

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN - April 1970

Dear Friends:

The 41st to 44th Verses of the 12th Chapter of St. Mark read as follows in the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible: "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and behold how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

The word mite as found in both Mark and Luke is a translation of the Greek word lepton, the smallest Greek coin. As a foreign coin could not be used for a Temple offering, it is probable that the smallest copper coins of the Maccabees, with their Hebrew symbols and inscriptions, were dropped into the box by the widow. The mite equalled about 3/20ths of a cent. (See A New Standard Bible Dictionary, edited by Melancthon W. Jacobus, etc. for further information on early Biblical coinage).



We have recently secured two examples of the coin that was probably the widow's mite. They are bronze leptons of Judea, minted during the reign of Alexander Jannaeus, between 103-76 B.C. They are extremely crude and as might be supposed are considerably the worse for wear. We reproduce here a typical example of the lepton, slightly enlarged, so that the details are more clearly visible. The obverse or front of the coin is ornamented with the symbol of an anchor, around which is a circle of writing which is usually unintelligible. It is believed to read "Jeho-

nathan the King." The reverse of the coin is decorated with an eight-spoked wheel, a most interesting and thought-provoking device.

The wheel is often used to represent the chariot wheel of a royal person. Throughout Asia it is a symbol of regal authority, and intimates that one wearing the wheel is the ruler of the world. The eight-spoked wheel is a solar emblem and is sometimes placed behind the head of a deity or sanctified person as a halo of solar

effulgency. It is only fair to point out, however, that the eight-spoked wheel - as the chakra - is closely associated with Buddhism and the Hindu religion. The wheel was a weapon against darkness, and its eight spokes were the eight truths by which the dedicated human being could be released from bondage to the material world.

The anchor was associated with hope and was appropriately used to represent the stability of government. Its shape suggested the Pythagorean symbol for life. As might be expected, most early coinage still perpetuated the magical properties of charms and talismans. This symbolism was continued in a variety of religious medals, which were similar to coins in size and appearance, but were made to protect the wearer from evil spirits and physical misfortunes.

Refugees escaping from Tibet have found sanctuary in the Kingdom of Nepal. Lamaism has been practiced among the Nepalese people for centuries, and the Tibetans have found climatic conditions in this Himalayan country similar to their own land. Realizing that they may never return to Tibet, these fugitives have brought with them such objects of value as they could transport over the dangerous mountain passes.



Among the escaping Tibetans were priests who brought paintings, scriptures and ritual objects from their temples. Many of those settling in Nepal and Northern India were skilled craftsmen and are perpetuating their national art forms and folk crafts. We have just secured an interesting group of prints taken directly from religious wood-blocks recently brought out of Tibet. The prints include representations of deities, charms, astrological devices, and mandalas. Among the most interesting of such designs is one representing the Wind Horse. We reproduce here a charm which we received from Nepal. The white horse is an important device in both Hinduism and Buddhism. Pious

Hindus are still waiting for the Tenth Avatar of Vishnu. This is called Kalki or Horse Avatar. In the religious art of these people, the ultimate incarnation of the Lord of Life is suggested by a picture of a man leading a riderless white horse. Sometimes this horse is winged like the fabled Pegasus of the Greeks.

In Mahayana Buddhism the white horse is involved in one of the Jataka Tales. Buddha told his disciples that in a previous life he had been saved from a demon by a miraculous white horse. When Buddha renounced his Kingdom in the quest for spiritual enlightenment, he rode away on Kanthaka, his favorite white horse. When the Prince of India said farewell to his horse and started forth as a lonely religious mendicant, Kanthaka died of a broken heart. Later he was born in the heavenly world as a Deva. For an entirely different reason, Japanese Shintoism especially venerated a white horse, and an animal of this color, preferably an albino, was kept in the shrine so that the deity could ride upon it if need arose.

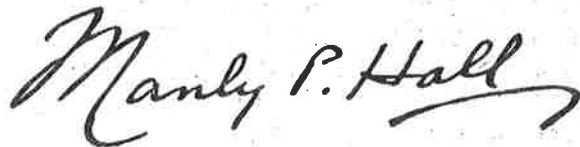
The white horse of Buddha usually bears the three precious flaming jewels upon its back. Sometimes only one jewel is shown, but the three parts of the Precious Doctrine is implied. The jewel in this case is equivalent to the actual figure of Buddha. In Tibet the wind horse is depicted on sacred banners carrying the prayers and supplications of the people to the mysterious King of Shambala. When the wind causes the flag to flutter, the magic horse comes to life and rides across the sky.

