

APOLLONIUS OF TYANA

Part IX

December 2, 1979

I've chosen to put everything together that I've got so far on Apollonius the man and Apollonius the teacher into this ten-foot scroll chart that you see before you.

My first acquaintance with Apollonius started a year ago. That's when I started searching for everything that I could find about the man. There were a lot of things that I discovered about him.

Now, when I first started talking about Apollonius I mentioned that his name Apollonius comes from the word "Apollo." Apollo was the god of truth, if you remember your Greek mythology. In the Bible there is mention of an Apollo, and when I looked up in the Bible in the section on proper names to find out what Apollo meant, they said that "Apollo was another form of Apollonius." It's right there in your King James Version of the Bible. The scripture which tells you what Apollonius is all about is I Corinthians 3:4-8, where it says: "For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollo; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollo, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollo watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one." There's also other scriptures in your Bible referring to Apollonius (Apollo) if you care to look them up in your Bible; in one they made him a Jew being born in Alexandria; in another they have him preaching the baptism of John.

Now, Apollonius was born in Tyana in a country called Cappadocia, which is presently part of Asia Minor in Turkey. He traveled to a place called Tarsus; remember in your Bible there's a Paul of Tarsus. You should keep in mind that the things in the Bible are very eclectic, which means that you take bits and pieces from different places and you put them together into a synthetic work, something as I have done. I've taken bits and pieces from everywhere to compile a work of literary art. That's what happened in the formation of the Bible, which is a compilation of different philosophies, different religions, and different cultures. What we see Apollonius doing is that he travels from his birthplace to different places to learn different things: he went into the Temple of Aesculapius to learn the healing arts, he went to different teachers to learn the philosophy of Pythagoras and other schools of thought. Thus he learned all the knowledge and wisdom of the ancient world at that time. Later on he went to Egypt to find out about the pyramids, and about Egyptian mythology and mysteries. He also went to India where he found out from the Brahmins everything there was to know about the universe. He also went to Rome, Italy, then he went to Spain; he traveled through different parts of Greece and through most of the known world of that time.

The crux of Apollonius' teaching can be taken from an epistle (letter) of Apollonius to the Emperor Valerius. Valerius was the man who came to Apollonius for advice, and Apollonius told him certain things that an emperor should do; Valerius followed his advice, and he became one of the better emperors of the Roman Empire. In this one epistle, Apollonius talks to Valerius about the death of his child, and he says to him: "There is no death of anyone save in appearance only, even as there is no birth of anyone or becoming, except only in appearance. For when a thing passes from essence into nature, we consider that there is a birth or becoming, and in the same way that there is death when it passes from nature into essence; though in truth a thing neither comes into being at any time nor is destroyed. But it is only apparent at one time and later on invisible, the former owing to the density of its material, and the latter by reason