

The Scottish Rite, or the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, officially came into existence in Charleston, South Carolina, in the year 1801 with the formation of the Mother Supreme Council.

The Ku Klux Klan has been described as a white supremacist group founded in 1865/1866 in Pulaski, Tennessee, by confederate veterans. It was known for promoting racism and antisemitism, and for using terrorism against black people, Catholics and immigrants. Its purpose is said to have been to maintain white supremacy and oppose the reconstruction policies after the American Civil War.

The historian Dr Walter L. Fleming edited a book entitled *Ku Klux Klan: Its Origin, Growth and Disbandment*. It is reported that in its contents he detailed Albert Pike's leadership role in the organization.

Arturo Reghini was an Italian mathematician, born in Florence, Italy. In 1898 he became a member of the Theosophical Society and later founded a section in Rome. In 1903, he published a whole book series entitled, "Biblioteca Teosofica." In 1921, Reghini was initiated to the highest degree of the Scottish Rite and shortly after he was elected General Secretary of the Supreme Council of Italy.

The man was violently opposed to Orthodox Christianity, which he associated with egalitarianism, and sought to establish a new occult religion. He also opposed democracy and welcomed the rise of fascism, which he associated with days of Imperial Rome.

The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn was founded in London, England in February 1888 by three prominent Freemasons. It was considered one of the more influential and exclusive secret societies of the nineteenth century, attracting many famous artists from diverse fields.

Its teachings synthesized ancient belief systems, such as Kabbalah, Neoplatonism, Rosicrucianism and Catholicism. Members of the Order pursued wisdom and enlightenment in preparation for the coming era of inner awakening. The Golden Dawn also performed secret rituals, including "goetia," a ritual used to communicate with supernatural spirit beings.

The society also influenced other occult movements like the Thelema Religion, developed by Aleister Crowley. He joined the Golden Dawn himself but was allegedly expelled over rumours that his goetia rituals involved having sex with both men and women.

Crowley also joined many other existing occult groups, often introducing his ideas into their rituals and incorporating their ideas into his. However, his religion had also some distinct doctrines.

Throughout his career, he appointed different women to be the "Scarlet Woman," a ritual prostitute outlined in his Book of the Law, signifying the embodiment of the Divine Feminine.

In 1920, he and such a woman, Leah Hirsig, set out to create the Abbey of Thelema in Cefalù, Sicily. The location is said to have been a spiritual college for studying magic and whatever else could bring spiritual enlightenment to followers. Some say their rituals not only involved recreational drugs and excessive sexual activity, but also human sacrifice.

However, the general public still speculates whether all this was just theatrics, a publicity stunt to challenge the rigid religious norms of their time, or Satan worship hidden in plain sight.

Jumping forward, the Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light is a relatively new esoteric movement. Derived from Twelve Shia Islam, it was founded in Basrah, Iraq in 1999 and later spread to several countries in the Middle East and Europe. Today, its headquarters are in Crewe, United Kingdom.

The movement diverges from traditional Islam and accepts a variety of spiritual teachers and prophets, including Moses, Jesus, Buddha, and Muhammad. They push for social equality and have openly supported LGBTQ rights. The central mission is to prepare for the end times and establish a just state governed by God's final representative.

In spite of its stated goal, the group has recently faced international scrutiny and investigations. In April 2026, the police raided the AROPL headquarters due to allegations of modern slavery, forced marriage and sexual offences, arresting many of their leaders and members.

These are just a handful of the many syncretistic, polytheistic religions of the last few centuries. But they are nothing new. The core philosophy is just a revived form of ancient Baal worship, whose powerful attraction was prosperity induced by sexual promiscuity and licentiousness.

They are also the age-old process of blending paganism with Bible truths, as we see with the Israelites and in some quarters of Christianity today.

The biblical counsel concerning these things, whether material or spiritual, is very simple and to the point: *"Do not love the world or the things in the world."*

Note, however, when John speaks of the world, he is speaking of the world system, not the people in it. This is why Paul does not forbid Christians to associate with anyone who engages in these things.

In his First Letter to the Corinthians, he warns that believers are to avoid only those who bear the Name of Christ and practice them. "Drive out the wicked person from among you."