

A READING FROM THE MANICHEAN SCRIPTURES

When the First Man had ended his struggle, the Father sent forth his Second Son. He came and helped his brother out of the Abyss. He built this whole world up out of the mixture that had come into existence out of Light and Darkness.

All the Powers of the Abyss he spread out.... he shut them up into this World and made it a dungeon for all the Powers of Darkness. This World is also, however, a place of purification of the Soul which had been swallowed up in the Powers of Darkness.

The Sun and the Moon were set up and fixed in the heights, to purify the Soul. They take the refined part daily upward to the heights but they destroy the deposit. They convey it up and down.

This whole World stands firm for a Season, since there is a great Building being erected outside the World. At the Hour when the Architect shall complete it, the entire World shall be dissolved. It shall be set afire, that the fire may melt it away.

All Life, the Remnants of Light in every Place he shall gather to himself and form of it an Image. The Resolution of Death also, the whole of Darkness, he shall gather in and make an Image of itself along with the Archon.

In a moment the Living Spirit shall come. It will rescue to the Light, but the Resolution of Death and the Darkness it will lock away in the chamber that was built for it that it may lie in chains forever.

A New Aeon shall be built in the place of this World, which shall be dissolved, so that in it the Powers of Light may reign since they have preformed and fulfilled the whole of the Father's Will.