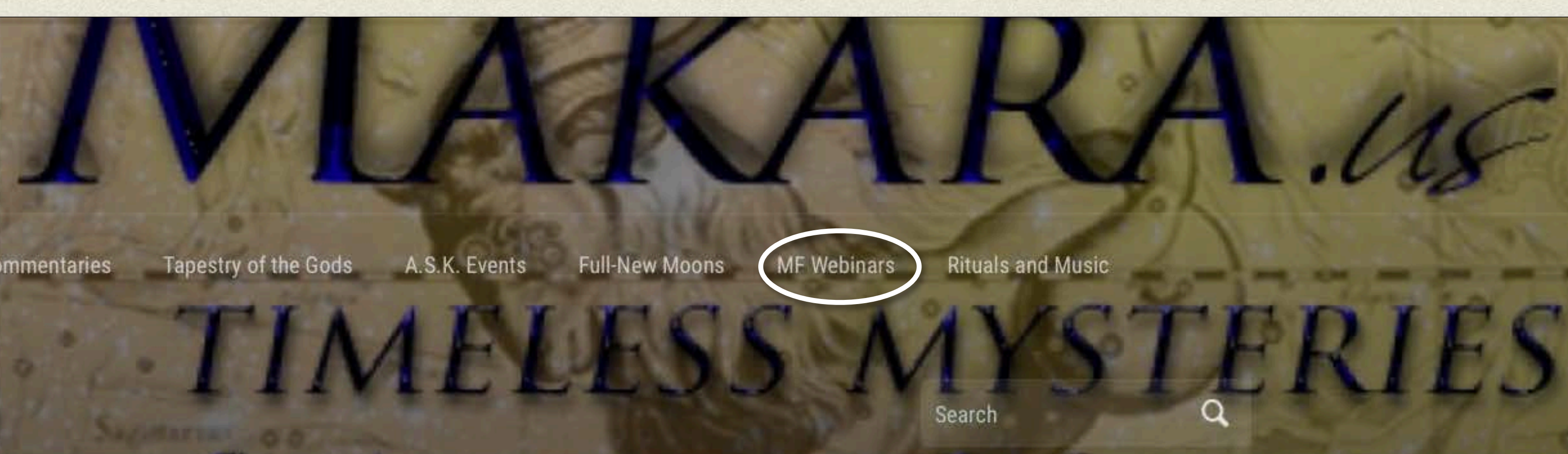




Marble statue of Isis, found at Hadrian's Villa (117-138 CE).



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ESOTERIC SCHOOLS OF MEDITATION, STUDY AND SERVICE

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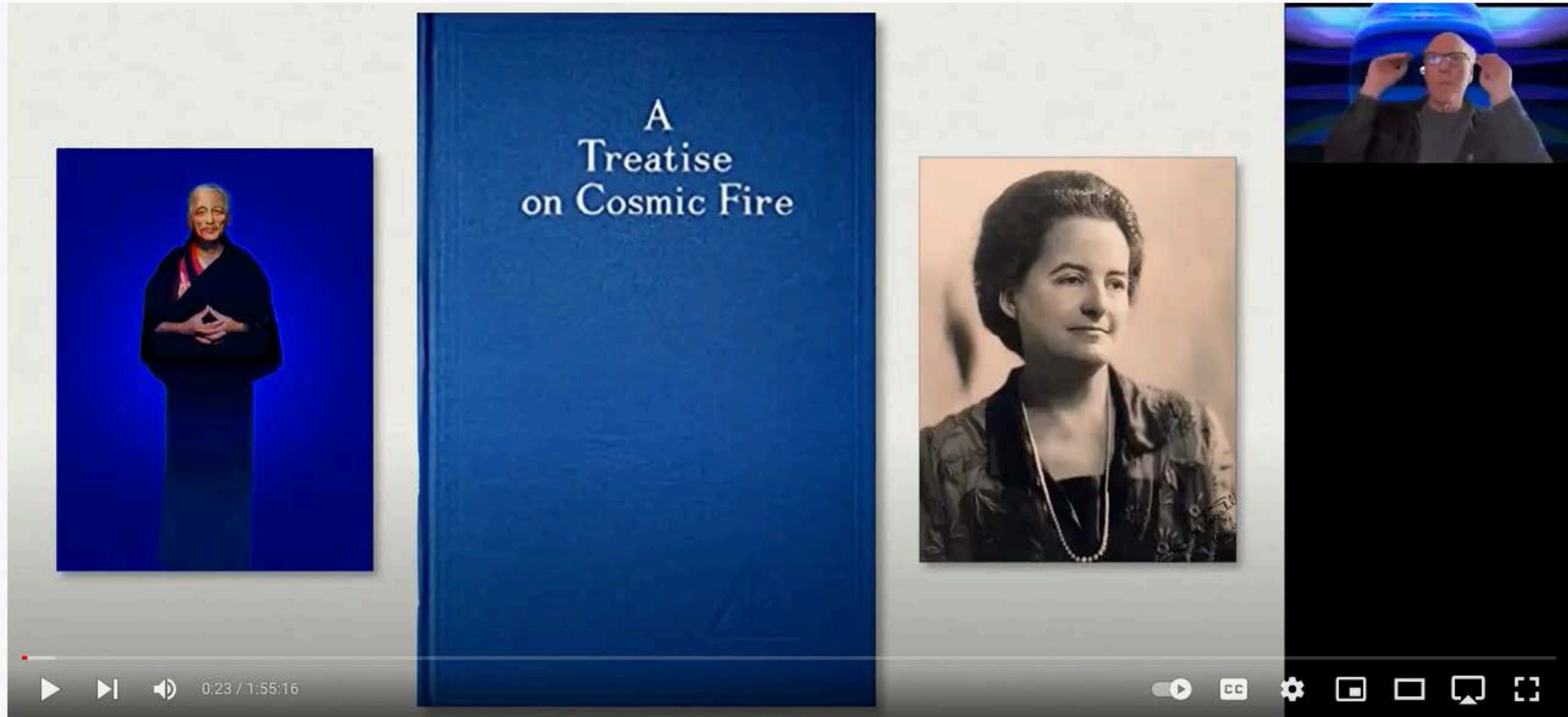
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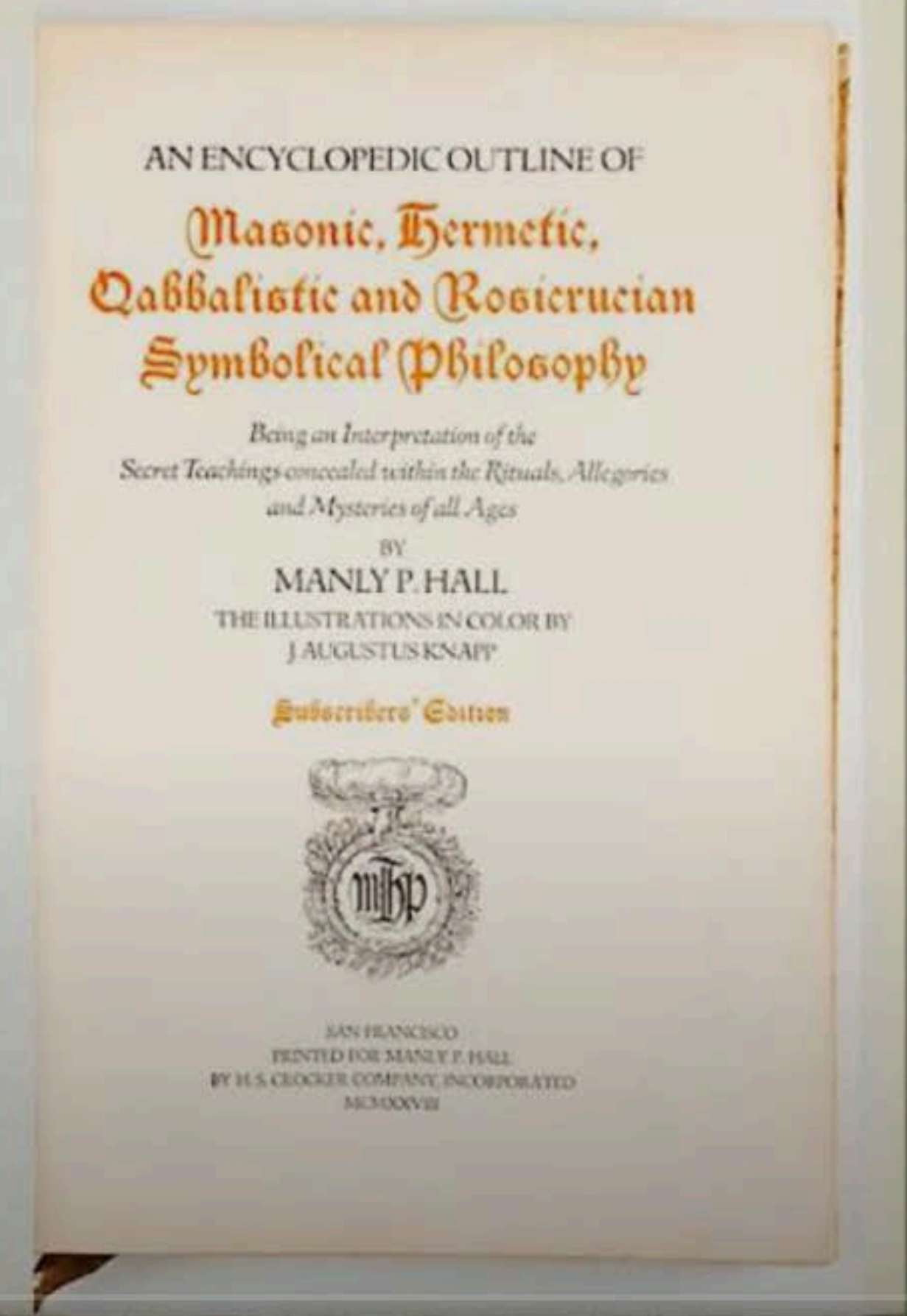
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New Events »

