborn of Boundless Time; and the "Ferouer" of him, or Pre-existing Soul (type or idea in Platonic phrase), had existed from all eternity within the primitive Light. By means of his "Word," Ormuzd created the pure world of which he is the preserver and the judge. Next, he created in his own image the six *Amshaspands*, who stand about his throne, and are his agents with the lower spirits, and with mankind, whose prayers they offer up to him, and to whom they serve for models of perfection. These Amshaspands, of whom Ormuzd is the first, thus make up the mystic number *seven*... The Gnostics and Their Remains:44



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Ahura Mazda overshadowing Zarathustra



Zarathustra

F ARGARD I I I.

The Earth.

1. “0 Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! Which is the first place where the Earth feels most happy?”

Ahura Mazda answered: “It is the place whereon one of the faithful steps forward, 0 Spitama Zarathustra, with the holy wood in his hand, the baresma in his hand, the holy meat in his hand, the holy mortar in his hand, fulfilling the law with love, and beseeching aloud Mithra, the lord of wide pastures...”

2. “0 Maker of the material world, thou Holy One. Which is the second place where the Earth feels most happy?”

Ahura Mazda answered: “It is the place whereon one of the faithful erects a house with a priest within, with cattle, with a wife, with children, and good herds within; and wherein afterwards the cattle go on thriving, holiness is thriving, fodder is thriving, the dog is thriving, the wife is thriving, the child is thriving, the fire is thriving, and every blessing of life is thriving.” —Zend-Avesta:23

THE RITES OF MITHRAS

When the Persian Mysteries immigrated into Southern Europe, they were quickly assimilated by the Latin mind. The cult grew rapidly, especially among the Roman soldiery, and during the Roman wars of conquest the teachings were carried by the legionaries to nearly all parts of Europe. So powerful did the cult of Mithras become that at least one Roman Emperor was initiated into the order, which met in caverns under the city of Rome. Concerning the spread of this Mystery school through different parts of Europe, C. W. King, in his *Gnostics and Their Remains*, says:

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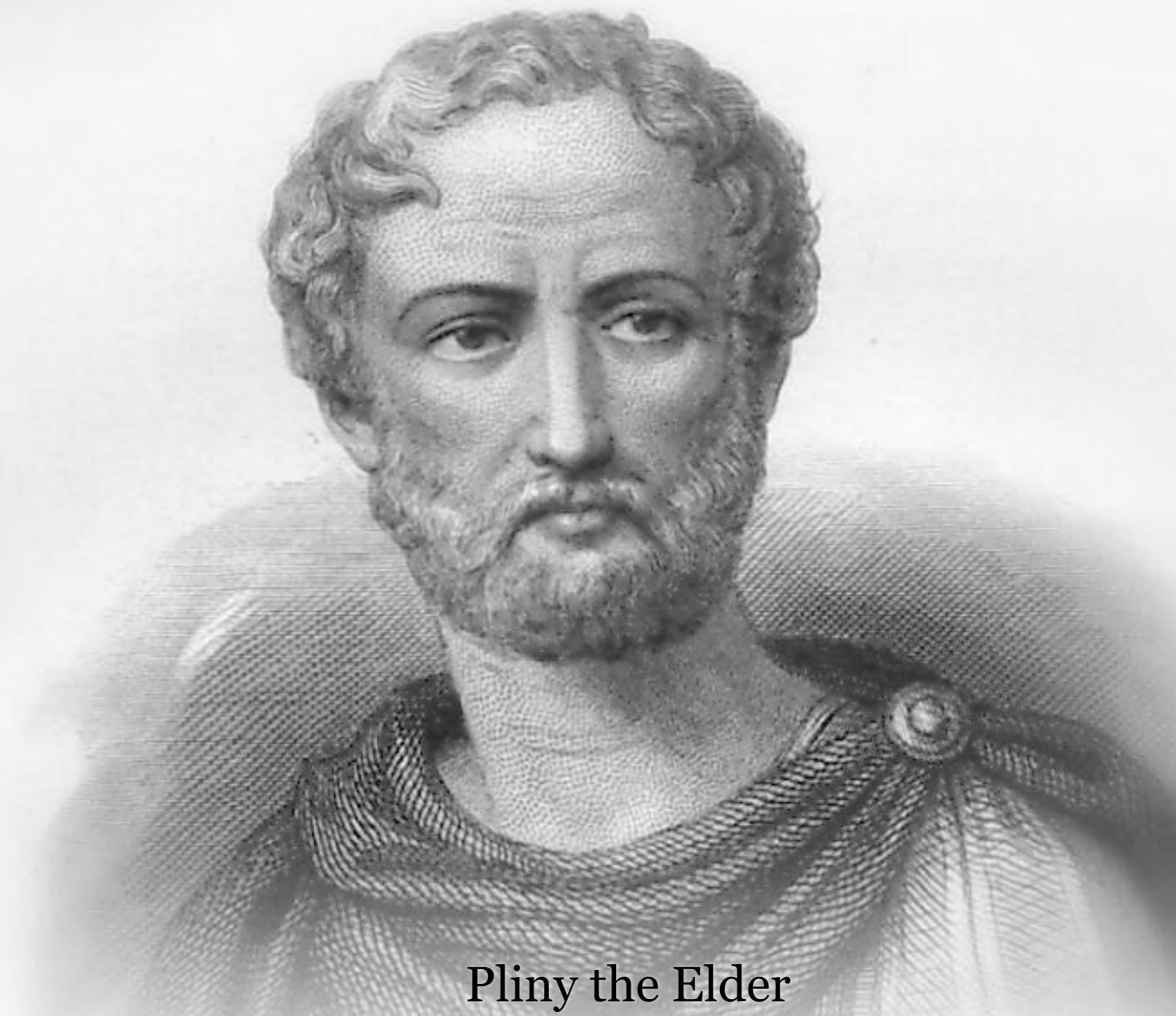
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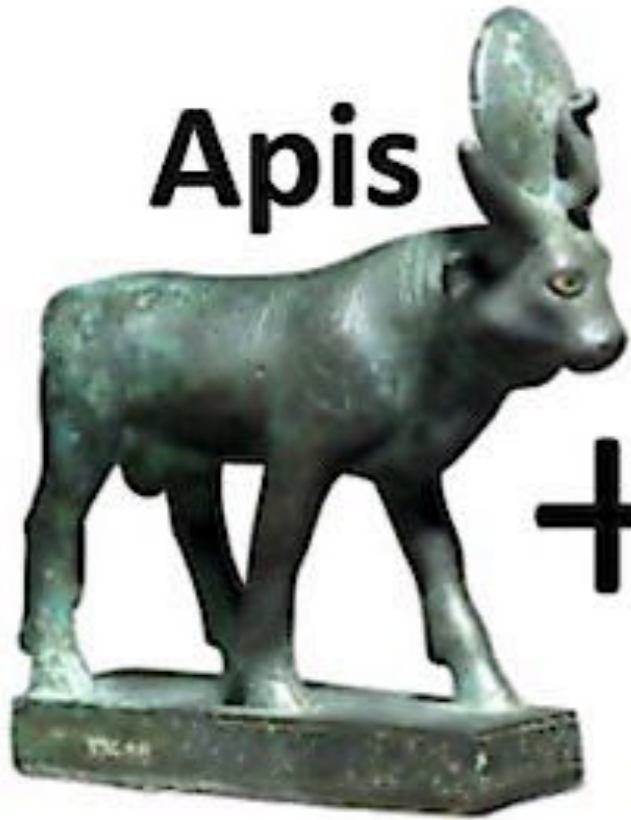
Cilician Pirates



