

The Pistis Sophia (precis)

Editors Note: This transcription is a streamlined version of the one on the Gnostic website (<http://gnosis.org/library/pistis-sophia/>). I have omitted most of the references to the psalms of David and also her lamentations.

– Dennis Klocek

It came to pass, when Jesus had risen from the dead, that he passed eleven years discoursing with his disciples, and instructing them about the regions of the First Mystery, that within the Veil, the Father appears in the form of a dove. It came to pass then, that forty days after the Resurrection, a light-power had come down over Jesus who was among the disciples, and gradually surrounded him entirely. Then Jesus soared into the heights, shining most exceedingly. The disciples gazed after him until he had reached unto heaven; but then sat together in fear and were in exceedingly great agitation and were afraid because of the great earthquake that took place, saying: "Will the Savior destroy all regions?" Then, on the ninth hour of the morrow, the heavens opened, and they saw Jesus descend, shining most exceedingly. Then Jesus, the compassionate, said unto them: "Rejoice and exult from this hour on, for I have gone to the regions out of which I had come forth. From this day on then will I discourse with you in openness with you face to face without similitude. I have said unto you from the beginning that ye are not of the world. I also am not of the world. For all men who are in the world have received their souls out of the power of the rulers of the aeons. But the power which is in you is from me; your souls and I belong to the height. I will tell you all mysteries from the exteriors of the exteriors to the interiors of the interiors. It came to pass, when I came into the region of the twelve aeons, that some of them rebelled and fought against my light. And I took a third of their power, in order that they should not be able to accomplish their evil deeds. And the Fate and the sphere, over which they rule, I have changed.

When He had said this to his disciples, he said unto them: "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. It came to pass then, when Mary Magdalene had heard the Savior say these words, she gazed fixedly into the air for the space of an hour. Then she said: "My Lord, give commandment unto me to speak in openness. And Jesus, the compassionate, said unto Mary: "Mary,

thou blessed one, whom I will perfect in all mysteries of those of the height, discourse in openness, thou, whose heart is raised to the kingdom of heaven more than all thy brethren.

And Mary answered: 'You have said, I have taken a third of the power of the rulers of the rebellious aeons, and changed their Fate and their sphere over which they rule, in order that, if the race of men invoke them in the mysteries—those men who the fallen angels have taught their evil deeds of sorcery, then they may no longer accomplish their lawless deeds.

The power then which was in the prophet Isaiah, prophesied before thou didst come, that thou wouldst take away the power of the rulers of the rebellious aeons and wouldst change their sphere and their Fate, in order that they might know nothing from now on. For it hath said also: none of the rulers will know what thou wilt do from now on because they are matter. Thou hast said, 'Who hath ears to hear, let him hear, in order that thou might know whose heart is ardently raised to the kingdom of heaven. My Lord, will all the men who know the mystery of the magic of all the rulers of all the rebellious aeons as the angels who transgressed have taught them in their evil magic, for the purpose of hindering good deeds,—will they accomplish evil from now on or not?"

Jesus answered unto Mary: "They will not accomplish them as they accomplished them from the beginning, because I have taken away a third of their power; but they will raise a loan from those who know the mysteries of the magic of the thirteenth aeon. And if they invoke the mysteries of the magic of those who are in the thirteenth aeon, they will accomplish them well and surely, because I have not taken away power from that region, according to the command of the First Mystery.

It came to pass then, when Jesus had finished saying these words, that Philip came forward, and said unto Jesus: "My Lord, by what mystery hast thou changed the binding of the rulers of the rebellious aeons, and made them confounded in confusion on their path? Hast thou then done this for the salvation of the world or hast thou not?"

And Jesus answered and said unto Philip and to all the disciples together: "I have changed their path for the salvation of all souls. Amen, amen, I say unto you If I had not changed their path, a host of souls would have been destroyed, and they would have spent a long time, if the rulers of the

rebellious aeons had not been brought to naught; and the souls would have continued a long time outside in this world, and the completion of the number of perfect souls would have been delayed, which souls shall be counted in the Inheritance of the Height through the mysteries and shall be in the Treasury of the Light.

Mary said unto Jesus: "My Lord, in what way will the souls have delayed themselves here outside in the world, and in what type will they be quickly purified?"

Hearken then, Mary, and give ear: In the realm of the aeons, all were bound in their spheres as the Overseer of the Light had bound them from the beginning; and every one of them remained in his order, and every one journeyed according to his course. Melchisedec, the receiver of the Light; purified those powers and carried their light into the Treasury of the Light.

After a while the servitors of the rulers of Fate began to gather together all matter from all aeons; and the servitors of the sphere which is below the aeons, then took such matter and fashioned it into souls of men and cattle and reptiles and wild-beasts and birds, and send them down into the world of mankind.

This then they accomplished continuously before their power needed to be diminished. This began when the time of Melchisedec, the Receiver of the Light, happened, then he entered into the midst of the rulers of Fate stirring them into agitation, thus he made them abandon the circles to which they were bound.

"It came to pass then, when the power of the rulers of Fate was diminished they continued to carry out this type of activity, but they rebelliously began turning on themselves, devouring the refuse of their matter, and not allowing souls to be born into the world of mankind, in order that they might prolong their ruler ship, and that the powers that are in their control, that is the souls, might spend a long time here outside. They persisted in doing this continually.

It came to pass then, when I wished to Ascend for the sake of all souls by command of the First Mystery, that I came up into the midst of the tyrants of twelve orders of rebellious aeons, with my light-vesture about me, shining most exceedingly, and there was no measure for the light which

was about me. The tyrants fought against the light-vesture. It came to pass then, when those tyrants saw the great light which was about me, all the tyrants of the twelve orders of rebellious aeons, began to fight against the light of my vesture, desiring to hold it fast among them, in order to prolong their ruler ship. This then they did, not knowing against whom they fought. When they mutinied and fought against the light, thereon by command of the First Mystery I changed the paths and the courses of the rebellious aeons and the paths of their Fate. For had I not changed their courses, and had I not shortened their periods, they would not have let any soul come into the world, because of the matter of their refuse which they devoured, and they would have destroyed many souls.