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

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

Webinar: The Secret Doctrine, Aug 21, 2022



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ESOTERIC SCHOOLS OF MEDITATION, STUDY AND SERVICE

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The Morya Federation is an international [Esoteric](#) School whose faculty members and students represent more than 25 countries in North and South America, Africa, Europe, Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Our campus resides on the Internet, where students can access all resources needed for successful learning and a rewarding Spiritual Quest experience. We offer a variety of programs to suit students at various levels of expertise and time availability.

All individuals who are drawn to spiritual teachings and to a comprehensive program of esoteric [Meditation](#), [Study](#) and [Service](#) are welcome.

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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 mores were to be. 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 peered 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 practices. I have overthrown the dominion of the tyrants. I have caused men to love woman. I have made justice more powerful than violence and greed. 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 emotionality which forever stand between man and Truth. Isis lifts her veil and discovers herself to the true and wise 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 *יש*, *Isa*, and the Greek *ωωω*, 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 und 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.)

mies of understanding and truth. This part of the allegory is revealed.

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-

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-

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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.

The serpent throws off its skin annually and is thereby renewed (symbolic of the resurrection of the spiritual life from the material nature). This renewal of the earth takes place every spring, when the vivifying spirit of the sun returns to the countries of the Northern Hemisphere.

The symbolic Virgin carries in her left hand a sistrum and a cym-

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Dr. Sigismund Bacstrom believed that if a physician could establish harmony among the elements of earth, fire, air, and water, and unite them into a stone (the Philosopher's Stone) symbolized by the six-pointed star or two interlaced triangles, he would possess the means of healing all disease. Dr. Bacstrom further stated that there was no doubt in his mind that the universal, omnipresent fire (spirit) of Nature "does all and is all in all." By attraction, repulsion, motion, heat, sublimation, evaporation, exsiccation, inspissation, coagulation, and fixation, the Universal Fire (Spirit) manipulates matter, and manifests throughout creation. Any individual who can understand these principles and adapt them to the three departments of Nature becomes a true philosopher.

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.

Ammeris, 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 *Croix Anasata*, the symbol of eternal life, and in the other a serpent-wound staff symbolic of his dignity as counselor of the gods.

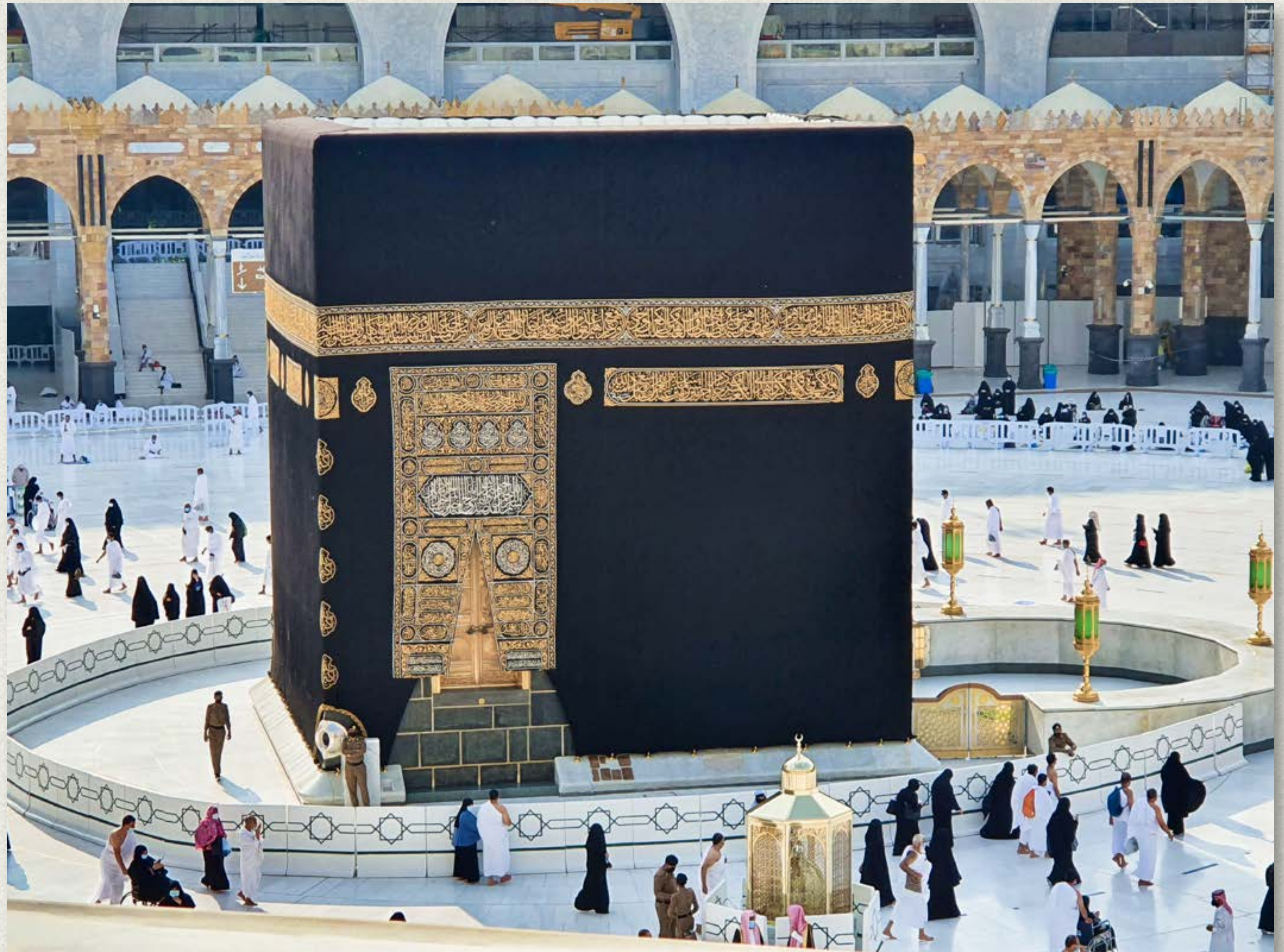


From Lenoir's *La Franche-Maconnerie*. THE EGYPTIAN MADONNA.

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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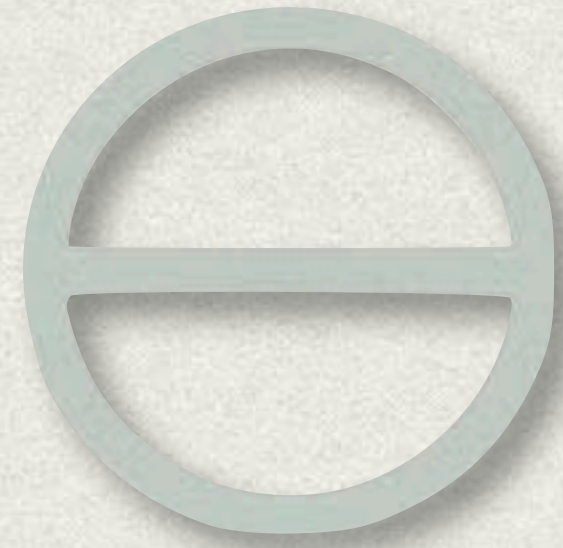
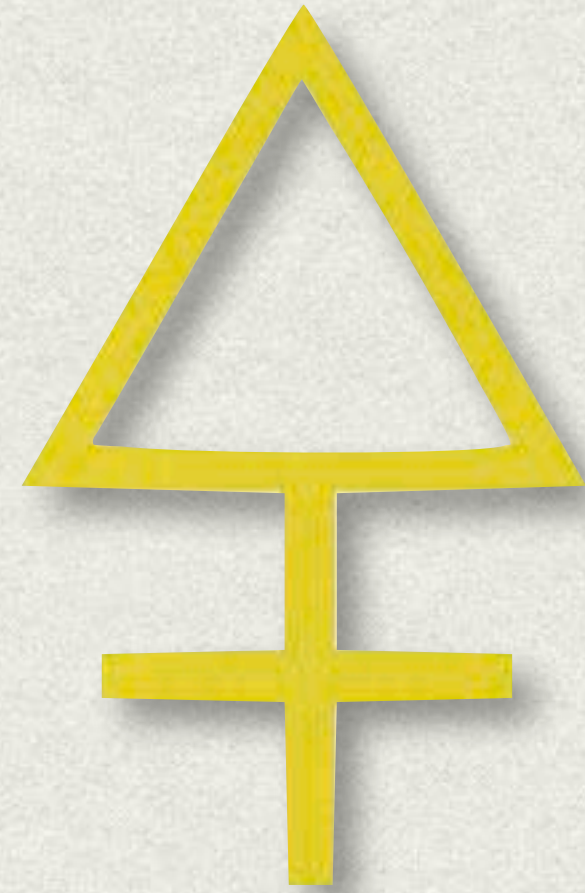
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Neith, the Weaver



