

# On the Origin of the World

from *The Rulers' Rape of Eve* by Celene Lillie

Since everyone, both the gods of the world and human kind, says that nothing existed before chaos, I shall show they are all mistaken, because they do not know the nature of chaos or its root. Here is the proof. People generally agree that chaos is darkness, it actually comes from a shadow. And the shadow comes from something that has existed from the beginning, and so it is clear that it existed before chaos came into being, and that the latter came after the first work.<sup>1</sup> Let us enter into the truth of the matter, and particularly the first work, from which chaos came. And in this way the truth will be clearly shown. (97,24-98,11)

After the order of the immortals was brought to completion out of the infinite, a likeness flowed from Faith—it is called Wisdom. It desired that it become something like the first light, and immediately her desire appeared as a heavenly likeness with incomprehensible greatness. It was between the immortals and what came after them, like what is above, and Wisdom served as a curtain separating humanity from the things above. (98,11-99,23)

Now the realm of truth has no shadow outside (<within>) it,<sup>2</sup> because the limitless light is everywhere within it. But outside it is shadow, which has been called darkness. From it appeared a power out over the darkness, and the powers that came afterward called the shadow “limitless chaos.” From it, every kind of deity was loosed, one after another, along with the entire place, so that the shadow came after the first work. It appeared in the abyss, which also came from Faith, who was mentioned before. (99,23-99,2)

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Gen. 1:1-2.

<sup>2</sup> While the text says, “outside,” NHC (Layton) thinks it should be emended to “inside.”

The shadow sensed that there was something stronger than it, and became jealous. And when it became pregnant by itself, it suddenly gave birth to envy. Since then, the principle of envy has appeared in all the realms and their worlds. But envy was found to be an untimely birth without any spirit in it. It came into being like a shadow in a vast watery substance. Then bitter wrath came into being from the shadow and was cast into the region of chaos. Since that day a watery substance has been visible. And what flowed within it flowed out and appeared in chaos. As with a woman giving birth to a child, the afterbirth flows out, so also the matter that came into being from the shadow was cast out. And it did not come out of chaos, rather, matter was in chaos, in a region of it. (99,2-22)

After these things happened, then Faith came and appeared over the matter (of chaos, which had been expelled like an untimely birth, without any spirit in it. For all of it was limitless darkness and bottomless water. Now when Faith saw what came into being through her deficiency, she was disturbed. And the disturbance appeared as something frightening, and it fled to her in the chaos. She turned to it and blew into its face in the abyss, below all the heavens. (99,23-100,1)

And when Faith Wisdom desired to cause the thing with no spirit to be made into a likeness and to rule over matter and all its powers, for the first time a ruler appeared, out of the waters, lion-like in appearance, androgynous, having great authority within himself, and ignorant of where he came from. Now when Faith Wisdom saw him moving about the depth of the waters, she said to him, "Child, move over here," which is the meaning of "Yaldabaoth." Since that day the principle of the word has been revealed, which reached the gods and the angels and humankind. And the gods

and the angels and humankind have brought to completion what has come into being through the word.<sup>3</sup> (100,1-18)

Now the ruler Yaltabaoth is ignorant of the power of Faith. He did not see her face, but he saw in the water the likeness that spoke with him. And because of that voice he called himself Yaldabaoth. But those who are perfect call him Ariael, because he was like a lion. After he came to have authority over matter, Faith Wisdom withdrew up to her light. (100,19-29)

When the ruler saw his greatness, he saw only himself and nothing else except water and darkness. He thought that he alone existed. His [thought] was completed through speech/the word—it appeared as a spirit moving to and fro upon the waters.<sup>4</sup> When the spirit appeared, the ruler separated the watery substance in one place, and what was dry was divided to another place. And from matter he made himself a dwelling place and called it heaven, and from matter the ruler made a footstool and called it earth.<sup>5</sup> (100,29-101,9)

Next, the ruler had a thought in accordance with his nature, and he created an androgynous being through speech/the word. He opened his mouth and cooed to him. When his eyes opened, he looked at his father, and said to him, “EE,” so his father called him Yao. Next he created a second son. He cooed to him, and he opened his eyes and said to his father, “Eh!” His father called him Eloai. Next he created a third son. He cooed to him. And he opened his eyes and said to his father, “Asss!” His father called him Astaphaios. These are the three sons of the father. (101,9-23)

Seven androgynous beings appeared in chaos, and they have masculine names and feminine names. The feminine name is Foresight Sambathas, which is “week.” And his son is called Yao—his feminine name is Lordship.

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<sup>3</sup> Cf. Gen. 1:3-31, 2:19-20; John 1:1-5—here and below.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Gen. 1:2.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. Is. 66:1 LXX, “Thus says the Lord: Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is my resting place?”