Pliny the Elder

Osiris

Apis



+



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Serapis
(Greek version)

Serapis
(Egyptian version)



Serapis



Mithras



Mithras

THE RITES OF MITHRAS

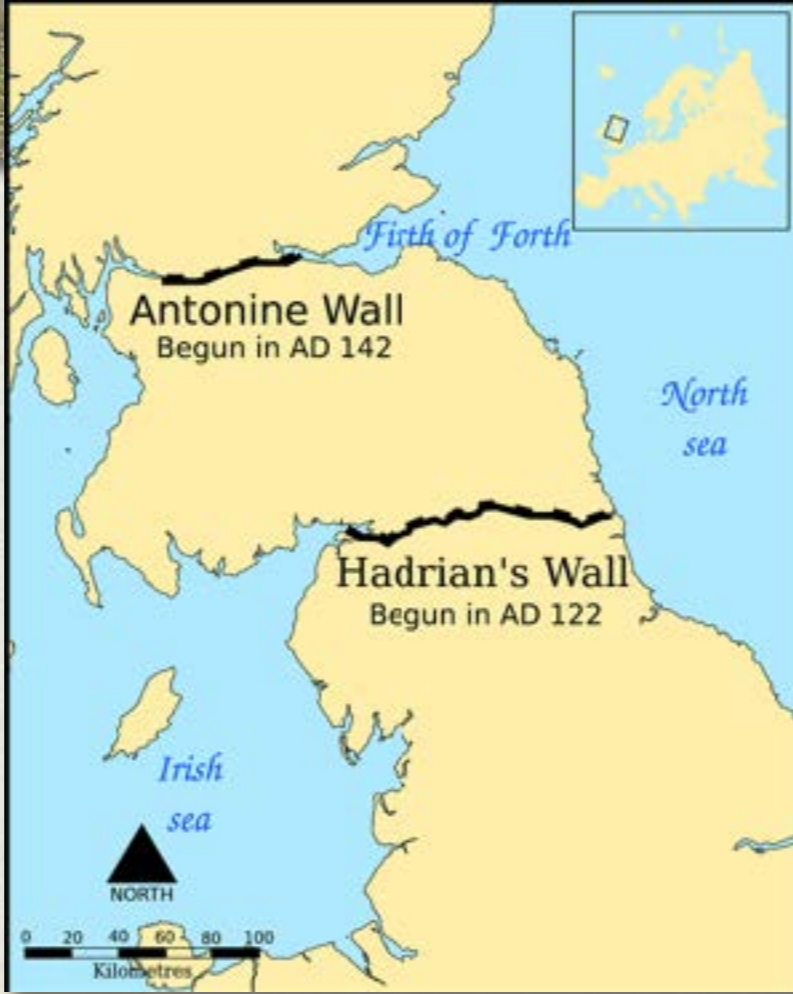
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Pict's (or Hadrian's) Wall

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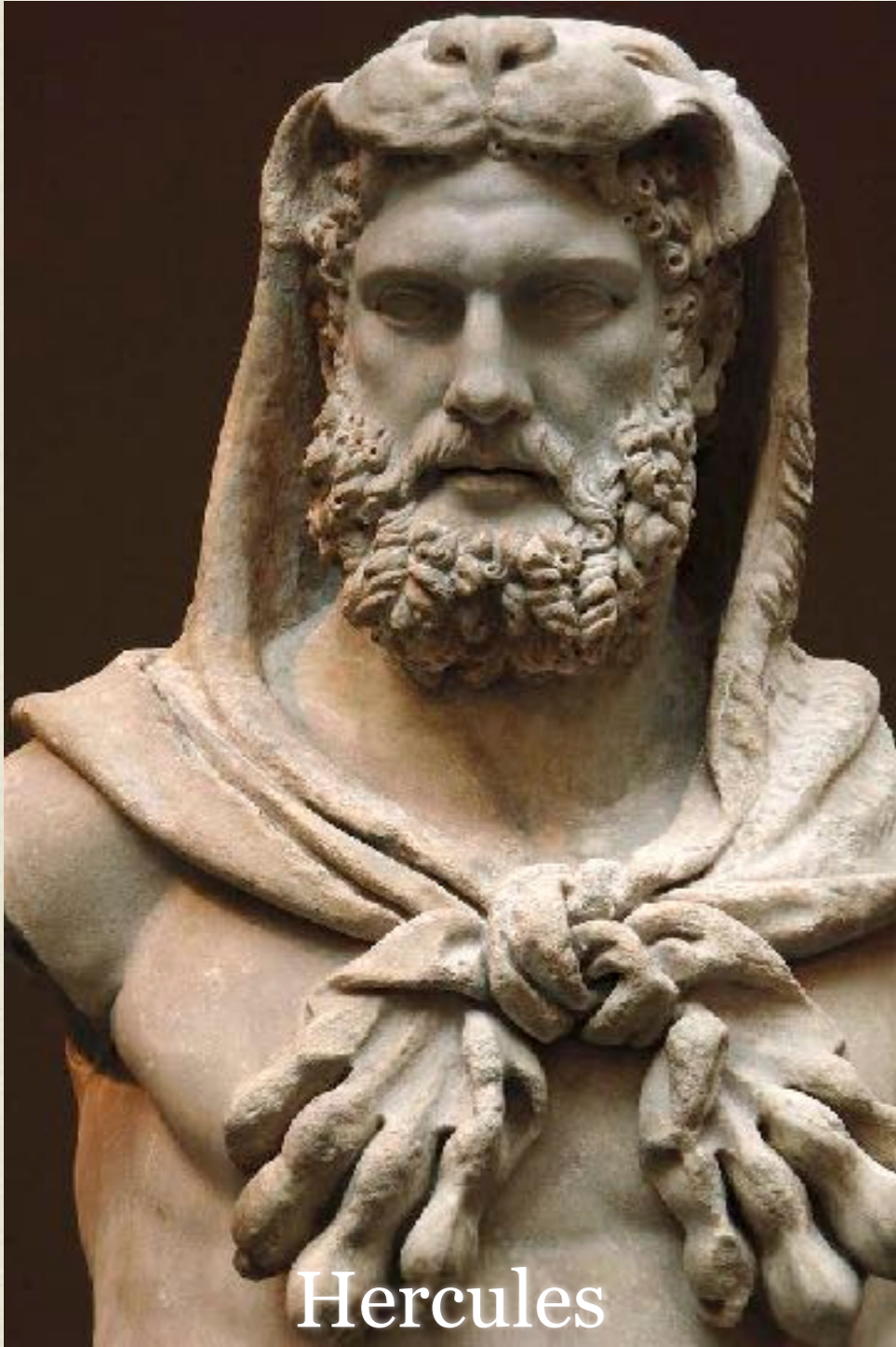


Belenus

...Inasmuch as the sun-god was the chief deity of the Druids, it is easy to imagine what ready acceptance the worship of his more refined Persian equivalent would find amongst the Celtic Aborigines, when once introduced by the Roman troops and colonists, many of whom were Orientals. *The Gnostics and Their Remains*:145



