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THE KABBALAH UNVEILED

S. L. MacGregor Mathers

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The Kabbalah Unveiled by S. L. MacGregor Mathers.

First published in 1887. This edition was first published in 1912.

This ebook edition was published by Global Grey on the 13th May 2025.

This book can be found on the site here:

globalgreybooks.com/kabbalah-unveiled-ebook.html

Global Grey 2025

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Chapter 1

1. *Tradition.* - “The Book of Concealed Mystery” is the book of the equilibrium of balance.

[The word “Dtzenioutha” is difficult to translate, but I think its meaning is best expressed by the words “Concealed Mystery.” I have explained in the Introduction the qabalistical meaning of the words “equilibrium” and “balance,” § 29.]

2. *Tradition.*--For before there was equilibrium, countenance beheld not countenance.

[By the two countenances are mean, Macroprosopus and Microprosopus. See Introduction, §§ 42, 47, 64, 65, 67. 73, and 77.]

3. And the kings of ancient time were dead, and their crowns were found no more; and the earth was desolate.

[The “kings of ancient time” mean the same thing as the “Edomite Kings;” that is, they symbolize worlds of “unbalanced force,” which, according to the Zohar, preceded the formation of this universe. I have explained this also in the Introduction, §§ 41 and 56. This and the immediately following sections are supposed to trace the gradual development of the Deity from negative into positive existence; the text is here describing the time when the Deity was just commencing His manifestation from His primal negative form. Therefore, according to the qabalistical ideas, the universe is the garment as it were of the Deity; He not only contains all, but is Himself all. and exists in all.]

4. Until that head (which is incomprehensible) desired by all desires (proceeding from AIN SVP, *Ain Soph*, the infinite and limitless one), appeared and communicated the vestments of honour.

[This Head, which is here described as proceeding from the infinite and limitless One, the *Ain Soph*, is the first Sephira, the Crown *Kether*, otherwise called *Arikh Anpin*, or Macroprosopus, the Vast Countenance. From this first Sephira the other nine emanations are produced. I have explained all this in the Introduction, §§ 38-57, in treating of the Sephiroth.]

5. This equilibrium hangeth in that region which is negatively existent in the Ancient One.

[By the expression “This equilibrium hangeth in that region which is negatively existent in the Ancient One,” is meant that the other nine Sephiroth (which are equilibrated by their formation in trinities) are as yet not developed in the first Sephira. but exist within it as the tree exists in the seed from which it springs. By “the Ancient One”, is intended the first Sephira, the Crown *Kether*, one of whose appellations is *Autheqa*, the Ancient One. From this Sephira, as I have before remarked. the idea of negative existence depends back towards the AIN.]

6. Thus were those powers equiponderated which were not yet in perceptible existence.

[These powers are the other nine Sephiroth, which are, as it were powers of the first Sephira; as soon as they are equated they become positively existent through correlation of force. The next two sections explain the manner of their equilibration while yet negative entities, or rather ideas]