



Whare Atua Temple

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Wider Meanings of Loch Chiiam

By Frank Salt (Admitted Whare Ra 1936)

In an earlier essay we considered the number 38 as a key to the Healing at Bethesda *and* saw the number as being written L Ch. Lamed Cheth in Hebrew and carrying the concept of lush, maturity and abundance. Now let us look at the often quoted Jewish greeting 'Loch Haim' as it is anglicised or more accurately 'Loch Chiiam' which in our limited concepts just can not be so unceremoniously dumped into English and retain their full sense.

The first word 'Loch' as we saw is composed of two letters, L (Lamed) implying 'expansive movement in poise', the union of physical and spiritual expansion of the human into the spiritual realm, while 'Ch' (Cheth) refers to the limited personal concept, the personality. Combined thus these two letters imply the extension of the human into the Divine mode of existence - A concept worthy of much consideration.

Ch I M again uses the letter 'Cheth' but implies every potential manner of Livingness, that limitless Life which fills the universe with the vital energy which ever seeks out new forms by which to express itself Whirling, abounding, crying aloud for form as a means of Self expression, re-echoing throughout the infinite abyss of Space its positive intention of existence. Do we really conceive of Space as a mere infinite void? Is that concept possible? Surely life travels from the Sun to Earth with the positive intention of incarnating in Matter - somehow - anyhow! The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Do we not eat? And in eating does not one form assimilate and elevate another to a higher mode of Livingness, until in Humanity it flows out his fingertips to build yet more marvellous forms, even Space-ships, music, social structures, clubs and societies?

'Chiim' carries all these concepts and much more. The humble little letter Yod occurs twice in ChiIM as the basic form of every Hebrew Letter, it suggests 'potentiality' and is that potential which forms the whole Hebrew alphabet, together with the whole of the mystical teaching embodied in our occidental civilisation. It is the "Seed of Abraham" in one sense. The final two Letters 'I M' are used to denote a collective plural and as such generally seen as "Feminine".

What a glorious greeting 'LoCh ChiIM' is, so infinitely beyond "Good-day"! Looking again at the letter 'Cheth' in mystic terms it is said to denote a 'field' or 'enclosure' a restricted zone of activity and the personality. Thus the self defence instinct so necessary for our continuing survival, yet so limiting of our potential, our horizon to a level of mere personal survival. Yet as used in 'LoCh ChiIM' how trivial is one personal life. Just one molecule in a limitless ocean of Being. Our own little problems are cut down to size in 'LoCh ChiIM'.