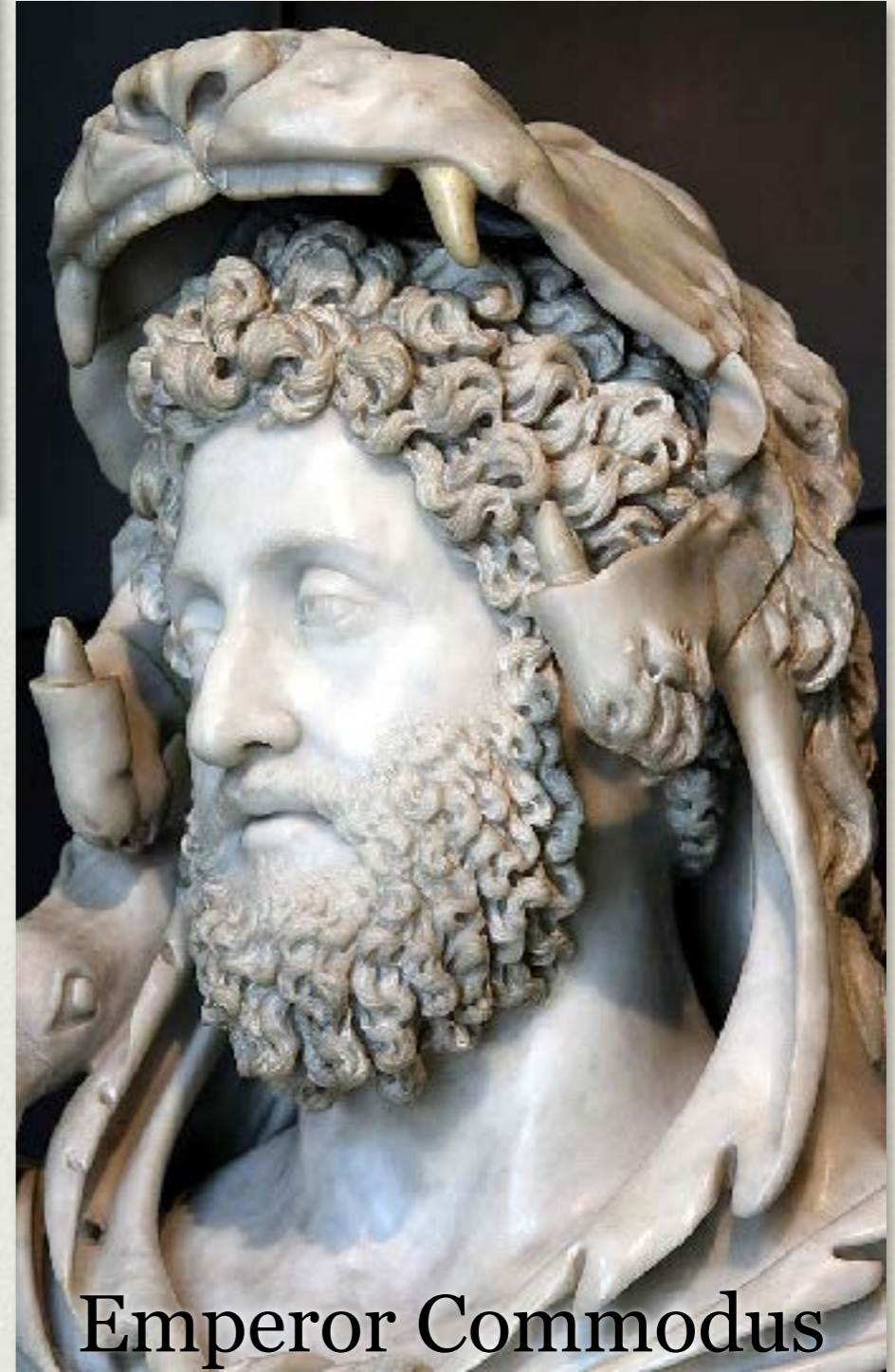
Mithras



Hercules



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Emperor Commodus

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Mithras



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Through the Frohars, says the hymn, the Divine Being upholds the sky, supports the earth, and keeps pure and vivific the waters of preexistent life. They are the energies in all things, and each of them led by Mithras, is associated in its time and order with a human body. Everything, therefore, which is created or will be created, has its Frohar, which contains the cause and reason of its existence. They are stationed everywhere to keep the universe in order and protect it against all the potencies of evil. Thus they are allied to everything in nature; they are ancestral spirits and guardian angels, attracting all human beings to the right and seeking to avert from them every deadly peril. They are the immortal souls, living before our birth as human beings and surviving after death. Thus, in the Mazdean philosophy, the eternal world is an ocean of living intelligences, a milky sea of very life, from which all mortals are generated, sustained and afforded purification from evil. —Philosophy and Ethics of the Zoroasters:6



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RECUEIL
D'ANTIQUITÉS

EGYPTIENNES,
ETRUSQUES, GRECQUES,

ROMAINES
ET GAULOISES.

TOME TROISIEME.



A PARIS,

Chez DESAINT & SAILLANT, rue Saint Jean de Beauvais,
vis-à-vis le Collège.

M. DCC. LIX.

T. VI.

Pl. LXXIV.

