

Suggested Reading for SMU CAPE Historical Jesus Course

The journal **Religion** (2002) 32, 273-276

“A Mystical Explanation Of The Real Historical Jesus” by Leonard C. Scott

“There is in Judaism the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition, a vast body of knowledge of transcendental techniques aimed at raising consciousness and bestowing enlightenment. The core of this knowledge, which consists of the specific transcendental technique for raising consciousness and attaining enlightenment, has always been orally transmitted. However, over the years some of the Jewish saints who were taught this knowledge and who practiced and in turn taught it to carefully selected students wrote highly esoteric tracts in Hebrew regarding various aspects of this knowledge. Since 586 B.C., the beginning of the Babylonian Captivity, this knowledge has been secret and the vast majority of this tradition still remains so. In recent years, however, a number of Jewish scholars have begun to elucidate these writings, although the vast majority still remain untranslated and in manuscript form.

Among the central concepts of the Ancient Jewish Mystical tradition are the following: Employing meditation, concentration, contemplation and other sense oriented techniques to reach union with God, *devekuth*, and thereby attain higher states of consciousness, that is, enlightenment; having enlightened saints, called *tzadiks*, perform advanced transcendental performances to avoid dangers facing Israel that were yet to come; and using supernatural abilities attained by these *tzadiks* through the purificatory, transcendental techniques of the Ancient Jewish Mystical tradition to help people with mental, physical, and psychological problems which they faced. This meditation is alluded to in the Old Testament in Psalms 139:18. Also, it is conjectured by Jewish scholars that sections of the book of Exodus and the Book of Ezekiel contain word sounds that are used in these advanced transcendental techniques that are employed to avert dangers yet to come. Finally, the supernatural abilities, reflective of mental and physical purification, which come naturally through the practice of transcendental techniques, are seen to be used by the Patriarchs and Prophets throughout the Old Testament to help the Jewish nation and individual Jewish people when they were in need.

Within this framework of Jewish mystical reality, we see Jesus of Nazareth step on the stage of life in Israel in about 3 A.D. when the Jewish society was roiling with rebellious forces aimed at Israel’s military occupier, Rome, members of various Jewish sects were railing against the incestuous behavior of the royal leaders of Israel, and when numerous false and legitimate Jewish saints were preaching to the masses regarding showing them spiritual paths to a promised better life and that would free Israel from Roman domination. Josephus’ historical writings depict this era in Israel as a time of massive riots, destruction of royal residences and government facilities, brutal Roman military response, famine, exploitation of the poor by the rich, and general social disruption. Now, there is in the New Testament ample evidence of Jesus teaching the Ancient Jewish Mystical tradition techniques to those of the masses who responded to his Kingdom of God parables. Let’s stop here a minute and ask the question: Why parables? What did

Jesus mean by the Kingdom of God? Why parables about the Kingdom of God? First, he used parables to maintain the secrecy of the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition. Second, he used the Kingdom of God as the central point of his parables because every Jewish person was familiar with this concept by virtue of the prophecies of Isaiah regarding the kingdom and how it would usher in a time of peace, prosperity, and lo and behold, a change in the basic nature of mankind and animals. The wolf would lay down with the lamb and the leopard with the kid, and man would learn war no more (Isaiah 2:4 and 11:6-9.)

Let's now look at a few examples of the presence of references to the Ancient Jewish Mystical tradition in the Gospel of Mark. In Mark 1:8, the writer of the Gospel of Mark, who I believe knew well the secret teachings of the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition, says that John baptizes, that is purifies with water; whereas Jesus would baptize, that is, purify with the Holy Spirit. Now what does 'holy spirit' mean in the Ancient Jewish Mystical tradition? Well, it translates to '*Ruach haKodesh*', which does not mean any sort of person, but rather the level of consciousness which a person gains through transcendental techniques of meditation, concentration, or contemplation that bring about *devekuth*, that unification with God, which might last just an instant or perhaps longer. The Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition explains that these transcendental techniques take the mind to *Ein Sof*, no-thingness aspect of God (the realizable aspect of God), or the Unified Field as it is known in quantum physics, and in so doing purifies the mind and body as this process is continued over time. As the mind and body are purified are so purified, the person begins to manifest supernormal abilities. Now we see all Jewish saints using these supernormal abilities just for the purposes outlined above, that is, to help people in need and to avert dangers to Israel that have yet to come. In Mark 4:10-11, the writer of the Gospel of Mark indicates that Jesus taught whatever he was teaching in secret. Why? Because the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition required that.

