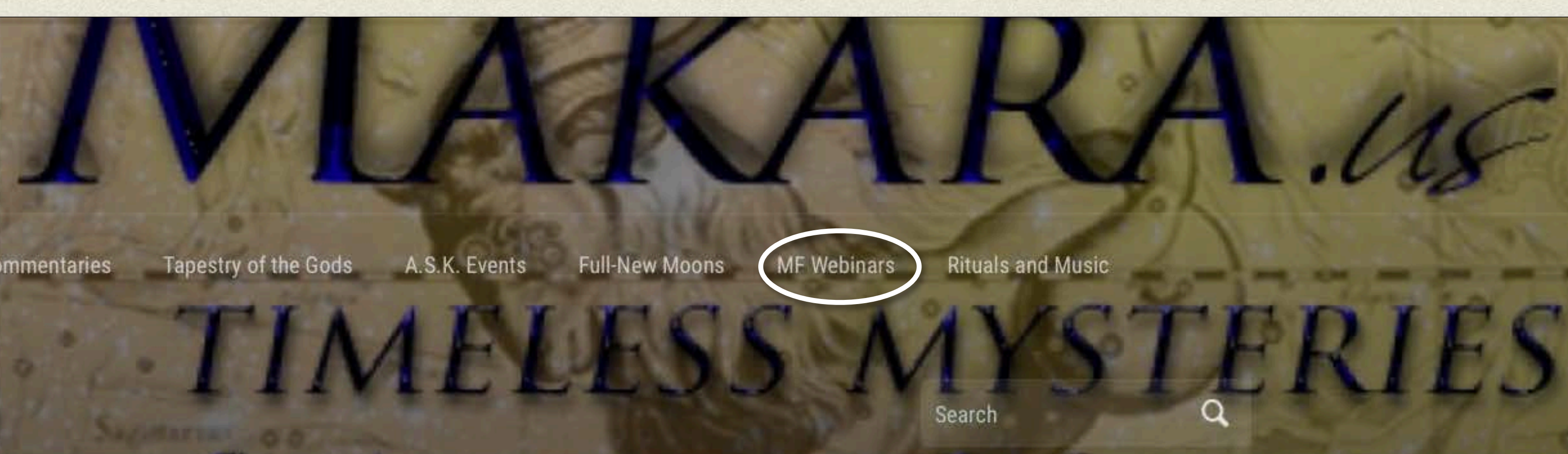




LA DÉSÉE MYRIONIME, ISIS,
Ou La Nature Personnifiée

Isis, from Lenoir's *La Franche Maçonnerie*



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AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OUTLINE OF


**Masonic, Hermetic,
Qabbalistic and Rosicrucian
Symbolical Philosophy**

*Being an Interpretation of the
Secret Teachings concealed within the Rituals, Allegories
and Mysteries of all Ages*

BY
MANLY P. HALL

THE ILLUSTRATIONS IN COLOR BY
J AUGUSTUS KNAPP

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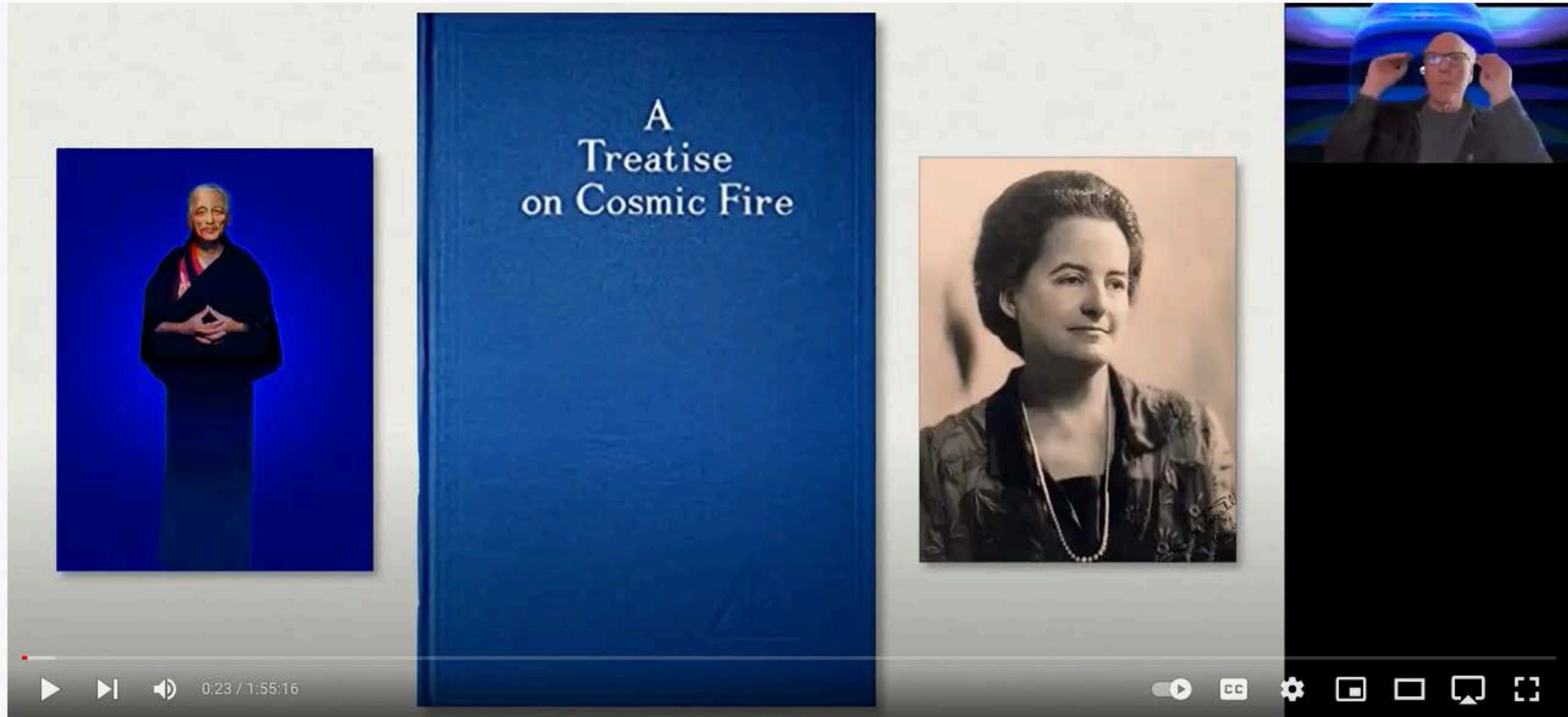
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Webinar: The Secret Teachings of All Ages, August 7, 2022

New Fellowship of Cosmic Fire Group, 12 Aug 2022, 5pm GMT

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THE SAITIC ISIS.

"I am Isis, mistress of the whole land. I was instructed by Hermes, and with Hermes I invented the writings of the nations. In order that we all should write with the same letters, I gave mankind these laws, and ordained what moine can utter. I am the sister daughter of Kronos. I am the wife and sister of the King Osiris. I am she who rises in the dig star. I am she who is called the goddess of women. * * * I am she who separated the heavens from the earth. I have parted out their paths to the stars. I have invented astronomy. * * * I have brought together men and women. * * * I have ordained that the sisters shall be beloved by the children. With my brother Osiris I made an end of cannibalism. I have instructed mankind in the mysteries. I have taught reverence of the divine spirits. I have established the temple precincts. I have overthrown the dominion of the tyrants. I have caused men to love woman. I have made justice more powerful than violence and gold. I have caused truth to be considered beautiful." (See Erman's Handbook of Egyptian Religion.)
The face and form of Isis were covered with a veil of mystery, symbolic of ignorance and emotion which forever stand between man and Truth. Isis lifts her veil and discovers herself to the true and true investigator who unselfishly, humbly, and sincerely seeks to understand the mysteries which surround him in the universe. Those to whom she reveals herself are warned to remain silent concerning the mysteries which they have seen. The great illumination of the Wise Men says: "If you know it, be silent." To the vulgar and profane, the infidel and disinterested one, she does not uncover her face, for they could not understand the secret processes of the invisible worlds.

Isis, the Virgin of the World

It is especially fitting that a study of Hermetic symbolism should begin with a discussion of the symbols and attributes of the Saitic Isis. This is the Isis of Sais, famous for the inscription concerning her which appeared on the front of her temple in that city: "I, Isis, am all that has been, that is or shall be; no mortal Man hath ever me unveiled."

Plutarch affirms that many ancient authors believed this goddess to be the daughter of Hermes; others held the opinion that she was the child of Prometheus. Both of these demigods were noted for their divine wisdom. It is not improbable that her kinship to them is merely allegorical. Plutarch translates the name *Isis* to mean *wisdom*. Godfrey Higgins, in his *Anacalypsis*, derives the name of Isis from the Hebrew *יִסָּ*, *Isa*, and the Greek *ἰσως*, *to save*. Some authorities, however, for example, Richard Payne Knight (as stated in his *Symbolical Language of Ancient Art and Mythology*), believe the word to be of Northern extraction, possibly Scandinavian or Gothic. In these languages the name is pronounced *Isa*, meaning *ice*, or water in its most passive, crystallized, negative state.

