SOME KEY TERMS IN *THE APOCALYPSE OF ADAM*

[V,5:64,1-85,32]

Four terms of symbolic and social significance appear frequently in *The Apocalypse of Adam*. Three of these (*spora*, *sperma*, *chroch*) can be translated “seed,” though with different meanings (*spora* – spiritual seed; *sperma* and *chroch* – physical offspring); the fourth (*genea*) can be translated generation, race, nation, or posterity. This document reviews their various usages in the text.

1) **Spora** (*спора*; Greek: *spora*) This term is “used positively of the line of Seth,” acc. to L. Martin. In fact, this term is not used only “of the line of Seth,” but it is used exclusively in a positive sense of divine or imperishable things, including “that Great Human Being” (the Great Seth, or the Great Anthropos) himself.

2) **Sperma** (*сперма*; Greek: *sperma*) Acc. to L. Martin, this term is used of the line of Sakla/Cain. In fact, the names associated most closely with sperma are Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth (who may or not be descended directly from Sakla/Cain).

3) **Chroch** (*дрох*) The Coptic equivalent of the Greek *sperma*.

4) **Genea** (*генея*; Greek: *genea*). Generation, Race, Nation.

I. **Spora, спора.** Seed in the sense of Spiritual Seed of Seth; the divine Seth and his realm, as well as those who enjoy spiritual kinship with the Great Seth.

1) 65,4 But it (the gnosis) entered into the **Spora** of great aeons. 

2) 65,8 I have called you by the name of that great human being who is the **Spora** of the great generation or from whom it comes. 

3) 66,4 “Arise, Adam, from the sleep of death, and hear about the aeon and the **Spora** of that human being (Seth) whom Life has touched, who came from you and from Eve, your partner.”

4) 69,12 Rainshowers of god the almighty will be poured forth...so that he might destroy all flesh from the earth...along with those from the **Spora** of the human beings to whom passed the Life of Gnosis, this one who came forth from me and your mother Eve.
etaFouwtb ehraI eroou ñëI piwng ñte ttnwcic ñaei etaFefi eboal ñght mn ey¿a tekmaaY.

5) 71,4-5. “I will give the earth to you and your sons. In kingly fashion you will rule over it - you and your sons. And no Spora will come forth from you of human beings who will not stand in my presence in another glory.” Then they will become as the cloud of the great light. Mnñ ctpora ñnhY eboal ñghtk ñte nipwme ëte ñce naæge patoy an mnæmtO eboal ññ keeooY.

6) 76,7. The humans beings (rescued from fire, sulfur, asphalt by Abrasax, Gamaliel, Sablo) will be like those angels for they are not strangers to them. But they work in the imperishable Spora. álLa eYp 2wb ññ ¹ctpora ñàttako.

7) 79,16-17. The fourth kingdom says:...The virgin became pregnant and gave birth to the child there. She nourished him on a border of the desert. When he had been nourished, he received glory and power from the Spora from which he had been begotten. And thus he came to the water. áqxi ñoyeooy mn oybom eboal ññ ¹ctpora ëtaFyypom eboal ñghtc.

8) 83,4. The genea without a king says that God chose him from all the aeons....He made the genea of those human beings whom he had chosen for himself shine so that they should shine upon the whole aeon.’ Then the Spora, those who will receive his name upon the water and that of them all, will fight against the power. And a cloud of darkness will come upon them (those of the power). tòte ¹ctpora na†oybe ¹bom nh etnáxi ñpeqran 2ixh ñtímooy áyw ñtótoY thyoY.

9) 85,22. These are the revelations Adam made known to his son Seth. And his son taught his Spora about them. áyw apeqyre tame teFçpora erooy tæi te ttnwcic ñnátopkryqon.

10) 85,29. This is the hidden gnosis of Adam which he gave to Seth, which is the holy baptism of those who know the eternal gnosis through those born of the word and the imperishable Illuminators, who came from the holy Spora. eboal nítotoY ñnialoqtenhç mn nifwççtrp ñnáttako nh etay ei eboal ññ ¹ctpora êtoEYáb.

II. Sperma, cperma. Seed in the sense of Offspring, Descendants

1) 72,24. [Noah to his sons]: “Let not you sperma depart from the face of god the almighty.
2) 73,14 Others from the sperma of Ham and Japheth will come (400,000) and enter into another land and sojourn there.

3 & 4) 73,25, 28 The sperma of Ham and Japheth will form 12 kingdoms and their sperma will enter into the kingdom of another people.

5) 74,11 “What is the power of these human beings...who were taken from the sperma of Ham and Japheth (400,000)?

6) 74,17 The sperma of Noah through his son has done all your will....these human beings have not done your will.

7) 76,12 The Illuminator will pass by in great glory to leave something from the sperma of Noah and the sons of Ham and Japheth, to leave for himself fruit-bearing trees...and he will redeem their souls.

III. Chroch, ὅπος

73,2 Noah: “My seed will be pleasing before you and your power.

73,6. Noah: Seal it by your strong hand with fear and commandment, so that the whole seed which came forth from me may not be inclined away from you and god the almighty, but will serve in humility and fear of its knowledge.

IV. Genea, γενεά (generation, race)

1) 65,8. I have called you by the name of that human being who is the spora of the great genea or from whom it comes.

2 & 3) 67,24, 27. After I have completed the time of this genea and the year of the genea have been accomplished, then....

4) 70,18. God will say to Noah, whom the geneae (pl.) will call him Deucalion.

5) 71,19 God will say to Noah: ‘Why have you departed from what I told you? You have created another genea so that you might scorn my power.”

6) 71,23. Then Noah will say: ‘I shall testify before your might that the genea of these human beings did not come from me nor from my sons.”

7) 77,20. Then the angels and all the geneae (pl.) of the powers will use the name in error, asking: ‘Where did it (error) come from?’ or ‘Where did the words of deception, which all the powers have failed to discover, come from?’
8) 82,19. But the genea without a king over it says that God chose him from all the aeons. He caused a gnosis of the undefiled one of truth to come to be in him. 9) 85,9. But angelic brings will bring them (the words they have kept), whom all the geneae of human beings will not know. For they will be on a high mountain, upon a rock of truth.