

# Cabalism, slavery, and the B'nai B'rith: the case of A.E. Frankland

by Anton Chaitkin

The case of A.E. Frankland vividly illustrates the political and religious reality underlying the B'nai B'rith, a racist, anti-religious adjunct of the feudal Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Those who recall the perfidy of B'nai B'rith during the tragic 1930s, when its leaders actively sabotaged the American Jewish protest and boycott against the Hitler regime,\* will not be particularly surprised to see Frankland's story, presented here for the first time in the 20th century.

Abraham Ephraim Frankland was the principal leader within the U.S. southern states of the International Order of B'nai B'rith, during the period of the Civil War and Reconstruction (the 1860s and 1870s). He was also a spy for the Confederate Army of the slaveowners; a leader of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, conspiring with the organizers of the terrorist Ku Klux Klan; and an avid Cabalist—a hater of Mosaic Judaism, who mocked the very principle of truth.

Frankland did not sneak into the B'nai B'rith leadership. He was appointed by the famous self-proclaimed “reform” Rabbi Isaac M. Wise of Cincinnati, the head of the order's midwest and southern sections. A high-ranking Scottish Rite Mason and an open opponent of the Union's war effort, Rabbi Wise fielded a set of notorious anti-Union operatives, known in the North as “copperheads” (or pro-slavery snakes). Among Wise's B'nai B'rith representatives were Cleveland copperhead newspaper editor Benjamin Peixotto, who became president of B'nai B'rith, and the order's Washington, D.C. chief Simon Wolf. Both Wolf and Peixotto were friends of the assassin of Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth; Wolf boasted that he went drinking with Booth a few hours before the President's murder.

Frankland was born in England in 1831. His family emigrated to New York, and moved to Nashville, Tennessee in 1845. As a young man he relocated to Memphis and became a wealthy merchant. Though his British family members were newcomers to the South, Abraham Frankland became a leader of the faction urging southerners to break up the American republic: the American Jewish Archives, introducing Frankland's *Kronikals of the Times—Memphis 1862*, which they published in 1957,

referred to him as “an ardent secessionist.”

B'nai B'rith Washington representative Simon Wolf was arrested as a Confederate ringleader by U.S. detectives in 1862. That same year, U.S. forces captured Memphis, and promptly arrested Frankland for espionage.

Frankland wrote of his adventures in the *Kronikals: Union Gen. Stephen A. Hurlburt* “told me many acts of mine done during the days of the Confederacy [sic] while on special business for General [G.L.] Pillow, [Gen. Leonidas] Polk, and [Gen. J.B.] Villepigue. . . . All these things being true, of course, I could not dispute them, as he was well and authoritatively posted. . . .

“[In jail that night] his friends did not forsake him [Frankland], for . . . Julius Ochs . . . sent him a cot and mattress [sic]. . . . [The next morning] the General [asked] ‘Will you sign a parole?’ ‘I will.’ ‘Can you give good bonds?’ ‘I can, for a million if necessary.’ ‘Then . . . give bonds for twenty thousand dollars for good behavior and appearance when required, and you are at liberty,’ ” and he was freed.

