

**Chapter 1 : 47 Bible verses about God, Majesty Of**

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But with a number of instances, there is an explanation that we can understand at some depth at a later date. Local doctors were dumbfounded as to how or why such markings were appearing, and could find no clear scientific reason for it at least not right away. To believe in God, are we in need of lightning strikes at opportune moments, unexplained healing of sicknesses, or inexplicable resemblances of natural objects to angels or Prophets? What are we to search for in order to increase our Imaan? Martyr Ayatollah Murtadha Mutahhari discusses two types of theists: Regarding the negative group, when faced with a failure to understand something unknown, they bring God to explain it. Regarding phenomena whose natural causes are unknown to them, they proclaim: The supernatural becomes a storehouse of unknowns. The biggest threat to theists of this type is unprejudiced science and knowledge. So long as we take this approach, our Faith will remain on shaky grounds – only to remain so long as no one finds explanations for those phenomena. Certain mysteries, like that of the development of a living organism, once seemed completely outside the domain of human knowledge. To this group, scientific explanations and discovered causes do not necessarily conflict with the existence of God. Do you yourselves make the plants grow or are We the one who makes them grow? Do you yourselves create it, or are We the creators? Rather, the conditions created in laboratory environments is fundamentally the same as bringing two people together for the act of procreation and the development of a living organism in the womb environment. In both cases, it would be incorrect to assume that human beings have created something out of nothing, performed a miracle, or are now in no need of God. There is a discoverable set of causes to these events, and I hope informed individuals and thinkers search deep to find out what they are. If scientists were to find out the causes involved in events we normally deem as strangely extraordinary, and if they were able to duplicate these events in labs numerous times, would they be miraculous anymore? My thinking is yes, they would be. You can see no flaw in the creation of the Beneficent God. Can you see faults? Look twice and keep on looking , your eyes will only become dull and tired. Ideally, the advancements of knowledge and science should provide more reason to seek the Divine World that lies connected – but beyond – the world that we live in. Instead, the negative approach to God has become an obstacle to faith for droves of people. Thus, authentic or not, the strange and paranormal events that we hear about in the news are hardly relevant in our search for God. Reflection upon everyday inner and outer life will be the sign-post that guides us towards our Creator.

## Chapter 2 : miraculous images | Divine Mysteries and Miracles

*Miracles and Mysteries of the Bible (A Retelling of the Glorious Mysteries and Miracles From Both Old and New Testaments) [M.L. del Mastro] on [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com) \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Here are the great stories from both Old and New Testaments, retold in clear, modern English.*

Believed to have been written during the Hyksos period of Ancient Egypt- a chaotic time between the end of the Middle Kingdom and the start of the New Kingdom – the document is at least 3,000 years old. The Westcar Papyrus contains five miracle stories written in twelve columns of hieratic script. According to the text, the stories were told before the royal court of Pharaoh Cheops by his sons. In addition to the wear and tear of time, the document was further worsened by the shoddy lamentation it underwent in the 19th century by archeologists who applied rudimentary techniques to try and preserve it. For instance, the first story, The Story of Imhotep, only has a few lines. They relate the tale of a miracle performed by a priest during the 3rd dynasty, possibly Imhotep himself. Imhotep was the chancellor to the 3rd dynasty Pharaoh Djoser and is considered the designer of the Step Pyramid of Djoser: One did as everything as his majesty had ordered. This would dovetail the theory that the five stories were propaganda pieces created by the early priest-kings of the New Kingdom to legitimize their rule. A good deal has been puzzled out about the origin and purpose of the Westcar Papyrus and yet the nature of its unearthing remains a mystery. The artifact was discovered in the 19th century by the British adventurer Henry Westcar during his travels in Egypt. Oddly, he did not note the circumstances of his discovery nor did he advertise his remarkable find. Lepsius claims to have displayed the artifact in the Oxford Bodleian Library. Moreover, the Westcar Papyrus, as it became known, was never seen by the public. Historians believe that Lepsius stole the papyrus from the Westcars and tried to cover his tracks. It was displayed as a curiosity until interest in Ancient Egypt reemerged in the early 20th century. Merged photos depicting a copy of the Ancient Egyptian papyrus known as "The Westcar Papyrus", sometimes also known by the longer name "Three Tales of Wonder from the Court of King Khufu", written in hieratic text. Photos taken at the Altes Museum, Berlin public domain. By Kerry Sullivan Sources: The National Geographic Society. Kibbutz Reshafim, May Ancient Egypt Online,

**Chapter 3 : Miracles by the Moment – Islamic Insights**

*Holy Child: A Celebration of the Majesty, the Mystery, the Miracle of Christmas [Marty Parks] on [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)  
\*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Traditional carols (even some classics) alongside newer songs of the season and a scripture-based narrative in a beautiful setting of the Christmas story.*

Praying for miracles Miracles are very real, but we must pray with great faith in order to obtain them. We must visualise that our prayers are already answered before we finish them this is why we should thank the Heavenly Father before we ask for anything. When something is very important, we pray for a miracle. Jesus looked up to Heaven and thanked the Heavenly Father before He asked for the miracle of the loaves [Matthew