This Egyptian deity under many names appears as the principle of natural fecundity among nearly all the religions of the ancient world. She was known as the goddess with ten thousand appellations and was metamorphosed by Christianity into the Virgin Mary, for Isis, although she gave birth to all living things—chief among them the Sun—still remained a virgin, according to the legendary accounts.

Apuleius in the eleventh book of *The Golden Ass* ascribes to the goddess the following statement concerning her powers and attributes: "Behold, * * *, I, moved by thy prayers, am present with thee; I, who am Nature, the parent of things, the queen of all the elements, the primordial progeny of ages, the supreme of Divinities, the sovereign of the spirits of the dead, the first of the celestials, and the uni-form resemblance of Gods and Goddesses. I, who rule by my nod the luminous summits of the heavens, the salubrious breezes of the sea, and the deplorable silences of the realms beneath, and whose one divinity the whole orb of the earth venerates under a manifold form, by different rites and a variety of appellations. Hence the primordial Phrygians call me Pessinuntica, the mother of the Gods; the Attic Aborigines, Cecropian Minerva; the floating Cyprians, Paphian Venus; the arrow-bearing Cretans, Diana Dictynna; the three-tongued Sicilians, Stygian Proserpine; and the Eleusiniacs, the ancient Goddess Ceres. Some also call me Juno, others Bellona, others Hecate, and others Rhamnusia. And those who are illuminated by the incipient rays of that divinity the Sun, when he rises, viz. the Ethiopians, the Ariti, and the Egyptians skilled in ancient learning, worshipping me by ceremonies perfectly appropriate, call me by my true name, Queen Isis."

Le Plongeon believes that the Egyptian myth of Isis had a historical basis among the Mayas of Central America, where this goddess was known as Queen Moo. In Prince Coh the same author finds a correspondence to Osiris, the brother-husband of Isis. Le Plongeon's theory is that Mayan civilization was far more ancient than that of Egypt. After the death of Prince Coh, his widow, Queen Moo, fleeing to escape the wrath of his murderers, sought refuge among the Mayan colonies in Egypt, where she was accepted as their queen and was given the name of Isis. While Le Plongeon may be right, the possible historical queen sinks into insignificance when compared

with the allegorical, symbolic World Virgin; and the fact that she appears among so many different races and peoples discredits the theory that she was a historical individual.

According to Sextus Empyricus, the Trojan war was fought over a statue of the moon goddess. For this lunar Helena, and not for a woman, the Greeks and Trojans struggled at the gates of Troy.

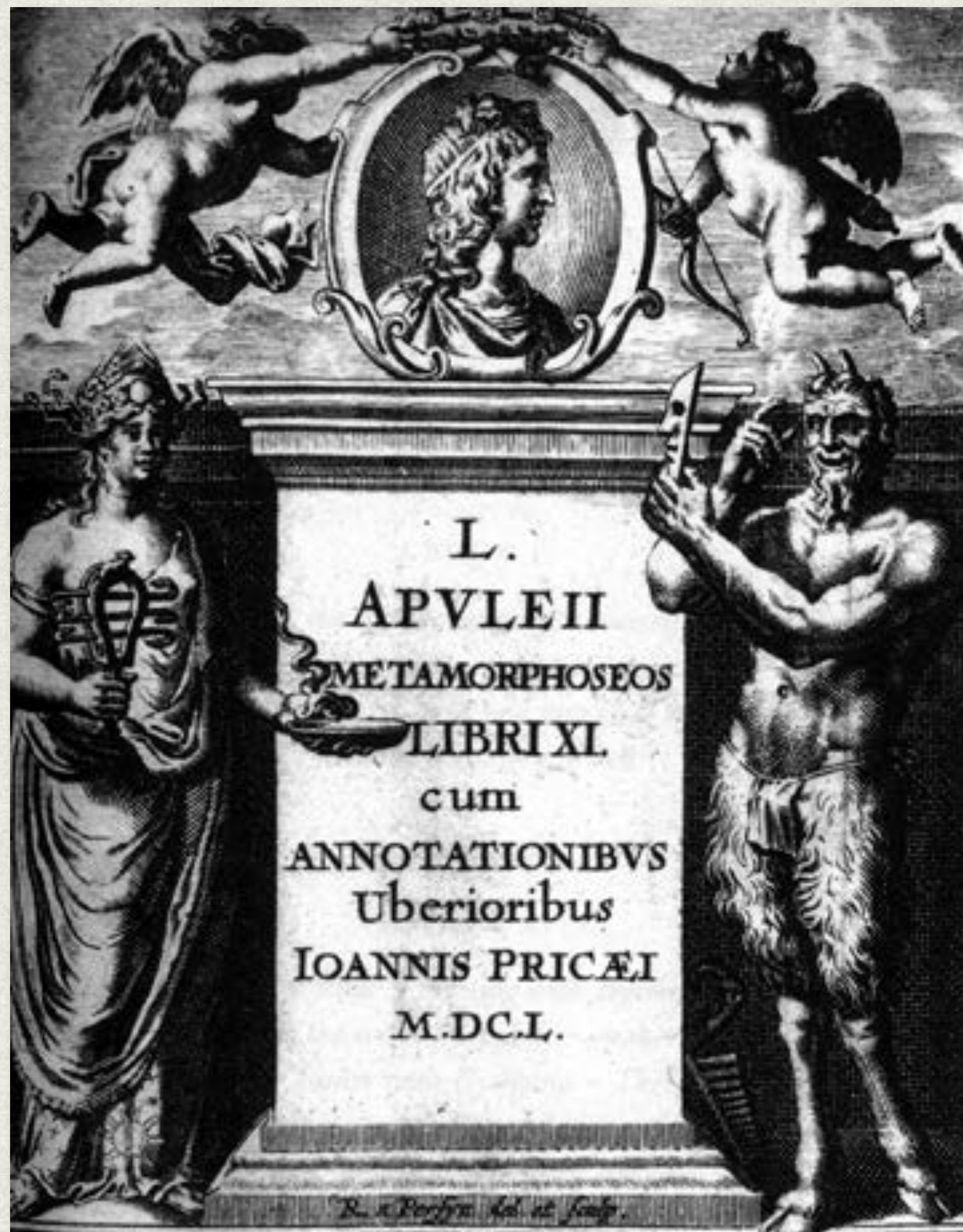
Several authors have attempted to prove that Isis, Osiris, Typhon, Nephthys, and Aroueris (Thoth, or Mercury) were grandchildren of the great Jewish patriarch Noah by his son Ham. But as the story of Noah and his ark is a cosmic allegory concerning the repopulation of planets at the beginning of each world period, this only makes it less likely that they were historical personages. According to Robert Fludd, the sun has three properties—*life, light, and heat*. These three vivify and vitalize the three worlds—*spiritual, intellectual, and material*. Therefore, it is said "from one light, three lights," i. e. the first three Master Masons. In all probability, Osiris represents the



From Monette's *Historie der Hebräer* von Kerk. ISIS, QUEEN OF HEAVEN.

Diodorus writes of a famous inscription carved on a column at Nysa, in Arabia, wherein Isis described herself as follows: "I am Isis, Queen of this country. I was instructed by Mercury. No one can destroy the laws which I have established. I am the eldest daughter of Saturn, most ancient of the gods. I am the wife and sister of Osiris the King. I first made known to mortals the use of wheat. I am the mother of Oros the King. In my honor was the city of Thabate built. Rejoice, O Egypt, rejoice, land that gave me birth!" (See "Moralis and Drama," by Albert Pike.)

After Osiris, here symbolized as the sun, had become King of Egypt and had given to his people the full advantage of his intellectual light, he continued his path through the heavens, visiting the peoples of other nations and converting all with whom he came in contact. Plutarch further asserts that the Greeks recognized in Osiris the same person whom they revered under the names of *Dionysus* and *Bacchus*. While he was away from his country, his brother, Typhon, the Evil One, like the Loki of Scandinavia, plotted against the Sun God to destroy him. Gathering seventy-two persons as fellow conspirators, he attained his nefarious end in a most subtle manner. He had a wonderful ornamented box made just the size of the body of Osiris. This he brought into a banquet hall where the gods and goddesses were feasting together. All admired the beautiful chest, and Typhon promised to give it to the one whose body fitted it most perfectly. One after another lay down in the box, but in dis-