Sabaoth's feminine name is Divinity.  
 Adonaios's feminine name is Kingship.  
 Eloaios's feminine name is Envy.  
 Oraios's feminine name is Wealth.  
 Astaphaios's feminine name is Wisdom.

These are the seven powers of the seven heavens of [chaos]. And they were born androgynous in accordance with the immortal pattern that existed before them, according to the desire of Faith, so that the likeness of what was from the beginning might reign until the end. You will find the function of the masculine names and powers in the *Archangelic Book of Moses the Prophet*, and the feminine names in the *First Book of Noraia*. (101,23-102,11)

Now the chief parent, Yaldabaoth possessed great authorities, he created beautiful heavens as dwelling places, through his speech/word, and in each heaven he created great glories, seven times glorious. Each one has thrones and mansions and temples, and also chariots and virgin spirits, and their glories, extending up to an invisible realm, in his heaven; and powerful armies of gods and lords and angels and archangels—countless myriads—so that they might serve. You will find a precise account of this in the *First Discourse of Oraia*. (102,11-102,25)

And they were completed in this way up to the sixth heaven, the heaven of Wisdom. The heaven and his earth were disrupted by the troublemaker who was beneath them all. The six heavens shook, for the powers of chaos did not know who had disturbed the heaven beneath them. When Faith found out about the breakage caused by the troublemaker, she sent her breath and bound him and cast him down into Tartaros. Since then the heaven, along with its earth, has established itself through Wisdom, the daughter of Yaldabaoth, who is below them all. (102,25-103,2)

After the heavens were established, along with their powers and their entire government, the chief parent exalted himself, and he was glorified by the whole army of angels. And all the gods

and their angels praised and glorified him. And he was delighted and boasted again and again and said to them, "I don't need anything." He said, "I am God, and there is no other but me."<sup>6</sup> And when he said this, he sinned against all the immortals who speak forth, and they watched him carefully.

(103,3-15)

Then when Faith saw the impiety of the chief ruler she became angry. Without being seen, she said, "You are wrong, Samael," which means, "blind god." "There is an immortal human of light who existed before you and who will appear within your modeled forms. He will trample you as potter's clay is pounded, and you will descend to your mother, the abyss, along with those that belong to you. And when your work comes to completion, all the deficiency that appeared from truth will be dissolved, and it will cease to be and will be like what never was." After Faith said this, she revealed the likeness of her greatness in the waters, and then she withdrew up to her light.

(103,15-32)

When Sabaoth, son of Yaldabaoth, heard the voice of Faith, he sang praises to her, and [he] condemned his father [and mother] on account of the word of Faith. And he praised her because she had instructed them about the immortal human and its light. Then Faith Wisdom pointed her finger and poured over him light from her light as a condemnation of his father. When Sabaoth was enlightened, he received great authority over all the powers of chaos, and since then he has been called "Lord of the Powers." (103,32-104,10)

He hated his father, the darkness, and his mother, the abyss, and loathed his sister, the thought of the chief parent and who moves to and fro over the waters.<sup>7</sup> And all of the authorities of

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<sup>6</sup> Cf. Ex 20:5; 34:14; Deut. 5:6-7; 32:39; Isaiah 45:5-6; 46:9; Joel 2:27.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. Gen. 1:2.

chaos were jealous of him because of his light. And when they became disturbed, they waged a great war in the seven heavens. (104,10-17)

Then when Faith Wisdom saw the war, she sent seven archangels to Sabaoth from her light. They snatched him<sup>8</sup> up to the seventh heaven, and they stood before him as attendants. Then she sent three more archangels to him and established his kingdom over everyone so that he might dwell above the twelve gods of chaos. When Sabaoth occupied the place of rest because of his repentance, Faith also gave him her daughter Life, together with great authority, so that she might tell him about everything in the eighth heaven. (104,17-30)

And since he had authority, he first made himself a mansion. It is huge, magnificent, seven times as great as all those in the seven heavens. And in front of his mansion he created a large throne on a chariot with four faces, called cherubim. The cherubim had eight figures on each of the four corners, figures of lions, bulls, humans, and eagles, for a total of sixty-four figures. Seven archangels stand before it. He is the eighth, and has authority. There are seventy-two figures in all. From this chariot the seventy-two gods took shape. They took shape so that they might rule over the seventy-two languages of the seventy-two nations. And beside that throne he created other, angels in the shape of serpents called seraphim, who glorify him unceasingly. (104,31-105,19)

Then he created an assembly of angels—thousands and myriads without number, which was like the assembly in the eighth heaven—and a firstborn called Israel—that is, “the person who sees God”—and another being called Jesus Christ, who is like the savior above in the eighth heaven and who sits at his right on a revered throne. And at his left the virgin of the holy Spirit sits upon a throne and glorifies him. And seven virgins stand before her, with thirty lyres and harps and

