

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Friday, February 2, 2018*

YEAR B - PRESENTATION OF THE Lord
(CANDLEMAS)

Greetins and welcome my brothers and sisters. Today is the ancient celebration of Candlemas, which marks the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. These mid-point feast days have always been considered to be periods of great psychical and spiritual energy. On this particular feast day, we find ourselves, in the northern hemisphere, at a point deep within the grips of winter. The light is increasing, slowly, but the days are still short and the nights long. Our first reading today, a beautiful Gnostic prayer from the Book of Allogenes, acknowledges this state in its closing words: "...hear me while I am in this desolate place. Now let your ineffable light shine upon me for ever and ever." Of course, the "desolate place" spoken of here is not merely the lack of sunlight that we experience here on earth due to the relative position of our planet to the sun. Nevertheless, the astronomical events may serve as a fitting analogy to our mental and spiritual states.

If we view ourselves as a solar system in miniature, the phenomena of the cosmos will begin to take on a very personal and relatable significance. Without getting into all the specific astrological correspondences of the various planets and their relationships, we may first look simply at the Sun and Earth. Just as the Sun is the center of the planetary system, shedding its life-giving rays to all indiscriminately, each of us has a spiritual or pneumatic center which is responsible for giving us light and life. The Earth, in this analogy, is our soul, or psyche - the seat of consciousness; it is the ego or "I am." That is to say, the Earth represents our sense of self; and the relative position or relationship between our objective "self" and our spiritual core is by far the most influential factor affecting our condition.

But we are not powerless. By understanding our true position, we can orient ourselves so that we may optimize our relationship with the Spirit. It is true that there are natural cycles; and it is as foolish to attempt to stop or change these cycles within ourselves as it would be to change the course of the Earth around the Sun. But on Earth, in the dead of winter, one in the north may travel wouth until it is summer. A similar polarity exists within the human psyche. In other words, it is possible, through the application of the Hermetic principle of mental transmutation, to re-orient oneself in order to move out of the cold and darkness and into the spiritual light and warmth; all while letting the natural cycles run their course. For, while the cycle itself cannot be negated, the effects can be negated, or at least mitigated, according to one's ability in the application of mental or spiritual alchemy.

These mysteries touch upon the most profound and esoteric aspects of alchemy and astrology. But one need not master these sciences to begin utilizing the principles. The first and most important step is a concerted act of will to align oneself with one's spiritual center.