

9 [This answer] was pleasing to the King. And upon summoning the angels who were in charge of all the nations and tongues, he commanded each [of them] to bring to the Word-made-flesh one very experientially knowledgeable [man]. And straightway there appeared in the presence of the Word the most judicious men of this world—as if caught up unto ecstasy. To them the Word of God spoke as follows: “The Lord, King of heaven and of earth, has heard the moaning of those who have been killed, those who have been imprisoned, and those who have been reduced unto servitude—[the moaning of those] who suffer on account of the diversity of the religions. All who either inflict or suffer this persecution are motivated only from their belief that such [action or passion] is expedient for salvation and is pleasing to their Creator. Therefore, the Lord has had mercy upon His people and is agreeable that henceforth all the diverse religions be harmoniously reduced, by the common consent of all men, unto one inviolable [religion]. To you select men He entrusts the burdensome responsibility of [this] commission, giving you from His own court assisting and ministering angelic spirits who will watch over you and guide you. And He designates Jerusalem²⁰ as the most fitting place for this [work].”

IV

10 To the foregoing [words] a man who was older than the others and who was, as it appeared, a Greek, replied after expressing adoration: “We praise our God, whose mercy [is bestowed] upon all His works, who alone is able to cause such great diversity of religions to be brought into one harmonious peace, and whose bidding we His creation cannot fail to obey. But we ask to be now instructed as to how this oneness of religion can be instituted by us. For [each nation] will have difficulty accepting, through our persuading, a faith that is other than that [respective] faith which each nation has hitherto defended even with its blood.”

The Word responded: “You will [all] find to be everywhere presupposed not a faith that is *other* but a faith that is one and the same. For among the countrymen of your own language-groups, you who are now present are called wise—or, at least, [are called] philosophers, or lovers of wisdom.”

“So it is,” said the Greek.

“If, then, you all love wisdom, don’t you presuppose that wisdom exists?”