

## 10. EASTERN STAR GODDESSES

For those Eastern Star members who may still be unconvinced about the paganism in their organization, perhaps this chapter will be enlightening to them.

Rob Morris, founder of the Eastern Star, boasted about its origins. He wrote:

About the first of February, 1850, I was laid up for two weeks with a sharp attack of rheumatism, and it was this period which I gave to the work in hand. By the aid of my papers and the memory of Mrs. Morris, I recall even the trivial occurrences connected with the work, how I hesitated for a theme, how I dallied over a name, how I wrought face to face with the clock that I might keep my drama within due limits of time, etc. The name was first settled upon—*The Eastern Star*. Next the number of points, five, to correspond with the emblem on the Master's carpet. This is the pentagon, "The signet of King Solomon," and eminently proper to Adoptive Masonry....

The colors, the emblems, the floral wreaths, the esotery proper to these five heroines, were easy of invention. They seemed to fall ready-made into my hands. The only piece of mechanism difficult to fit into the construction was the cabalistic motto, but this occurred to me in ample time for use....

The selections were:

1. Jephthah's Daughter, as illustrating respect to the binding force of a vow.
2. Ruth, as illustrating devotion to religious principles.

3. Esther, as illustrating fidelity to kindred and friends.

4. Martha, as illustrating undeviating faith in the hour of trial.

5. Electa, as illustrating patience and submission under wrong.

These are all Masonic virtues, and they have nowhere in history more brilliant exemplars than in the five characters presented in the lectures of the Eastern Star.<sup>1</sup>

Doesn't that sound so pious and religious? Morris continues:

It is a fitting comment upon these statements that in all the changes that the Eastern Star has experienced at so many hands for thirty-four years [1884], **NO CHANGE IN THE NAMES**, histories or essential lessons has been proposed.<sup>2</sup>

Really? This is just another example of so-called "Masonic honesty." The names of the officers had changed—and Morris knew it! (This isn't the first outright lie that we've caught Morris in, either. Remember his lie about St. John instituting the degree of Electa while at the same time claiming that he himself originated all the degrees?)

### NAMES CHANGED

Henry Wilson Coil, 33° Mason, comments:

In 1855, **MORRIS REVISED THE RITUAL** and printed it under the name, *The Mosaic Book*, and purported to create a *Supreme Constellation*

of the *American Adoptive Rite*, of which he was "Most Enlightened Grand Luminary."<sup>3</sup>

Turning to *The Mosaic Book*, WRITTEN BY Rob Morris, we find the following names of the officers: Helcon, Philomath, Verger, Herald, Luna, Flora, Hebe, Thetis (or Thesis), Areme, and Warder.<sup>4</sup> Do these names look the same to you as Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa? Of course not! The simple fact is, the NAMES WERE CHANGED!

12

HISTORY OF ORDER

Brothers: Helcon, the first and chief Pillar; president of the council; personator of Jephthah—symbol, Lion.

Philomath, the second Pillar; lieutenant to Helcon; personator of Boaz—symbol, Colled Snake.

Verger, the third Pillar; personator of Ahasuerus; treasurer—symbol, Raven.

Herald, the fourth Pillar; personator of St. John; secretary—symbol, Eagle.

Warder, fifth Pillar; keeper of portals—symbol, Dove.

Sisters: Luna, the first or chief Correspondent; personator of Adah—symbol, Violets.

Flora, the second Correspondent; personator of Ruth—symbol, Sunflower.

Hebe, the third Correspondent; personator of Esther—symbol, Lillies.

Thetis, the fourth Correspondent; personator of Martha—symbol, Pine branch with cones.

Areme, the fifth Correspondent; personator of Electa—symbol, Roses.

Emblems found on the border of the Charters and used in the Mosaic book were:

The five stars in a blue circle represented the Constellations.

The gavel represented the five Pillars.

The heart represented the five Correspondents.

The perfect ashler represented the landmarks.