So what I am saying is that in a veiled manner the writer of the Gospel of Mark was describing the secret mystical, transcendental techniques of the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition to individuals who responded to his parables about the Kingdom of God. Why in a veiled manner? Again, because the Ancient Jewish Mystical tradition dictated that its secrecy not be compromised in any way. There is another reason, which is alluded to in the snippet of the secret Gospel of Mark which Morton Smith discovered in the 1950s, and that is, that in the early church, neophytes were not taught the secrets of the Ancient Jewish Mystical tradition. They were not given the word sounds to use in meditation, or the concentration or contemplation techniques that would enable them to attain the holy spirit, *Ruach haKodesh*. (Enlightenment, or a higher state of consciousness, or righteousness) They had to show spiritual advancement, and then they would be given the word sounds and taught the advanced transcendental mentioned above and also mentioned in one of Paul's Letters to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 12:2.)

What are some of the other things Jesus taught, experienced, or did that are consistent with the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition? He taught a righteous person, that is, an enlightened person who dies will live on in awareness (John 11:25), experiencing change in visual perception as consciousness rises and seeing light with eyes closed (Matt 6:22),

being perfect and losing predatory inclinations (Matt 5:48), that like gods (John 10:34) as mentioned in Psalm 82:6) and thus attaining the ability to perform supernormal acts (Matt 17:20), and possibly being able to do supernormal acts greater than his (John 14:12), loving your enemies (Matt 5:44), spontaneously performing right action (Matt 6:10), that is doing the will of God always. Also, he taught as the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition teaches, that reaching permanent unity consciousness, permanent *devekuth*, is very difficult (Matt 7:14.) Further, Jesus who was in unity consciousness (John 10:30)(or Prophecy Consciousness as it is known in Judaism) could not suffer. We know this from the Essenes who practiced the techniques of the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition and when brutally tortured by the Romans just laughed.

OK, but what about these advanced transcendental techniques? Looking at the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition we see that they were performed to avert the danger of the Roman war with Israel which they did in fact accomplish until James, Jesus' brother, to whom Jesus gave the secrets of the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition, was killed in A.D. 63. At that time tradition indicates that that the spiritual community that Jesus set up and that James continued to his death, left Israel for a city in Jordan. That left Israel spiritually unprotected according to the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition, and four years later in A.D. 67 the Roman war against Israel began. As in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, where no *tzadiks*, that is, no righteous people are present, there is no protection from God's wrath, so was the situation in Israel when Jesus' and James' followers left the country.

Where are we now in the story of the Real Historical Jesus? We are at the point where we have an explanation of what Jesus was teaching, why he was teaching it, and that it in historical fact was working as the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition indicated it would.

What we don't have is where and how Jesus came to have the knowledge of the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition. In the Jewish Talmud, the author infers that Jesus was taught it. The Ancient Jewish Mystical tradition indicates that that is the usual way this knowledge is gotten, but it also indicates that a person can be born with the knowledge. No one really knows how Jesus came to have this knowledge.

Let's stop for a minute to say a few words about where the current interpretation of the Gospels originates. Well, remember that the Gospel of Mark was written in a veiled, purposely obfuscated manner? Research tells us that the other synoptic gospels have been revised, changed, and altered over the years to accommodate then to the conventional interpretation of the Jesus message. What about the Gospel of John? I believe that the best answer is that it is a corruption of the Secret Gospel of Mark, the Gospel taught to those who passed out of the neophyte status and who were being prepared to be given the orally transmitted secret transcendental techniques of the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition.

So what is the bottom line here? Well, from a mystical point of view Jesus did not die — he maintained his awareness — and from a physiological point of view he did not suffer. Also, his dematerialization of his body was very likely a supernormal act he performed

for cosmic reasons only known to him and to show the power of his knowledge and teaching and thereby encourage Jews of his day to follow his path which many did until James was killed and his followers left the area. The implications of this explanation of Jesus are immense. The continuation of war, hatred, and poverty in the world are explained. If the secret of Jesus' knowledge had percolated through humanity over the past two thousand years, we would be closer to the Kingdom of God on earth described by Jesus and Isaiah. What is man to do? First, realize that the story of Jesus is something other than what has been taught over the years. Second, try to rediscover the Ancient Jewish Mystical Tradition or search out parallel spiritual praxes, and embrace their practices and pursue their objectives. If ever it was needed in the world, today man needs to learn war no more, and the 'the lion needs to lay down with the lamb'."

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