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<sup>8</sup> Cf. Rev. 12:5 where the child of the woman clothed in the sun gets “snatched away” and taken to God and God’s throne.

trumpets, glorifying him. And all the armies of angels glorify him, and they praise him. (105,20-106,3)

He sits upon a throne of light in a great cloud that covers him. And no one was with him in the cloud except Wisdom of Faith,<sup>9</sup> and she taught him about all the things in the eighth heaven, so that the likeness of those things might be created in order that his reign might continue until the completion of the heavens of chaos and their powers. (106,3-11)

Faith Wisdom separated him from the darkness and summoned him to her right, and she put the chief parent at her left. Since then right has been called justice and left called injustice. Because of this, they all received a world/realm in the assembly of justice and injustice stands upon their entire creation.<sup>10</sup> (106,11-19)

When the chief parent of chaos saw his son Sabaoth and the glory in which he dwells, and recognized that he was the greatest of all the authorities of chaos, he envied him. He was angry, and he produced death from his own death. And it (death) was established over the sixth heaven, for Sabaoth had been snatched up from there. And this way the number of the six authorities of chaos was realized. Since death was androgynous, he had sex with himself/his own nature and produced seven androgynous children. (106,19-29)

These are the names of the males: Envy, Anger, Weeping, Groaning, Mourning, Shouting, Tearful Groans. And these are the names of the females: Anger, Pain, Pleasure, Groaning, Curse, Bitterness, Quarreling. They had sex with one another, and each one conceived seven, so that they total forty-nine androgynous demons. You will find their names and functions in the *Book of Solomon*. (106,30-107,3)

<sup>9</sup> Not Faith Wisdom, but σοφία <ῆ> πιστις.

<sup>10</sup> The text is "corrupt" here (ἀρε εραϊ εχῆ οὔρωντ` τηρογ), i.e. neither NHC or NHSI are sure of the translation.

And in the presence of these, Life, who dwells with Sabaoth, created seven good androgynous powers. These are the names of the males: the Unjealous, the Blessed, the Joyful, the True, the Unenvious, the Beloved, the Faithful. These are the names of the females: Peace, Gladness, Joyfulness, Blessedness, Truth, Love, Faith. And many good and innocent spirits come from these. You will find their accomplishments and functions in the *Configurations of the Fate of Heaven Beneath the Twelve*. (107,4-16)

And having seen the likeness of Faith in the waters, the chief parent was deeply distressed, especially when he heard her voice, which was like the first voice that called to him out of the waters. And when he knew that she was the one who had given a name to him, he groaned. He was ashamed because of his transgression. And when he had come to truly know that an immortal human of light existed before him, he was very disturbed, for he had previously said to all the gods and their angels, "I am God. There is no other but me." For he feared that they might know another existed before him and judge him. (107,16-34)

But he was a fool. He distained the judgment and acted boldly. He said, "If anything existed before me, let it appear so that we may see its light." And immediately, look!, light came out of the eighth heaven above and passed through all the heavens of the earth. When the chief parent saw that the light was beautiful as it radiated, he was amazed, and he was very ashamed. As that light appeared, a human likeness appeared within it, it was wonderful! And no one saw it except the chief parent and Foresight, who was with him. But its light was visible to all the powers of the heavens. Because of this, they were all disturbed by it. (107,34-108,14)

Then when Foresight saw this messenger, she fell in love with him, but he hated her because she was in darkness. She desired to ensnare him, and she was not able. When she was unable to heal her love, she poured out her light upon the earth. Since that day, this messenger has been

called “Adam of Light,” which means “the enlightened human of blood,” and the earth <upon which it (her light)> spread, “holy Adamas,” which means “the holy adamantine earth.” (108,14-24)

Since that day, all the authorities have honored the blood of the virgin, and the earth was purified on account of the blood of the virgin. Further, the water was purified by the likeness of Faith Wisdom, who had appeared to the chief parent in the waters. Rightly, it has been said, “through the waters,” since the holy water gives life to all, purifies it. (108,25-109,1)

Out of this first blood, Eros appeared, being androgynous. His masculine side is Himireris, (Himeros) because he is fire from the light. His feminine side is a soul of blood from the substance of Foresight. He is very beautiful in his appearance, having a grace beyond all the creatures of chaos. When all the gods and their angels saw Eros, they fell in love with him. He appeared within them and set them afire. Just as many lamps are lit from a single lamp, and the light of each one is the same, but the single lamp (i.e. the one that gave the light) is not diminished, so Eros was dispersed in all the creatures of chaos and was not diminished. (109,1-16)

Just as Eros appeared at the midpoint of light and darkness, and the intercourse of Eros filled the midpoint of angels and humankind, so the first pleasure bloomed from the earth. Woman followed earth, and marriage followed woman. Birth followed marriage, dissolution followed birth. (109,16-25)

