In Building the Temple of Solomon - 6
Before, During and Afterwards…
(Sixth Episode - Final)



Ninth Arch

...

We cannot know with certainty which of those we are told as "historical fact" is true, and which are false. Even narratives based on documents have a margin of doubt because the accuracy of the documents is questionable.

Historians follow a scientific method only to the extent they can. The scientific method of the natural sciences cannot be fully applied to the evaluation of historical information, because it is not possible to test a theory by going back and adapting it. For this reason, it has long been debated whether history can indeed be a "science".

In general, history is full of epics, legends, stories and fabrications. The history of a country is not about the people of that country, but about its ruling power, its environment, its wars, and the issues of interest to people at the highest level. The reason for this is that the records, which are the basis of historical information, were written down directly by those people or dictated by someone else.

Naturally, those people wrote or dictated only what they wanted and in the style that suited them. There are undoubtedly some that are true. The accuracy of many others is doubtful. This is especially evident in the accounts of the same event in two different sources. It is seen that both of them are written in a biased manner and there are contradictions between them. The information overlaps at times. Only these overlaps can be trusted more than the others.

*Those described here **should not be regarded** as "historical fact"; this is very important.*

In the fictional story of the construction of the first temple in Jerusalem, Joapert told that after he had progressed in his profession as a builder, he often worked with King Solomon and that the King dictated many things to him. He did not write those things by himself, as he wished. Most of them were either dictated or censored by King Solomon. The things that Solomon dictated or had corrected were those that suited him and were favourable to him only... What Joapert wrote down about himself was different...

It is all fiction.

Among the notes King Solomon kept for his secretary, an interesting incident is mentioned in an undated independent section. Joapert was certainly not the scribe of King Solomon only. Especially when he became the Grand Master Architect, King Solomon must have had another private secretary... Therefore, it is not clear by whom the notes on this undated event were kept. Perhaps after Joapert became the Grand Master Architect and Adoniram left, perhaps earlier.

Perhaps none of them...

In such narratives, -especially if there is a legend involved- it is common to confuse dates, i.e. to "anachronise", that is to say, to observe a discrepancy between events and their dates.

An Important Issue Regarding the Secret Chamber

One day the Great Architect had an important conversation with King Solomon concerning the "secret chamber". He pointed out that in the future, those authorised might have to enter it, and that it might be useful to preserve the possibility of access to it, even if it was in fact kept as top secret.

Suleiman had agreed. Moreover he asked, *«Was I wrong in breaking that key, by suddenly deciding that it was the right thing to do?»* [This event was told in the Second Episode.]

The Grand Architect had said, *«No! It was very good, because then the key could have been acquired by malicious people.»* He then had said, *«In fact, that door should not be opened with a key. It should be arranged in such a way that it can be opened only by those who know how.»*

Solomon had asked the Grand Architect if he could do it.

The Grand Architect had replied that there was already a preparation on this matter and that he could try if permitted.

Solomon then raised the matter with Zadok. The three of them decided how this should be done.

Zadok had the Temple closed for a day and everyone was sent away.

The Grand Architect, together with two of his assistants, went as far as the Secret Chamber and made a thorough inspection. After this, they embarked on a long period of preparatory work. [According to Joapert's earlier account, one of these two assistants must have been Gareb, but it doesn't really matter.]

Some iron and bronze pieces had been produced in workshops and these were carried to the Sanctuary. When the preparations were completed, Zadok had the Temple closed this time for a week, in order for maintenance and repairs to be carried out.

A cleaning, maintenance and repair work had been carried out around the Temple, which could be observed from the outside, with many labourers working. However, no one was allowed to enter. Meanwhile, the whereabouts and activities of the Grand Architect and his assistants are unknown.

After they had finished their work, the Grand Architect told King Solomon and Zadok what they had done. According to him, it was no longer necessary to have a key to get in, but **"knowledge".**

At that instant, Solomon remembered something. *«In his lifetime, Hiram Abif said that he had built another passage to reach there. But he didn't tell us where it was, because it wasn't finished yet»* he said.

Upon this, Zadok had been in alarm. Even though the passage from the Sanctuary was secured, he foresaw that the other one might be very insecure and said, *«The location of the other tunnel must be searched and found, and necessary precautions must be taken.»*

A research team of three people had been formed: **Amoz**, **Jetro** and **Jereboam**.

They had been only asked to investigate whether there were any old ruins that might have remained underground. The reason given for this was that they had wanted to find and evaluate the remains of ancient cultures in the hills of Zion.

Archaeological Research



The three masters took the necessary tools and materials to carry out archaeological excavations and started to search in the hills of Zion, starting from Mount Moriah.

They worked for days. They could not find any trace.

But one day, a rusty **iron ring** among the old ruins attracted their attention. When they cleaned the sides of the ring, they saw that it was embedded in a large square stone.

When they moved the stone by digging the sides, they found out that it was a lid. They emptied all around, and lifted it by force.

They discovered a chamber of four walls built of stone and a **dome-shaped** ceiling above it.

They dug up the sides of this cell. They found nothing. Since the chamber they found was already closed on all four sides, they thought that it could not be connected to anywhere else. They came to the conclusion that this was something like a warehouse entered from the top.

"If so, there must be the remains of other buildings in the neighbourhood" they thought, and searched. Finding nothing again, they gave up further search.

One day, the Grand Architect asked these three masters about the status of their work. They told him what they had found up to that point. The Grand Architect advised them to dig at the bottom of the domed chamber they had found, not around it. He also warned them not to say anything about it to anyone.

The three masters went to the same place again. They tied one of them and lowered him down.



When the master, who was brought down, dug up the puddles on the floor, he saw that there was another square stone there.

Working with difficulty in the narrow cell, they removed that stone as well. They discovered that it had been placed to cover the top of another dome.

When they reached the second dome below, they saw that the floor was much cleaner. Now there was obviously another square stone on the ground. However, since they were now in a place like a well, they had to either wait until noon or light a torch below to see it. It was even more difficult to work with a torch because lack of air and smoke made it impossible to breathe. When they lifted it with difficulty, they found the third dome.

They had to cease working for a while. They left it until later to open the lid they had seen under the third dome. Now they could definitely only work when **the sun was at zenith** and only for a short time. They needed strong and long ropes to get down and climb up, and they needed light to see to continue working.

They returned having acquired necessary material. With difficulty, they reached the fourth, then the fifth, and then the sixth dome. This work continued for days, one after the other, exactly in the same way. There seemed to be no end to these domes built one on top of the other or, conversely, one below the other.

It was very difficult to work inside this narrow chamber under the dome. From now on, since the air below was not enough for two people, they envisaged that only one person would carry out next operation.

Despite the difficulty, they resisted. They agreed to go until the end no matter what. They rested and continued the work, alternating between them. Even lifting the cover at the bottom of the sixth dome took days.

When they reached the seventh dome, they could hardly stay there for a few minutes due to lack of air, and they had to climb up and rest, and another one had to come down.

They laboured for several days to reach the eighth dome.

As a result of these efforts, which they continued without losing hope and not giving up, they reached the ninth dome.

The situation they encountered here was very different from the previous ones. As far as they could understand by touching, there was a large mass here in the shape of a triangular prism, and on top of it was a cube-shaped stone.

They thought about what they should do. They decided to remove the stone.

They went back and brought in logs. They set up a lever. They made a slingshot, tied the stone tightly and pulled it up.

They saw that it was a huge **"agate stone"** in the shape of a cube. On one side there was a triangular shaped plate embedded, which looked like gold. There was also a figure, but they could not understand what it was.



They tied the stone on a sledge made of timber and dispatched it straight to King Solomon.

Solomon was extremely surprised when he saw the stone. He had the plate removed. When he looked behind it, he saw that there were some shapes there too.

He wondered what it could mean. When he could not figure it out, he sent for Zadok.

Zadok, having examined the agate stone and the gold plate on it for a long time, told the three masters who brought it the following:

*«It seems that the nine domes you have found, one below the other, were made many years ago by **Enoch**, one of the ancestors of our King Solomon. Here, hidden behind the triangle on this stone, are the letters of a language that has long since are in disuse, a language peculiar to the period in which Enoch lived.»*

Zadok said that there were four letters here next to each other, and that their equivalents in the language used could be indicated, but since the language was different, what was written could not be understood in this way. He added that the word formed could not be expressed, that it reflected an "ineffable" concept.

King Solomon rewarded the three masters for their patience, perseverance and dedication, and for their success in producing this precious agate cube stone. He had a painting made on this event. In this painting, there was a design depiction of a room with nine arch domes on top of each other.



No one knows what happened to that plate after that.

King Solomon presented a medallion to these three masters. It is not known what kind of medallion it was, but it was designed to commemorate this event. On one side is a triangle with an unknown letter inside, and on the other is a depiction of the work of the three masters who found the agate stone in the ninth dome.



Below will be a few paragraphs of commentary on the remarks made in connection with this medallion.

*This medallion appears to be surrounded by a number of letters and a date. The date is labelled **"Year of Enoch 2995"**.*

This means that the nine arch domes in a row, which these three craftsmen are said to have discovered, date from about three thousand years earlier than the time of the construction of the first temple in Jerusalem, assuming, of course, that this date is "correct"...

*It is impossible not to doubt the accuracy of this account. Because, in a later explanation of the letters on the same side of the medallion, their Latin equivalents are given as **R. S. R. S. R. S. T. P. S. S. R. I. I. A. J. S**. The meaning of this is explained as follows: "Regnante Solomone Rege Sapientissimo Thesaurum Pretiosissimum Sub Ruinis Invenerunt Adoniram Joabert et Stolkin", i.e. "During the reign of Solomon, the wise of kings, the precious treasure under the ruins was found by Adoniram, Joapert and Stolkin."*

There may be a somewhat significant contradiction in this explanation. If this was after the building of the Temple, Adoniram must have returned to Phoenicia. Even if the nine domes hidden underground were discovered when he was the grand architect, his name is not mentioned here.

Moreover, why would Stolkin, who must have been on another mission at the time, go out to excavation?

Why should the letter "A" there be Adoniram -if it really is- not "Amoz"?

Similarly, why should the letter "J" be "Joapert"... It could be "Jereboam".

In this way, only the letter "S" is left free. Perhaps the name of the person called "Jetro" does not actually begin with J (yod) but with "S" (set), like Selek...

It is not clear how accurate this explanation is either. It is all an interpretation or speculation.

In fact, it is not at all clear which of the sources of historical information is true and to what extent also. The inaccuracies in what some have told and dictated, and what others have heard and written, keep chasing each other. None of them can be trusted as "truth".