The sun, the Luminaries represented "the governing officers of the Supreme Constellation".

The ring and the memorial, "the semi-annual passport communicated by the V. E. Grand Secretary to the Subordinate Constellations was for traveling purposes only.

There was a form of initiation, or lecture, in which the candidate was instructed into the lessons, secrets, etc., of the work. The whole ceremony was brief, but intricate, and closed with an admonition to the candidate to cultivate the

Page 12 taken from History of the Order of the Eastern Star, published in 1989 by the General Grand Chapter.

A book entitled *History of the Order of the Eastern Star*, which was published in 1989 by the General Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star, pointedly mentioned that in:

...1860, Dr. Morris set about organizing under a different title or name....

The **TITLES OF THE OFFICERS WERE CHANGED**, lectures or charges were taken from Bible stories and **GIVEN BIBLE NAMES**, but many of the principal **IDEAS REMAINED UNCHANGED**....This proved to be popular, and many Master Masons were authorized to communicate the degrees. The lectures remained in five charges, **UNDER DIFFERENT NAMES**, but the **CABALISTIC MOTTO**, and **CABALISTIC WORD REMAINED THE SAME**.<sup>5</sup>

### PAGANISM UNDER GUISE OF CHRISTIANITY

This fact is reiterated a few pages later:

All superfluties were abandoned and sylvan titles eliminated and plain Bible characters used by the office bearers who gave each part.

**NAMES AND TITLES OF OFFICERS WERE CHANGED**....The Labyrinth, or "Maze" was made to conform to the idea of a five pointed star, within a complete circle. Squares and triangles were introduced into the floor work, and other ideas before unknown or overlooked were developed....Symbols and colors remained the same, except that the sunflower as used for Ruth, was changed to the yellow jessamine. **TWO OF THE SIGNS HAVE UNDERGONE SOME CHANGES**,

**BUT THE CABALISTIC WORD, MOTTO AND SYMBOLIC MEANING AS FIRST GIVEN in the Mosaic Book and Manual REMAIN UNCHANGED.<sup>6</sup>**

14

HISTORY OF ORDER

## CHAPTER III.

## Families of the Eastern Star.

The Supreme Constellation appeared to have been a self-styled organization with no authority, and soon fell into decay. Upon its disruption all the large amount of supplies remained in the hands of its Supreme Grand Secretary, Robert Macoy of New York, and in 1860, Dr. Morris set about organizing under a different title or name, and organizations were styled "Families of the Eastern Star." Charters of the old form were issued thus showing that the two systems were identical in spirit, the second having taken the place of the first.

*1872  
S. Morris  
Masonic*

The titles of the officers were changed, lectures or charges were taken from Bible stories and given Bible names, but many of the principal ideas remained unchanged. This proved to be popular, and many Master Masons were authorized to communicate the degrees. The lectures remained in five charges, under different names, but the Cabalistic Motto, and Cabalistic word remained the same.

Up to this time many rituals had been written. Robert Macoy, of New York, who was manager of the Macoy Publishing Co., and very rhetorical in writing had promulgated many ideas along the lines of Adrogynous Masonry. These rituals were constantly undergoing revision. When supplies for an organization were ordered a ritual would be sent and the next time a different ritual, until there was no stability in the work.

From 1850 to 1855 Dr. Morris was very active in communicating degrees and appointing Master Masons to communicate them. These degrees were communicated to many in the South and West. In 1855 he published a ritual called "The Mosaic Book". The States and Territories were districted.

Fascinating! Notice that the symbols, colors, Cabalistic Motto, Cabalistic word, and the **SYMBOLIC MEANING HAVE REMAINED THE SAME**, but the **NAMES WERE CHANGED TO BIBLE NAMES**. As one book, *The Mysteries of Osiris or Ancient Egyptian Initiation*, states: "Names change; principles never."<sup>7</sup> In other words, the Eastern Star is not, and never has been, Bible-based! It is only using the names of Bible characters to continue its paganism under a guise. In fact, we are told: "The reading of Scripture text between the points was originated by the Patrons of Queen Esther Chapter, Indianapolis, Ind., and inserted in the Ritual in 1878."<sup>8</sup> This was 28 years after the founding of the Eastern Star!