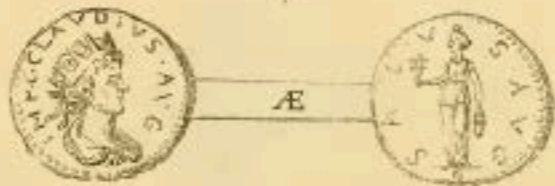
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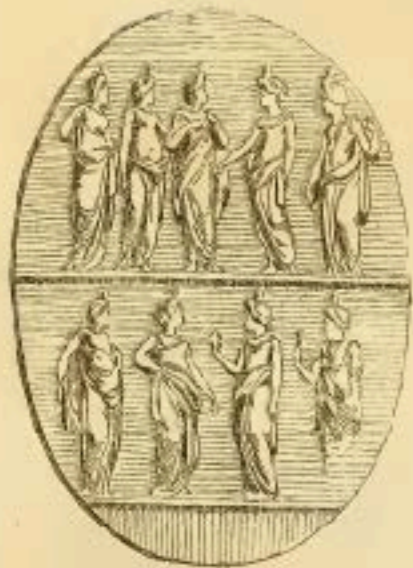
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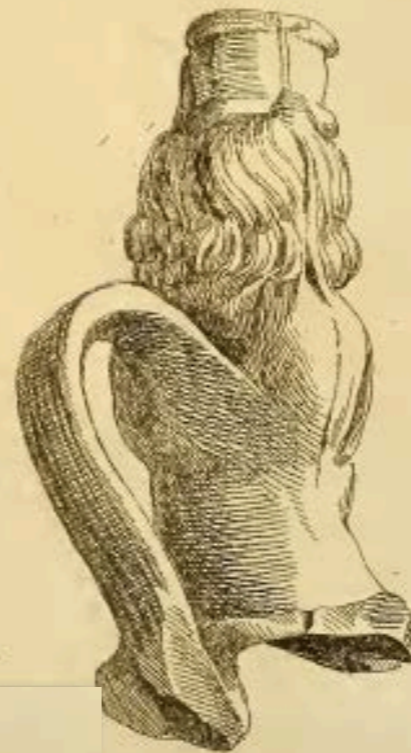
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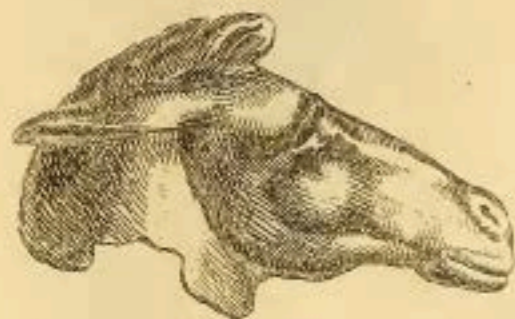
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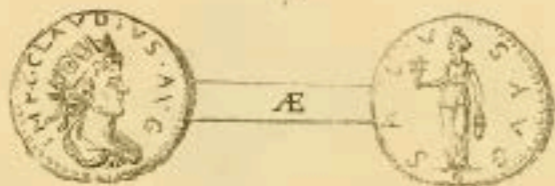
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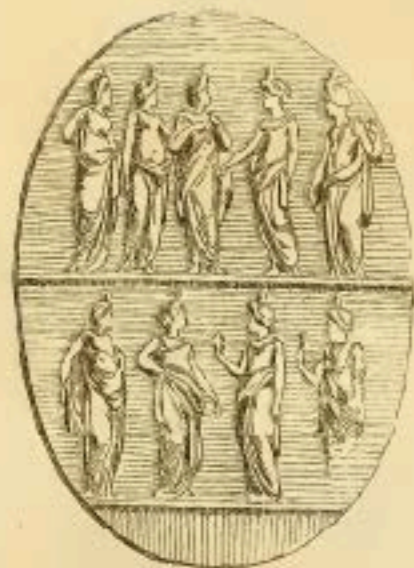
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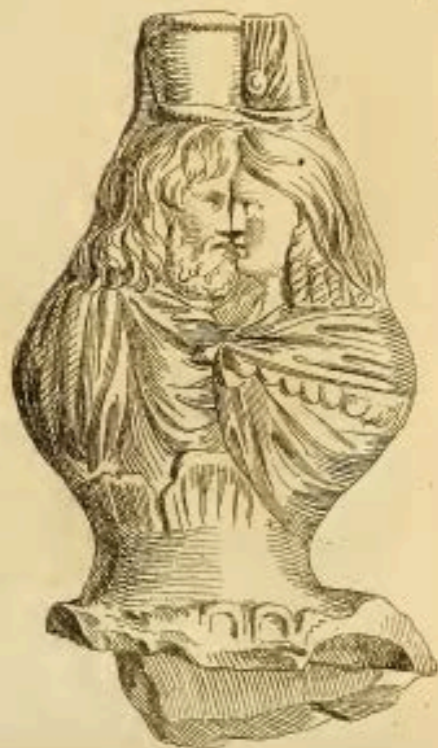
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THE RITES OF MITHRAS

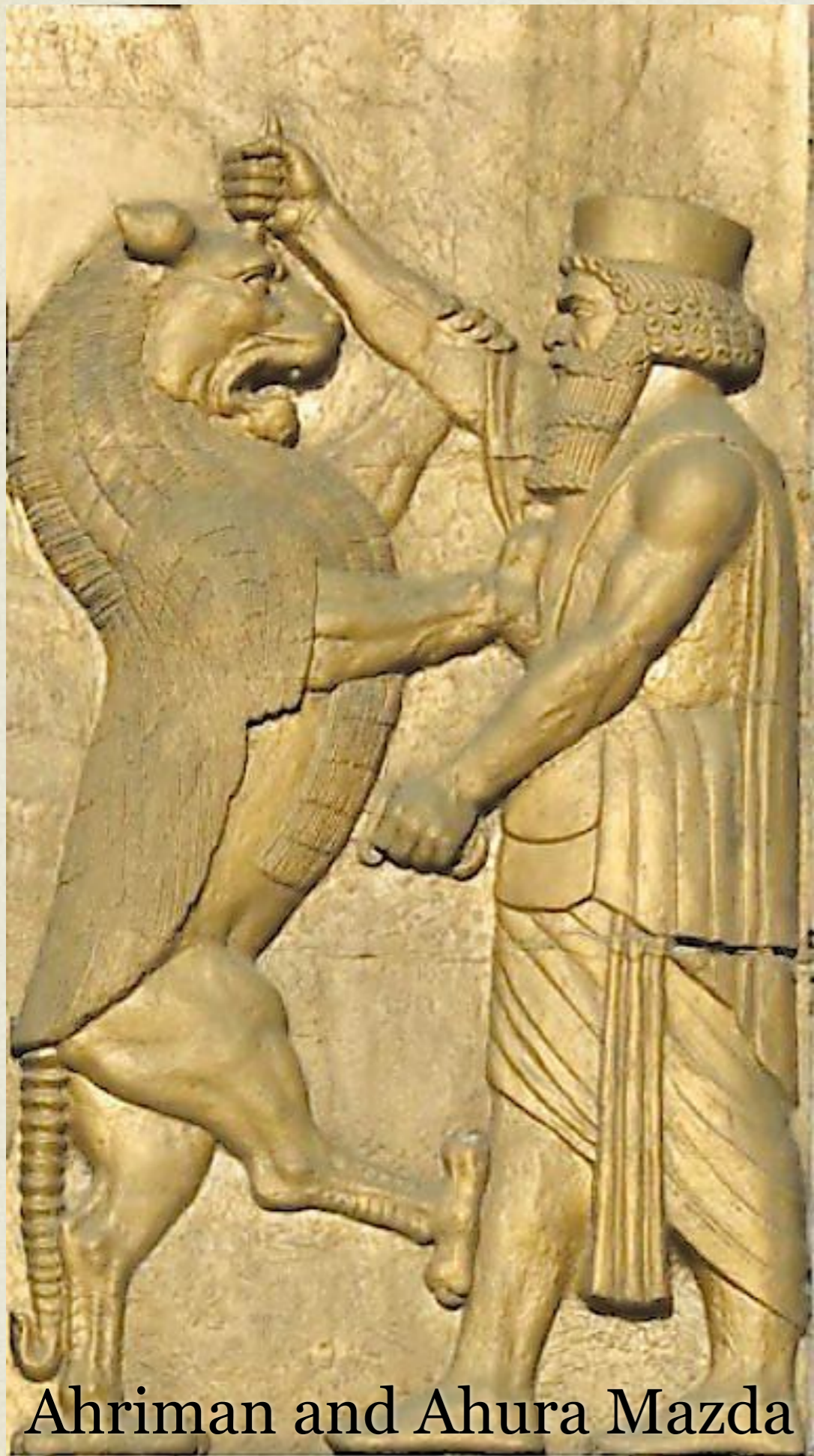
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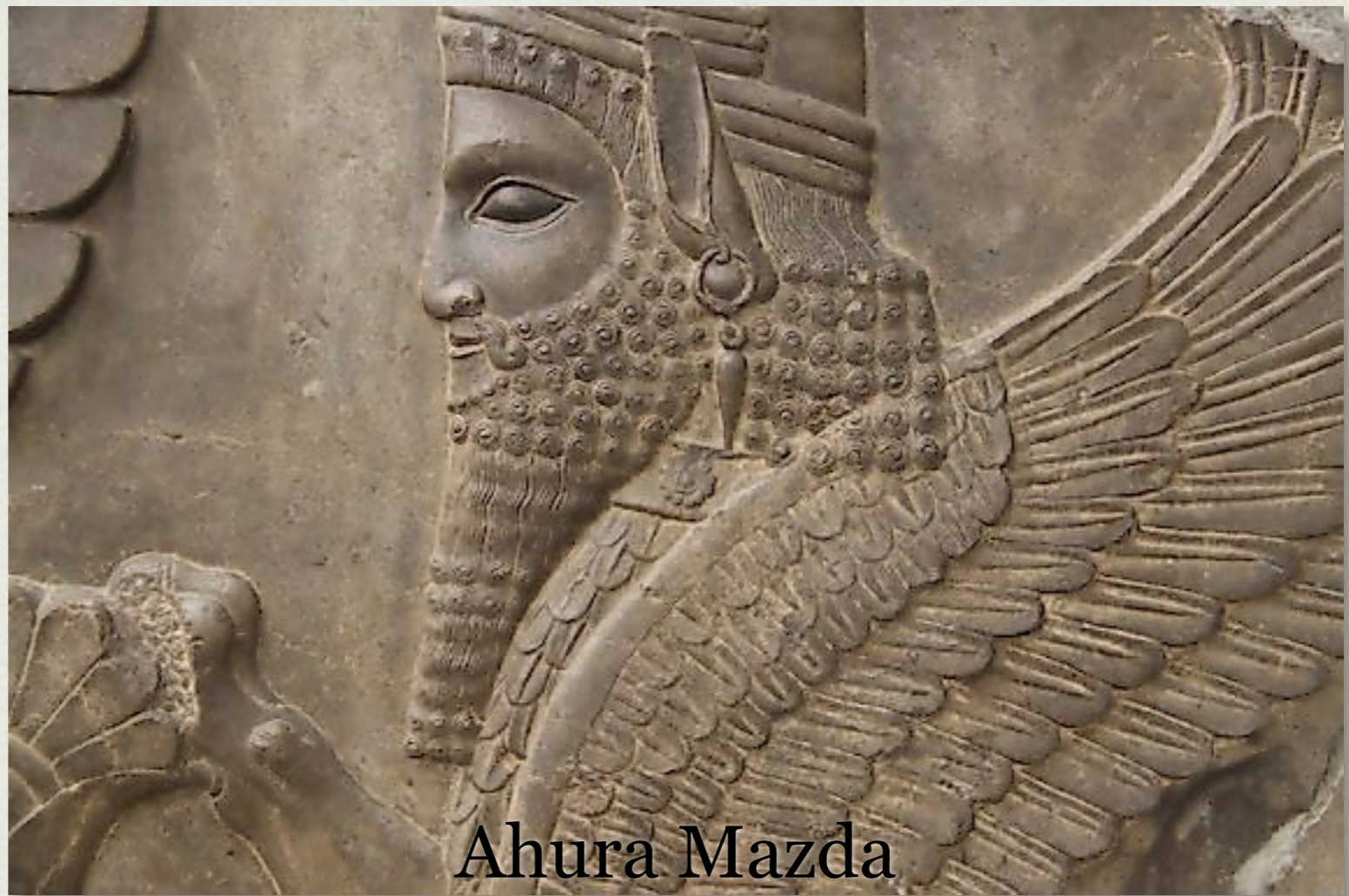
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Ahriman and Ahura Mazda