After Eros, a grapevine bloomed from the blood that was shed upon the earth, and so those who drink of it conceive the desire of intercourse. After the grapevine, a fig tree and a pomegranate tree bloomed from the earth, together with the rest of the trees, all kinds, having within them their seed from the seed of the authorities and their angels. (109,25-110,1)

Then Justice created Paradise. It is beautiful and outside the circuit of the moon and the circuit of the sun in the Land of Delight, in the east in the midst of the stones. And Desire dwells in

the midst of the beautiful, tall trees. And the tree of eternal life, as it appeared by the will of God, is to the north of Paradise so that it might give immortality to the souls of the holy ones, who shall leave their modeled forms of hunger at the end of the age. The color of the tree of life is like the sun, and its branches are beautiful. Its leaves are like those of the cypress. Its fruit is like a cluster of white grapes. Its height reaches up to heaven. (110,2-18)

And next to it is the tree of knowledge, which has the power of God. It is glorious like the moon shining brightly. And its branches are beautiful. Its leaves are like fig leaves. Its fruit is like good grand dates. And this tree is to the north of Paradise to arouse the souls from the sleep of the daemons, so that they might come to the tree of life, eat its fruit, and condemn the authorities and their angels. The impact of this tree is described in the *Sacred Book*: You are the tree of knowledge, which is in Paradise, from which the first human ate. You opened his mind, and he loved his partner, and condemned the other, strange likenesses and loathed them. (110,18-111,1)

After this the olive tree bloomed, which was to purify kings and high priests of justice who were to appear in the last days, since the olive tree appeared through the light of the first Adam for the sake of the oil of anointing that they were to receive. (111,2-8)

And the first soul (Psyche) loved Eros, who was with her, and she poured her blood upon him and upon the earth. From that blood the rose first bloomed from the earth, out of the thorn bush, to give joy to the light that would appear in the bush. Next, beautiful, fragrant flowers bloomed from the earth, different kinds, from each one of the virgin daughters of Foresight. They fell in love with Eros and poured their blood upon him and upon the earth. (111,8-20)

Next, every plant bloomed from the earth, different kinds, and they contained the seed of the authorities and their angels. Then, the authorities created every different kind of beast out of the

waters, and the reptiles and birds, different kinds, and they contained the seed of the authorities and their angels. (111,20-28)

But before all this, when he had appeared on the first day, he remained on the earth for about two days. He left the lower Foresight in heaven and ascended toward his light. And immediately darkness covered the whole world. When she wished, Wisdom, who was in the lower heaven, received authority over Faith and created the great lights and all the stars. She put them in the sky to shine upon the earth and to set in order/set up/erect temporal signs and seasons and years and months and days and nights and moments and so on. And in this way the whole region of the sky was adorned/organized. (111,29-112,17)

When the Adam of Light wished to enter his light, which is the eighth heaven, he could not do so because of the poverty that had mixed with his light. So he created a great realm for himself, and within that realm he created six realms and their worlds, six in number, which are seven times better than the heavens of chaos and their worlds. All these realms and their worlds exist within the boundless region that is between the eighth heaven and chaos below it, they are considered part of the world that belongs to poverty. If you want to know the organization of these, you will find it written in the *Seventh World of Hieralias the Prophet*. (112,18-24)

Before Adam of Light withdrew from chaos, the authorities saw him and laughed at the chief parent because he had lied when he said, "I am God. No one exists before me." When they came to him, they said, "Is this not the god who ruined our work?" He answered and said, "Yes. If you do not want him to be able to ruin our work, come, let us create a human being out of earth according to the image of our body and according to the likeness of this being, to serve us, so that when he

sees his likeness he might fall in love with it.<sup>11</sup> Then he will no longer ruin our work, and we shall make those born from the light our slaves for this entire age.” (112,25-113,5)

All of this happened according to the foresight of Wisdom so that humanity might appear after his likeness and condemn them because of their modeled forms. For their modeled forms became enclosures for the light. Then the authorities received the knowledge they needed to create humanity. Wisdom Life, who is with Sabaoth, anticipated them. And she laughed at their decision, because they are blind and they ignorantly created him against their own interests. And they did not know what they were about to do. (113,6-16)

So she anticipated them and created her own human first so that he might instruct their modeled form how to disregard them and thus to escape them. The birth of the instructor happened like this. When Wisdom let a drop of light fall, it flowed onto the water, and immediately an androgynous human being appeared. She first formed that drop into a female body. Afterwards, she formed it into a body in the likeness of the mother which had appeared. She finished it in twelve months. An androgynous human being was born, whom the Greeks call Hermaphrodite, and whose mother the Hebrews call the Eve of Life, which means the female instructor of Life. Her child is the one born who is lord. (113,17-35)

Afterwards, the authorities called it “the beast” to cause it to lead their modeled forms astray. The meaning of “the beast” is “the instructor,” for it was found to be the wisest of all creatures. Eve is the first virgin, and she gave birth to her first child without a man. She was her own midwife/physician. For this reason she is held to have said:

I am part of my mother, and I am the mother.  
I am the wife, I am the virgin.  
I am pregnant, I am the physician.

