

THE KINGDOM OF YISRAEL COMMUNITY NETWORK VICTORVILLE, CALIFORNIA, USA

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Apostolic Doctrine

PAGAN SYMBOLS: THE STOLEN ARTISTRY OF YAH

Beloved brethren, in the book of Exodus, the great prophet and emancipator Moshéh recorded for all time, the words and events that led to the giving of the Great 'Decalogue' – The Ten Commandments. This fundamental set of Divine Laws, written in stone by the finger of 'I AM,' obviously represents the foundation and wellspring of all legitimate moral and civil law. Given the awesome authority expressed in the giving of these Laws, we as the faithful remnant in Christ rightfully seek to keep them all. Even so, Ahmen.

The first five Laws of the Ten have to do with our relationship to Almighty YAH, and represent the eternal foundation of all law, including the other five Commandments. And yet, the second of these three Laws, "You shall not make unto you any graven image..." has been taken by most of us to be a forbidding, not of serving other gods, but of the graven (man-made) images themselves.

Behold Yisrael: The same heavenly Father who commanded "You shall not make unto you any graven image..." also commanded the *making* of certain graven images to illustrate divine truth before His people (the Ark of the Covenant, the bronze laver, the table of showbread, etc.) Brethren, is there some sort of a contradiction here? YAH forbid!

The Third Commandment goes on to say, "... You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them: for I YAHUWAH your Elohim am a jealous 'GOD'..." Abba's point here is not to demonize the use of images or symbols, but to warn us of the dangers of worshipping or revering an inanimate object or symbol, rather than the living Creator of the universe. After all, how can

something with no life impart life? Obviously it cannot. For example, the tabernacle of Moshéh itself was filled with items made after the likeness of things that are in heaven above. If man-made images or symbols of any kind are evil in and of themselves, then the very Ark of the Covenant for example – designed by Abba YAH Himself – is itself a graven image we must avoid. Sélah.

In fact, this monumental misreading of the Third Commandment has ironically and inadvertently led to the very sin the original Commandment forbids: placing Satan – another god – before YAH! How so? To begin with, *every* object, symbol or image ever made was created by YAHUWAH Elohim. Period. To be sure, Satan is the father of lies. But he is the creator of nothing. Let me say that again. *Satan is the creator of nothing!*

Everything he has put forth – including "satanic" or "pagan" symbols – is nothing more than a counterfeit of something in Abba YAH's original creation. Satan is a thief who has simply stolen, among so many other things, the images of YAH, and sought to twist them into something of his own. For example, the goat's head used by Satanists is derived from the scapegoat sin offering of the Levitical Priesthood. YAHUWAH Himself created the goat and instituted the scapegoat ritual. Should we no longer recognize the legitimacy of the scapegoat as a picture of vicarious atonement because Shatan's minions use a goat's head in their rituals? In my judgment, the answer is clear.

Another example of the co-opting of YAH's symbols is the American Medical Association's use of the serpent and staff symbol YAH commanded Moshéh to fashion for the healing of our fathers. The American pharmaceutical industry is clearly driven by greed and not public health. It has literally conjured up magic formulas that create the *illusion* of well-being. But in reality, through chronic addictions and crippling side-effects, these supposed "medicines" have literally destroyed the lives of countless men, women and children the world over.

In the book of the Revelation, it is written, "...for by your sorceries were all nations deceived." (Rev. 18:23). The word translated 'sorceries' in this verse is the Greek word 'pharmakeia,' from which comes the English word 'pharmacy' – which is just as accurately translated 'magic' or 'witchcraft.' Shall we then denounce the symbol established by Abba YAH to bring healing to our fathers in the wilderness, simply because the wicked dare to use it also? Again, YAH forbid!

The symbols used by Davïd Ha Melekh and the Kings of Yahudah used in ancient Yisrael and the fish symbol and Messianic seal found on first century artifacts of Hebrew Yisraelites in Ha Mashiakh Yah'shua have caused much dissention and debate among the remnant. But then, how can geometric figures or the image of a fish be inherently sinful, unless ones' own conscience is

offended? Now in such cases it *is* sinful – but *only* for those whose consciences are weakened by man-made religion and superstition.

Let us say for the sake of argument if you will, that the Star of Davïd is an ancient symbol used by pagans or Satanists. In my judgment, we not only have the right and the divine obligation to strip our enemies of the abuse of this inherently harmless symbol, but a duty not to impose our own personal sense of conscience and faith concerning such symbols upon our brothers and sisters for whom Mashiakh died.

Finally, my brethren, the ultimate stolen satanic or pagan symbol is no doubt the "image of the Beast" spoken of in the book of Revelation. Yet even this, the most diabolical image of all time, is "...the image of a man" – YAHUWAH Elohim's crowning creation! Hear, O Yisrael: It is written, to the pure all things are pure; and this includes the whole of YAH's creation (except of course, that which is actually evil).

The truth is, there is no such thing as an inherently evil symbol. Symbols simply derive their meaning, good or evil, from what lies in the hearts of those that perceive them. Whether it is a geometric form, a plant form or an animal or human form, ultimately it all belongs to Abba YAH and to His beloved children!

Hear, O Holy Nation, and understand: We must no longer unwittingly glorify Ba'al by standing idly by in agreement that the symbols and images he has stolen from us are his! Once and for all time, we must establish and reaffirm that the enemy is a *thief*. And as for the material incentives he offers man to serve him, he has nothing but *stolen goods* to offer... Brethren, let us now seize all that the enemy has stolen from us – including the symbols he co-opts and uses to deceive. Sélah.

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