

*Why celibate Occultists have  
always been courting Sophia?*



## ***Abstract and train of thoughts***<sup>1</sup>

### **Vedic woman was deemed higher and more spiritual than man.**

And enjoyed the same rights as man. 3

Women-Adepts can produce High Occultists. 3

#### **Celibate occultists have always been courting Sophia.**

For they can only ascend to Heaven through the Love of Divine Wisdom, the Virgin of the World. 5

“Logos is passive Wisdom in Heaven and Conscious, Self-Active Wisdom on Earth,” we are taught. 5

Let us contemplate on glorified humanity, wherein earth should be like heaven, where there should be no marrying, or giving in marriage, and the population of the world should diminish, till the last survivor is merged in the Boundless All. 6

### **Oh, woman, clothed with the Bridegroom's Power!**

Madame Blavatsky on Wm. C. Eldon Serjeant's "Twilight Visions." 7

#### **Divine Wisdom is the heirloom of all mankind.**

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<sup>1</sup> Illustrations on pages 6 and 8, by Michael Cheval.

## Vedic woman was deemed higher and more spiritual than man.

**W**OMAN BEING LEFT WITH THE FULL OR PERFECT COSMIC NUMBER 10 (the divine number of Jehovah), was deemed higher and more spiritual than man. In Egypt, in days of old, the marriage service contained an article that the woman should be the “lady of the lord,” and real lord over him, the husband pledging himself to be “obedient to his wife” for the production of alchemical results such as the elixir of life and the philosopher’s stone, for the *spiritual* help of the woman was needed by the male alchemist. But woe to the alchemist who should take this in the dead-letter sense of *physical* union.

Such sacrilege would become black magic and be followed by certain failure. The true alchemist of old took *aged* women to help him, carefully avoiding the young ones; and if any of them happened to be married they treated their wives for months both before and during *operations* as sisters.<sup>1</sup>

### And enjoyed the same rights as man.

The ancient Brāhmanical literature shows that in the days of pure-blooded Āryans, woman enjoyed the same rights as man. Her voice was listened to in the state councils; she was free in the choice of her husband and was at liberty to stay single if she so chose. Many a woman’s name plays a prominent part in the chronicles of the ancient Āryan land and has come down to posterity as that of eminent poets, astronomers, philosophers, and even sages and lawgivers.<sup>2</sup>

### Women-Adepts can produce High Occultists.

The occultist, when he has identified himself thoroughly with his *Ātma*, acts upon the *Buddhi*, for, according to the laws of Cosmic Evolution, the *Purusha* — the universal seventh principle — is perpetually acting upon and manifesting itself through *Prakriti* — the universal sixth principle. Thus the MAHATMA, who has become one with his seventh principle — which is identical with *Purusha*, since there is no isolation in the spiritual monad — is practically a creator, for he has identified himself with the evolving and the manifesting energy of nature. It was in this sense that the Rishis are said to have married. And the union of *Śiva* and *Śakti* represents the same allegory. *Śiva* is the *Logos*, the *Vāch*, manifested through the *Śakti*; and the union of the two produces the phenomenal creation, for until the Son is born, the Father and the Mother are non-existent. Now *Śakti* being a female principle, it is *fully* manifested through a woman, although, properly speaking, the *inner* man is neither male, nor female. It is only the preponderance of either of the two principles

<sup>1</sup> *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (E.S. INSTRUCTION No. I) XII p. 533