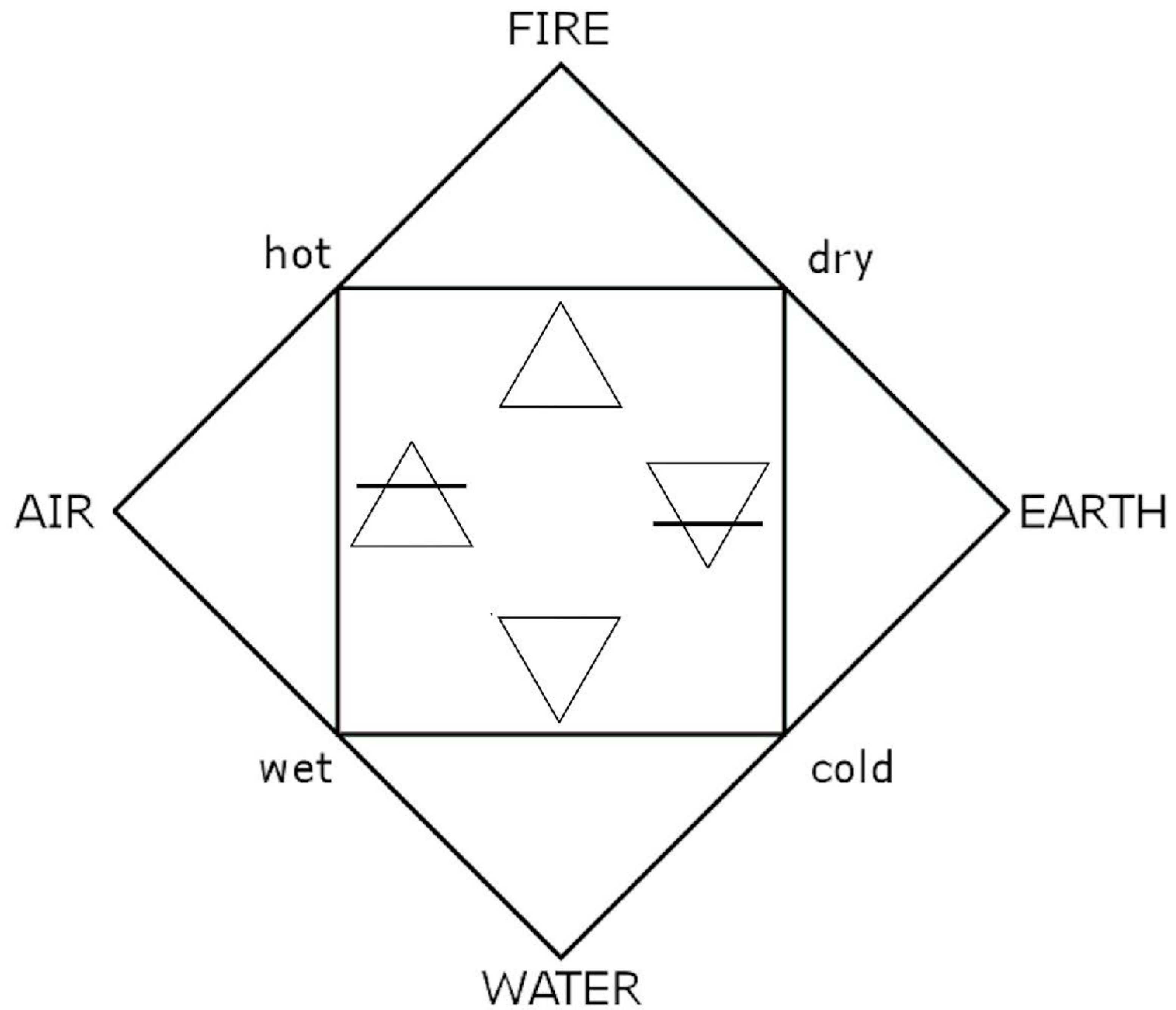
The Three Fates
by Alexander Rothaug (ca. 1910).



Every manifested life has its three great cycles:

Birth	Life	Death
Appearance	Growth	Disappearance
Involution	Evolution	Obscuration
Inert Motion	Activity	Rhythmic Motion
Tamasic Life	Rajasic Life	Sattvic Life

-TCF:6-7



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**Bacstrom's
Alchemical Anthology**

[*Essay on Alchemy*]

[John M. Watkins, London, 1960
Edited and with an Introduction by J.W. Hamilton-Jones]

Essay On Alchemy

by

Sigismond Bacstrom

Together with Extracts from the Great Early
Alchemists



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- **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

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- **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.

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- **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

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From Lenox's *Lo Franco-Maonnerie*. THE EGYPTIAN MADONNA.

Isis is often shown with her son Horus in her arms. She is crowned with the solar orb, ornamented with the horns of rams or bulls. Osiris, or Horus, the husband generally known, was the son of Isis and Osiris. He was the god of time, laws, days, and this narrow span of life recognized as mortal existence. In all probability, the four sons of Horus represent the four agencies 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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From Lenox's *Lo Franco-Maonnerie*. THOTH, THE DOG-HEADED.

Ammon, or Thoth, one of the five immortals, preceded the twelve Horus from the swank 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 Cruz Ansata, the symbol of eternal life, and in the other a serpent coiled about a staff symbolic of his dignity as conductor of the gods.

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.

The serpent throws off its skin annually and is thereby renewed (symbolic of the resurrection of the spiritual life from the material nature). This renewal of the earth takes place every spring, when the vivifying spirit of the sun returns to the countries of the Northern Hemisphere.

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bal, or square frame of metal, which when struck gives the keynote of Nature (Fa); sometimes also an olive branch, to indicate the harmony she preserves among natural things with her regenerating power. By the processes of death and corruption she gives life to a number of creatures of diverse forms through periods of perpetual change. The cymbal is made square instead of the usual triangular shape in order to symbolize that all things are transmuted and regenerated according to the harmony of the four elements.

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Isis is often shown with her son Horus in her arms. She is crowned with the solar orb, ornamented with the horns of rams or bulls. Orus, or Horus, the heaviest generally known, was the son of Isis and Osiris. He was the god of time, hour, day, and this narrow span of life recognized as mortal existence. In all probability, the four sons of Horus represent the four agencies 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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Tutankhamen's burial headdress



