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THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

DURING the Alexandrian sojourn of Jesus, Gonod, and Ganid, the young man spent much of his time and no small sum of his father's money making a collection of the teachings of the world's religions about God and his relations with mortal man. Ganid employed more than threescore learned translators in the making of this abstract of the religious doctrines of the world concerning the Deities. And it should be made plain in this record that all these teachings portraying monotheism were largely derived, directly or indirectly, from the preachments of the missionaries of Machiventa Melchizedek, who went forth from their Salem headquarters to spread the doctrine of one God--the Most High--to the ends of the earth.

There is presented herewith an abstract of Ganid's manuscript, which he prepared at Alexandria and Rome, and which was preserved in India for hundreds of years after his death. He collected this material under ten heads, as follows:

1. CYNICISM

The residual teachings of the disciples of Melchizedek, excepting those which persisted in the Jewish religion, were best preserved in the doctrines of the Cynics. Ganid's selection embraced the following:

"God is supreme; he is the Most High of heaven and earth. God is the perfected circle of eternity, and he rules the universe of universes. He is the sole maker of the heavens and the earth. When he decrees a thing, that thing is. Our God is one God, and he is compassionate and merciful. Everything that is high, holy, true, and beautiful is like our God. The Most High is the light of heaven and earth; he is the God of the east, the west, the north, and the south.

"Even if the earth should pass away, the resplendent face of the Supreme would abide in majesty and glory. The Most High is the first and the last, the beginning and the end of everything. There is but this one God, and his name is Truth. God is self-existent, and he is devoid of all anger and enmity; he is immortal and infinite. Our God is omnipotent and bounteous. While he has many manifestations, we worship only God himself. God knows all--our secrets and our proclamations; he also knows what each of us deserves. His might is equal to all things.

"God is a peace giver and a faithful protector of all who fear and trust him. He gives salvation to all who serve him. All creation exists in the power of the

POGLAVLJE 131
SVJETSKE RELIGIJE

DOK JE bio u Aleksandriji s Isusom i Gonodom, mladi Ganid je proveo dosta vremena i veću sumu očevog novca prikupljajući odlomke iz različitih svjetskih religioznih učenja o Bogu i njegovom odnosu sa smrtnim čovjekom. Ganid je uposlio više od šezdeset učenih prevoditelja pri svom nastojanju da prikupi odlomke svjetskih religioznih učenja o Božanstvima. I neka bude jasno da bilo direktno ili indirektno zapisi svih ovih jednobožačkih učenja vuku porijeklo iz propovijedi misionara Makivente Melkisedeka koji su iz Salema otišli na sve četiri strane svijeta šireći učenja o jednom Bogu--Previšenjem--s kraja na kraj svijeta.

Ovom prilikom predstvaljamo izvadak iz Ganidovih rukopisa iz Aleksandrije i Rima koji su očuvani u Indiji stotinama godina nakon njegove smrti. Ganid je sabrao ovaj materijal u obliku slijedećih deset poglavlja:

1. CINIZAM

S izuzetkom odlomaka sačuvanih u sastavu židovske religije, ostaci učenja Melkisedekovih sljedbenika su najbolje očuvani u ciniškim doktrinama. Ganidova selekcija obuhvaća slijedeće odlomke:

"Bog je najveći; on je Previšnji neba i zemlje. Bog je usavršeni krug vječnosti i on vlada svemirom nad svemirima. On je taj koji je saznao nebo i zemlju. Kad Bog nešto hoće, to jeste. Naš Bog je jedan Bog i on je svemilosan i samilosan. Našem Bogu naliči sve što je visoko, sveto, istinito i lijepo. Previšnji je svjetlo neba i zemlje; on je Bog istoka, zapada, sjevera i juga.

"I ako zemlja prođe, sjajno će lice Vrhovnoga počivati u veličini i slavi. Previšnji je prvi i posljednji, početak i kraj svega. Samo je jedan Bog i zove se Istina. Bog postoji sam po sebi i u njemu nema srdžbe i neprijateljstva; on je besmrtn i beskonačan. Naš Bog je svemoguć i darežljiv. Dok Bog ima mnogo ispoljenja, mi obožavamo jedino njega. Bog sve zna--naše tajne i naše objave; i on zna što svaki od nas zaslužuje. Njegova moć se jednako odnosi prema svim stvarima.

"Bog je taj koji pruža spokoj i koji vjerno štiti sve koji ga se boje i koji se u njega uzdaju. On daje spasenje svima koji mu služe. Sva tvorevina postoji u

Most High. His divine love springs forth from the holiness of his power, and affection is born of the might of his greatness. The Most High has decreed the union of body and soul and has endowed man with his own spirit. What man does must come to an end, but what the Creator does goes on forever. We gain knowledge from the experience of man, but we derive wisdom from the contemplation of the Most High.

"God pours rain upon the earth, he causes the sun to shine upon the sprouting grain, and he gives us the abundant harvest of the good things of this life and eternal salvation in the world to come. Our God enjoys great authority; his name is Excellent and his nature is unfathomable. When you are sick, it is the Most High who heals you. God is full of goodness toward all men; we have no friend like the Most High. His mercy fills all places and his goodness encompasses all souls. The Most High is changeless; and he is our helper in every time of need. Wherever you turn to pray, there is the face of the Most High and the open ear of our God. You may hide yourself from men, but not from God. God is not a great distance from us; he is omnipresent. God fills all places and lives in the heart of the man who fears his holy name. Creation is in the Creator and the Creator in his creation. We search for the Most High and then find him in our hearts. You go in quest of a dear friend, and then you discover him within your soul.

"The man who knows God looks upon all men as equal; they are his brethren. Those who are selfish, those who ignore their brothers in the flesh, have only weariness as their reward. Those who love their fellows and who have pure hearts shall see God. God never forgets sincerity. He will guide the honest of heart into the truth, for God is truth.

"In your lives overthrow error and overcome evil by the love of the living truth. In all your relations with men do good for evil. The Lord God is merciful and loving; he is forgiving. Let us love God, for he first loved us. By God's love and through his mercy we shall be saved. Poor men and rich men are brothers. God is their Father. The evil you would not have done you, do not to others.

"At all times call upon his name, and as you believe in his name, so shall your prayer be heard. What a great honor it is to worship the Most High! All the worlds and the universes worship the Most High. And with all your prayers give thanks--ascend to worship. Prayerful worship shuns evil and forbids sin. At all times let us praise the name of the Most High. The man who takes shelter in the Most High conceals his defects from the universe. When you stand before God with a clean heart, you become fearless of all creation. The Most High is like a loving father and mother; he really loves us, his children on earth. Our God will forgive us and guide our footsteps into the

moći Previšnjega. Njegova božanska ljubav izvire iz svetosti njegove snage i naklonost se rađa iz moći njegove veličine. Previšnji je odredio jedinstvo tijela i duše i obdario je ljude svojim duhom. Ljudska djela imaju svršetak, dok su Stvoriteljeva djela vječna. Mi postižemo znanje iz ljudskog iskustva, dok mudrost stječemo spoznajom Previšnjega.

"Bog izliva kišu na zemlju, čini da sunce obasja klijanice i daje nam obilnu žetvu blagodatima ovog života i vječnog spasenja u narednim svjetovima. Naš Bog uživa veliku moć, njegovo ime je Veličanstveni i njegova narav je nedokučiva. Kad se razboliš, Previšnji je taj koji te iscijeli. Bog je prepun dobrote prema svima; Previšnji je naš najbolji prijatelj. Njegova milost ispunja sva mjesta i njegova dobrota obuhvaća sve duše. Previšnji se ne mijenja; on je taj koji nam pomaže kad trebamo pomoć. Gdje god se okreneš u molitvi, tu je lice Previšenjeg i otvoreno uho našeg Boga. Možeš se kriti od ljudi, ali ne od Boga. Bog nam nije daleko; on je sveprisutan. Bog ispunja sva mjesta i živi u srcu čovjeka koji se boji Njegovog svetog imena. Stvoreno je u Stvoritelju i Stvoritelj je u svojoj tvorevini. Mi tragamo za Previšnjim i nalazimo ga u svojim srcima. Ti tragaš za dobrim prijateljem i nađeš ga u svojoj duši.

"Čovjek koji zna Boga smatra sve ljude jednakim; svi su njegova braća. Iscrpljenost je jedina nagrada sebičnih, onih koji okreću leđa svojoj zemaljskoj braći. Boga će vidjeti oni koji vole svoje bližnje i koji imaju čisto srce. Bog nikad ne zaboravlja iskrenost. On vodi k istini one koji su čista srca, jer Bog je istina.

"U svojim životima nadjačajte greške i nadidite zlo ljubavlju prema živoj istini. Pri svakom odnosu s ljudima uzvratite dobro za zlo. Gospodin Bog je milosrdan i pun ljubavi; on je blag i milostiv. Volimo Boga jer je on prvo volio nas. Spasenje dolazi od Božje ljubavi i njegove milosti. Ubogi i imućni su braća. Bog im je otac. Ne čini drugima zlo koje ne želiš sebi samome.

"Uvijek zazivaj njegovo ime i kako budeš vjerovao ovom imenu, tako će ti molitve biti uslišene. Kolika je čast obožavati Previšnjeg! Svi svjetovi i svemiri obožavaju Previšnjeg. I kad moliš uvijek se zahvali--uzdigni molitvu do razine obožavanja. Molitva i obožavanje spriječavaju zlo i suzbijaju grijeh. Uvijek slavimo ime Previšnjeg. Čovjek koji se uzdaje u Previšnjeg sakriva svoje nedostatke od svemira. Kad stojiš pred Bogom čista srca, ničeg se ne bojiš. Previšnji je kao otac i majka koji te vole; on nas uistinu voli i mi smo njegova zemaljska djeca. Naš Bog nam oprašta i usmjerava naše stope stazama spasenja. On nas drži za ruku vodeći nas k sebi. Bog

ways of salvation. He will take us by the hand and lead us to himself. God saves those who trust him; he does not compel man to serve his name.

"If the faith of the Most High has entered your heart, then shall you abide free from fear throughout all the days of your life. Fret not yourself because of the prosperity of the ungodly; fear not those who plot evil; let the soul turn away from sin and put your whole trust in the God of salvation. The weary soul of the wandering mortal finds eternal rest in the arms of the Most High; the wise man hungers for the divine embrace; the earth child longs for the security of the arms of the Universal Father. The noble man seeks for that high estate wherein the soul of the mortal blends with the spirit of the Supreme. God is just: What fruit we receive not from our plantings in this world we shall receive in the next."

