

Csaba Ötvös

Adam or Adams?

Genesis and the mythical anthropology in the Writing without Title from Nag Hammadi (NHC II,5).

The creation of man is one of the central narratives in the ancient Gnostic mythological texts. The primary sources represent several accounts which are divided into two main types in the current literature. The common and principal sources of both types are the biblical accounts from the Genesis (Gen 1,26f.; 2,7 and 3,21) and from the Pauline theology (1 Cor15).

This paper intends to give a detailed analysis of the anthropology in the Writing without Title. The recurrent opinion in the scholarly writings is that in the tractate occurs a heterogeneous system in consequence of different sources or of redactions: the anthropogonical account introduces three types of Adam (pneumatic, psychic and earthly), although later, in the tractate's eschatological part appears a fourth, the perfect race.

This investigation concentrates on two aspects of Adam's creation. The first part focuses on the questions of anthropogony. Based on the analyses of the passages I make an attempt to demonstrate its decisive role for the way in which the author constitutes the coherent and thoroughly considered theological system of the tractate. If the argumentation is right the answer leads us to the second aspect in question and allows us to illustrate of why and how the author did use, reevaluate and interpret the biblical passages and its terminology in order to create his own "Gnostic" narrative.