Zeuta



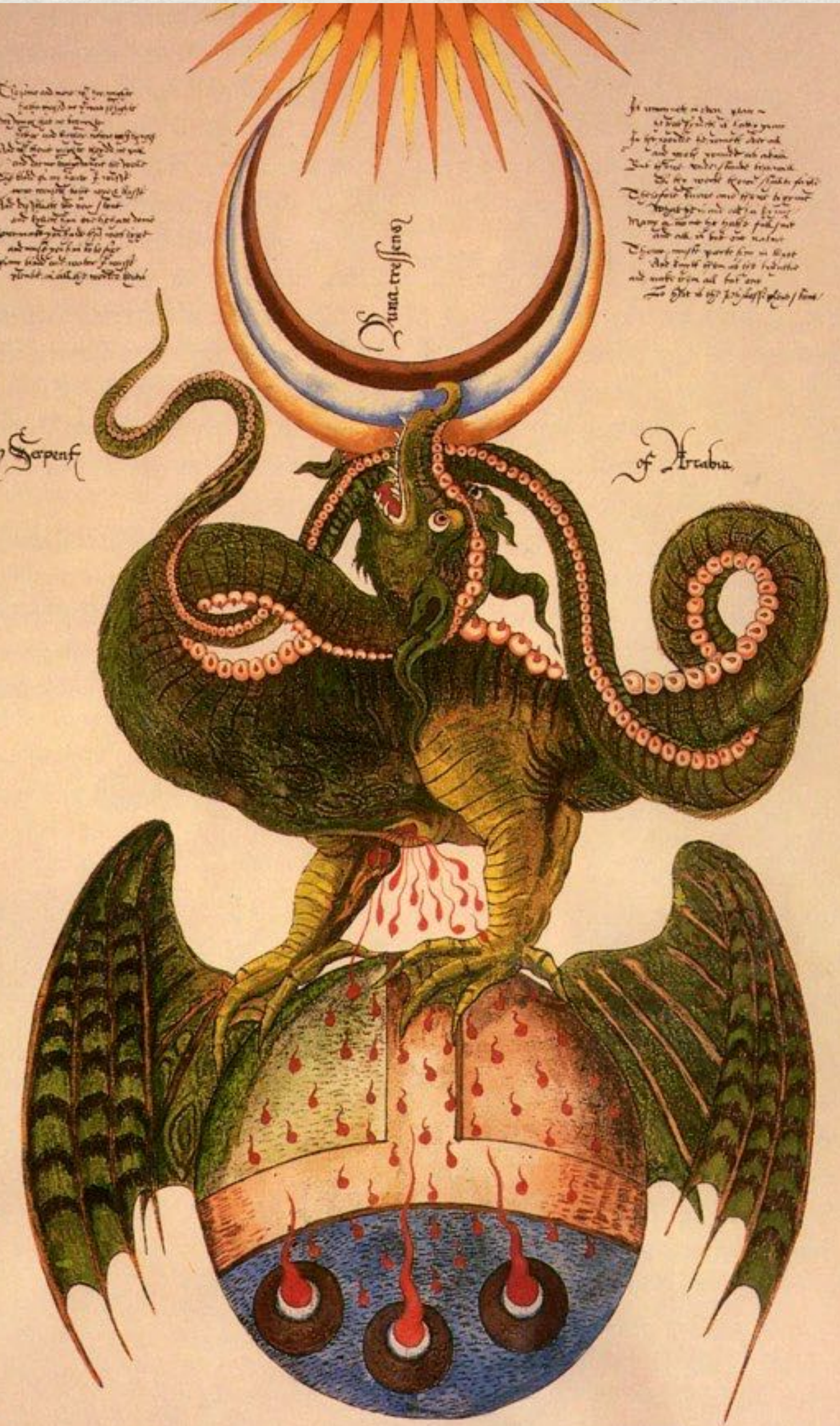
De serpente...

De Arabia...

The Serpent

of Arabia

Luna tresena





the image or representative of the great works of the wise men: the Philosopher's Stone, the Elixir of Life, and the Universal Medicine.

Other hieroglyphics seen in connection with Isis are no less curious than those already described, but it is impossible to enumerate all, for many symbols were used interchangeably by the Egyptian Hermetists. The goddess often wore upon her head a hat made of cypress branches, to signify mourning for her dead husband and also for the physical death which she caused every creature to undergo in order to receive a new life in posterity or a periodic resurrection. The head of Isis is sometimes ornamented with a crown of gold or a garland of olive leaves, as conspicuous marks of her sovereignty as queen of the world and mistress of the entire universe. The crown of gold signifies also the aurific unctuousity or sulphurous fatness of the solar and vital fires which she dispenses to every individual by a continual circulation of the elements, this circulation being symbolized by the musical rattle which she carries in her hand. This sistrum is also the yonic symbol of purity.

A serpent interwoven among the olive leaves on her head, devouring its own tail, denotes that the aurific unctuousity was soiled with the venom of terrestrial corruption which surrounded it and must be mortified and purified by seven planetary circulations or purifications called flying eagles (alchemical terminology) in order to make it medicinal for the restoration of health. (Here the emanations from the sun are recognized as a medicine for the healing of human ills.) The seven planetary circulations are represented by the circumambulations of the Masonic lodge; by the marching of the Jewish priests seven times around the walls of Jericho, and of the Mo-

hammedan priests seven times around the Kabba at Mecca. From the crown of gold project three horns of plenty, signifying the abundance of the gifts of Nature proceeding from one root having its origin in the heavens (head of Isis).

In this figure the pagan naturalists represent all the vital powers of the three kingdoms and families of sublunary nature—mineral, plant, and animal (man considered as an animal). At one of her ears was the moon and at the other the sun, to indicate that these two were the agent and patient, or father and mother principles of all natural objects; and that Isis, or Nature, makes use of these two luminaries to communicate her powers to the whole empire of animals, vegetables, and minerals.

On the back of her neck were the characters of the planets and the signs of the zodiac which assisted the planets in their functions. This signified that the heavenly influences directed the destinies of the principles and sperms of all things, because they were the governors of all sublunary bodies, which they transformed into little worlds made in the image of the greater universe.

Isis holds in her right hand a small sailing ship with the spindle of a spinning wheel for its mast. From the top of the mast projects a water jug, its handle shaped like a serpent swelled with venom. This indicates that Isis steers the bark of life, full of troubles and miseries, on the stormy ocean of Time. The spindle symbolizes the fact that she spins and cuts the thread of Life. These emblems further signify that Isis abounds in humidity, by means of which she nourishes all natural bodies, preserving them from the heat of the sun by humidifying them with nutritious moisture from the atmosphere. Moisture supports vegetation, but this subtle humidity (life ether) is always more or less infected by some venom proceeding from corruption or decay. It must be purified by being brought into contact with the invisible cleansing fire of Nature. This fire digests, perfects, and revitalizes this substance, in order that the humidity may become a universal medicine to heal and renew all the bodies in Nature.

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From the right breast of Isis protruded a bunch of grapes and from the left an ear of corn or a sheaf of wheat, golden in color. These indicate that Nature is the source of nutrition for plant, animal, and human life, nourishing all things from herself. The golden color in the wheat (corn) indicates that in the sunlight or spiritual gold is concealed the first sperm of all life.

On the girdle surrounding the upper part of the body of the statue appear a number of mysterious emblems. The girdle is joined together in front by four golden plates (the elements), placed in the form of a square. This signified that Isis, or Nature, the first matter (alchemical terminology), was the essence of the four elements (life, light, heat, and force), which quintessence generated all things. Numerous stars are represented on this girdle, thereby indicating their influence in darkness as well as the influence of the sun in light. Isis is the Virgin immortalized in the constellation of Virgo, where the World Mocher is placed with the serpent under her feet and a crown of stars on her head. In her arms she carries a sheaf of grain and sometimes the young Sun God.

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From the right arm of the figure also descends a thread, to the end of which is fastened a pair of scales, to denote the exactitude of Nature in her weights and measures. Isis is often represented as the symbol of Justice, because Nature is eternally consistent.



From Lenoir's *La Franche-Maconnerie*. THOTH, THE DOG-HEADED.

Amneris, or Thoth, one of the five immortals, protected the infant Horus from the wrath of Typhon after the murder of Osiris. He also revised the ancient Egyptian calendar by increasing the year from 360 days to 365. Thoth Hermes was called "The Dog-Headed" because of his faithfulness and integrity. He is shown crowned with a solar mitre, carrying in one hand the Crow Anasata, the symbol of eternal life, and in the other a serpent-woman, a symbol of his dignity as counselor of the gods.



From Lenoir's *La Franche-Maconnerie*. THE EGYPTIAN MADONNA.

Isis is often shown with her son Horus in her arms. She is crowned with the lunar orb, ornamented with the horns of rams or bulls. Osiris, or Horus as he is more generally known, was the son of Isis and Osiris. He was the god of time, hours, days, and this narrow span of life recognized as mortal existence. In all probability, the four sons of Horus represent the four kingdoms of Nature. It was Horus who finally avenged the murder of his father, Osiris, by slaying Typhon, the Spirit of Evil.