2. JUDAISM

The Kenites of Palestine salvaged much of the teaching of Melchizedek, and from these records, as preserved and modified by the Jews, Jesus and Ganid made the following selection:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and all things therein. And, behold, all he created was very good. The Lord, he is God; there is none beside him in heaven above or upon the earth beneath. Therefore shall you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork. Day after day utters speech; night after night shows knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. The Lord's work is great, and in wisdom has he made all things; the greatness of the Lord is unsearchable. He knows the number of the stars; he calls them all by their names.

"The power of the Lord is great and his understanding infinite. Says the Lord: 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.' God reveals the deep and secret things because the light dwells with him. The Lord is merciful and gracious; he is long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth. The Lord is good and upright; the meek will he guide in judgment. Taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who trusts God. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

"The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him and his righteousness even to our children's children. The Lord

daje spasenje onima koji se u njega uzdaju; on ne traži silom da služimo njegovom imenu.

"Ako je vjera u Previšnjeg ušla u tvoje srce, živjet ćeš bez straha do kraja života. Ne obaziri se na blagostanje bezbožnika; ne strahuj od onih koji kuju zlo; neka ti se duša okrene od grijeha i neka ti svo uzdanje bude u Boga spasenja. Iscrpljena duša zalutalog smrtnika nalazi vjeći počinak u rukama Previšnjeg; mudar čovjek čezne za utočištem u božanskom naručju; zemaljsko djeteta traži sigurnost u mišici Oca Svih. Plemenit čovjek teži tom visokom stanju spoja smrtničke duše s duhom Vrhovnog. Bog je pravedan: Plodove koje ne primiš kao rezultat rada i zalaganja na ovom svijetu, primit ćeš na slijedećem."

2. JUDAIZAM

Palestinski Kenijci su sačuvali velik dio Melkisedekovih učenja i na temelju ovih zapisa koje su Židovi očuvali i izmijenili, Isus i Ganid su izabrali slijedeće izvadke:

"U početku stvori Bog nebo i zemlju i sve što je na njima. I vidje Bog da je dobro. Gospodin je Bog; nema drugog osim njega gore na nebu ili ovdje na zemlji. Zato ljubi Gospodina, Boga svoga, svim srcem svojim, svom dušom svojom i svom snagom svojom. Zemlja će se ispuniti spoznajom Gospodinovom kao što se vodom pune mora. Nebesa slavu Božju kazuju, naviješta svod nebeski djelo ruku njegovih. Dan danu to objavljuje; a noć noći glas predaje. Nije to riječ, a ni govor nije gdje se njihov glas ne može čuti. Kako su silna djela Gospodinova, kako je mudro sve što je učinio; veličina Gospodinova je nedokučiva. On zna broj zvijezda; svaku njezinim imenom naziva.

"Moć je Gospodinova velika i njegovo je razumijevanje beskonačno. Gospodin kaže: "Kako je visoko iznad zemlje nebo, tako su puti moji iznad vaših putova i misli moje iznad vaših misli." Bog otkriva dubine i tajne, zato što svjetlost u njemu prebiva. Milosrdan i milostiv je Gospodin; on je spor na srdžbu i obiluje dobrotom i istinom. Gospodin je sama dobrota i pravednost; ponizne on na put privodi. Kušajte i vidite kako je dobar Gospodin! Blagoslovljen čovjek koji se uzdaje u Boga. Bog nam je zaklon i utvrda, pomoćnik spreman u nevolji.

"Milost Gospodinova je od vječnosti do vječnosti nad onima što ga se boje i njegova pravda nad djecom naše djece. Gospodin je milostiv i

is gracious and full of compassion. The Lord is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his creation; he heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Whither shall I go from God's spirit? whither shall I flee from the divine presence? Thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place; also with him who is of a contrite heart and a humble spirit!' None can hide himself from our God, for he fills heaven and earth. Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice. Let all nations say: The Lord reigns! Give thanks to God, for his mercy endures forever.

"The heavens declare God's righteousness, and all the people have seen his glory. It is God who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. His mercy is everlasting, and his truth endures to all generations. Our God is governor among the nations. Let the earth be filled with his glory! O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness and for his wonderful gifts to the children of men!

"God has made man a little less than divine and has crowned him with love and mercy. The Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; the knowledge of the Supreme is understanding. Says the Almighty God: 'Walk before me and be perfect.' Forget not that pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. He who rules his own spirit is mightier than he who takes a city. Says the Lord God, the Holy One: 'In returning to your spiritual rest shall you be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.' They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint. The Lord shall give you rest from your fear. Says the Lord: 'Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.'

"God is our Father; the Lord is our redeemer. God has created the universal hosts, and he preserves them all. His righteousness is like the mountains and his judgment like the great deep. He causes us to drink of the river of his pleasures, and in his light we shall see light. It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to the Most High; to show forth loving-kindness in the morning and the divine faithfulness every night. God's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness. Yes, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for God is with me. Surely goodness and

samilostan. Gospodin je dobar svima i njegove nježne milosti pokrivaju sve što je stvoreno; On liječi one koji su srca skrušena i povija rane njihove. Kamo da idem od duha Božjega i kamo da od božanske prisutnosti pobjegnem? Jer ovako govori Višnji i Uzvišeni koji vječno stoluje i ime mu je Sveti: "U prebivalištu visokom i svetom stolujem; ali ja sam i s onima koji su srca skrušenih i duha smjerna!" Nitko se ne može sakriti od našeg Boga, jer on ispunja nebo i zemlju. Neka se vesele nebesa i neka kliče zemlja. Neka se govori među narodima: Gospodin kraljuje! Slavite Boga jer je dobar, jer je vječna milost njegova.

"Nebesa navješćuju Božju pravednost, svi narodi gledaju njegovu slavu. Bog nas stvori, a ne mi sami; njegov smo narod i ovce paše njegove. Njegova je milost do vijeka, od koljena do koljena istina njegova. Naš Bog je vladar među narodima. Nek se zemlja napuni njegovom slavom! Neka hvale Gospodina za dobrotu njegovu, za čudesne darove njegove djeci ljudskoj!

"Bog je učinio ljude manje božanskim od sebe samoga i ljubavlju i milošću ih je okrunio. Gospodin zna put pravednih, a propast će put opakih. Početak mudrosti strah je od Gospodina; razboritost je spoznaja Vrhovnog. Ovako govori Svemogućí Bog: "Mojim hodi putem i budi savršen." Ne zaboravi da pred slomom ide oholost i pred padom uznositost. Tko nad svojim duhom vlada veći je od osvojitelja grada. Jer ovako govori Gospodin Bog koji je Svetac: "U vraćanju duhovnom miru--spas vam je; u smirenu uzdanju snaga je vaša." Onima što se u Gospodina uzdaju snaga se obnavlja; krila im rastu kao orlovima. Oni trče i ne sustaju; oni hode i ne umore se. Gospodin će ti dati da počineš od strahova. I kaže Gospodin: "Ne boj se, jer ja sam s tobom. Ne obaziri se polako jer ja sam Bog tvoj. Ja te krijepim i pomažem ti; ja te uzdržavam desnicom moje ispravnosti."

"Bog je naš Otac; Gospodin je naš otkupitelj. Bog je stvorio nebesa nad nebesima i vojsku njihovu i on ih uzdržava. Pravednost je njegova kao gorski vrhunci, a sudovi njegovi kao duboko more. Potocima svojih slasti on nas napaja i njegovom svjetlošću mi svjetlost vidimo. Dobro je slaviti Gospodina i pjevati imenu Previšnjeg; pokazati ljubeznu pravdu izjutra i božansku vjernost svake noći. Kraljevstvo Božje kraljevstvo je vječno i tvoja vladavina za sva pokoljenja. Gospodin je pastir moj; ni u čem ja ne oskudijevam. Na poljanama zelenim on mi daje odmora; na vrutke me tihane vodi. On krijepi dušu moju. Stazama pravim on me upravlja. Pa da mi je i dolinom smrti proći, zla se ne bojim jer Bog je sa mnom. Dobrota i milost pratit će mene sve dane života moga i u Gospodinovu ću domu prebivati kroz

mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

"Yahweh is the God of my salvation; therefore in the divine name will I put my trust. I will trust in the Lord with all my heart; I will lean not upon my own understanding. In all my ways I will acknowledge him, and he shall direct my paths. The Lord is faithful; he keeps his word with those who serve him; the just shall live by his faith. If you do not well, it is because sin lies at the door; men reap the evil they plough and the sin they sow. Fret not yourself because of evildoers. If you regard iniquity in your heart, the Lord will not hear you; if you sin against God, you also wrong your own soul. God will bring every man's work to judgment with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

"The Lord is near all who call upon him in sincerity and in truth. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. A merry heart does good like a medicine. No good thing will God withhold from those who walk uprightly. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. Thus says the Lord who created the heavens and who formed the earth:

'There is no God beside me, a just God and a savior. Look to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth. If you seek me, you shall find me if you search for me with all your heart.' The meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. Whoever sows iniquity shall reap calamity; they who sow the wind shall reap the whirlwind.

"Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord, 'Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.' But there is no peace for the wicked; it is your own sins which have withheld the good things from you. God is the health of my countenance and the joy of my soul. The eternal God is my strength; he is our dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. The Lord is near to those who are brokenhearted; he saves all who have a childlike spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous man, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. Commit your way to the Lord--trust him--and he will bring it to pass. He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

"Love your neighbor as yourself; bear a grudge against no man. Whatsoever you hate do to no man. Love your brother, for the Lord has said: 'I will love my children freely.' The path of the just is as a shining light which shines more and more until the perfect day. They who are wise shall shine as the

dane vječne.

"Jahve je Bog moga spasenja; zato se uzdam u božansko ime. Uzdam se u Boga svim srcem; ne oslanjam se na vlastiti razbor. Mislim na nj na svim mojim putovima i on će upraviti moje staze. Gospodin Bog je vjeran; on drži svoj savez s onima koji mu služe; pravednik živi od svoje vjere. A ne radiš li pravo, grijeh ti je kao zvijer na pragu; ljudi će požnjati zlo koje su izorali i grijeh što su posijali. Nemoj se žestiti na zlotvore. Ako u svom srcu zlo misliš, neće te uslišiti Gospodin; ako se ogriješiš o Boga, škodiš svojoj duši. Sva će skrivena djela, bilo dobra ili zla, Bog izvesti na sud. Čovjek je ono što misli u svojoj duši.

