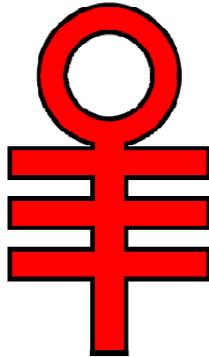


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The Bishop

By Jean de Cabilis

The etymology of the word Bishop comes from the Middle English *Biscop* or *Bischop* which is from the old English *Bisceop* - this being from the Latin *Episcopus* meaning an overseer, a superintendent, which is in turn from the Greek word *episkopos* meaning 'overseer'.

Reportedly according to Guardian tradition there is also another Greek word in the early etymology of Bishop that has an esoteric mystery and this word means 'Watcher'; thus the reader may like to consider the early Guardian saying of 'Work by Day, Watch by Night'

A Bishop is person in the service of Christ's ministry whom has a lineal successorship back to one or more of Jesus' Apostles. In this manner the mystical current of Jesus, whom was originally shared out amongst the Apostles has been carried forward into this present day by way of initiatic transmission. A transmission of souls that is contributing to the growth and building the mystical inner body of Christ's college each time a Bishop consecrates a new Bishop. This process is known as Apostolic Succession and the inner body is considered to be the Inner College, the mystical fellowship of Apostles whom are gathered together and coordinated by the Holy Spirit.

Apostolic Succession is more than simply lineage. Much is said of lineage in non-apostolic circles, such as the 'Order of the Golden Dawn' for example, where the topic of lineage is debated and its validity frequently questioned - especially by those persons or groups not holding any form of lineage. Thus it may be said that while the concept of lineage is an illusion in the magical sense, as argued by many magicians, Apostolic Succession is not; for Apostolic Succession leads back, in an unbroken current and line, to Jesus Christ himself.

In the classical structure of the Church, the highest office of the ministry is the Bishop. This is because the Bishop is an appointed Apostle of Christ; a person whom has the authority to administer the power of Christ. As one of Christ's representatives having the work to make disciples of all the nations. See Gospel of Mark 3, Matthew 10 and also Revelation 21.

A Bishops Authority

After Jesus had appointed his Apostles they went forth as disciples, priests and bishops of Christ. The word episkopos being used interchangeably to represent Christ's Apostles having the gift and power of the Holy Spirit. Each Apostle of Christ was independent, each having his own ministry. This is a very important point, there was no Pope, no Apostle placed in charge of others. The twelve went forth sometimes working together and sometimes alone. As the Church of Christ grew, it grew independently establishing churches in cities; and as each city group grew they were called diocese's - hence the name Diocesan Bishop.

Many of the various Bishops or successors to the Apostles continued to remain independent of each other, each having their own Christian teachings and ceremonies. Occasionally when matters of faith were unclear, many of the Bishops would gather to clarify a particular issue of faith. These gatherings were called the Ecumenical Councils and provided a commonality to the Christian Church; whom its dioceses were largely independent of each other.

It should be pointed out here, that though a commonality was been formed, it was voluntary - each council decision was up to each Bishop himself to either accept or reject. As the commonality develop the many of the various Bishops became Catholic under either the Eastern Orthodox Churches or the Roman Catholic Church. However some Bishop remained entirely separate from the two major bodies above. The Apostolic Guardian Church has lineage into the Old Catholic (Roman) Succession as well as Antiochian - Jacobite Succession.

The only requirement of a Bishop (and his Holy Orders) being that each Bishop had claim to Apostolic Succession back to the original Apostles of Jesus Christ himself - as is done within the Apostolic Guardian Church.

Apostolic Guardian Church of Grace and Blessing succession

The Apostolic Guardian Church claims apostolic succession directly back to Peter the disciple of Christ and the first Pope (so-called) through Bishop Timothy Storlie. Bishop Timothy Storlie was duly consecrated by Bishop Lewis S. Keizer as a Bishop in 1997. It is from Bishop Lewis S. Keizer that our Church receives Old Roman Catholic and Antiochian-Jacobite Successions.

Today Bishop Timothy Storlie serves has the Arch-Bishop and Patriarch of our Church. Arch Bishop because Bishop Timothy Storlie jurisdiction extends over the archdiocese of

the Apostolic Guardian Church. It is Archdiocese because his ecclesiastical authority as Bishop of our Church is worldwide. I.E not limited to a particular diocese or province within the Church.

Being of Peter succession, Bishop Timothy Storlie shares the especial duty that Jesus gave Peter. This especial duty was care for his Church on earth. It should be said here, that while Peter was given an especial duty for pastoral care of Christ's Church, there is nothing to support the view today's Catholic view that Peter's especial duty extended to the provision of rulership over the other Apostles or their successors. A fuller understanding of what the especial authority or rather duty of Peter can be found by the study and analysis of Matthew 16. The first office of Pope was not until 604AD that being Pope Gregory 1st.