

SUBJECT: Excerpts from pp. 23-24-25 (book IX) from the personal notes of Dr. Joseph Camp, Ph.D. (item #94142, dated 9 SEP 69).

JORDAN, DEIR ALLA (with Fitz)

Deir Alla. The site is guarded by many soldiers, and we're led there by a lieutenant who looks like a movie star, greased hair, sunglasses, perfect mustache and all. Fitz is almost a movie-star here himself, held in high esteem by the King, and one of the first proponents of artifact repatriation, something which makes his visits to the British Museum something of a bother, so I have been known to go for him. We have a fair trade going. He keeps me apprised of anything of import coming out of the Middle East, and I run errands for him when I can.

"Can you come out Joe? The site is more interesting than I previously thought. I need your eyes."

The site is a beacon in the desert. Kliegs and jeeps and rifles. Too many soldiers. For various reasons I am unarmed and this does not sit well with me. Even at the airport, there was an uneasy feeling, like thunderclouds gathering. The soldiers are everywhere and armed to the teeth.

Two years before, a team had found the structure (a temple perhaps, or tomb) lost to time, cut in half by some ancient calamity. Since then, a joint team of Jordanians from the Jordan Archaeological Museum and Fitz's people have been excavating it. Fitz wrote me in 1967 when the first transliterations were complete from the entrance inscriptions (ancient Aramaic/Canaanite and not a strong suit) along with his joking notes about my most probable mis-translations. Followed by HIS OWN translation, including notes on how to grade my own poor attempt. These said little, but it was a fun read.

Fitz is a card.

The site is large, and thought to have been destroyed in the thirteenth century or so, but local legends and ancient sources indicate the site was steadily used until the Axial age, at least (the birth of Buddhism, Confucius, Pythagoras LOOK INTO). This alone is very interesting. Meaning the site itself had meaning, not the structure. Records exist indicating great movements of people to the site for unknown reasons...

The site is called the "Bal'am Son of Be'or Inscription", and it appears very important for many reasons, not the least of which is, it may mean that YHWH—the Hebrew God—may indeed exist, although not in a form I have considered before.

Bal'am, it is thought, is the same Bal'am seen in Numbers 22-24. A seer of the "other" gods. The inscription is unique as it marks him as a follower of a god known as SHGR one of the "Shaddayin" (an unknown word which Fitz warns me against reading too much into) though it DOES hint at a source similar to ELOHIM. SHGR is not a known deity, or is lost to time, though it does bring to mind the quote from DE VERMIS MYSTERIIS:

"AND SHUB MIGRATH DOES GIVE TO THE DUST THAT SEMBLANCE OF LIFE. SHUGRM MOVES AND SHUGR BREEDS. IN THE EARTH AND BETWEEN IT, THINGS SLEEP, AND MULTIPLY."

Inside, we enter a second chamber and Fitz steps on a switch which lights the fractured wall covered in sand-worn inscriptions. He begins reading. Several times, I ask him to slow as I take notes. The text is as follows:

- 1) The misfortunes of the Book of Balaam, son of Beor. A divine seer was he.
 - 2) And he beheld a vision in accordance with El's utterance.
 - 3) They said to Balaam, son of Beor:
"So will it be done, with naught surviving.
 - 4) No one has seen what you have heard!"
 - 5) Balaam arose on the morrow. He summoned the heads of the assembly to him. And for two days he fasted, and wept bitterly.
 - 6) Then his intimates entered into his presence, and they said to Balaam, son of Beor,
 - 7) "Why do you fast, and why do you weep?"
 - 8) Then he said to them: "Be seated, and I will relate to you what the Shaddai gods have planned, And go, see the acts of the god!"
 - 9) "The gods have banded together; The Shaddai gods have established a council, And they have said to [the goddess] SHGR:
'Sew up, close up the heavens with dense cloud,
That darkness exist there, not brilliance;
Obscurity and not clarity; So that you instill dread in dense darkness.
And - never utter a sound again!"
- [SHATTERED PANEL]
- 10) They heard incantations from afar
...
Then disease was unleashed

And all beheld acts of distress.

SHGR-and-Ištar did not [UNREADABLE]

11) And then El fashioned an eternal house for SHGR;

[A house ...]

A house where no traveler enters

Nor does a bridegroom enter there

A Half-existence in Sheol.

[SYMBOL]

END

What is fascinating about this is that El is considered the source-God for YHWH, Adonai, the one. So, following the story roughly, it appears that the Shaddai (perhaps a pantheon of powerful god-like entities) teamed up to subdue SHGR, and El (YHWH) imprisoned "her" in a "house where no traveler enters" in Sheol—hell. Perhaps it is then YHWH trapped the Shaddai as well, consolidating control like a dictator killing his team of conspiring generals in a single bomb-blast. This also answers the confusing litany of references YHWH makes of "us" and other gods, though in the same text claims to be the "only".

"Do you know that symbol, Joe?"

The writing above it reads:

"And the mark of El (YHWH) shall hold them in this place until the firmament falls."

The symbol is three-feet wide and two and one-half feet high. It looks like a diagonal line with five branch-like extrusions, resembling nothing so much as a tree branch. The last time I had seen it was when Mary unwrapped a huge book from a linen cover and revealed the brown, thin leather centered with a metal clasp. On the clasp was this precise mark, rendered 1,000 later, but IDENTICAL. A mark the book had indicated: WORKED UPON POWERS FROM OUTSIDE TO CHANGE AND MOVE THEM.

"It doesn't appear to match anything I have. Have you seen it before?"

"No," I lied. There really was no need to worry him. I snapped some photos and smiled and listened and played along. We had a marvelous dinner in an empty restaurant on the Maddim Al-Mallah.

I spent two days there and then back to the world. At Amman, I bought an English bible. By the time I had landed at Paris, it was filled with handwritten notes. There was much to do.