Miracles occur when we proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven and then we pray with thanksgiving, this to confirm the words of our Lord " And going, preach, saying: The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils: In my name they shall cast out devils: Miracles have occurred since the time of the resurrection of Our Lord when we ask God the Father in the name of Jesus. Many saints have prayed and miracles have occurred by the power of God. No one has power to perform miracles because all power comes from God, of course we live in the confusing times of the Anti Christ when the enemy is causing false miracles to deceive many who refuse to love the truth about Jesus Christ, who is the Son of the Living God [2 Thessalonians 2: We receive our healing only through the wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ who took upon Himself the punishment due for our sins [1 Peter 2: We should always ask for a miracle by the power of His holy wounds, by his sufferings and pain and by the merits of His Holy Passion and death, likewise we can ask our petitions through the merits of the holy tears of the Blessed Virgin Mary. All these devotions honour the Love of God for us, and they contribute to our thanksgiving to God who will answer our prayers. Mary the Holy Mother of God has caused many miracles at the sites of her apparitions, there are more than 64 documented miracles about Our Lady of Lourdes, many miracles at Fatima and others. We are encouraged to pray for miracles because this is the ultimate test of our faith, miracles come as testimonies of the power of God through prayers of intercession. As well as these miracles the Lord has brought many people back to the Sacraments, some have received healings of their relationships and there are many more miracles than we are not aware of, since the Lord is very happy to answer prayers from the heart. It is very sad to see that not everyone gives Glory to His Name when they are healed. When we receive an answer to our prayers, we must bow down in adoration and thanksgiving, we must not be like the ungrateful nine lepers who were healed and did not come back to thank the Lord [Luke The Lord is always with us but we are not always with Him, since our sins and our indifference create a separation that blocks His Light, then we have to find our way back to Him with a humble and contrite heart. We are called to have our minds renewed in the Spirit of God [Ephesians 4: Pray at all times in the Spirit [Ephesians 6: St John speaks of being in the Spirit when He received the revelations of the Apocalypse, whenever He was moved to different visions He was in the Spirit: For we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit himself asketh for us with unspeakable groanings. But we have the mind of Christ. So we live in the Spirit because God lives in us. We are temples of the Holy Spirit and yet we have to live in such humility that we always feel poor in spirit in order to receive the blessings of God. When we pray in the Spirit of God, our minds are transported before Him and no trace of ourselves comes before Him except the purity of our intentions, this way our Spirits come in communion with the Spirit of God. When we are in the Spirit of God, we can transcend time and space, since God is infinite and eternal. The Spirit is limited only by our lack of faith and by the questions of our reasoning. We must be like little children to enjoy these beautiful gifts. The apostles asked Jesus why they could not cast out devils even after they had received that power from Him and the Lord replied: For, amen I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, Remove from hence hither, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you. If you have faith"[Matthew We also pray in the Spirit of God when we pray in tongues. Praying in tongues [1 Corinthians Yet by the Spirit he speaks mysteries. The gift of tongues is not just restricted to languages to be used with men, some tongues are angelic languages, expressions of the spirit that come in confirmation of the previous words of St. In the spirit those expressions are humility,

praise, adoration, thanksgiving and intercessions. The value of these intercessions is so well marked that people have received many charismatic gifts at the moment when others are praying in tongues which is a beautiful way of praying in the Spirit. Many have received miracles, visions, joy and a gift of deeper faith when they were prayed over in tongues. And yet the Lord has given it for a purpose. If you receive this gift, praise the Lord daily in tongues, after all He has given you a new way in the Spirit to worship Him and to let your spirit communicate with Him. The Kingdom of Heaven is for little children [Matthew It is in this littleness and abandonment to God that He gives some of this special charismatic gifts which in a way let others know that the children of God are already enjoying His goodness. Paul teaches how to use tongues in prayer meetings, He encourages those who receive them to strive to possess the gift of Prophecy, He also says do not forbid speaking in tongues [1 Corinthians Praying with others There are times when we pray on our own and this is very important for our sanctification, but most edifying for the whole Church is to pray with others. For where there are more than two gathered in the name of Jesus, He is in their midst [Matthew This togetherness of prayer invoked the Holy Spirit the day of Pentecost. Prayers have more power when more people are praying for the same purpose. When someone prays the Holy Rosary, he or she prays 53 Hail Marias and other prayers, if other people join in prayer, by the grace of God the spiritual benefits for the individual are multiplied times the people praying. This is a secret revealed by St. No wonder our Lady is asking humble people to pray the Rosary in families to keep them together, in communities to grow in togetherness and She asks the whole world to be united through the confraternities of the Rosary to enjoy mutually the benefits of this great prayer. Those who are called to know, love and serve God more intimately are advised to join different kinds of prayer meetings to participate in the common fervour that attracts the Presence of God so strongly. Of course no prayer or offering can surpass the Holy Mass which is an obligation for every Catholic at least on Sundays and days of obligation. It is the offering of His Precious Body and Blood in an unbloody manner. It is done following the command of the Lord given at the Last Supper "Do this in memory of me". He wants us to eat His flesh and to drink His blood which becomes a reality in the transubstantiation of the consecrated bread and wine at the altar [John 6: He instituted this sacrament the night before His sacrifice on Holy Thursday, through it we are cleansed and purified from our sins with His Precious Blood, because He is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In the Old Testament, they celebrated the Passover meal commemorating the freedom granted to the Israelites who were enslaved by the Egyptians. This pass from slavery to freedom is the same today as we pass from the slavery of sin to the freedom of Grace through the red sea of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, He invites us to this Holy Banquet and we must be in a state of grace to receive Him. This means that we must have confessed our sins with sorrow to a priest for having offended God, so that we may be worthy to receive Holy Communion. To do otherwise is a great sacrilege that only adds more sins to our sins. When we receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, we are partaking of His offering to the Heavenly Father for the forgiveness of our sins. Through the Holy Mass and the Eucharist, we transcend time to enter into eternity where this Sacrifice of Thanksgiving has infinite value. There is no greater form of worship on this earth than to offer the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass, [Psalm By offering the merits of the Most Precious Body and Blood of Jesus, through the Holy Mass we unite ourselves with all our needs to the offering of Jesus. Prayers through Mary It is through the prayers of this most humble virgin that God responded the prayers of the people of Israel by sending His Son into the world, the awaited Messiah. Jesus came to us through Mary, so we have such a debt of thanksgiving to Our Lady that we will never be able to pay back. Jesus revealed to us in Calvary, that She was also our Mother [John The first miracle of Our Lord occurred at the petition of Mary in the wedding at Cana, as a sign of her power of intercession for those in need [John 2: The miracle of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost occurred when the apostles were united in prayer with Mary [Acts 1: Louis de Montfort recommends that we do all our prayers through Mary, with Mary, in Mary and for Mary. Dominic in the year , was given to the Church as a powerful weapon against heretics and sinners. Between decades we can pray this prayer revealed by Our Lady to the children of Fatima, "Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven specially those in most need of your Mercy. Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious. They are prayed on Mondays, Thursdays and

