

through mysterious labyrinths, arriving at last at a stream of water which he was directed to pass. At the same time his progress was arrested by *three men*, also disguised under grotesque forms, who taking a cup of water from the rivulet bade the trembling neophyte to drink, addressing him in these words:—"Aspirant to the honor of a divine companionship, seeker after celestial truth, this is the water of forgetfulness! *Drink to the oblivion of all your vices, the forgetfulness of all your imperfections; and thus be prepared for the reception of the new revelations of virtue and truth and goodness with which you are to be honored.*

It is plain that the initiation was considered by the Egyptians as the end of a profane and vicious life the *palengenesia* (new birth) of corrupt human nature, the death of vice and of all bad passions, and the introduction into a new life of purity and virtue.

The first trials which led thereto filled the mind of the candidate with uncertainty, perplexity and doubts. Painfully and with great labor, he advanced through tortuous paths and over yawning chasms, all the more frightful as he was plunged into the most profound darkness! Arrived at the opening scene of invitation, he saw everything under aspects the most awful and terrible, but soon these spectacles of terror disappeared, with the trembling and fear consequent thereon, and a miraculous and divine light blazed in boundless effulgence around him. Smiling plains and meadows enamelled with flowers, spread before him, and a bland and fragrant air, loaded with all the perfume of Arabia Felix, undulated around him. Hymns in honor to the Divinity, and choruses of triumph and joy, agreeably charmed the ears, sublime doctrines of sacred science—including Art, Industry, Philosophy, Ethics, and Religion—now addressed to his understanding and spectacles of sublime beauty and holy visions, delighted his wondering eyes. The initiate, rendered perfect, was henceforth free, and no more subject to fear. Baptized into a new life, and instructed into a divine science, he walked, crowned with triumph, through the regions of felicity; communing with those pure and elevated spirits to whose companionship he had been exalted.

Such was the initiatory rite instituted at the Temple of Isis.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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## THE BURIAL OF KING HIRAM.

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### A MASONIC MYTH OF THE DAYS OF SOLOMON.

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Time, the great destroyer, is also the great builder. The Tyrian laborers had completed their sub-structures and their erections about Mount Moriah. They had completed the palace of King Solomon upon Zion; that house in which so much of the costly cedar had been employed, that it was called "The House of the forest of Lebanon;" Then, leaving skilled leaders to teach the Hebrews, the great mass of the Phœnicians had returned to their own country.