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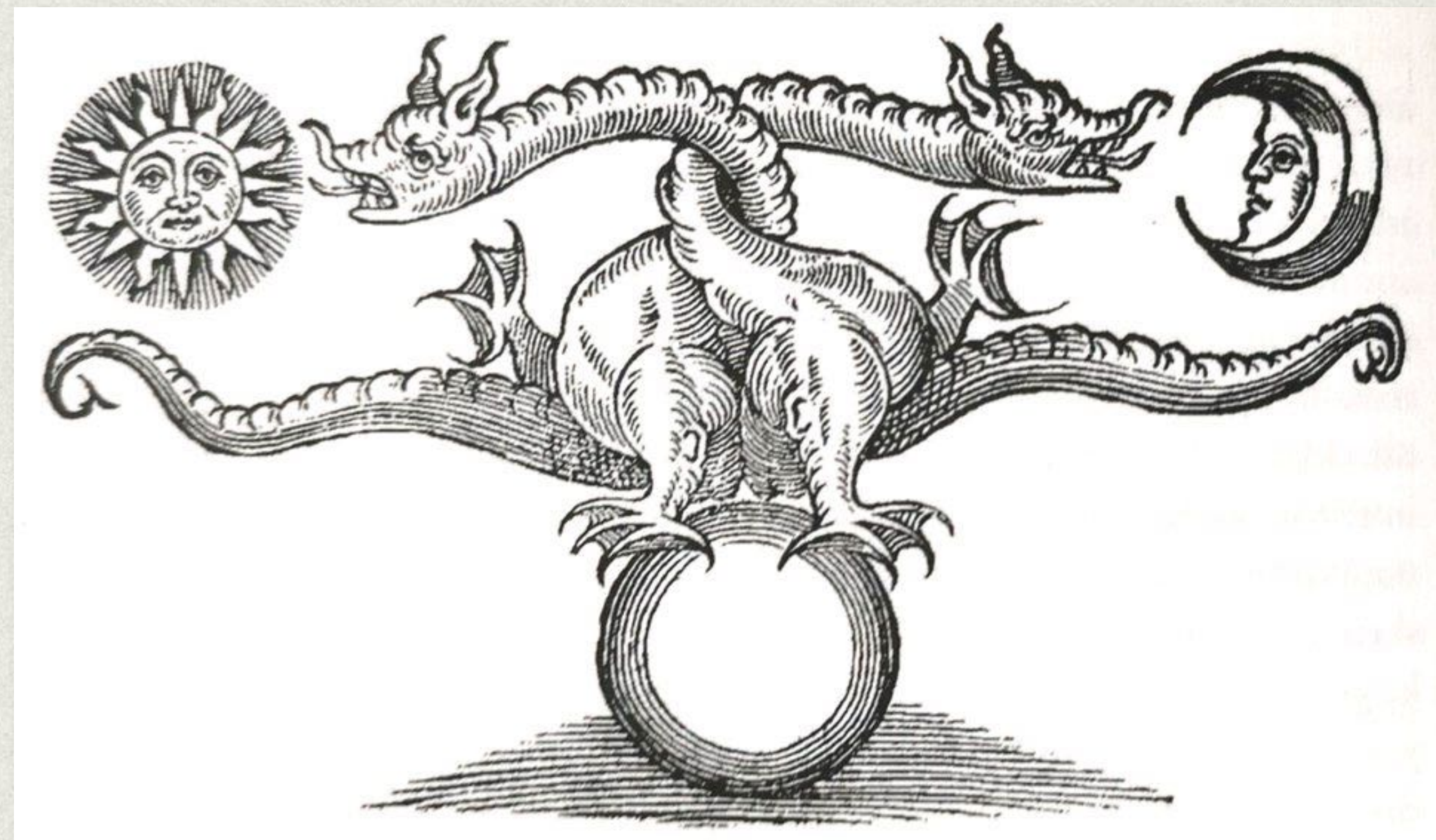
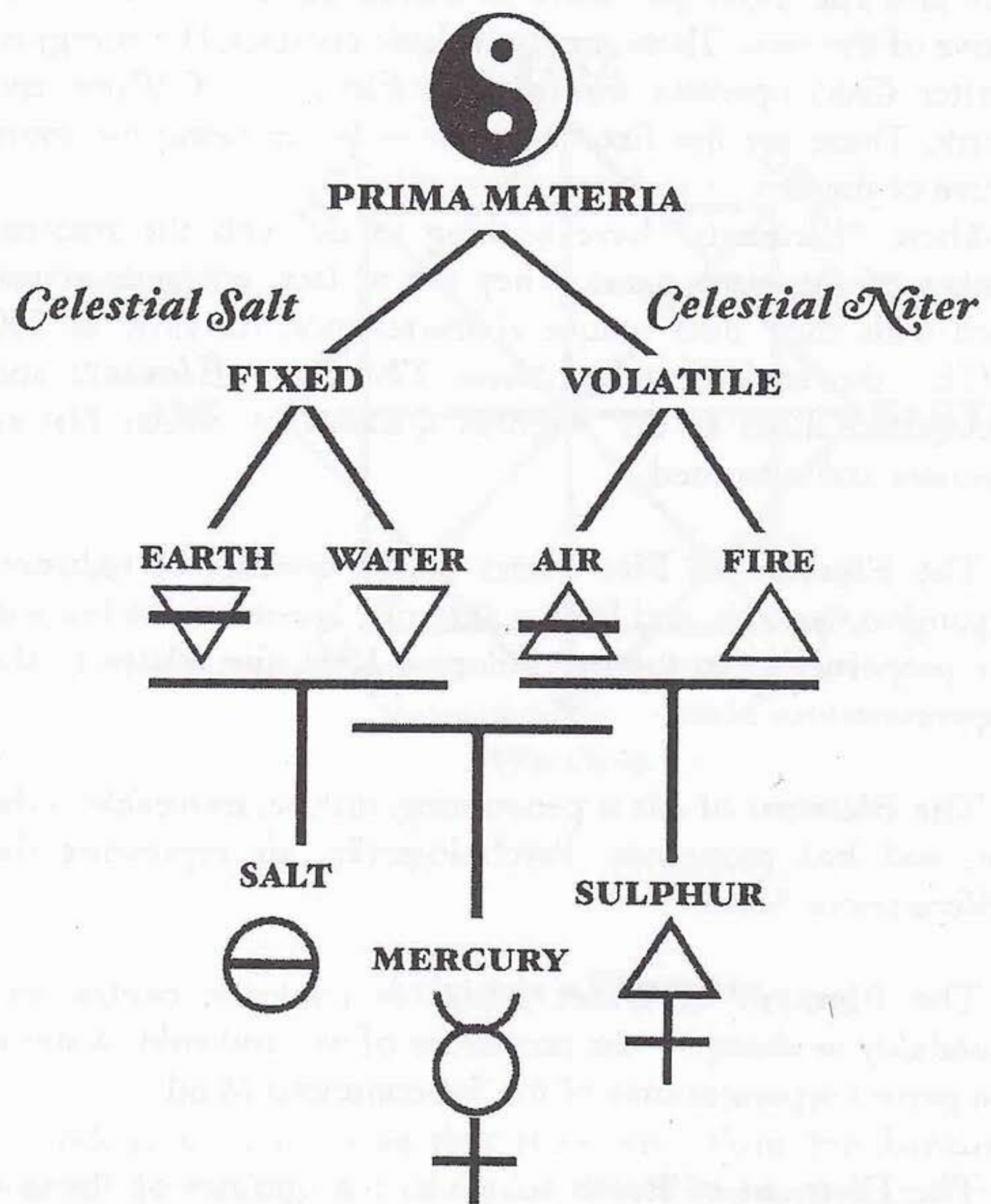
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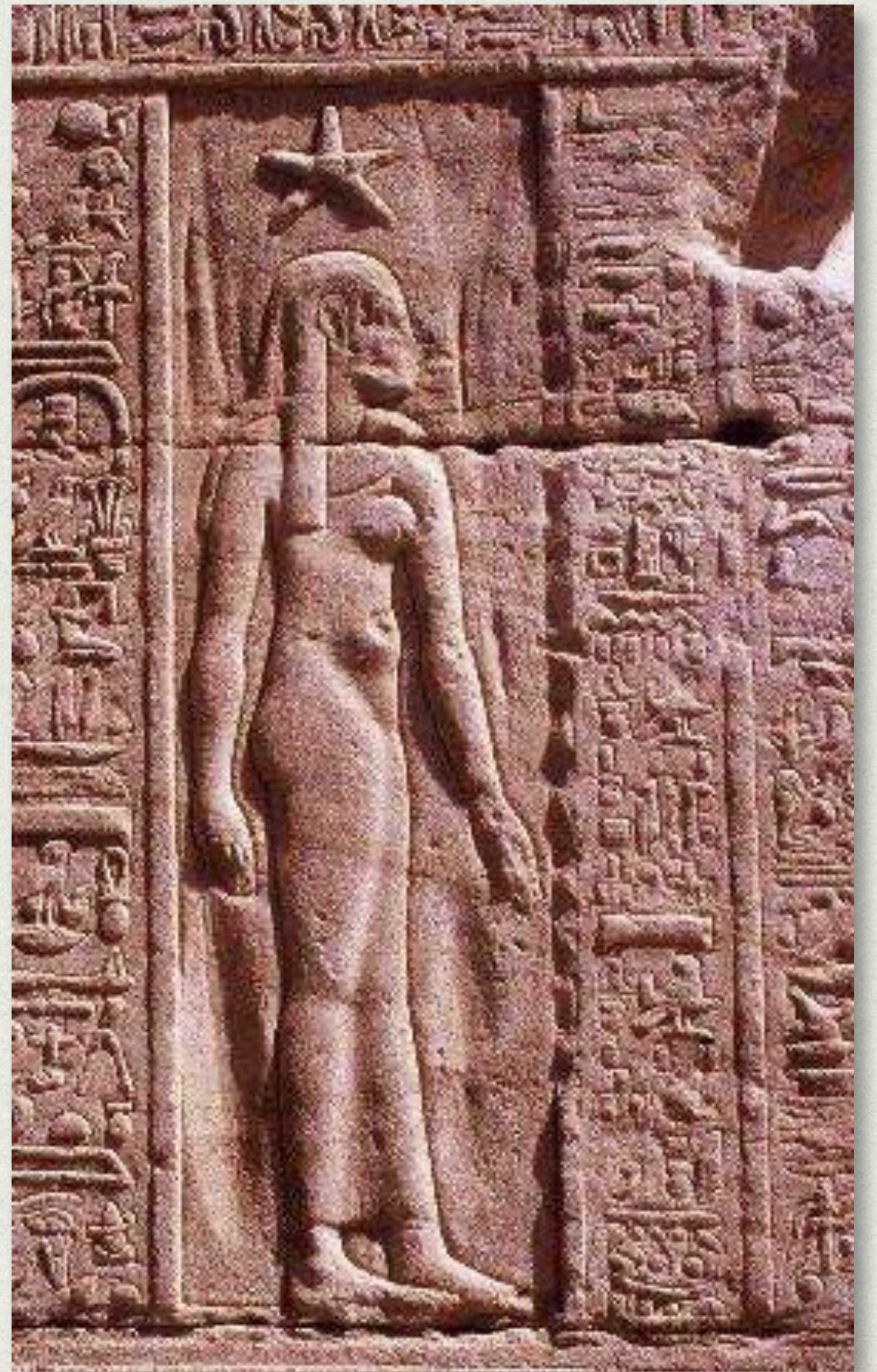
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Semiramis, by William Story, 1873