It came to pass, that when I came into the veils of the thirteenth aeon the veils were withdrawn of their own accord ; they opened before me ; I entered into the thirteenth aeon, there I found Pistis Sophia below the thirteenth aeon, quite alone, no one being near her ; she was sitting in that region, grieving and mourning, because of the vexations which she had been made to suffer by Arrogant, who is one of the three triple powers among the rebellious aeons.

She was in great distress, and gazed into the light of my vesture ; she saw the mystery of her name in my vesture, and all the glory of her mystery, for formerly she had been in the region of the height, so she began to sing a song to the light which is in the height. It came to pass, therefore, when she had finished singing her song to the light which is in the height, that all the rulers, gazed upon my vesture. Pistis Sophia together with the four and twenty emanations, were emanated by the great invisible forefather of the First Mystery.

It came to pass, when Jesus had spoken these things unto his disciples, that Mary Magdalene came forward and said : " Master, I have heard thee say formerly that Pistis Sophia was also one of the four and twenty emanations among all of the aeons. How, then, was she not in their region ? For thou hast said, I found her below the thirteenth aeon. And Jesus answered and said unto his disciples : "It came to pass, when Pistis Sophia was in the thirteenth aeon by order of the First Mystery, that Pistis Sophia gazed into the height, she saw the light of the veil of the treasure of light, and she desired to go into that region, but she could not. She ceased to do the mystery of the thirteenth aeon, and began to sing a song to the light of the height. It came to pass, therefore, when she began to sing her song to the

region of the height, that all the rulers who are in the twelve rebellious aeons above the thirteenth, hated her because she had ceased to honor their mysteries, and because she had desired to go into the height and be above them all. For this cause, therefore, they were enraged against her. And the great triple power Arrogant, who is in the thirteenth aeon, and who is the disobedient one, who had not emanated the purity of the power which was in him, wished to rule over all the thirteenth aeon, and those who are below it.

It came to pass, therefore, when the rulers of the twelve rebellious aeons were enraged against Pistis Sophia, who is above them, that the great triple power Arrogant, also became enraged against Pistis Sophia, because she had thought to go towards the light which was above him. So he emanated from himself a great lion-faced power ; and from the matter which was in him, he emanated a host of other material emanations, very violent ; he sent them into the lower regions, into the parts of the chaos, in order that they might lie in wait for Pistis Sophia, and take away the power that was in her, because she had thought to go to the height which is above them all ; because she had ceased to do their mystery, and continued to lament, seeking the light which she had known from the beginning.

It came to pass, therefore, after these things, by commandment of the First Mystery, that this great Arrogant power, pursued Sophia in the thirteenth aeon, to cause her to gaze into the lower parts, in order that she might there see his own light-power which hath the face of a lion, so that she might long after it, that she might betake herself to that region of chaos, and that he might take from her the light which was in her. It came to pass, therefore, after these things, that Sophia gazed below and she saw the lion-faced light-power of Arrogant in the lower Arrogant parts, and she knew not that it belonged to the triple power Arrogant, but thought that it came from the Light which she had seen from the beginning in the height, which came from the Veil of the Treasure of Light ; and she thought to herself, ; I will go into that region, to take the light, which the aeons of light have produced for me, so that I may go to the light of lights, which is in the height of heights in the Treasury of the Light.

Thus pondering, she went forth from her own region into the chaos. The rulers of the twelve rebellious aeons pursued after her in that they were enraged against her, in that she had thought to come into the greatness above them. Thence she went forth into the regions of the chaos ; and drew

nigh to the lion-faced light-power. But all the material emanations of the God of Self Will of Arrogant surrounded her, and the great lion- faced light-power devoured all the light-powers that were in Sophia ; it expelled her light and swallowed it, and as to her matter they cast it into the chaos. So Arrogant became a ruler of the light in chaos, of which one half is fire and the other darkness.

Now, when this was done, Sophia was most exceedingly weakened, and the lion-faced light-power took away from Sophia her light-powers ; and all the material powers of Self Will of Arrogant surrounded Sophia and constrained her ; and Pistis Sophia cried out exceedingly, she cried on high to that light of lights, which she had seen from the beginning, in which she had trusted, and recited this repentance, saying :

First lament of Pistis Sophia

Light of lights, in whom I have trusted from the beginning, hearken now, unto my repent. Save me, light, for evil thoughts have come upon me. When I looked into the height, I saw all the rulers of the rebellious aeons in great number, angered against me, rejoicing over me, although I had done them no ill ; but they hated me without a cause. And when the emanations of Arrogant had seen the rulers of the rebellious aeons rejoicing over me, they knew that the rulers of the rebellious aeons would not aid me ; they took courage, those emanations which constrained me with violence, and the light which I had not taken from them, they took from me. Now, therefore, O light of truth, thou know that I have done these things in my foolishness, believing that this lion-faced light-power belonged unto thee ; and the sin which I have done is clear in thy sight. Suffer me no more to be weakened, Lord, for I have trusted in thy light from the beginning. Lord, light of powers, suffer me no more to lack my light for shame hath covered my face. These things have befallen me, light, because I have ardently longed for thy dwelling ; and the wrath of Arrogant is fallen upon me. All the rulers of the rebellious aeons have held me in derision. And I am in this region, grieving, seeking after the light, which I saw in the height. I have forgotten my mystery which I performed in the beginning ; because of the din of the fear and power of Self Will of Arrogant, my power hath failed in me. I am become as a mere daemon dwelling in matter ; I am become like the counterfeit of the spirit, which is in a material body, in which there is

no light-power ; I am become like as a mere demon of the air. The emanations of Arrogant have constrained me mightily.