"Blizu je Gospodin svima koji ga iskreno i istinito zazivaju. Večer može donijeti suze, ali jutro donosi klicanje. Veselo je srce izvrstan lijek. Ne uskraćuje Gospodin dobra onima koji idu u nedužnosti. Boj se Boga i izvršavaj njegove zapovijedi, jer to je sva čovjekova dužnost. Da, tako govori Gospodin koji stvori nebesa i sazda zemlju:

"Nema Boga osim mene, pravednog Boga i spasitelja. Obratite se k meni da se spasite, svi krajevi zemlje. Tražite me i naći ćete ako me budete tražili u svojim srcima." Zemlja će ostati krotkima, obilje mira oni će s radošću uživati. Tko sije nepravdu, žanje nesreću; oni koji su posijali vjetar, požnjet će oluju.

"Hajde, dakle, da zajedno promislimo," kaže Gospodin, "Budu li vam grijesi kao grimiz, pobijeljet će poput snijega. Kao purpur budu li crveni, postat će kao vuna." Ali nema mira opakima; vaši vam grijesi oduzeše blagostanje. Bog je zdravlje mog duševnog mira i radost duše moje. Bog vječni moja je snaga; on je naše utočište, a na zemlji drevna mišica njegova. Blizu je Gospodin onima koji su slomljena srca; on daje spasenje ljudima djetinjeg duha. Pred ispravnima stoje mnoge nedaće, ali Gospodin ih iz sviju izručuje. Prepusti Jahvi putove svoje--u njega se uzdaj--i on će sve voditi. Ti što prebivaš pod tajnom zaštitom Previšnjega, počivaš pod sjenom Svemogućega.

"Voli bližnjega kao samog sebe; ne gaji srdžbe ni prema kome. Što sam mrziš ne čini drugima. Ljubi svoju braću, jer Gospodin kaže: "Ljubit ću svoju djecu badava." Pravednička je staza kao svjetlost svanuća koja je sve slabija i slabija do potpunog dana. Mudraci će blistati kao sjajni nebeski svod i koji su

brightness of the firmament and they who turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever. Let the wicked forsake his evil way and the unrighteous man his rebellious thoughts. Says the Lord: 'Let them return to me, and I will have mercy on them; I will abundantly pardon.'

"Says God, the creator of heaven and earth: 'Great peace have they who love my law. My commandments are: You shall love me with all your heart; you shall have no gods before me; you shall not take my name in vain; remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy; honor your father and mother; you shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not covet.'

"And to all who love the Lord supremely and their neighbors like themselves, the God of heaven says: 'I will ransom you from the grave; I will redeem you from death. I will be merciful to your children, as well as just. Have I not said of my creatures on earth, you are the sons of the living God? And have I not loved you with an everlasting love? Have I not called you to become like me and to dwell forever with me in Paradise?'"

3. BUDDHISM

Ganid was shocked to discover how near Buddhism came to being a great and beautiful religion without God, without a personal and universal Deity. However, he did find some record of certain earlier beliefs which reflected something of the influence of the teachings of the Melchizedek missionaries who continued their work in India even to the times of Buddha. Jesus and Ganid collected the following statements from the Buddhist literature:

"Out of a pure heart shall gladness spring forth to the Infinite; all my being shall be at peace with this supermortal rejoicing. My soul is filled with content, and my heart overflows with the bliss of peaceful trust. I have no fear; I am free from anxiety. I dwell in security, and my enemies cannot alarm me. I am satisfied with the fruits of my confidence. I have found the approach to the Immortal easy of access. I pray for faith to sustain me on the long journey; I know that faith from beyond will not fail me. I know my brethren will prosper if they become imbued with the faith of the Immortal, even the faith that creates modesty, uprightness, wisdom, courage, knowledge, and perseverance. Let us forsake sorrow and disown fear. By faith let us lay hold upon true righteousness and genuine manliness. Let us learn to meditate on justice and mercy. Faith is man's true wealth; it is the endowment of virtue and glory.

mnoge učili pravednosti, kao zvijezde navijeke u svu vječnost. Nek bezbožnik put svoj opaki ostavi, a zlikovac svoje pobunjeničke misli. Kaže Gospodin: "Nek se vrati k meni i ja ću mu se smilovati; ja sam velikodušan u praštanju."

"Kaže Gospodin, stvoritelj neba i zemlje: "Koji moj zakon ljube, velik mir uživaju. Moje su zapovijedi: Voli me cijelim srcem svojim; nemoj imati drugih bogova uz mene; ne uzimaj uzalud imena moga; sjeti se da svetkuješ dan subotnji; poštuj oca svoga i majku svoju; ne ubij; ne čini preljuba; ne kradi; ne svjedoči lažno na bližnjeg svoga; ne poželi ništa što ti ne pripada."

"I svakom koji voli Gospodina iznad svega drugog i koji voli svog bližnjeg kao samog sebe, Bog na nebu kaže: "Ja ću te izbaviti iz podzemlja; ja ću te od smrti spasiti. Ja ću biti milostiv i prema tvojoj djeci. Zar nisam rekao da su moja zemaljska stvorenja sinovi živućeg Boga? I zar vas nisam volio vječnom ljubavlju? Zar vas nisam pozvao da postanete nalik meni da sa mnom vječno živite u Raju?"

3. BUDIZAM

Ganid je bio iznenađen otkrićem da se Budizam uspio približiti velikoj i lijepoj religiji iako u sebi nije imao Boga, osobnog i univerzalnog Božanstva. Ganid je, međutim, bio u stanju pronaći zabilješke određenih ranijih vjerovanja koja ukazuju na određeni utjecaj učenja Melchizedekovih misionara koji su nastavili djelovati u Indiji sve do Budinog vremena. Isus i Ganid su prikupili slijedeću zbirku izvoda iz budističke književnosti:

"Iz čistog srca izvire radost do Beskonačnog; cijelo će mi biće biti u slozi s ovim nadsmrtničkim veseljem. Duša mi je puna zadovoljstva i srce prepuno blaženstva mirnog spokoja. Nemam straha; nemam zebnje. Živim u sigurnosti i neprijatelji me ne mogu uznemiriti. Zadovoljan sam s plodovima vlastitog samopouzdanja. Našao sam stazu koja vodi k Besmrtnom. Molim da me vjera podupre na ovom dugom putovanju; znam da me neće izdati vjera koja potječe iz onog drugog svijeta. Znam da će moji bližnji živjeti u blagostanju ako se obaviju vjerom Besmrtnog, vjerom koja stvara skromnost, ispravnost, mudrost, hrabrost, znanje i ustrajnost. Odbacimo patnje i oslobodimo se straha. Vjerom ostanimo na putu iskrene ispravnosti i istinske muževnosti. Naučimo meditirati o pravdi i milosti. Vjera je čovjekovo istinsko bogatstvo; ona je obdarenje vrline i slave.

"Unrighteousness is contemptible; sin is despicable. Evil is degrading, whether held in thought or wrought out in deeds. Pain and sorrow follow in the path of evil as the dust follows the wind. Happiness and peace of mind follow pure thinking and virtuous living as the shadow follows the substance of material things. Evil is the fruit of wrongly directed thinking. It is evil to see sin where there is no sin; to see no sin where there is sin. Evil is the path of false doctrines. Those who avoid evil by seeing things as they are gain joy by thus embracing the truth. Make an end of your misery by loathing sin. When you look up to the Noble One, turn away from sin with a whole heart. Make no apology for evil; make no excuse for sin. By your efforts to make amends for past sins you acquire strength to resist future tendencies thereto. Restraint is born of repentance. Leave no fault unconfessed to the Noble One.

"Cheerfulness and gladness are the rewards of deeds well done and to the glory of the Immortal. No man can rob you of the liberty of your own mind. When the faith of your religion has emancipated your heart, when the mind, like a mountain, is settled and immovable, then shall the peace of the soul flow tranquilly like a river of waters. Those who are sure of salvation are forever free from lust, envy, hatred, and the delusions of wealth. While faith is the energy of the better life, nevertheless, must you work out your own salvation with perseverance. If you would be certain of your final salvation, then make sure that you sincerely seek to fulfill all righteousness. Cultivate the assurance of the heart which springs from within and thus come to enjoy the ecstasy of eternal salvation.

"No religionist may hope to attain the enlightenment of immortal wisdom who persists in being slothful, indolent, feeble, idle, shameless, and selfish. But whoso is thoughtful, prudent, reflective, fervent, and earnest--even while he yet lives on earth--may attain the supreme enlightenment of the peace and liberty of divine wisdom. Remember, every act shall receive its reward. Evil results in sorrow and sin ends in pain. Joy and happiness are the outcome of a good life. Even the evildoer enjoys a season of grace before the time of the full ripening of his evil deeds, but inevitably there must come the full harvest of evil-doing. Let no man think lightly of sin, saying in his heart: 'The penalty of wrongdoing shall not come near me.' What you do shall be done to you, in the judgment of wisdom. Injustice done to your fellows shall come back upon you. The creature cannot escape the destiny of his deeds.

"The fool has said in his heart, 'Evil shall not overtake me'; but safety is found only when the soul craves reproof and the mind seeks wisdom. The wise

"Neispravnost zaslu uje prezir; grijeh je gnusan. Zlo je uni avaju e, bilo da se nalazi u mislima ili da se ispoljava u djelima. Bol i tuga slijede korake zla kao  to pra ina slijedi vjetar. Sre a i du evni mir prate  isto razmi ljanje i primjerno  ivljenje kao  to sjene prate tvar materijalnih predmeta. Zlo je posljedica misli koje nisu pravilno usmjerene. Zlo je vidjeti grijeh gdje ga nema; zlo je ne vidjeti grijeh gdje ga ima. Zlo je put neispravnih doktrina. Oni koji izbjegavaju zlo spoznajom stvarnosti posti u radost obuhva anjem istine. Okon aj svoju nesre u mr njom prema grijehu. Kada podigne  o i prema Plemenitom, svim se srcem odreci zla. Ne tra i isprike zlu; ne tra i opravdanja grijehu. Nastoje i ispraviti pro le grijehe na i snage da se suprotstavi  svim budućim tendencijama prema grijehu. Uzdr avanje proizlazi iz pokajanja. Ispovijedi svaku gre ku Plemenitom.

"Vedrina i dobro raspolo enje proizlaze iz uspješnih djela i slu e slavi Besmrtnog. Nitko ti ne mo e oduzeti slobodu uma. Kad ti religiozna vjera oslobodi srce, kad ti se um poput planine u vrsti u nepomi nosti, spokoj du evnog mira po ne te i kao bujica rijeke. Onima koji su ve  osigurali spasenje ne prijete po uda, zavist, mr nja i obmane bogatstva. Dok vjera predstavlja energiju boljeg  ivljenja, s ustrajno cu morate raditi na osiguranju spasenja. Ako  elite postići kona no spasenje, iskreno morate te iti ispunjenju svake ispravnosti. Gajite uvjerenje srca koje proizlazi iznutra i na taj na in primite u itak najve eg zanosa vje nog spasenja.