Even the word "sylvan" hints at paganism, for it means "forest" or "woods." It was in such undetected places as these that the pagans worshiped their gods with animal and human sacrifices and where they engaged in their sexual orgies. Remember that Pan, whom we have already mentioned, is the god of nature "and is usually represented with horns...and with legs covered with hair (denoting the vitality of base forces, earth, shrubs and the instincts)."<sup>9</sup>

In *A General History of the Order of the Eastern Star* by Willis D. Engle, we are told:

One of the principal causes of dissatisfaction was the **NUMEROUS CHANGES MADE IN THE RITUAL**. That in use in 1874 was revised and materially altered in 1875, so that previous editions were useless when the later was used, and, in 1876, he [Robert Macoy] issued another differing still more from previous ones; even the different editions of the syllabus gave radically different directions as to the manner of giving the signs, so that...[when] the chapters which were using the 1875 ritual applied to the Masonic Publishing Company for additional copies of it, they were

informed that it was out of print, and that copies of it could not be purchased.<sup>10</sup>

In fact, Macoy “took complete control of affairs and by raising Charter fees and other means, soon amassed quite a fortune for himself.”<sup>11</sup>

**WHY** were the names changed? Could it be to **DISGUISE** the fact that the five women were originally the names of goddesses? Yes, that’s right! Are you aware that Luna, Flora, Hebe, and Areme are names of goddesses and that Thetis is the name of a sea goddess (or nymph) in mythology?

### ADAH WAS LUNA

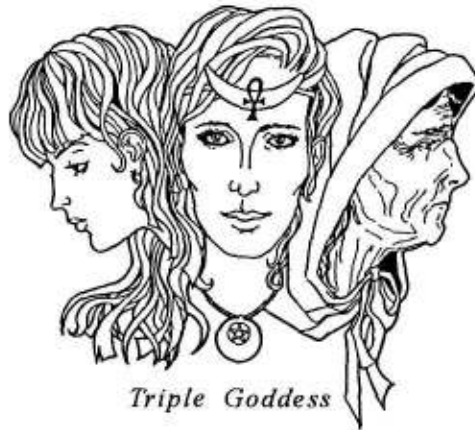
Adah was originally known as Luna.<sup>12</sup> Who was Luna? According to Pearl Cleveland Wilson, Luna, in:

...Roman mythology, [is] the goddess of the moon. A minor deity, Luna was connected chiefly with calendar reckoning. She is said to have been worshiped by the Romans from the time of Romulus, the legendary founder of Rome. In Rome there were three temples to her. Luna was sometimes associated with the Roman goddess Diana. Her Greek counterpart was Selene, an early moon goddess. The latin word *luna* means moon.<sup>13</sup>

Notice that Luna is sometimes associated with Diana and Selene. In the book, *Mythology*, we discover that Diana (also called Artemis):

...was the Moon, called Phoebe and Selene (Luna in Latin)....

In the later poets, Artemis is identified with Hecate. She is “the goddess with three forms,” Selene in the sky, Artemis on earth, Hecate in the lower



*Triple Goddess*

world and in the world above when it is wrapped in darkness. Hecate was the Goddess of the Dark of the Moon, the black nights when the moon is hidden. She was associated with the deeds of darkness, the Goddess of the Crossways, which were held to be ghostly places of evil magic.<sup>14</sup>

Laurie Cabot, a witch, states: “At death Hecate was said to meet the departed souls and lead them to the Underworld....And so Hecate became known as the Queen of the Witches....”<sup>15</sup> This brings to mind that the star used in the Eastern Star represents Hermes, who also was the conductor of the dead to the underworld.<sup>16</sup>