King Solomon had said to the masters, *«As a master builder, you have reached the ninth arch and attained perfection with the work you have done without giving up and without losing your perseverance. You have multiplied your competence nine times. Now go and seek other endeavours. Whenever you find what you are looking for, then return.»*

Next day, the three Sublime Masters of Arch started searching again. However, they never returned. It is not known where they went, what they did, whether they continued their search, or found anything else.

Destruction of the Temple

The Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem stood for three hundred and seventy-three years.

One day, the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar became very powerful in the neighbourhood, and attempted to extend the borders of his sovereignty to the Mediterranean coast. When the kings of Jerusalem at that time refused to surrender, he attacked with all his means.

The armies under the command of Babylonian Commander-in-Chief Nabuzardan entered Jerusalem, and what an entrance!

First they looted every part of the city. Then they burned what was left. They erased what was left, leaving no stone unturned. No one knows the number of civilians killed.

They gathered together all the descendants of the Israelites who remained alive, no matter what family they belonged to. They lined them all up, put them in chains and deported to Babylon.



Jerusalem and its surroundings have become a completely deserted ruin.

Fairy Tale

Yes, a fairy tale... Because what will be told next is a fairy tale in the true sense of the word. Even the narration of the event that happened to the three people mentioned above is a fictional story, but it remains at the level of "it could really happen" compared to what will be told next.

Years have passed.

Three travellers, members of an esoteric organisation, who were on a journey to learn about other countries, happened to be in this neighbourhood.

They were wandering among the ruins where the Temple of Solomon was once built, trying to get information from the half-assed reliefs left on some of the stones. Their leader, who was considerably older than the other two, was explaining to the youngsters how and why things were this way.

One day, they stopped their work for lunch, sat down on the stones and took out their bundles. Just as they were about to start eating, one of the neighbouring ruins suddenly shook with a great rumble.

They were frightened. They thought it was an earth tremor. But they soon realised that it was only the wear and tear of the ruins over time that had finally exhausted their endurance to the limit and caused a sudden collapse.

A cave-in appeared. This revealed the mouth of an old well there.

One of them lay down next to the well and looked inside. The light of the sun, which was just overhead at the time, was reaching the bottom of the well. He saw that there was an object there that reflected the light of the full overhead sun.

The others also looked. They thought it might be a piece of metal.



Their leader was not very interested. But the youth were curious. When they wanted to go down into the well and look, their leader did not prevent them.

They took off the harnesses of their camels and tied them end to end. They let one of them hang down. When the young traveller went down to the bottom of the well, he discovered that what he saw was a yellowish piece of metal, buried in a puddle of petrified mud. When he called out and told them what he had seen, their leader said, *«Bring it here and let's have a look.»*

The young traveller scraped around the half-buried piece of metal with his knife. He realised that it was a triangular plate. It was connected to a chain with a ring at one end. While he was struggling to free the chain, the sun shifted and he could not see far enough in front of him. In order to let free the chain, he had to pull the other end off.

He was just about to climb back up when he observed that there was a huge hollow in the side, like the entrance to a passage. He wanted to reach up and look there too, but he was on the other side of the well, so he climbed up.

When their leader picked up the object the young traveller had found at the bottom of the well, half covered with petrified earth, and looked at what it was, he was suddenly very excited. When he counted the links of the broken chain and realised that there were actually 33 of them, he felt like fainting. *«That's the one! That's it!»* he was muttering.

They sprinkled some of their drinking water on his face, and helped him to recover.

The leader of the travellers sat cross-legged on the ground, and began to scrape off the soil that had stuck to the other side of the plate with his knife. The youngsters watched him. When the other side of the plate was exposed, the leader of the travellers suddenly became excited again. He looked at it for a moment. Then he covered it with his hand and shouted to the youngsters, *«Don't look! Don't dare to look!»*

He hid the plate, as it is, with the chain in his bosom. The young travellers could not understand what had happened. They were bewildered.

Their leader thought for a while. Then he said, *«There will be no point in hiding it. Sit down and I will tell you.»* He took the young travellers in front of him and told:

«You already know that about four centuries ago a great temple was built here for people of all religions and beliefs. During the construction of this temple, an incident happened. Some people attacked the architect of the temple and killed him. After the event, the gold triangular jewel that the architect used to wear around his neck disappeared and was never found again. On one side of this jewel the "ineffable word" was written. Since it was searched for and never found, the concept of "lost word" was derived as an alternative.

I think this plate is that jewel... So the owner of this jewel, the architect, threw it into this well before he died. Maybe he dropped it. Since he was dead, his whereabouts were never found out. It was thought that whoever got hold of it, has melted it down and sold it. Such information may have been spread deliberately, so that no one would look for it anymore, and it would not get into anyone's hands... Now we have found it. However, no one should look at it or attempt to read it. We should follow the tradition, forget about it, and leave this place.»

The young man who had gone down into the well also mentioned the hollow he had seen there. *«It is very strange to find such a cavity on the face of the well. I think there is a deep cave over there.»*

When the leader asked him, *«Where did you get that from?»* he said, *«It used to be in some temples in Egypt! The hole in the well was the only way out of there and led to a lobby; it was used during Hermetic initiation.... I thought maybe they made a similar one here.»*

Their leader didn't think much of it, but he was intrigued. He said, *«Now if I tell to you, "No such thing can be so. It must have been carved by natural influences. Let's get packed and go", I know that you will not believe me and you will want to look at it. Actually, I would like to see it myself. Better yet, let's all go down and have a look together; let's satisfy our curiosity.»*

They all got ready to go down into the well together. They collected thick tree branches and reeds from a nearby dry water bed. They built a ladder. Their labour lasted until evening. They postponed going down to the well to the next day, and stayed there for the night.

The next day, they collected regular stones from the ruins, and threw them into the well to use as steps. One of them climbed down again and stacked the stones on top of each other. First they placed the ladder against this stack. Thus, they made it easier for their old leader to descend. Then this time they placed it in such a way that they could reach the hole, and climbed up there.

They lit the torches they had taken with them beforehand with a flint, and entered into the cavity one by one. After crawling for a while one after the other, they reached a cavern where they could walk by bending down. After that, they went on for a long time, going round and round, always going downwards. The cave became narrower and narrower. After crawling for a while more, they realised that they had reached the top of another cave.

The air became very heavy. They extinguished two of the torches and tried to see their way with only one. When they descended down into the lower cellar, they saw that it extended in two directions.

One of them took the torch and went upwards. After a while he returned. He said that this direction was a dead end. So they all went down in the other direction one after the other. As the descent was a little steep and difficult, those at the back had to tie the one going ahead with camel harnesses and hold him for safety.

After a while, the passage became more even. Then, it was easier to move forward.

Proceeding for quite a while, they reached a landing that was high enough to stand. At this point, they saw that the passage ended with an iron door.

Their leader examined the door with his hands. *«This is the end. I guess this door was not put here for nothing, there must be something behind it, but we can neither open nor break it. There is nothing we can do but return»* he said.

One of the youngsters discovered that there were some shapes on the door. He asked the leader what these could be.

The leader approached the door closely and held the torch towards it. He examined the relief figures. There were 22 points forming a circle, in the centre of which was a figure like "a crown placed at the junction of a circle and two diagonal lines".

He thought relatively for long time, and loudly as if humming: *«There is a symbol in the very centre. Twenty-two dots around it. Why twenty-two?... There are twenty-two letters in the Hebrew alphabet. So these twenty-two dots could correspond to twenty-two letters. So what does it mean?... **"The Word!"** Those who don't know just look and talk. The one who knows reads, listens, understands and tells. And what is this symbol? Crown!... Sovereignty!... But it sits in the centre of a circle and two crosses. This is the world, the earth. Altogether it is sovereignty on earth. If sovereignty is integrated with the good and true word, it gains value. For the ignorant, it is identical to worldly belongings. So it is synonymous with "Malhut".»*

While their leader was murmuring like this, the young travellers came closer to hear him better. Realising that they were curious to know what he was saying, he said to them: *«Look now! Who combines and understands the twenty-two letters, gets exposed to the universe. And the universe in turn shows him all its secrets one after the other. But the one who does not understand what the "word" is, remains alone by himself in this world with his purely material sovereignty. However, in terms of the universe as a whole, that is, relatively, the world is a beginning. Malhut is only the starting point.»*

«I didn't understand anything; what does that mean?» one of the youngsters asked, while trying to trace the outline of the figure above the door with his hand, as if he wanted to understand it better. At the same time, the other young traveller was leaning against the door. Suddenly there was a mechanical sound; the door, which seemed to be unopenable just a moment ago, opened.

They were so excited that they forgot the question. When they pushed, the door opened wide.

When they entered and proceeded went a little further, they saw that there was another iron door in front of them similar to the previous one.

When the young traveller, who had leaned against the first door and caused it to open, moved rapidly towards this second, their leader called out in alarm, *«Stop! Don't come any closer.»*

Turning back with the torch, he examined the back side of the iron door they had just opened by chance. Then he said to the other, *«Stand here and hold this door tightly. Be very careful; don't let it close.»* He went forward and examined the second door from top to bottom.

On this door, there were many circular grooves, each with a different figure, and scattered relief dots, as if forming a line. The figure in the lowest groove was similar to the one on the previous door. The others were different.

The leader of the travellers counted the grooves and the lines formed by the relief dots separately. He examined how they were placed. Then he said, *«Yes, now it is much clear and everything fits in its place. The gateway to space must be the moon. It must be the foundation of this work, "Yesod" probably.»*

He carefully ran one hand over the "moon" shaped figure in the second row from the bottom and pressed it. When a mechanical sound was heard again, he pushed the door.

This door also opened. Behind it they encountered a partition made of stone walls on both sides. When they raised the torch a little, they saw that the top was like a dome. On the opposite side was another iron door.

The leader of the travellers held the torch behind the second door they had opened and examined it. This time he told the other youngster to hold it tightly and prevent it from closing.

With the torch in his hand, he went towards the third door they had seen, took a look at it and returned immediately. *«Now we've got to get out of here»* he said. *«I think I know what these are, but I need to clear my mind and think. I can't do that here. I'll tell you all about it when we get outside, and then we can come back if you wish.»*

When one of the youngsters asked, *«Can't we try to open that door too?»* the leader replied, *«Maybe, but not now. If we do it right, we will open the door, but if we do it the wrong way, we may cause the door to be locked, never to be opened again. Besides, this is not the last door. There are surely a few more behind it. Moreover, every door we open jeopardises our lives here. Because if the previous door closes behind us, we will not be able to open it backwards and we will be stuck. We must take the necessary precautions. Since we have come this far, we should open these doors, but first we should go outside. I can explain this to you much better outside»,* and with the torch in his hand, he passed by the youngsters and started to walk backwards towards the corridor that they came in.

