

conflict and the Great War which the darkness stirred up. He revealed to me how the Light overcame the Darkness by their intermingling and how in consequence was set up this world. He enlightened me on the mystery of the forming of Adam, the first man. He instructed me on the mystery of the tree of knowledge of which Adam ate, by which his eyes were made to see; the mystery of the Apostles who were sent out into the world to select the Churches (i.e., to found the religions). Thus was revealed to me by the Paraclete all that has been and that shall be, and all that the eye sees and the ear hears and the thought thinks. Through him I learned to know everything, I saw the All through him, and I became one body and one spirit with Him.

After receiving his divine guidance, Mani began missionary work in Persia and sent missionaries as far west as Alexandria and east to Afghanistan. By the year 240, Mani sailed to India and adjacent areas to today's Baluchistan, and there converted a Buddhist King, the Turan Shah.

The doctrine of the Manichaeans was truly unique, a remarkably unified system in spite of the great diversity of its sources. It was adapted to Christian terminology in the west, to Islam in the Abbasid realm, to Buddhism in central Asia and to Taoism in China. One of the most important contributions of the Manichaeans would be that they provided a bridge of transmission of Gnostic doctrine from the second and third century Gnostic sects to such groups as the Bogomils and Cathars in the middle ages. One could safely say that there are many parallels between a Manichaean doctrine and the modern Theosophical movement.

Cathars.



Cathar Cross