Ahura Mazda



THE RITES OF MITHRAS

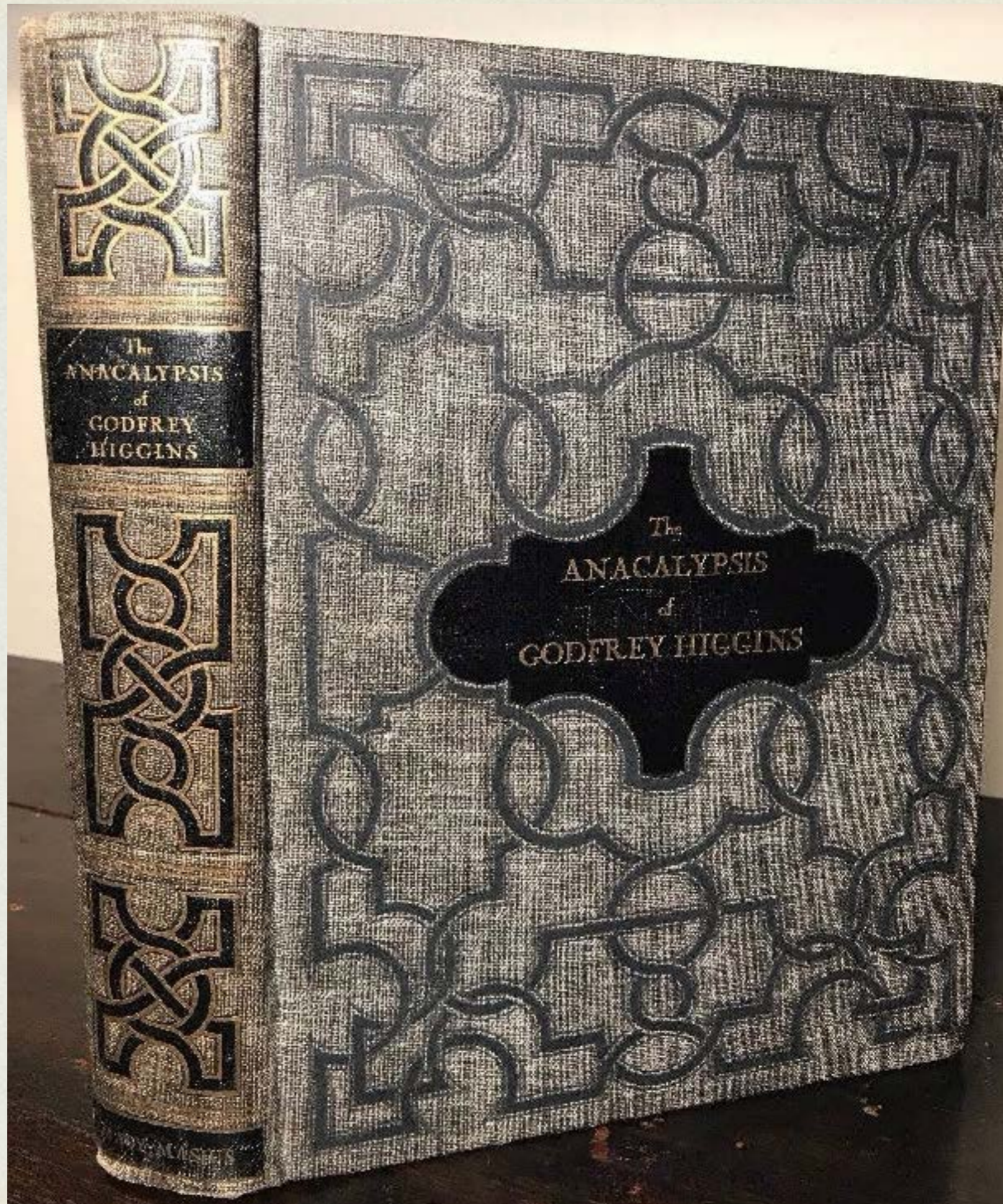
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ANACALYPSIS,
AS
ATTEMPT TO DRAW ASIDE THE VEIL
OF
The Saitic Isis;
OR,
AN INQUIRY INTO THE ORIGIN
OF
LANGUAGES, NATIONS, AND RELIGIONS.

