

The temple drama as a mentor, LeGrand Baker.
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The cosmic sweep of the Feast of Tabernacles temple drama had many personal functions in the individual life-experiences of each of participant. One of the most important was that it came to an end before it dazzled the initiate with a false sense of peace. It promises invulnerability, but does not deliver it in the instant. Like the classic mentor of mythology, it teaches the secrets, then leaves to the initiate the responsibility of actualizing their hidden powers. In mythology, the mentor—sometimes old, but always wiser than other men—appears in the story just at the time when the youth, who is the hero, is old enough to begin to question who he is and why his aspirations, powers, or sense of reality is different from other people's. The mentor helps the youth understand his destiny by teaching him his origin, and showing him his purpose. As the youth becomes a young man, he leans less and less on the mentor, and more and more on his own sense of Self. Eventually the mentor dies, or otherwise must go away, and leaves the young man alone. But he is not alone, the teachings of the mentor have become a part of him, and now he can define his Self in the same way his mentor had already defined him. It is not until after the mentor goes away that the young man can truly discover that Self. Alone, and still a bit unsure, he begins—humble, but determined—a dignified follower of the eternal law of his own being, to fulfill and make new his everlasting covenants and his destiny in the cosmos. Later—seemingly much later—he and his friend will embrace again when he reaches the summit of his journey. The ancient temple drama was like that. At first it barely parts the fog that hides the way that leads to one's Self, affording only a small window through which the youth can see a portion of the sky—as sacred space in sacred time. Then the window closes, and the initiate must go away to walk the path he had been shown. In his mind, and on the stage, the drama replays itself many times. It leads the youth to manhood, like the pillar of light of Moses's night, showing Israel the way through the desert, to come to the source of the cool mountain springs of the Promised Land—to the top of that sacred mountain from which he can view the reaches of eternity.