<sup>2</sup> *Caves and Jungles of Hindostan*, p. 232

(positive and negative) which determines the sex. Now, this preponderance is determined by the Law of Affinity; and hence in a woman is manifested abnormally the occult power represented by *Śakti*. She is moreover gifted with a wonderfully vivid imagination — stronger than man's. And as the phenomenal is the realization or rather the manifestation of the IDEAL, which can be properly and strongly conceived only by a *powerful* IMAGINATION — a WOMAN-ADEPT can produce high occultists — a race of "Buddhas and Christs," born "without sin." The more and the sooner the animal sexual affinities are given up, the stronger and the sooner will be the manifestation of the higher occult powers which alone can produce the "immaculate conception." And this art is practically taught to the occultists at a very high stage of initiation. The "Adept," whether the *Sthūla Śarīra* be male or female, is then able to bring a new being into existence by the manipulation of cosmic forces. *Anasūyā*,<sup>1</sup> a female adept of the ancient times, is thus said to have conceived immaculately *Durvasas*, *Dattatreya* and *Chandra* — the three distinct types of Adeptship. Thus it will be seen that the marriage of the occultist (who is, as already explained, neither male nor female) is a "holy union," devoid of sin, in the same manner as Krishna's union with thousands of *Gopīs*. Sensual-minded men have taken this fact up too literally; and, out of a wrong interpretation of the text, has arisen a sect which indulges in the most degrading practices. But, in fact, *Krishna* represents the seventh principle, while the *Gopīs* indicate the innumerable powers of that principle manifested through its "vehicle." Its union "without sin," or rather the action or manifestation of each of these powers through the "female principle" gives rise to the phenomenal appearances. In such a union the occultist is happy and "without sin" for the "conception" of his other-half — the female principle — is "immaculate." The very fact, that this stage pertains to one of the very highest initiations, shows that the time — when ordinary humanity, during the course of cosmic evolution, will, in this manner, be able to produce a race of "Buddhas," etc., born "without sin" — is yet very, very far off — perhaps attainable in the sixth or the seventh "round." But when once this possibility and the actuality of this fact is recognized, the course of living and education may be so moulded as to hasten the approach of that eventful day when on this earth will descend "the Kingdom of Heaven."<sup>2</sup>

## Celibate occultists have always been courting Sophia.

Some enquire how the world is to go on if all were to become occultists, one of the vital conditions of that order being celibacy. Others say that the ancient Rishis married, quoting some of the names mentioned in the Hindu religious books; and argue therefrom that celibacy is not an essential condition for progress in *practical* occultism. Generally, they put a literal interpretation upon what is beautifully conveyed by means of an allegory and insist upon the dead-letter sense being correct, whenever such a course is profitable in their narrow interests. They find it difficult to control the lower animal desires; and, in order to justify their conduct of persistence in hankering after sensual pleasures, they resort to these books as their authority, in-

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<sup>1</sup> [Brahmā was once born under the name Candra from the womb of *Anasūyā*, the wife of hermit Atri. — ED. PHIL.]

<sup>2</sup> *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (THE FUTURE OCCULTIST) VI pp. 261-63

terpreting them in a manner most convenient to themselves. Of course, when any passages, even in their exoteric sense, conflict with the dictates of their “lower self,” then others are quoted, which *esoterically* convey the same sense, although *exoterically* supporting their peculiar views. The question of the marriage of the *Rishis* is one of such disputed points. The readers of *The Theosophist* may recall here, with advantage, a passage occurring in the article under the heading of “Magicon,” where one of the occultists is said to have rejected the hand of a beautiful young lady, on the ground of his having taken the vow of celibacy, although he himself confesses further on to be courting a virgin whose name was “Sophia.” Now, it is explained there that “Sophia” is wisdom or the *Buddhi* — the spiritual soul (our sixth principle). This principle is everywhere represented as a “female,” because it is passive inasmuch as it is merely the vehicle of the seventh principle. This latter — which is called *Ātma* when spoken of in connection with an individual and *Purush* when applied in its relation to the Universe — is the active male, for it is the CENTRE OF ENERGY acting through and upon its female vehicle, the sixth principle.

**For they can only ascend to Heaven through the Love of Divine Wisdom, the Virgin of the World.**

**“Logos is passive Wisdom in Heaven and Conscious, Self-Active Wisdom on Earth,” we are taught.**

It is the Marriage of “Heavenly man” with the “Virgin of the World” — Nature, as described in *Poimandrēs*; the result of which is their progeny — immortal man. It is this which is called in St. John’s *Revelation* the marriage of the lamb with his bride.<sup>1</sup> That “wife” is now identified with the Church of Rome owing to the arbitrary interpretations of her votaries. But they seem to forget that her *linen* may be fine and white *outwardly* (like the “whitened sepulchre”), but that the rottenness she is inwardly filled with, is not “the righteousness of Saints,”<sup>2</sup> but rather the blood of the Saints she has “slain upon the earth.”<sup>3, 4</sup>