First, she [Isis] was the Abyss of birth represented by the dragon; second, the Goddess of the Great Bear; third, the Wateress with streaming breasts in the Hermean zodiac; and lastly she was portrayed as the virgin mother in the sign of Virgo and the Bringer forth in the sign of Pisces, where she is half-fish and half-human, and thus combines the two truths of water and breath in one image. Ishtar-Bilit, the genitrix in her dual character of Venus above and Venus below the horizon was worshipped in the temples of Syria, as at Hierapolis, under the

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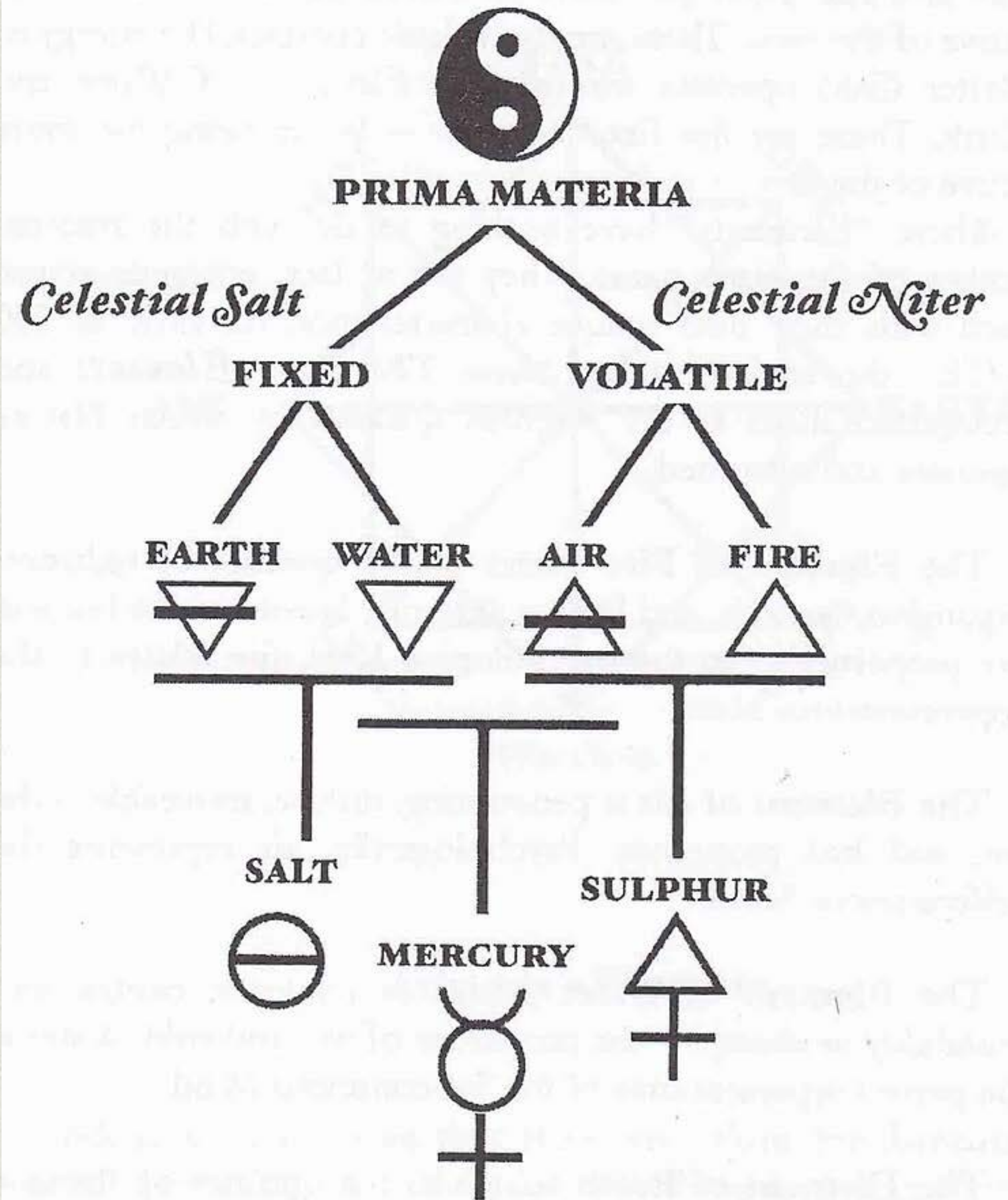


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The serpent was a supreme type of the encircler and turner-round. One of its names in Egyptian is *Rer*, *Rru* or *Ru*. *Rer* denotes the circuit, to go round and make the circuit. This also was a symbol of the old mother who bears its name as *Rerit* or *Lelit* (written with the L) the serpent-woman *Lilith* of Rabbinical tradition. Speaking under this type the Osirified deceased says, "I pass through substances. I pierce the darkness. Hidden reptile is my name. The soul of my body is a serpent of life!" –Natural Genesis, v.2:14

Metternich Stele

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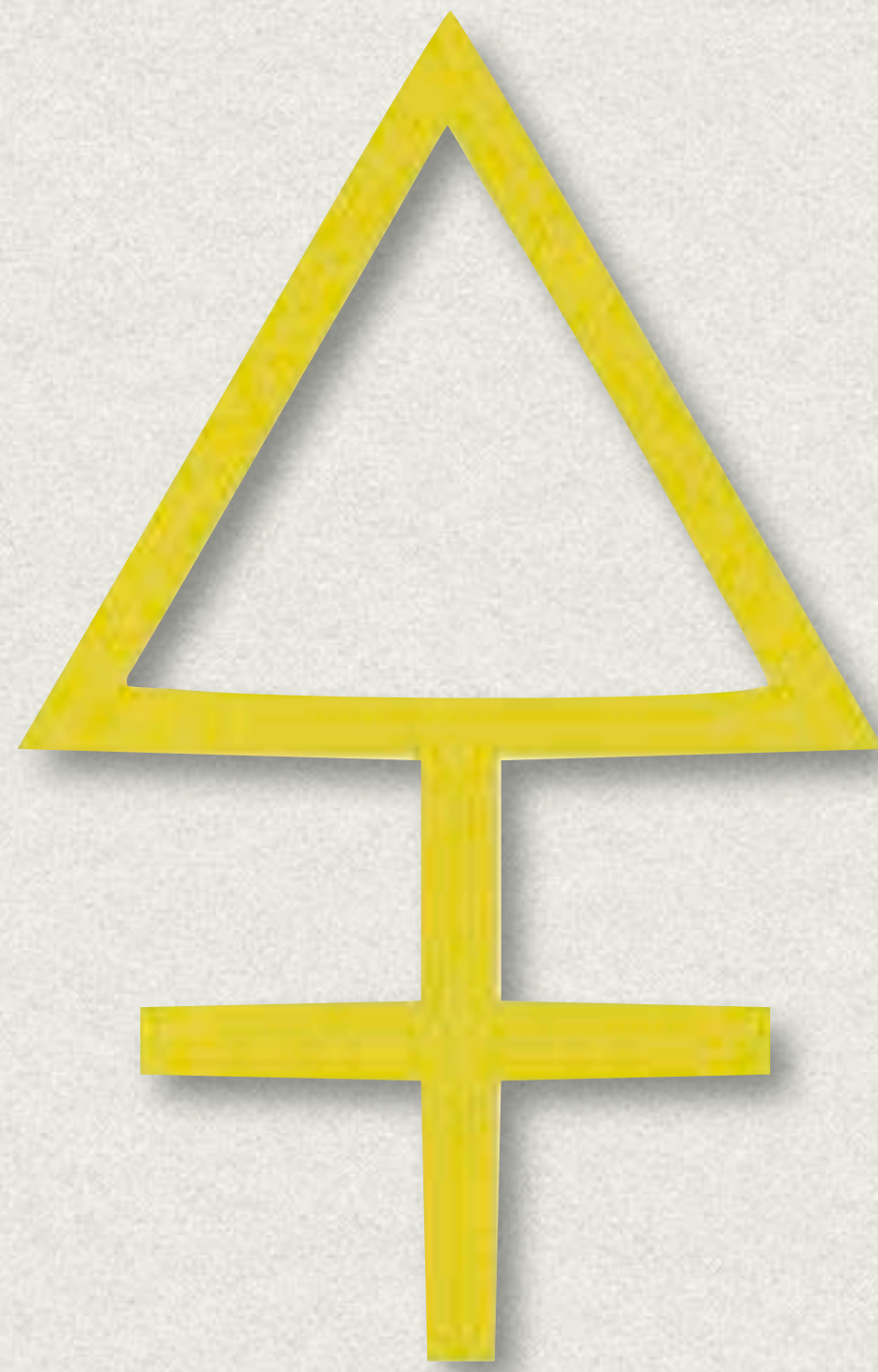