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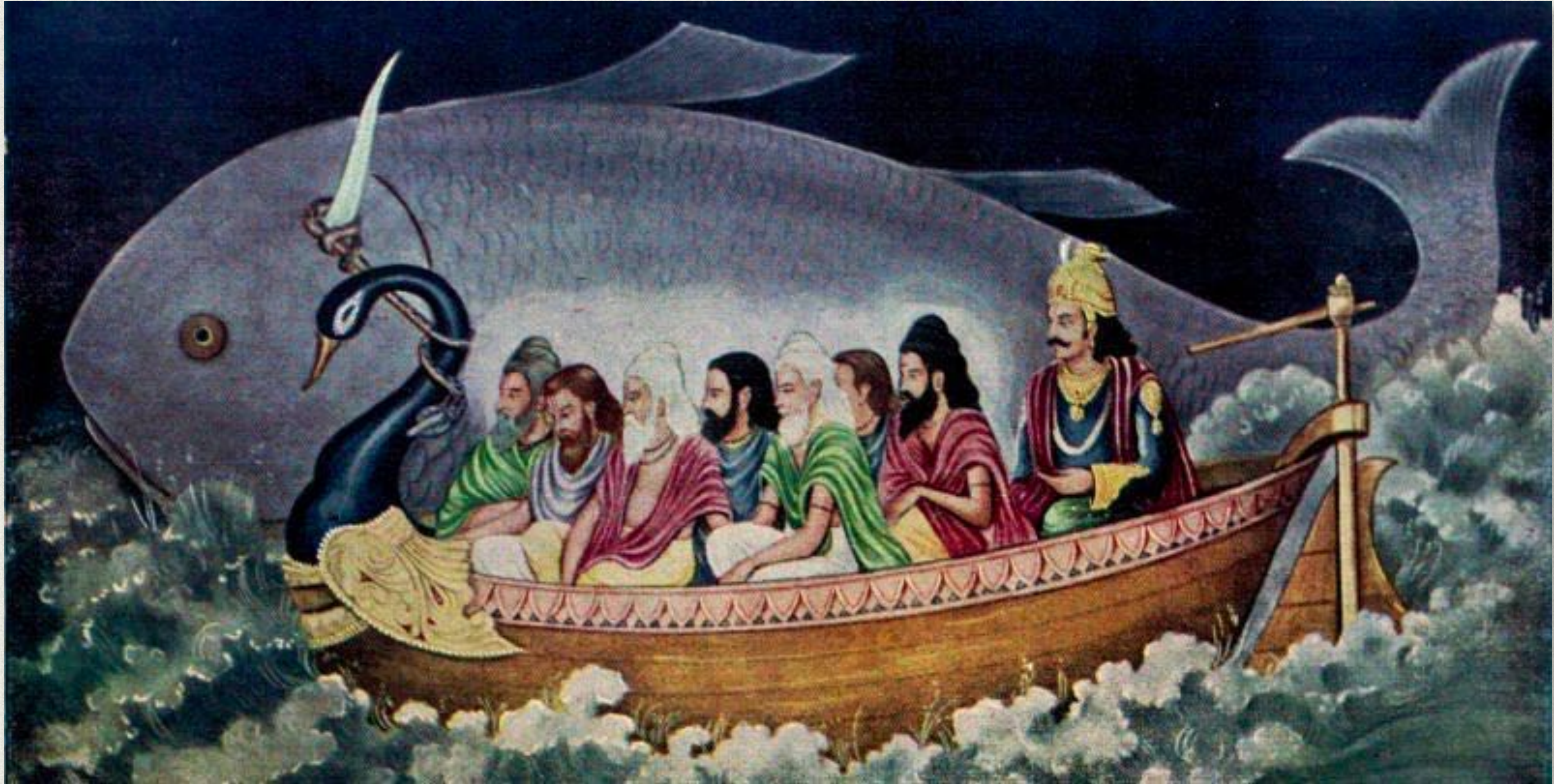
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The Three Fates
by Alexander Rothaug (ca. 1910).

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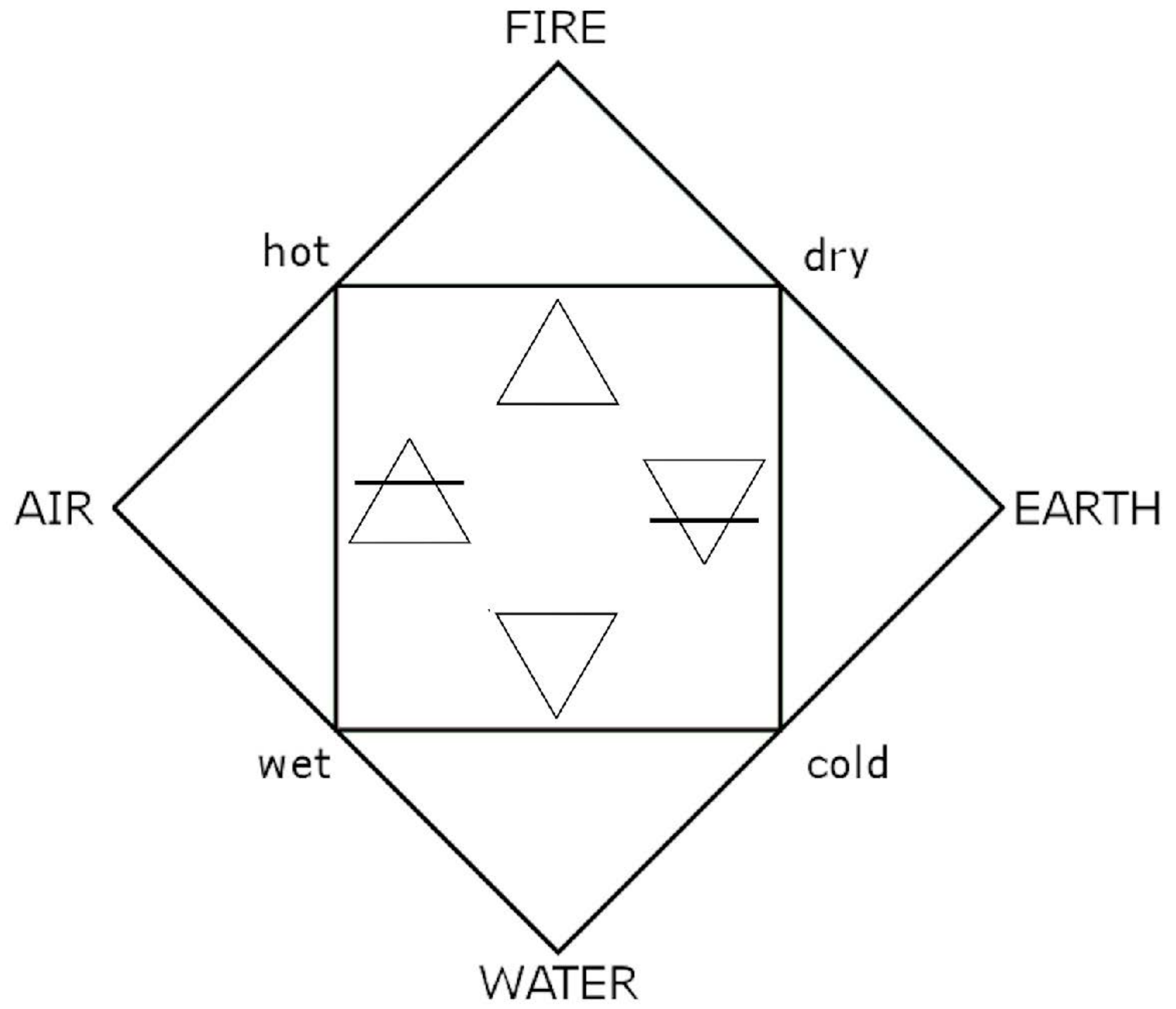
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THE EGYPTIAN MADONNA.

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Isis holds in her right hand a small sailing ship with the spindle of a spinning wheel for its mast. From the top of the mast projects a water jug, its handle shaped like a serpent swelled with venom. This indicates that Isis steers the bark of life, full of troubles and miseries, on the stormy ocean of Time. The spindle symbolizes the fact that she spins and cuts the thread of Life. These emblems further signify that Isis abounds in humidity, by means of which she nourishes all natural bodies, preserving them from the heat of the sun by humidifying them with nutritious moisture from the atmosphere. Moisture supports vegetation, but this subtle humidity (life ether) is

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On the back of her neck were the characters of the planets and the signs of the zodiac which assisted the planets in their functions. This signified that the heavenly influences directed the destinies of the principles and sperms of all things, because they were the governors of all sublunary bodies, which they transformed into little worlds made in the image of the greater universe.

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THOTH, THE DOG-HEADED.

Ammon, or Thoth, one of the five immortals, protected the infant Horus from the wrath of Typhon after the murder of Osiris. He also revised the ancient Egyptian calendar by increasing the year from 360 days to 365. Thoth, Hermes was called "The Dog-Headed" because of his faithfulness and integrity. He is shown crowned with a solar nimbus, carrying in one hand the Crow Anasata, the symbol of eternal life, and in the other a serpent-woman, a symbol of his dignity as counselor of the gods.

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The statue of Isis was placed on a pedestal of dark stone ornamented with rams' heads. Her feet trod upon a number of venomous reptiles. This indicates that Nature has power to free from acidity or saltiness all corrosives and to overcome all impurities from terrestrial corruption adhering to bodies. The rams' heads indicate that the most auspicious time for the generation of life is during the period when the sun passes through the sign of Aries. The serpents under her feet indicate that Nature is inclined to preserve life and to heal disease by expelling impurities and corruption.