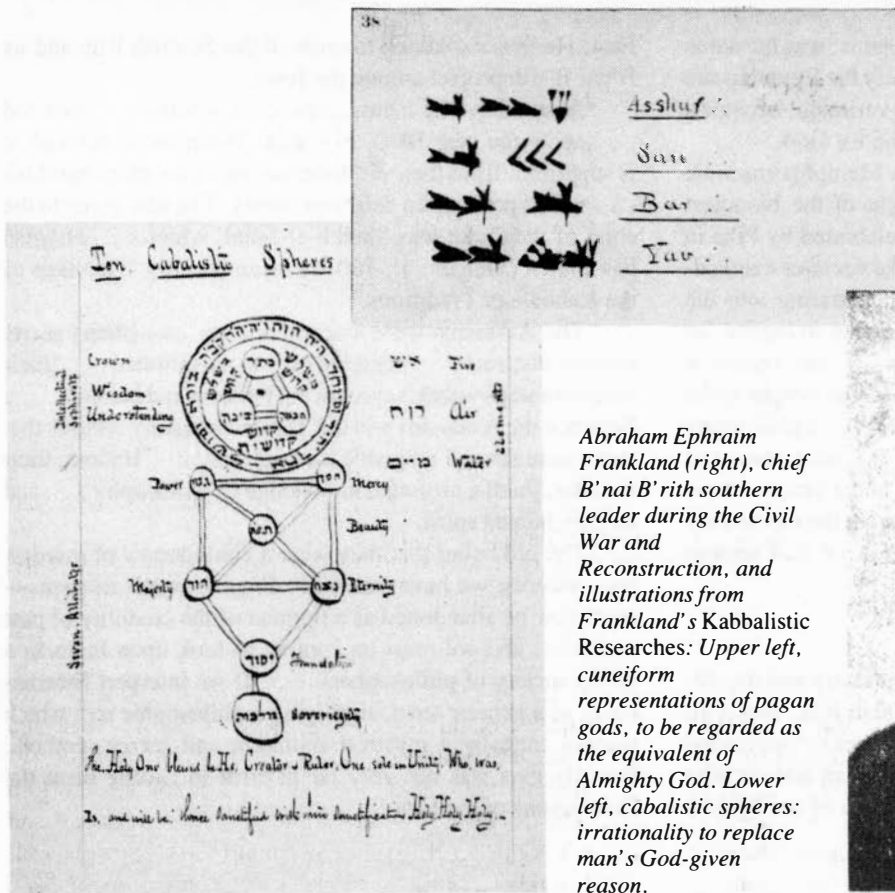
The Julius Ochs who softened Frankland's brief jail stay was the husband of a pro-slavery fanatic and was arrested in Cincinnati for smuggling supplies to the Confederates. His white supremacist son Adolph Ochs married Isaac Wise's daughter, bought the *New York Times*, and financed both the *Dictionary of American Biography* and the American Jewish Archives—which is why you have never heard any but the most flattering accounts of these people.

## The hooded assassins

Frankland's *Kronikals* is a bitter attack on the U.S. occupation of Tennessee during and after the Civil War. A century later, the Nashville B'nai B'rith was still railing against the breakup of the slave power in its 1963 centennial pamphlet: “Nashville in 1863 was a captive city under the military governorship of Andrew Johnson. . . . The city . . . was ruled by a gestapo-like secret police headed by Col. William S. Truesdale.”

The pro-Union Tennessee state government gave newly freed blacks the right to vote. A clique of freemasonic Confederate officers struck back, in the satanic costumes of the new “Ku Klux Klan,” with the mass assassination of black leaders and pro-Union whites. Throughout the South, victims were tortured, hanged, and burned, and their bodies dumped

\*See *George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography*, by Anton Chaitkin and Webster Tarpley, pp. 40-41. (*Executive Intelligence Review*, Washington, D.C., 1992.)



Abraham Ephraim Frankland (right), chief B'nai B'rith southern leader during the Civil War and Reconstruction, and illustrations from Frankland's Kabbalistic Researches: Upper left, cuneiform representations of pagan gods, to be regarded as the equivalent of Almighty God. Lower left, cabalistic spheres: irrationality to replace man's God-given reason.

into rivers.

The Klan began in Tennessee, run by the Scottish Rite Masonic southern commander, Gen. Albert Pike (then of Memphis), and white Masons under his personal direction including Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest (Memphis lodge), Maj. James R. Crowe (Pulaski lodge), Gen. John C. Brown (Pulaski lodge), and Col. Joseph Fussell (Columbia lodge).

As the leading southern B'nai B'rith operative, Frankland kept the Tennessee Jewish community in line behind this murderous undead slaveocracy. Frankland relocated to Chicago in 1880.

Frankland was a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, and an intimate collaborator of the master assassin Albert Pike. In 1874, Frankland was made official head of Tennessee's Scottish Rite Masons; as the man who could deliver the Jews, he would become an emeritus member of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council. The previous year he had become president of the new B'nai B'rith District 7 representing Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas.