Sundays of Advent. The Sorrowful Mysteries are the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging by the pillar, the crowning with thorns, the carrying of the cross and the Crucifixion, agony and death of Our Lord. They are prayed on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays of Lent. They are prayed on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays after Pentecost. It is recommended at the beginning of the Rosary to present our intentions to Our Lord through the intercession of Our Lady. We pray the Holy Rosary using Rosary beads in order to have more concentration on the prayers we are saying. Since we want to pray from the heart, we must meditate the mysteries that we are praying and try to see with the eyes of Our Lady the events that were taking place. We should finish our Rosary with an act of consecration to Our Lady. The Rosary is a beautiful prayer that keeps families united, it is a holy chain that binds us to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and it is also the chain that binds the enemy eventually in the pits of hell. Any person interested in the spiritual life must treasure this prayer in his heart. Most of the known saints of the Catholic Church have prayed the Rosary daily. Praying subconsciously To be more effective in our prayer life, we must pray without ceasing says St. Paul, this involves offering our lives totally to the Lord, so that even as we sleep we can pray in the spirit. Bless the Lord, O my soul: If we make this psalm our prayer, we are instructing our soul to bless the Lord, now this happens at a subconscious level or at a spiritual level for a better word. This prayer will cause the person to awake in the middle of the night praising the Lord and blessing Him, the Spirit will be motivated to come before God, and the Holy Spirit will begin instructing the soul in deep mysteries. The soul gets so used to prayer that in every situation we learn to praise and thank God for his goodness, we learn to intercede immediately for those in need, we eventually learn to live in the Presence of God. The power of intercession Moses was a great man of God, who delivered the people of Israel from the slavery of the Egyptians through the power of God. He interceded many times on their behalf and the Lord helped them. Moses grew up, then received the call from the Lord, He went up to the mountain of the Lord, He fasted for forty days, He was given the Law of God to be passed to the people, His face shone after receiving the ten Commandments, He led his people out of Egypt, He performed miracles by the power of God and eventually died without being able to cross to the promised land. Jesus by contrast was born in poverty, unknown to men, His infancy was threatened by Herod who was killing all male infants as He was searching for the future King, the holy family had to escape to Egypt. Jesus fasted for forty days, He was anointed with the Holy Spirit in Baptism and began the proclamation of the Good News, He performed unparalleled miracles, the apostles witnessed His transfiguration, by His death on the cross He delivered all humanity from the slavery of sin, He crossed the threshold of death into the resurrection and He opened the way to all those who are baptised in Him.

**Chapter 4 : Sheet music: The Mystery and the Majesty**

*Pastor Mark and Lou O'Hara share a powerful message on Commitment Sunday at Harrison Church.*

In the hamlet held twenty households, scattered in little huts. The inhabitants had built a chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Annunciation. A humble, unschooled shepherdess, Benoite Rencurel, was born into extreme poverty – complicated by the death of her father when she was only seven years old. Benoite was protective of her mother, who trained them well in religious prayers, while Benoite had to take a job as a shepherdess for two different masters to help support the family. In May of , year old Benoite was watching her flock of sheep while praying the Rosary. Suddenly, an old man, clothed in the vestments of a bishop of the early Church, approached her and asked her what she was doing in this place. She replied that she was tending her sheep, praying, and looking for water. He offered to get her some water and went to a well that she had not seen before. Are you an Angel, or Jesus? My daughter, do not come back to this place. It is part of a different territory, and the guards would take your flock if they found it here. Go to the valley above Saint-Etienne. That is where you will see the Mother of God. How can I see Her there? Very early the next morning, Benoite led her flock quickly to the designated area in the Valley of Kilns. As Benoite arrived in front of a small grotto on that site, a lady of incomparable beauty appeared, holding the hand of an equally beautiful child. Did you come to buy some plaster? He would delight us all! Benoite invited her to eat something with her. She just smiled again. She would go in and out of the cavity in the rock grotto, approaching at times, moving away at other times from Benoite. When evening came, she took the child in her arms, entered the grotto and disappeared. She never dared to ask who she was, but the villagers began to seriously wonder if it could be the Virgin Mary – just from the amazing transformation in the face, mood, and spirit of this young shepherdess. After two months of silence, Mary finally spoke – in order to teach, test, and encourage her. Portrait of visionary Benoite Rencurel She taught Benoite the Litany of Loreto, and then asked her to teach it to the girls of Saint-Etienne and go with them to sing it in church every evening. She told Benoite that she wanted her role to be that of working for the conversion of sinners through prayer, sacrifice, and exhortation. She would work with sinners to help them admit to and confess their issues. Rolland – a woman who had no interest whatsoever in religion, wanted to see for herself what was going on at the site of these apparitions. One day before dawn Mrs. Rolland entered the grotto and hid behind a rock. Shortly afterwards, Benoite arrived and Mary appeared to her. Tell her not to curse with the name of Jesus, because if she keeps it up, there will be no paradise for her. Her conscience is in a very bad state; she should do penance. Rolland heard every word clearly – and tearfully promised to amend her ways – which she did, faithfully, after that day. News of these apparitions spread quickly; everybody was talking about them. After a serious examination, he concluded that Benoite was not deceiving anyone, nor was she an impostor, or was she mentally ill. But, since Benoite had never asked the identity of the beautiful lady, the magistrate requested that Benoite at least ask her who she really is. Might You not be the Mother of our good God? Please be so kind as to tell me, and we will build a chapel here to honor You. There is no need to build anything here because I have chosen a more pleasant spot. You will not see me here anymore, nor for some time. But on September 29, , halfway up the hill that leads to Laus, on the other side of a stream, Benoite caught sight of the Virgin. Crossing the stream, she threw herself at Her feet. Why did you deprive me of the joy of seeing you for so long? The little chapel in Laus was nothing more than a small, thatch-roofed structure just over two meters square. Its plaster altar only had ornaments of two wooden candlesticks and a pewter ciborium. The chapel appeared to look like all the other small houses in the village, so Benoite had a terrible time the next day trying to locate it in a town she had never travelled to. Finally, she detected the fragrance at a doorway where the door had been left ajar. Inside, she found the beautiful Lady standing on the dust-covered altar. Even so, you pleased Me by not being impatient. It is very white. I want a large church built on this spot, along with a building for a few resident priests. The church will be built in honor of my dear Son and Myself. Here, many sinners will be converted. I will appear to you often here. When the time comes to build, you will find all that you need, and it will not be long. The pennies of the poor will provide for everything. Nothing will be lacking. In , Mary asked her to stop