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<sup>11</sup> Cf. Gen 1:26.

I am the comforter of birth pains.  
 My husband birthed me, and I am his mother,  
 And he is my father and my lord.  
 He is my power,  
 he speaks his desires reasonably.  
 I am becoming,  
 But I have given birth to a human lord. (113,35-114,15)

This was revealed through the will of Sabaoth and his Christ to the souls that were going to enter<sup>12</sup> the modeled forms of the authorities, and about whom the holy voice said, "Increase and multiply. Rule over all creatures."<sup>13</sup> And these were the ones taken captive according to their destinies, by the chief parent, and they were locked into the prisons of modeled forms <until><sup>14</sup> the end of the age. (114,15-24)

At that time, the chief parent gave his opinion about humanity to those who were with him. Then each of them cast his sperm into the middle of the navel of the earth. Since that day, the seven rulers have formed humanity with a body like their body, but a likeness like the human who had appeared to them.<sup>15</sup> His modeled form came into being part by part, and their leader created the brain and the marrow. Afterwards, he appeared like the one before him.<sup>16</sup> He became a soul-ful human, and he was called Adam, which means "father," according to the name of the one who was before him. (114,24-115,3)

And when they had finished Adam, he abandoned him as a lifeless vessel, since he was formed like an untimely birth with no spirit in him. Regarding this work, when the chief ruler remembered the words of Faith, he was afraid that the real human might take (over) his modeled

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<sup>12</sup> This translation is based on a reconstruction which both NHC and NHSI use.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. Gen. 1:28.

<sup>14</sup> Reconstruction, text reads "or at the end of the age."

<sup>15</sup> The Adam of Light.

<sup>16</sup> Text erroneous?

form and rule over it. Because of this, he left his modeled form without a soul for forty days, and he withdrew and abandoned it. (115,3-11)

On the fortieth day, Wisdom Life sent her breath into Adam, who had no soul. He began to move on the ground, but he could not rise. When the seven rulers came, they saw him and were very disturbed. They rushed toward him and grabbed him, and he said to the breath within him, "Who are you and where did you come from?" It answered and said, "I have come from the power of the human to destroy your work..."<sup>17</sup> When they heard this, they glorified him, because he gave them rest from their fear and anxiety. Then they called that day "Rest," because they rested from labor. When they saw that Adam could not stand up, they rejoiced, and they took him and put him in paradise, and they withdrew up to their heavens. (115,11-36)

After the day of rest, Wisdom sent her daughter Life, called Eve, as an instructor to make Adam, who had no soul, arise so that those he would engender might become vessels of light. When Eve saw her partner lying down, she grieved for him, and she said, "Adam, live! Arise from the ground!" Immediately her word became a work. For when Adam arose, he immediately opened his eyes. He saw her and said, "You will be called 'Mother of the Living,' because you have given me life." (115,36-116,8)

The authorities were told that their modeled form was alive and had arisen, and they were very disturbed. They sent seven archangels to see what had happened. They came to Adam. When they saw Eve speaking with him, they said to one another, "Who is this enlightened woman? She is like the likeness that appeared to us in the light. Come, let us grab her and cast our sperm into her so that she becomes defiled and unable to ascend to her light. And those who she bears will be subject to us. But let us not tell Adam, for he is not one of us. And let us bring a sleep over him, and

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<sup>17</sup> The text seems to be erroneous here given the awkward transition.

teach him in his sleep that she came from his rib so that the woman might be subjected, and he may be lord over her.”<sup>18</sup> (116,8-25)

Then Eve, being a power, laughed at their decision. She blinded their eyes and stealthily left her likeness with Adam. She entered into the tree of knowledge and remained there. They went after her, and she revealed to them that she had entered the tree and had become a tree. Then, becoming very fearful, the blind ones fled.<sup>19</sup> (116,25-33)

Afterwards, when they had recovered from their stupor, they came [to Adam], and seeing the likeness of this woman with him, they were disturbed, thinking she was the true Eve. And they acted cruelly. They entered her and possessed her and cast their sperm down upon her. They acted upon her wickedly. They not only defiled in natural, but abominable ways. They defiled the seal of her first voice, which had said to them, “What exists before you?” intending to defile those who might say at the completion [of the age] that they were born of the true human through the word. And they erred. They did not know they defiled their own body. The authorities and their angels had defiled the likeness in every way. (116,33-117,14)

First she became pregnant with Abel by the chief ruler.<sup>20</sup> And she gave birth to other children by the seven authorities and their angels. All this happened according to the chief parent’s Foresight, so that the first mother might bear within her every seed, mixed and joined with the fate of the world and its schemas, and justice. (117,15-24)

A plan came into being regarding Eve, so that the modeled forms of the authorities might become enclosures of the light. Then it (the light) would condemn them through their modeled forms. The first Adam, the one of light, is spirit-ful and appeared on the first day. The second Adam

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<sup>18</sup> Gen. 2:21-22; 3:16.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. Mark 16:8 Coptic.