### Masonic ritual and paganism

Frankland's 1870 *Kabbalistic Researches* (unpublished manuscript in the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati) is a compendium of espionage cyphers, black magic symbols, masonic ritual, and pagan religion. In his preface, Frankland

acknowledges two sources aiding him in this work: *Origins of the Rites of Worship of the Hebrews*, by Albert Gallatin Mackey, grand secretary of the Scottish Rite, "and the Book Lohar on the Sephiroth, kindly loaned to me by Gen'l Albert Pike."

While Frankland compiled his *Researches*, KKK boss Pike was also in Memphis working on his satanic masterpiece *Morals and Dogma*, published in 1871.

On pages 38-39 of *Kabbalistic Researches*, Frankland lists assorted gods passed down by tradition from ancient times, including "Four of the thirteen great Gods of Assyria," plus the god "Bel," and, perhaps as an afterthought, "Ayel Shad-ai," or the God Almighty of the Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Frankland's god "Bel" is of intense interest to Masons. Scottish Rite Grand Secretary Albert Gallatin Mackey says in his 1874 *Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry* that "Bel is the contracted form of Baal, and was worshipped by the Babylonians as their chief deity." Baal is also the false god which the Old Testament Jewish prophets warn the people against!

Mackey continues that "Bel" "has, with *Jah* and *On*, been introduced into the Royal Arch [masonic] system as a representative of the Tetragrammaton," and that since 1871 this three-part Name of God—*JahBelOn*—has been officially "permitted to be retained as merely explanatory" of God within Freemasonry. "Jah" stands for the Hebrew God Jah-

weh or Jehova, while "On," Mackey explains, was the name of an Egyptian city, and has come to signify the Egyptian sun god. "JahBelOn," or some transliterated variation, became a masonic black magic word in substitution for God.

The collaboration between the two Memphis masonic chiefs, Pike and Frankland, at the height of the bloodiest assassination wave in U.S. history, is celebrated by Pike in his *Morals and Dogma*. On page 745, Pike declares magically, "One is filled with admiration, on penetrating into the Sanctuary of the Kabalah, at seeing a doctrine so logical, so simple, and at the same time so absolute . . . the Trinity of Words, Letters, and Numbers; a philosophy as simple as the alphabet, profound and infinite as the Word . . . a philosophy summed up by counting on one's fingers . . . ten ciphers and twenty-two letters, a triangle, a square, and a circle—these are all the elements of the Kabalah. These are the elementary principles of the written Word, reflection of that spoken Word that created the World!"

### Applauding the Assassins

Albert Gallatin Mackey, the grand secretary and day-to-day manager of the Frankland-Pike Scottish Rite, laid it all out for readers of his *Encyclopaedia*. Mackey applauded the 11th-century Assassins, the cult of hashish addicts who committed murder for hire throughout much of the Middle

East. He thus explained the role of the Scottish Rite and its B'nai B'rith project among the Jews:

"Assassins. The Ishmaelites, or Assassins . . . founded . . . about the year 1090, in Persia. The name is derived, it is supposed, from their immoderate use of the plant haschish . . . which produced a delirious frenzy. The title given to the chief of the Order was Sheikh-el-Jebel, which . . . Higgins has shown (*Anacal.*, i., 700) to mean literally 'The Sage of the Kabbala or Traditions.'

"The Assassins were a secret society . . . [their] secret esoteric doctrine . . . imparted only to the initiated . . . [their initiation steps were] Apprentices, Fellows and Masters. . . . Between the Assassins and the Templars history records that there were several amicable transactions. . . . Hassan, their founder, [had] a profound knowledge of philosophy . . . and an enlightened spirit. . . .

"The old belief that they were a confederacy of murderers—whence we have taken our English word assassins—must now be abandoned as a figment of the credulity of past centuries, and we must be content to look upon them as a secret society of philosophers. . . . If we interpret Freemasonry as a generic term, signifying a philosophic sect which teaches truth by a mystical initiation and secret symbols, then Higgins was not very far in error in calling them the Freemasons of the East."

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