

The Gnostic Seth: Notes  
-Jakal 3113-

Before the beginning, there were the two opposites-- the primordial powers, Light and Dark. Between these two there existed a third, Wind or Spirit. "There is a third that always walks with us."

In the beginning... Ialdabaōth, the lower god, the Archon, created the lower world and in it he placed Adam and Eve. She soon bore to the evil god the children Cain and Abel, "I have gotten a man from the Lord." (Genesis IV, 1) She later bore a third son, Seth.

Ialdabaōth did this as an act against the Light. In the Hypostasis of the Archons, Ialdabaōth's son Salbaōth is converted to the light and installed by the Sophia as the ruler of the seven heavens in the place of his father. His father in turn is cast down into Chaos.

The three sons of Eve represent the three races: the earthly, psychic and spiritual. When Cain slays Abel, it is man's earthly nature slaying the psychic realms. he spiritual was then given to replace that which Cain destroyed-- "For God, she said, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel." (Genesis IV, 25) Seth is the carrier of the spiritual seed, and thus from him is the Perfected Race to descend. Seth symbolizes the path of the initiate. He is the true spiritual element that must weave through the hallucinatory opposition of the psychic and the material.

In the Revelation of Adam to his Son Seth, Adam tells Seth the way in which he and Eve lost the Gnosis. Eve taught Adam of the upper angels, above Ialdabaōth. Because of this the creator god cut them off from the aeonic power. "We then became two aeons, and the glory that was in us deserted us." Thus the eternal Gnosis was taken from them when their power divided. It was then that they both became fully aware of the god that had created them and from thence onwards they have served him with "fear and humility". In telling Seth this, he saw the future embodied in his third son. He saw the Great Generation.

Seth was often referred to as an "alien" or "foreigner". His descendents were often seen as a separate race that carried a secret and great Gnosis-- a Gnosis given to Seth by the Sophia when she carried Seth up to heaven and gave him the highest secrets. These Seth handed down to those who followed.

In several Gnostic texts a connection existed between the Seth of the Egyptian Gnostics and the Seth of the pharonic religion. Text such as the Philosophumena relate Ialdabaōth to Osiris and the Sophia to Isis. Seth also is seen to be linked to his earlier pharonic namesake. Some Gnostic Sethian sects are even reported to have used iconic representations of the pharonic Seth in their rituals.

