

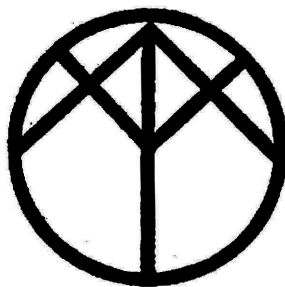
THE PYTHAGOREAN TEACHINGS

FIRST WORLD CONGRESS OF PYTHAGOREAN ORGANIZATIONS
COMMEMORATING THE 2500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
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The Greek civilization and culture and that of Europe, the Americas and other parts of the world are founded upon the philosophical, religious, and educational system of Pythagoras of Samos, the Father of Greek Philosophy and the Pythagoreans. Socrates was a Pythagorean, his teacher having been the Pythagorean philosopher Diotima. Plato is considered the disciple, ninth in succession, to Pythagoras.

From this great knowledge and wisdom the Christian religion derived its theology ; the Trinity of God, the Logos, as the Demiurgus of the Universe, the hell from the ancient Greek Tartarus, and the Paradise from the Elysian Fields. Purificatory rites similar to our lents, confession, baptism and communion were practiced in the Eleusinian Mysteries. The religious ceremonies, the ecclesiastical hierarchy, the choirs in our churches, even the dress and the head gear of our priests were copied from the temples of Apollo in Clarus and that of Artemis in Ephesus. Most of the divine names which we use today in addressing our Saviour, Jesus, the Christ, and the Virgin Mary are the same names that, the priests of these two most famous temples of ancient Greece used in the worship of Apollo, the God of Light, and Artemis, the divine mother Nature. (For more details see our book ; *Divination*.)

When Theodosius the Great, the Roman emperor, ordered the destruction of all temples, libraries and the persecution of priests, and after the burning of the great Library of Alexandria with its 400,000 volumes of ancient knowledge and wisdom, in 394 A. D., the intellectual and spiritual darkness of the Middle ages began. The Renaissance, which saved Europe then from this condition of decadence, was the result of the spreading of the ancient Greek Pythagorean knowledge and wisdom in the West.

Here are some of the fundamental Pythagorean teachings which have been preserved through the centuries down to our time.

1. Religion and Philosophy

Know Thyself and thou shalt know the Universe and God. God only is wise. Men at their best are merely lovers of wisdom. The Kosmos is a living thing, filled with intelligence. To love Truth is to practice Truth. To love wisdom is to live consistently with wisdom. There is no eye like the understanding ; no blindness like ignorance ; no enemy like sickness ; nothing so dreaded as

(spiritual) death. Man must, by all devices and means at his disposal, avoid and eliminate sickness from his body and ignorance from his mind.

God and the Kosmos are a unity, and the Universe and its creatures are an entity.

All things are changing ; nothing dies. Death is only of the body, and not of the Soul ; for the Soul is immortal.

All come from One. This All-One is the First Cause of all beings. There is but One God ; perfect unity, indivisible, unchangeable. God embraces all and actuates all, and is but One. All life is one, and God is one and is perfect Good. As He is God from the beginning, so He has no end, being immortal and eternal. Man is prone to make God in his own image, and each race of men gives God its peculiar characteristics.

First, there was the essence of God, and from His efflux was formed the Soul of the World, the Logos, of Which and by which all being is formed, ordered, and sustained. All being is of one substance, so that God is in all, around all, above all, and sustains all. Everything is produced by Cause and Effect. The Kosmos was framed by God, through the Logos, and being corporeal, is obvious to the senses.

Mankind has never fallen from high estate to low. But has constantly risen from low degree to high. Nor has mankind ever been under universal damnation, because such a state would be inconsistent with the nature of God. God is kindly disposed towards all his creatures. God condemns no man. Rather it is man who condemns himself.

No one is fated to suffer eternally in Hades for crimes he did not commit. But many are compelled to suffer in this life the natural consequences of forebearers' errors. This is under the universal principle of Cause and Effect.