Hecate was the “name by which Diana was known in the infernal regions. In heaven her name was Luna.”<sup>17</sup> It’s no wonder that Hecate is called the “Queen of the Witches” since she taught **SORCERY** and **WITCHCRAFT**,<sup>18</sup> but why would this be one of the goddesses chosen for the Eastern Star under the name of Luna? Could it be that the person who selected these names was well-versed in mythology and witchcraft? Diana’s symbol, by the way, is a **CRESCENT AND**



CRESCENT MOON & STAR (Diana)



*The crescent moon and star are used by both witches and the Eastern Star.*

**STAR, which is a FERTILITY emblem and a SYMBOL OF WITCHCRAFT.<sup>19</sup>**

### VIRGIN OR LESBIAN!

We also discover that Diana is the patron saint of the **FEMINISTS AND LESBIANS.**<sup>20</sup> She shunned men and:

*...devoted herself to hunting, always accompanied by a band of young women, who, like herself, abjured marriage. She is depicted with a quiver and attended by dogs. Her most famous temple was at Ephesus, and was one of the seven wonders of the world.<sup>21</sup>*

Do you recall that this is the goddess who represented Adah, Jephthah's daughter? Remember that Adah was a young girl who was committed to perpetual virginity in order to fulfill the vow her father had spoken (see Judges 11:37-40).

Notice that Diana's most famous temple was at Ephesus.

In Ephesus and elsewhere, the cult of Diana encouraged **SEXUAL LICENSE AND SACRED PROMISCUITY.** The idolatrous statue of Diana depicted her with a multitude of breasts, signifying her sensual nature.<sup>22</sup>

Do you realize that this very **GODDESS** and her temple of worship were spoken of in the Bible? The Apostle Paul was ministering in Asia when an uproar took place. Demetrius, a silversmith, made shrines for Diana and thus acquired a tremendous amount of profit by doing so, but Paul's preaching was persuading the people that idols were nothing compared to the true God (see Acts 19:26 and I Corinthians 8:1-6). Demetrius, therefore:

...called together...the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians. And the whole city was filled with confusion (Acts 19:25-29).

In fact, for two hours the people chanted "Great is Diana of the Ephesians" (Acts 19:34). Of course, this was pagan worship and idolatry which is condemned in the Scriptures, but in spite of this, the Eastern Star reverted to paganism when they chose **GODDESSES** to represent the **ORIGINAL** officers.

As mentioned, Luna (also called Diana, Hecate, Selene, and Artemis) is a moon goddess. Another moon goddess is Io.<sup>23</sup> In Greek mythology:

...the violet sprang for Io, a priestess of Juno's temple, with whom Jupiter was almost caught in one of his flirtations. Not having time to conceal

her, he changed her into a white heifer; but grass not being good enough for so delicate a creature, the god created the violet as her special food.<sup>24</sup>

Would you like to guess what flower was selected for Adah (who was at one time called Luna) in the Eastern Star? That's right! It's the violet.<sup>25</sup>

Aleister Crowley, both a Mason and Satanist, mentions that "Luna is blue...."<sup>26</sup> What color was chosen for Luna who is now called Adah? Blue, of course! Is this just an amazing set of coincidences or was there extensive preparation involved in laying out the plans for this organization and the ritual which followed?

### ESTHER WAS HEBE

The goddess originally mentioned in the Eastern Star for Esther was Hebe.<sup>27</sup> We are told that in Greek mythology Hebe is:

...the goddess of youth and the daughter of Zeus and Hera. Hebe was for a time the cupbearer of the gods, distributing nectar and ambrosia at their feasts, but she was later replaced in this office by the young Trojan prince Ganymede. On Mount Olympus, the home of the gods, she was in charge



of domestic matters, such as preparing the chariot for Hera whenever Hera wished to leave Olympus. She also served as a handmaiden to her brother Ares. When Heracles, or Hercules, became one of the gods, Hebe married him. They had two children, Alexiades and Anicetus. The Romans worshiped Hebe as Juventas and believed, as did the later Greeks, that she had the power to bestow eternal youth.<sup>28</sup>

