

A Mystery of the Pentalpha

by
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Many people see the sacred pentalpha or Pentagram as being a symbol of evil. Most people don't understand the symbols involved in this widely used and vastly misunderstood sign. Though the sign may be seen from many points of view, it cannot be neglected out of hand through our worst enemy, Fear. Banish fear, for we are about to look at the basic symbols of the Pentalpha and at the same time examine a mystery which is familiar to us all.

The five points of the Pentagram represent five elements. The four elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water are surmounted by the fifth element of Spirit. This is the designation given when the Pentagram is drawn with the one point up, the way most people wear it. This is a sign of good and a symbol of spiritual aspiration. When in its other representation it represents defeat and self destruction. A being who has given up the divine and been subjugated to the forces within and around him.

But how do we see the transformation of this descent into oblivion and the raising of the spirit above all obstacles? The secret to that mystery may be held in the Crucifixion of a man many believe to be the savior of the world. But it may be on a more personal level than people realize.

Christ may have been a savior, definitely a teacher, but we cannot neglect him as a representation of the purified and perfected man. The perfected man is one who has purified and consecrated himself, one who controls the four elements within as well as without.¹ In order to do this he must understand each, conquer it and become his own master. i.e. To conquer Fire one must be master of his own passions, evoked and banished at will.²

This purification is not easy and any who have started this path realizes that this is very true. It is as a descent into Hell, a Hell which is within each of us, a Hell we need to conquer. The battle within is a battle with Self. Christ's descent into Hell can be seen as this descent into self. the Dark Night of the Soul, so to speak.

Christ, when dead, was performing the purification of self and when risen was the perfected vessel of the Inner Light which is God. At this point he very much was God, as we all are and have the potential to be.

The Pentagram gives a very interesting point of view concerning this operation. The one point down with two points up (sometimes shown with a goat's head within) shows the elements conquering and defeating the spirit. This is a representation of the soul's journey into Hell.³

¹One may note that Christ quelled the storms at sea (Air), walked upon the waters (Water), Made food by breaking the breads to feed the masses (Earth), and the tempers of those who hated him (Fire).

²Passion is not a bad thing. To conquer it one need not eradicate it, but rather use it where and when it is appropriate, and not allow it to control the individual.

³Many people do not realize this and invoke the self destructive tendencies which this sign denotes. But then again, this may only be a step, sometimes a necessary step, in their spiritual evolution. Those people

With the one point upright we see the Perfected Spirit showing mastery over the elements. This spirit has conquered the various parts of itself and brought them into harmony. This sign of the Purified Man can be seen as the symbol of the Resurrection. It is the man who has been through his own hells and emerged victorious.

This is also the sign of the Gold Cross which alchemically shows Man (by shape) in perfect balance of the elements within (by material). These signs are of the Goal of Man, perfect and pure vehicles for the Word, Life and Breath of God. Symbols of the Spirit who has conquered the Universe Within that he may better the Universe Without.

The Pentalpha with the one point up shows a desire towards personal perfection, like the Christos. The Pentalpha pointed down is self abasement and the Descent into Hell.

From our own understanding, we feel it is better to remind ourselves of the goal of perfection, rather than to strive for self destruction. Better to strive for the heights than mire in the depths for though we may be in the Hell within there is a light inside of us and it will guide.

As St. John said: "The light Shineth in the darkness, but the Darkness comprehendeth it not." The Pentagram is a sign of that light, and those wearing them are people striving for the Light Within and the Perfection of Self that they may find God and be a Perfect Jewel worthy of service to the One.