“There are no more two, but one; the soul is no more conscious of the body and mind, but knows that she has what she desired, and that she is where no deception can come, and she would not exchange that bliss for all the heaven of heavens.”<sup>5</sup> →

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<sup>1</sup> xix, 7

<sup>2</sup> xix, 8

<sup>3</sup> xviii, 24

<sup>4</sup> *Secret Doctrine*, II p. 231

<sup>5</sup> Prabhavananda S. *Narada’s Way of Divine Love: Narada Bhakti-Sutras*. First Indian publ. 1972. Madras: Sri Ramakrishna Math, 1986; (quoting Plotinus, p. 29)

[Look up Philaletheians’ translation in our Higher Ethics and Devotion Series. Cf. “Nay, my Holly, there is love — love which makes all things beautiful, and doth breathe divinity into the very dust we tread. With love shall life roll gloriously on from year to year, like the voice of some great music that hath power to hold the hearer’s heart poised on eagles’ wings above the sordid shame and folly of the earth.” (Rider Haggard H. *She*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. of 1887; ch. 22, p. 288. — ED. PHIL.)



**Let us contemplate on glorified humanity, wherein earth should be like heaven, where there should be no marrying, or giving in marriage, and the population of the world should diminish, till the last survivor is merged in the Boundless All.**

The author [Ap. Richard<sup>1</sup>] arguing from the instincts of man, considers marriage, not merely as honourable in all; but as a necessary consequence to human existence. But this proceeds on the argument that all processes of life must end in marriage. A novel that does not end with a wedding is voted dull [40] by the average British public. The idea of the old Hindu *Kumāras* and the Archangel Michael, who refused to generate children, has entirely disappeared from modern society. The ceaseless efforts of frail man not to fulfil his end, namely to liberate his Spiritual Ego from the thralldom of matter, but to adopt a particularly comfortable condition of life, will probably be continued so long as the present race continues to infest the surface of the earth. The occult female element, a pure ray from the Ineffable Name, is ignored by the moderns, who use marriage as a remedy for the softness of man's heart, and permit divorce for the hardness of that same heart. The higher grades of the condition of man, virginity and its consequent glory, are set aside for the objects of sensual pleasures and pecuniary advantages of marriage. The latter has become a regular traffic nowadays. The author is evidently too prosaic to contemplate glorified humanity, wherein earth should be like heaven, where there should be no marrying, or giving in marriage, and the population of the world should diminish, till the last survivor is merged in Ain-Soph. Rather should he look for marriage to be made pleasant and accessible to all, like a six-penny telegram. The restrictions which even the wildest missionary places in the way of polygamy may be cast aside. All persons are recommended to marry early *and often*, and all may be entitled to share (unless the Malthusians<sup>2</sup> stop them) in the task of "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth."<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> [Cf. Ap. Richard (pseud.). *Marriage and divorce: including religious, practical and political aspects of the question*. London: Trübner, 1888. — ED. PHIL.]

<sup>2</sup> [Believer in Malthusian theory. Cf. Thomas Robert Malthus, 1766–1834, British economist who wrote *An Essay on the Principle of Population* (1798), arguing that population tends to increase faster than food supply, with inevitably disastrous results, unless the increase in population is checked by moral restraints or by war, famine, and disease. — ED. PHIL.]

<sup>3</sup> *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE) XI pp. 39-40; [full text in "Blavatsky on Marriage, Divorce, and Celibacy" in our Blavatsky Speaks Series. — ED. PHIL.]

# Oh, woman, clothed with the Bridegroom's Power!

## Madame Blavatsky on Wm. C. Eldon Serjeant's "Twilight Visions."

First published in *Lucifer*, Vol. I (6), February 1888, pp. 463-65. Republished in *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (TWILIGHT VISIONS) IX; excerpted from pp. 64-65.