### RUTH WAS FLORA

Flora was the goddess who had represented Ruth.<sup>29</sup> Flora, also known as Chloris, was the goddess of springtime and flowers in Roman mythology.<sup>30</sup> This is one of the goddesses to whom Albert Pike wrote a poem.<sup>31</sup>

The Romans held an annual festival in honor of Flora, called the Floralia, which "was celebrated with merriment and licentiousness."<sup>32</sup>

We are also told in both the Floral and the Dionysian processions, naked girls in a half-drunken frenzy danced around an immense painted phallus carried on the end of a pole. It is related that Cato the Younger being present at one of these festivals, there was hesitation in starting the orgies because of his celebrated modesty and gravity, so he was obliged to retire....

In Greece and Rome the orgies of the Dionysia were similar to those of the Floralia. Of them Buret says, in *Syphilis in Ancient and Prehistoric Times*, "At a signal from the Aediles the courtesans sprang into the circus, undressed themselves until they were naked, and assumed lascivious attitudes, amid the plaudits of a delirious people, where to the sounds of trumpets, naked men jumped

into the arena, and an awful melee of prostitution was publically (sic) accomplished amid the transports of the multitude."<sup>33</sup>

Of course, this isn't surprising since the symbols that have been used by the Eastern Star and Masons are of a sexual and licentiousness nature.

Why was Flora chosen to represent Ruth? Could it be that this particular goddess was selected because of occultism? You see, in the occult the four (or sometimes five) elements play a prominent role. The color yellow symbolizes the earth element and Ruth's color is yellow.<sup>34</sup> How appropriate, then, for her to be depicted by a goddess of flowers and springtime. The emblem for Ruth is a sheaf or sheaves of barley.<sup>35</sup> "Generally speaking, all sheafs (sic), bunches and sprays stand for **PSYCHIC FORCES**...."<sup>36</sup> Remember, we do know that the sheaf is not actually representing



a sheaf for Shirley Plessner reminds us: "An emblem is a figure or symbol which stands for **SOMETHING ELSE.**"<sup>37</sup>

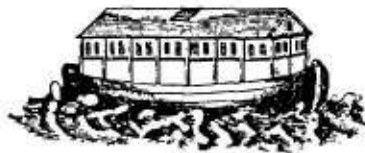
### MARTHA WAS THETIS

Martha was originally called Thetis (or Thesis).<sup>38</sup> In Greek mythology she was a sea goddess whose son's name was Achilles.<sup>39</sup> You're probably familiar with the story of Achilles. He was the mighty Greek warrior during the Trojan War. "During infancy Thetis plunged him into the Styx, so making every part of his body invulnerable except the heel by which she held him."<sup>40</sup> The Styx:

...was a dark and dreary river in Greek and Roman mythology. Dead souls had to be carried across it by Charon, a boatman, in order to reach the Lower World [hell]. The gods took their most sacred oaths by the river Styx.<sup>41</sup>

Interestingly, we find the river Styx mentioned in Masonry. In *What? When? Where? Why? Who? in Freemasonry* we are told:

Ancient peoples were convinced that some boat, ship, canoe, ark or raft, carried the souls of dead men across a mythical body of water to another land; the story of Charon, ferryman on the River Styx, beyond which were the Elysian fields, is



familiar to all. Hence, the ark as a means of safety from storm and stress in Masonic symbolism is but a continuation of a mythology hoary with age....Both anchor and ark are ancient symbols of safety and a passage from this life to another. Freemasonry but adapts to her purposes what has been common to many beliefs in many ages.<sup>42</sup>