tending her flocks of sheep in order to devote herself to her mission. Graces and blessings poured down upon souls; people came by the hundreds and then thousands to pray in the poor little chapel. Cures of all kinds abounded, and sinners were converted in great numbers. By March 25, , an immense crowd had come to the once-deserted chapel. On May 3, , thirty-five parishes converged in a ceremonial procession, and then several priests heard many confessions. Although the Catholic authorities had not pronounced any decision regarding these apparitions, they did permit Mass to be held at the chapel. Statues located at the Laus apparition site commemorate the apparitions. That is when the Vicar General, Rev. Pierre Gaillard, entered the scene. Out of curiosity he arrived in August of and asked for graces. He obtained such great graces there that he was immediately convinced of the authenticity of the apparitions. But Laus was not in his diocese, so he wrote to the Vicar General of the Diocese of Embrun, Father Antoine Lambert, and suggested he make an official inquiry. Benoite became frightened and wanted to run away, but Mary intervened: You must remain, for you must do justice to churchmen. They will question you one by one and try to catch you with your own words. But do not be afraid. Tell the Vicar General that he can very well make God come down from Heaven by the power he received when he became a priest, but he has no commands to give the Mother of God. But Father Lambert already had his mind made up. Consequently, I am going to close down this chapel and prohibit the devotion. But, once again, be careful that these not be illusions and effects of your imagination to delude the people, or I will punish you severely to undeceive those who believe you. I will stamp out abuses with every means in my power. A well-known cripple in the area, Catherine Vial, was praying a novena with her mother at the chapel. Her nerve contraction disorder was declared incurable by two eminent surgeons. Around midnight of the last day of her novena, she suddenly felt her legs relax, and she was able to walk. The next morning she entered the chapel under her own power, totally cured, as the Vicar General was saying Mass. It was the poor who took up the challenge. Many of the pilgrims as well as the local people would carry one or more stones from the streams to the construction site. At the same occasion Benoite became a Dominican Tertiary. Within four years, the church was completed. The hands of the poor had gathered its materials; donations had dug its foundations. The earliest historians of Laus are unanimous in reporting the sweet, heavenly fragrance of the place. A great number of people attested to the strong fragrances coming from the church. It was so intense that it spread from the church all over the valley. I had never smelled anything like it in my life, and it gave me such deep satisfaction that I was enraptured. This phenomenon is still experienced today. To avoid any possibility or claim of deception, flowers are not usually allowed at the shrine. The manuscripts of Laus report: These supernatural fragrances were so sweet and delightful that they uplifted many souls. Physical and moral cures were granted in great number by means of the oil applied with faith. The Virgin Mary gave Benoite the exceptional privilege of reading onto souls. She would even take away from the Communion rail those people who were not in the state of grace.

**Chapter 5 : Miracles - Prayers**

*We can approach the miracles and mysteries of the Bible, accepting the possibility of their essential historicity while allowing for elaboration, exaggeration, and the misunderstandings of the pre-scientific mind I have had a terrific time researching and writing my new book *The Mystery of the*.*

One day in as she was making the journey with her daughter Rosa, they approached the place called Las Lajas the Rocks , where the trail passes through a deep gorge of the Guaitara River. Maria never liked this part of the trail because there were rumors that a cave in Las Lajas was haunted. Such superstitions remained among the converted Christian Indians. Unexpectedly, a rainstorm started, and spying a cave ahead, Maria anxiously entered it. While invoking the protection of the Virgin of the Rosary, she suddenly felt someone touching her shoulder “ as though to gain her attention. Maria and daughter Rosa hike through the canyon boulders in actors. Days later, needing to follow this same route again, Maria was carrying her deaf-mute daughter, Rosa, on her back. By the time she had climbed to Las Lajas she was weary and sat on a rock to rest. The child got down from her back to play. The next thing Maria knew Rosa was at the cave shouting: This was the first time she had ever heard her daughter speak! She grabbed the child and ran on to Ipiales. When she told people what happened, nobody at first took her seriously. However, as the news spread some asked if maybe it was true. After all, the child was now able to speak! The miraculous image appears as the natural cave rocks change colors. A few days later Rosa disappeared from home. After looking everywhere the anguished Maria realized that her daughter must have gone to the cave. Little Rosa often said that the woman was calling her. Maria fell to her knees before this beautiful spectacle in reverence and admiration. She knew now that she was seeing the Blessed Virgin and Jesus. Fearful of ridicule, Maria kept quiet about the event. But, frequently, she and Rosa went to the cave to place wild flowers and candles in the cracks of the rocks. However, one day the girl fell gravely ill “ and died. Crowns were attached later to this miraculous image in Colombia. Young Rosa awoke in perfect health. Overflowing with joy, Maria went home. Friends and neighbors who had seen the child without life were now overwhelmed with awe at this latest miracle. Early the next morning everyone went to Las Lajas “ each one wanting to check the details for themselves. That was when the marvelous picture of Our Lady on the wall of the grotto was discovered. Maria Muese de Quinones could not recall ever noticing it until then. Her delicate and regal features are those of a Latin American, perhaps an Indian. Her abundant black hair covers her like a mantle The two-dimensional crown is metal and was added by devotees much later on. Her eyes sparkle with a pure and friendly glow. She looks about fourteen years old. The Indians had no doubt: An altar was constructed with the miraculous cave image as the backdrop. Dominic is receiving a rosary from Our Lady; St. Francis is receiving the Franciscan cord from the Child Jesus. These two orders, the Franciscans and the Dominicans, are the founders of the two Orders that first evangelized Colombia, South America. The ensemble of colors in the picture gives an undeniable ambience of majesty. The burgundy of her dress is a warm, rich red embroidered with a golden flower pattern, giving the impression of the garment of a Queen. Her long hair flows freely in such a way that it appears to be a royal mantle. There is extraordinary good taste in the way the hair is arranged, which reinforces the notion of majesty. She is not smiling. She has the royal countenance of a person who imposes respect with confident strength. A grand cathedral is built outward from the cave image. In contrast, the Divine Infant is very amiable and turned toward the supplicant. Thus, instead of having the classic picture of a serious Child and a smiling Mother, here we have the opposite. One could say that He is distributing the gifts while she appears as a Queen. In reality, there is something profound in this contrast. He communicates to the person who prays a little of His happiness to be with her. She is not looking at Him directly, but she has an enormous intimacy with Him. She extends this maternity to the sinner who kneels before her. She is also his Mother. This image is a masterpiece reflecting both the majesty and the maternity of Our Lady. As devotion to the image grew, a good road replaced the old trail. In the early 20th century a tasteful gothic church was built over the cave. But who put this magnificent image there? Tests done when the church was built show how stupendous this image actually is. Geologists from Germany bored core samples from several spots in the image. There is no paint, no dye, nor any other pigment