All these things have been done unto me, light, by thy order and commandment, and it is thy commandment that I am therein. Thy commandment hath brought me below, and I am descended like a power of chaos, my power hath grown cold in me. This hath befallen me, O Light, because I have been zealous for thy abode; and the wrath of Self Will is come upon me, of him who had not hearkened unto thy command to emanate from the emanation of his power because I was in his aeon without performing his mystery. But thou, lord, thou art the light eternal, and thou dost visit them whom they constrain, at all times. Now, therefore, light, arise, seek my power and the soul which is in me. Thy commandment is accomplished, which thou didst decree for me in my afflictions. My time is come for thee to visit my power and my soul. This is the time which thou didst decree that thou wouldst visit me, so that the saviors should seek for the power which is in my soul, for its time is accomplished, and that they should also save the matter thereof.

I have become as a material body, which hath no one to save it in the height. I am become also like matter from which the power hath been taken ; matter that is cast into chaos, which thou hast not preserved, which hath perished by thy commandment.

It came to pass then, when Jesus had spoken these words unto his disciples, that he said unto them: "This is the song of praise which Pistis Sophia uttered in her first repentance, repenting of her sin, and reciting all which had befallen her. Now, therefore: 'Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.'" Mary again came forward and said: "My Lord, my indweller of light hath ears, and I hear with my light-power, and thy spirit which is with me, hath sobered me. Hearken then that I may speak concerning the repentance which Pistis Sophia hath uttered, speaking of her sin and all that befell her. Thy light-power hath prophesied thereof aforetime through the prophet David in the sixty-eighth Psalm: Mary interpreted the first repentance from Psalm sixty eight.

Note: the remaining parts of this manuscript include lengthy quotes from the psalms and lengthy descriptions of the repentances of Sophia. The texts cover more than forty pages through fourteen lamentations. For brevity the first

set of lines of each song of repentance and the matching set of lines of each psalm will be included to illustrate the spirit if not the letter of the teaching.

Pistis first repentance

O Light of lights, in whom I have had faith from the beginning, hearken now then, O Light, unto my repentance. Save me, O Light, for evil thoughts have entered into me. I gazed, O Light, into the lower parts and saw there a light. thinking: I will go to that region, in order that I may take that light. And I went and found myself in the darkness which is in the chaos below, and I could no more speed thence and go to my region, for I was sore pressed by all the emanations of Self-willed, and the lion-faced power took away my light in me. And I cried for help, but my voice hath not reached out of the darkness. And I looked unto the height, that the Light, in which I had had faith, might help me.

Psalm sixty eight

Save me, O God, for the waters are come in even unto my soul. I sank, or am submerged, in the slime of the abyss, and power was not. I have gone-down into the depths of the sea; a tempest has submerged me. I have kept on crying; my throat is gone, my eyes faded, waiting patiently for God. They who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; mighty are my foes, who violently pursued me. They required of me that which I took not from them. God, thou hast known my foolishness, and my faults are not hid from thee.

Jesus continued again in the discourse and said: "Pistis Sophia again continued and still sang a second repentance, saying thus:

Pistis second song of repentance

Light of lights, in whom I have had faith, leave me not in the darkness until the end of my time. Help me and save me through thy mysteries; incline thy ear unto me and save me. May the power of thy light save me and carry me to the higher aeons; for thou wilt save me and lead me into the height of thy faithful aeons. Save me, O Light, from the hand of this lion-faced power and from the hands of the emanations of god Self-willed

It came to pass then, when Jesus had finished speaking these words unto his disciples, that he said unto them: "Do ye understand in what manner I discourse with you? And Peter started forward and said unto Jesus:

"My Lord, we will not endure this woman, for she takes the opportunity from us and hath let none of us speak, but she discoursed many times. And Jesus answered and said unto his disciples: "Let him in whom the power of his spirit shall seethe, so that he understands what I say, | come forward and speak. But now, Peter, I see thy power in thee, that it understands the solution of the mystery of the repentance which Pistis Sophia hath uttered. Now, therefore, Peter, speak the thought of her repentance in the midst of thy brethren." Peter interpreted the second repentance from the seventieth Psalm.

Seventieth psalm

O God, my God, I have trusted in thee, let me no more be put to shame for ever. Save me in thy righteousness and set me free; incline thy ear unto me and save me. Be unto me a strong God and a firm place to save me; for thou art my strength and my refuge. My God, save me from the hand of the sinner and from the hand of the transgressor and from the impious .

And Jesus continued hearken, and give ear attentively to all the repentances which Pistis Sophia hath uttered.

The third repentance of Pistis Sophia

O Light of powers, give heed and save me. May they who would take away my light, lack and be in the darkness. May they who would take away my power, turn into chaos and be put to shame. May they turn quickly to darkness, who press me sore .

Then Jesus said unto them: "Let him in whom a sensitive spirit hath arisen, come forward and speak the thought of the repentance which Pistis Sophia hath uttered." Martha came forward, "My Lord, have mercy upon me and have compassion with me, and let me speak the solution of the repentance which Pistis Sophia hath uttered. Martha said, My Lord Jesus, thy light-power in David prophesied aforetime in the sixty-ninth Psalm, saying:

O Lord God, give heed to my help. Let them be put to shame and confounded who seek after my soul. May they turn straightway and be put to shame.

And Jesus continued again in the discourse and said unto his disciples: "Pistis Sophia again continued with a fourth repentance.

Forth repentance of Pistis Sophia

O Light, in whom I have trusted, give ear to my repentance, and let my voice reach unto thy dwelling-place. Turn not away thy light-image from me, but have heed unto me, if they oppress me; and save me quickly at the time when I shall cry unto thee. For my time is vanished like a breath and I am become matter. They have taken my light from me, and my power is dried up. I have forgotten my mystery which heretofore I was wont to accomplish.

It came to pass then, when Jesus had spoken these words, that John came forward, and said: "My Lord and Savior, concerning this repentance which Pistis Sophia hath uttered, thy light-power which was in David, hath prophesied aforetime.