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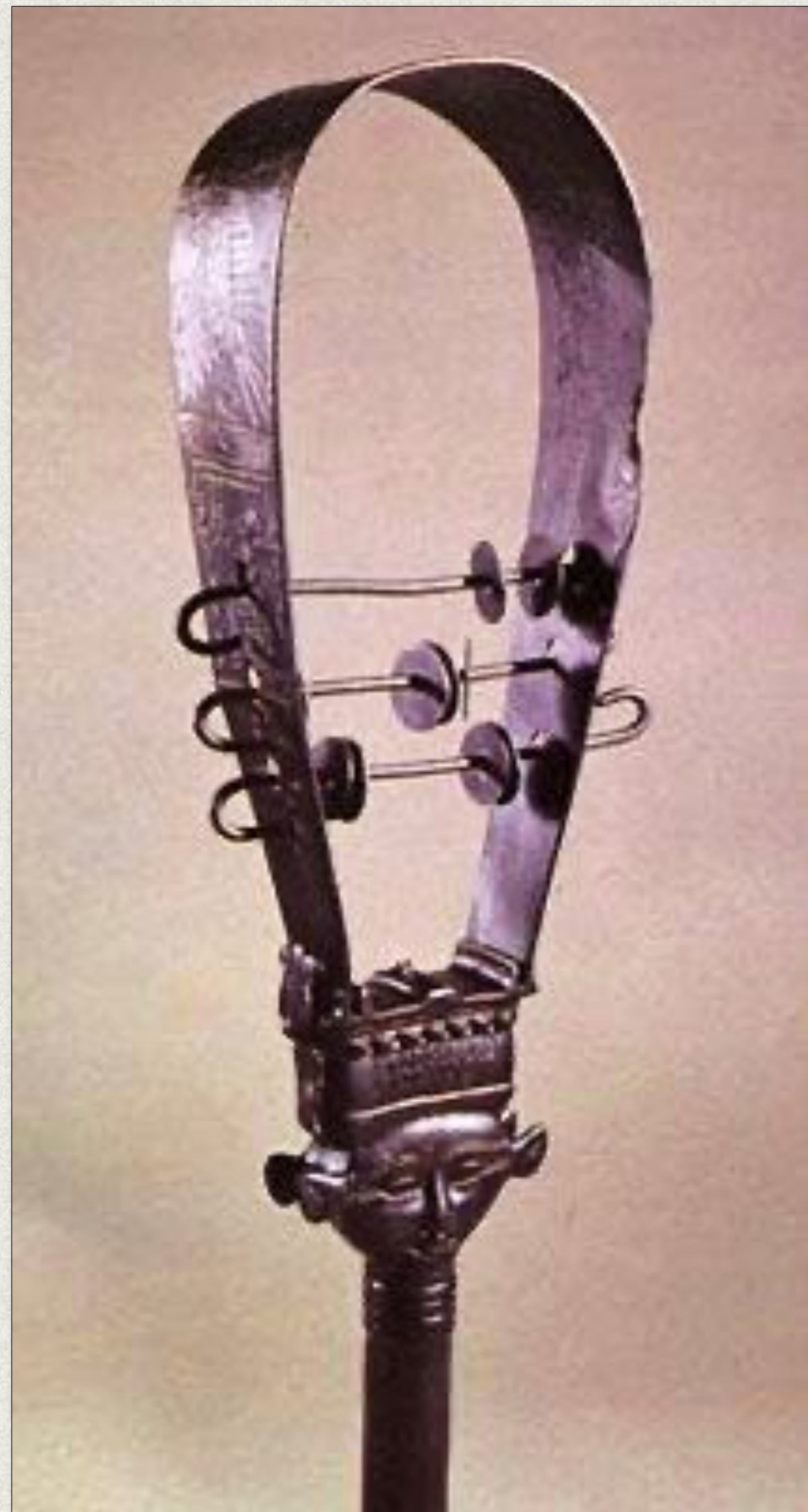
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Involution	Evolution	Obscuration
Inert Motion	Activity	Rhythmic Motion
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-TCF:6-7

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THE GOLDEN CHAIN OF HOMER

Pervigil Ecce

Dracol Squemis
creperantibus
horrens!



Gregory S. Hamilton
and Philip N. Wheeler, Editors

Sigismond BACSTROM

**Bacstrom's
Alchemical Anthology**

[*Essay on Alchemy*]

[John M. Watkins, London, 1960
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Essay On Alchemy

by

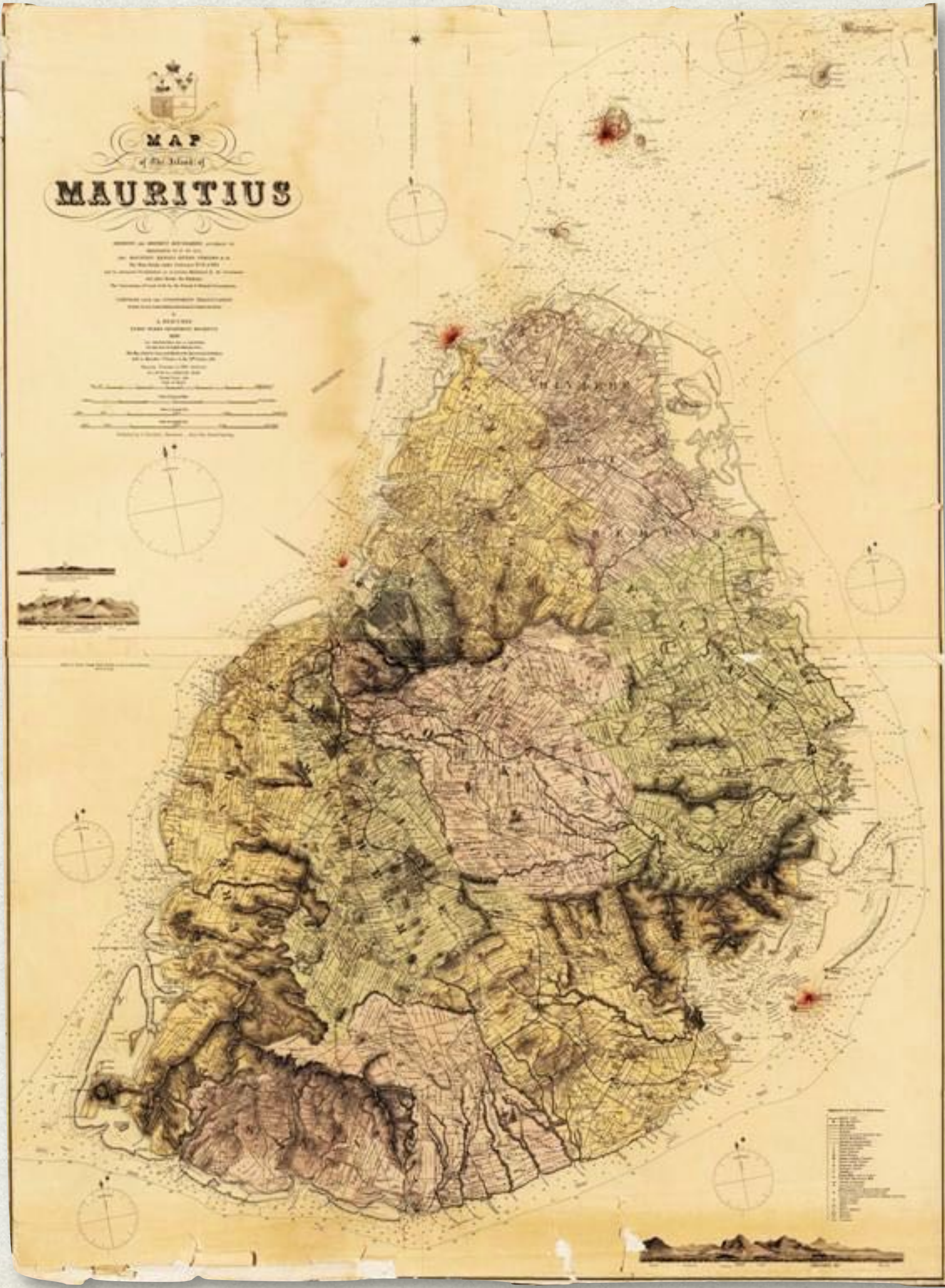
Sigismond Bacstrom

Together with Extracts from the Great Early
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MAP
of the Island of
MAURITIUS

BY JOHN HENRY HALL, ESQ.
SURVEYOR GENERAL OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS
AND HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONER OF THE GREAT TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO, IN THE YEAR 1810.
LONDON: PRINTED BY W. BARNES, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.
1811.



