

Zoroaster on where to find virtue, wisdom, and equity

Two translations of a logion of by Pselus (4) on “Magical and Philosophical Precepts,” from I.P. Cory’s *Ancient Fragments*, etc. 1st ed. of 1828 (p. 119), and 2nd ed. of 1832 (p. 269).
Full text of the 2nd ed. in our Theosophy and Theosophists Series.



First edition, 1828

Subject not thy mind to the vast
measures of the earth,

For the plant of truth is not upon the
earth.

Nor measure the measures of the sun,
gathering together canons,

He is moved by the eternal will of the Fa-
ther,¹ not for thy sake.

Let alone the swift course of the moon
and the progression of the stars, for she
runs ever by the impulse of necessity.²

And the progression of the stars was not
brought forth for thy sake.

The ethereal wide flight of birds is not
veracious,

And the dissection of entrails and vic-
tims; all these are toys,

The supports of gainful cheats; fly thou
these

If thou intendest to open the sacred par-
adise of piety;

Where virtue, wisdom, and equity, are
assembled.

Second edition, 1832

Direct not thy mind to the vast measures
of the earth;

For the plant of truth is not upon
ground.

Nor measure the measures of the sun,
collecting rules,

For he is carried by the eternal will of the
father, not for your sake.

Dismiss the impetuous course of the
moon; for she runs always by the work of
necessity.

The progression of the stars was not gen-
erated for your sake.³

The wide aerial flight of birds is not true,

Nor the dissections of the entrails of vic-
tims: they are all mere toys,

The basis of mercenary fraud: flee from
these

If you would open the sacred paradise of
piety

Where virtue, wisdom, and equity, are
assembled.⁴

¹ [First Logos]

² [Karman]

³ [Cf. “. . . even the later Chaldees,* who had gradually fallen into dualism, reducing all things to two primal principles, had no more worshipped Satan or idols than have the Zoroastrians, who are now accused of the same, but that their religion was as highly philosophical as any; their dual and exoteric Theosophy became the heirloom of the Jews, who, in their turn, were forced to share it with the Christians. Parsis are charged to this day with heliolatry, and yet in the *Chaldean Oracles*, under the ‘Magical and Philosophical Precepts’ of Zoroaster, the following is found: ‘Direct not thy mind to the vast measures of the earth, . . . ’” etc.

Blavatsky Collected Writings, (THE DENIALS AND MISTAKES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY) XIII, p. 229.

* The earlier “‘Chaldees’ . . . were the ‘wise men’ of a *caste*, not of a nation, a community of great adepts [who came] from their ‘Serpent-holes,’ and who had settled in Babylonia ages before [the Hebrews].” *Secret Doctrine*, II p. 748]

⁴ [Cf. “There is a vast difference between the *true* worship taught to those who showed themselves worthy, and the state religions. The Magians are accused of all kinds of superstition, but the *Chaldean Oracle* proceeds: ‘The wide aerial flight of birds is not true, . . . ’” etc. Surely it is not those who warn people against ‘mercenary fraud’ who can be accused of it; as said elsewhere:

‘If they accomplished acts which seem miraculous, who can with fairness presume to deny that it was done merely because they possessed a knowledge of natural philosophy and psychological science to a degree unknown to our schools?’”

Blavatsky Collected Writings, *ibid.*, p. 230; & quoting *Isis Unveiled*, I pp. 535-36.