<sup>20</sup> Cf. Gen. 4:1-2 where Abel is born after Cain.

is soul-ful and appeared on the sixth day, which is called Aphrodite. The third Adam is earthly, the human of law, and he appeared on the eighth day, the repose of poverty, which is called Sunday. The offspring of the earthly Adam multiplied and filled (the earth), and acquired within itself all of the knowledge obtained by the soul-ful Adam, but they were all in ignorance. (117,24-118,6)

Let me continue. When the rulers had seen him and the woman who was with him in error and ignorance, like farm animals, they rejoiced. When they knew that the immortal human would again surpass them<sup>21</sup> yet they would still have to fear the woman who became a tree, they were disturbed. And they said, "Perhaps this is the true human, this one who blinded us and taught us that she who was defiled is like him, and so we shall be conquered!" (118,6-16)

Then the seven of them plotted. They approached Adam and Eve in fear. They said to him, "You all may eat the fruit of every tree created for you in Paradise, but take care and do not eat from the Tree of Knowledge. If you eat, you will die."<sup>22</sup> They gave them a great fright and they withdrew up to their authorities. (118,16-24)

Then the wisest of all creatures came, who was called "Beast."<sup>23</sup> And when he saw the likeness of the mother, Eve, he said to her, "What did God say to you all? Was it, "Do not eat from the Tree of Knowledge?" She said, "He not only said, 'Do not eat from it,' but 'Do not touch it, or you will die.'"<sup>24</sup> He said to her, "Do not be afraid. In death you all will not die. For he knows that when you eat from it, your minds will become sober and you will become like gods, knowing the

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<sup>21</sup> Both NHC and NHSI are confused about this phrase. It is possible that the negative  $\alpha\kappa$ , it is supposed to be the particle  $\alpha\omicron$  given the high concentration of this variation in OnOrig.

<sup>22</sup> Cf. Gen. 2:16-17.

<sup>23</sup> Cf. Gen. 3:1.

<sup>24</sup> Cf. Gen. 3:1-3.

difference that exists between evil humans and good. He said this to you in jealousy so that you would not eat from it.”<sup>25</sup> (118,24-119,6)

Eve had confidence in the words of the instructor. She gazed at the tree and saw that it was beautiful and grand, and she loved it. She took some of its fruit and ate it. And she gave some to her husband also, and he ate it, too. Then their minds opened. For when they had eaten, the light of knowledge enlightened them. When they clothed themselves with shame, they knew that they were stripped naked of knowledge. When they became sober, they saw that they were naked and they loved each other. When they saw that those who molded them had the form of beasts, they loathed them. They knew much.<sup>26</sup> (119,6-18)

When the rulers knew they had broken their commandment, they entered Paradise and came to Adam and Eve with an earthquake and great threats, to see the effect of the help they received. Then Adam and Eve were very disturbed, and they hid under the trees in Paradise. Then the rulers did not know where they were and said, “Adam, where are you?” He said, “I am here. Because you all made me afraid, I hid. I was ashamed.” They said to him, ignorantly, “Who told you about the shame with which you have clothed yourself? Unless you have eaten from the tree!” He said, “The woman you gave me gave it to me, and I ate.” Then they said to her, “What have you done?” She answered and said, “The instructor goaded me, and I ate.”<sup>27</sup> (119,19-120,3)

Then the rulers came to the instructor. Their eyes became blinded by it, and they were not able to do anything to it. They cursed him, since they were powerless.<sup>28</sup> Afterwards, they came to the woman and cursed her and her children. After the woman, they cursed Adam and the earth and

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<sup>25</sup> Cf. Gen. 3:4-5.

<sup>26</sup> Cf. Gen. 3:7.

<sup>27</sup> Cf. Gen. 3:8-13.

