

**THE HIEROPHANT; OR, GLEANINGS
FROM THE PAST. BEING AN EXPOSITION
OF BIBLICAL ASTRONOMY, AND
THE SYMBOLISM AND MYSTERIES ON
WHICH WERE FOUNDED ALL ANCIENT
RELIGIONS AND SECRET SOCIETIES**

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The Hierophant; Or, Gleanings from the Past. Being an Exposition of Biblical Astronomy, and the Symbolism and Mysteries on Which Were Founded All Ancient Religions and Secret Societies by G. C. Stewart

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G. C. STEWART

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ALSO AN EXPLANATION OF THE

Dark Sayings and Allegories

WHICH ABOUND IN THE PAGAN, JEWISH AND
CHRISTIAN BIBLES:

ALSO,

*The Real Sense of the Doctrines and
Observances of the Modern
Christian Churches.*

BY G. C. STEWART,

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EXPLANATION OF VIGNETTE.

If the reader can imagine himself standing upon the *cut* representing the earth, with the belt of stars, included in the figures of animals, entirely surrounding him; he will be able to realize the exact position we occupy among the starry host.

The earth passes entirely around the circle in one year consequently the sun appears to us to pass through all the constellations during that period.

These figures in which the reader can observe a profuse sprinkling of stars are called by astronomers constellations. In the whole heavens there are about one hundred; forty-eight of which, including the thirteen in our diagram, are so ancient that their origin is unknown.

These constellations are imaginary lines drawn around the clusters of stars through or among which the sun appears to pass yearly, requiring one month in its passage through each constellation, or more properly through each sign. The small marks opposite and inside of each constellation, are called *stars*, and the whole circle being divided into arcs of 30 degrees each; the sun is said to be in the sign although it may have left the constellation, but not yet have entered into the next division of the circle. The *cut* representing the eagle is explained on pages 164 and 165. The exact position the Sun, Moon and Earth occupy in our vignette is that described by John in Rev. 12th chapter, 1st verse, Virgo as seen from the earth appearing to be clothed with the Sun, while the

Moon is under her feet. In ancient maps and those now in use in our schools, Virgo is in a standing or flying position, having a huge pair of wings, with corn in one hand and fruits and flowers in the other. Her crown of twelve stars represent that she is the HARVEST Queen, on whose head is showered the fullness of the 12 months of the year.

The signs are placed one month out of their proper position because of the precession of the equinoxes, the Vernal equinox being now in the sign of Aries, but in the constellation Pisces.

All the lines and figures are imaginary except the Sun, Earth, Moon and the Stars. These various lines were drawn around the stars for religious and agricultural purposes, and to define their locality, and not as some affirm, because the stars are so located that they resemble the constellations in shape.

A clear conception of the character and meaning of the figures and signs of the Zodiac and the technical terms applied to them, is highly necessary to the reader if he would understand the contents of the book.

NOTE.—The following directions will assist those who are desirous of tracing out the locale of the constellations in the heavens. For further instructions the reader is referred to Burritt's Geography and map of the Heavens.

Pleiades, or the seven stars, are known to all observers. These will be nearly or quite overhead in the evenings of midwinter. They are in the neck of Taurus. Farther east are the Hyades, or the five stars in the face of the bull, in the form of the letter V. Still lower down in a direct line east, or toward the horizon, are three stars in a direct line in the bands of Orion. Farther down still, in

the same direction, is Sirius, or the dog star, and following in his wake is Noah's Ark; for, whereas the dog star gave notice to the Egyptians of the approach of the flood, the ark must needs follow, to rescue the people from the inundation.

The brightest star in Hyades is Aldebaran, and constituted the monogram of Ephriam; Taurus, or the angel of spring, being his banner while encamped in the wilderness,

Orion is a giant warrior, standing with one foot upon the river Eridanus, and the other on the bare (land and sea); one hand is raised toward heaven. This is he, who, in the Apocalypse, had one foot upon the sea and the other upon the land, and swore by him that liveth forever, that time should be no longer. For further remarks on the dog star please consult page 21, and if you would see Noah's Ark in all its beautiful proportions you can consult Burritt.

A REMARKABLE STATEMENT.

The following item, from the New York Sun, I insert here in evidence of the antiquity of Egyptian Astronomy.

The time to which it points was the period that Joseph was captive there, according to our chronology, at which time the perfection in astronomy, sculpture and kindred arts attained by the Egyptians point to the fact that Egypt was even then hoary with age, and in the possession of a perfect system of Zodiacal Stellar, or Sun worship, that must have required ages to perfect it, and that it has left its imprint on every religious system that the world has known since that time. The Jews then con-

sisted of but one family; their descendants afterwards degenerated into barbarism, and Moses was fitted for their leader by being "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians." (Acts. 7., 22.)

"Professor O. M. Mitchell delivered, not long since, in Philadelphia, one of his splendid astronomical lectures. The following statement of a remarkable fact is given in a report of the lecture :

"He had not long since met, in the city of St. Louis, a man of great scientific attainments, who, for forty years, had been engaged in Egypt in deciphering the hieroglyphics of the ancients. This gentleman had stated to him that he had lately unravelled the inscriptions upon the coffin of a mummy, now in the London Museum, and that in which, by the aid of previous observations, he had discovered the key to all the astronomical knowledge of the Egyptians. The zodiac, with the exact position of the planets, was delineated on this coffin, and the date to which they pointed was the autumnal equinox in the year 1722, before Christ, or nearly 3600 years ago. Prof. Mitchell employed his assistants to ascertain the exact positions of the heavenly bodies belonging to our solar system on the equinox of that year (1722 B. C.), and sent him a correct diagram of them, without having communicated his object in so doing. In compliance with this, the calculations were made, and to his astonishment, on comparing the result with the statements of his scientific friend, already referred to, it was found that on the 7th of October, 1722 B. C., the moon and planets had occupied the exact points in the heavens marked upon the coffin in the London Museum."

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