on the surface of the rock. No brush strokes are visible despite meticulous inspections. The colors are the colors of the rock itself. Even more incredible, the rock is perfectly colored to a depth of several feet! The picture penetrates the rock miraculously. It is not painted, but mysteriously imprinted in the rock. The colors are not applied in a surface layer of paint or other material, but penetrate deep into the rock. Certainly it has no natural geological cause. There is no known place in the world where nature reproduced human faces with such perfection. These circumstances seem to indicate that it is an akeropita image – akeropita in Greek means not made by human hands, i. The great Guaitara Canyon church is built on pillars. The mystery remains unsolved. Historians and scientists cannot explain this mysterious and beautiful work of art. Were the angels instructed to craft it? Was it by the hand of God? The church is of Gothic revival architecture and was built from January 1, to August 20, , with donations from local churchgoers, replacing an old nineteenth-century chapel. The name Laja comes from the name of a type of flat sedimentary rock similar to floor tiles found in the Andes Mountains. The miraculous image on the cave wall can still be seen today, found behind the main altar. The church was literally built around the image with most of the church extending out over the gorge and supported by decorative pilings. A bridge from the church touches the adjacent hillside which makes it easier for the approach of pilgrims. Custodians of the church boast that it has more turrets and spires than Notre Dame in Paris. The minor basilica had to be built out over the canyon on giant pillars. The Gothic church was elevated to the dignity of a minor basilica. It is a marvelous wonder visited by many tourists today. Apparitions, miracles, healings, artifacts, etc.

**Chapter 6 : The Mystery of Majesty by Dennis Jernigan**

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The Ancient Mysteries and Secret Societies Part Two THE entire history of Christian and pagan Gnosticism is shrouded in the deepest mystery and obscurity; for, while the Gnostics were undoubtedly prolific writers, little of their literature has survived. They brought down upon themselves the animosity of the early Christian Church, and when this institution reached its position of world power it destroyed all available records of the Gnostic cultus. The name Gnostic means wisdom, or knowledge, and is derived from the Greek Gnosis. The members of the order claimed to be familiar with the secret doctrines of early Christianity. They interpreted the Christian Mysteries according to pagan symbolism. Their secret information and philosophic tenets they concealed from the profane and taught to a small group only of especially initiated persons. Simon Magus, the magician of New Testament fame, is often supposed to have been the founder of Gnosticism. If this be true, the sect was formed during the century after Christ and is probably the first of the many branches which have sprung from the main trunk of Christianity. Everything with which the enthusiasts of the early Christian Church might not agree they declared to be inspired by the Devil. That Simon Magus had mysterious and supernatural powers is conceded even by his enemies, but they maintained that these powers were lent to him by the infernal spirits and furies which they asserted were his ever present companions. Undoubtedly the most interesting legend concerning Simon is that which tells of his theosophic contests with the Apostle Peter while the two were promulgating their differing doctrines in Rome. According to the story that the Church Fathers have preserved, Simon was to prove his spiritual superiority by ascending to heaven in a chariot of fire. He was actually picked up and carried many feet into the air by invisible powers. Peter saw this, he cried out in a loud voice, ordering the demons spirits of the air to release their hold upon the magician. The evil spirits, when so ordered by the great saint, were forced to obey. Simon fell a great distance and was killed, which decisively proved the superiority of the Christian powers. This story is undoubtedly manufactured out of whole cloth, as it is only one out of many accounts concerning his death, few of which agree. As more and more evidence is being amassed to the effect that St. Peter was never in Rome, its last possible vestige of authenticity is rapidly being dissipated. That Simon was a philosopher there is no doubt, for wherever his exact words are preserved his synthetic and transcending thoughts are beautifully expressed. The principles of Gnosticism are well described in the following verbatim statement by him, supposed to have been preserved by Hippolytus: And the writing is this. Of these shoots one is manifested from above, which is the Great Power, the Universal Mind ordering all things, male, and the other, [is manifested] from below, the Great Thought, female, producing all things. Hence pairing with each other, they unite and manifest the Middle Distance, incomprehensible Air, without beginning or end. In this is the Father Who sustains all things, and nourishes those things which have a beginning and end. By this we are to understand that manifestation is the result of a positive and a negative principle, one acting upon the other, and it takes place in the middle plane, or point of equilibrium, called the pleroma. Out of the pleroma was individualized the Demiurgus, the immortal mortal, to whom we are responsible for our physical existence and the suffering we must go through in connection with it. In the Gnostic system, three pairs of opposites, called Syzygies, emanated from the Eternal One. These, with Himself, make the total of seven. The first two were Mind Nous and Thought Epinoia. See the works of H. How this first Gnosticism of Simon Magus and Menander, his disciple, was amplified, and frequently distorted, by later adherents to the cult must now be considered. These schools agreed in essentials, but the latter division was more inclined to be pantheistic, while the former was dualistic. While the Syrian cult was largely Simonian, the Alexandrian School was the outgrowth of the philosophical deductions of a clever Egyptian Christian, Basilides by name, who claimed to have received his instructions from the Apostle Matthew. Like Simon Magus, he was an emanationist, with Neo-Platonic inclinations. In fact, the entire Gnostic Mystery is based upon the hypothesis of emanations as being the logical connection between the irreconcilable opposites Absolute Spirit and Absolute Substance, which the Gnostics believed to

