

APOLLONIUS OF TYANA

Part VIII

November 4, 1979

I want to spend the last two sessions talking about Apollonius' great work, "Key to the Initiated," which is also known as the book of Revelation, and the esoteric "Apocalypse Unveiled."

It's the hidden wisdom of the universe, of the cosmos, of man, of reality, of God, everything within, everything there is.

I want to approach it, first of all, from a general point of view, and then next class, take it into specifics, breaking it down by verses.

Man is the subject. On the Greek temples there was an inscription, "Man, know thyself." If man knows himself, he knows the creator, cause the creator lives within.

When Apollonius wrote "Key to the Initiated," he used the writings and teachings of the Brahmin and Buddhist order of priests to explain man, who he was, and how the kingdom of heaven and of God was within man. When I first studied the Book of Revelation, which is a summation in allegorical form of the "Key to the Initiated," which is about fifteen years ago, we had a textbook which had a futuristic point of view about most of the book. At that time we had four points of view that we could choose from: (1) it's a history of the Apostolic Church, from the early church to the present time; it was strictly a historical point of view; (2) then there was the mixture of the historical point of view and the futuristic point of view, where certain early parts of the book were considered to be a historical record of the church while the later parts in the book are considered to be about the imminent future; (3) then there's the point of view which is basically futuristic, where everything is delegated to some ~~one~~ unforeseen future; (4) and lastly there's the scarcely accepted idealistic point of view which says, "these are symbols that point to the condition within man and that explain the principles operating in the universe and in man."

The idealistic point of view is the view that the enlightened man accepts. I guess I would call it a thinking man's point of view. I began to delve into this view-point using two major sources: (1) The Apocalypse Unsealed, being an esoteric interpretation or "The Initiation of Ioannes" by James M. Pryse, and (2) Awaken the World Within, by Professor Hilton Hotema. The second book, by the way, uses the first book as its major source!

In the Book of Revelation ("Key to the Initiated"), we have a break down of four planes of existence. The four planes of existence are also known as the four chief vital centers, the four kingdoms, and the four somatic divisions (four physical divisions within man). Within man they correspond to: (1) the generative center, symbolized as the earth; it's the seat of vivifying powers on the animal plane; (2) the abdominal center or the navel region, symbolized as the sea; it's the center of the passional nature; (3) the heart and lungs region, symbolized by rivers and springs; it's the seat of the lower mind; (4) the brain, symbolized by the sky; it's the organ of the Nous or higher mind.

The Book of Revelation begins by describing the seven centers within man. They are the seven spiritual centers of consciousness and are known as the chakras. I'll start breaking it up for you as Apollonius does, from the bottom climbing up. He begins by addressing the churches or societies, centers where consciousness can be expanded, and they are broken down in the body of man thusly: (1) the sacral center, located at the base of the spine, called the Muladhara or Ephesus; Ephesus as a city had the quality of being the center where the World Mother, Diana, or the lunar goddess Isis was recognized, for it had the temple of Diana there; it is a symbol of the generative substance out of which creation occurs; the planet associated with this center is Saturn and the sign ^{is} Capricorn. (2) the prostatic center, sometimes interchangeable with the