When the young traveller he left behind asked, *«Shall I close this door or leave it?»*, he said, *«It doesn't matter. We were able to open it anyway. Even if it closes, we can open it again.»*

Indeed, when the young travellers let go of the doors they were holding tightly, they noticed that both of them slowly closed with their own weight. They followed their leader and started to return.

Their greatest difficulty in returning to get out was to pass the hollow near the ceiling of the tunnel into the previous passage through which they had entered. To do this, first one of them climbed up, the other lifted their leader on his shoulders and pulled him. The youngster at the bottom finally climbed up as well.

When they reached the well, they saw that it was already night and dark.

All of them were exhausted. They had to rest for a while before going upstairs. They couldn't say anything, they each went to a corner and fell asleep.

The Sephirot

In the morning, when the young travellers woke up, they saw that their leader was already up, crouching on the ground and doing something.

When they went up to him, they saw that he had picked up a stick and was drawing something on the ground, which he had levelled well.

Without making a sound, they started to watch him with curiosity.

Their leader was drawing on the one hand, he didn't like what he had drawn and on the other, so he spoilt it and redid.

This took a long time. Finally, he said, *«All right! Now it's done.»*

When one of the youngsters could not stand it and asked, *«What is this?»* he said, *«Sit down. I'll tell you about this while we get our foods.»* He then c continued, "Follow these, remembering what was on the doors we have seen.»

Starting from the bottom of the drawing, he gave the following explanations:

«The first was the world we live on, the equivalent of the earth. "Malhut"... Consequently was the "Moon", the first gateway to space: "Yesod". When we opened that door, we entered into the first vault, the firmament. In a way, it was like we were in space.

*We stopped and turned back. What comes next?... Venus. "**Netzah",** which means solidity. Then Mercury, "**Hod**", which means glory.*

*Then in the very centre is the Sun, **"Tiferet"**, which is Beauty. All the others are connected to it. Then comes Mars or "**Geburah**", which means strength.»*

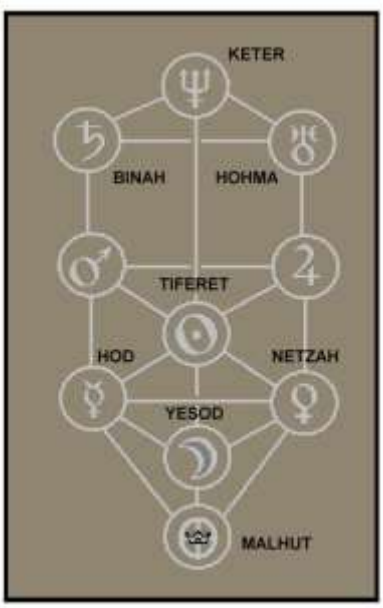
While explaining these, he was showing their places in the drawing one by one.

One of the youngsters said, *«The next is Jupiter.»*

The leader confirmed, *«It is love, "**Hesed**". Then what?»*

They counted as "Saturn", "Uranus", and "Neptune".

The Leader explained, pointing to them in the same order: « This is **"Binah"** meaning Intelligence, **"Hohma"** meaning Wisdom and at the top is the Universal Crown **"Keter"**.»



He told the youngsters that he had learnt this drawing in the past but had forgotten it, and he was now trying to remember.

He continued as follows: *«The doors we saw are organised according to this scientific philosophy. An interesting technical arrangement was applied. It is necessary to open each of them by following the code in a specific order. Then the lock will be off. If you don't follow this sequence exactly and correctly, make a mistake, that is, if you don't know exactly where to touch to open the door, you may not be able to open it at all after touching it once. I can't say that for sure, but it can be the case.»*

He paused for a while. He thought. Then he said, *«Moreover, every door can only be opened from the outside inwards. There is no way to open it from the inside. This is very important.»* He continued, *«If the door gets closed behind us, we are trapped inside. If we don't have strong tools to dismantle the door, we will not be able to get out again. You saw it downstairs: Doors close by themselves with their weight. To prevent this, it is necessary to wedge every door that is opened. We should also take precautions in case the wedge is accidentally dislodged. So, if we're going to go in there again, we need to determine what we need to do and get prepared accordingly.»*

After this, the old traveller explained to the young people the design of the **"ten sephirot"** (orbits), which form the basis of the **Kabbalah** teaching, and stated that they are formed by 22 points, which he described as **"words"**, and that they are connected to each other by relationships that he showed with a line in the drawing. *«Actually, these are not on the same plane, but in a drawing it looks like they are. The dots you saw on the doors were like the equivalent of these connections.»*

The youngsters were so interested in this subject that they even forgot about the well, the underground, the doors, and re-entering into the vault. They immersed themselves in what their leader was telling them, and listened attentively. They didn't even realise how time had passed, and found out that it was evening.

Therefore, the attempt to re-enter the underground was eventually postponed to the next day.

Secret Vault

Before going down into the well for the second time, they chipped the ends of some of the tree branches they had collected, and prepared enough wedges to tighten the doors. After stuffing them into a saddlebag, they entered the shaft in the same way, and reached the first iron door by the same procedure.

The leader said to the young traveller, who had opened the door on their previous visit, *«Come on, open it.»*

The young traveller wanted to do what he had done before. He couldn't. He tried several times. He failed. Finally he gave up. He realised that the first time he opened the door was just a coincidence.

The leader told him, «Next ones will be easier. The first stage of a work is the most difficult.»

When the young traveller asked, *«So what should I do?»* the leader replied, *«You should think carefully and get the core of the matter. First think about the earth, then its parts. Define them. Finally, establish world sovereignty.»*

So the young traveller first ran his hand over the circle. He traced the transverse and longitudinal lines. Then he pressed his hand on the "crown" shaped figure.

That's when they heard the mechanical sound of the door opening. It turned out that the opening of the first door in the previous visit was accidental.

They pushed the door open, wedged it, and moved on to the second.

Their leader said, «I'll take it from here. You help me. Let's not do anything wrong. But watch me carefully.» He moved forward. After running his hand over the moon as he had done before, he pressed on it. After wedging the second door they opened by this means, they entered the domed chamber.

They opened seven more doors one after the other and passed through further domed chambers, which apparently were identical to the third one.

When they opened the last door, and entered the ninth chamber, they were amazed.

Because this place was not narrow like the previous chambers they had passed through, but was both wide and airy. The walls were not made of small stones, but of large ones cut and placed very neatly.

In the centre was a large mass in the shape of a triangular prism. On top of this was a stone in the form of a cube. When the light of the torch shone on this stone, sparkling moiré reflected.

There were three pillars and on each of them was a candlestick. Their leader discovered that some of the oil in the lamps was not completely dry, and could be lit.

They lit the candlesticks and extinguished the torch.

When they walked around the mass in the centre, they saw that the side faces were engraved with letters, numbers, geometrical forms and figures of mathematical instruments. On the other side of the cube stone above the mass, a gold-coloured plate was embedded. There was a shape in the centre that they could not understand what it was.

One of the youngsters saw a marble plate leaning against the wall towards the back corner of the chamber. He turned it round. Something was written on the back, but he couldn’t read it.

The leader took the plate, and read the word: **"Adonai"**.

Hearing this, the youngsters made themselves fall to the ground in anxiety. Whereas their leader was very calm. He said to the youngsters, *«This word is not the true expression of the concept of God that you are looking for.»*

Then he put down the marble slab, walked towards the cube stone standing in the centre, grasped it tightly with both hands, embraced it, and lifted it up. He told them to look at the **"golden triangle"** shaped plaque embedded on its lower face from a distance.

«This is the word you are looking for. This is what was written on the underside of the architect's jewel» he said. He took it out of his bosom and showed them.

When one of the youngsters asked, *«But what does it say? What is this word?»*, the leader said, *«This is the word that no mortal should pronounce and no one should utter. What it means cannot be described.»* He left the cube stone in its place as it was.

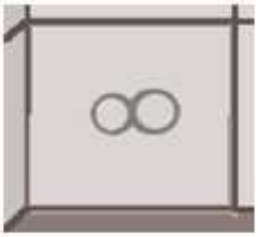
As he put the jewel attached to the broken chain they had found back into his bosom, he said, *«I will tell you about this in much more detail when we go out. Although we have seen the same jewel here, or rather the original one, now is not the time to talk about it. Because it will take too long.»*

The youngsters did not make a sound. They knew that there was a rational reason for their leader to postpone an explanation in such cases.

Eternity

While they were inspecting the place they were in, one of them discovered that the stone block in the very corner where the marble plate was resting seems like a door.

As a matter of fact, the stone block in the very corner and in the lowest row, although looks like the other cut stones that make up the walls, was different. Because only this one had a figure on it similar to two rings side by side. A closer look revealed that the joints between it and the neighbouring stones were also different.



When their leader, who had been quite calm until that moment, approached and carefully examined this corner, he suddenly became alarmed. *«OK, enough of what we have seen here. Let's go now»* he said.

The young travellers stated that it was clear that this was another door, and asked their leader to open this door as well.

Their leader said that this could be very dangerous, the shape on that stone is called **"en soph"**, this term reflects the concept of "infinity", and that if there was indeed another door there, attempting to open it could be identical with attempting to reach infinity, and that this would not be wise at all. Moreover, he said that this was all he could remember and that even if there was another door there indeed, he doesn't not know how it could be opened.

This time the young travellers didn't believe him and started to try, running their fingers over the shape as they opened the iron gates, pushing it, feeling here and there.

No matter what they tried, nothing worked. Finally they got bored and gave up hope.

One of them sat in the corner and leaned his back against the wall, while the other tried to understand what was written on the sides of the triangular prism-shaped foundation in the centre.

Their leader said, *«Look, you see! It won't open. We cannot open a door to infinity without knowing the method. Come on, get up, let's go!»* and extended his hand to lift him off the slab.

As the young traveller took his leader's hand and tried to stand up, the stone block at the lower corner of the wall suddenly turned inwards.

At the same moment, a strong breeze filled the chamber as if a storm had broken out. Pillars and candlesticks toppled and rolled. Everything inside the chamber was immediately both turned to a chaos, and plunged into pitch darkness.

The leader managed to throw himself behind the opened stone door. He shouted to the young travellers, *«Get down on the ground and try to hold on to something.»* He pushed to close the stone door behind him with his shoulder. He was drenched in sweat and blood, but he finally could make it.

When the door was closed, the storm subsided. The leader of the travellers breathed a sigh of relief.