have been coexistent in Eternity. Some assert that Basilides was the true founder of Gnosticism, but there is much evidence to the effect that Simon Magus laid down its fundamental principles in the preceding century. The Alexandrian Basilides inculcated Egyptian Hermeticism, Oriental occultism, Chaldean astrology, and Persian philosophy in his followers, and in his doctrines sought to unite the schools of early Christianity with the ancient pagan Mysteries. To him is attributed the formulation of that peculiar concept of the Deity which carries the name of Abraxas. In discussing the original meaning of this word, Godfrey Higgins, in his *Celtic Druids*, has demonstrated that the numerological powers of the letters forming the word Abraxas when added together result in the sum of 365. The same author also notes that the name Mithras when treated in a similar manner has the same numerical value. From the *Nuremberg Chronicle*. Simon Magus, having called upon the Spirits of the Air, is here shown being picked up by the demons. Peter demands that the evil genii release their hold upon the magician. The demons are forced to comply and Simon Magus is killed by the fall. Abraxas is usually symbolized as a composite creature, with the body of a human being and the head of a rooster, and with each of his legs ending in a serpent. King, in his *Gnostics and Their Remains*, gives the following concise description of the Gnostic philosophy of Basilides, quoting from the writings of the early Christian bishop and martyr, St. From the human body, the usual form assigned to the Deity, spring the two supporters, Nous and Logos, expressed in the serpents, symbols of the inner senses, and the quickening understanding; on which account the Greeks had made the serpent the attribute of Pallas. His head--that of a cock--represents Phronesis, that bird being the emblem of foresight and of vigilance. His two arms hold the symbols of Sophia and Dynamis: He established the terrestrial universe with the aid of six sons, or emanations possibly the planetary Angels which He formed out of, and yet within, Himself. As stated before, the Demiurgus was individualized as the lowest creation out of the substance called pleroma. One group of the Gnostics was of the opinion that the Demiurgus was the cause of all misery and was an evil creature, who by building this lower world had separated the souls of men from truth by encasing them in mortal vehicles. The other sect viewed the Demiurgus as being divinely inspired and merely fulfilling the dictates of the invisible Lord. Mythology abounds with the stories of gods who partook of both celestial and terrestrial natures. Odin, of Scandinavia, is a good example of a deity subject to mortality, bowing before the laws of Nature and yet being, in certain senses at least, a Supreme Deity. The Gnostic viewpoint concerning the Christ is well worthy of consideration. This order claimed to be the only sect to have actual pictures of the Divine Syrian. While these were, in all probability, idealistic conceptions of the Savior based upon existing sculpturings and paintings of the pagan sun gods, they were all Christianity had. He descended into the body of Jesus at the baptism and left it again before the crucifixion. The Gnostics declared that the Christ was not crucified, as this Divine Nous could not suffer death, but that Simon, the Cyrenian, offered his life instead and that the Nous, by means of its power, caused Simon to resemble Jesus. He appeared amongst men as the Man Jesus, and wrought miracles. The Gnostics divided humanity into three parts: After the death of Basilides, Valentinus became the leading inspiration of the Gnostic movement. He still further complicated the system of Gnostic philosophy by adding infinitely to the details. He increased the number of emanations from the Great One the Abyss to fifteen pairs and also laid much emphasis on the Virgin Sophia, or Wisdom. James Freeman Clarke, in speaking of the doctrines of the Gnostics, says: Several sects branched off from the main stem of Gnosticism, such as the Valentinians, the Ophites serpent worshipers, and the Adamites. After the third century their power waned, and the Gnostics practically vanished from the philosophic world. An effort was made during the Middle Ages to resurrect the principles of Gnosticism, but owing to the destruction of their records the material necessary was not available. Even today there are evidences of Gnostic philosophy in the modern world, but they bear other names and their true origin is not suspected. Many of the Gnostic concepts have actually been incorporated into the dogmas of the Christian Church, and our newer interpretations of Christianity are often along the lines of Gnostic emanationism. While this deity was a familiar figure among the symbols of the secret Egyptian initiatory rites, his arcane nature was revealed only to those who had fulfilled the requirements of the Serapic cultus. Therefore, in all probability, excepting the initiated priests, the Egyptians themselves were ignorant of his true character. So far as known, there exists no authentic account of the rites of Serapis, but an analysis of the deity and his accompanying symbols reveals their salient points. In an oracle delivered