<sup>28</sup> Cf. Gen. 3:14-15.

the crops because of him. They cursed all the things they had created.<sup>29</sup> There is no blessing through them. The power of good cannot be birthed from evil. (120,3-12)

From that day, the authorities have truly known that there was something stronger than they. They only recognized that their commandments had not been kept. Great jealousy was brought into the world solely because of the immortal human. When the rulers saw that their Adam had attained different knowledge, they wanted to test him. They gathered together all the domestic animals and the wild beasts of the earth and the birds of the sky and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. When he saw them, he gave names to all their creatures.<sup>30</sup> (120,12-24)

They became disturbed that Adam had recovered from all the struggles.<sup>31</sup> They gathered and plotted, and they said, “Look, Adam has become like one of us, and he knows the difference between light and darkness. Now perhaps he will be deceived as with the Tree of Knowledge and also will come to the Tree of Life and eat from it and become immortal and be lord and disregard us and think [us] and all our glory to be insipid. Then he will condemn [us and our] world. Come, let us cast him from Paradise down to the earth, the place he was brought from, so that he is no longer able to know anything better than we can.” And so they cast Adam from Paradise, along with his wife. (120,24-121,5)

And what they had done was not enough for them. Rather, they were afraid. They went to the Tree of Life and surrounded it with great fearful things, fiery living things called “cherubim,”

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<sup>29</sup> Cf. Gen. 3:16-19.

<sup>30</sup> Cf. Gen. 2:19-20.

<sup>31</sup> While ἀγωνία fits the context, there is speculation by NHC and NHSI that this might be ἀγωσία, ignorance, that he overcame.

and they put a flaming sword in their midst, fearfully twirling at all times, so that no one from earth might ever enter that place.<sup>32</sup> (121,5-13)

After this, since the rulers were jealous of Adam they wanted to shorten their lifespan. They could not because of fate, which was established from the beginning. To each was designated a lifespan of a thousand years according to the course of the luminaries. Though the rulers were not able to do this, each of the evil ones subtracted ten years, and all this lifespan amounted to nine hundred and thirty years,<sup>33</sup> and these are spent in pain and weakness and evil distractions. And so life has turned out to be, from that day until the completion of the age. (121,13-27)

When Wisdom Life saw that the rulers of darkness had cursed her partners, she was indignant. And coming out of the first heaven with all power, she chased the rulers from [their] heavens and cast them down into the sinful [world] so that they might dwell there in the form of evil daemons upon the earth. (121,27-35)

[...] so that a thousand years in Paradise it might spend in their world—a soul-ful living creature called “phoenix.” It kills itself and brings itself to life as a witness to the judgment against them, for they dealt unjustly with Adam and his descendants, until the end completion of the age. <...> are <...> three humans, and also their descendants until the completion of the world: the spirit-ful of the divine realm and the soul-ful and the earthly. Likewise, the three phoenixes in Paradise: the first is immortal; the second lives a thousand years; as for the third, it is written in the *Holy Book*, that it is consumed. (121,35-122,16)

So too, there are three baptisms: the first is the spiritual, the second is by fire, the third is by water. Just as the phoenix appears as a witness concerning the angels, so the water hydri in Egypt

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<sup>32</sup> Cf. Gen. 3:24.

<sup>33</sup> Cf. Gen. 5:5, “Thus all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred thirty years; and he died.”

which has been a witness to those going down for the baptism of the true man. The two bulls in Egypt are in a mystery, the sun and moon. They are witnesses to Sabaoth, that over them Wisdom received the world, from the day she made the sun and the moon she enclosed her heaven with a seal upon her heaven, into the age. (122,16-33)

The worm that is born from the phoenix is a human as well. It is written of it, “The just one will bloom like a phoenix.” And the phoenix first appears alive, and dies, and rises again. It is as a sign which appears and the completion of the age. These great signs [appeared] only in Egypt—nowhere else—indicating that it is like God’s Paradise. Let us return to the rulers of whom we spoke, so we may offer some explanation of them. (122,34-123,4)

For when the seven rulers were cast down from their heaven down to earth, they created for themselves angels, numerous, demonic, to serve them. The latter taught humankind in many kinds of error and magic and potions and idol worship and spilling blood and altars and temples and sacrifices and libations to all the daemons of the earth, having their coworker, fate, who came into being by the concord between the gods of injustice and Justice. (123,4-15)

And so, when the world came into being, distracted. It erred at all times. All humans on earth served the daemons from the creation until completion—both the angels of justice and the people of injustice. Thus the world existed in distraction, in ignorance, and in forgetfulness. They all erred, until the coming of the true human. (123,15-24)

Enough on this. Now we shall consider our world so that we may finish the description of its structure and administration accurately. Then it will be clear how trust in the hidden, apparent from the beginning down to the completion of the age, was revealed. Now I come to the main points [about] the immortal human. I shall speak of all the beings that belong to him, explaining how they happen to be here. (123,24-34)

