

Conversion from psychic to pneumatic and vice versa: moving in and out of a Gnostic community

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But there is another among these heretics, Marcus by name, who boasts himself as having improved upon his master. He is a perfect adept in magical impostures, and by this means drawing away a great number of men, and not a few women, he has induced them to join themselves to him, as to one who is possessed of the greatest knowledge and perfection, and who has received the highest power from the invisible and ineffable regions above.

Irenaeus, Refutation and overthrowing of knowledge falsely so called | 13.1

For I happened on this sect myself, beloved, and was actually taught these things in person, out of the mouths of people who really undertook them. Not only did women under this delusion offer me this line of talk, and divulge this sort of thing to me. With impudent boldness moreover, they even tried to seduce me themselves—like that murderous, villainous Egyptian wife of the chief cook—because they wanted me in my youth.

Epiphanius of Salamis, *Panarion* 26.17.4

Do not baptize yourselves with death nor entrust yourselves to things inferior to you as if to superior things. Flee the madness and the bondage of femininity, and choose for yourselves the salvation of masculinity.

Zostrianos, NHS VIII,1 131.1-8

We are born again through the Holy Spirit, and we are conceived through Christ in baptism with two elements. We are anointed through the Spirit, and when we were conceived, we were united. No one can see oneself in the water or in a mirror without light, nor can you see yourself in the light without water or a mirror. So it is necessary to baptize with two elements, light and water, and light is chrism.

Gospel of Philip, NHS II,2 69.4-14

Some are . . . [of] Church; because of [that they are] hastening, and exist for it [in particular]. Others, of Life; because of that they are such as love abundant life. And each of the others [receives] from his own root and brings forth the fruit that is like himself. Since the roots are joined to one another, and their fruits are indivisible, what belongs to anyone superior is owned in common with the others.

Interpretation of knowledge NHS XI,1 19.20-30

But the baptism of truth is something else; it is by renunciation of the world that it is found. [But those] who say [only] with their mouths [that they] are renouncing it [are lying], and they will wind up in the terrible [place], where they will also be treated with contempt. Just as those to whom it was given are condemned, they shall get something. They are habitually wicked in their actions.

Testimony of the Truth, NHS IX,3 67.20-32

With good friendship I do everything through the one who is good, for this is the unity of truth, that people should have no adversary. If some cause division, they do not learn wisdom, because they cause division and are not friends. They are enemies.

Second Discourse of the Great Seth, NHS VII,2 62.5-18

Thank you for your attention

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