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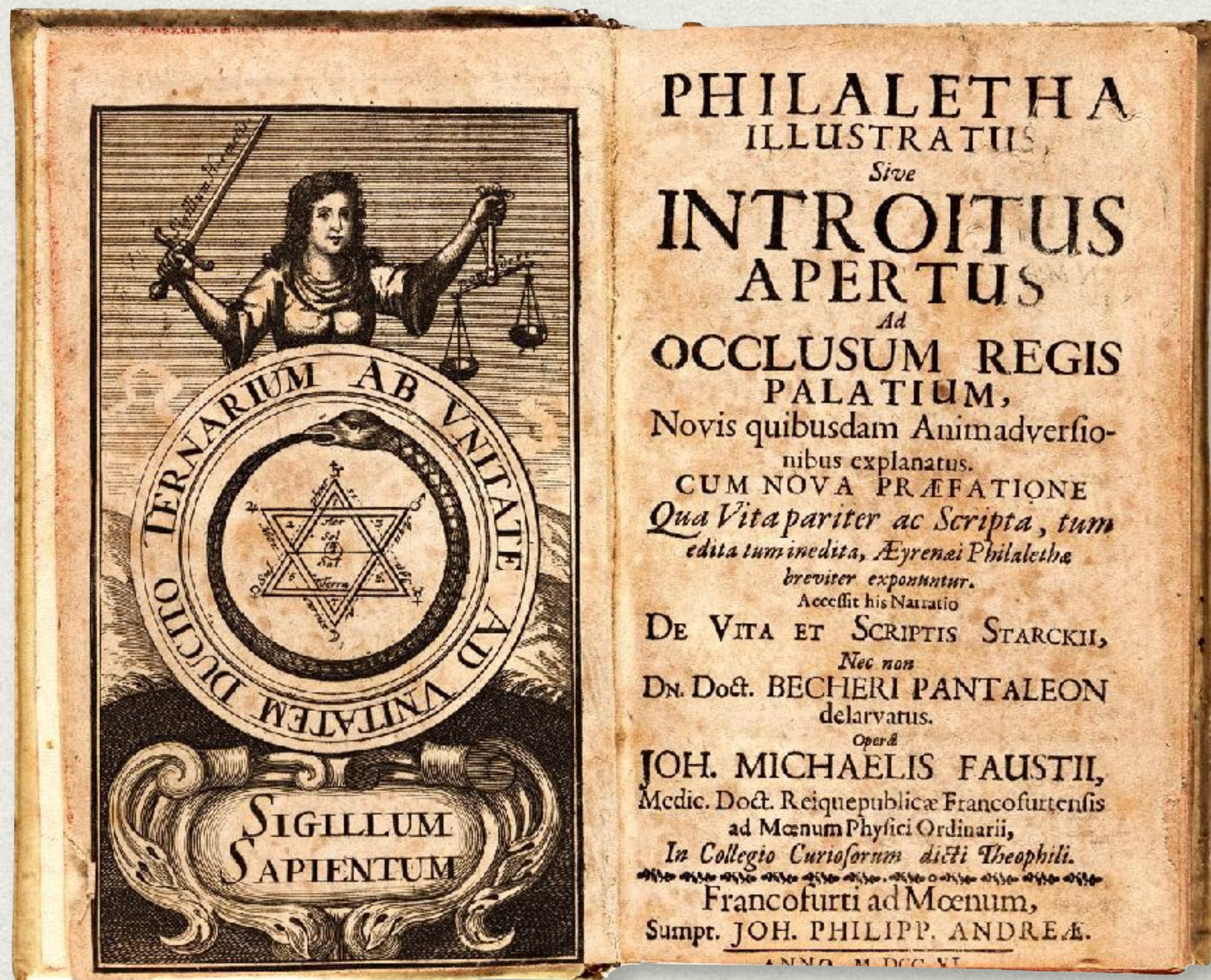
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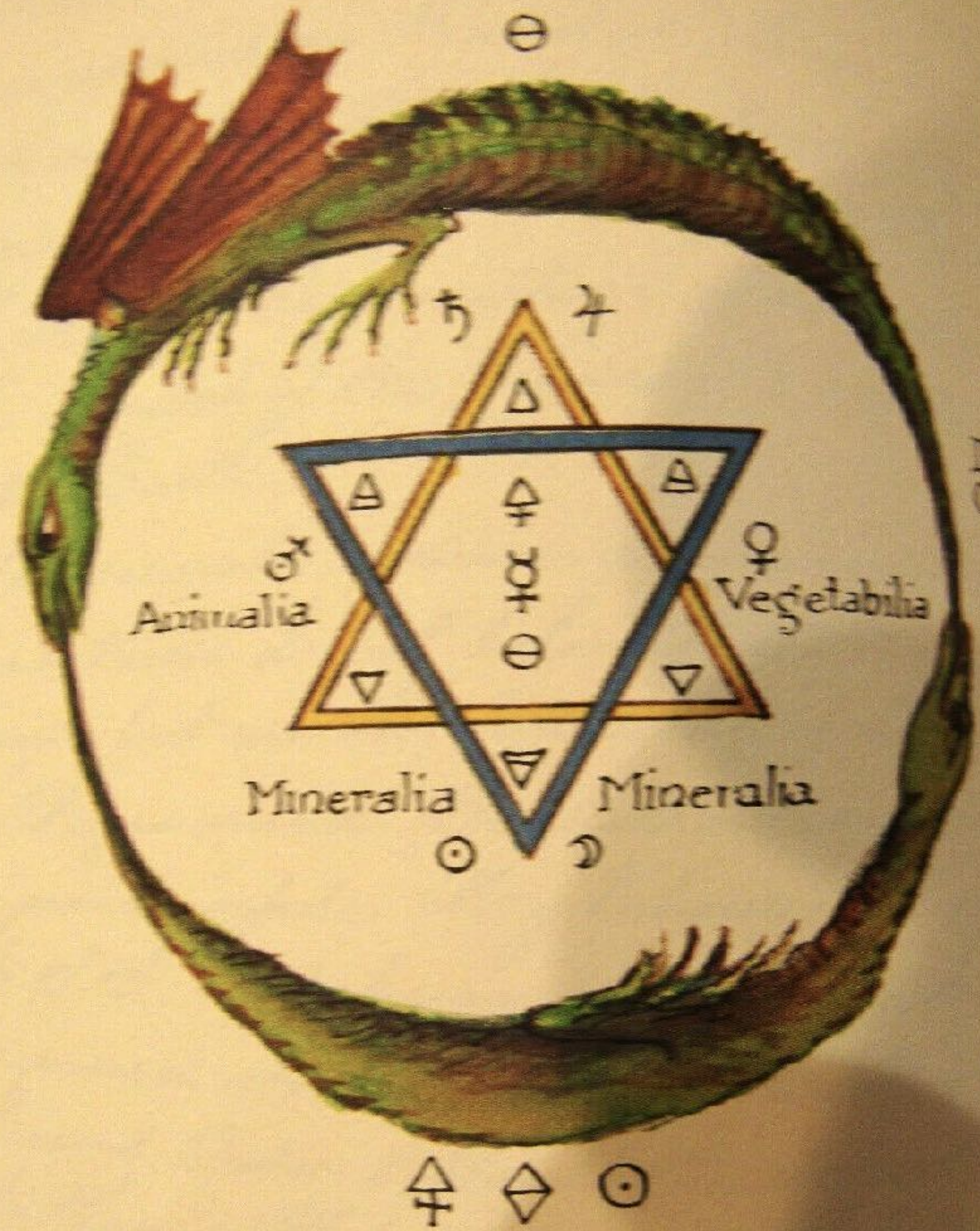


Introitus Apertus ad Occlusum Regis Palatium, by Eirenaeus Philalethes (1628-1665)