The Kosmos is governed from the beginning for all eternity by fixed, unchangeable and unerring laws, by which all being is brought to harmony, order, and balance. The eternal regimen of the Kosmos is Evolution, Order, and Harmony. The Kosmos and its governing principles are geometrically symmetrical and harmonious. For God is the Perfect Geometer, and geometrizes continuously. Divine Justice is strictly compensatory and is never vindictive.

God has never, at any time, instituted holy orders. The only valid holy order is the Order of Pure Men. The erudite, chaste, and wise Soul is the prophet of the Truth of God. The man that is worthy of God is also a god among men.

Temples built with earthly hands confer no glory upon God, but are unstable monuments to man's vanity. The only acceptable offering to God is a pure heart and a chaste life. God is Spirit and He may be worshipped only in spirit and in righteous living. Do not attempt to enlighten the stupid, nor to cast pearl before the swine.

The aim of the Pythagorean Schools was to make their disciples « *Theo-didactoi* », or divinely taught. The Christian Church calls this « the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples ».

2. *Science of Living*

Eat moderately, bathe plentifully, exercise much in the open air. Above all things, learn to keep silence. Hear all and speak little.

Like all the rest, diet is governed by scientific laws, and should not be taken at haphazard. Each kind of food introduced into the body becomes the cause of a certain peculiar disposition. Each food has its own properties which help or hinder some particular of the body and bring about disorders and disease. But other foods bring health and increase of power both of brain and brawn. The simple and most natural foods, partaken of as nearly as possible in their virginal state, are best for men. Green foods strengthen the teeth, give glow to the cheek, and aid elimination. Above all, abstain from meat and all flesh of animals. Such is not a natural food for man. No one can truly love God without, at the same time, loving all His creatures. No one can love his fellow-creatures and shed their blood without stern necessity, much less eat them. For those accustomed to condemn the slaughter of other animals as unjust and unnatural, will think it yet more unjust and unlawful to kill a man, or to engage in war. Violence and bloodshed contain in themselves the seeds of never-ending future wars. In particular, rulers, and legislators should abstain from eating flesh.

O mortals ! do not pollute your bodies with so impious a food. O how criminal it is for flesh to be stored away in flesh ! For one greedy body to grow fat with food gained from another. For one live creature to go on living through the destruction of another living thing. And this in the midst of the wealth of food which Earth, the best of mothers, has produced. It is your pleasure to chew the piteous flesh of slaughtered animals with your savage teeth. And you cannot without destroying another life, appease the cravings of your greedy and insatiable appetite ! Always eat to live and never live to eat. Avoid gluttony. Superfluity is gluttony. Avoid excess.

Intoxication is the preparation for insanity. Drunkenness and ruin ; they are identical. Strong drink is a snare. Fly from intoxication as you would from insanity.

A man should not possess more than enough for his needs. Everything which is more than sufficient for man is hostile to him. The self-sufficient and needy philosopher lives a life truly similar to Divinity. Deem nothing your own ; for you are a sojourner, and many are yet to follow you. Soul has no sex. Man and woman are equal in dignity before God ».

3. *Social order and peace*

Pythagoras taught the real relationship among men as follows : « The man who knows more than I do is my father ; he who knows less is my son, and the man who knows as much as I know, is my brother ».

For the establishment of a permanent world order it is imperative that religion, science, and philosophy be again integrated as they were in ancient times. Science without religion becomes a cold, mental, and soulless occupation and religion without science and philosophy is an anachronism. It becomes a mere lip ritual in the places of worship, retarding the progress of the people and inviting indifference to and the shunning of science. Knowledge without moral discipline and the feeling or responsibility for its abuse or misuse, is more dangerous than blissful ignorance. Thus, religion without scientific and philosophical enlightenment, leads to religious fanaticism and to racial and national bigotry, and science without religious sentiment becomes the tyrant of mankind, which it is supposed to serve. Philosophy blends religion and science into an harmonious, workable system for all men, for all creeds, for all races and for all nations of the world.

Unless these Pythagorean Truths, which are based on Cosmic Laws, are understood and practised by the members of society ; contentment, harmony, friendship, peace, and happiness can never be established among men.