### THE SEA GODDESS

Why would a sea goddess be used to represent Martha when Martha's story has nothing to do with the ocean? Is it possible that a sea goddess was necessary to reflect the element water? The color dedicated to Martha is green and green is the color used to symbolize the water element. In the Egyptian creation story, green is assigned to water since water played a part in their creation.<sup>43</sup> Green also symbolized victory and was used in the funeral ritual.<sup>44</sup> Remember, the story of Martha does involve a funeral—the death



*Rainbow Isis*

of Lazarus. It also symbolizes victory since Lazarus was raised from the dead. As previously mentioned, the story of Martha and Lazarus actually seems to parallel the story of Isis and Osiris. Aleister Crowley discloses: "The pure earth, known to the ancient Egyptians in that Equinox of the Gods over which Isis presided, was green."<sup>45</sup>

John Algeo, the president of the Theosophical Society in America,<sup>46</sup> recently wrote an article about *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and its author, Frank Baum, also a member of the Theosophical Society,<sup>47</sup> who was "well read in the occult sciences."<sup>48</sup> (Incidentally, Baum also wrote a play entitled *The Uplift of Lucifer, or Raising Hell*.<sup>49</sup>) Referring to the Emerald City Algeo explains: "Emerald or **GREEN** is the color of harmony, of balance; it is midway in the color spectrum; it is the color of the **FOURTH** or harmonizing ray."<sup>50</sup> Isn't it amazing to notice that Martha's color, green, just happens to also be the **FOURTH** point of the star?<sup>51</sup> Additionally, Algeo points out:

We can overcome death and illusion only in the world of death and illusion. We must pass through the valley of the shadow of death to come to the land of eternal light. So Dorothy must go to





the uttermost West, encounter the wicked Witch of death, and over come her—with water, the symbol of life.<sup>52</sup>

Again we see the correlation between the color (green), the element (water), and death—all used in the Eastern Star story of Martha.

The Eastern Star ritual tells us that Martha's flower is the pine cone (or fern).<sup>53</sup> In *A Dictionary of Symbols* we find that "the pine is a symbol of immortality."<sup>54</sup> That fits quite well with Martha since there is a death and resurrection connotation. However, pine cones are also "regarded as symbols of fertility."<sup>55</sup> "Among the Greeks, Babylonians, and others, the phallus was a symbol of the resurrection because of its ability to come to life and erect itself."<sup>56</sup> Of course, this, too, fits into the story of Martha (under the legend of Isis and Osiris).

What is also intriguing is that the pine tree is "sacred to the sea god."<sup>57</sup> Ah, is this just another reason why Martha was at one time identified as Thetis, the sea goddess? Isis, by the way, is also referred to as the "Star of the Sea!"<sup>58</sup> Did Morris choose each goddess with the different elements and specific colors in mind or are these just mere "coincidences"? You be the judge.

### ELECTA WAS AREME

So far we've covered the goddesses Luna (Adah), Hebe (Esther), Flora (Ruth), and Thetis (Martha). There remains one more—the impersonator of Electa who was called Areme. First of all, let's look at Electa's symbol which is the lion.<sup>59</sup> Earlier I quoted from Masonic sources that clearly showed us that the lion **DOES NOT** represent Christ but actually refers to the lion that raised **OSIRIS** from the dead.<sup>60</sup>

With this in mind, it was interesting to discover that the lion was also the symbol of Ishtar (also known as Isis), the goddess of love.<sup>61</sup> (Osiris was the pagan god who committed incest with his sister, Isis, which resulted in the birth of Horus.) Could there be a correlation between the symbol of the goddess of love (the lion), and Electa's symbol (also a lion) and her pass which is "Love one another"?<sup>62</sup> Incidentally, the lion "was emblematical of the Sun."<sup>63</sup>



Now, who was Areme? In all likelihood, you have never even heard of this name, much less know anything about her. Scores upon scores of reference materials were examined only to find **NO MENTION** of her name at all. Book after book on mythology, as well as dictionaries, encyclopedias, occult books, and numerous other sources were checked. The results were the same: no mention of Areme.