When a multitude of human beings had come into being through [Adam], who had been formed from matter, and when the world had already become full, the rulers ruled over it—that is, they held it back by ignorance. For what reason? It is this: the immortal Father knows that a deficiency of truth came into being among the realms and their world. When he wished to annul the rulers of corruption through the modeled forms, he sent the blessed little innocent spirits, your likenesses, down into the world of corruption. They are not strangers to knowledge. (123,24-124,12)

For all knowledge is in one angel who appeared before them. He is not without power in the presence of the Father, and gave them knowledge.<sup>34</sup> Whenever they appear in the world of corruption, first they reveal the pattern of incorruptibility as a condemnation of the rulers and their powers. (124,12-21)

Then when the blessed ones appeared in the molded forms of the authorities, they were jealous of them. Out of jealousy the authorities mixed their sperm with them in order to defile them, but they were not able. Then when the blessed ones appeared in enlightened form, they appeared in different ways. And each one of them, starting out in their own land, revealed their knowledge to the ekklesia that was revealed in the molded forms of corruption. It was found to have all kinds of seed, because the seed of the authorities [mixed with it]. (124,21-32)

Then the savior created [...] of them all, and the spirits of these [are manifestly] superior, being blessed and different in chosenness. There are also many others who are kingless and superior to everyone who was before them. So there are four races/generations. There are three that belong to the kings of the eighth heaven, but the fourth race is kingless and perfect, being the highest of all. These shall enter the holy place of their Father, and they will gain rest in repose and

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<sup>34</sup> This passage is copied twice.

eternal, unspeakable glory and joy without end. They are kings within the mortal domain, as they are immortal. They will condemn the gods of chaos and their powers. (124,32-125,14)

Now the Word, who is exalted above everyone, was sent for this work alone: that he might make known what is unknown. He said, "There is nothing hidden that is not revealed, and what has not been known will be known."<sup>35</sup> These were sent to reveal what is hidden, including the seven authorities of chaos and their ungodliness. And so they were condemned to death. So when all those who are perfect appeared in the molded forms of the rulers and revealed the incomparable truth, they put all the wisdom of the gods to shame. And their fate was found to be a condemnation. And their power dried up. Their lordship was dissolved. Their foresight became empty with their glory. (125,14-33)

Before the completion [of the age], the whole place will shake with great thunder. Then the rulers will grieve, [fearing]<sup>36</sup> their death. The angels will grieve for their human beings, and the daemons will weep over their seasons, and their human beings will mourn and cry at their death.<sup>37</sup> (125,33-126,4)

Then the age will begin, and they will be disturbed. Their kings will be drunk with the fiery sword, and they will wage war against one another, so that the earth is drunk from the bloodshed.<sup>38</sup> And the seas will be disturbed by the wars through that place. Then the sun will become dark and the moon's will lose its light. The stars of the sky will cancel their courses, and a great thunder will come from a great power, above all the powers of chaos, where the firmament of the woman is. (126,4-16)

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<sup>35</sup> NHC cites Mark 4:22, NHSI cites the Matt. (10:26), Luke (8:17;12:2) and Thomas (5:2; 6:5-6) parallels.

<sup>36</sup> Speculative reconstruction, NHC and NHSI.

<sup>37</sup> Cf. Gal. 4:8-10 also cf. Rev. 18:9-11, 15, 19.

<sup>38</sup> Cf. Rev. 17:6.

Having created the first work, she will abandon her wise fire of reflection and clothe herself with senseless wrath.<sup>39</sup> Then she will pursue the gods of chaos, whom she created along with the chief parent. She will cast them down to the abyss. They will be destroyed through their own injustice. For they will become like volcanoes and consume one another until they are annihilated by the hand of their chief parent. When he has annihilated them, he will turn on himself and annihilate himself until he is destroyed. And their heavens will fall one upon one another and their powers will burn. Their realms will also be overthrown. And his heaven will fall and break in two.<sup>40</sup> His...will fall down upon the [...] bear them. They will fall into the abyss, and the abyss will be overthrown. (126,16-35)

The light will [... the] darkness and obliterate it.<sup>41</sup> It will be like something that has never been, and the work from which the darkness had followed will dissolve. And deficiency will be plucked by its root (and cast) down into the darkness. And the light will withdraw up to its root. And the glory of the unbegotten will appear, and it will fill all the realms. When the prophecy and the writings of those who are kings are revealed and fulfilled by those who are called perfect, those who have not become perfect in the unbegotten Father will receive their glory in their realms and in the kingdoms of the immortals, but they will never enter the kingless realm. (126,35-14)

For everyone must go to the place from which they have come. Indeed, by their actions and their knowledge each one will make their origin known. (126,14-17)

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<sup>39</sup> Cf. Rev. 12:1-5.

<sup>40</sup> Cf. Mark 15:38 and Matt. 27:51 where the same phrase for the temple curtain being torn in two.

<sup>41</sup> Cf. John 1:4-5.