AN ISSUE OF BLOOD

"For this is my blood of the Covenant, which is poured out for the many for the forgiveness of sins." Matt 26:28

"We think of man's faculties of development, how he can purify and cleanse his inclinations and passions through his higher soul faculties. Then we may be able to think of the blood as an expression of these purified and cleansed inclinations and passions." Rudolf Steiner, "An Outline of Esoteric Science" pg. 135:1

In our modern era, one of the more popular activities these days is to discover our ancestry and bloodlines. At the mere click of a mouse, websites like "Ancestry.com" or "23 and Me" can tell us anything and everything we might want to know about our human heritage and history. We use our most modern and advanced technology to uncover what is most ancient about us. As is always the case, an endeavor such as this, operating on the material level, brings the elements of irony and duality into the equation. Even when unaware, humankind searches hither and yon for its Homepoint, its Original State, for it's First Blood.

Back of our human heritage, back of nationality, race, ethnicity, back of genetics lies that which is, was and always will be the very essence and Truth of our blood-life, the River of Living Waters, the Genesis. We all know that, in the dense, physical sense, blood is that fluid, essential substance that gives life to our material form. Its ability is miraculous, its activity a marvel of efficiency and, if it is absent or polluted, our life cannot continue. Everything in our material, flesh bodies is dependent upon the circulation and activity of our blood. This fluid, without form or shape, is the life-giver of all that does have form and shape, the formless that gives life to the form. In Truth, blood is where Spirit and matter find communion.

Humanity, and hence our blood, was conceived in Unity. Taking individual forms meant developing individual consciousness; enter the idea of ego, the seat

of free will and choice. In the story of the Garden of Eden, knowledge (individualization, ego) replaces innocence (formlessness, animal mind) and the journey of blood begins. At that moment, the first choice emanating from free will was made and the purity of First Blood, unadulterated and impersonal, was changed forever. Consequently, every choice made by man, individually, as a race, clan, tribe, society, family or in any other association, has been added to and infused into the blood.

This activity can be thought of in terms of a clear, pure stream that originates high in the mountains. Pristine snow melts while time and gravity send the water on its way. On its journey to sea level, the purity of the water is influenced by many factors, some natural and some man-made. By the time the water reaches its destination, it has been altered, changed and modified in many ways. One could say that the water has been "individualized" because of the specific influences it has realized during its journey. Since duality exists in the material world, some of these influences are termed "positive" and others termed "negative". It is a material fact that pollution of various kinds can negatively impact what was once pristine and unadulterated but it is also a fact that vital nutrients can be added to flowing water, making it capable of sustaining new and diverse life. There is also what can be termed a "neutral" state this flowing water can attain. Some of its substance is absorbed into the earth along its journey, awaiting expression in a larger arena of collective materiality.

As we, as initiates, more fully develop "the eyes to see" it becomes increasingly evident that what we see in the natural world is a reflection of the Divine Nature and so it is with the journey of blood. The pristine nature of our own blood represents that Garden consciousness of innocence and impersonal awareness. Time and gravity define the journey of blood, just as with the mountain stream. Time represents the human perception of mortality, past and future. Gravity represents earthly attachment and attraction as well as the hypnosis of matter. As we have all found, leaving the Garden is the possibility of Wisdom, but at a price. Our evolutionary path out of the Garden into knowledge and individualized consciousness meant that we were free to choose error, perversion and the appearance of evil.

Just as with the stream of flowing water, our blood is influenced, altered and transformed constantly through the decades, centuries and ages. From one lifetime to the next, incarnation to incarnation, the "blood and body of our ancestors" (former versions of ourselves) individualizes us through the interaction of our ego (free will) and our souls (remembrance). The "neutral" element (inactive, subconscious) of our blood journey shows forth, as with the flowing stream, in larger arenas such as race consciousness, ethnic awareness, and national identity.

So far, we have made an examination of the "facts" regarding the journey of blood in the esoteric sense. Behind the facts, the Truth eternally abides and so it is here. The ideal of free will, exercised in the Garden of Eden is necessary and essential to the bringing forth of the individualized Christ. Without more than one possibility to choose from, there can be no free will and no individualization in the human soul through the activity of ego. The immature ego can be influenced and penetrated by everything earthly, both that which pollutes the blood and that which restores it. As the ego matures, discernment and wisdom enter into the process of free will; choices are made on the basis of Truth (inspiration and intuition) not mere facts.

The maturing ego recognizes that the River of Living Waters, which is the Blood of Christ, is not and never has been absent anywhere or in anyone. It has simply been infused, clouded, influenced, and perverted by immature ego and the hypnosis of matter. Looking toward Immortal Mind Truth tells us that, while numerous earthly elements can be added to our Original Blood along its journey in consciousness, they are not that Blood and are temporary facts that aid in bringing us Home as individualized expressions of the Christ through His Blood.

Once again, illustration of natural world phenomena can lend clarity to processes ongoing in the inner, unseen life. The stream of water flowing from mountain to ocean encounters many influences, just as our own blood does. As with the stream, there is a restoration process for our blood that cannot be chosen, but only surrendered to. The process of evaporation is this restorative, resurrecting process for earth's lifeblood; water. Evaporation, contingent upon

sunlight, miraculously lifts water from the earth, purifies it, then redeposits it where it is needed through rain and snowfall.

The process by which our blood is purified, clarified, and returned to its Original State without losing its individuality is the Christing process by which we reveal our True Name. Blood, in its spiritual sense, is the river that connects us to Immortal Mind. It is only in the Presence of Son-Light that the process of restoration can take place. By this miracle of Grace (the activity of Unmerited Favor) our blood is raised up above the earth (body and body of affairs) and returned to its Living Waters state that Christ Jesus promised. Transformation and transfiguration through our etheric and astral bodies return our blood to the earth as ministry.

Every healing, every revelation of Truth, every resurrection we surrender to purifies, cleanses, and brings us within sight of the Fountain of Truth from which Christ Blood emanates. We are promised "a new Heaven and a new earth, all of the old things are passed away, never to be spoken of". Let us look Homeward, claim our True Heritage, and see the earth transformed.