

which marked them in the land of their captivity. Subject in their new abode to none but a patriarchal law, numerous circumstances would arise, many coincidences would take place, to give different characteristic features to the tribes and kingdoms which were formed among them; religious views and feelings would vary according as leaders of different minds rose up among them; and it may well be imagined, that while many customs of former times would remain to shew the relationship between them, some practices and some opinions would particularize their societies; so that after a lapse of some hundred years, they may be thought to have arisen from different heads. If I am correct in the point I have to establish, what more probable, than that the larger proportion of these rambling tribes would hold the belief in One God, whom they might with a striking truth and beauty call, The Great Spirit: while one body of them, retaining the Idolatrous impressions of their Assyrian master, would in the spirit of fear offer sacrifice to a Molock, the evil being, whom they had learned to regard as the Author of Evil and the power that had contaminated the beautiful creation and scattered curses over it: whom they must propitiate—and such were the Mexicans—and another body of them, entertaining more delightful views of the world and the author of it, would adopt the system of the ancient Magians; and, regarding light and fire as the image of God, and the symbols both of his purity and his beneficence, would adopt the bright luminary of day as their Emblem of the Almighty; believing with those ancient Sages, that the Sun was the place of his abode, the body which his

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