

Essene Definition Part 1

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What is an Essene in the contemporary sense?

An Essene is a person who holds to the Apostles' Creed and desires a higher level of discipleship, holiness and polity.

Vero Essene Yahad is, so far as we know, the only modern organization that has been informed of the ways of the ancients Way. That Way would include the beliefs and practices of a variety of ancient groups; to wit, "Sons of Zadok," Enochians, Nazoreans, Ebionites, Elchasaites and perhaps other groups as enumerated in the Panarion of Epiphanius.

Lifestyle and doctrine are borrowed from these groups - that which is profitable for today - and adapted for the people and the "times"; in our case, those currently in the Yahad and the modern times and culture we now share.

Rules and Commandments are important for the contemporary Essenes, but not to the prohibition of free thought on scriptures, personal freedom and proclamation.

"Unity in diversity, not diversity in conflict, is the motto of the Vero Essene Yahad.

Vero means 'truth.' Essene means 'those doing Torah,' Yahad means 'together.'

Purpose

It is our primary goal and directive to help the Spirit reveal the elect people - those who have been predestined to work as ministers in the future kingdom. Primary also is the task of renewing the earth and all creation insofar as we are able. We can do this by beginning with ourselves. Also, the directive from Jacob the Priest is binding on us - to help orphans and widows, which we regard to include the poor, ignorant, mentally and physically ill and lonely, and thus use our time to help others and stay unspotted from the world. In these things, we follow the further advice of the Didache - "Do the best you can."

Polity

The Yahad will not have a pope, an authoritarian, an autocrat or a despotic ruler over it. All power is distributed through all members of the Yahad. The Yahad is episcopal; those holding the prime responsibility for peace and progress in the Yahad are *elected* bishops - those qualifying for election have undergone the Nun Training Course or equivalent and have been ordained in the Yahad or a similar agency. The Bishop(s) are surrounded by a Board of Elders, duly trained and sworn in. Elders represent the People and will stand in proxy for them before the Bishop(s) when decisions are made. Some decisions may be made by the vote or lot. But primarily, the final decision on the matter is to be made by the 'bachar' or chosen decision maker. The 'bachar' is chosen out of the eldership at random before the business of the meeting begins.

Outside of Bishops and Elders, one may be consecrated a temporary Shoter (Deacon) or ordained a permanent Deacon. A Deacon may preach or, if the Deacon has some other specialty in ministry, not preach. The temporary Deacon is he / she who is expecting to move up to Eldership. Bishop, Elder, Deacon - these are not titles of authority but responsibility. The only authority is Messiah, who is the head of the assembly.

Further, Shamshim (Workers) are newcomers in the polity of the Yahad, exploring the faith and learning the ancient and modern ways. They stand under the guidance of an elder until their studies are done and they then may be either accepted or rejected by the Yahad proper.

Orders

Lavav (Order of Charity) is the highest order thusfar and is peopled by those who have undergone the

first Boot Camp of January, 2016. Lavav consists of Bishops, Elders, Deacons and People.

Chochmim (Order of Sages) is populated by scholars with special gifts in exegesis, language studies or scribal work.

Nun (Order of Fish) is comprised of Workers and others who are in the course of Nun studies, some of which may apply for eldership when their studies are successfully completed.

The "Think Tank" on Facebook is open to any person of good will and civility no matter what religion they are. It is out of the "Think Tank" that we attempt to reveal the elect and bring them into one accord with the orders above.

Galutim (Exiles) are those with limited or no social media affiliations who have opted in, written in or called in for one reason or another. The Exiles' contact information is kept in a database in the office.

Not to be Tolerated

Above the Apostles' Creed, there are some beliefs and practices that are strictly forbidden in the Yahad; to whit.

The use of profane names for the deity including god, Jehovah, Eyeh, Lord, etc.

The eating of abominable foods including pig, rabbit and certain shellfish.

The breaking of the Sabbath, upon which the following stipulations are required: rest from work and convocation.

The conjuring of unclean entities through any means.

Personally insulting, striking or publicly berating a fellow member.

Speaking against the fellowship in public or private or any of its members.

On vegetarianism: it appears certain that the Ebionites were vegetarians. The Zadokites may have been vegetarians as a protest movement against the Temple. The Scripture we use not clear on the matter, or, we may say, contradictory. Vegetarianism is a lofty principle when the reasons for it are clearly articulated by the vegetarian. However, at this time, one is in good standing in the Yahad vegetarian or not. Condemnation of one or the other will not be tolerated.

On pharmaceuticals: The condemnation of the users of pharmaceutical drugs used appropriately will not be tolerated. Those using pharmaceuticals by doctors' orders dare not just quit, nor are 'natural' remedies, to are knowledge, substitutes in the case of immediate withdrawal from pharmaceuticals.

On necromancy, spiritism, mediumship, conjuring, witchcraft, voodoo, hoodoo, channeling: These will not be tolerated. Those practicing such will be immediately dismissed if convincing evidence is provided the Bishop.

On tobacco, alcohol or legal substances. Use of such is tolerated to the point in which intoxication or air pollution occurs. One who is intoxicated will be expelled from the meeting. There will be no smoking of tobacco or any other substance in the course of assemblage.

On illegal substances: Despite its illegality, marijuana use is of a private matter and conviction. Marijuana and other such illegal substances will not be seen in the Yahad. If you use such substances, keep it private. You will not publicly share these substances nor be involved in assemblages while under the influence of them. We do understand the medicinal use of Marijuana to be consistent with the medical practices of the ancient, and we do not condemn the medical use of the substance now.