to the King of Cyprus, Serapis described himself thus: Godfrey Higgins notes that Soros was the name given by the Egyptians to a stone coffin, and Apis was Osiris incarnate in the sacred bull. These two words combined result in Soros-Apis or Sor-Apis, "the tomb of the bull. Several ancient authors, including Macrobius, have affirmed that Serapis was a name for the Sun, because his image so often had a halo of light about its head. The most common theory, however, regarding the origin of the name Serapis is that which traces its derivation from the compound Osiris-Apis. At one time the Egyptians believed that the dead were absorbed into the nature of Osiris, the god of the dead. While marked similarity exists between Osiris-Apis and Serapis, the theory advanced by Egyptologists that Serapis is merely a name given to the dead Apis, or sacred bull of Egypt, is untenable in view of the transcendent wisdom possessed by the Egyptian priestcraft, who, in all probability, used the god to symbolize the soul of the world anima mundi. The material body of Nature was called Apis; the soul which escaped from the body at death but was enmeshed with the form during physical life was designated Serapis. King believes Serapis to be a deity of Brahmanic extraction, his name being the Grecianized form of Ser-adah or Sri-pa, two titles ascribed to Yama, the Hindu god of death. This appears reasonable, especially since there is a legend to the effect that Serapis, in the form of a bull, was driven by Bacchus from India to Egypt. The priority of the Hindu Mysteries would further substantiate such a theory. Among other meanings suggested for the word Serapis are: This Gnostic gem represents by its serpentine body the pathway of the Sun and by its lion head the exaltation of the solar in the constellation of Leo. Labyrinths and mazes were favored places of initiation among many ancient cults. Some of these mazes are merely involved pathways lined with stones; others are literally miles of gloomy caverns under temples or hollowed from the sides of mountains. The famous labyrinth of Crete, in which roamed the bull-headed Minotaur, was unquestionably a place of initiation into the Cretan Mysteries. There is also a legend which tells that Serapis was a very early king of the Egyptians, to whom they owed the foundation of their philosophical and scientific power. After his death this king was elevated to the estate of a god. Phylarchus declared that the word Serapis means "the power that disposed the universe into its present beautiful order. While he was Pharaoh of Egypt, Ptolemy Soter had a strange dream in which he beheld a tremendous statue, which came to life and ordered the Pharaoh to bring it to Alexandria with all possible speed. Ptolemy Soter, not knowing the whereabouts of the statue, was sorely perplexed as to how he could discover it. While the Pharaoh was relating his dream, a great traveler by the name of Sosibius, coming forward, declared that he had seen such an image at Sinope. The Pharaoh immediately dispatched Soteles and Dionysius to negotiate for the removal of the figure to Alexandria. Three years elapsed before the image was finally obtained, the representatives of the Pharaoh finally stealing it and concealing the theft by spreading a story that the statue had come to life and, walking down the street leading from its temple, had boarded the ship prepared for its transportation to Alexandria. Upon its arrival in Egypt, the figure was brought into the presence of two Egyptian Initiates--the Eumolpid Timotheus and Manetho the Sebennite--who, immediately pronounced it to be Serapis.

**Chapter 7 : Miracles of Christmas Preview - Time for Me to Come Home for Christmas**

*The ensemble of colors in the picture gives an undeniable ambience of majesty. The colors behind Our Lady's head create a splendid background. The burgundy of her dress is a warm, rich red embroidered with a golden flower pattern, giving the impression of the garment of a Queen.*

Of course, those numbers fail to take into account those who dwell on the periphery of reality: Below are ten mysteries that defy our understanding. The story was a murder mystery, with the titular Edwin vanishing and presumed dead. Unfortunately, Dickens succumbed before the book was finished. There were several attempts by other writers to finish the tale, including one version by Charles Dickens Jr. The weirdest version was penned by a printer from Vermont in The man, named Thomas James, claimed that Charles Dickens himself had channeled him from beyond the grave to finish the story once and for all. James would sit and write in a strange handwriting which belonged to neither him nor Dickens. Many people dismissed James as some kind of con artist. After the book was finished, it was well received in the United States, but rather less so in the United Kingdom. However, spiritualists such as Arthur Conan Doyle lent their support to James, believing he had indeed been in contact with the deceased author. Not surprisingly, Thomas James never wrote another book, despite lucrative offers. Hans van Riet Bridges are notorious hotspots for despondent people to commit suicide. There were at least 10 suicides in August alone. One of the or so tragedies that occurred here happened on May 1, , when a mother hurled her infant daughter over the side and then made the leap herself. Amazingly, the baby got snagged in some tree limbs and lived, while the mother smashed into the riverbed below. Unfortunately, legend has it that those who choose to take their lives here often refuse to pass on. Witnesses have reported seeing a ghostly man in wire-rimmed glasses walking the span of the bridge, along with a woman in a long robe plunging off the edge, doomed to repeat her final act. Creepiest of all, spectral beings are said to wander in the riverbed below , wailing and beckoning to the self-destructive to join them. This warrior culture is known for their elaborate facial tattoos and cannibalism, and outwardly they seem fearless. The Maero were described as being covered with hair and possessing long, bony fingers which they used to spear meat and gobble it raw. While the Maero might have much in common with other bipedal humanoids around the world, such as the Sasquatch or the Yeti, these beasts have a more supernatural origin. One common Maori folktale concerns a man named Tukoio, who was attacked by a Maero. Tukoio battled the creature, managing to sever its limbs and decapitate it. Later, he and other men from his village discovered that the remains had gone missing, presumably after magically patching themselves back together. But the creatures that are said to roam around Loveland, Ohio, are well on the other side of horrifying. Late one night in , a man claimed to have seen a trio of frog-like creatures around a meter 3 ft tall hunkered beneath a bridge. They were described as wrinkled and leathery, with webbed hands and feet. One of them held up what the man said was a wand that made sparks. Terrified, the witness left the scene. Over the years, there have been many other sightings. On March 3, , a police officer was said to have encountered the creature on a bridge over the Little Miami River. The officer returned to the station and recruited another officer, Mark Matthews, to help investigate the scene. The two men claimed that they found scratch marks near the river. Two weeks later, Officer Matthews again encountered the creature on a roadside. He opened fire, but the Frog Man escaped. One such strange site is the Blue Hole of Winslow Township. The Blue Hole is located in the midst of a dense wilderness, and is immediately peculiar. While all the other bodies of water in the area tend to be brown and murky, the water of the Hole is a crystalline blue. Even at the height of summer, the Blue Hole is quite cold, and legends claim that it might be bottomless. There is an element of danger as well; there are reports of whirlpools and beasts dragging swimmers down into their depths, never to be seen again. People have even claimed to see the infamous Jersey Devil haunting the Blue Hole, waiting to pounce on some unsuspecting victim. Like some of the other entries on this list, the Blue Hole is easily investigated by amateur sleuths and monster hunters; it is part of a public wildlife preserve and easily reachable on foot. The Kotei was built in in the architectural style of Frank Lloyd Wright, and former Prime Ministers and their first ladies have frequently complained of spectral happenings. The current Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, has resisted moving into the