Knowing that the other four names previously used in the Eastern Star were names of goddesses, I was quite sure that Areme would also be a goddess, yet no one seemed to know anything about this name. Was there a particular reason why this name was so elusive? After much more research, a phone call, and several letters, the pieces of the puzzle seemed to start to fall into place.

In conversation with a former witch (who was also a Satanist and Mason), I was informed that in witchcraft there is a **SECRET GODDESS WHOSE NAME IS ONLY KNOWN TO THE INITIATES**.<sup>64</sup> The witchcraft group to which he belonged did not have Areme as their secret goddess, but different

traditions have different goddesses. He also told me that the color associated with this goddess is usually red or white. Surprisingly (or perhaps not so surprisingly!) Areme's color just happens to be red. I started wondering, Could the Eastern Star actually have a **SECRET GODDESS** like the witches do? Was Rob Morris aware of this? Could this be why there was no reference to Areme? Even the well-known witch, Starhawk, referred to "the **SECRET NAME** of the Goddess" in her book *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess*.<sup>65</sup>

### AN EGYPTIAN GODDESS

Shortly after this conversation I received a letter from another former witch. He wrote that Areme "was an **OBSCURE** Egyptian goddess."<sup>66</sup> At least my suspicion that Areme was a goddess was finally confirmed. If Areme was a secret name known only to initiates, obviously there would be very little or no information about her available.

So, then, all five names that Rob Morris had **ORIGINALLY** used were the names of **GODDESSES**, although each of these goddesses impersonated a **BIBLE CHARACTER**. It is also interesting that the goddesses Morris had chosen were taken from **THREE** different countries. Luna and Flora were Roman goddesses, Hebe and Thetis were Greek goddesses, and Areme was an Egyptian goddess. The number **THREE** is very important in Masonry and, of course, in witchcraft.<sup>67</sup>

Albert Pike claims: "This continual reproduction of the number **THREE** is not accidental, not without a profound meaning: and we shall find the same repeated in all the Ancient philosophies."<sup>68</sup> Could this be why **THREE** nations were represented by

these goddesses (and not one, two, four, or five)? Or again, is this just a “coincidence” that just happened? Flowers were very important in paganism as well.

The **GREEKS ASSIGNED A FLOWER OR FLOWERS TO EACH DEITY** in their pantheon and believed that, by inhaling the scent of a plant sacred to a god or goddess, they could share in the attributes of that particular deity...The Romans shared this belief.<sup>69</sup>

It just so happens that each of the Eastern Star “Bible” characters also is assigned a particular flower. In *Burial Service for the Order of the Eastern Star*, we find: “In the ceremonies of our Order, **FLOWERS BEAR AN IMPORTANT PART.**”<sup>70</sup> Fruit is also carried in a vessel.<sup>71</sup> Notice that the Greeks and Romans were involved in this practice and that four out of the five Eastern Star goddesses were Greek and Roman! Incidentally, flowers and fruit are also offered in the Transcendental Meditation initiation rite.<sup>72</sup>

### ORDER OF THE AMARANTH

One other degree that is offered to Eastern Star members is the Amaranth degree. It was prepared by Robert Macoy and “was intended by him to be used as the third and highest degree of Adoptive Rite.”<sup>73</sup> Jean M’Kee Kenaston explains:

The illustration used upon the first page of the ritual shows the all-seeing eye of progress at the top, with graduated degrees typifying the road to progress with the Eastern Star upon the first step, Queen of the South as the second step, and Amaranth upon the third and top step.<sup>74</sup>



What is interesting about this degree is that the:

...word amaranth is derived from the Greek word meaning unwithering and is chiefly used in poetry, and applied to certain plants which, from not soon fading, typify immortality....

