

ESOTERIC THEOLOGY

OVERVIEW

In the wake of the advent of the word, information and the access thereof, emerged as the single most distinguishing factor separating human beings during early times. While there are specific information categories, disciplines, subjects, topics etc. that particularize and focus on a given area of research, and study; there is a fundamental dichotomy that separates information designed for general public consumption. On the contrary, information that is not designed for general public consumption. Information targeted to the general public is called exoteric while there is information designated as not for public consumption is termed esoteric.

The public at large and broad masses of people in the world are consumers and practitioners of exoteric information and enlightenment. Exoteric information and enlightenment animates the popular social, economic and political sensibilities. The associated historical narrative is revisionist in nature that markets a particular cultural and economic philosophical component.

On the other hand, esoteric information and enlightenment is tightly held and reserved for aristocrats, elites, institutions, organizations, fraternities, etc. that uphold, underpin and reinforce the hegemonic domestic, international, geo-political, economic and strategic interests of western civilization, for example. Consumers and recipients of esoteric information and enlightenment, manage to navigate their way into positions of consequence in commerce, industry, institutions, and government, apart from the standard professional disciplines.

The benefits associated with having access to esoteric information and enlightenment has a substantial advantage to those of privilege, particularly in a sophisticated and modern society. Therefore, it is not surprising that reports suggest that one percent of Americans for example, own 99 percent of the wealth. However, access to esoteric information and enlightenment designated to a privileged class has ancient roots. Prior to the emergence of secular kingdoms and governments in the world, rule was essentially religion based by way of the temple or church. Clerical leadership was based on esoteric information and enlightenment, which separated them from the laity which operated on exoteric information and enlightenment.

For example, the religions of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity and Islam, separate the laity from the clergy by way of exoteric and esoteric information and enlightenment respectively. The clergy operates esoteric information and enlightenment, and as such, they function as intercessors between the laity and the Most High. On the other hand, exoteric information and enlightenment circumscribed to the laity, is tailored for popular consumption and practical application.

Esoteric Judaism is well documented and is accessible to the general public. Esoteric Christianity is not generally available because Roman Catholicism and the Protestant Church theology has never entertained “mysticism” as a valid and practical component of Christianity in the western

hemisphere. On the other hand, Eastern Orthodox Christians, enjoy a strong tradition of esoteric Christianity, in monasteries and hermitages. Islam has an esoteric component in Sufi Islam, wherein mysticism is practiced. Esoteric information and enlightenment is an area that only seekers pursue, hence this “spiritual” aspect of the religions of Abraham have helped to keep the journey fresh and fulfilling to the seeker, surveying the path...

We would be remiss not to observe that “esoteric philosophy” is a secular counterpart to esoteric theology and both meet at an apex... Therefore, in the framework of the world of religion, and the world of philosophy respectively, they share a common base in terms of philosophical and culture framework. The practical outcome for example, is that while seeming to be separated by ideas of separation between “church and state” there is a sublime and essentially unseen singularity at an esoteric level... Hence, history records colorful and longstanding similitude, if not a relationship between church and state.

But currently many populations seem to be questioning the veracity and quality of the traditional information, historical narratives, and the conventional wisdom. Perhaps the most poignant example of how the conventional narrative and ideas continue to decline is in church and religious membership. The exponential decline in the American religious community for example is often accompanied with the assertion, that people are becoming more spiritual and less religious. This apparent rise in the assertion of spirituality is a growing phenomenon that crosses all religious lines, Judaic, Christianity and Islam...

A compelling argument can be made that the precipitous rise in spiritually and decline in organized religion can be directly attributed to the increased information access that continues to proliferate by way of technology. The profoundly increased information flow and accessibility continues to challenge the prevailing historical narratives with heretofore, little known information and other historical accounts that ultimately present a comparative, if not holistic perspective of the subject or topic.

This **ESOTERIC Podcast series** is dedicated to the continuation of prof. Kassa’ work and he is appropriately acknowledged by way of the dedication page.

ESOTERIC THEOLOGY PODCAST offers a comparative historical narrative to the popular Greco-Roman historical account, facilitating a holistic perspective of events in the east and west. In addition the Podcast highlights the dichotomy between esoteric information and enlightenment and exoteric information and enlightenment, respectively.

EPISODE ONE: The Word...

DEDICATION

Episode Table of Contents

The Word

Religions of Abraham

Exoteric & Esoteric Application

Secular Application Rendition