

The Fall of the First Man.

are but borrowed legends, copied from a system of myths and allegory in common use among the oriental nations of antiquity.

The death of Abel at the hands of Cain has its parallel among the myths of Chaldea; it was symbolic of the eternal war between day and night, light and darkness; so the Christian story of Christ and the devil is naught but this old myth; the story of the casting out of devils was but an allegorical figure of light overcoming darkness, the rising sun subduing night. The Pelasgians had their divine child, their savior, who sacrificed his own life to save his people; he was born of a goddess and placed by her side; like the child of Zeus beside Rhea, Sasipolis beside Llithya, Tychon beside Tyche, Iachos beside Demeter. All these myths run in the same groove, have the same origin, all traceable to the same source, the sun god Amen Ra at dawn chasing away darkness. People in all ages have adored the sunlight and feared darkness. It is the most natural thing in the world; what a man can see he can defend himself against; but danger lurking in the dark he is not prepared to meet, so fear in the dark takes the place of courage in daylight. How much more so this must have been felt by primeval man in a state of profound ignorance, when every phenomenon of nature was, to him, an evil or a good being. It was with primitive man in his savage and semi-savage state that all of these religious myths took root; the soil was propitious, the roots penetrated deep and became so firm that even our civilization has not been sufficient to eradicate them. The gods and devils, myths of day and night, are everywhere about us; they are fed from the pulpit, groomed and exercised weekly by the priesthood. It is the night, the darkness, the imaginary demon which holds so many weak-minded people spell-bound. Cicero says this myth dates back to the remotest antiquity; it has ever been used by the priests to frighten the ignorant.—[Freethought Magazine.]

Disbelief On His Dying Lips.

With a passionless but firm and positive avowal of his disbelief in Christianity on his lips, Mr. Lovering B. Silver, one of the best known citizens of the city, died Sunday at his home, 172 Summit street, aged 73.

For a number of years Mr. Silver had been an avowed infidel, and wished it known that he had died as he had lived, an infidel. He wished no one to say that repentance had come to him on his deathbed, and his quiet disavowal of any religious belief at the time

of his death was determined and impressive to the members of his family and the close friends who heard it.

For many years Mr. Silver was one of Cleveland's most prominent citizens. He was the mayoralty candidate on the Union-Reform ticket at the last election and was a leader of many reform movements. He was one of the founders of the prohibition party. He was a poor boy, but made a great deal of money and was proprietor of the famous stock farm of L. B. Silver & Co. at Salem, his former home. He came to Cleveland in 1871. He left a widow and two sons. The remains will be cremated, probably in Detroit.—[Cleveland (O.) Daily World.]

Witchcraft Still Lives.

The Rev. Solomon E. Hotema, a preacher of Presbyterianism to the Indians of Indian Territory, has recently shot and killed three of his neighbors, two of them women, whom he accused of witchcraft. He is in jail at Antlers awaiting the halter. When asked why he took the lives of the women and the man, he replied solemnly: "I took my authority from the book of all books, the Bible. It says, 'Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.'"

In jail the preacher spends his time in Bible-reading, praying and singing, and regards himself as a martyr for Christ's sake. Hotema's father, an Indian, was a ruling elder of the Presbyterian church for many years. Solomon was educated at Eastern seminaries and taught school before entering the pulpit. At different times he served as county clerk, county judge, representative, senator and district attorney. He is described as a man of good character and of sound mind apart from his belief that the scriptures are inerrant and contain a message from God to man!

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