

APPENDIX 3

God's Law or The Books of the Genesis of the Ukrainian People

[Source: Reprinted from B. Yanivsky (Mijakovskij), *Kostomarov's Books of the Genesis of the Ukrainian People* (New York, 1954)]

1. God created the world: the heaven and earth, and populated it with all the creatures and appointed man to have domination over all earthly things and commanded him to be fruitful and multiply and ordained that the human race be divided into generations and tribes; and to each generation and tribe He bestowed a land so that each generation and tribe might seek God, who is near man, and thus all people might worship and believe in Him and love Him, and all people would be happy.

2. But the human race forgot God and gave itself to the devil, and each tribe invented its own gods and in each tribe the peoples invented their own gods and they waged war for these gods and the earth became soaked with blood and bestrewn with ashes and bones and in all the world there was grief, poverty, sickness, calamity and discord.

3. So the just Lord punished the people with floods, wars, plagues and that which is worst of all—slavery.

4. For there is one true God, and He is the sole King of the human race, but the people, as soon as they had created gods for themselves, in the same way created kings for themselves; for just as in every corner there was their own king, the people began to fight for their own kings and the earth became even more soaked with blood and bestrewn with ashes and bones, and in all the world grief and poverty and sickness and calamity and discord were multiplied.

5. There is no other God but that God who dwells in celestial habitations and who is everywhere through His Holy Spirit, and although the people made their gods in the image of creatures and man, their gods were not gods but passions and lusts, and the people were ruled by the father of passions and lusts, the manslayer, the devil.

6. There is no other king but the one king, the heavenly consoler; although the people made their kings in the image of their brother, man, these were not real kings because the king, that is, he who rules everyone, must be wiser and juster than all others and only