headquarters, instead living in his own private residence. Four years later, another military coup occurred at the Kotei, when a contingent of roughly soldiers forced the gates open and engaged in a gun battle with four police officers and the new Prime Minister, Keisuke Okada. The police were killed, but their bravery gave Okada enough time to escape. Instead, his brother-in-law, Denzo Matsuo who bore a striking resemblance to Okada, was gunned down. Years later, the front entrance of the mansion is still pocked with bullet holes, but the violent legacy of the Kotei runs even deeper.

The Lemp family were a family of brewers from St. Louis, Missouri, known for producing German lager. In the years following the Civil War, their business took off with William J. Lemp at its head. He purchased a lavish mansion with which to raise a family. Lemp had several children, but his favorite was Frederick, who he hoped would one day take over Lemp Beer. Unfortunately, Frederick had health problems, and died from heart failure before reaching his 30th birthday. A little more than a month later, the distraught brewer shot himself in the head in his mansion. Sadly, this kicked off a legacy of suicide. Prohibition went on to destroy the Lemp Brewery, and on June 28, the facilities were sold at auction for a fraction of their worth. Five months later, Billy Lemp also shot himself in the heart in the office of the mansion. His brother, Charles Lemp, moved back to the family mansion in his later years, where he turned into a sickly recluse, eventually turning a gun on himself on May 10, He was 77 years old.

Zion cemetery in Catawissa, Pennsylvania, boasts a curious phenomenon—a pair of graves outfitted with iron cages overhead. Both graves belong to women who died in June. A third caged grave, belonging to one Rebecca Clayton, had been removed in the 1950s after falling into disrepair. Rebecca perished just a few weeks before the other women. In a strange coincidence, all three women were closely related, young, and recently married. Not surprisingly, the cages have generated a lore of their own over the years. The fact that the women all died within a short period of time has led to the belief that they may have been vampires. The cages, then, were constructed to keep them from rising from their graves and feasting on the blood of the living. However, as lurid an idea as this is, the cages were likely built not to keep something in, but to keep someone out. In the 19th century, grave-robbings were depressingly common. Not only were people sometimes buried with valuables, but the bodies themselves could be sold to medical schools to be dissected, allowing thieves to turn a quick profit. The fact that three young, closely related women would all die within a short period of time seems creepy at first glance, until you consider that they likely were frequently exposed to each other and probably shared a water source. In those days of only the most basic sanitation, contagions often swept through concentrated regions. That time period in particular also lines up with cholera outbreaks devastating America. Unlike many supposed cryptids, there is a wealth of photographic evidence that panthers and wolves and hulking demon dogs roam the countryside. Not surprisingly, these photos are often grainy and taken at a distance. One area famous for such sightings is Exmoor, a hilly moorland in the southwest of England. This beast has been sporadically blamed for killing farm animals. There have been several explanations proffered regarding the origins of the Beast. While big cats once roamed the British Isles, the last of them died out thousands of years ago; the likelihood that some remnant population managed to hang on is slim. A more plausible theory is that in the wake of the UK passing the Dangerous Wild Animals Act, many people released their exotic pets rather than face costly fines. These animals could have formed a small breeding population, subsisting mainly on rabbits and deer, and raiding farms when food was scarce. In 1936, a carcass that washed up on a beach in Devon was briefly rumored to be the Beast of Exmoor, but it was quickly identified as a dead seal. However, there is potential evidence that big cats do roam England; deer and boar bones have been discovered that appear to bear marks from the teeth of a large feline. A pall has even been cast over such seemingly infallible characters as Mother Teresa. During the building of the chapel, the architect was shot to death, and when the project was completed, the building was missing one key feature: There was no room for a conventional staircase, and the nuns were averse to using ladders because they were afraid of snagging their long habits. The legend goes that the sisters of Loretto prayed for nine days, and on the final day, a bedraggled man arrived on a donkey and asked permission to solve their problem. Using only the most basic of tools not even nails, he created a glorious winding helix staircase over the course of a few months. At first glance, the structure seems to defy the laws of physics, as it appears to have no central means of support. Upon finishing, the unidentified carpenter simply went on his way without being paid. The nuns, taken by the

majesty of his creation, believed that the man was none other than St. Joseph , patron saint of carpenters. Other theories have been advanced, probably the most plausible being that the man was an itinerant French carpenter named Francois-Jean Rochas. The staircase itself has since been thoroughly examined, and while beautiful, it is not exactly a marvel. The helix is so tight that the center portion acts as its own support, keeping it from toppling over. It has also been judged as very unsafe , acting as a spring when people climb on it. Today, the Loretto Chapel is privately owned, and frequently stages weddings where couples are allowed to pose on the staircase.

### Chapter 8 : Miracles of Christmas Preview - Last Vermont Christmas

*Of course, were it to ever really happen that a baby has a resemblance to Qur'anic verses on their skin, or were any other uncommon, mysterious event to happen, we admit that it is all part of Allah's plan - and the mystery can bring about a humbleness to the awesome power and majesty of Allah.*

### Chapter 9 : Secret Teachings of All Ages: The Ancient Mysteries and Secret Societies, Part Two

*Another miracle took place during the drought of The fields had been scorched by the drought, and the seedlings were shriveled from the heat. As days passed with more sun, heat, and no rainclouds, the people began praying to Our Lady for help and took her image once more out to the fields.*