One-hundred-and-first Psalm

Lord, give ear unto my supplication and let my voice reach unto thee. Turn not away thy face from me; incline thy ear unto me in the day when I am oppressed; quickly give ear to me on the day when I shall cry unto thee. For my days are vanished as smoke and my bones are parched as stone. I am scorched as the grass, and my heart is dried up; for I have forgotten to eat my bread.

Fifth repentance of the Pistis Sophia

And Jesus continued again in the discourse and said unto his disciples: "It came to pass again thus: The emanations of Self-willed again oppressed Pistis Sophia in the chaos and desired to take from her her whole light; and

not yet was her commandment accomplished, to lead her out of the chaos, and not yet had the command reached me through the First Mystery, to save her out of the chaos. It came to pass then, when all the material emanations of Self-willed oppressed her, that she cried out and uttered the fifth repentance.

The fifth repentance of Sophia. Light of my salvation, I sing praise unto thee in the region of the height and again in the chaos. I sing praise unto thee in my hymn with which I sang praise in the height and with which I sang praise unto thee when I was in the chaos. Let it come into thy presence, and give heed, O Light, to my repentance. For my power is filled up with darkness, and my light hath gone down into the chaos. I am myself become as the rulers of the chaos, who are gone into the darkness below; I am become as a material body, which hath no one in the height who will save it.

When then Jesus had said this, he said unto his disciples: "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." And Philip answered and said unto Jesus: "My Lord, hearken that I may speak the solution of her repentance. For thy power hath prophesied aforetime concerning it through David.

The eighty-seventh Psalm

Lord, God of my salvation, by day and by night have I cried unto thee. Let my weeping come before thee; incline thy ear to my supplication, O Lord. For my soul is full of evil, my life hath drawn nigh to the world below. I am counted among them who have gone down into the pit; I am become as a man who hath no helper.

It came to pass thereafter that Jesus continued again in the discourse and said unto his disciples: "Then did Pistis Sophia cry to the Light. It forgave her sin, in that she had left her region and gone down into the darkness. She uttered the sixth repentance.

The sixth repentance of Sophia

I have sung praises unto thee, O Light, in the darkness below. Hearken unto my repentance, and may thy light give heed to the voice of my supplication. O Light, if thou think on my sin, I shall not be able to stand before thee, and

thou wilt abandon me, For thou, O Light, art my Savior; because of the light of thy name I have had faith in thee, O Light. And my power hath had faith in thy mystery; and moreover my power hath trusted in the Light when it was among those of the height; and it hath trusted in it when it was in the chaos below.

It came to pass then, when Jesus had finished speaking these words unto his disciples, that he said unto them: "Understand ye in what manner I discourse with you?" Andrew came forward and said: "My Lord, concerning the solution of the sixth repentance of Pistis Sophia, thy light-power prophesied aforetime through David.

One-hundred-and-twenty-ninth Psalm

Out of the depths I have cried unto thee, O Lord. Hearken unto my voice; let thy ears give heed to the voice of my supplication. O Lord, if thou heeded my iniquities, who will be able to pass the test. For pardon is in thy hands; for the sake of thy name have I waited for thee, O Lord. My soul hath waited for thy word. My soul hath hoped in the Lord from the morning until the evening.

Jesus continued again in the discourse and said unto his disciples: "It came to pass, when Pistis Sophia had finished uttering the sixth repentance for the forgiveness of her transgression, that she turned again to the height, to see if her sins were forgiven her, and to see whether they would lead her up out of the chaos. But by commandment of the First Mystery not yet was she hearkened to. When then she had turned to the height to see whether her repentance were accepted from her, she saw all the rulers of the twelve rebellious aeons mocking at her and rejoicing over her because her repentance was not accepted from her. When then she saw that they mocked at her, she grieved exceedingly and lifted up her voice to the height.

The seventh repentance of Sophia

O Light, I have lifted up my power unto thee, my Light. On thee have I had faith. Let me not be scorned; let not the rulers of the twelve rebellious aeons, who hate me, rejoice over me. For all who have faith in thee shall

not be put to shame. Let them who have taken away my power, remain in darkness; and let them not get from it any profit, but let it be taken away from them. O Light, show me thy ways, and I shall be saved in them; and show me thy paths, whereby I shall be saved out of the chaos.

When then Jesus had spoken this unto his disciples, Thomas came forward and said: "My Lord, I am sober, and my spirit is ready in me. My Lord, concerning the solution of the seventh repentance of Pistis Sophia thy light-power hath prophesied through the prophet David.

The twenty-fourth Psalm

O Lord, unto thee have I lifted up my soul, O my God. I have abandoned myself unto thee; let me not be put to shame and let not mine enemies mock at me. For all who wait upon thee shall not be put to shame; let them be put to shame who do iniquity without a cause. O Lord, show me thy ways and teach me thy paths.

Jesus continued again in the discourse and said unto his disciples: "It came to pass then, when Pistis Sophia had uttered the seventh repentance in the chaos, that the commandment through the First Mystery had not come to me to save her and lead her up out of the chaos. Nevertheless of myself out of compassion without commandment I led her into a somewhat spacious region in the chaos. And when the material emanations of Self-willed had noticed that she had been led into a somewhat spacious region in the chaos, they ceased a little to oppress her, for they thought that she would be led up out of the chaos altogether. When this then took place, Pistis Sophia did not know that I was her helper; nor did she know me at all, but she continued and persisted withal singing praises to the Light of the Treasury, which she had seen aforetime and on which she had had faith, and she thought that it [sc. the Light] also was her helper and it was the same to which she had sung praises, thinking it was the Light in truth. But as indeed she had had faith in the Light which belonged to the Treasury in truth, therefore will she be led up out of the chaos and her repentance will be accepted from her. But the commandment of the First Mystery was not yet accomplished to accept her repentance from her. But hearken now in order that I may tell you all things which befell Pistis Sophia.