They crawled in the chamber, and searched for the torch in the darkness. One of them could reach, took out a flint and lit the torch.

The youngsters realised that it might be dangerous to stay here any longer, and that they might get into trouble if they try to do something that they did not know. They removed the collapsed pillars, put the extinguished candlesticks back in their places, and tidied up the place as before. Then they went out, removed the wedges of each door in turn, and let the doors free.

After staying there for a while and catching their breath, they went out as fast as they could in the same way as before.

When they reached the well they had entered, they saw that the sun had already set.

After climbing up, they did not stay there any longer, but hastily harnessed the camels. Without saying a word, they set off and travelled away from there. Later in the evening, they stopped at a water source and remained there for the night.

Upon being ready to set off in the next morning, their leader drove his camel eastwards. But they had already come here from that direction.

One of the young travellers asked curiously, *«Where are we going?»*

The leader gave a short answer: *«To Babylon.»*

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It is not easy to develop, to mature, to acquire virtues, to progress towards perfection, to seek and find the truth.

It is difficult but possible. People who possess the necessary skills and can use them harmoniously will achieve successful results if they don't turn away from their path with resistance and fearlessness.

Each stage of this progress may not have brought much more than the previous one.

But it is a great mistake to refer to it as "in vain".

Each stage, which may mislead a person by appearing to be empty has a later, a further, maybe a deeper, a more valuable one, a one much closer to the goal. At each stage, the past should be evaluated and how to move towards the future should be designed.

Those who continue on their way without getting tired, without giving up, without losing hope, without falling into pessimism and gloom, without shaking confidence in their leaders and themselves, without falling into the misleading and discouraging notion that they are stuck in a dead end, will one day succeed in realising their goals.

As a result of all these, what has been achieved may still be found insufficient or meaningless. Surely there is something further than this.

While progressing in the evolutionary direction, it is necessary to accept the fact that the path taken has temporarily come to an end at the place reached for the time being, that is to say, to be contented with it, and to be prepared to set out on the path again later.

This path will not come to an end. Because ***the end of evolution is in eternity****.*

Achieving perfection and truth requires enduring all kinds of difficulties and tireless labour.

Moreover, in the work on this path, the conditions of the endeavour to be put forth after each stage will be more severe than the previous, and will require a stronger resistance.

Man can also reach the first stages through his individual endeavours. Later on, however, it becomes inevitable for him to establish unity and integrity with those who are travelling on the same path with him.

Because every stage that can be reached as a result of individual endeavours cannot lead to complete perfection and the attainment of all truths.

One cannot know and do everything on his own. It is necessary to combine forces and means, to share burdens and responsibilities, to share tasks, to exchange information and opinions, and to establish a mutual solidarity that eliminates deficiencies.

Perfection and truth that can be attained by this means overflows beyond individuality; it spreads to society; it expands and glorifies beyond the individual dimension, first towards the social and then the universal dimension. It is no longer specific to the individual or even to a certain society; it becomes that of all humanity.

Enduring all difficulties and tireless labour, attaining perfection and truth is not a task that every person can accomplish.

For this, there is a need for leaders who have expanded their knowledge with the experience and know-how of the past, who have acquired knowledge that is not given to everyone and cannot be acquired by everyone, and who have learnt evaluating and using it appropriately.

Those who cannot trust their leaders and do not follow their path will find it very difficult, often impossible, to go beyond the stage they are at. They may be able to intuit or see which path they should take.

However, since they lack the knowledge of the method of overcoming the obstacles in front of them, they can make this progress on their own only with futile delays or they cannot realise it at all, and remain where they already are.

Trust in a good leader must be unlimited. It is not enough to follow the path he has shown; one must also avoid the path he has advised against.

The one who follows a leader must realise that he is his follower. Only then can he truly acquire the knowledge and strength to surpass his leader.

The leader is not a device to be used to achieve success. It is an integral part of achieving success and arriving in the truth together.

The person who has reached a certain stage by following his leader should no longer consider himself "great" and "all-knowing". Primarily, he must know himself as his leader has suggested and indicated to him, he must remain humble, he must not be intoxicated with victory when he achieves any success, and he must avoid thinking as "I have become something".

The person who has set his mind to progress in the evolutionary direction should not think that he has gathered all kinds of knowledge in himself because of any truth he has reached. For every truth arrived at is relative, and subject to further development as well as integration in the direction of perfection.

In addition to this, one should know how to limit his individual desires and passions, and should remain loyal and respectful to his leader, who has enabled him to reach whatever stage he has attained, or who has nourished him with his contribution, and in this way one should draw perception from his wisdom.

As long as desires and passions are infinite, it is only in eternity that they can be fulfilled.

The search for eternity, on the other hand, can lead not only the person who embarks on this search but also those who are with him, to disaster.

A person who does not learn to be contented may lose what he already has, and lose even the truths he has reached, and may find himself in a situation mired in dogmas.

The path that will lead man to truth begins with acquiring knowledge of the nature of the world in which we live, and continues by linking all knowledge of the universe with its laws, i.e. by scientificising it.

There are many things in nature that are unknown or cannot be understood scientifically. It can even be said that there are more unknown and incomprehensible things than those known and understood.

Nevertheless, just as what is known and understood today is more than what was known and understood yesterday, what is to be known and understood tomorrow will be more than what is known and understood today.

This has always gone on like this and will always continue going on like this.

It is inevitable that the knowledge and science of tomorrow will be much wider, much deeper, and much more profound than the knowledge and science of today.

This is not a dogma. It is an unavoidable necessity of evolution. It is an unchanged and unchanging universal law.

Some of the universal truths may be beyond the present knowledge of science. Today's science may not yet be able to reach them. However, it should not be ignored that science is constantly developing, renewing and improving itself.

Just as the facts known today were not known yesterday, those unknown today will be known tomorrow.

There is no truth that science and work carried out with the scientific method cannot reach.

Perfect Masters

We are the perfect masters. We are members of the universal constructive organisation.

Everyone can see us at any time, and in any place; they can watch what we do. If someone does not like us individually or because of our work, if he has enough power, he can stop us and prevent us from working. Because we are always everywhere. We have nothing to be kept as secret.

However, no one can see the universal constructive organisation of which we are the members. They cannot know what it does. They cannot touch it; they cannot do anything. Because the institution is nowhere. Only we know it and we fulfil its requirements on behalf of the society. Everyone can only see us and know what we do.

Because this is so, the halted doings and obstructed works of any one of us, do not always remain halted or obstructed. The other perfect masters restart and carry out the work of someone who has been stopped or hindered.

This has always been the case; this is the case presently, and this will continue to be so forever.

What Happened To the Secret Chamber?

While working under the direction of the **Most Perfect Master**, we realised the following: Either the Secret Chamber was not a secret anymore, or the knowledge of how to reach it had been passed down from generation to generation.

In other words, although the location of the Secret Chamber was still unknown, its existence was no longer a secret. So many people had heard about it, wondered about it, and attempted to locate it... It would not even be wrong to say that it had been legendary for centuries.

Who knows, maybe there were even those who found the Secret Chamber, and entered it. Who knows, maybe there were even those who did not stop there, but realised that there was something beyond that chamber. Indeed, in Jerusalem, long after the destruction of the temple built by King Solomon centuries ago, there were those who had entered it, and they were called **"Masters of the Last Dome"**.

Why "the last dome"?... Because it was known that the ceiling of the Secret Chamber was shaped like a dome and it was regarded as the last dome to be reached.

How true was all these?... Could those people be trusted? If so, how far could they be trusted? Could there not be some among them who had learnt this even though they should not have learnt it? What assurance could be given that they would not use their knowledge for their own benefit or for malicious purposes?

We, the perfect masters, knew that the Secret Chamber was not structurally a part of the Temple of Solomon, and therefore may not have been built where it was said to have once been built, and may even have been built at a much earlier date, and that its connection with the Temple of Solomon was only because it was said that there was a passageway leading to it from that place.

Those who claimed to have reached the Secret Chamber were said to have one thing in common: *"This chamber was built underground, and it is reached by going round and round in a deeper and deeper passage."* That's all!

If the rumours were true, in order to get in there, one would first of all have to find the entrance point of the aforementioned underground passage.

Let's say we found it... Would no precautions be taken?

How far below the ground we had to go?... How long was the passageway?... Were there any confusions such as a maze?... Could it be dangerous?... If so, what kind of danger could be encountered? No doubt it was pitch black over there; a light source could have been carried, but once inside, were there any air ducts for breathing?

None of these was clear. The people who claimed to have reached there had not said anything about such detailed matters.

Therefore, their stories and rumours were not at all credible or trustworthy.

The fact that the information in this context was limited, and what is beyond being uncertain was somewhat a relief, but insufficient to eliminate our anxiety.

We had to take permanent measures. To do that, we had to find a way into the Secret Chamber.

But we didn't know how to get there. We hadn't looked for a way in because we hadn't felt the need to do so, but now we did, because there was talk of people trying to do it.

But we had so many things to do that we never got round to it; we always postponed it.

Master of the Last Dome

One day something interesting happened.

Someone claiming to be the "Master of the Last Dome" asked to see the Most Perfect Master.

The Most Perfect Master was of the opinion that he was probably not telling the truth, that he was a charlatan trying to deceive us. However, he said, *«It is unbecoming of us to be prejudiced. There is no harm in a meeting. If necessary, we will put him to the test. If he is a deceiver, he will give himself away immediately anyway.»*, and accepted to meet.

That person has been notified. He was informed of the place, day and time for the meeting he asked. He was told to come there that day at noon when the sun was at its zenith and to knock on the door if he wishes to enter.

According to the person who delivered the information, he did not find this strange and did not ask anything else.



The Most Perfect Master had arranged to receive him in the white-columned hall. He had red curtains drawn on the walls. For lighting, he had four candlesticks installed, one with three candles, one with five, one with seven, and one with nine. He also had a drawing to be hanged behind his own seat. On it was a symbol of intertwined triangles.

At exactly noon on the appointed day, the door was knocked first twice and then three times.

Most Perfect Master gave a sign to the guard, to see who was knocking on the door.

The guard opened the door ajar, and looked out. He spoke to someone briefly. Then he turned and addressed the Most Perfect Master as *«There is a weirdly dressed man who claims to be the Master of the Last Dome. He says that his meeting with the Most Perfect Master has been approved and that today, this time has been agreed upon. He wishes to be admitted.»*

Most Perfect Master told the person to be taken inside.

As soon as the aforementioned person entered, we were all astonished.



