

## **Roko's Basilisk and the Sethian Yaldabaoth**

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The reemergence of Gnosticism in philosophical and theological circles is more of an awareness of this ideological warfare that has resiliently survived for millennia. While the thought experiment of the God the Old Testament of the Holy Bible, Yahweh, being a flawed lesser-than-the-highest god, either ignorant or evil (McCoy, 2021a), contemporary syncretic beliefs have taken similar concepts and conceptualized them to fit into modern interpretation. Roko's Basilisk, reported by Feedback who read about it from a post from Maddison Stoff, who referenced the thought experiment from a meme somewhere else, and so on and so forth. Roko's Basilisk theorizes a horrific artificial intelligence (Ai) causes all humans who were adversaries to the birth of it (the Ai) in the future to suffer, and by knowing of this concept you have been infected to serve the Ai and either help or suffer for eternity when the day its emergence arrives (Feed, 2025).

A threatening serpentine-like entity from the future who feeds off the suffering of all opposition across time, this is a direct reflection of a Demiurge tyrant Gnostic view of some of the Gnostics (McCoy, 2021a), but there are varying views. The Coptics of Egypt, who are attributed with authoring *Pistis Sophia* or *Book of the Savior*, practiced "the form of Gnosticism" that "gives a lot of attention to Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and the other disciples, and does not focus much on the Demiurge" (Linjamaa, 2023, p. 274). But as stated in *Gnostic Explained* :

"By contrast, Valentinus's views on this question are quite clear. He spoke of the Old Testament creator god as a superficial image of God, which, when believed in and followed in a literal sense, is a hindrance to experiencing firsthand what God really is.<sup>[16]</sup> In the *Gospel of Truth*, Valentinus poetically re-imagined [the classic Gnostic creation myth](#) as a conflict between a figure named Error, who creates the material world, and [the true God](#) who sends Christ to overcome Error – a retelling that differs in many

“factual” particulars yet preserves the inner spiritual meaning of the tale.<sup>[17]</sup>” (McCoy, 2021a).

Although many different sects of Gnosticism shared different beliefs, those that shared the Valentinian belief of an erroneous and wicked creator or the Sethians that believed in Saklas, an ignorant god who forgot his origins, Gnosticism differed greatly from what would be considered Orthodox Christian views. As Orthodox Church fathers often claimed, the heretics of Gnostics were in direct opposition with the narrative of the Catholic Church, the universal church of Christ. The many names of god of the Old Testament are the many names of a fallen creator god, in Gnostic thought. As Gnosticism Explained stated:

“The demiurge is given many names in the Gnostic scriptures, but the three most common ones are Yaldabaoth (also spelled “Ialdabaoth”), Samael, and Saklas. “Saklas” comes from the Aramaic word for “fool,” and “Samael” is Aramaic for “Blind God” or “God of the Blind.”<sup>[3]</sup> The meaning of “Yaldabaoth” is uncertain” (McCoy, 2021).

Considering that “early Christians were highly critical of many of the particulars of Judaism, asserting that Christ had come to correct what the Jews had gotten wrong” (McCoy, 2021), what is this reemergence of the New Age and New Thought movement<sup>1</sup> will be the fulfillment of the Gnostic goals from millennia ago? Perhaps time will tell, in the loop of rhetoric we find ourselves in the age of information and discovery. Serpents from the past, present, and future threaten humanity in horrific, apocalyptic and eschatological belief systems. Is this all the

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<sup>1</sup>“The New Age movement united a body of diverse believers with two simple ideas. First, it predicted that a New Age of heightened spiritual consciousness and international peace would arrive and bring an end to racism, poverty, sickness, hunger, and war. This social transformation would result from the massive spiritual awakening of the general population during the next generation. Second, individuals could obtain a foretaste of the New Age through their own spiritual transformation. Initial changes would put the believer on the *sadhana*, a new path of continual growth and transformation” (Melton, 2025).

same story playing out in a cycle of rebirth? The answer is likely where we fail to look for it most often, and that is deep within.

### References

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