



SYNOPTIC COMPARISON OF THE DIVINE MULTIPLICITY ERROR

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B. TALMUD - TRACTATE HAGIGAH 15A

HEKHALOT RABBATI 228 (V228)

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| 1 | Aher cut the shoots. Concerning him Scripture states, "Let not your flesh into sin etc. (Eccl 5:5)." | And since one came to gaze at the vision of the Merkava. | 1 |
| 2 | What is this? <i>Aher</i> saw that Metatron had been granted authority to sit while he record the merits of Israel. | And he laid his eyes upon me and he was awed and shocked before me and his soul was distressed enough to depart from him due to my fearfulness and terribleness and awesomeness when he saw me, that I sat on a throne like a king and the ministering angels were waiting upon me like servants and all the ministers of the courts were wearing crowns around me. | 2 |
| 3 | He said: "We have been taught that in Heaven there is no sitting no competition, no turning away, and no lethargy. | At that moment, he opened his mouth and said, | 3 |
| 4 | Perhaps, God forbid, there are two powers!" | "Certainly, there are two powers in heaven!" | 4 |

The following two narrative elements appear in both texts but in inverted sequence.

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| 5 | They removed Metatron and they smote him with sixty bands of fire. They said to him: "Metatron, When you saw him, you did not stand up before him?!" | Immediately, a heavenly voice rang out from before the Shekhina and said, "Return, faithless children, except Aher, that not!" | 5 |
| 6 | Authority was granted to erase the merits of Aher. Then a heavenly voice was heard: "Repent, O backsliding children (Jer. 3:22)!" Except for Aher." | At that moment, came Anaphiel YVY, the prince that is honored and exalted and beloved and wondrous and awesome and admired from a mission of the Holy One blessed be he, and smote me with 60 pulses of fire and stood me on my feet. | 6 |
| 7 | He said: Since he has been banished from that world, let him go out and enjoy this world. <i>Aher</i> went astray. He went and found a prostitute and solicited her. She said to him: And are you not Elisha ben Avuya? He uprooted a radish from a patch on Shabbat and gave it to her. She said: He is other than he was. | | 7 |