"Ni jedan vjernik se ne mo e nadati postignuću prosvjetljenja besmrtno mudrosti ako se ne oslobodi lijenosti, nemara, slabosti, dokonosti, besidnosti i sebi nosti. Ali oni koji su dubokomisleni, razboriti, meditativni, svesrdni i marljivi--i koji postanu sve ovo za vrijeme zemaljskog  ivota--mogu postići najvi e prosvjetljenje spokoja i slobode bo anske mudrosti. Ne zaboravite da za svakim djelom slijedi nagrada. Zlo donosi tugu, a grijeh stvara bol. Dobar  ivot ra a rado cu i sre om. Dok zlotvor mo e u ivati u periodu milosti prethodno punoj zrelosti svojih zlih djela, neminovno nastupa kona na  etva njegovog zlo initeljstva. Nek se nitko ne igra s grijehom u srcu govoreći: "Ne e me sna i kazna zlog djela." Ono  to u ini  drugima samog  e te do ekati u sudu mudrosti. Na tebe  e pasti nepravda koju u ini  svojim bli njima. Stvorenje ne mo e izbjeci sudbinu svojih djela.

"Budala si govori u srcu, "Ne e me ovladati zlo"; ali sigurnost vlada jedino kad du a tra i prijekor i kad um tra i mudrost. Mudar  ovjek je

man is a noble soul who is friendly in the midst of his enemies, tranquil among the turbulent, and generous among the grasping. Love of self is like weeds in a goodly field. Selfishness leads to grief; perpetual care kills. The tamed mind yields happiness. He is the greatest of warriors who overcomes and subdues himself. Restraint in all things is good. He alone is a superior person who esteems virtue and is observant of his duty. Let not anger and hate master you. Speak harshly of no one. Contentment is the greatest wealth. What is given wisely is well saved. Do not to others those things you would not wish done to you. Pay good for evil; overcome evil with the good.

"A righteous soul is more to be desired than the sovereignty of all the earth. Immortality is the goal of sincerity; death, the end of thoughtless living. Those who are earnest die not; the thoughtless are dead already. Blessed are they who have insight into the deathless state. Those who torture the living will hardly find happiness after death. The unselfish go to heaven, where they rejoice in the bliss of infinite liberality and continue to increase in noble generosity. Every mortal who thinks righteously, speaks nobly, and acts unselfishly shall not only enjoy virtue here during this brief life but shall also, after the dissolution of the body, continue to enjoy the delights of heaven."

4. HINDUISM

The missionaries of Melchizedek carried the teachings of the one God with them wherever they journeyed. Much of this monotheistic doctrine, together with other and previous concepts, became embodied in the subsequent teachings of Hinduism. Jesus and Ganid made the following excerpts:

"He is the great God, in every way supreme. He is the Lord who encompasses all things. He is the creator and controller of the universe of universes. God is one God; he is alone and by himself; he is the only one. And this one God is our Maker and the last destiny of the soul. The Supreme One is brilliant beyond description; he is the Light of Lights. Every heart and every world is illuminated by this divine light. God is our protector--he stands by the side of his creatures--and those who learn to know him become immortal. God is the great source of energy; he is the Great Soul. He exercises universal lordship over all. This one God is loving, glorious, and adorable. Our God is supreme in power and abides in the supreme abode. This true Person is eternal and divine; he is the primal Lord of heaven. All the prophets have hailed him, and he has revealed himself to us. We worship him. O Supreme Person, source of beings, Lord of creation, and ruler of the universe, reveal to us, your creatures, the power whereby you abide immanent! God has made the sun and the stars; he is bright, pure, and self-existent. His eternal

plemenita duša koja je prijateljska prema svojim neprijateljima, koja je mirna usred bure i darežljiva prema grabežljivcima. Samoljublje naliči korovu u plodnom polju. Sebičnost vodi k patnji, dok stalna zaokupljenost sobom djeluje ubitačno. Ukroćen um donosi radost. Najveći od svih junaka je onaj koji nadvlada i pokori samog sebe. Dobro je imati samokontrolu u svemu. Jedino je ona osoba velika koja cijeni vrlinu i poštuje dužnost. Nek vas ne ovlada ljutnja i mržnja. Nikome se oštro ne obraćajte. Zadovoljstvo je najveće blago. Što mudro date dobro sačuvate. Ne čini drugima što nećeš da drugi učine tebi. Uzvrati dobro za zlo; prevladaj zlo dobrotom.

"Bolje je čovjeku da teži za ispravnošću vlastite duše nego vlašću nad cijelim svijetom. Besmrtnost je posljedica iskrenosti; smrt je posljedica nepromišljenog življenja. Iskreni neće umrijeti; nepromišljeni su već mrtvi. Blago onima koji imaju uvida u besmrtno stanje. Oni koji muče žive ljude teško mogu naći sreću nakon smrti. Nesebični idu na nebo gdje nalaze sreću beskonačnog slobodoumlja i sve više plemenite darežljivosti. Svakog smrtnika koji misli ispravno, govori plemenito i djeluje nesebično čeka ne samo užitak vrline za vrijeme ovog kratkog života već i trajni užitak nebeskih radosti nakon raspada zemaljskog tijela."

4. HINDUIZAM

Gdje god su putovali, Melkisedekovi misionari su raznosili učenja o jednom Bogu. Veći dio ovih jednobožačkih učenja zajedno s drugim ranijim idejama, je ušao u sastav kasnijih hinduističkih učenja. Isus i Ganid su izabrali slijedeće odlomke:

"On je veliki Bog koji je po svemu najveći. On je Gospodin koji sve obuhvaća. On je stvoritelj i upravitelj svemira nad svemirima. Bog je jedan Bog; on je sam po sebi; on je sam za sebe i jedan jedini. I ovaj jedan Bog je naš Stvoritelj i posljednja sudbina duše. Vrhovni je neopisivo veličanstven; on je Svjetlo svakog Svjetla. Svako srce i svaka riječ su osvijetljeni ovim božanskim svjetlom. Bog nam je zaštitnik--on stoji uz svoja stvorenja--i oni koji ga upoznaju postaju besmrtni. Bog je veliki izvor energije; on je Velika Duša. On je univerzalni vladar svega. Ovaj jedan Bog je pun ljubavi, veličanstven i dostojan obožavanja. Naš Bog ima najveću moć i živi u vrhovnom prebivalištu. Ova istinska Osoba je vječna i božanska; on je glavni Gospodin nebesa. Svi proroci su govorili u njegovu slavu i on nam se očitovao. Mi ga obožavamo. Ti--Vrhunska Osoba, izvoru svih bića, Gospodinu tvorevine, vladaru svemira--obznani nama, tvojim stvorenjima, moć koja te čini imanentnim! Bog je saznao sunce i zvijezde; on je sjajan, čist i samopostojeći. Njegovo vječno znanje je božanski mudro. Zlo ne može prodrijeti u Vječnoga. Budući da

knowledge is divinely wise. The Eternal is unpenetrated by evil. Inasmuch as the universe sprang from God, he does rule it appropriately. He is the cause of creation, and hence are all things established in him.

"God is the sure refuge of every good man when in need; the Immortal One cares for all mankind. God's salvation is strong and his kindness is gracious. He is a loving protector, a blessed defender. Says the Lord: 'I dwell within their own souls as a lamp of wisdom. I am the splendor of the splendid and the goodness of the good. Where two or three gather together, there am I also.' The creature cannot escape the presence of the Creator. The Lord even counts the ceaseless winking of every mortal's eyes; and we worship this divine Being as our inseparable companion. He is all-prevailing, bountiful, omnipresent, and infinitely kind. The Lord is our ruler, shelter, and supreme controller, and his primeval spirit dwells within the mortal soul. The Eternal Witness to vice and virtue dwells within man's heart. Let us long meditate on the adorable and divine Vivifier; let his spirit fully direct our thoughts. From this unreal world lead us to the real! From darkness lead us to the light! From death guide us to immortality!

"With our hearts purged of all hate, let us worship the Eternal. Our God is the Lord of prayer; he hears the cry of his children. Let all men submit their wills to him, the Resolute. Let us delight in the liberality of the Lord of prayer. Make prayer your inmost friend and worship your soul's support. 'If you will but worship me in love,' says the Eternal, 'I will give you the wisdom to attain me, for my worship is the virtue common to all creatures.' God is the illuminator of the gloomy and the power of those who are faint. Since God is our strong friend, we have no more fear. We praise the name of the never-conquered Conqueror. We worship him because he is man's faithful and eternal helper. God is our sure leader and unfailing guide. He is the great parent of heaven and earth, possessed of unlimited energy and infinite wisdom. His splendor is sublime and his beauty divine. He is the supreme refuge of the universe and the changeless guardian of everlasting law. Our God is the Lord of life and the Comforter of all men; he is the lover of mankind and the helper of those who are distressed. He is our life giver and the Good Shepherd of the human flocks. God is our father, brother, and friend. And we long to know this God in our inner being.

"We have learned to win faith by the yearning of our hearts. We have attained wisdom by the restraint of our senses, and by wisdom we have experienced peace in the Supreme. He who is full of faith worships truly when his inner self is intent upon God. Our God wears the heavens as a mantle; he also inhabits the

svemir potječe od Boga, Bog zna upravljati svemirom. On je uzrok postojanja cijele tvorevine i sve je stoga u njemu utemeljeno.

"Bog je sigurno utočište svakog dobrog čovjeka koji traži pomoć; Besmrtni se brine za cijelo čovječanstvo. Božje spasenje je snažno, dok je njegova ljubeznost milostiva. On je brižni zaštitnik, blaženi branitelj. Kaže Gospodin: "Ja živim u samim njihovim dušama kao lampa mudrosti. Ja sam veličanstvo veličanstvenog i dobrota dobrog. Gdje se dva ili tri skupe, tu sam i ja." Stvorenje ne može pobjeći od prisutnosti Stvoritelja. Gospodin broji besprekidne treptaje oka svakog smrtnika; i mi obožavamo ovo božansko Biće kao našeg neodvojivog pratitelja. On je pretežan, darežljiv, sveprisutan i beskonačno ljubezan. Gospodin je naš vladar, naše utočište i vrhovni upravitelj; njegov praiskonski duh živi u smrtničkoj duši. Vječni Svjedok svih poroka i vrline živi u samom čovjekovom srcu. Dobro promislite o božanskom Oživljavatelju koji je dostojan svakog obožavanja i neka njegov duh upravi vaše misli. Iz ovog nestvarnog svijeta povedi nas u stvarni! Iz tame nas povedi u svjetlo! Iz smrti nas uvedi u besmrtnost!