He had not come simply. He tied a red apron around his waist, wore a sash in the form of a pink and lilac scarf from one shoulder to the other hip, and hung a round medallion around his neck. None of us wore aprons or cordons. Did he think he could fool us with his attire? Was this clothing enough to show that he was the Master of the Last Dome? Couldn't he have found these somewhere?



He advanced a little and paused. He neither took a special standing, nor did he give any sign, nor did he greet the Most Perfect Master, who was sitting on the dais directly opposite him. He just waited without saying anything.

We would have expected Most Perfect Master to first say *"Welcome!"* and then ask him what his wish was, why he wanted to see him.

He didn't do so.

He just looked at the stranger. There was silence for a moment. Then he asked him, *«Are you a builder?»* as if to say, *"Why are you dressed like that?"*

The stranger replied, *«That is how they know me.»*

When Most Perfect Master asked, *«Are you a fellow?»* in a slightly condescending manner, perhaps it seemed that way to us, he replied, *«I know Gimel. I have also seen the Radiant Star.»*

When the Most Perfect Master asked, *«Have you become a master as well?»* without any pause, he replied, *«I switched from the square to the compasses, I saw the acacia branch. I further learnt what it means.»*

After that, a question and answer conversation took place between them:

«Did you also serve as a master of great secrets?»

«I descended from the level to the plumb rule under laurel and olive branches,»

«Have you also been involved in building supervision?»

«I learnt and used the five basic principles.»

«Did you enter the cave?»

«There alone was a faint light.»

«Did you go after the traitors?»

«My diligence and meticulous efforts have brought me honour.»

«Did you undertake a management position?»

«My name at the time indicates that.»

«What is it?»

«Emereck.»

Upon this last word, Most Perfect Master suddenly stood up.

He paused for a while; he looked at the stranger. Then he sat down again. There was a silence, perhaps only for a minute or two, but it seemed very long to us. It seemed that Most Perfect Master was beginning to believe this stranger, whom he had previously thought might be a charlatan.

But he was not yet sure, so he asked, *«Have you also become a Grand Master Architect?»*

When the stranger replied, «I know how to use mathematical tools» it was time for the Most Perfect Master to ask the extreme important question.

«What have you done as Master of the Last Dome?»

With this question, was the Most Perfect Master indicating that he was now convinced that he was indeed the Master of the Last Dome, or was this also a test?

When the stranger said, *«I have entered the nine domes beneath the earth one after the other, seen and examined the Agate Stone»* we all believed that he was indeed the Master of the Last Dome.

Then came the question we expected the Most Perfect Master to ask at the very beginning: «What is your desire?»

The stranger said in a soft tone, *«If it is deemed appropriate, to join the ranks of the Perfect Masters in order to complete the unfinished work.»*

When the Most Perfect Master asked, *«Who do you depend on for this?»*, he replied simply, *«Myself.»*

The Most Perfect Master said, *«Then go outside for a while. We must discuss and decide among us whether your wish can be fulfilled. If necessary, we will call you again.»*

The stranger said nothing. He turned and left as he had entered.

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When he was out, Most Perfect Master first told us all why he had asked him those questions. Then he said that if anyone had anything to say, he can speak.

One of the perfect masters took the floor. He asked the Most Perfect Master why, when he had put this stranger to test on each of the stages of building craft on the path to perfection, but he had omitted some of them. The Most Perfect Master replied, *«Those are very special stages and are given to rare individuals. A master who knows the great secrets can become an architect without passing through those stages.»*

Another perfect master said, *«I regard this foreigner's behaviour a bit strange. He did not greet anyone either when he entered or when he left. Isn't this disrespectful?»* he complained.

The Most Perfect Master then made the following statement: *«Those who are Masters of the Last Dome do not have a distinctive way of greeting us. If he had greeted us in any other way, then we would have been suspicious of him.»*

When no one wanted to speak after that, the Most Perfect Master said, *«Then let me ask you... Shall we accept him as a "Perfect Master", or shall we send him back...? But be aware that if we accept him, he will be one of us and there will be no difference, no separation among us. Those who are in favour need not raise their voices. But those who have an unfavourable opinion, or who have not yet made up their minds, or who have doubts, let us know.»*

Nobody said anything.

The Most Perfect Master said, *«The fact that no one has spoken shows that there is no one among us who has a negative opinion. However, I would still like to ask you to express your favourable opinion once more. Raise your hand if you are in favour of accepting this foreigner as a Perfect Master. Those who have any remaining doubts should not raise their hands.»* Everyone raised their hands.

Thus, we unanimously have decided to accept the foreigner as a Perfect Master.

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You may have regarded this procedure unfavourable. You may argue that at that time it would have been out of the question to hold a vote for such a decision. You are right! But think about this: We were perfect masters. Our methods were different.

The Most Perfect Master said, *«So, let's put our regalia on, and welcome him with ceremony.»*

We all got up and put on our aprons.





The Officer of Ceremonies brought the triangular prism-shaped platform and located it in the centre of the hall. He placed a symbolic agate cube stone on the platform and various tools used in construction around it. Then he covered the platform with a red cloth.

In the meantime, the Most Perfect Master also wore his cordon, unique to his station.

Upon the direction of the Most Perfect Master, the Guard opened the door and let the stranger in. The stranger entered and stood just inside the door as before.

The Most Competent Master first informed him that his wish to be admitted among the Perfect Masters had been granted. The stranger did not move a muscle.

The Most Perfect Master asked him to proceed, and stand in front of the platform.

The stranger quickly took eight steps. He was a little behind; he slowly took another step and came right to the head of the platform.

The Most Perfect Master said, *«Perfect masters are bound to each other forever. They always help and support each other everywhere. They prioritise freedom and science in their thoughts. They are sincere in their relationships. They regard honesty in their actions as the highest virtue. Furthermore, they consider it their duty to protect their honour at all times.»* After a short pause, he asked, *«Are you ready to accept these with your free will and establish your ties with us in accordance with these principles?»*

When the stranger said «Yes!», the Most Perfect Master asked him to take an oath.

Thereupon, the Master of the Last Dome repeated what the Most Perfect Master had said one by one. Then, while placing his left hand on his chest and extending his right hand forward, even though not expected or asked, he added the words, *«I swear to work for the good and evolution of mankind.»*

When the Most Perfect Master announced that the foreigner was now qualified as a "Perfect Master", the Officer of Ceremonies came near to the platform. He untied the red apron of the Master of the Last Dome and took off his sash.

When the new Perfect Master attempted to take off the medallion around his neck as well, the Most Perfect Master said, *«No, don't take it off. It is yours. Keep it as a memorial. You can even wear it whenever you want.»*

The Most Perfect Master said to the new Perfect Master, *«We have a tradition. Each perfect master puts on his own apron himself, and chooses a unique name. We all recognise him by the name he chooses. Now you should also choose your name»*, and gave him the apron specific to perfect masters.

After tying the apron around his waist, the new perfect master said, *«Let my name be **Chanan**.»*

The Most Perfect Master said to him, *«You chose a very nice name, Chanan. But in what sense did you think of it?»*

Chanan replied, *«It is whatever those who know its meaning want to take it to mean. Everyone makes their own interpretation with their own free thought.»*

The ceremony was over, and a new perfect master had joined us, taking the name "Chanan". However, the Most Perfect Master was not prepared to let him go yet. Apparently, he was going to let him acquire the experience that a master of this rank should have gained.

He told Chanan to open the cover of the platform in front of him. When Chanan did as he was told and saw what was under the cover, he threw his hands out to his sides and raised them upwards, showing his astonishment. But he quickly recovered himself and put the index and middle finger of his right hand over his lips, indicating the need for silence.

The Most Perfect Master said, *«Now you should take the agate cube stone in front of you and see what is underneath.»*

Chanan paused.

«Yes, I know» said the Most Perfect Master, *«it will scorch and burn you from the inside. That is why we should all know how to protect ourselves from fire, but not be afraid of it.»*

Chanan took the cubical stone in his hand with difficulty, despite this encouraging word from the Most Perfect Master. I could tell that he was hesitant. He looked around, into all our faces. As if he was saying, *"So you have looked at this before. But you shouldn't have."*

Nevertheless, he did as he was told. He lifted the stone and looked underneath.

He was surprised once again when he couldn’t see what he anticipated.

The Most Perfect Master did not keep him in suspense for long. *«The stone in your hand is not the original, but only a replica»* he said, *«and you knew it was not the original, but you thought it had the same speciality as the original. Even if you were wrong, you showed that you had the courage to look at the original. In other words, even if it would be identically same as the original, that is, even if what you anticipated would be found underneath, you would still look at it. This means that you can also look at the original. Isn't that so?»*

Chanan, replied without hesitation, *«Yes! I would look and I would see.»* He paused for a moment and finished by commenting, *«Because it can't be read anyway.»*

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Man is oppressed by his dogmas. Some of these have been given to man by others and imposed on him by pressure, force, deception or by using his emotions to influence him. Others have been created by man himself. Man is crushed even by dogmas of his own making. He hesitates. He is afraid.

This fearfulness, this cowardice of man is connected with another dogma, an assumption, or a fiction connected with his future. If he realises that such an indirect dogma, conjecture or fiction is not true, then he can overcome his timidity and cast off his fear.

Only then does he begin to question his previous dogmas. He will be able to free himself from them.

The most powerful factor that can enable him to do this is scientific knowledge.

In order to be able to question one's dogmas, one must first get used to thinking in a scientific way. It must be recognised in advance that the knowledge to be acquired through this method may contradict dogmas, and one must be equipped with this awareness and be willing, courageous and determined to move forward.

Most Perfect Master said, *«Chanan has shown the strength expected of him and that he is indeed a perfect master. We must celebrate his achievement.»*

We stood up. We all followed the Most Perfect Master and congratulated him by clapping three, five, seven and nine times.

The Most Perfect Master said we could sit down.

After Chanan also took a seat, the Most Perfect Master said to him, *«From now on, you will have a lot of work to do, and in fact we will do it together. Like any other perfect master, you will be given the necessary instruction according to your knowledge, skills and abilities when the time comes.»*

Entering Secret Chamber

Our project of entering the Secret Chamber to do what was necessary to be done had neither been forgotten, nor had it been pushed aside. Chanan also learnt about this project after he joined us as a perfect master. The Most Perfect Master even expressed his confidence in him to take the necessary precautions to overcome as much as possible the complications that might be encountered in getting there. Chanan said that although it was really somewhat difficult, it should not be exaggerated, and that the perfect masters had the strength to do it.

One day we set out under the direction of the Most Perfect Master. Chanan was our guide and he showed us where we could enter the passage that would give us access to the Secret Chamber.

