

A Magical and Qabalistic Interpretation of the Drama of Parzival

THE CHALICE OF ECSTASY

By FRATER ACHAD

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THE collective tradition of mankind is endowed with a relative infallibility, and when rightly interpreted, must represent the largest truth, the most perfect beauty and the purest goodness known on earth. This transcendental truth and goodness and beauty represents the divine substratum of human nature, the ideal humanity which lies above and behind the aberrations of individuals, races and periods. It is not subjected, as are the latter, to Time and Circumstance or to the limitations from which the appearance of error, evil and deformity seem to spring.

The Legend of Parzival is not subject to Time or Circumstance; it represents a glimpse of the Eternal Reality, the Ever-present Here and Now. The circumstances of its enactment and the place wherein the festival is beheld, need not be sought outside the Human Heart that has learned to beat in time and tune with the Soul of the World. All who are born of "Heart's Affliction" must eventually find their way to that spot where they "Scarcely move, yet swiftly seem to run" and having become one with "The Way, The Truth and The Life" they will discover that the shifting scenes of the world they had thought to be so real, will pass by them as a pageant until the Vision of the Grail Itself is presented to their pure Understanding.

It is in the hope of awakening some spark of the smouldering fire of this inner consciousness in the hearts of those who may read these lines—not having previously understood the Legend—and from that spark kindling a great fire that will burn up the veils which hide man from Himself—from God—that I have dared to add these fragments to the great mass of Grail Literature already given to the world.

And to those who are slumbering contentedly, wrapped round with the delusion and dreams of this illusory life, I cry with Gurnemanz:

Hey! Ho! Wood-keepers twain!

Sleep-keepers I deem ye!

At least be moving with the morning!

Hear ye the call? Now thank the Lord

That ye are called in time to hear it.



The Qabalistic Chalice of Ecstasy

POINT I.

THE COMING OF PARZIVAL.

"By pity lightened
The guileless Fool—
Wait for him,
My chosen tool."

IT is not my intention to set forth the complete Argument of the Great Musical-Drama of "Parsifal" derived from the ancient legend of *Parzival* by Richard Wagner, to whom be all praise and honour.

Those who have not had the privilege of witnessing this festival-play, or even of reading a good translation of the *Libretto*, ("Parsifal Libretto" or "Parsifal Retold" by Oliver Huckel) should at least avail themselves of the help that a study of the latter will give them before expecting to gain a thorough grasp of the interpretation herein set forth.

I shall also suppose that the student has some slight knowledge of The Mystic Path and of The Holy Qabalah, (Q. B. L. or The Bride's Reception) although I shall endeavor to make the points dealt with as comprehensive as possible to the uninitiated enquirer who is prepared to "Wake and hearken to the Call."

The Music of Wagner I cannot give you, nor shall I even attempt an interpretation of that which, in the Opera, helps so much toward the opening of those channels of consciousness whereby we may eventually receive some comprehension of the Music of the Spheres.

Fortunately this is not entirely necessary, for the true Path leads to a point when each individual may feel himself to be a highly-strung musical instrument whose Will runs over the strings causing complete and harmonious vibrations in his own being, which will then seem to give forth an un-formulated but delightful melody.

What is the Key-note of Parzival?

ECSTASY!

And what is Ecstasy? It has been well described by one known to us as Frater Perdurabo, and I shall quote his own words:

"There is a land of pure delight,
Where saints immortal reign."

"So used some of us to sing in childhood, and we used to think of that land as far away, farther even than