[The following footnote and closing Editorial Note are appended by H.P. Blavatsky to the second instalment of a mystical poem by Wm. C. Eldon Serjeant, entitled "Twilight Visions." The writer's verse: "O, woman, clothed with the Bridegroom's Power" elicited the following comment from Madame Blavatsky:]

In the Kabbalah, the Bride of the "Heavenly Man," *Tetragrammaton*, is Malkuth — the foundation or kingdom. It is our earth, which, when *regenerated* and purified (as matter), will be united to her bridegroom (Spirit). But in Esotericism there are two aspects of the LOGOS, or the "Father-Son," which latter becomes his own father; one is the UNMANIFESTED Eternal, the other the manifested and periodical LOGOS. The "Bride" of the former is the universe as nature in the abstract. She is also his "MOTHER"; [65] who, "clothed with the bridegroom's power," gives birth to the manifested universe (the second *Logos*) through her own inherent, mystic power, and is, therefore, the Immaculate Mother; "the woman clothed with the sun, and travailing" in child birth, in *Revelation*, ch. xii.



## Divine Wisdom is the heirloom of all mankind.

This second part of the three which form the bulk of the poem called "Twilight Visions" by their author — from a purely Kabbalistic standpoint of universal symbolical Esotericism, is most suggestive. Its literary value is apparent. But literary form in occultism counts for nothing in such mystic writing if its spirit is sectarian — if the symbolism fails in universal application or lacks correctness. In this, Part II, however (of the third to come we can yet say nothing), the Christian-Judæan names may be altered and replaced by their Sanskrit or Egyptian equivalents, and the ideas will remain the same. It seems written in the universal "mystery-language," and may be readily understood by an occultist, of whatever school or nationality. Nor will any true mystic, versed in that international tongue, whose origin is lost in the dark night of prehistoric ages, fail to recognise a true Brother, who has adopted the phraseology of the Initiates of the ancient Judæan Tannaïm — Daniel and St. John of the *Apocalypse* — and partially that of the Christian Gnostics, only to be the more readily understood by the profane of Christian lands. Yet the author means precisely the same thing that would be in the mind of any Brāhmanical or Buddhist Initiate who, while deploring the present degenerated state of things, would place all his hope in the



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WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE BRIDEGROOM'S POWER

transient character of even the *Kali Yuga*, and trust in the speedy coming of the Kalki Avatar. We say again, the divine Science and Wisdom — *Theosophia* — is universal and common property, and the same under every sky. It is the physical type and the outward appearance in the dress, that make of one individual a Chinaman and of another a European, and of a third a red-skinned American. The inner man is one and all are “Sons of God” by birth-right.



[*Note to Students:* Remember to consult “Blavatsky on Marriage, Divorce, and Celibacy,” in our Blavatsky Speaks Series, and “Celibacy, Continenence, Monasticism,” in our Confusing Words Series — ED. PHIL.]

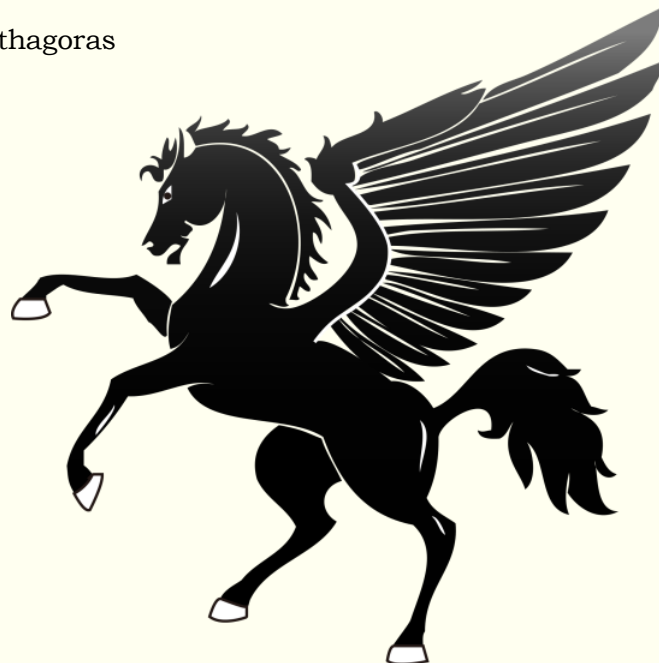


## Marriages made in Heaven

- Adept + Sophia (Divine Wisdom)
- Apex of the Triangle + Square
- Astral Mineral + Sibyl
- Atman or Universal Self + Buddhi or Spiritual Self
- Atman-Buddhi (Impersonal Nous) + Kama-Manas (Personal Mind)
- Christ, the initiate (Christos) + Jesus, the neophyte (Chrēstos)
- Cupid + Psyche
- Divine Enlightenment + Humanity
- Heavenly Man (Spirit) + Virgin of the World (Nature)
- Heavenly Passive Wisdom + Earthly Self-Active Wisdom
- Hierophant + Red Virgin
- Higher Self + His Disciple
- Inner Consciousness (Christos) + Divine Intellect (Sophia)
- Krishna + Gopīs
- Lamb + Bride
- Shakti + Shiva
- Sophia-the-Divine + Sophia-Akhamōth
- Will + Thought