The emanations of Self-willed oppress her again. It came to pass, when I had led her unto a somewhat spacious region in the chaos, that the emanations of Self-willed ceased entirely to oppress her, thinking that she would be led up out of the chaos altogether. It came to pass then, when the emanations of Self-willed had noticed that Pistis Sophia had not been led up out the chaos, that they turned about again all together, oppressing her vehemently. Because of this then she uttered the eighth repentance.

The eighth repentance of Sophia

On thee, O Light, have I hoped. Leave me not in the chaos; deliver me and save me according to thy gnosis. Give heed unto me and save me. Be unto me a savior, O Light, and save me and lead me unto thy light. For thou art my savior and wilt lead me unto thee. And because of the mystery of thy name lead me and give me thy mystery. And thou wilt save me from this lion-faced power, which they have laid as a snare for me, for thou art my savior. And in thy hands will I lay the purification of my light; thou hast saved me, O Light, according to thy gnosis.

And when Jesus had spoken this, Matthew came forward and said: "My Lord, thy spirit hath stirred me and thy light hath made me sober to proclaim this eighth repentance of Pistis Sophia. For thy power hath prophesied thereof aforetime through David.

The thirtieth Psalm

On thee, O Lord, have I hoped. Let me never be put to shame; save me according to thy righteousness. Incline thy ear unto me, save me quickly. Be thou unto me a protecting God and a house of refuge to save me. For thou art my support and my refuge; for thy name's sake thou wilt guide me and feed me. And thou wilt draw me out of this snare, which they have laid for me; for thou art my protection. Into thy hands I will render my spirit; thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, God of Truth.

Jesus continued again and said unto his disciples: "It came to pass then when the emanations of Self-willed oppressed Pistis Sophia in the chaos, that she uttered the ninth repentance.

The ninth repentance of Sophia

O Light, smite down them who have taken away my power from me, and take away the power from them who have taken away mine from me. For I am thy power and thy light. Come and save me. Let great darkness cover my oppressors. Say unto my power: I am he who will save thee. Let all those who would take away my light from me utterly, lack their power. Let them face about unto the chaos and become powerless, who would take away my light from me utterly. Let their power be as dust, and let thy angel, smite them.

It came to pass, when Jesus had finished saying these words unto his disciples, that he said unto them: "Who is sober among you, let him proclaim their solution. James came forward, and said: "My Lord, thy spirit hath sobered me, and I am ready to proclaim their solution. Concerning them indeed thy power hath prophesied aforetime through David.

The thirty-fourth Psalm

Give sentence, O Lord, on them who do me injustice, and fight against them who fight against me. Lay hand on weapon and shield and stand up to help me. Draw forth a sword and conceal it from my oppressors. Say unto my soul: I am thy salvation. Let them be put to shame and abashed who strive after my soul; let them fall back and be put to shame who imagine evil against me. Let them be as chaff before the wind, and let the angel of the Lord pursue after them.

Jesus said Amen, amen, I say unto you: Ye shall be the first in the kingdom of heaven before all invisibles and all gods and rulers who are in the thirteenth aeon and in the twelfth aeon; and not only ye, but also every one who shall accomplish my mysteries. And when he had said this, he said unto them: "Understand ye in what manner I discourse with you?"

Mary started forward again and said: "Yea, O Lord, this is what thou didst say unto us aforetime: 'The last shall be first and the first shall be last.' The first then, who were created before us, are the invisibles, for indeed they arose before mankind, they and the gods and the rulers; and the men who shall receive mysteries, will be first into the kingdom of heaven." Jesus said unto her: "Well said, Mary."

Jesus continued again and said unto his disciples: "It came to pass then, when Pistis Sophia had proclaimed the ninth repentance, that the lion-faced power oppressed her again, desiring to take away all powers from her. She cried out again to the Light.

The ninth repentance of Sophia continued

O Light, in whom I have had faith from the beginning, for whose sake I have endured these great pains, help me.'

And in that hour her repentance was accepted from her. The First Mystery hearkened unto her, and I was sent off at his command. I came to help her, and led her up out of the chaos, because she had repented, and also because she had had faith in the Light and had endured these great pains and these great perils. She had been deluded through the god-like Self-willed, and had not been deluded through anything else, save through a light-power, because of its resemblance to the Light in which she had had faith. For this cause then was I sent forth at the command of the First Mystery to help her secretly. I did not however yet go to the region of the aeons at all; but I passed down through the midst out of them, without any single power knowing it, either those of the interior of the interior or those of the exterior of the exterior, save only the First Mystery.

"It came to pass then, when I came into the chaos to help her, that she saw me, that I was understanding and shone exceedingly and was full of compassion for her. For I was not self-willed as the lion-faced power, which had taken away the light-power from Sophia, and had also oppressed her in order to take away from her the whole light in her. Sophia then saw me, that I shone ten-thousand times more than the lion-faced power and that I was full of compassion for her. And she knew that I came out of the Height of heights, in whose light she had had faith from the beginning.

Pistis Sophia then took courage and uttered the tenth repentance.

The tenth repentance of Sophia

I have cried unto thee, O Light of lights, in my oppression and thou hast hearkened unto me. O Light, save my power from unjust and lawless lips

and from crafty traps. The light which was being taken from me in crafty snaring, will not be brought unto thee. For the traps of Self-willed and the nooses of the merciless one are spread out. Woe unto me, that my dwelling was far off, and I was in the dwellings of the chaos. My power was in regions which are not mine.

When then Jesus had said this unto his disciples, he said unto them: "Now, therefore, let him whom his spirit stirred, come forward and speak the solution of the tenth repentance of Pistis Sophia." Peter answered and said: "O Lord, concerning this thy light-power prophesied aforetime through David.

The one-hundred-and-nineteenth Psalm

I cried unto thee, O Lord, in my oppression, and thou hearkened unto me. O Lord, save my soul from unjust lips and from crafty tongues. What will be given unto thee or what will be added unto thee with a crafty tongue? The arrows of the strong [one] are made sharp with the coal of the desert. Woe unto me, that my dwelling is far off, My soul hath dwelt in many regions as a guest.

