

The Gospel of Thomas

Esoteric Sayings of Yeshua

Mark 4:11-12

‘To you, has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that they may indeed hear, but not understand, lest they turn again and be forgiven.’

John 8:31-32

‘If you are remaining in my *logos*, you are truly my disciples. You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free. . . . Amen, amen, I am telling you that whoever commits sin (‘missing the mark’) is the slave of sin. And the slave is forever unable to hold onto his home, but the Son strengthens you to the end of the universe. For thus, the Son shall make you free, that truly you shall be the Sons of the Free.’

Clement of Alexandria (150-211 CE)

‘James the Righteous, John and Peter were entrusted by the Lord after his resurrection with the higher knowledge (*gnosis*). They imparted it to the other disciples, to the seventy.’

‘the *gnosis* itself is that which has descended by transmission to a few, having been imparted unwritten by the apostles.’

‘The Lord . . . allowed us to communicate of those Divine Mysteries, and of that Holy Light, to those who are able to receive them . . . The Mysteries are . . . that what is spoken may be in the mouth of the speaker, rather not in his voice, but in his understanding’

Dates of two Esoteric (Proto-Gnostic) Gospels

Crucifixion of Yeshua: 30 CE

Proto-Gnostic:

Gospel of John: 95 CE

Gospel of Thomas 100 CE

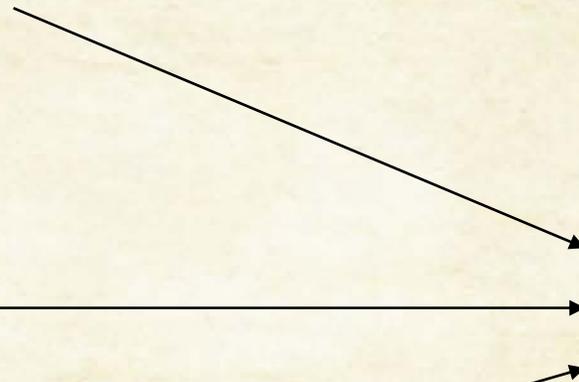
History of Gnosticism

Essenes/Jewish esotericism

Yeshua

Hermeticism (Egypt)

Gnosticism



Yeshua and the Essenes

Until the time of Yeshua, the Path of Initiation was different: people willing to reconnect with their Soul needed to leave humanity and strike out on a highly disciplined way of life, away from the apparent snares and desires of temporal life (Krishna, the Buddha). But Yeshua challenged this older paradigm (Age of Aries) under which the Essenes still laboured. Yeshua showed everyone how simple it can be to live the light of the Soul, love, and, as a member of the Essene community, how to get the Essenes out of their insularity, to show them the fact that they needed to live as a group that was embracing of all of humanity, rather than being a closed, withdrawn community of practitioners seeking their own release from the snares of the temporal world, suffering under the pride of the practitioner - that an initiate is somehow 'better' or more advanced than the rest of humanity. For Yeshua, all are equal; there are no special ones.

What is *Gnosis*?

Valentinus 100-160 CE:

‘Perfect redemption is the knowing itself of the inexpressible fullness since through ignorance came about the Defect . . . And the whole system springing from ignorance is dissolved in *gnosis*. Therefore *gnosis* is the redemption of the inner man, and it is not of the body, for the body is corruptible; nor is it mental/spiritual (*psyche*), for even the mind/spirit is a product of the Defect and it is (to be) a lodging of the Soul. **Being Soulful (*pneuma*) therefore also must be redemption itself.** Through *gnosis*, then, is redeemed the inner, spiritual man; so that to us suffices the *gnosis* of universal being. And this is the true redemption.’ - Irenaeus *Against Heresies* 1.21.4

The Core of the Esoteric and Gnostic Teaching

Excerpts of Theodotus, student of Valentinus (150-180 CE):

‘what makes us free is the *gnosis* of who we were
of what we have become
of where we were
of wherein we have been cast
of whereto we are hastening
of what we are being freed
of what birth really is
of what rebirth really is’

Gospel of Thomas 50

Jesus said,

"If they say to you, 'Where have you come from?' say to them, 'We have come from the light, from the place where the light came into being by itself, established [itself], and appeared in their image.'

If they say to you, 'Is it you?' say, 'We are its children, and we are the chosen of the living Father.'

Gospel of Thomas 29

Jesus said, "If the flesh came into being because of spirit, that is a marvel, but if spirit came into being because of the body, that is a marvel of marvels.

Yet I marvel at how this great wealth has come to dwell in this poverty."

Gospel of Thomas 3

Jesus said, "If your leaders say to you, 'Look, the (Father's) kingdom is in the sky,' then the birds of the sky will precede you. If they say to you, 'It is in the sea,' then the fish will precede you. Rather, the kingdom is within you and it is outside you.

When you know yourselves, then you will be known, and you will understand that you are children of the living Father. But if you do not know yourselves, then you live in poverty, and you are the poverty."

Gospel of Thomas 22

Jesus saw some babies nursing. He said to his disciples, "These nursing babies are like those who enter the kingdom."

They said to him, "Then shall we enter the kingdom as babies?"

Jesus said to them, "When you make the two into one, and when you make the inner like the outer and the outer like the inner, and the upper like the lower, and when you make male and female into a single one, so that the male will not be male nor the female be female, when you make eyes in place of an eye, a hand in place of a hand, a foot in place of a foot, an image in place of an image, then you will enter [the kingdom]."

Gospel of Thomas 7, 18

7: Jesus said, "Lucky is the lion that the human will eat, so that the lion becomes human. And foul is the human that the lion will eat, and the lion still will become human."

18: The disciples said to Jesus, "Tell us, how will our end come?"
Jesus said, "Have you found the beginning, then, that you are looking for the end? You see, the end will be where the beginning is. Congratulations to the one who stands at the beginning: that one will know the end and will not taste death."