

The four Adams of the Kabbalah



From *The Secret Doctrine*, II pp. 457-58.¹

THE KABBALISTS TEACH THE EXISTENCE OF FOUR DISTINCT ADAMS, or the transformation of four consecutive Adams, the emanations from the *Dyōqnā* (divine phantom) of the Heavenly Man, an ethereal combination of Neshāmāh, the highest Soul or Spirit: this Adam having, of course, neither a gross human body, nor a *body of desire*. This “Adam” is the prototype (*tsūrāh*) of the second Adam. That they represent our Five Races is certain, as everyone can see by their description in the Kabbalah:

- 1 The first being the “perfect, Holy Adam”; “a shadow that disappeared” (the Kings of Edōm) produced from the divine *Tzelem* (Image);
- 2 The second is called the protoplasmic androgyne Adam of the future terrestrial and separated Adam;
- 3 The third Adam is the man made of “dust” (the first, innocent Adam); and
- 4 The fourth, is the supposed forefather of our own race — the Fallen Adam.

See, however, the admirably clear description of these in Isaac Myer’s *Qabbalah*. He gives only four Adams, because of the Kings of Edōm, no doubt. “The fourth Adam,” he writes, “. . . was clothed with skin, flesh, nerves, *etc.* This answers to the Lower *Nephesh* and *Gūph*, *i.e.*, body, united. He has the animal power of Reproduction and continuance of species,”² and this is the *human* Root-Race.

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It is just at this point that the modern Kabbalists — led into error by the long generations of Christian mystics who have tampered with the Kabbalistic records wherever they could — diverge from the Occultists in their interpretations, and take the later thought for the earlier idea. The original Kabbalah was entirely metaphysical, and had no concern with animal, or terrestrial sexes; the later Kabbalah has suffocated the divine ideal under the heavy phallic element. The Kabbalists say: “God made man male and female.” “Among the Qabbalists, the necessity to continued creation and

¹ Frontispiece by Ilene Meyer.

² I. Myer, *Qabbalah*, pp. 418-19

existence is called the Balance,” says the author of *Qabbalah*;¹ and being without this “Balance,” connected with *Māqōm* (mysterious place),² even the First Race is not, as we have seen, recognized by the Sons of the Fifth Adam. From the highest Heavenly Man, the upper Adam who is “male female” or Androgyne, down to the Adam of dust, these personified symbols are all connected with sex and procreation. With the Eastern Occultists it is entirely the reverse. The sexual relation they consider as a “Karma” pertaining only to the mundane relation of man, who is dominated by Illusion, a thing to be put aside, the moment that the person becomes “wise.” They considered it a most fortunate circumstance if the Guru (teacher) found in his pupil an aptitude for the pure life of Brahmachārin. Their dual symbols were to them but the poetical imagery of the sublime correlation of creative Cosmic forces. And this ideal conception is found beaming like a golden ray upon each idol, however coarse and grotesque, in the crowded galleries of the sombre fanes of India and other Mother lands of cults.

This will be demonstrated in the following Section.³

Meanwhile, it may be added that, with the Gnostics, the second Adam also emanates from the Primeval Man, the Ophite *Adamas*, in “whose image he is made”; the third, from this second — an Androgyne. The latter is symbolized in the 6th and 7th pairs of the male-female *Æōns* — Amphain-Essoumen (*Ἀμφαῖν Ἐσσοῦμεν*) and Vananin-Lamertade (*Οὐανανὶν Λαμερταδε*) Father and Mother;⁴ while the fourth Adam, or Race, is represented by a Priapean monster. The latter — a post-Christian fancy — is the degraded copy of the ante-Christian Gnostic symbol of the “Good One,” or “He, who created before anything existed,” the Celestial Priapus — truly born from Venus and Bacchus *when that God returned from his expedition into India*, for Venus and Bacchus are the post-types of Aditi and the Spirit. The later Priapus, one, however, with Agathodaimōn, the Gnostic Saviour, and even with Abraxas, is no longer the glyph for *abstract creative Power*, but symbolizes the four Adams, or Races, the fifth being represented by the *five* branches cut off from the Tree of Life on which the old man stands in the Gnostic gems. The number of the Root-Races was recorded in the ancient Greek temples by the seven vowels, of which *five* were framed in a panel in the Initiation halls of the Adyta. The Egyptian glyph for it was a hand with five fingers spread, the fifth or little finger being only half-grown, and also *five* “N’s” — hieroglyphs standing for that letter. The Romans used the five vowels A E I O U in their fanes; and this archaic symbol was adopted during the middle ages as a motto by the House of the Hapsburgs. *Sic transit gloria!*⁵



¹ p. 118

² Simply, the womb, the “Holy of Holies” with the Semites.

³ [§ XVII, “The “Holy of Holies,” its Degradation, pp. 450-74. See also “The Origin of Good and Evil” and “The Original Sin is a Jewish invention,” in our Black versus White Magic Series. — ED. PHIL.]

⁴ See the Valentinian Table in Epiphanius, *Panarion*, lib. I, t. II, *Adversus Hæreses*, xxxi, § ii *et seq.*

⁵ [“Thus passes the glory of the world.” Often interpreted as “worldly things are fleeting.”]

Quick overview of the four Adams

Vowels	Root-Races 1 to 4	Adams 1 to 4
		Adam 1 is Kadmon or Second Logos. The “perfect, Holy Adam” and divine androgyne, “a shadow that disappeared.”
A	First Race: self-existent and self-born astral sons of yoga, phantom-like.	Adam 2. The protoplasmic androgyne Adam of the future terrestrial and sexually separated Adam of the Fourth Race. Mindless (amanasa) and speechless for the mind has not yet awakened.
E	Early Third Race (Lemurian): sweat-born sons of passive yoga, produced unconsciously by the Second Race.	Adam 3 + Eve, made of “dust.” The first innocent Adam. Still mindless but slight improvement on the sounds of nature, on the cry of gigantic insects, and of the first animals.
H	Late Third Race (Lemurian) to early Fourth Race (Atlantean), the womb-born race of men and women begins. “The whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth.”	Adam 4 of Genesis, the supposed forefather of our own Fifth Race (Aryan), the “Fallen” Adam. Intelligence fully awakened by the sons of mind (manasaputras). Agglutinative languages developed, followed by inflectional speech. Acquired knowledge of good and evil.