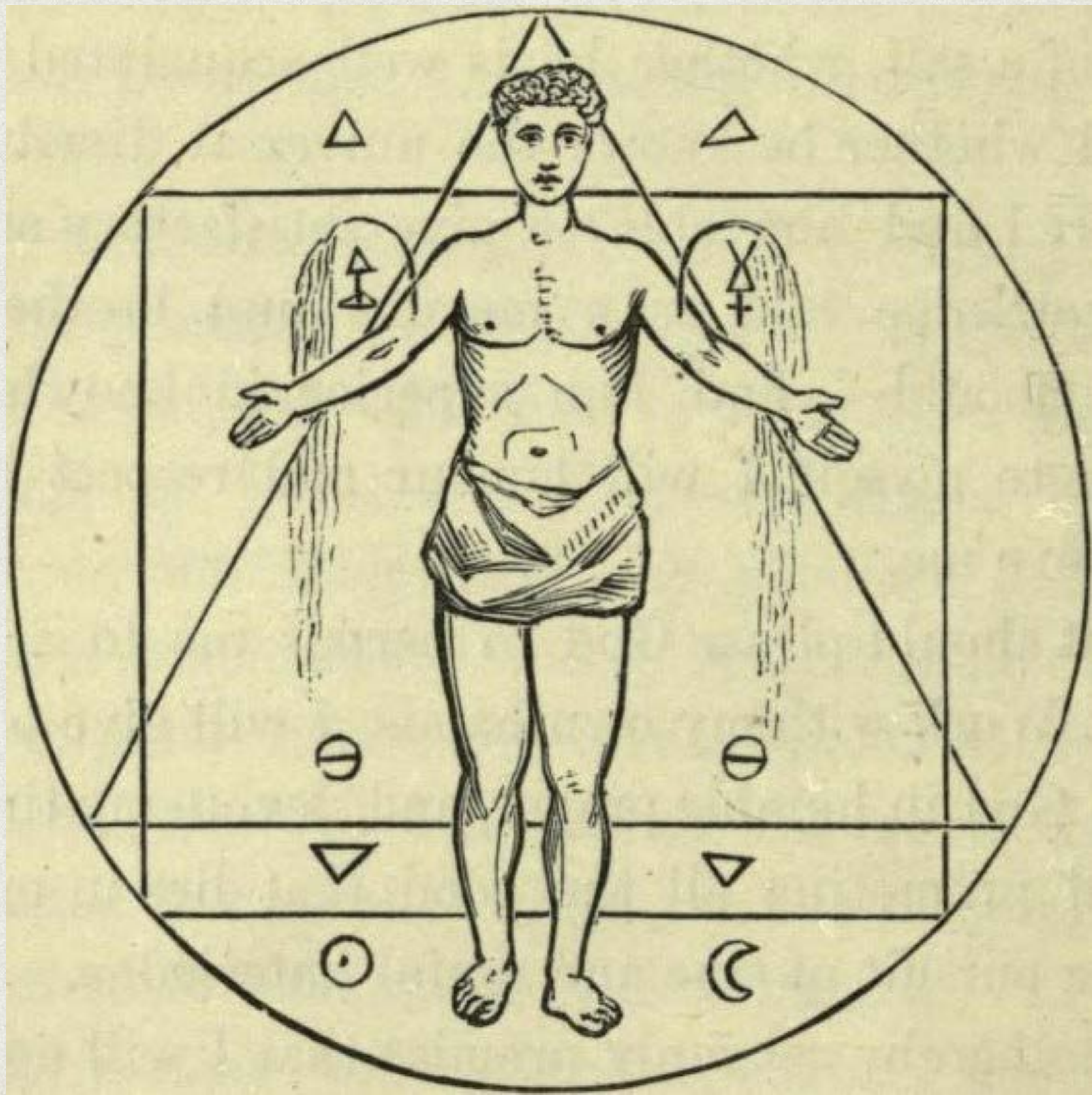
Where, then, lies the true, real secret so much talked about by the Hermetists? That there was and there is a secret, no candid student of esoteric literature will ever doubt. That this great secret, commonly termed "the philosopher's stone," had a spiritual as well as a physical meaning attached to it, was suspected in all ages. The author of "Remarks on Alchemy" very truly observes that the subject of the Hermetic art is MAN, and the object of the art is the perfection of man. The fact alone that man, in their eyes, is a trinity, which

they divide into Sol, water of mercury, and sulphur, which is the secret fire, or, to speak plain, into body, soul, and spirit, shows that there is a physical side to the question. Man is the philosopher's stone spiritually--"a triune or trinity in unity," as *Philalethes* expresses it. But he is also that stone physically. The latter is but the effect of the cause, and the cause is the universal solvent of everything--divine spirit. Man is a correlation of chemical physical forces, as well as a correlation of spiritual powers. --*Isis Unveiled*, v.1, :338-9

Pervigil
Ecoe



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A serpent interwoven among the olive leaves on her head, devouring its own tail, denotes that the auriferous unctuousity was soiled with the venom of terrestrial corruption which surrounded it and must be mortified and purified by seven planetary circulations or purifications called *flying eagles* (alchemical terminology) in order to make it medicinal for the restoration of health. (Here the emanations from the sun are recognized as a medicine for the healing of human ills.) The seven planetary circulations are represented by the circumambulations of the Masonic lodge; by the marching of the Jewish priests seven times around the walls of Jericho, and of the Mohammedan priests seven times around the Kabba at Mecca. From the crown of gold project three horns of plenty, signifying the abundance of the gifts of Nature proceeding from one root having its origin in the heavens (head of Isis).

In this figure the pagan naturalists represent all the vital powers of the three kingdoms and families of sublunary nature—mineral, plant, and animal (man considered as an animal). At one of her ears was the moon and at the other the sun, to indicate that these two were the agent and patient, or father and mother principles of all natural objects; and that Isis, or Nature, makes use of these two luminaries to communicate her powers to the whole empire of animals, vegetables, and minerals.



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On the back of her neck were the characters of the planets and the signs of the zodiac which assisted the planets in their functions. This signified that the heavenly influences directed the destinies of the principles and sperms of all things, because they were the governors of all sublunary bodies, which they transformed into little worlds made in the image of the greater universe.

Isis holds in her right hand a small sailing ship with the spindle of a spinning wheel for its mast. From the top of the mast projects a water jug, its handle shaped like a serpent swelled with venom. This indicates that Isis steers the bark of life, full of troubles and miseries, on the stormy ocean of Time. The spindle symbolizes the fact that she spins and cuts the thread of Life. These emblems further signify that Isis abounds in humidity, by means of which she nourishes all natural bodies, preserving them from the heat of the sun by humidifying them with nutritious moisture from the atmosphere. Moisture supports vegetation, but this subtle humidity (life ether) is always more or less infected by some venom proceeding from corruption or decay. It must be purified by being brought into contact with the invisible cleansing fire of Nature. This fire digests, perfects, and revitalizes this substance, in order that the humidity may become a universal medicine to heal and renew all the bodies in Nature.

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From the right breast of Isis protruded a bunch of grapes and from the left an ear of corn or a sheaf of wheat, golden in color. These indicate that Nature is the source of nutrition for plant, animal, and human life, nourishing all things from herself. The golden color in the wheat (corn) indicates that in the sunlight or spiritual gold is concealed the first sperm of all life.

On the girdle surrounding the upper part of the body of the statue appear a number of mysterious emblems. The girdle is joined together in front by four golden plates (the elements), placed in the form of a square. This signified that Isis, or Nature, the first matter (alchemical terminology), was the essence of the four elements (life, light, heat, and force), which quintessence generated all things. Numerous stars are represented on this girdle, thereby indicating their influence in darkness as well as the influence of the sun in light. Isis is the Virgin immortalized in the constellation of Virgo, where the World Mocher is placed with the serpent under her feet and a crown of stars on her head. In her arms she carries a sheaf of grain and sometimes the young Sun God.

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BACSTROM'S
ALCHEMICAL
ANTHOLOGY



(Edition limited to 500 copies)