"Obožavajmo Vječnog srcima očišćenim od svake mržnje. Naš Bog je Gospodin molitve; on čuje plač svoje djece. Neka svi ljudi pokore svoju volju njemu, Odlučnome. Uživajmo u slobodoumlju Boga molitve. Nek molitva bude tvoj najbolji prijatelj, a obožavanje potpora tvojoj duši. "Ako me budete obožavali u ljubavi," kaže Vječni, "pružit ću vam mudrost koja vodi k meni, jer svim bićima je zajedničko to što obožavaju mene, Boga." Bog osvjetljuje tminu i daje moć slabima. Mi se nemamo čega plašiti jer Bog je naš moćni prijatelj. Mi slavimo ime Osvajača koji nikad nije osvojen. Mi ga obožavamo jer on je čovjekov vjerni i vječni pomagač. Bog je naš sigurni vođa i nepogrešivi vodič. On je veliki roditelj neba i zemlje koji posjeduje neograničenu energiju i beskonačnu mudrost. Njegovo veličanstvo je blaženo i njegova ljepota je božanska. On je vrhovno utočište svemira i nemijenajući čuvar vječnog zakona. Naš Bog je Gospodin života i Utjeha svih ljudi; on voli čovječanstvo i pomaže unesrećenima. On je davatelj života i Dobri Pastir ljudskih stada. Bog nam je otac, brat i prijatelj. I u svom unutaršnjem biću, čovjek teži spoznaji ovog Boga.

"Naučili smo osvojiti vjeru žudnjom svoga srca. Postigli smo mudrost obuzdavanjem čula, dok smo mudrošću doživjeli spokoj Vrhovnog. Onaj koji je pun vjere istinski doživljava obožavanje kad se unutaršnjim bićem usmjeri na Boga. Naš Bog se ogrće nebesima kao plaštem; on naseljava i drugih

other six wide-spreading universes. He is supreme over all and in all. We crave forgiveness from the Lord for all of our trespasses against our fellows; and we would release our friend from the wrong he has done us. Our spirit loathes all evil; therefore, O Lord, free us from all taint of sin. We pray to God as a comforter, protector, and savior--one who loves us.

"The spirit of the Universe Keeper enters the soul of the simple creature. That man is wise who worships the One God. Those who strive for perfection must indeed know the Lord Supreme. He never fears who knows the blissful security of the Supreme, for the Supreme says to those who serve him, 'Fear not, for I am with you.' The God of providence is our Father. God is truth. And it is the desire of God that his creatures should understand him--come fully to know the truth. Truth is eternal; it sustains the universe. Our supreme desire shall be union with the Supreme. The Great Controller is the generator of all things--all evolves from him. And this is the sum of duty: Let no man do to another what would be repugnant to himself; cherish no malice, smite not him who smites you, conquer anger with mercy, and vanquish hate by benevolence. And all this we should do because God is a kind friend and a gracious father who remits all our earthly offenses.

"God is our Father, the earth our mother, and the universe our birthplace. Without God the soul is a prisoner; to know God releases the soul. By meditation on God, by union with him, there comes deliverance from the illusions of evil and ultimate salvation from all material fetters. When man shall roll up space as a piece of leather, then will come the end of evil because man has found God. O God, save us from the threefold ruin of hell--lust, wrath, and avarice! O soul, gird yourself for the spirit struggle of immortality! When the end of mortal life comes, hesitate not to forsake this body for a more fit and beautiful form and to awake in the realms of the Supreme and Immortal, where there is no fear, sorrow, hunger, thirst, or death. To know God is to cut the cords of death. The God-knowing soul rises in the universe like the cream appears on top of the milk. We worship God, the all-worker, the Great Soul, who is ever seated in the heart of his creatures. And they who know that God is enthroned in the human heart are destined to become like him--immortal. Evil must be left behind in this world, but virtue follows the soul to heaven.

"It is only the wicked who say: The universe has neither truth nor a ruler; it was only designed for our lusts. Such souls are deluded by the smallness of their intellects. They thus abandon themselves to the enjoyment of their lusts and deprive their souls of the joys of virtue and the pleasures of righteousness. What can be greater than to experience salvation from sin?

šest prostranih svemira. On upravlja u svima i nad svima. Gospodin nam daje oprostjenje za sve što smo zgriješili svojim bližnjima; i mi tako opraštamo prijatelju za zlo koje nam je počinio. Naš duh prezire svako zlo; stoga nas, Gospodine, oslobodi ljage svakog grijeha. Mi molimo Bogu kao svoju utjehu, zaštitnika i spasitelja--onoga koji nas voli.

"Duh Kozmičkog Čuvara ulazi u dušu priprostog stvorenja. Mudar je čovjek koji obožava Jednog Boga. Oni koji teže savršenstvu moraju poznati Vrhovnog Boga. Ne strahuje taj koji poznaje blaženu sigurnost Vrhovnog, jer Vrhovni kaže svojim slugama, "Ne boj se, jer ja sam s tobom." Bog providnosti je naš Otac. Bog je istina. I Bog želi da ga njegova stvorenja poznaju--da u cjelosti spoznaju njegovu istinu. Istina je vječna; ona podržava svemir. Naša vrhovna želja je jedinstvo s Vrhovnim. Veliki Upravitelj je pokretač svega--sve potječe od njega. I ovo je bit svake dužnosti: Neka ni jedan čovjek ne učini drugome to što mu je samom mrsko; ne hranite zlobu, ne uzvraćajte udarac udarcem, osvojite srdžbu milošću i pobijedite mržnju blagonaklonošću. I sve ovo trebamo učiniti zato što nam je Bog ljubezni prijatelj i milostivi otac koji oprašta sve naše zemaljske grijehove.

"Bog nam je Otac, zemlja nam je majka, dok nam je svemir rodno mjesto. Bez Boga duša je utamničena; poznavanje Boga oslobađa dušu. Meditiranjem o Bogu, jedinstvom s Bogom, čovjek se može izručiti od obmana zla i postići konačno spasenje od svih materijalnih okova. Kad čovjek smota prostor kao da je komad kože, završava se zlo jer čovjek nalazi Boga. O Bože, spasi nas od trostrukog uništenja pakla--od požude, srdžbe i škrtosti! Dušo, pripasaj se za borbu duha koja ima za cilj besmrtnost! Na kraju smrtničkog života ne oklijevajte napustiti ovo tijelo, poprimiti prikladnije i ljepše obličje i probuditi se u domenama Vrhovnog i Besmrtnog gdje nema straha, patnje, gladi, žeđi i smrti. Poznavati Boga znači pokidati konce smrti. Duša koja poznaje Boga niče u svemiru kao što se vrhnje javlja na površini mlijeka. Mi obožavamo Boga, svečinitelja, Veliku Dušu, onoga koji uvijek sjedi u srcu svojih stvorenja. I onima koji znaju da Bog stoluje u ljudskim srcima suđeno je da postanu nalik Bogu--besmrtni. Zlo ostaje na ovom svijetu, dok vrlina prati dušu koja putuje na nebo.

"Jedino pokvareni kažu: Svemir nema ni istine ni vladara; on postoji jedino za naše požude. Takve su duše obmanute malenokošću svoga intelekta. One se tako prepuštaju užitku svojih požuda i oduzimaju svojim dušama radosti vrline i užitke ispravnosti. Zar ima nešto veće od spasenja od zla? Besmrtni čovjek je onaj koji je vidio Vrhovnog.

The man who has seen the Supreme is immortal. Man's friends of the flesh cannot survive death; virtue alone walks by man's side as he journeys ever onward toward the gladsome and sunlit fields of Paradise."

5. ZOROASTRIANISM

Zoroaster was himself directly in contact with the descendants of the earlier Melchizedek missionaries, and their doctrine of the one God became a central teaching in the religion which he founded in Persia. Aside from Judaism, no religion of that day contained more of these Salem teachings. From the records of this religion Ganid made the following excerpts:

"All things come from, and belong to, the One God--all-wise, good, righteous, holy, resplendent, and glorious. This, our God, is the source of all luminosity. He is the Creator, the God of all good purposes, and the protector of the justice of the universe. The wise course in life is to act in consonance with the spirit of truth. God is all-seeing, and he beholds both the evil deeds of the wicked and the good works of the righteous; our God observes all things with a flashing eye. His touch is the touch of healing. The Lord is an all-powerful benefactor. God stretches out his beneficent hand to both the righteous and the wicked. God established the world and ordained the rewards for good and for evil. The all-wise God has promised immortality to the pious souls who think purely and act righteously. As you supremely desire, so shall you be. The light of the sun is as wisdom to those who discern God in the universe.

"Praise God by seeking the pleasure of the Wise One. Worship the God of light by joyfully walking in the paths ordained by his revealed religion. There is but one Supreme God, the Lord of Lights. We worship him who made the waters, plants, animals, the earth, and the heavens. Our God is Lord, most beneficent. We worship the most beauteous, the bountiful Immortal, endowed with eternal light. God is farthest from us and at the same time nearest to us in that he dwells within our souls. Our God is the divine and holiest Spirit of Paradise, and yet he is more friendly to man than the most friendly of all creatures. God is most helpful to us in this greatest of all businesses, the knowing of himself. God is our most adorable and righteous friend; he is our wisdom, life, and vigor of soul and body. Through our good thinking the wise Creator will enable us to do his will, thereby attaining the realization of all that is divinely perfect.

"Lord, teach us how to live this life in the flesh while preparing for the next life of the spirit. Speak to us, Lord, and we will do your bidding. Teach us the good paths, and we will go right. Grant us that we may attain union with you. We know that the religion is right which leads to union with

Prijatelji materijalnog tijela ne mogu preživjeti smrt; jedino vrlina slijedi čovjeka na progresivnom putu prema radosnim i osunčanim poljima Raja."