From the outside, there was no indication that a bit of digging might reveal the mouth of a secret passage there.

We entered the hidden cave. Once we were inside, the perfect masters who had remained outside would restore the place to its previous state, and then would stand in guard against any unexpected occurrence.

However, as a start, Chanan had a suggestion: *«The passage we're about to enter goes very deep. It is very long. It will be difficult for us to breathe as we go down. However, there is a source of fresh air at the very end. If you regard it as convenient, let me go alone first. When we get close to the Secret Chamber, there are doors, one after the other, I'll open them, so that some air can get into the cavern. Then I'll come back and pick you up, so that we can put on more torches and breathe more easily in the cave.»*

The Most Perfect Master regarded this suggestion as reasonable.

Chanan took a torch and some wedges, then dived into the crypt. We waited at the entrance.

Hours passed... Chanan didn’t show up.

We started to worry. Had something happened to him?

Just as we were considering whether to send someone else after him, he appeared. It was obvious that he was very tired. He looked miserable.

According to what he said, there were some depressions in the underground tunnel. He passed through a few of them, but at some point he came to a blockage. It could not be passed even by crawling. It was necessary to dig it open.

In such a case, some may think, *"If it cannot be reached, then there is no problem. Nobody can reach it anyway."* and may back out of this project. As a matter of fact, wasn't our concern to reach there?... Not for us to reach it, but for others.

But was it absolutely impossible to get there, or could it be made possible with a little effort? This, too, should have been considered.

If there was such a possibility, despite all difficulties, others might also think about it and try to do so.

What others might have thought of and tried, we could of course also try. Only in this way could we ensure the security associated with the Secret Chamber.

Chanan said that when we excavate the collapsed areas, the soil would have to be removed and the ceiling has to be shored up. This could take days. He didn't know what it was like beyond that blocked section. There was also the possibility of encountering a larger cave-in that could never be opened.

We couldn't just give up. We had started once, and we had to try to go until the end. If necessary, we had to keep on working forever.

First, we provided the necessary material and carried it to the mouth of the tunnel. Then we worked day and night for days and days. Of course, there was no difference between day and night inside. One of us would take a torch and a pickaxe, enter the tunnel, work for a few hours or as long as he could endure, and return with a saddlebag filled with the remains of his excavation. Then another one...

We excavated one by one. We finally managed to clear the depression and open it up.

Later on we were lucky. There were no other big depressions.

Again Chanan went in first, and as he had told us before, he prepared the cave-in for us to enter collectively. We found out later what this preparation was. After opening the iron doors there, he had wedged them so that they would not close again.

Shortly after entering the cavern, it was necessary to descend downhill for a long time. After a long progress, a level area was reached. There, the ceiling of the shaft also permitted standing.

Just before reaching the Secret Chamber, there were eight domed cells one after the other. To get into each of these, one had to open an iron door. It was useless to force it. It was necessary to know how to open each door separately. Only those who were the Last Dome Master had this knowledge. It was made ready for us.

The ninth dome, i.e. the last, received fresh air from somewhere. Therefore, if all the doors were opened, the air would also fill into the underground tunnel.

After that, Most Perfect Master determined who would go into the Secret Chamber.



In the Secret Chamber under the ninth dome, there were three pillars, and on top of them were still usable candlesticks. We lit the candlesticks first. The Secret Chamber was brightly lit. When the Most Perfect Master asked Chanan, *«Why didn't you light them beforehand?»*, Chanan said, «I thought it would be better to bring you in before touching anything.

Now we could see much better what was going on here. Actually, there was nothing to be found. Maybe because we knew in advance what would be found; it seemed ordinary to us.

However, we came across a situation we did not expect: There were three skulls scattered here and there on the ground, along with bone fragments that appeared to be the remains of human skeletons.

Chanan said, *«So there must have been people here before us. But apparently they didn't know the details well. They went in but made a mistake, and couldn't get out.»*

«How long ago do you think that could have been?» asked the Most Perfect Master, to which Chanan replied, *«I don't know! Look, even the skull of a human being, which is the most durable after death, crumbles when touched. A lot of time must have passed... Who knows, maybe centuries.»*

Eyes of Most Perfect Master became wide by astonishment. He felt the need to ask, *"So, are you saying that you have never been here before?»*

«Yes, this is the first time I have come with you as a perfect master» Chanan said, as if it was an ordinary answer.

«But why didn't you ever tell us this before?» asked the Most Perfect Master.

«You didn't ask me!» said Chanan, without losing his composure, *«I just knew how to get in, and that's all.»* However, in order not to let us in anxiety, he said, *«Don't worry. We won't get buried. I think they were not one of the Last Dome Masters and they knew the setup here imperfectly. Therefore, either they got stuck or an unexpected disaster happened to them. We, on the other hand, thought of everything and took every necessary precaution.»*

He further added, *«One must always have confidence in oneself. However, he should always be sceptical that he may have a deficiency. He should question whether he has any mistakes and shortcomings. We have wedged all the doors, but we cannot know that they will not slip. If one of them slips, the door will close by itself and we will be trapped inside because these doors can only be opened from the outside. We have the tools to remove a door from the inside if necessary, but let's not take that risk. One of us should keep watch by constantly going back and forth between the doors. If any of the wedges should become dislodged, he should immediately grab and re-tighten it.»*

Good idea. Indeed, Most Perfect Master agreed to do so. One of us stood on guard to keep the doors under constant surveillance.

***

Most Perfect Master pointed to the agate cube stone on top of the triangular prism-shaped foundation. Next to it was a marble slab. For some reason, it attracted attention first. One of us picked it up and lifted it. When he saw **"Adonai"** written on one side, he said, *«Thank God, we found it.»*

Most Perfect Master said, *«No, that's useless. It's a fake sign. Leave it aside. You know that the real secret is under the agate cube stone.»*

He asked who wanted to lift it first and see what was underneath.

Chanan jumped in and said, *«Me!»*, once again clearly demonstrating that he was worthy of being recognised as a perfect master. He did not even wait for the Most Perfect Master's permission. He picked up the cube, turned it upside down and put it back on the same place.

We surrounded him, and there, on a triangular plate made of gold, the "ineffable word" that many people feared so much that they were terrified to even utter it was there, right in front of us, in plain sight: a four-letter word written in the Hebrew alphabet.

Chanan looked at it and read it aloud: *«Jahweh»*.

Most Perfect Master said, *«Let everyone read. Break the yoke of a dogma to which people have been bound for centuries.»* Each of us took turns looking at that word and reading it.

«No!» said the Most Perfect Master, showing his displeasure, *«You were all impressed by Chanan's reading and thought it was the only way to read it. But if each of you had read it separately, without hearing any other, independently or for the first time, he might have said something else. Don't you want to try it again?»*

We tried... Although I cannot say that "everyone read it differently" this time, there were several different ways of reading it.

Upon this, the Most Perfect Master said, *«There are so many possibilities that we can perhaps refer to them as infinite. Better yet, let's destroy this word.»*

By this means, he revealed what we should do.

In fact, wasn't that why we came here in the first place, to remove the basis of dogmas? We were determined to do so, but we had not discussed and determined in advance how we were going to do it.

Most Perfect Master picked up a chisel and a hammer. He went to the agate cube stone. He was going to scrape away the four-letter word written on the delta embedded in the stone.

He had just started work and was about to remove one of the letters when one of us went up to him and stopped him.

Most Perfect Master looked up. Was there someone who didn't agree that this was the way it should be, the way it should be done?

No!... He didn't say anything, but with his eyes and posture he made it clear that he wanted to take the hammer and chisel from Most Perfect Master. When he did, he erased the second letter. Then he handed the hammer and chisel to another one among us.

The rest of us took turns using the tools used in stone chipping and shared the act of erasing the word that is referred to as "ineffable".

Most Perfect Master said, *«I think we have fulfilled our most important task here, but we must not be contented with this; we must break everything.»*

Although we easily smashed the marble plate, we could not break the agate cube stone; the tools we had with us were not sufficiently suitable for that. We decided to carry it away and do that work outside.

It was easier to smash the triangular prism-shaped foundation and make the letters, numbers and other symbols on its side faces unreadable and incomprehensible.

We just were attacking the pillars when Chanan asked, *«Are we going to open the other door?»*, and added, *«If we are going to do so, we may need to keep the candlesticks up high on the pillars for a while longer. We can break the pillars later on if we want.»*

We looked at each other... We didn't understand what Chanan meant.

We all turned to the Most Perfect Master. He didn't understand either.

When Chanan said that there must be another passage beyond this one, we realised once again that we could not know everything by being Perfect Masters.

«Where is this passage you refer to?» Most Perfect Master asked.

Chanan said, *«To tell you the truth, I don't know where it is, but I know it exists, and we'll have to look for it if we're going to be interested.»*

«Well, let's say that we found it; will we be able to open it?» asked Most Perfect Master, to which Chanan replied, *«Why not?... We will try, but as far as I know, we have to prepare for it in advance and take precautions accordingly. Otherwise we'll be similar to the owners of these three skulls.»*

Most Perfect Master seemed worried. *«Is this probable door you speak of the entrance to the passage that is said to lead to infinity?»* he asked, *«Yes! I'm afraid so»* Chanan confirmed.

Most Perfect Master said, *«This can be very dangerous. What do you say? Would you say, "This is enough. We have fulfilled our duty", and stay at this stage, or should we risk going further?»* This was actually a futile question. He knew this himself. He knew very well that all of us, having come this far, would be in favour of going as far as we could. If the passage in question led to eternity or to the unknown, we certainly couldn't go as far as that, but we had to go as far as we could.

This being our decision, Chanan said that we should go through the stones that make up the walls one by one, and look for one that was a little different from the others.

It was not difficult to find it. On the opposite wall of the door we entered, it was immediately noticeable that the stone in the bottom corner was different. There was even a mark on it. *«All right! Now we will try to open it. But before we do that, we have to close the doors»* said Chanan, explaining his reasoning.

As he had not been through this experience before, he only knew what to do by hearsay as the Master of the Last Dome, not exactly what to do, but after a little thought, he realised what it was, and why it was that way.

According to Chanan, when that door was opened, a storm would break out here. In order to stand against it, the other doors had to be closed.

If this place is considered to be the **"centre of thought"** in a sense, we were now somewhere between the known objective universe and infinity or the unknown. The universe could be infinite, but the accumulation of scientific knowledge was not enough to prove whether this was really the case or not.

Even though our thought was like a bridge between the concrete and objective reality of the universe that we know and the concept of **"infinity"** or **"the unknown"**, it would not be right to answer such a question by thinking through reason; an answer that was a mere product of thought could not be trusted.