Edited and with an introduction

by
J. W. HAMILTON-JONES

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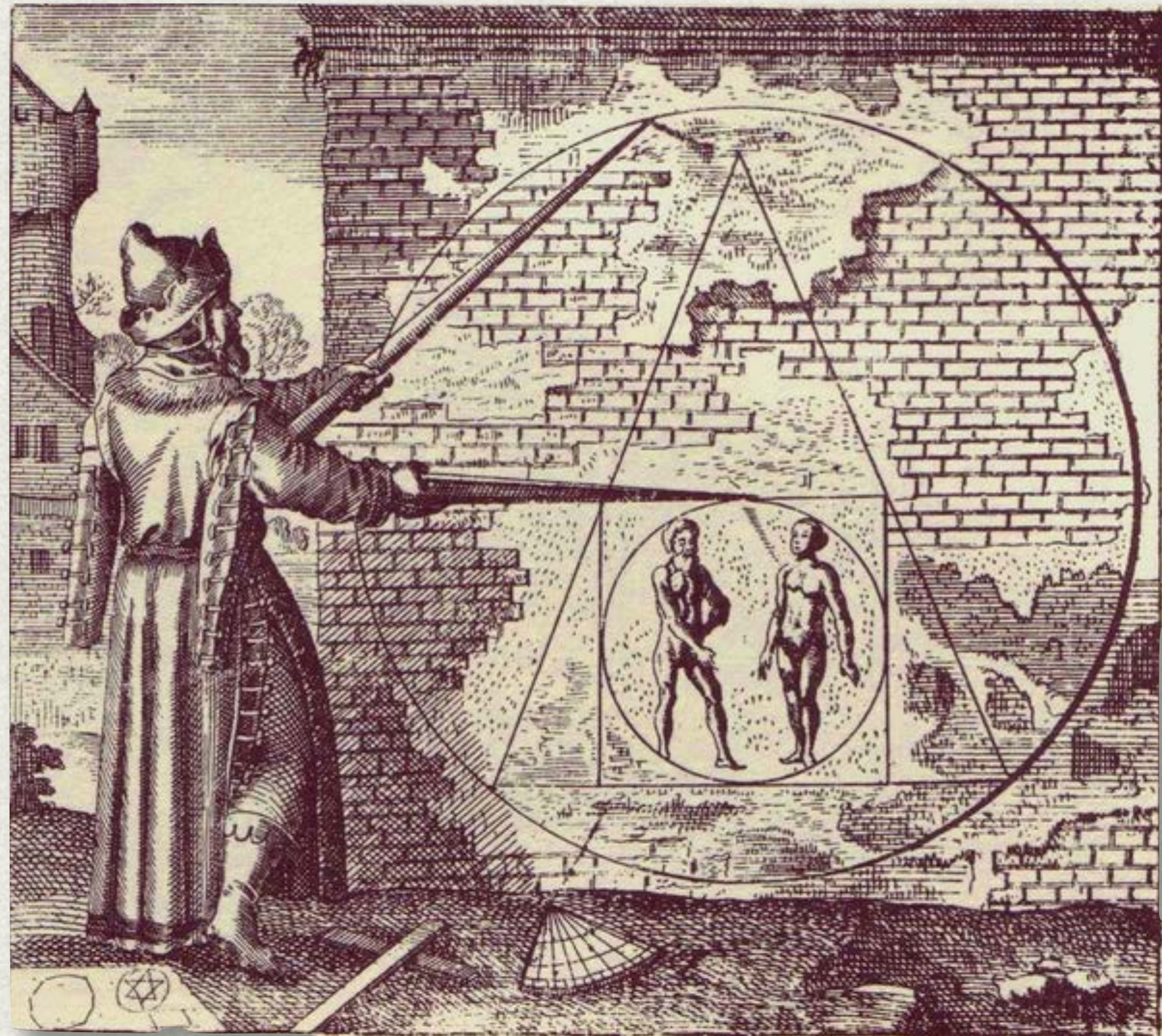
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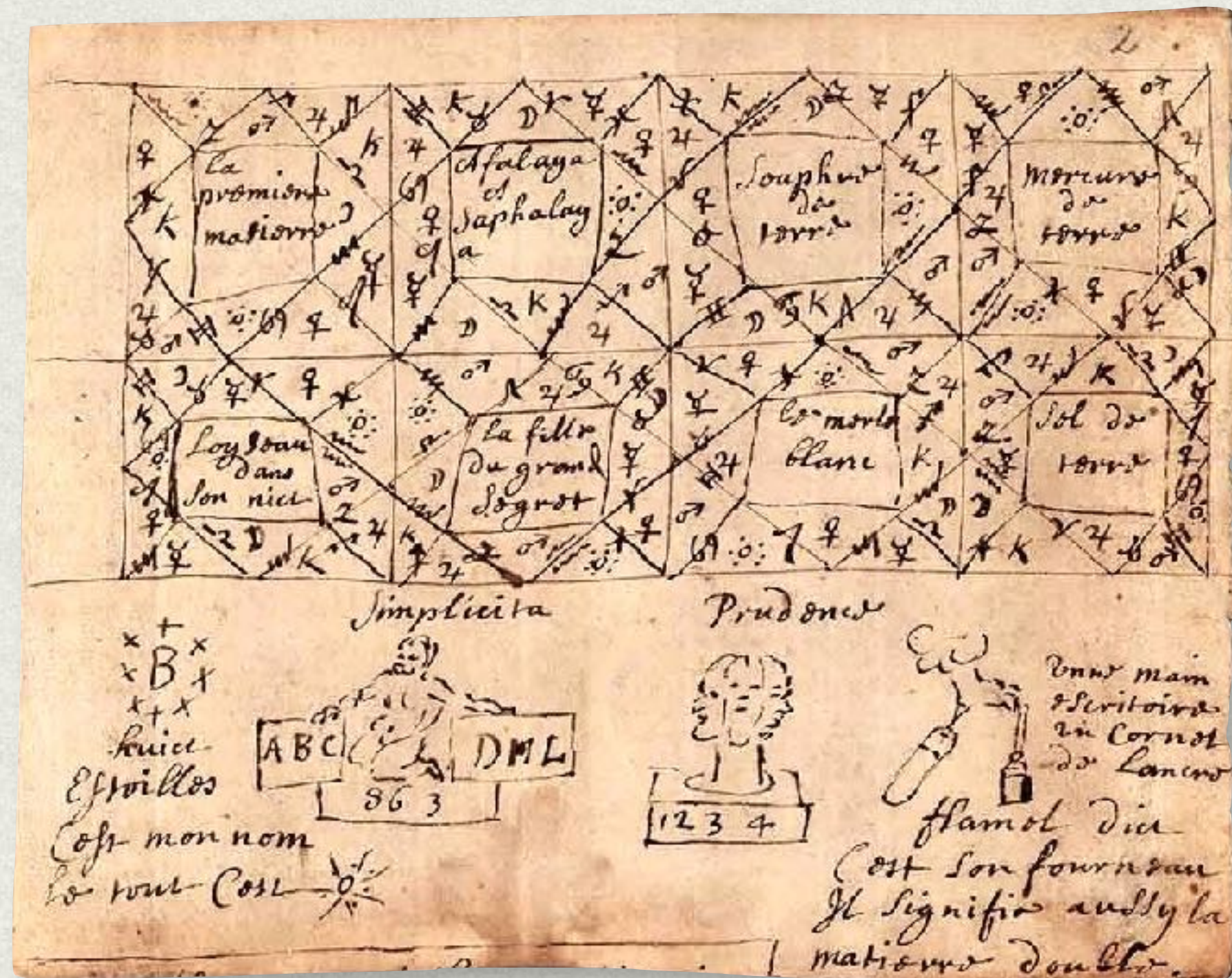


Restoration of Symmetry

- **Attraction:** The tendency of some substances to draw or adhere to each other, often due to magnetic or electric forces. In alchemy, attraction was sometimes used to separate or purify metals, or to explain the affinity of certain elements or principles.
- **Repulsion:** The opposite of attraction, the tendency of some substances to push away or resist each other, often due to magnetic or electric forces. In alchemy, repulsion was sometimes used to separate or purify metals, or to explain the antipathy of certain elements or principles.
- **Motion:** The change of position or state of a substance, often caused by external forces or internal impulses. In alchemy, motion was considered a sign of life and activity, and was essential for the generation and transformation of matter.

Motion was also associated with heat, fire, and spirit.

- **Heat:** The degree of intensity of thermal energy in a substance, often measured by its effect on other substances or on the senses. In alchemy, heat was one of the four basic qualities that determined the nature of matter, along with cold, dryness, and moisture. Heat was also a source of motion and change, and was often applied to substances through fire or other means to induce chemical reactions.
- **Sublimation:** The process of changing a solid substance directly into a gas, without passing through a liquid state. In alchemy, sublimation was used to purify and refine substances, especially volatile ones like mercury or sulfur. Sublimation was also seen as a symbol of spiritual elevation and transcendence.



–from *A Concord of Alchemy and Theology* by Sir Isaac Newton

- **Evaporation:** In alchemy, evaporation was used to separate and purify substances, especially aqueous ones like water or alcohol. Evaporation was also seen as a symbol of spiritual liberation and detachment.

- **Exsiccation:** The process of removing moisture from a substance, usually by heating it or exposing it to dry air. In alchemy, exsiccation was used to dry and solidify substances, especially moist ones like salt or earth. Exsiccation was also seen as a symbol of spiritual consolidation and stability.

- **Inspissation:** The process of thickening a liquid substance by reducing its volume, usually by heating it or evaporating some of its solvent. In alchemy, inspissation was used to concentrate and enrich substances, especially liquid ones like water or oil.

Inspissation was also seen as a symbol of spiritual intensification and potency.

- **Coagulation:** The process of changing a fluid substance into a solid or semi-solid one, usually by cooling it or adding another substance that causes it to clot or curdle. In alchemy, coagulation was used to fix and congeal substances, especially fluid ones like mercury or blood. Coagulation was also seen as a symbol of spiritual manifestation and completion.

- **Fixation:** The process of making a volatile substance stable and resistant to change, usually by heating it with another substance that binds it or absorbs its vapors. In alchemy, fixation was used to preserve and perfect substances, especially volatile ones like sulfur or spirit. Fixation was also seen as a symbol of spiritual immortality and perfection. –Chymistry of Isaac Newton

Calcination: The first stage, represented by Saturn and lead, involved the burning or decomposition of a substance into ashes. This stage symbolizes the destruction of the ego and the attachment to material things.

- **Dissolution:** The second stage, represented by Jupiter and tin, involves the dissolution of the ashes in water or acid. This stage symbolizes the release of emotions and subconscious impulses that were repressed by the ego.

- **Separation:** The third stage, represented by Mars and iron, involves the separation of the pure from the impure elements in the solution. This stage symbolizes the discernment of

the true self from the false self, and the rejection of what is harmful or unnecessary.

- **Conjunction:** The fourth stage, represented by Venus and copper, involves the recombination of the purified elements into a new substance. This stage symbolized the union of opposites, such as masculine and feminine, conscious and unconscious, spirit and matter.

- **Fermentation:** The fifth stage, represented by Mercury and quicksilver, involves the introduction of a fermenting agent, such as yeast or bacteria, to induce a chemical transformation. This stage symbolizes the death and rebirth of the substance,

as well as the alchemist's own spiritual awakening.

- **Distillation:** The sixth stage, represented by the Moon and silver, involves the purification of the substance by heating and condensing it repeatedly. This stage symbolizes the refinement of the spirit and the attainment of higher wisdom.

- **Coagulation:** The seventh and final stage, represented by the Sun and gold, involves the solidification of the substance into a red powder or stone. This stage symbolizes the completion of the Great Work and the manifestation of the philosopher's stone, which conferred enlightenment and immortality on the alchemist. –
Chymistry of Isaac Newton