5. ZARATUSTRIZAM

Zaratustra je sam stupio u neposredan kontakt s potomcima ranijih Melkisedekovih misionara i njihova doktrina o jednom Bogu je postala centralno učenje religije koja je utemeljena u Perziji. Poslije Judaizma ova religija sadrži najviše ostataka ovih negdašnjih salemskih učenja. Iz zapisa ove religije Ganid je izabrao slijedeće izvode:

"Sve stvari potječu od Jednog Boga kojemu pripadaju--svemudrog, dobrog, svetog, sjajnog i veličanstvenog. Iz ovog Boga, našeg Boga, potječe sva blistavost. On je Stvoritelj, Bog svih dobrih namjera i zaštitnik pravde cijelog svemira. Mudar čovjek živi u skladu s duhom istine. Bog sve vidi; on vidi zla djela grešnika i dobra djela pravednika; naš Bog sve vidi jednim treptajem oka. Njegov dodir je dodir iscjeljenja. Gospodin je svemoguć i dobročinitelj. Bog jednako pruža svoju blagonaklonu ruku pravedniku i grešniku. Bog je utemeljio svijet i odredio nagradu dobru i zlu. Svemudri Bog je obećao besmrtnost pobožnim dušama čistih misli i ispravnih djela. Kakve su tvoje duboke želje, takav si i ti. Sunčeva svjetlost je kao mudrost onih koji raspoznaju Boga u svemiru.

"Slavite Boga težeći radostima Mudroga. Obožavajte Boga svjetlosti radosno hodeći stazama koje je utemeljila njegova obznanjena religija. Samo je jedan Vrhovni Bog, Gospodin Svjetla. Mi obožavamo onog koji je načinio vode, biljke, životinje, zemlju i nebesa. Naš Bog je Gospodin, najveći dobročinitelj. Mi obožavamo najljepšeg, najdarežljivijeg Besmrtnog koji je obdaren vječnom svjetlošću. Dok je Bog najudaljeniji od nas, on nam je istovremeno najbliži jer živi u našim dušama. Naš Bog je božanski i najsvetiji Duh Raja koji nam je više naklonjen kao prijatelj od svih drugih stvorenja. Bog nam može pružiti najveću pomoć pri ovom najbitnijem poslu samopoznavanja. Bog je naš najdraži i najispravniji prijatelj; on je naša mudrost, život i snaga duše i tijela. Kroz naše dobre misli mudri Stvoritelj nam pomaže da izvršimo njegovu volju i da tako postignemo ostvarenje svega što je božanski savršeno.

"Gospodine, nauči nas da živimo ovaj život u tjelesnom obličju dok se pripremamo za naredni život duha. Reci nam, Gospodine, i mi ćemo ispuniti tvoje želje. Uči nas dobrim stazama i ići ćemo pravim putem. Dopusti nam da se sjedinimo s tobom. Mi znamo da je religija dobra ako vodi k jedinstvu s

righteousness. God is our wise nature, best thought, and righteous act. May God grant us unity with the divine spirit and immortality in himself!

"This religion of the Wise One cleanses the believer from every evil thought and sinful deed. I bow before the God of heaven in repentance if I have offended in thought, word, or act--intentionally or unintentionally--and I offer prayers for mercy and praise for forgiveness. I know when I make confession, if I purpose not to do again the evil thing, that sin will be removed from my soul. I know that forgiveness takes away the bonds of sin. Those who do evil shall receive punishment, but those who follow truth shall enjoy the bliss of an eternal salvation. Through grace lay hold upon us and minister saving power to our souls. We claim mercy because we aspire to attain perfection; we would be like God."

6. SUDUANISM (JAINISM)

The third group of religious believers who preserved the doctrine of one God in India--the survival of the Melchizedek teaching--were known in those days as the Suduanists. Latterly these believers have become known as followers of Jainism. They taught:

"The Lord of Heaven is supreme. Those who commit sin will not ascend on high, but those who walk in the paths of righteousness shall find a place in heaven. We are assured of the life hereafter if we know truth. The soul of man may ascend to the highest heaven, there to develop its true spiritual nature, to attain perfection. The estate of heaven delivers man from the bondage of sin and introduces him to the final beatitudes; the righteous man has already experienced an end of sin and all its associated miseries. Self is man's invincible foe, and self is manifested as man's four greatest passions: anger, pride, deceit, and greed. Man's greatest victory is the conquest of himself. When man looks to God for forgiveness, and when he makes bold to enjoy such liberty, he is thereby delivered from fear. Man should journey through life treating his fellow creatures as he would like to be treated."

7. SHINTO

Only recently had the manuscripts of this Far-Eastern religion been lodged in the Alexandrian library. It was the one world religion of which Ganid had never heard. This belief also contained remnants of the earlier Melchizedek teachings as is shown by the following abstracts:

"Says the Lord: 'You are all recipients of my divine power; all men enjoy my ministry of mercy. I derive great pleasure in the multiplication of

ispravnošću. Bog je naša mudra narav, naša najbolja misao i naš najispravniji čin. Bože, podari nam jedinstvo s božanskim duhom i besmrtnost u tebi!

"Religija Mudrog Bića čisti vjernika od svake zle misli i grešnog djela. Pokajnički se klanjam pred nebeskim Bogom ako sam ga uvrijedio svojom mišlju, riječju ili djelom--namjerno ili nenamjerno--i nudim molitvu za milost i hvalu za oprostjenje. I znam da nakon što se ispovijedim, ako više ne budem činio zla djela, taj će grijeh biti uklonjen s moje duše. Znam da oprostjenje uklanja okove grijeha. Zlotvori će primiti kaznu, dok će oni koji slijede istinu uživati u blaženstvu vječnog spasenja. Milostivo nas upravi i obdari naše duše spasiteljskom snagom. Tražimo milost prije nego što posegnemo za savršenstvom; želimo biti poput Boga."

6. SUDUANIZAM (DŽAINIZAM)

Treća grupa religioznih vjernika koji su u Indiji očuvali doktrinu jednoboštva--ostatak Melkisedekovih učenja--je bila poznata kao pokret suduanizma. Ovi vjernici su kasnije postali poznati kao sljedbenici džainizma. Učili su sljedeće:

"Bog Neba je najveći. Činitelji grijeha neće dostići nebesa, dok će oni koji hode stazama ispravnosti naći svoje mjesto na nebu. Ako znamo istinu, čeka nas vječni život. Čovjekova duša može uznapredovati do najviših nebesa i tamo razviti svoju duhovnu narav--postići savršenstvo. Nebesko stanje oslobađa čovjeka od robovanja grijehu i uvodi ga u najveća blaženstva; ispravan čovjek je već doživio kraj grijeha i svih svojih patnji. Zaokupljenost samim sobom je čovjekov najveći neprijatelj i bitak se ispoljava kroz četiri najveće strasti: ljutnju, ponos, samoobmanu i pohlepu. Čovjekova najveća pobjeda je pobjeda nad samim sobom. Kad se čovjek obrati Bogu tražeći oprostjenje i kad smogne hrabrosti da uživa u takvoj slobodi, bit će oslobođen straha. Čovjek treba putovati kroz život ophodeći se prema svojim bližnjima onako kako hoće da se oni ophode prema njemu."

7. ŠINTOIZAM

Ova dalekoistočnjačka religija je tek odskora postala dijelom zapisa aleksandrijske biblioteke. Bila je to jedina religija za koju Ganid nije već čuo. Ova religija je pored toga sadržavala ranija Melkisedekova učenja očitovana u sljedećim izvodima:

"Kaže Gospodin: "Svi ste primatelji moje božanske moći; svi ljudi uživaju službu moje milosti. Jako mi je drago kad poraste broj pravednika

righteous men throughout the land. In both the beauties of nature and the virtues of men does the Prince of Heaven seek to reveal himself and to show forth his righteous nature. Since the olden people did not know my name, I manifested myself by being born into the world as a visible existence and endured such abasement even that man should not forget my name. I am the maker of heaven and earth; the sun and the moon and all the stars obey my will. I am the ruler of all creatures on land and in the four seas. Although I am great and supreme, still I have regard for the prayer of the poorest man. If any creature will worship me, I will hear his prayer and grant the desire of his heart.'

"Every time man yields to anxiety, he takes one step away from the leading of the spirit of his heart.' Pride obscures God. If you would obtain heavenly help, put away your pride; every hair of pride shuts off saving light, as it were, by a great cloud. If you are not right on the inside, it is useless to pray for that which is on the outside. 'If I hear your prayers, it is because you come before me with a clean heart, free from falsehood and hypocrisy, with a soul which reflects truth like a mirror. If you would gain immortality, forsake the world and come to me.'"

8. TAOISM

The messengers of Melchizedek penetrated far into China, and the doctrine of one God became a part of the earlier teachings of several Chinese religions; the one persisting the longest and containing most of the monotheistic truth was Taoism, and Ganid collected the following from the teachings of its founder:

"How pure and tranquil is the Supreme One and yet how powerful and mighty, how deep and unfathomable! This God of heaven is the honored ancestor of all things. If you know the Eternal, you are enlightened and wise. If you know not the Eternal, then does ignorance manifest itself as evil, and thus do the passions of sin arise. This wondrous Being existed before the heavens and the earth were. He is truly spiritual; he stands alone and changes not. He is indeed the world's mother, and all creation moves around him. This Great One imparts himself to men and thereby enables them to excel and to survive. Even if one has but a little knowledge, he can still walk in the ways of the Supreme; he can conform to the will of heaven.

"All good works of true service come from the Supreme. All things depend on the Great Source for life. The Great Supreme seeks no credit for his bestowals. He is supreme in power, yet he remains hidden from our gaze. He unceasingly transmutes his attributes while perfecting his creatures. The heavenly Reason is slow and patient in his designs but sure of

na zemlji. Knez Nebesa se nastoji očitovati u vidu prirodnih ljepota i ljudskih vrлина kako bi ispoljio svoju ispravnu narav. Kako u davna vremena ljudi nisu znali moga imena, ispoljio sam se rođenjem na svijetu i vidljivom egzistencijom i pretrpio sam takvo poniženje da ljudi ne trebaju zaboraviti moga imena. Ja sam načinio nebo i zemlju; sunce i mjesec i sve zvijezde slijede moju volju. Ja sam vladar svih stvorenja na zemlji i u četiri mora. Pored sve svoje veličine i vrhovnosti, čujem i molitve najsiromašnijih. Ja uslišujem molitve svakog stvorenja koje me obožava i udovoljavam željama njegovog srca.

""Prepuštanjem malodušnosti čovjek se udaljava od vodstva duha svoga srca." Ponos zaklanja pogled na Boga. Ako želite primiti nebesku pomoć, oslobodite se ponosa; svaka nit uznositosti djeluje kao tmurni oblak koji zaklanja svjetlo spasenja. Ako niste pravi u nutрини, beskorisno je moliti za ono što pripada vanjštini. "Ako čujem tvoje molitve, to je zato što mi se obraćaš čista srca, bez laži i licemjerstva, s dušom koja odražava istinu poput zrcala. Ako želite postići besmrtnost, odbacite svijet i slijedite za mnom."