BY
GODFREY HIGGINS, Esq.,

F.R.S., F.R.S.I., F.R.S.E.,
OF SKELDON GRANGE, NEAR DONCASTER.

NEW YORK, BY VAN NOSTRAND LITTLE & CO.

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1836.



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سوره برسته دوش از کس که پوش از روی پیش بران که در پرچم درین جنگ سری پر ز کین کینه خوان بر آن خروشی از ان پیش غزوی بر آمد چسب بلند بدریغستان کن گردید بر او ریش از جا جوخته زرد روی نغاره کرد	در آهمن نام دیو کشت یکی استخوانی است اندر یکی چون بر دیو دیگر جنگ چو سری این در شاهان چنان زد که آن استخوان بنیز و کند و بکند شکست بسنگین چکان هر گاه دید گرفتش که گاه و از جان کشته شدن اهرمن دیو بدست فرامرز	تو گویی که پیش میاید در آگاه دیوی ترپشان کران که کشتی سر فریب بود گفت کای نیر به کان سپهر بر سر آرد در درون گرفتش پیش از دیو پیر و کرده در آمد غایبان سر انجام پور کو سپلتن	یکی زده دیوی میاید از ان هوکن کی روان دو در دشت دیو دستان یکی نوزد و بروی پر بلند بگفت و پنداشت آن فرامرز باز چکان شیر جهان کشت از ان اهرمن ای کوشش آمد بران بزور زمینش چو کشت
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روان کشت جهان کشت ز تخت اندر دیوی در پیشبان کشت کشت	کشت از هر یک جنگ جهان کشت از کوه و آفتاب می برد تا پیشش کوهان تنش را بشمیرد و دغا حسب عهدهن فرامرز با فرشتگان و اورا کشتن	سری دیو نوزد را بچو پیر که در درون پرچم ز زمین بر گرفتش کجا برد که کردند در ان شاه	روان کشت سوجا داری اسما هان روان
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Ahriman being slain by Faramarz during a scene from the Shahnameh

The Zoroastrian Hell, a burning lake of molten metal, into which, on the Judgment-Day, Ahriman with his followers were to be cast, had for its object the ultimate purification and restoration to their pristine state of the condemned—a merciful doctrine, held by Origen, and partly allowed by Jerome. —The Gnostics and Their Remains:232

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Mithraic ritual meal from Konjic, Dalmatia



The Last Supper









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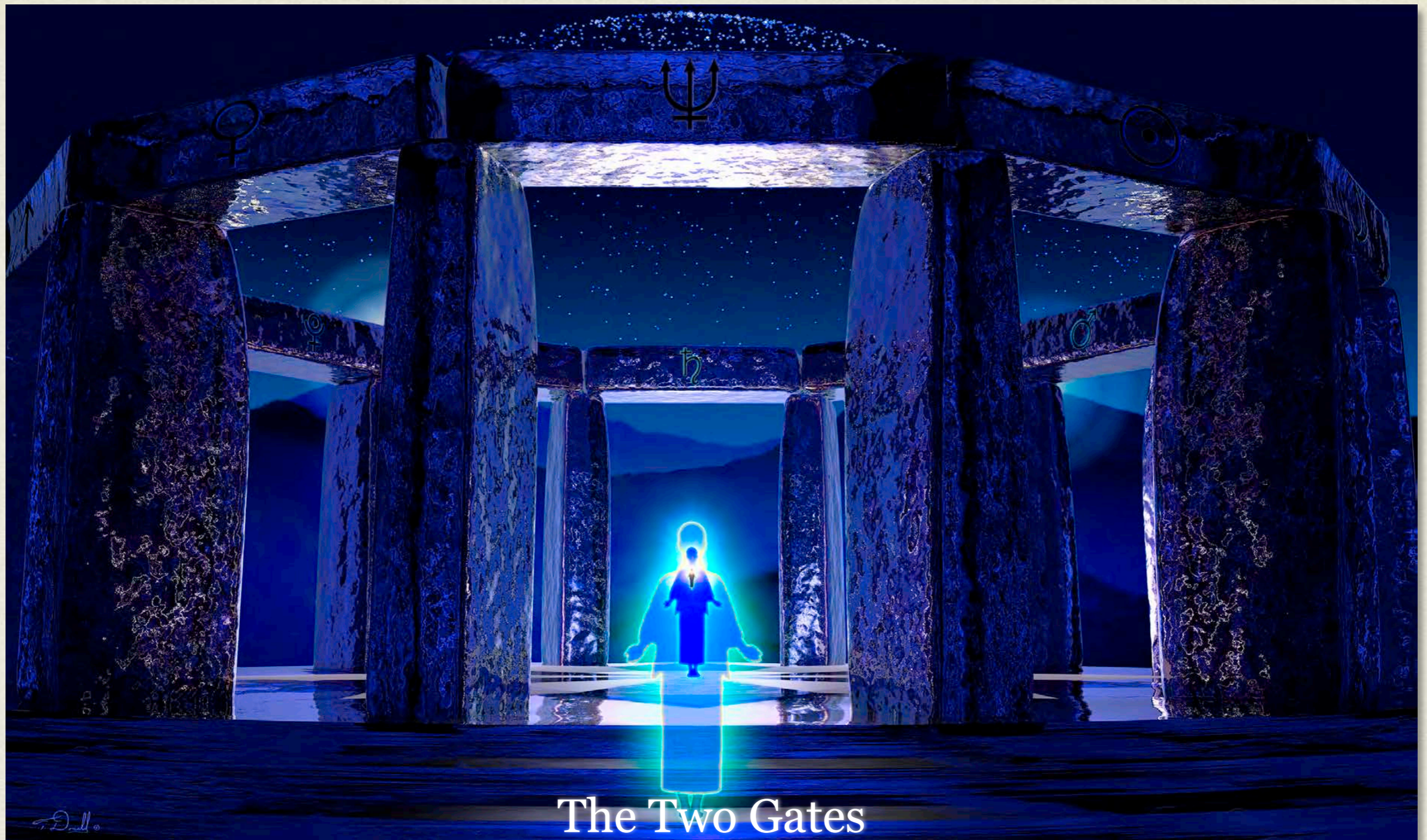
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A Mithraic cave, with the contiguous buildings, was discovered at Spoleto in 1878. In the end wall were the usual three niches for the god and his torch-bearers. In front of them an altar inscribed "*Soli invicto Mithræ sacrum.*" Close to the altar, a tall phallic stone, perforated with a square hole near the top--perhaps the "stone symbolizing the Birth of Mithras" mentioned by Firmicus. The cave, with the ground plan of the whole edifice is given in the 'Archæologia,' vol. 47, p. 205.