There is a further legend which possibly refers to the introduction of Christianity into China. In the year A.D. 63, the Emperor Ming-ti had a vision in which a supernatural being appeared surrounded by light and announced that the Perfect Man had been born into the world. The Emperor was so impressed by his mysterious experience that he sent an Embassy to travel in a Western direction to seek for the promised Messiah. While they were travelling, this delegation met two men leading a white horse, which was carrying on its back sacred books, images and relics. These were supposed to have been Buddhistic, but from more careful investigation it was quite possible that the two pilgrims leading their white horse were actually early Christian Missionaries.

You will find enclosed with this letter our usual Spring PRS Friends Fund Report. As we plan to publish a new book this spring, we hope that you will give this report your kindly and thoughtful consideration. As this goes to press, we can report that the circulation of our books increased substantially in 1969. Persons in many parts of this country and also abroad wrote to tell us that they have found our publications of real help and inspiration to them in these confused times. We are grateful to receive such letters and we are also most grateful to you, for it is your help and understanding over the years that have contributed greatly to the growth and influence of the P.R.S.

We hope that you will have a most enjoyable Spring Season. As the sun moves northward our hopes rise, our faith is strengthened, and we experience the presence of infinite wisdom and love, guiding all that lives to peace and security.

Always most sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Manly P. Hall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

SPECIAL NOTICE
FROM OUR BOOK DEPARTMENT

A number of important and scholarly volumes in our fields of interest are now available in attractive and accurate reprints. Most of those listed here are included in Mr. Hall's list of recommended reading and have long been rare and out of print. To these have been added selected works by outstanding modern authors. The Contributors' Bulletin will list additional works in future issues. Be sure to read this page carefully:

<u>Titles</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Retail</u>
The Great Psychologists -Aristotle to Freud	Robert Watson	10.00
The Great Secret	M. Masterlinck	5.59
Grimm's Fairy Tales		1.95
Golden Thread, Japanese Stories	Sauki	2.95
The Golden Age of Chinese Art (Lively T'sang Dynasty)	H. Scott	15.00
Great Saviours of the World	Swami Abhedananda	3.00
Healing Gods of Ancient Civilizations	W. A. Jayne	10.00
Heart of Man, The	Eric Fromm	3.95
Hellenistic Philosophy	Edited, H. Shapiro	2.45
Hermetic & Alchemical Works of Paracelsus	Waite	35.00
Hidden Wisdom in the Holy Bible	Hodson (paper)	1.95
Hindu Mysticism	Dasgupta	3.00
Hinduism & Buddhism	Coomaraswamy (paper)	.95
Himalayan Art	Singh, M.	35.00
History of Atlantis, The	L. Spence	7.50
Holy Grail, The	Waite	10.00
Holy Kabbalah, The	Waite	10.00
How to Judge a Nativity	Alan Leo	7.50
The Human Aura	Kilner	7.50
Human Personality and the Survival of Bodily Death	F. W. Myers	10.00
Hume on Religion	Editor, R. Wollheim	2.50 (paper)
Human Potentialities	G. Murphy	7.50
Hymn of Universe	T. de Chardin	3.50
Hypnosis & Suggestion in Psychotherapy	H. Bernheim, M.D.	10.00
Iamblichus on the Mysteries of the Egyptians, Chaldeans and Assyrians	Transl. T. Taylor	8.50
I-ching	Baynes	6.00
Idylls of the King: The Princess	A. Tennyson	1.95
Imitation of Christ	Kempis	2.45
Indian and Christian Miracles of Walking on the Water	Brown	2.00
Integral Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo	Spiegelberg	8.50
In the Hope of Nibbana	W. King	6.00
Ink Smearred Lady	Sakanishi, Shio	2.95
Introduction to Tantra Sastra	Sir J. Woodroffe	3.00
Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas		2.45
Image of an Oracle, The	Ira Progoff	7.50
Iron Flute, The	Edited, Senaki & Shouy	3.95
Isis Unveiled, Vols. I and II	Blavatsky	7.50

These books may be ordered directly from The Philosophical Research Society, Inc., (address on first page). Please add 25¢ for handling on orders of less than \$5.00. Sales tax should be included by California residents.