8. TAOIZAM

Melkisedekovi glasnici su zašli duboko u unutrašnjost Kine i jednobožačka doktrina je postala dijelom ranijih učenja više kineskih religija; Taoizam se zadržao najdulje od svih ovih religija u sebi noseći najviše jednobožačke istine i Ganid je izabrao slijedeće odlomke koji vuku porijeklo od utemeljitelja ove religije:

"Kako je čist i spokojan Vrhovni, dok je moćan i snažan, dubok i nedokučiv! Ovaj Bog nebasa je prazvor sviju i svega. Ako poznate Vječnog, primit ćete prosvjetljenje i mudrost. Ako ne poznate Vječnog, vaše se neznanje ispoljava kao zlo i u vama se rađaju strasti grijeha. Ovo čudeno Biće je postojalo prije neba i zemlje. On je istinski duhovan; on stoji sam za sebe i ne mijenja se. On je uistinu majka cijelog svijeta i sve se stvoreno oko njega kreće. Ovaj Veliki sebe podaruje ljudima i tako im pomaže da se uzdignu i da prežive smrt. Ako čovjek ima i najmanju spoznaju, može ići stazama Vrhovnog; on može postići sklad s nebeskom voljom.

"Svako dobro djelo istinske službe potječe od Vrhovnog. Sve ovisi o Velikom Izvoru života. Veliki Vrhovni ne traži priznanja za svoja podarenja. Dok se krije od naših očiju, on ima najveću moć. On neprestano preobražava svoje osobine usavršavajući svoja stvorenja. Nebeski Razbor ima polagane i strpljive namjere koje se moraju

his accomplishments. The Supreme overspreads the universe and sustains it all. How great and mighty are his overflowing influence and drawing power! True goodness is like water in that it blesses everything and harms nothing. And like water, true goodness seeks the lowest places, even those levels which others avoid, and that is because it is akin to the Supreme. The Supreme creates all things, in nature nourishing them and in spirit perfecting them. And it is a mystery how the Supreme fosters, protects, and perfects the creature without compelling him. He guides and directs, but without self-assertion. He ministers progression, but without domination.

"The wise man universalizes his heart. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Those who aspire to greatness must learn to humble themselves. In creation the Supreme became the world's mother. To know one's mother is to recognize one's sonship. He is a wise man who regards all parts from the point of view of the whole. Relate yourself to every man as if you were in his place. Recompense injury with kindness. If you love people, they will draw near you--you will have no difficulty in winning them.

"The Great Supreme is all-pervading; he is on the left hand and on the right; he supports all creation and indwells all true beings. You cannot find the Supreme, neither can you go to a place where he is not. If a man recognizes the evil of his ways and repents of sin from the heart, then may he seek forgiveness; he may escape the penalty; he may change calamity into blessing. The Supreme is the secure refuge for all creation; he is the guardian and savior of mankind. If you seek for him daily, you shall find him. Since he can forgive sins, he is indeed most precious to all men. Always remember that God does not reward man for what he does but for what he is; therefore should you extend help to your fellows without the thought of rewards. Do good without thought of benefit to the self.

"They who know the laws of the Eternal are wise. Ignorance of the divine law is misery and disaster. They who know the laws of God are liberal minded. If you know the Eternal, even though your body perish, your soul shall survive in spirit service. You are truly wise when you recognize your insignificance. If you abide in the light of the Eternal, you shall enjoy the enlightenment of the Supreme. Those who dedicate their persons to the service of the Supreme are joyous in this pursuit of the Eternal. When man dies, the spirit begins to wing its long flight on the great home journey."

obistiniti. Vrhovni nadkriljuje svemir i sviju uzdržava. Kako je velik i veličanstven njegov preobilni utjecaj i njegova privlačna moć! Istinska dobrota je nalik vodi jer sve blagosilja i ničemu ne škodi. I kao voda istinska dobrota teži najnižim mjestima, razinama koje drugi nastoje izbjeći i to čini zato što nalikuje Vrhovnom. Vrhovni je Stvoritelj svih stvari koji ih po naravi uzdržava i u duhu usavršava. I tajna je kako Vrhovni može čuvati, štititi i usavršavati svoja stvorenja ne pribjegavajući prinudi. On vodi i upravlja, ali bez samodokazivanja. On stvara napredak bez dominacije.

"Mudar čovjek univerzalizira svoje srce. Opasno je imati malo znanja. Oni koji hoće biti veliki, moraju naučiti poniznost. Vrhovni je prilikom stvaranja postao majka cijelog svijeta. Poznavati svoju majku znači poznavati svoj djetinji status. Mudar je čovjek koji sve promatra sa stanovišta cijelog. Odnosite se prema svakom čovjeku kao da stojite na njegovom mjestu. Uzvratite ljubeznost za povredu. Ako budete ljubili bližnje, oni će vam se priklanjanje--lako ćete ih pridobiti.

"Veliki Vrhovni je sveprožimajući; on je slijeva i zdesna; on uzdržava svu tvorevinu i živi u svim istinskim bićima. Ne možete naći Vrhovnog, niti možete naći mjesto gdje ga nema. Ako čovjek prepozna zlo svojih djela i ako se pokaje iz dubine srca, može tražiti oprost; može umaći od kazne; može okrenuti nesreću u blaženstvo. Vrhovni je sigurno utočište cijeloj tvorevini; on je čuvar i spasitelj cijelog čovječanstva. Naći ćete ga ako budete tragali iz dana u dan. On je uistinu najdragocijeniji svim ljudima zato što može oprostiti grijehe. Ne zaboravite da Bog ne nagrađuje čovjeka za ono što čini već za ono što jeste; zato trebate pomoći svojim bližnjima ne tražeći nagrade. Činite dobro ne težeći vlastitoj koristi.

"Mudri su oni koji poznaju zakone Vječnog. Nepoznavanje božanskog zakona donosi jedino bijedu i nevolju. Oni koji poznaju Božje zakone misle slobodoumno. Ako poznate Vječnog, duša će vam naći spasenje u službi duha po isteku tijela. Istinska mudrost znači da čovjek spoznaje svoju malenkost. Ako se budete držali svjetla Vječnoga, uživat ćete prosvjetljenje Vrhovnoga. Oni koji se posvete službi Vrhovnog uživaju u radosti traganja za Vječnim. Poslije čovjekove smrti duh raširi krila i krene na veliko putovanje svome domu."

9. CONFUCIANISM

Even the least God-recognizing of the world's great religions acknowledged the monotheism of the Melchizedek missionaries and their persistent successors. Ganid's summary of Confucianism was:

"What Heaven appoints is without error. Truth is real and divine. Everything originates in Heaven, and the Great Heaven makes no mistakes. Heaven has appointed many subordinates to assist in the instruction and uplifting of the inferior creatures. Great, very great, is the One God who rules man from on high. God is majestic in power and awful in judgment. But this Great God has conferred a moral sense even on many inferior people. Heaven's bounty never stops. Benevolence is Heaven's choicest gift to men. Heaven has bestowed its nobility upon the soul of man; the virtues of man are the fruit of this endowment of Heaven's nobility. The Great Heaven is all-discerning and goes with man in all his doings. And we do well when we call the Great Heaven our Father and our Mother. If we are thus servants of our divine ancestors, then may we in confidence pray to Heaven. At all times and in everything let us stand in awe of the majesty of Heaven. We acknowledge, O God, the Most High and sovereign Potentate, that judgment rests with you, and that all mercy proceeds from the divine heart.

"God is with us; therefore we have no fear in our hearts. If there be found any virtue in me, it is the manifestation of Heaven who abides with me. But this Heaven within me often makes hard demands on my faith. If God is with me, I have determined to have no doubt in my heart. Faith must be very near the truth of things, and I do not see how a man can live without this good faith. Good and evil do not befall men without cause. Heaven deals with man's soul in accordance with its purpose. When you find yourself in the wrong, do not hesitate to confess your error and be quick to make amends.

"A wise man is occupied with the search for truth, not in seeking for a mere living. To attain the perfection of Heaven is the goal of man. The superior man is given to self-adjustment, and he is free from anxiety and fear. God is with you; have no doubt in your heart. Every good deed has its recompense. The superior man murmurs not against Heaven nor holds a grudge against men. What you do not like when done to yourself, do not to others. Let compassion be a part of all punishment; in every way endeavor to make punishment a blessing. Such is the way of Great Heaven. While all creatures must die and return to the earth, the spirit of the noble man goes forth to be displayed on high and to ascend to the glorious light of final brightness."

9. KONFUCIJANIZAM

I one velike svjetske religije koje najmanje priznaju Boga prihvaćaju jednoboštvo Melkisedekovih misionara i njihovih ustrajnih nasljednika. Ganid je sažeo konfucijanizam slijedećim izvodima:

"Nema greške u onome što Nebesa postave. Istina je stvarna i božanska. Sve vuče porijeklo od Neba i Velika Nebesa ne čine greške. Nebo je postavilo mnoga niža bića da pomognu pri pouci i uzdignuću nižih stvorenja. Velik je, jako velik, Jedan Bog koji upravlja čovjekom s visine. Bog ima veličanstvenu moć i užasan sud. I ovaj Veliki Bog daje moralni sud mnogim niskim osobama. Beskonačna je nebeska darežljivost. Blagonaklonost je najizabraniji dar koji Nebo pruža čovjeku. Nebo je podarilo svoju plemenitost čovjekovoj duši; čovjekove vrline nisu niša drugo nego plod ovog obdarenja plemenitosti Nebesa. Veliko nebo je svepronicao i prati čovjeka pri svim njegovim djelima. I dobro činiš kad se obratiš Velikom Nebu kao svome Ocu i Majci. I ako nas to čini služiteljima naših božanskih roditelja, onda se s pouzdanjem možemo moliti Nebu. I svakog časa i u svakom pogledu, trebamo se s poštovanjem bojati veličine Nebesa. O Bože, ti koji si Previšnji i nezavisni Vlastodržac, priznajemo da svaki sud potječe od tebe i da sva milost izvire iz tvog božanskog srca.

"Bog je s nama; stoga nema straha u našim srcima. Ako je u meni vrlina, ta je vrlina očitovanje mog unutarnjeg Neba. Ali ovo moje unutarnje Nebo često postavlja visoke zahtjeve od moje vjere. Znajući da je Bog sa mnom, odlučio sam izbaciti sumnju iz srca. Vjera mora biti vrlo blizu istine i ne vidim kako čovjek može živjeti bez ove dobre vjere. Dobro i zlo se ne događaju bez razloga. Nebo se odnosi prema čovjekovoj duši ovisno o njezinim namjerama. Kad ustanovite da ste učinili grešku, bez odlijevanja se ispovijedite i bez odlaganja nađite načina da je ispravite.

