

I have in these pages sought to reconstruct the biography of Adam the Hidden, a 15th-century Scandinavian petty king who led a revolt of alleged Neo-Cathars in Lappland. Unfortunately, nothing substantial about him exists in recent academic literature, and the author has been aided primarily by primary sources (yes, pun intended). Adam's name exists merely as a footnote in the history of late Medieval Sweden, but this short exposition seeks to change that.

There is no credible reference to Adam's birth or parentage; the first source to mention him is the C.C. MS #160726, written c. 1448: "There is one who lives near the banks of the Kalix River, on the slopes of some mountain, who is called the Hidden, his good name Adam. He has a great many followers among the Lapps, and lives in an elaborate tower. The sound of his bowed lyre travels far and wide." From this tower Adam sent occasional written orders to his band of outcasts, thieves, accused witches, and heterodox theologians, but never made great public appearances. Another later account describes him as wearing a skull-mask, "so as not to shew his devilish countenance" (C.C. MS #160728). The first written allegation of Adam's involvement in Catharism dates to 1456, in a Norwegian encyclopedia of heresies. The three or so folios dedicated to Adam's activities tell of a clandestine cult, meeting alternately in Nederkalix and what is now Mo i Rana. The "Adamites" (the author of the tome expectably making a likely unfounded connection to the long-gone nudist sect) are accused of murdering state officials, sacrificing children, believing in a "wicked and licentious demiurgical God", and performing violent and erotically charged Black Masses before Lapp idols. The Adamites cast spells and curses with anticlerical and antigovernment intent, but they also craft talismans and heal the sick; Adam the Hidden's notable lyre-playing is also considered to be of magical, theurgical origin in this second manuscript.

Now, the tome states that few rituals and perversions were ever conducted at Adam's tower, which only furthered the image of Adam as a solitary genius in the minds of those mystic Romantics that made reference to him in their poetry and music. Charles-Valentin Alkan wrote a now-lost viola concerto dedicated to Adam. Those present at the premiere found it simply too unconventional for early 19th century ears. Though Alkan's composition did not survive the poor taste of time, some of Adam the Hidden's own melodies have. Three are preserved in a quasi-hymnal authored by the Adamites, and the music closely resembles Sámi joik: beautiful yet unpretentious, imitative of nature. Through the hymnal, we can begin to understand Adam's beliefs as they really were, instead of how they were portrayed by bigots. In Adam's theology, there was a primordial God of chaos who produced a daughter and son (representing creation and destruction respectively, and equated with Rádien-attje and Rádien-akka); these two then brought forth the Word, and the Word brought forth the four elements; from the four elements nature deities came. The Adamites did have amoral beliefs but not immoral ones, and they claimed doctrinal descent not from Cathars or Waldensians or any other heterodox Christian group, but instead from a more obscure crowd: the Alians.

The Alians, not extraterrestrial but rather very terrestrial in that they supposedly lived underground, were (or perhaps still are) one of the longest enduring secret societies in human

history, and evidently the most successful at maintaining their secrecy -- there is such a dearth of information about them that the 19th century English antiquarian Sylvester St. John once wrote, "the mystery of the Alians may be even greater than the mystery of God's existence, and doubly so for thousands if not millions have laboured towards solving the deific puzzle, while perhaps less than one hundred historians and antiquaries have ever deciphered a passing reference to the Alians in an antient chronicle." This is still quite true today; a quick Google search returns nothing, and I have ransacked the best libraries in the Western world but have found little reward.

In 1460, Adam was forced into exile from his tower, permanently moving with his followers to Mo i Rana. After that point, nothing much is known of his activities, and all mention of him cuts out by 1480.