Jesus continued again in the discourse and said unto his disciples: "It came to pass then, when this lion-faced power saw me, how I drew nigh unto Pistis Sophia, shining very exceedingly, that it grew still more furious and emanated from itself a multitude of exceedingly violent emanations. When this then befell, Pistis Sophia uttered the eleventh repentance,

The eleventh repentance of Sophia

Why hath the mighty power raised itself in evil? Its plotting takes away the light from me all the time, and as sharp iron have they taken away power from me. I chose to descend into the chaos rather than to abide in the thirteenth aeon, the region of Righteousness. And they desired to lead me craftily, in order to consume my whole light. For this cause then will the Light takeaway their whole light, and also their whole matter will be made naught. And it will take away their light and not suffer them to abide in the thirteenth aeon, their dwelling-place, and will not have their name in the region of those who shall live.

And Jesus said, Now, therefore, let him in whom his power is raised, come forward and proclaim the solution of the eleventh repentance of Pistis Sophia. Then Salome came forward and said: "My Lord, concerning this thy light-power prophesied aforetime through David.

The fifty-first Psalm

Why doth the mighty one boast himself in | his wickedness?. Thy tongue hath studied unrighteousness all the day long; as a sharp razor has thou practiced craft. Thou loved wickedness more than goodness; thou loved to speak unrighteousness more than righteousness. Thou loved all words of submerging and a crafty tongue. Wherefore will God bring thee to naught utterly, and will uproot thee and drag thee out from thy dwelling-place, and will root out thy root and cast it away from the living.

And Jesus continued again in the discourse and said unto his disciples: "It came to pass then thereafter, that I drew near unto the chaos, shining very exceedingly, to take away the light from that lion-faced power. As I shone exceedingly, it was in fear and cried out to its self-willed god, that he should help it. And forthwith the self-willed god looked out of the thirteenth ?on, and looked down into the chaos, exceedingly wrathful | and desiring to help his lion-faced power. And forthwith the lion-faced power, it and all its emanations, surrounded. Pistis Sophia, desiring to 'take away the whole light in Sophia. It came to pass then, when they oppressed Sophia, that she cried to the height, crying unto me that I should help her. It came to pass then, when she looked to the height, that she saw Self-willed exceedingly wrathful, and she was in fear, and uttered the twelfth repentance because of Self-willed and his emanations. She cried on high unto me.

The twelfth repentance of Sophia

O Light, forget not my praise-singing. For Self-willed and his lion-faced power have opened their mouth against me and have acted craftily against me. They have surrounded me, desiring to take away my power, and have hated me, because I have sung praises unto thee. Instead of loving me they slandered me. But I sang praises. They plotted a plot to take away my power, because I have sung to thee praises, O Light; and hated me, because I have loved thee.

And Andrew came forward and said: "My Lord and Savior, thy light-power hath prophesied aforetime through David.

one-hundred-and-eighth Psalm God, keep not silent at my praise-singing. For the mouths of the sinner and crafty have opened their chops against me and with crafty deceitful tongue have talked behind me. And they have surrounded me with words of hate and have fought against me without a cause. Instead of loving me they have slandered me. But I prayed. They showed evil against me for good and hate for my love.

And Jesus continued again in the discourse and said unto his disciples: "It came to pass again thereafter that Pistis Sophia cried unto me, saying O Light of lights, I have transgressed in the twelve ?ons, and have descended from them; wherefor have I uttered the twelve repentances, [one] for each ?on. Now, therefore, O Light of lights, forgive me my transgression, for it is exceedingly great, because I have abandoned the regions of the height and have come to dwell in the regions of the chaos.'

"When then Pistis Sophia had said this, she continued again in the thirteenth repentance.

The thirteenth repentance of Sophia

Hearken unto me singing praises unto thee, O Light of lights. Hearken unto me uttering the repentance for the thirteenth aeon, the region out of which I have come down, in order that the thirteenth repentance of the thirteenth aeon may be accomplished. Now, therefore, O Light of lights, hearken unto me singing praises unto thee in the thirteenth aeon, my region out of which I have come down. Save me, O Light, in thy great mystery and forgive my transgression in thy forgiveness. And give unto me the baptism and forgive my sins and purify me from my transgression. And my transgression is the lion-faced power, which will never be hidden from thee; for because of it have I gone down. And I alone among the invisibles, in whose regions I was, have transgressed, and have gone down into the chaos. Moreover I have transgressed, that thy commandment may be accomplished.

This then Pistis Sophia said. Now, therefore, let him whom his spirit urges to understand her words, come forward and proclaim her thought."

Martha came forward and said: "My Lord, my spirit urges me to proclaim the solution of that which Pistis Sophia hath spoken; thy power hath prophesied aforetime concerning it through David.

The fiftieth Psalm

Be gracious unto me, O God, according to thy great grace; according to the fullness of thy mercy blot out my sin. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And may my sin be ever present to thee. That thou may be justified in thy words and prevail when thou judge me.'

And Jesus continued again in the discourse and said unto his disciples: "It came to pass then, when Pistis Sophia had said these words, that the time was fulfilled that she should be led out of the chaos. And of myself, without the First Mystery, I dispatched out of myself a light-power, and I sent it down to the chaos, so that it might lead Pistis Sophia forth from the deep regions of the chaos, and lead [her] to the higher regions of the chaos, until the command should come from the First Mystery that she should be led entirely forth out of the chaos. And my light-power led Pistis Sophia up to the higher regions of the chaos. It came to pass then, when the emanations of Self-willed had noticed that Pistis Sophia was led forth into the higher regions of the chaos, that they also sped after her upwards, desiring to bring her again into the lower regions of the chaos. And my light-power, which I had sent to lead up Sophia out of the chaos, shone exceedingly. It came to pass then, when the emanations of Self-willed pursued Sophia, when she had been led into the higher regions of the chaos, that she again sang praises and cried out unto me.