"Mudar čovjek je posvećen traženju istine, a ne samo ostvarenju uzdržavanja. Čovjekov cilj je da postigne savršenstvo Neba. Napredniji čovjek je posvećen samoprilaženju; on nema straha ni tjeskobe. Bog je s tobom; ne sumnjaj u dubini srca. Svako dobro djelo donosi nagradu. Napredniji čovjek ne gunda protiv neba i ne zamjeri ljudima. Ono što ne želite da drugi učine vama, ne činite ni vi njima. Neka samilost sudjeluje u svakoj kazni; neka svako nastojanje pretvori kaznu u blaženstvo. Takav je put Velikih Nebesa. Dok sva stvorenja moraju umrijeti i vratiti se u zemlju, duh plemenitog čovjeka napreduje do nebeskog očitovanja i uspeća do veličanstvenog svjetla najveće blistavosti."

10. "OUR RELIGION"

After the arduous labor of effecting this compilation of the teachings of the world religions concerning the Paradise Father, Ganid set himself to the task of formulating what he deemed to be a summary of the belief he had arrived at regarding God as a result of Jesus' teaching. This young man was in the habit of referring to such beliefs as "our religion." This was his record:

"The Lord our God is one Lord, and you should love him with all your mind and heart while you do your very best to love all his children as you love yourself. This one God is our heavenly Father, in whom all things consist, and who dwells, by his spirit, in every sincere human soul. And we who are the children of God should learn how to commit the keeping of our souls to him as to a faithful Creator. With our heavenly Father all things are possible. Since he is the Creator, having made all things and all beings, it could not be otherwise. Though we cannot see God, we can know him. And by daily living the will of the Father in heaven, we can reveal him to our fellow men.

"The divine riches of God's character must be infinitely deep and eternally wise. We cannot search out God by knowledge, but we can know him in our hearts by personal experience. While his justice may be past finding out, his mercy may be received by the humblest being on earth. While the Father fills the universe, he also lives in our hearts. The mind of man is human, mortal, but the spirit of man is divine, immortal. God is not only all-powerful but also all-wise. If our earth parents, being of evil tendency, know how to love their children and bestow good gifts on them, how much more must the good Father in heaven know how wisely to love his children on earth and to bestow suitable blessings upon them.

"The Father in heaven will not suffer a single child on earth to perish if that child has a desire to find the Father and truly longs to be like him. Our Father even loves the wicked and is always kind to the ungrateful. If more human beings could only know about the goodness of God, they would certainly be led to repent of their evil ways and forsake all known sin. All good things come down from the Father of light, in whom there is no variableness neither shadow of changing. The spirit of the true God is in man's heart. He intends that all men should be brothers. When men begin to feel after God, that is evidence that God has found them, and that they are in quest of knowledge about him. We live in God and God dwells in us.

"I will no longer be satisfied to believe that God is the Father of all my people; I will henceforth believe that he is also my Father. Always will I

10. "NAŠA RELIGIJA"

Nakon napornog rada na izboru učenja različitih svjetskih religija o Rajskom Ocu, Ganid se posvetio formulaciji onoga što je smatrao odgovarajućim sažetkom vjerovanja utemeljenih na Isusovim učenjima. Mladić je obično govorio o ovim učenjima kao "našoj religiji." I zabilježio je slijedeće:

"Naš Gospodin Bog je jedan Bog i ljubi ga svim srcem svojim i svom pameti svojom dok nastojiš ljubiti svu njegovu djecu kao samog sebe. Ovaj jedan Bog je naš nebeski Otac i u njemu se sve sastoji i on svojim duhom živi u svakoj iskrenoj ljudskoj duši. I mi, Božja djeca, trebamo naučiti predati svoje duše na čuvanje ovom vjernom Stvoritelju. Sve je moguće s našim nebeskim Ocem. Budući da je on Stvoritelj koji je sazdao sve stvari i bića, ne može biti nikako drugačije. Iako mi ne možemo vidjeti Boga, možemo ga poznati. I ako svakog dana budemo vršili volju Oca na nebu, očitovaćemo Boga svojim bližnjima.

"Božanske dubine Božjeg karaktera moraju biti beskonačno duboke i vječno mudre. Mi ne možemo poznati Boga znanjem, već jedino osobnim iskustvom u dubini srca. Dok je Božju pravednost gotovo nemoguće dokučiti, njegova milost je dostupna i najnižim zemaljskim bićima. Premda ispunja svemir, Otac živi i u našim srcima. Čovjekov um je ljudski i smrtnički, dok je njegov duh božanski i besmrtni. Bog je ne samo svemoguć, već i svemudar. Ako naši zemaljski roditelji koji su skloni zlu znaju podariti djeci svoje dobre darove, koliko će više dobri Otac naš nebeski znati podariti ljubav svojoj zemaljskoj djeci i pružiti im prikladna blaženstva.

"Otac naš nebeski neće da se izgubi ni jedan od ovih malenih na zemlji, samo ako dijete želi naći Oca i ako mu iskreno želi nalikovati. Naš Otac voli i one koji su zli i on se ljubezno odnosi prema nezahvalnicima. Ako više ljudi upozna Božju dobrotu, oni će nedvojbeno osjetiti potrebu za pokajanjem zbog svojih zlih djela i odbacit će svako zlo. Sve što je dobro dolazi odozgo od Oca svjetla u koga nema ni promjene ni zasjenjenja zbog mijene. Duh istinskog Boga živi u čovjekovom srcu. Bog želi da svi ljudi budu braća. Kad ljudi počnu tragati za Bogom, to znači da ih je Bog našao i da oni teže poznavanju Boga. Mi živimo u Bogu i Bog živi u nama.

"Nije mi više dovoljno što znam da je Bog Otac moga naroda; pored toga vjerujem da je Bog moj Otac. Uvijek ću nastojati obožavati Boga uz pomoć

try to worship God with the help of the Spirit of Truth, which is my helper when I have become really God-knowing. But first of all I am going to practice worshipping God by learning how to do the will of God on earth; that is, I am going to do my best to treat each of my fellow mortals just as I think God would like to have him treated. And when we live this sort of a life in the flesh, we may ask many things of God, and he will give us the desire of our hearts that we may be the better prepared to serve our fellows. And all of this loving service of the children of God enlarges our capacity to receive and experience the joys of heaven, the high pleasures of the ministry of the spirit of heaven.

"I will every day thank God for his unspeakable gifts; I will praise him for his wonderful works to the children of men. To me he is the Almighty, the Creator, the Power, and the Mercy, but best of all, he is my spirit Father, and as his earth child I am sometime going forth to see him. And my tutor has said that by searching for him I shall become like him. By faith in God I have attained peace with him. This new religion of ours is very full of joy, and it generates an enduring happiness. I am confident that I shall be faithful even to death, and that I will surely receive the crown of eternal life.

"I am learning to prove all things and adhere to that which is good. Whatsoever I would that men should do to me, that I will do to my fellows. By this new faith I know that man may become the son of God, but it sometimes terrifies me when I stop to think that all men are my brothers, but it must be true. I do not see how I can rejoice in the fatherhood of God while I refuse to accept the brotherhood of man. Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. If that is true, then all men must be my brothers.

"Henceforth will I do my good deeds in secret; I will also pray most when by myself. I will judge not that I may not be unfair to my fellows. I am going to learn to love my enemies; I have not truly mastered this practice of being Godlike. Though I see God in these other religions, I find him in 'our religion' as being more beautiful, loving, merciful, personal, and positive. But most of all, this great and glorious Being is my spiritual Father; I am his child. And by no other means than my honest desire to be like him, I am eventually to find him and eternally to serve him. At last I have a religion with a God, a marvelous God, and he is a God of eternal salvation."

Duha Istine koji mi počinje služiti istog časa kad postanem istinski svjestan Boga. Ali prvenstveno ću nastojati naučiti obožavati Boga tako što ću vježbati ovu vještinu svojim nastojanjem da izvršim Božju volju za vrijeme zemaljskog života; drugim riječima, svesrdno ću nastojati učiniti bližnjima ono što vjerujem da bi im i Bog učinio. I ako za zemaljskog života budemo živjeli ovakvim životom, bit će nam što god zatražimo od Boga i on će ispuniti svaku težnju naših srca kaki bi nas bolje osposobio za služenje bližnjima. I cijela ova brižna služba u korist Božje djece uvećava našu sposobnost primitka i užitka nebeske radosti, najvećih veselja službe nebeskog duha.

"Svakog ću dana zahvaliti Bogu za njegov neopisivi dar; slaviti ću Boga zbog veličanstvenih djela koja čini u korist zemaljske djece. Dok se Bog može opisati kao Svemogući, Stvoritelj, Moć i Milost, on je prvenstveno i prije svega moj Otac-duh i kao njegovo zemaljsko dijete znam da ću ga jednog dana istinski vidjeti. I moj tutor kaže da tragajući za Bogom postajem sve više nalik Bogu. Vjerom u Boga postićem mir s Bogom. Ova naša nova religija je puna radosti; ona stvara trajno i neprolazno veselje. Uvjeren sam da ću ostati vjeran do smrti i da ću zasigurno primiti vijenac vječnog života.

"Naučio sam sve ispitivati i držati se onoga što je dobro. Što god želim da ljudi učine meni, činim i ja njima. Poznajem da ovom novom vjerom ljudi postaju Božji sinovi iako me često uhvati strah od pomisli da su ljudi moja braća, premda znam da to mora biti istina. Ne vidim kako bih mogao uživati u Božjem očinstvu odbijajući prihvatiti bratstvo ljudi. Tko god zazove ime Gospodnje, bit će spašen. Ako je to istina, onda svi ljudi moraju biti moja braća.

"Odsada ću činiti dobra djela u tajnosti; i kada molim, pomolit ću se iza zatvorenih vrata. I neću suditi kako ne bih bio nepravedan prema svojim bližnjima. Naučit ću voljeti svoje neprijatelje; još uvijek nisam u cjelosti ovladao ovom vještinom nalikovanja Bogu. Dok nalazim Boga i u ovim drugim religijama, moram priznati da je u "našoj religiji" Bog ljepši, brižniji, milostiviji, osobniji i pozitivniji. Ali prije svega, ovo veliko i veličanstveno Biće je moj duhovni Otac; ja sam njegovo dijete. I nikojim drugim putom osim moje iskrene čežnje da budem nalik Bogu, ne mogu naći Boga i vječno mu služiti. Konačno sam našao religiju s Bogom, veličanstvenim Bogom i on je Bog vječnog spasenja."