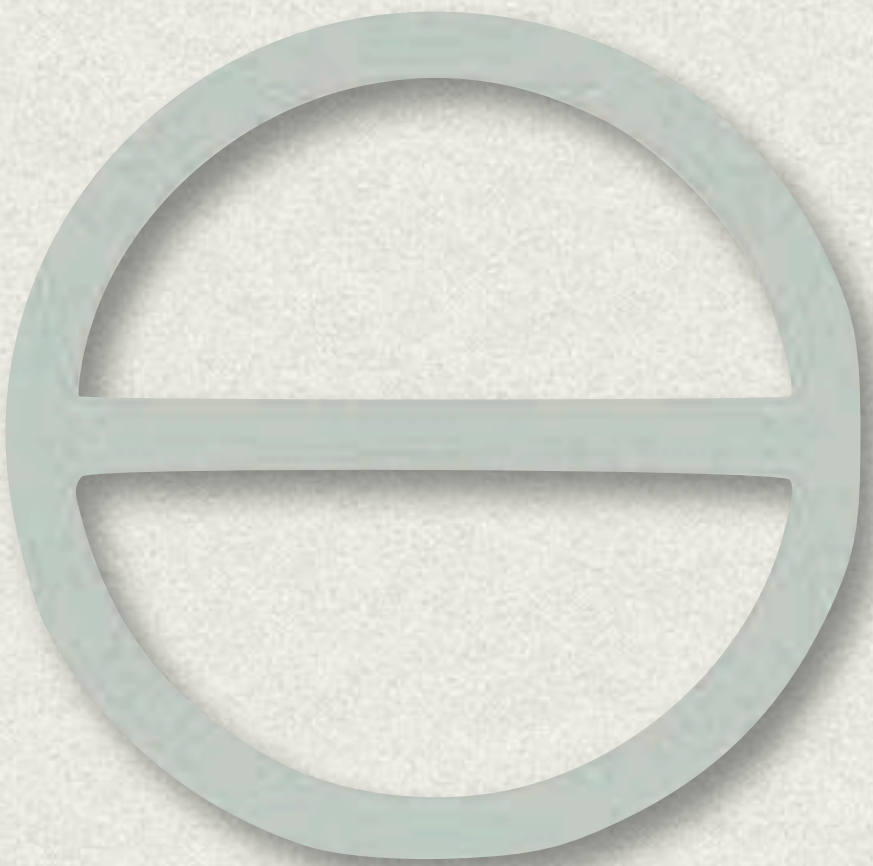
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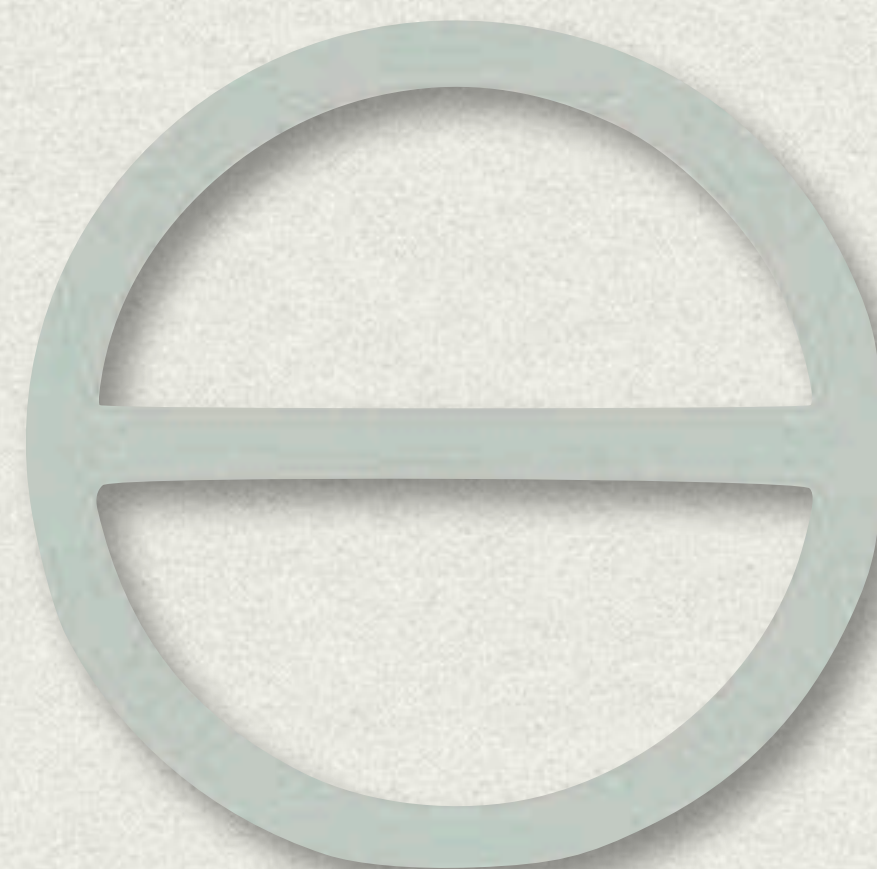
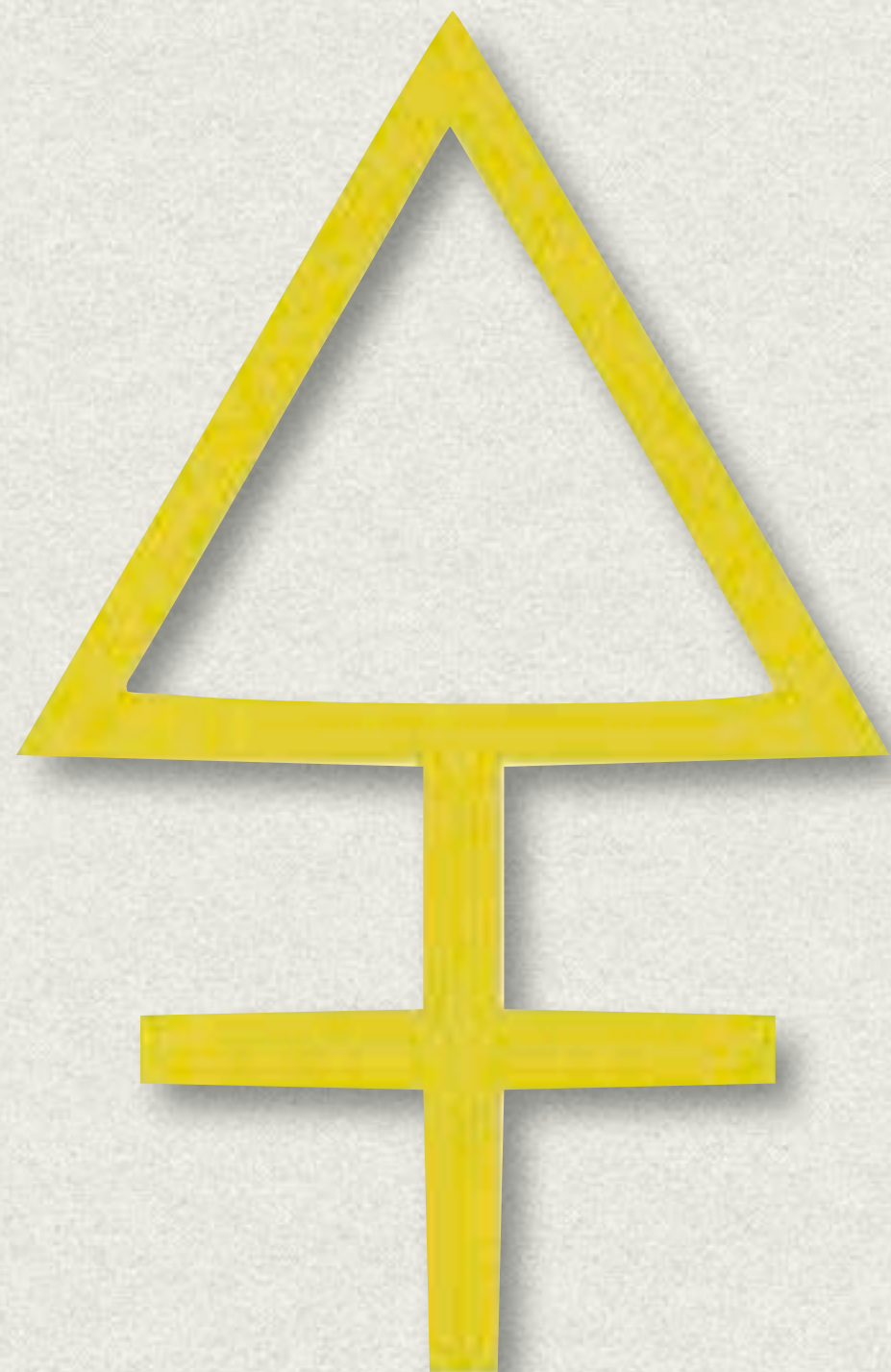