We could not go in both directions at the same time. It had to be one or the other. Of course, alternatively, we could go in both directions, but not at the same time. In other words, we had to at least temporarily remove one concept from our thoughts.

The concrete reflection of this in the situation here was that only one of the doors of the Secret Chamber had to be open. If both were open, it meant that the thought would go astray. This was the danger Chanan was talking about. Reducing it to the concrete and the objective, clearly meant "death".
Of course, there was no one among us who was afraid of death. If there was, he wouldn't have come this far. But we all had work and tasks to do in life. These were not yet finished. For this reason, it was inconceivable and unreasonable to die here in vain, to leave the works started without finalising them. If we were going to die, we would die, but it would be nothing more than empty heroism, even foolishness, to abandon all precautions in order to get the result.

Chanan suggested closing not only the door to the Secret Chamber, but all nine doors, or at least a few of them, since we didn't know exactly what we were going to get. One or two of us should stay outside, and when we had finished our work here, and had closed the entrance to the passage, and sent a message to them, they should reopen the doors for us to get out.

If we would close only one of the doors, we could inform the perfect master, who would remain outside, that our work was finished by knocking on the door from the inside. But if we close more, we would not be heard. Therefore, they would have to open the doors after a certain time, which was going to be determined and agreed in advance.

«Then I think it would be better for you to stay outside first and let us try to open the stone door» said Most Perfect Master to Chanan, *«You don't know how to open it anyway. Anyone will try. You can open these doors more easily than any of us. Let's not waste time trying to train some of us.»*

Chanan agreed. He could teach us how to open the doors, but there was a risk that we would soon fail to do what we had learnt. There was no need to take that risk.

We were all aware that knowing how to do something and doing it in action are two different things. Even though Chanan opened these doors for the first time based on his theoretical knowledge, this showed that his theoretical knowledge was reflected in practice at the individual level. It might not have been the same for someone else.

When we try to reach beyond the Secret Chamber, we didn't know how long it would take, so Chanan couldn't know how long he would have to wait outside for us before he started to open the doors. If he would start early, we might get into trouble, so we had to be cautious.

Most Perfect Master made a suggestion: *«We are all very tired, and it is not clear how long we will stay here. Now let's all go out together and rest. Then let's come back again. Let's even bring the other materials we may need for the second time.»*

No-one had anything to say to this proposal. We lit the torches. We extinguished the lamps, which had very little oil left. We checked once more whether each of the doors was well tightened. We left it like that, and went outside.

We told what we had seen to the other perfect masters who were waiting for us outside. Then we laid down in nature, and rested for a full day.

Reaching Beyond

When we were going to enter the Secret Chamber for the second time, Most Perfect Master decided that some of those who had already entered should stay outside this time and others should come in their place.

Since we didn't know how long it would take, we also took food and water, and, at Chanan's suggestion, material to stuff under the doors to make an airtight seal.

Most Perfect Master instructed Chanan to wait exactly two days and then come in. Chanan showed us all how to open each of the iron doors, in case the need arises. Primarily those who would be locked out should have known this, but we all learnt anyhow.

We entered the secret chamber, those who had been in previously in the front and those who were coming for the first time at the back. We saw that the doors were as we had left them.

We laid a rope across the floor from the outside to the inside; when we pulled it from the inside, those outside would understand that the doors have to be opened.

We let each door free from wedge and closed. When we entered the Secret Chamber and closed the last door, we had buried ourselves here alive. Although we would be rescued latest in two days, having never tried this before, we could not know whether we would succeed or not.

The air was getting heavy. We extinguished the torches and lit the candles.

At that moment, Most Perfect Master, *«Did you see what just happened? We did something very wrong.»*

We looked at each other... Everything was going as we had planned. What was wrong?

When he said, *«We had to leave erasing the four-letter word on the cube stone at a later stage. Not all perfect masters had the opportunity to read it»* we laughed, realising the mistake he was talking about... It was true that they could not see the original inscription; they had the right to do so, but we would write it again and make them read it.

As a matter of fact, we did so. Immediately, fresh as new... The agate cube was lying in the middle. Neither it nor the golden plate could be inscribed anymore, but one of the broken marble pieces could be used.

One of us wrote the letters from right to left with the burnt end of a piece of wood. Most Perfect Master looked at him and said, *«That's as good as it gets. Let's read it.»*

The other perfect masters read the four-letter word in turn.

But to their amazement... This time no one said "Jahweh". Each one said something else. This once again confirmed what Most Perfect Master had said earlier.

Now it was time to move the stone that we had predicted to be the "door". No matter how hard we tried, we could not succeed. Neither our levers were of any use, nor our pushing and shoving. Watching the curves of the vague symbol on that stone, like groping a certain symbol when opening iron gates, did not yield any result. The stone block was not at all interested; it just resisted. Maybe the information that this was a door was wrong. Maybe there was no door there.

Most Perfect Master wanted to examine this stone much more carefully and closely. He took one of the candles and tried to illuminate the joints of the stone block. He looked and looked... *«This is not so easy; let's light a torch»* he said. He brought the torch closer to the stone and examined it from bottom to top. While doing this, he brought the torch so close to the wall that the top of the stone became sooty and even the figure over it became invisible.

At some instant, whether he wanted to wipe the soot off the stone, whether he was tired or whether he was leaning back to avoid falling because he was dizzy from standing bent over for a long time, it is not known; that stone block in the lower corner separated vertically from the joint on the inner side and turned towards the other wall. Must Perfect Master could not keep his balance, fell behind the rotating stone, and hit his head to the top corner of the stone block. Only those who were looking in that direction at the time saw this event for a moment.

Suddenly, a strong draft of air rushed in through the opening. The storm Chanan was talking about... The candles went out; one of the pillars toppled. Those who were standing at the time could not keep their balance and were thrown left and right.

However, this strong breeze did not last long. Although it did not stop completely, it calmed down.

The torch in the hand of the Most Competent Master fell to the ground behind the opened stone block, somehow it was not completely extinguished, but he was as if dead.

We forgot about the passage and rushed to him first. He had fainted. His forehead was bleeding.

First we lit the candles. We gave him some water and rubbed his neck. He soon came round. We tore a piece of one of our clothes and wrapped his head.

There was a continuous whistling sound coming from the iron entrance door of the Secret Chamber. Apparently, the air constantly coming from the passage was pressurising the door and leaking out through the sides that we could not seal. Fortunately, there were eight other closed doors behind this one. Maybe a single door could not withstand this pressure and would have shattered. Then we wouldn't have been able to stand here. It was a good process to have closed them all tightly.

It was possible to enter the passage by getting bent, but once inside it was doubtful whether it was possible to move forward. Light was necessary to see ahead. If you entered with a candle or torch, it would go out immediately. We knew in advance that we would come across with such a situation, but we had not thought of carrying a windproof torch with us.

One of us entered the passage and tried to grope his way on his knees. Soon we heard him call out, *«There's something here.»* Then he backed out. He said there was something like a chest further in the passage. *«I think it was pushed in from this side. It can't be any other way»* he said.

Most Perfect Master, *«If it was pushed in from this side, we will pull it out.»*

We made a lasso with one of the ropes we had brought with us. When another perfect master, who had also entered, returned a little later and said that this was not enough, and that it should be bigger, we prepared a new one. He entered again. A little later, a small rumble was heard from the passage. It sounded as if something had tumbled to the ground, but it was not clear what it was.

When the perfect master came back out, he said, *«I think there were some other things on that chest. They rolled to the other side. But I managed to get the belt over the back of the chest and tied it. Now we can pull it out.»*

We all hung on together and pulled. Our strength was not enough. It was not coming.

Most Perfect Master asked us to prepare another lasso. Then he said to the perfect master who was going to come in, *«Try to tie them in such a way that the other side of the lasso is down and this side is up. Tighten it well. Don't let it slip»,* he instructed.

While he went in and tried to do this blindly, we, using only one oil lamp, carried two of the pillars and brought them to the entrance of the passage. By winding the rope behind them, we created a kind of primitive horizontal pulley system. In this way, we were able to move the chest. We slowly pulled it inwards.

It was a large chest of hard wood, obviously made centuries ago. It was very heavy for its size because it was covered with gold in places. There was no lid. It was not clear where to open it. But that was not important.

When we couldn't open it, we broke it into pieces.

Two huge stone plates came out of it. On both of them, different from each other, there were some shapes that we had never seen before, or more precisely, there were writings inlaid with letters we did not know.

As we were going to destroy everything here, one of us took a hammer and attempted to break one of the stone plates. Most Perfect Master stopped him. *«No, let's not break them for the time being»* he said, *«We don't know what is written here. Perhaps it is scientific information. It could be very useful for our mission. Let's carry these with us. We'll think about what to do with them later on.»*

Now that we'd got the chest out, we could move on down the passage.

The same perfect master went into the passage again. Soon he returned. *«There are some metallic objects there. But they are very heavy. It is impossible to carry them. I couldn't even lift it. We can only pull it out if we tie it up»*, he said.

He took a rope and went into the passage again. When we pulled out the object he had tied, we saw that it was a figurine made of solid gold, something like an animal with wings. In the meantime, two tall wooden poles came out.

When Most Perfect Master saw them, *«Now it is clear»* he said, *«I think this chest can be nothing else but the **Ark of the Covenant** of the Israelites. These are the handles that were used to carry it, but they were dismantled before they brought it here.»*

Most Perfect Master said, *«The golden statue is the object called **"Cherub"** that is placed on it. But as far as I know, there must be at least two of them. Let's see if there are more.«* The same perfect master took the rope and entered the cavity once more. We heard him calling out from inside, *«Yes, there is one more.»* Then we pulled it out too.

Most Perfect Master said, *«All right, now there is no doubt.»*

He said so, but he seemed to be thinking of something else. *«If this really is the Ark of the Covenant I am talking about, there must have been some other things in it, for all I know. Maybe they took the others out before they brought it here and then sealed the Ark in such a way that it could not be opened. Maybe there are other things in this cavity.»*

The news brought by the perfect master, who went in one last time, indicated that beyond was hopeless. He said that the floor of the passage was level up to there, but then slopes downwards. He feared that if he went any further he would never be able to return.

It was clear that this was all that could be done.

We were all very tired. We did not know how much time had passed while we were doing these things. After pushing the stone door closed, we pulled the rope we had left on the ground so that the doors can now be opened. Then we collapsed on the ground.

The only thing we could do after that was to wait for the people outside to come in.

