

# Paths v Cycles

“He guides me in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.” Psalm 23:3

# To Calf Path

by Sam Walter Foss (1858-1911)

I.

One day, through the primeval wood,  
A calf walked home, as good calves should;

## II.

But made a trail all bent askew,  
A crooked trail as all calves do.  
Since then three hundred years have fled,  
And, I infer, the calf is dead.  
But still he left behind his trail,  
And thereby hangs my moral tale.  
The trail was taken up next day,  
By a lone dog that passed that way.

And then a wise bell-wether sheep,  
Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep;  
And drew the flock behind him too,  
As good bell-wethers always do.  
And from that day, o'er hill and glade.  
Through those old woods a path was made.

### III.

And many men wound in and out,  
And dodged, and turned, and bent about;  
And uttered words of righteous wrath,  
Because 'twas such a crooked path.  
But still they followed – do not laugh –  
The first migrations of that calf.  
And through this winding wood-way stalked,  
Because he wobbled when he walked.

## IV.

This forest path became a lane,  
that bent, and turned, and turned again.  
This crooked lane became a road,  
Where many a poor horse with his load,  
Toiled on beneath the burning sun,  
And traveled some three miles in one.  
And thus a century and a half,  
They trod the footsteps of that calf.

## V.

The years passed on in swiftness fleet,  
The road became a village street;  
And this, before men were aware,  
A city's crowded thoroughfare;  
And soon the central street was this,  
Of a renowned metropolis;  
And men two centuries and a half,  
Trod in the footsteps of that calf.

## VI.

Each day a hundred thousand rout,  
Followed the zigzag calf about;  
And o'er his crooked journey went,  
The traffic of a continent.  
A Hundred thousand men were led,  
By one calf near three centuries dead.  
They followed still his crooked way,  
And lost one hundred years a day;  
For thus such reverence is lent,  
To well established precedent.

## VII.

A moral lesson this might teach,  
Were I ordained and called to preach;  
For men are prone to go it blind,  
Along the calf-paths of the mind;  
And work away from sun to sun,  
To do what other men have done.  
They follow in the beaten track,  
And out and in, and forth and back,

And still their devious course pursue,  
To keep the path that others do.  
They keep the path a sacred groove,  
Along which all their lives they move.  
But how the wise old wood gods laugh,  
Who saw the first primeval calf!  
Ah! many things this tale might teach –  
But I am not ordained to preach.

# A Parable on Theology?

## Path v. Cycles?

“He guides me in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.” Psalm 23:3

**Psa 23:3** He restoreth<sup>H7725</sup> my  
soul:<sup>H5315</sup> he leadeth<sup>H5148</sup> me in the  
**paths**<sup>H4570</sup> of righteousness<sup>H6664</sup> for  
his name's sake.<sup>H4616 H8034</sup>

# H4570

מעגל / מעגלה

ma'gâl / ma'gâlâh

## **BDB Definition:**

1) entrenchment, track

1a) circumvallation, entrenchment

1b) track

**STRONGS:** From the same as [H5696](#); a *track* (literally or figuratively); also a *rampart* (as *circular*): - going, path, trench, way([-side]).

Think:

Moedim.... Feasts.... Cycles...

# Scripture is Cyclical

Western/linear thought

v

Eastern/circular thought

PaRaDiSe

PaRDeS

P'shat – Literal, surface meaning

Remez – Hinted at...

Drash – Connected

Sod – Deep, hidden, mystical

## Yeshua in the Tanakh

Mashiach, as a picture...

- Itza'ak (Isaac)
- Yosef (Joseph)
- Moshe
- David....

1 Samuel 17

Homework:

I am the **way**, the **truth**, the  
**life**...

What is the definition of each of these words  
from Scripture?

i.e., What does Scripture (Tanakh) say is the  
'way,' 'truth,' 'life?'



Keep My commandments

Same yesterday, today, forever...

What are His commandments?

Resources...