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Elite 48

Pica 48

1 impossible that among the Canaanites there were
 2 groups of religious votaries who frequently
 3 engaged in such ecstatic practices, although
 4 evidence is not at present available to prove
 5 that this was the case. It may be that the
 6 Israelite writer called these heathen religion-
 7 ists "prophets" simply because of a superficial
 8 analogy to the religious leaders of his own land.

9 Actually there is very little evidence in the
 10 historical books or in the prophetic books them-
 11 selves that the Heb. prophets were subject to
 12 any state of ecstasy or unnatural enthusiasm.
 13 Assertions that Israelite prophets behaved in a
 14 manner similar to the prophets of Baal have been
 15 based on very few verses, since most references
 16 to the prophets contain no suggestion whatever
 17 of such an attitude. The principal passages on
 18 which such assertions are based are Num 11:24-30,
 19 I Sam 10:5-11, 19:20-24, and Ezek 8-11. It
 20 should be noticed that only one of these relates
 21 to the writer of any one of the prophetic books.

22 Examination of these passages in the order in
 23 which they occur would begin with Num 11:24-30,
 24 although this passage is not usually much
 25 stressed by those who advance such a theory.

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Illustration(s).....

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