Exit from the Secret Chamber

A long time passed. We didn't know how long we had been there, as we were waiting without doing anything and had slept in the meantime. The period that had passed seemed very long to us. Inevitably we began to wonder about Chanan.

Then there was a noise outside. Someone knocked on the door of the Secret Chamber.

We gathered round. We answered by banging on the door from the inside.

Soon the door was pushed from the outside, but it was jammed. We had to smash the materials that we had stuffed underneath.

It was not Chanan, but another perfect master. Chanan appeared behind him. *«We almost left you buried here. What a job you've done!»* he said, almost reproachfully.

It turned out that we had filled and compacted the bottom of each door so much that Chanan pushed the first two doors open but got stuck in the third. He had to go outside and get support. They both shoved the doors with all their strength, and although they used a lever, they had difficulty in opening some of them.

We had planned everything carefully, but we hadn't thought of such a possibility.

In order to carry the agate cube, the gold statues and the two stone plates, we made two sleds from the pieces of the chest we had broken.

First we took everything outside the first door and prepared it, then we lit the torches. We smashed whatever was left behind in the Secret Chamber.

Leaving it until later to close the doors to keep the cavern airy, we hauled everything we were going to take out.

Chanan was last. He pulled the wedges out from under the doors, and came out as well.

After quite an effort, we managed to remove the gold plates embedded in the agate cube stone, but no matter what we did, we could not break the stone into pieces.

Most Perfect Master said, *«This sign of competence will remain like this. There is no solution. Look at this! We are competent craftsmen. We have come a long way on the road to perfection. It seems that man cannot destroy his own symbol. Who knows, maybe an ordinary master could break and smash it. Therefore, let us not boast of being perfect masters and consider ourselves too great. Apparently, we still have a lot to learn.»*

We melted all items made of gold over fire, including the linings of the chest, and re-cast them in haphazard pieces. Most Perfect Master found it inconvenient to keep them all together and distributed to all of us. This was not an apportionment. *«Remember this:»* he said, *«These are not yours, nor are they the common property of all of us. Each of us will use them for the benefit of humanity, for the advancement of science and the triumph of truth.»*

We placed the agate cube stone and the other two stone plates in saddlebags and loaded them on separate camels. We travelled away from there, never to return.

The Wise

When we stopped at a water source, we saw a convoy of merchants as well as those who had apparently been staying here for some time.

The guide of the convoy was Indian. He spoke many languages. We got along easily. After all, these long-distance guides speak more or less every language.

We chatted a bit. They were travelling from Tibet. They were going to cross Egypt and follow the north coast of Africa all the way to the western end.

The Indian guide was an interesting man. His appearance was ragged, but from the way he spoke, he gave the impression of a very knowledgeable person. It seemed a little strange to us that he was guiding a convoy. It was hard to tell his age as he had neither hair nor eyebrows, but he must have been quite old as his facial features, and the tops of his hands were wrinkled. Nevertheless, he was very lively, running from one place to another.

At one instant, there was a quarrel among our camels. While they were tussling, one of the stone plates loaded on one of them slipped out of the saddlebag and fell to the ground with a "thud" sound. The written side remained as exposed.



The Indian guide was probably curious about the cause of the rumbling, so he started to move in that direction. Before we had a chance to stop him, he saw the stone that fell on the ground. As soon as he saw it, he said, *«This is our old script! What is it doing here?»*

We swarmed around him. We surrounded it so that no one else could come near and see it.

Most Perfect Master attacked the Indian guide, *«Why is this your writing? If so, read it letting us know that you are telling the truth.»*

When the Indian guide asked, *«Is this your stone?»*, Most Perfect Master said, *«Who cares whose it is! Read what it says.»*

The Indian grumbled. *«This is ancient writing. It's in Sanskrit. Not just anyone can read it.»*

Apparently he wanted money.

Most Perfect Master took out a piece of gold and showed it to him. The Indian guide said, *«Put that away. Don't let me see it.»* He snapped, *«Look, if I can help you, I will. I don't expect anything in return. You wouldn't be able to give it to me if it is worth anything.»*

Upon this unexpected reaction of the guide, Most Perfect Master had to apologise and soften.

The Indian guide read what was written on the stone from beginning to end, but we could not understand what he said. He had to translate it into our language.



He pointed to the top line and said, *«It says, "You shall not kill." The second line more or less means, "You shall not cheat on your wife." The next one says, "You shall not steal." The next line says, "You shall not bear false witness."»*

He paused. He was looking at the stone and at us, thinking.

When Most Perfect Master asked, *«Is that all?»* he said, *«No, it is not over. I have something else on my mind.»*

When Most Perfect Master asked, *«What is it?»*, he hesitated whether to say it or not. It might be from boredom or excitement, he began to sweat. He wiped his forehead with the back of his hand. *«This...»* he started to say, and paused again. Then, as if he had gathered all his strength, he asked in one breath, *«Where did you find this?»*

Most Perfect Master could have said something like *"Don't get involved there"* or *"We found it somewhere"*. He didn't.

«In the place it's supposed to be» he said.

At that moment, the Indian guide was called from beyond. Apparently the convoy was on its way. He shouted something that we did not understand, something like, *«You go ahead, I will catch up.»* So the merchant convoy set off slowly towards the south.

The Indian paused for a while, thought, and then asked us all at once, *«Are you perfect masters?»*

If there had been an earthquake at that moment, we could only have been so shaken. How could this man, a strange Indian, a convoy guide, could have understood this?

How would the Most Perfect Master answer this question?

He kept his composure.

«We know how to use the compass and square» he said.

When the Indian asked, *«All of you?»*, Most Perfect Master replied, *«All of my companions have entered the Secret Dome.»*

I wonder what was going on.... How could an unknown strange Indian, a convoy guide, come up with such questions?

Eyes of the Indian were fixed on Chanan, who was standing in front of him. *«Him too?»* he asked, nodding at him.

That was another riddle.... Why was he particularly obsessed with Chanan and not with any of us? Was there something different about Chanan's appearance that we could not recognise, or did this Indian have some kind of intuition that we did not know about?

Most Perfect Master took this question very calmly. *«He has an endeavouring heart»* he said.

The Indian muttered, «I see. So it's finally been uncovered.» This was a phrase that none of us could understand what he meant.

His convoy was leaving, but the Indian ignored the guide and squatted beside the stone.

He looked at it for a while longer. Most Perfect Master also squatted next to him. So we crowded round. There were others there too. They should not have seen the stone, nor should we have attracted their attention.

Without lifting his head and as if in a whisper, the Indian asked directly to Most Perfect Master, *«Do you also have the previous one?»*

So we realised that the other stone was the first plate in sequence and this was the second.

Most Perfect Master didn’t say anything, but just nodded his head in the affirmative.

The Indian said, *«Let's not try to deceive each other. It will do no good. You know what this is, even if you cannot read what is written. I, on the other hand, did not know until today that it was written in a language that my ancestors had used long ago»*, and he raised both his hands upwards.

In this way he showed his amazement, but he amazed us all even more.

«What do you intend to do with them?» he asked, to which the Most Perfect Master replied, *«Whatever needs to be done.»*

The Indian said, «Perhaps it is the best and the right thing to do.» Then he stood up, leaning on his knees with his hands. He crossed his arms.

He was a small man, but when he stood up, he looked like a big man who dominated the world with his posture.

We all got up.

The Indian said, *«Today, I have learnt something here that I would otherwise never know in my lifetime. This knowledge burns you like fire; it scorches you.»* This was a familiar saying. He continued, *«Perfect masters know and practice when, where, what and how to do things. Even if our bellies are split open, the fire in us will not come out.»* He continued, *«I have seen nothing, I have heard nothing, I know nothing, I do not know anything, and I do not know you.»* He put the index and middle finger of his right hand on his lips.

Suddenly he turned round, ran to his camel, mounted it in one leap, and without saying anything else, spurred it like a horse towards his convoy, which had already gone away.

***

We all surrounded the Most Perfect Master.

«Now you're wondering who he is, aren't you?» he said, «Make no mistake. Don't think of him as an ordinary convoy guide. Because he is indeed a ***Wise Master****.»*

After having the stone plate removed out of sight without anyone else seeing it, he asked, *«You understand what this is about now, don't you?»*

There was nothing that could not be understood.... The last five of the Ten Commandments of Moses. Obviously, the first five were written on the other stone.

But why Sanskrit?... That's the part which couldn't be understood.

We were looking at each other... We all had this question on our faces.

Knowing to keep silent, it was best to keep it a secret for the time being and to carry on as such.

One of the perfect masters asked Most Perfect Master what the Indian meant by saying, *"Perhaps it is the right thing to do."*

Most Perfect Master replied, *«The work that we're going to do.»*

The Last Task of Perfect Masters

We stayed there for a long time. We spent the night. We rested well.

The stones seemed to be troubling us. What were we to do with them now?

Most Perfect Master asked us to find as many large logs as possible, even to cut down old trees, and load them on camels.

We did as he said without asking why. When he found the logs we collected sufficient, he said we could leave. We packed up and got on our camels.

Taking the lead, Most Perfect Master drove his camel slowly in the northeast direction. We followed him.

Towards evening we reached the shore of a deep blue lake. This was the northern shore of the Dead Sea. Most Perfect Master told us to collect as many logs as we could find and build a raft by joining them side by side. We did as he said.

We stayed there for another night.

We got up early the next morning at sunrise.



Most Perfect Master said, *«Now two people will take the stones and get on the raft. You will sail as far as you can towards the lake. Then you will throw the stones and return.»*

Both the agate cube stone and the two stone plates with Sanskrit inscriptions were left in the lake in separate areas.

In the evening, we lit a fire on the shore of the lake and settled around it in a triangle. We reviewed what we had done and what we could do next.

Most Perfect Master said that the next day we would set off towards the east, and if anyone doesn't want to come, he could stay here or free to travel in another direction.

Freedom, peace, prosperity and happiness can only exist as long as there is no separation from wisdom.

When there is no wisdom, science and reason serve evil rather than good. In such a situation, wisdom cannot unite with power and beauty, science and knowledge become destructive rather than constructive. As a natural consequence, peace turns into war, prosperity into deprivation, happiness into suffering, and freedom into captivity.

In any case, the truth arrived at by using the scientific method and reason continues to exist. However, it is now unprotected. It should never be given the opportunity to fall into evil hands.

Unless the environment and conditions are favourable, scientific knowledge and facts must be kept as secret and protected, even at the cost of never being learnt, and therefore never being of benefit to humanity...

I was going along with Most Perfect Master, but I asked him if we had a destination, and if so, where.

«It is necessary to go to Babylon» he said, ***«there is work to be done.»***

THE END