

ever here ended. A flood of dazzling light now poured in upon the scene which was changed by enchantment. The dead body upon the bier returned to life, and the ceremony which had commenced in gloom, ended in light, joy and confidence. The candidate was then instructed by the presiding priest in the mystic science of the institution—theology, morals, philosophy and politics being embraced in these instructions.

The candidate was baptized and received a *new name*. This new name was engraved, together with a mystic token or sign, upon a small white stone, which thus prepared was presented to the initiate. He preserved it as a sacred talisman and carried it with him, wherever he went, as a means of recognition; it being efficacious to procure him relief from distress and security from danger. It was at the same time the emblem of victory over fear and darkness and error, and the means of security, enjoyment and peace.

These rites being spread through all the cities of Syria; Hiram King of Tyre, undoubtedly was a High Priest of these Mysteries.

The society of the Essenes, which existed in India, about six centuries before the Christian era, being in its form almost identical with the Cabiri no doubt was an offspring of the same.

The Essenes were a numerous society at the time of Christ and of St. John, both of whom there is every reason to believe were familiar with the mysteries of the Essenes. The reasons which lead to this belief are, that it cannot be supposed that a mind like that of St. John and particularly that of Christ, could pass over without due consideration a society like that of the Essenes, admired for the amiability and gentleness of its manners and dignified with so many virtues. Besides the moral sentiments, the social maxims, the idea of *liberty, fraternity* and *equality* which distinguished the Essenean Order, differ in no respect from the Christian teachings regarding the same things. And it is also a notable fact, that while Christ denounced, in the severest terms the two sects—Pharisees and Sadducees—he said not a word in condemnation of the Essenes, who were the *Freemasons*, if we may so say of that age, the faithful depositors of the ancient Cabiri rites.

Another reason which even leads to the belief that St. John was a member of the order of the Essenes, we find in his own words in the Apocalypse when he says: Revelation Cap. 2. ver. 17.

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a *white stone* and in the stone a *new name* written, which no man knoweth saving him that receiveth it.”

The apostle means to say: As the initiate in the Cabiri rite, who with a brave heart and an unfaltering step passes boldly through the terrible ordeals appointed to try his patience receives a white stone, with a new name and a mysterious inscription upon it, which is a powerful resource against misfortune, and gives him immunity from many dangers—so shall be given to the triumphant Christian, that which like the mystic stone, will secure him also from numberless dangers. It will raise him to a divine companionship, to membership in a celestial fraternity, and to a full participation in the most mysterious enjoyments of the secret Pavillion above.