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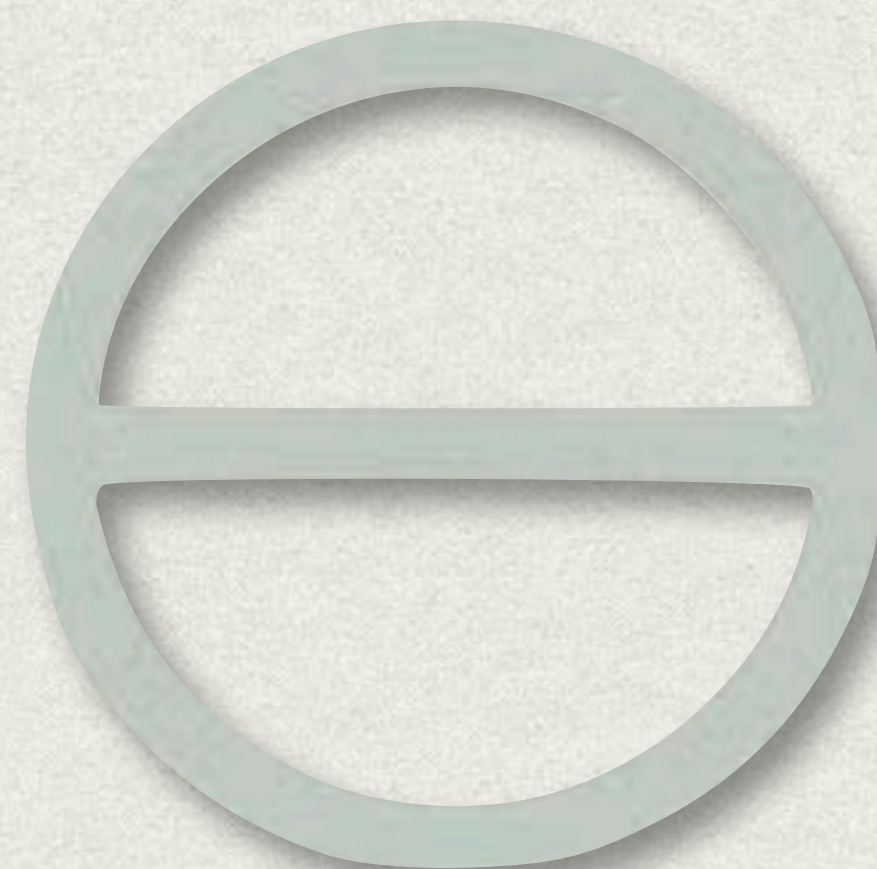
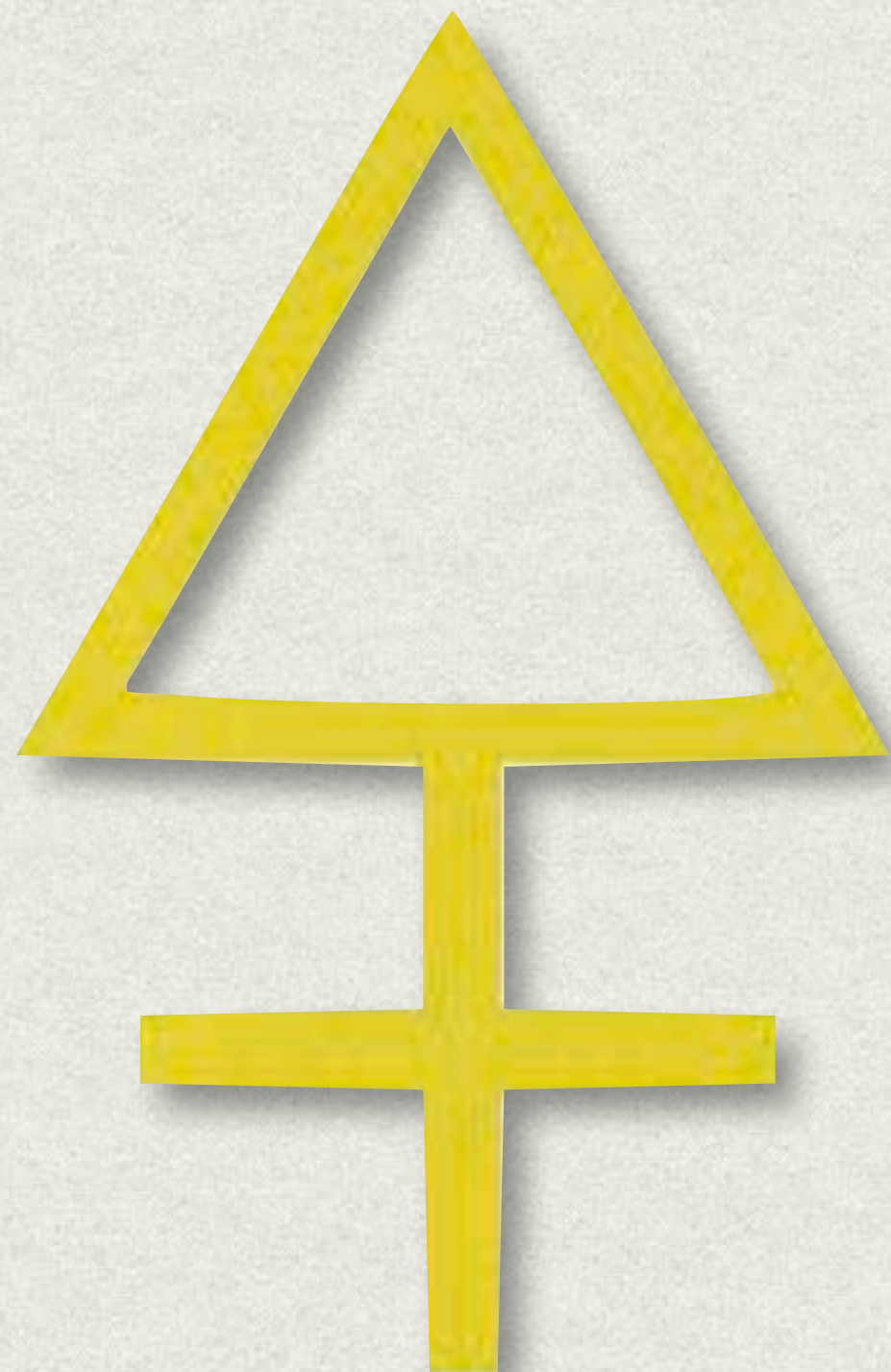