In ancient Greece the amaranth was sacred to Ephesian Artemis. It was supposed to have special healing properties, and as a symbol of immortality was used to decorate images of the gods and tombs.<sup>75</sup>

Remember, Artemis is the same goddess as Diana which we just covered. Once again we can see the **GODDESS CONNECTION!**

It is also important to make a brief mention of the all-seeing eye. This eye is another Masonic symbol, a representation of **OSIRIS**.<sup>76</sup> Pike clearly reveals that the all-seeing eye is "the emblem of Osiris, the Creator."<sup>77</sup> He also maintains that Osiris' "power was symbolized by an Eye over a Sceptre. The Sun was termed by the Greeks the Eye of Jupiter, and the Eye of the World; and **HIS [OSIRIS']** is the All-Seeing Eye in our Lodges."<sup>78</sup>

These names of gods and goddesses are still in use in Masonry. For example, the collars worn for

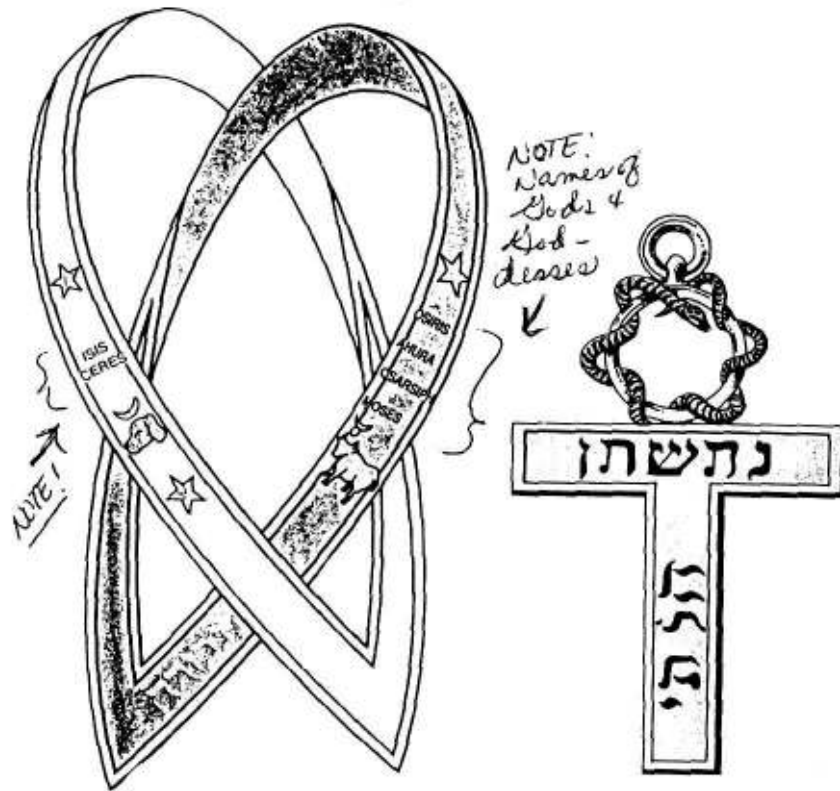


the 25° sport the names of Osiris, Ahura, Isis, and Ceres, along with the fertility symbols of the crescent moon and the bull. So, remember the next time you, a family member, or a friend attends a Masonic or Eastern Star meeting and impersonates one of the "Bible" women that behind this facade stands a **GODDESS!** As previously mentioned, in the book *History of the Order of the Eastern Star*, we are reminded:

**The TITLES OF THE OFFICERS WERE CHANGED**, lectures or charges were taken from Bible stories and **GIVEN BIBLE NAMES**, but many of the principal **IDEAS REMAINED UNCHANGED....**

Two of the signs have undergone some changes, but the Cabalistic word, Motto and symbolic meaning as first given in the *Mosaic Book and Manual* remain unchanged.<sup>79</sup>

KNIGHT OF THE BRAZEN SERPENT  
TWENTY-FIFTH DEGREE



*Taken from A Bridge to Light by Rex Hutchens, published in 1988 by the unanimous approval of the Committee on Rituals and Ceremonial Forms of the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Masonry.*