### **Apotheosis symbolised by Pegasus.**

- Ecstasy of the Philaetheians
- Gnōsis of Pythagoras



## Suggested reading for students.<sup>1</sup>



### From our Secret Doctrine's Third Proposition Series.

- ADVENTURES AND PEREGRINATIONS OF THE METAPHYSICAL ATOM
- ARDHANARISHVARA, SYMBOL OF THE HERMAPHRODITE THIRD RACE.JPG
- BLAVATSKY ON THE FORCE OF THE MINERAL MONAS
- BLAVATSKY ON THE HOLY UNION OF HIGH OCCULTISTS
- COLOURS OF OUR SEVEN PLANETS AND ROOT-RACES.JPG
- CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GREAT SACRIFICE
- DIAGRAM 1 - ROOT-RACES IN THE FOURTH ROUND.PNG
- DIAGRAM 2 - THE FORCE OF THE MINERAL MONAS.PDF
- EVOLUTION OF THE HUMAN LIFE-WAVE ON EARTH
- GREAT GENIUS AND COUNTERFEITS
- HIGHER CONSCIENCE IS HEROIC; LOWER CONSCIENCE, COWARDLY
- INSIGHTS TO THE FIRST CHAPTER OF GENESIS
- LUCIFER IS CHRISTOS, INNER LIGHT
- MENTALITY AND FREEDOM BY WILLIAM ARMSTRONG FAIRBURN (1917)
- NATURE UNAIDED FAILS
- PAST AND FUTURE ARE HERE AND NOW
- PRESENTATION ON MARRIAGES MADE IN HEAVEN.PPT
- PROPOSITION 3 - BORN FROM THE PORES OF THE SKIN
- PROPOSITION 3 - COLOURS OF THE SEVEN ROOT-RACES
- PROPOSITION 3 - CREATION IN TEN OCCULT APHORISMS
- PROPOSITION 3 - CYCLE OF NECESSITY
- PROPOSITION 3 - DIAGRAM.JPG
- PROPOSITION 3 - DIAGRAM NOTES
- PROPOSITION 3 - MIND IS THE MAN

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<sup>1</sup> Students should be fully conversant with the metaphysical concepts and learning aids set out in our Secret Doctrine's Propositions Series 1 and 2. — ED. PHIL.

**SECRET DOCTRINE'S THIRD PROPOSITION SERIES  
SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS**

- PROPOSITION 3 - PROMETHEUS, INDIAN TITAN AND HIEROPHANT
- PROPOSITION 3 - RISE AND DEMISE OF ATLANTIS
- PROPOSITION 3 - SEVEN WARS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH
- PROPOSITION 3 - SONS OF THE FIRE-MIST
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE FIRST FOUR ROOT-RACES
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE FIRST FOUR ROOT-RACES (APPENDICES)
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE LAST THREE ROOT-RACES
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE LAST THREE ROOT-RACES (APPENDIX)
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE NOUS OF THE GREEKS
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE SEVEN CREATIONS
- PYGMALION-GALATEA IS AN ALLEGORY OF EARLY MAN'S SEMI-DIVINE SOUL
- THE CROSS AND THE PYTHAGOREAN DECAD
- THE DOG SYMBOLISES OUR SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE
- THE FOUR ADAMS OF THE KABBALAH
- THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT AND ITS PEOPLES
- THE VISIBLE SUN IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM IS A BALL OF ELECTROMAGNETIC FORCES,  
GLOWING BUT NOT BURNING
- THERE IS NOTHING GREATER THAN THE DIVINING STRAWS AND THE TORTOISE
- VITALITY AND DISSOLUTION IN THE GRAND CYCLES OF EXISTENCE