Sophia uttered a song of praise. I will sing praises unto thee, O Light, for I desired to come unto thee. I will sing thee praises, O Light, for thou art my deliverer Leave me not in the chaos. Save me, O Light of the Height, for it is thou that I have praised. Thou has sent me thy light through thyself and hast saved me. Thou hast led me to the higher regions of the chaos. May the emanations of Self-willed which pursue me, sink down into the lower regions of the chaos, and let them not come to the higher regions to see me. And may great darkness cover them and darker gloom come over them. And let them not see me in the light of thy power, which thou hast sent unto me to save me, so that they may not again get dominion over me.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished speaking these words unto his disciples, that Salome came forward and said: "My Lord, my power constrained me to speak the solution of the words which Pistis Sophia hath uttered. Thy power hath prophesied aforetime through Solomon, saying: Salome interpreted the song of Sophia from the Odes of Solomon.

I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, for thou art my God. Abandon me not, O Lord, for thou art! my hope.. Thou hast given me thy vindication for naught, and I am saved through thee. Let them who pursue me, fall down and let them not see me. May a smoke-cloud cover their eyes and an air-mist darken them, and let them not see the day, so that they may not seize me. May their resolution be impotent, and may what they concoct come upon them They have devised a resolution, and it hath not taken effect for them.

And Jesus continued again in the discourse and said unto his disciples: "It came to pass then, when Pistis Sophia had finished saying these words in the chaos, that I made the light-power, which I had sent to save her, become a light-wreath on her head, so that from now on the emanations of Self-willed could not have dominion over her. And when it had become a light-wreath round her head, all the evil matters in her were shaken and all were purified in her. They perished and remained in the chaos, while the emanations of Self-willed gazed upon them and rejoiced. And the purification of the pure light which was in Pistis Sophia, gave power to the light of my light-power, which had become a wreath round her head.

"It came to pass then moreover, when it surrounded the pure light in Sophia, and her pure light did not depart from the wreath of the power of the light-flame, so that the emanations of Self-willed should not rob it from it,--when then this befell her, the pure light-power in Sophia began to sing praises. And she praised my light-power, which was a wreath round her head, and she sang praises, saying:

The Light hath become a wreath round my head; and I shall not depart from it, so that the emanations of Self-willed may not rob it from me. And though all the matters be shaken, yet shall I not be shaken. And though all my matters perish and remain in the chaos,--those which the emanations of Self-willed see,--yet shall I not perish. For the Light is with me, and I myself am with the Light.'

"These words then Pistis Sophia uttered. Now, therefore, let him who understands the thought of these words, come forward and proclaim their solution."

Then Mary, the mother of Jesus, came forward and said: "My son according to the world, my God and Savior according to the height, bid me proclaim the solution of the words which Pistis Sophia hath uttered." And Jesus answered and said: "Thou also, Mary, hast received form according to matter, and hast received likeness which is in the Virgin of Light, according to light, thou and the other Mary, the blessed one; and on thy account the darkness hath arisen, and moreover out of thee did come forth the material body in which I am, which I have purified and refined,--now, therefore, I bid thee proclaim the solution of the words which Pistis Sophia hath uttered.

And Mary, the mother of Jesus, answered and said: "My Lord, thy light-power hath prophesied aforetime concerning these words through Solomon in the nineteenth Ode and said:

The Lord is on my head as a wreath, and I shall not depart from him. The wreath in truth is woven for me; and it hath caused thy twigs to sprout in me. For it is not like unto a wreath withered that sprouteth not. But thou art alive on my head and thou hast sprouted upon me. Thy fruits are full and perfect, filled with thy salvation."

It came to pass then, when Jesus had heard his mother Mary say these words, that he said unto her: "Well said, finely. Amen, amen, I say unto thee: They shall proclaim thee blessed from one end of the earth to the other; for the pledge of the First Mystery hath taken up its abode with thee, and through that pledge shall all from the earth and all from the height be saved, and that pledge is the beginning and the end.

And Jesus continued again in the discourse and said unto his disciples: "It came to pass when Pistis Sophia had uttered the thirteenth repentance,--in that hour was fulfilled the commandment of all the tribulations which were decreed for Pistis Sophia for the fulfillment of the First Mystery, which was from the beginning, and the time had come to save her out of the chaos and lead her out from all the darkneses. For her repentance was accepted from her through the First Mystery; and that mystery sent me a great light-power out of the height, that I might help Pistis Sophia and lead

her up out of the chaos. The First Mystery and Jesus sent forth two light-powers to help Sophia.

So I looked towards the aeons into the height and saw that light-power which the First Mystery had sent me, that I might save Pistis Sophia out of the chaos. It came to pass, therefore, when I had seen it, coming forth from the aeons and hastening down to me,--I was above the chaos,--that another light-power went forth out of me, that it too might help Pistis Sophia. And the light-power which had come from the height through the First Mystery, came down upon the light-power which had gone out of me; and they met together and became a great stream of light."

When then Jesus had said this unto his disciples, he said: "Understand ye in what manner I discourse with you?"

Mary Magdalene started forward again and said: "My Lord, I understand what thou said. Concerning the solution of this word thy light-power hath prophesied aforetime through David.

The eighty-fourth Psalm

Grace and truth met together, and righteousness and peace kissed each other. Truth sprouted forth out of the earth, and righteousness looked down from heaven. 'Grace' then is the light-power which hath come down through the First Mystery; for the First Mystery hath hearkened unto Pistis Sophia and hath had mercy on her in all her tribulations. 'Truth' on the other hand is the power which hath gone forth out of thee, for that thou hast fulfilled the truth, in order to save her out of the chaos. And 'righteousness' again is the power which hath come forth through the First Mystery, which will guide Pistis Sophia. And 'peace' again is the power which hath gone forth out of thee, so that it should enter into the emanations of Self-willed and take from them the lights which they have taken away from Pistis Sophia, that is, so that thou may gather them together into Pistis Sophia and make them at peace with her power. 'Truth' on the other hand is the power which went forth out of thee, when thou was in the lower regions of the chaos. For this cause thy power hath said through David

'Truth sprouted out of the earth,' because thou wert in the lower regions of the chaos. 'Righteousness' on the other hand which hath 'looked down from heaven,'--it is the power which hath come down from the height through the First Mystery and hath entered into Pistis Sophia.