—The Gnostics and Their Remains:140



The Two Gates

The polar opposite to Capricorn is Cancer and, as you have been taught, these two signs are the two great Gates of the zodiac—one opening the door into incarnation, into mass life, and into human experience, whilst the other opens the door into the life of the spirit, into the life of the Kingdom of God, the life and purposes of the Hierarchy of our planet. Cancer admits the soul into the world centre which we call Humanity. Capricorn admits the soul into conscious participation in the life of that world centre which we call the Hierarchy. —Esoteric Astrology:168

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The Old Cathedra of Peter



Various miracles are recorded of St. Peter, at Rome; and, to support the credit of the chief of the apostles, the actual chair on which this Bar-Jonas sat was formerly exhibited. As Bar-Jonas was holy, it followed that the chair on which he sat must also be holy; therefore, a festival was instituted on the 18th of January to the holy chair, which on that day was annually exposed to the adoration of the people. This continued till the year 1662, when upon cleaning it, in order to set it up in some conspicuous place of the Vatican, the twelve labours of Hercules unluckily appeared engraved on it. "Our worship, however," says Giacomo Bartolini, who was present at this discovery, and relates it, "was not misplaced, since it was not to the *wood* we paid it, but to the prince of the apostles, St. Peter."

When the French got possession of Rome, they did not fail to examine this celebrated relic, and lo!— in addition to the Labours of Hercules, they discovered engraved upon it, in Arabic letters, the Mohammedan confession of faith. In these two facts there is a beautiful exemplification of the doctrine held by me and Ammonius Saccas, that all the varieties of religions are at the bottom the same. I can scarcely conceive a more marked proof of the nature of the secret doctrine of the Conclave .

...The whole tenure of this work goes to explain the labours of Hercules, the symbols, as Mr. Parkhurst calls them, of what the real Saviour was to do and suffer. —Anacalypsis v.1:691-2

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THE ANCIENT MYSTERIES AND SECRET SOCIETIES

WHICH HAVE INFLUENCED MODERN MASONIC SYMBOLISM

ARI

WHEN confronted with a problem involving the use of the reasoning faculties, individuals of strong intellect keep their poise, and seek to reach a solution by obtaining facts bearing upon the question. Those of immature mentality, on the other hand, when similarly presented, are overwhelmed. They may be qualified to do their own work, but they are led like most

With the decline of virtue, which has preceded the destruction of every nation of history, the Mysteries became perverted and took the place of the divine magic. Indescribable practices (the Bacchanalia) were introduced, and perversion for no institution can be any better than the meretricious is composed. In despair, the few who were true to the secret doctrines from oblivion. In some cases the Mysteries remained.

Thomas Taylor has written, "Mystical." From the earliest dawn of time, man has worshiped and revered things which are practically nothing. This was true during the early centuries of the Christian era, when the search for salvation

MARK MASTER.

INITIAL SECRET
PERFECT MASTER
SECRET MASTER

DAUGHTERS

MEM-
PHIS



MASTERS MASON.



FELLOW CRAFT.



ENTERED APPRENTICE.

Master M

Fellow Craft

Entered Apprentice

THE STORE

THE LAMIC ROOM

THE PREPARATION ROOM

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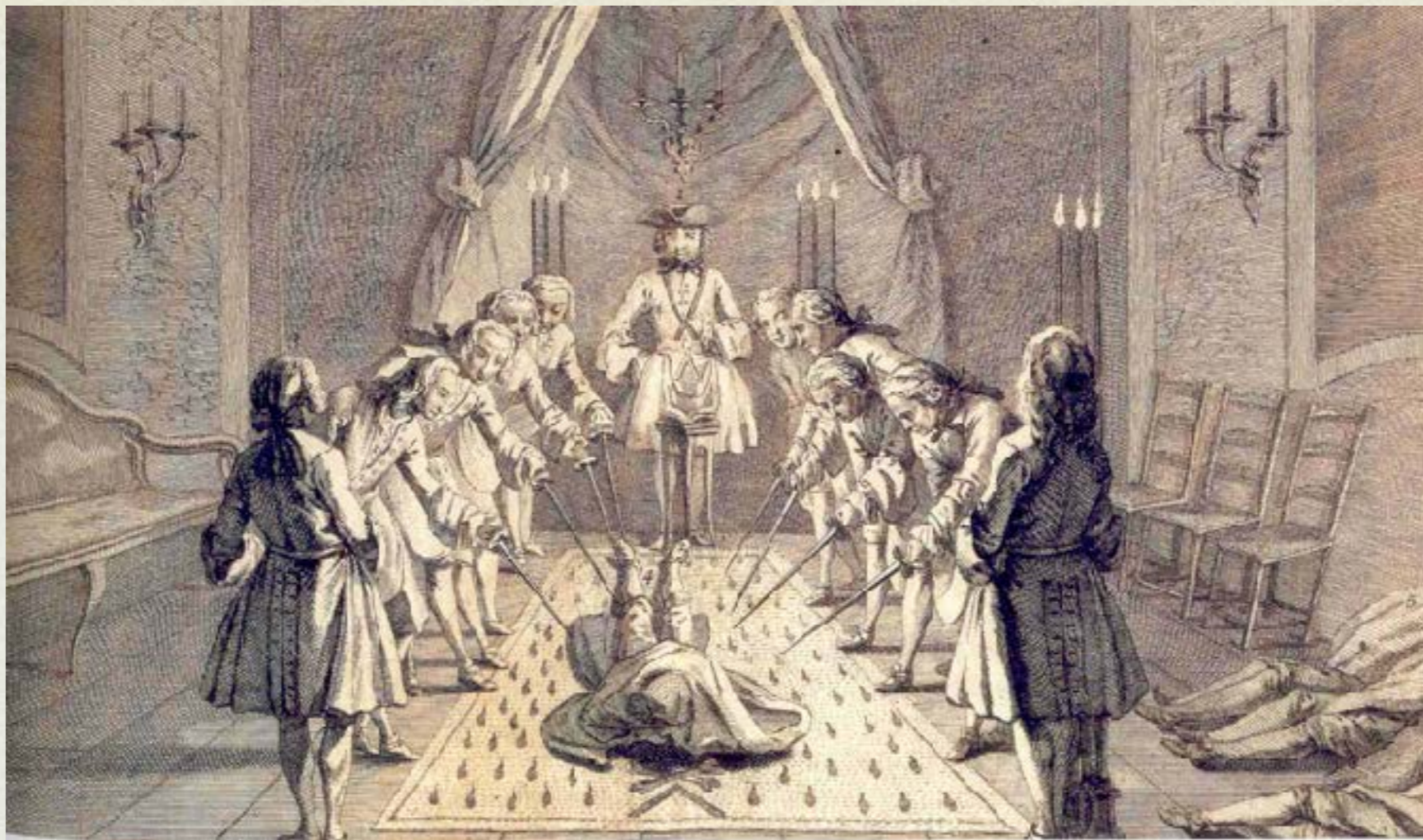
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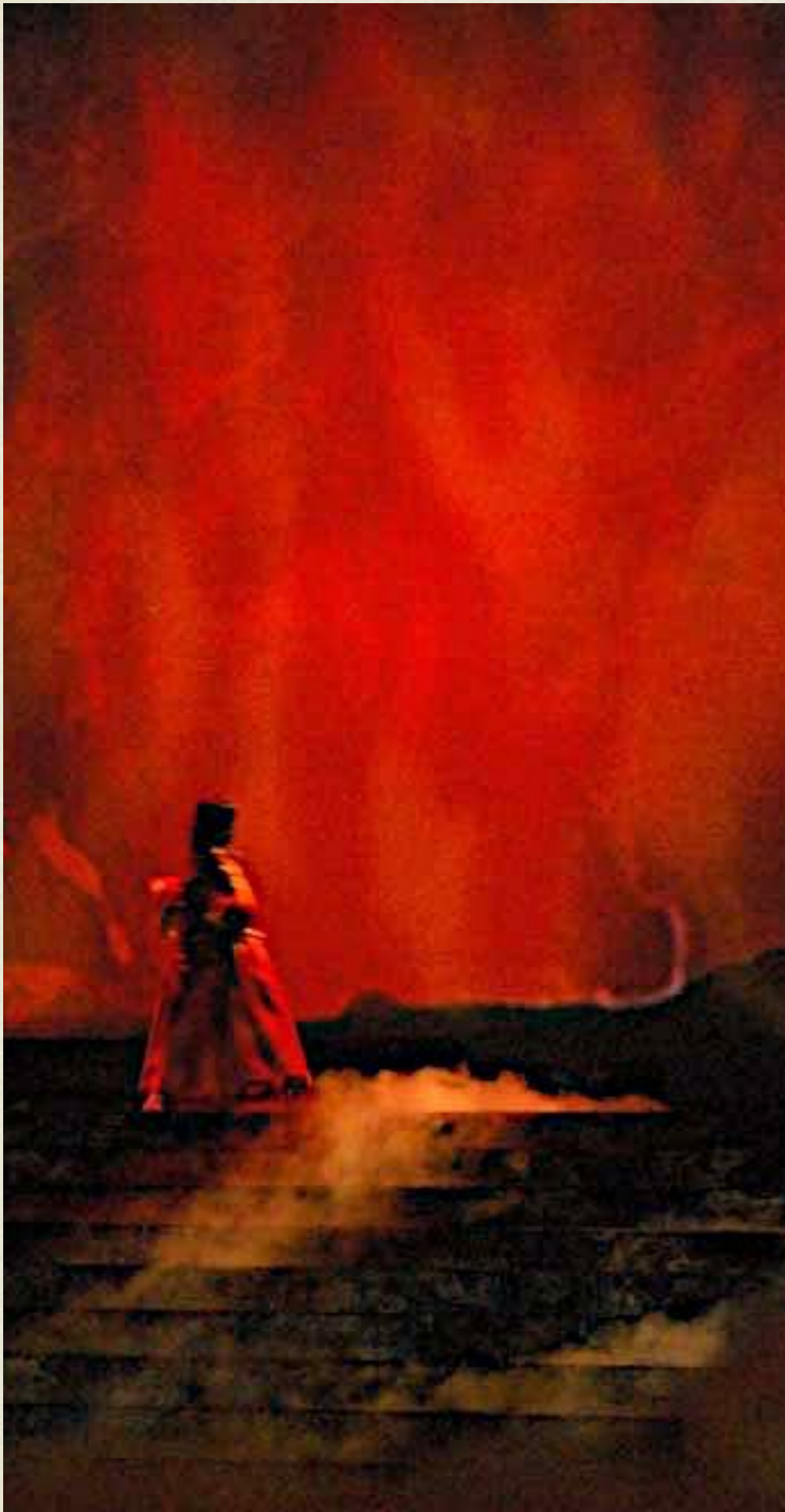
The final ceremony he has himself explained in another passage: "Blush, my Roman fellow-soldiers, even though ye be not to be judged by Christ, but by any 'Soldier of Mithras,' who when he is undergoing initiation in the Cave, when the crown (garland, rather) is offered to him (a sword being placed between, as though in semblance of martyrdom), and about to be set upon his head, is instructed to put forth his hand, and push the crown away, transferring it perchance, to his shoulder, saying at the same time: "My crown is Mithras." And from that time forth he never wears a crown (garland), and this he has for the badge of his initiation, for he is immediately known to be a 'soldier of Mithras,' if he rejects a garland when offered to him, saying that his crown is his god. —quoting Tertullian from *The Gnostics and Their Remains*:132.



