

History of Nimrod

THIS HUNTER BECAME A 'STAR'

In Egypt's early days, something astonishing happened. A certain individual was so highly esteemed by some citizens that they not only adored him but eventually elevated him to the status of a 'god' to receive their religious worship.

Our story begins in those harsh days soon after the Great Flood. Wild beasts were multiplying faster than humans. They were also fierce, and terrified the straggling populations.

HUNTING DOWN DANGEROUS WILD BEASTS!

A man named Nimrod trained bands of men to hunt them down. He gained fame by subduing the horse. He also subdued the leopard, and used it for hunting. Hence Nimrod's name, as 'subduer of the leopard'. He and his bands also used dogs for hunting.

Nimrod gathered the inhabitants together in masses and surrounded them with walls for security against wild beasts. The first of such 'cities' was Babel, on the plain of Mesopotamia.

The people subsequently regarded Nimrod as an emancipator and deliverer. They considered themselves indebted to him for freeing them from the fear of wild beasts. His name gained renown.

A NEW KIND OF 'FREEDOM'

Not content with delivering them from the fear of beasts, Nimrod next set about to free the people from the 'tyranny' (as he called it) of God.

It was for this final act that he gained the title of 'Emancipator', 'Deliverer'. He publicly blamed God for the Flood and for the resulting danger from ravenous beasts. God was a tyrant, an Evil Being, he claimed. Nimrod thus delivered their minds from the awe of God and from the fear of judgments of heaven that rested on them while the memory of the Great Flood was recent.

The history of a number of cultures speaks of a great tower which was built as a symbol of this new-found 'freedom'. The tower was struck by lightning and the people were scattered. After this scattering, when Babel was deserted, Nimrod did some further construction at the site, then began to re-extend his power over the scattered groups. For protection of three of the larger dispersed groups he built walled 'cities'. These thereby came under his rule.

EGYPT INVADED AND CONQUERED

Then by force of arms (using men already strengthened by fighting beasts), he began conquests. These excursions extended as far as Libya, against people who still followed the way of God and were unskilled in war. This included the colony of his uncle Mizraim, in Egypt. He hunted down men and became a ruthless despot.

NIMROD SENTENCED TO DEATH

In those days of high religious feeling, Nimrod's policy of rebellion against the unseen God led to a worship of the visible sun and other heavenly bodies.

According to ancient reports, Shem (or 'Sem' in Egyptian legend), a son of Noah who was still living, determinedly opposed this wickedness.

Although power and numbers were on Nimrod's side, the Spirit on Shem's side was stronger. He persuasively withstood Nimrod's tide of rebellion. Many were persuaded by Shem.

He so convinced a tribunal of Egyptian judges of the enormity of Nimrod's offence, that they gave Nimrod up to an awful death without burial.

He fled to the Italian peninsula, to the site of present-day Rome, but was caught, beheaded, and his body cut to pieces. A piece was sent to various regions as a warning to all. Osiris (Nimrod) had been cut in pieces; therefore, to imitate his fate, later worshippers were required to cut and wound their bodies by knife or whip.

HIS WIDOW MAKES A SHREWD MOVE

Nimrod's widow a royal beauty named Semiramus, was desperate to retain the power she had acquired through being Nimrod's queen.

During the life of Nimrod, the corrupt worship which he inaugurated had been open and public. Now, it was evidently felt that publicity was out of the question. The death of the great ringleader of this apostasy was not the death of a warrior slain in battle, but a judicial act, solemnly inflicted. If his followers were to continue to worship idolatrously as they desired, they would have to initiate a system whereby the forbidden things were represented by something else. So started a system termed 'Mysteries'.

What it meant was this. Those initiated would know that they were in reality worshipping the forbidden things, when they worshipped these new symbols. But the outsider would not know. It would be a MYSTERY to him!

THE PROSTITUTE QUEEN

Four factors helped Queen Semiramus in her plan to succeed:

1. Nimrod's popularity allowed her to declare that he had ascended to the Sun and was now the Sun God.
2. The desire of the people to keep him in their memory. Nimrod's violent death was the CENTRAL THEME of the whole system of Egyptian idolatry.
3. Semiramus extraordinary beauty (Her beauty on one occasion quelled a rising rebellion among her subjects on her sudden appearance among them).
4. Semiramus gave birth to an illegitimate son soon after Nimrod's death. She claimed that she was impregnated by Nimrod through the rays of the sun. His name was Tammuz, the son of the Sun-god.

When Tammuz was still a young man, he was killed by a wild boar in a hunting accident. The Boar became thus known as the 'killer of the gods' and the Boar's Head was served as a part of pagan festivities.

The women WEPT for 40 days for Tammuz, whose death they pathetically deplored. When this mighty hero, in the midst of his career of glory, was suddenly cut off by a violent death, great seems to have been the shock of that catastrophe. This is the origin of the custom of Lent as a preliminary to the great annual festival in commemoration of his death and resurrection, which was celebrated by alternate weeping and rejoicing. It has no basis in the Bible or Christianity at all.

This is why every pagan religion in every country on this planet, from South America to Japan, carries identical symbols and festivals to a very marked extent, even to this day.