It came to pass then, when Jesus had heard these words, that he said: "Well said, Mary, blessed one, who shalt inherit the whole Light-kingdom."
Thereon Mary, the mother of Jesus, also came forward and said: "My Lord and my Savior, give commandment unto me also that I repeat this word."
Jesus said: "Whose spirit is understanding, him I do not prevent, but I urge him on still more to speak the thought which hath moved him.

Now, therefore, Mary, my mother according to matter, thou in whom I have sojourned, I bid thee that thou also speak the thought of the discourse."
Mary, the mother, further interpreted the scripture. And Mary answered and said: "My Lord, concerning the word which thy power hath prophesied through David: 'Grace and truth met together, righteousness and peace kissed each other. Truth sprouted forth out of the earth, and righteousness looked down from heaven,'--thus hath thy power prophesied this word aforetime about thee.

"When thou wert little, before the spirit had come upon thee, whilst thou wert in a vineyard with Joseph, the spirit came out of the height and came to me in my house, like unto thee; and I had not known him, but I thought that thou wast he. And the spirit said unto me: 'Where is Jesus, my brother, that I meet with him?' And when he had said this unto me, I was at a loss and thought it was a phantom to try me. So I seized him and bound him to the foot of the bed in my house, until I went forth to you, to thee and Joseph in the field, and I found you on the vineyard, Joseph propping up the vineyard. It came to pass, therefore, when thou didst hear me speak the word unto Joseph, that thou didst understand the word, wert joyful and said: 'Where is he, that I may see him; else I await him in this place.' And it came to pass, when Joseph had heard thee say these words, that he was startled. And we went down together, entered the house and found the spirit bound to the bed. And we looked on thee and him and found thee like unto him. And he who was bound to the bed was unloosed; he took thee in his arms and kissed thee, and thou also didst kiss him. Ye became one.

"This then is the word and its solution. 'Grace' is the spirit which hath come down out of the height through the First Mystery, for it hath had mercy on

the race of men and sent its spirit that he should forgive the sins of the whole world, and they should receive the mysteries and inherit the Light-kingdom. 'Truth' on the other hand is the power which hath sojourned with me. When it became material body for thee, and hath made proclamation concerning the region of Truth. 'Righteousness' is thy spirit, who hath brought the mysteries out of the height to give them to the race of men. 'Peace' on the other hand is the power which hath sojourned in thy material body according to the world, which hath baptized the race of men, until it should make it stranger unto sin and make it at peace with thy spirit, so that they may be at peace with the emanations of the Light; that is, 'Grace and truth kissed each other.' As it said: 'Truth sprouted forth out of the earth,'--'truth' is thy material body which sprouted forth out of me according to the world of men, and hath made proclamation concerning the region of Truth. And again as it said: 'Righteousness looked down from heaven'--'righteousness' is the power which looked out of the height, which will give the mysteries of the Light to the race of men, so that they will become righteous and good, and inherit the Light-kingdom."

Mary Magdalene came forward and said: "My Lord, bear with me and be not wroth with me. Yea, from the moment when thy mother spoke with thee concerning the solution of these words, my power disquieted me to come forward and likewise to speak the solution of these words." Jesus said unto her: "I bid thee speak their solution." Mary said: "My Lord, 'Grace and truth met together,'--'grace' then is the spirit who hath come upon thee, when thou didst receive the baptism from John. 'Grace' then is the godly spirit who hath come upon thee; he hath had mercy on the race of men, hath come down and hath met with the power of Goodness which is in thee and which hath made proclamation concerning the regions of Truth. It hath said again: 'Righteousness and peace kissed each other, '--'righteousness' then is the spirit of the Light, which did come upon thee and hath brought the mysteries of the height, to give them unto the race of men. 'Peace' on the other hand is the power of Goodness, which is in thee,--he who hath baptized and hath forgiven the race of men,--and it hath made them at peace with the sons of the Light. And moreover as thy power hath said through David: 'Truth sprouted forth out of the earth,'--that is the power of Goodness which sprouted forth out of Mary, thy mother, the dweller on earth. 'Righteousness,' which 'looked down from heaven,' on the other hand is the spirit in the height who hath brought all mysteries of the height and given them to the race of men; and they have become righteous and good, and have inherited the Light-kingdom."

And it came to pass, when Jesus had heard Mary speak these words, that he said: "Well said, Mary, inheritress of the Light." And Mary, the mother of Jesus, again came forward, and said: "My Lord, my son and my Savior, be not wroth with me, but pardon me, that I may once more speak the solution of these words. 'Grace and truth met together,'--it is I, Mary, thy mother, and Elizabeth, mother of John, whom I have met.

'Grace' then is the power of Goodness in me, which went forth out of me, which thou art. Thou hast had mercy on the whole race of men. 'Truth' on the other hand is the power in Elizabeth, which is John, who did come and hath made proclamation concerning the way of Truth, which thou art,--who hath made proclamation before thee. And again, 'Grace and truth met together,'--that is thou, my Lord, thou who didst meet John on the day when thou had to receive the baptism. And again thou and John are 'Righteousness and peace kissed each other.'--'Truth hath sprouted forth out of the earth, and righteousness looked down from heaven,'--this is, during the time when thou didst minister unto thyself, thou didst have the form of Gabriel, thou didst look down upon me from heaven and speak with me. And when thou had spoken with me, thou didst sprout up in me,--that is the 'truth,' that is the power of goodness, which is in thy material body, that is the 'truth' which 'sprouted up out of the earth.'" It came to pass then, when Jesus had heard his mother Mary speak these words, that he said: This is the solution of all the words concerning which my light-power hath prophesied aforetime through the prophet David."