In the following twelve steps we see portrayed certain amongst the tests of the neophyte's courage, which, according to Suidas, were termed the "Twelve Degrees" or "Tortures." These corresponded in nature, although of vastly more severe reality, with those trials of courage to which our Masonic Lodges subject the "apprentice" who seeks admission amongst them.

During the Mithraic probation, which lasted forty days, the candidate was tested by the Four Elements, he lay naked a certain number of nights upon the snow, and afterwards was scourged for the space of two days. These Twelve Tortures are sculptured upon the border of the famous Mithraic tablets preserved in the Innsbruck Museum, and a brief account of their several stages will serve to elucidate much of what remains to be discussed.

- I. Man standing and about to plunge a dagger into the throat of a kneeling figure, who holds up his hands in supplication. (This scene appears analogous to the one in the modern ceremonial, when the candidate, ordered to remove the bandage from his eyes, beholds many swords pointed in the most threatening manner at his naked breast.)
- II. Naked man lying on the earth, his head resting on his hand, in the posture of repose. (Probably the penance of the bed of snow.)
- III. The same figure, standing with hands uplifted in a huge crescent (perhaps an ark, and representing the trial by water. To this last, Plato is reported to have been subjected during his initiation in Egypt, and to have but narrowly escaped drowning.



IV. The same, but now with the pileus, cap of liberty, upon his head, rushing boldly into a great fire (the trial by fire).

V. He is now seen struggling through a deep stream, and endeavouring to grasp a rock.

VI. Bull walking to the left.

On the other side come the remaining stages:

VII. Four guests reclining at a horseshoe table (sigma), upon which is set a boar roasted whole.

VIII. Youth guided up a flight of interminable steps by an aged man.

IX. Youth kneeling before a man in a long robe, whose hand he grasps in prayer.

X. The same figures, but their positions are interchanged.

XI. Seated man, before whom kneels a naked, crowned, youth, escorted by one in a long robe.

XII. Naked man holding up the hind legs of a cow, so as to receive in his face the stream still regarded by the Hindoos as the most efficient laver of regeneration, and consequently always administered to persons at their last gasp. The same sacred fluid (as I am informed by a Parsee) is used in the sacramental cups drunk by every male upon his first admission into that religion, which takes place on his completing his seventh year. —The Gnostics and Their Remains:135-6.







SOLI INVICTO DEO
ATIMETVS AVGGNNSERACT
PRAEDIORVM ROMANIANORVM

The most famous sculpturings and reliefs of this prototokos show Mithras kneeling upon the recumbent form of a great bull, into whose throat he is driving a sword. The slaying of the bull signifies that the rays of the sun, symbolized by the sword, release at the vernal equinox the vital essences of the earth—the blood of the bull—which, pouring from the wound made by the Sun God, fertilize the seeds of living things. Dogs were held sacred to the cult of Mithras, being symbolic of sincerity and trustworthiness. The Mithraics used the serpent as an emblem of Ahriman, the Spirit of Evil, and water rats were held sacred to him. The bull is esoterically the Constellation of Taurus; the serpent, its opposite in the zodiac, Scorpio; the sun, Mithras, entering into the side of the bull, slays the celestial creature and nourishes the universe with its blood. ST0AA24

From Lundy's *Monumental Christianity*.

MITHRAS SLAYING THE BULL.