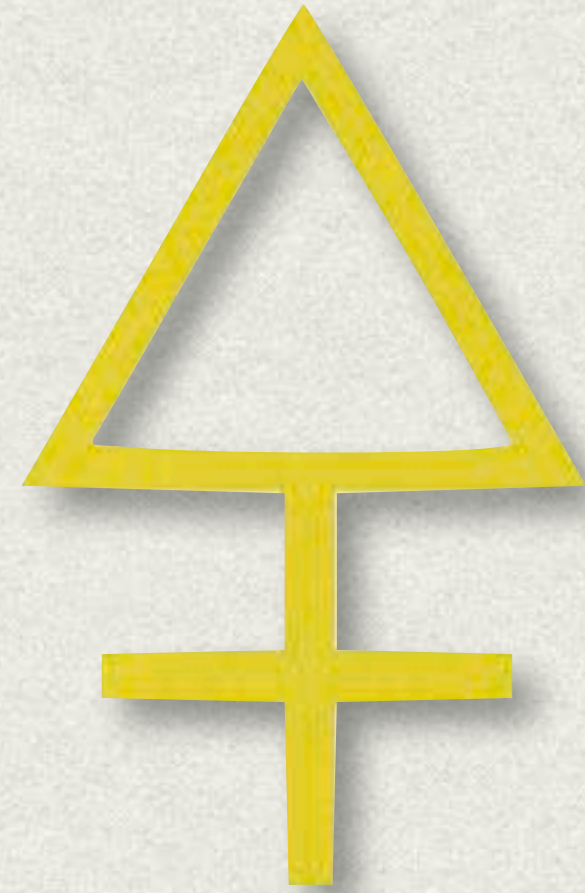
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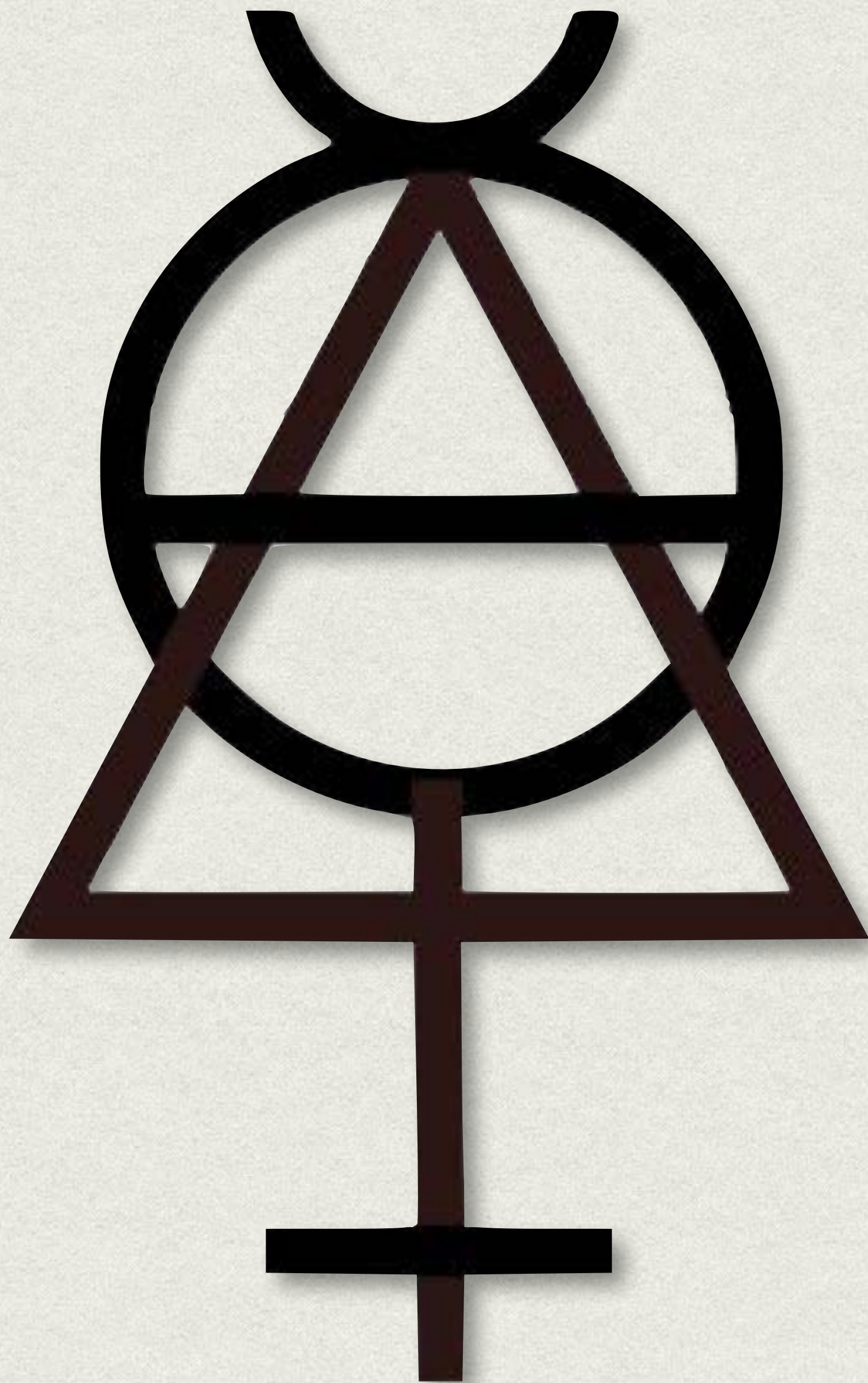
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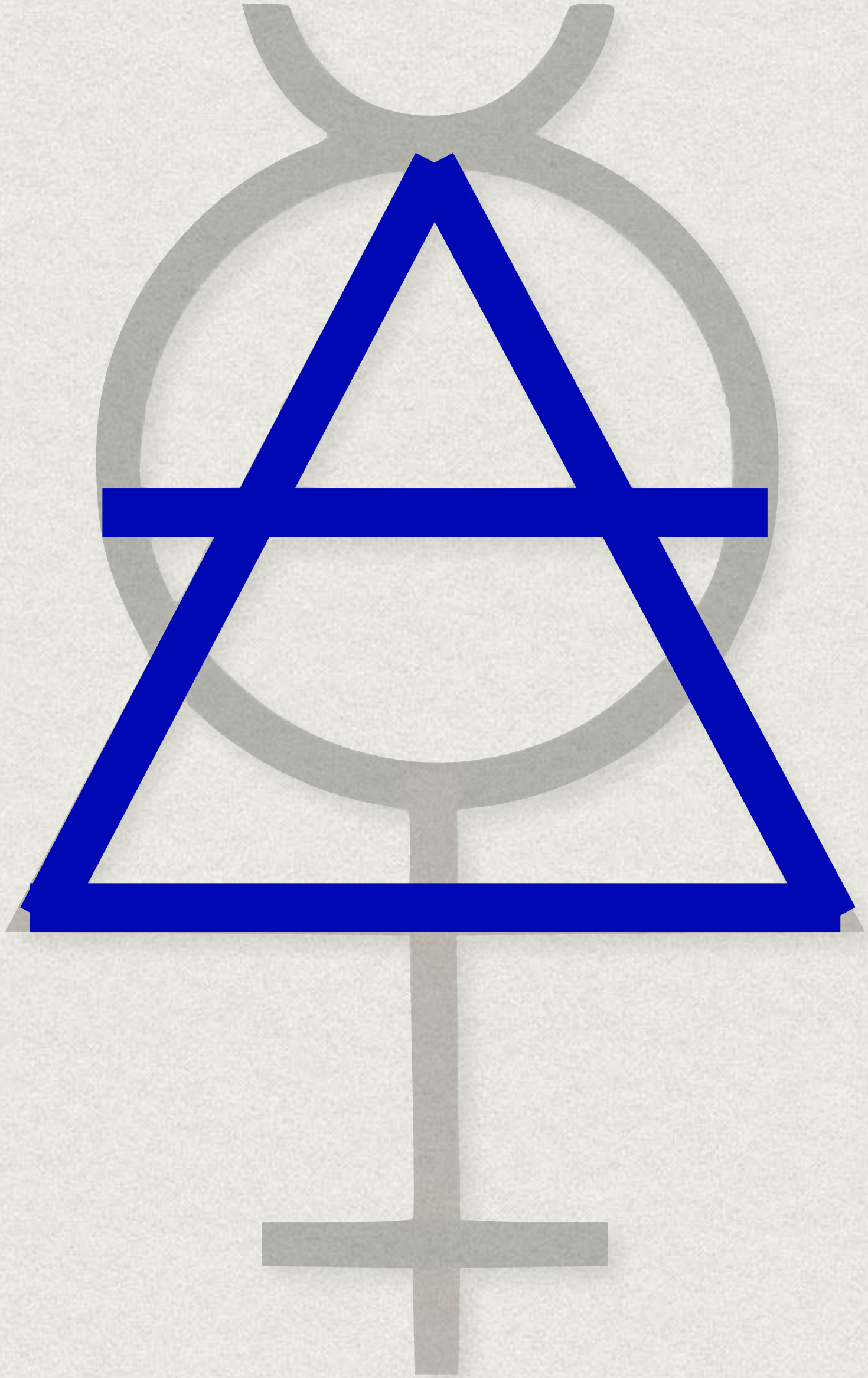
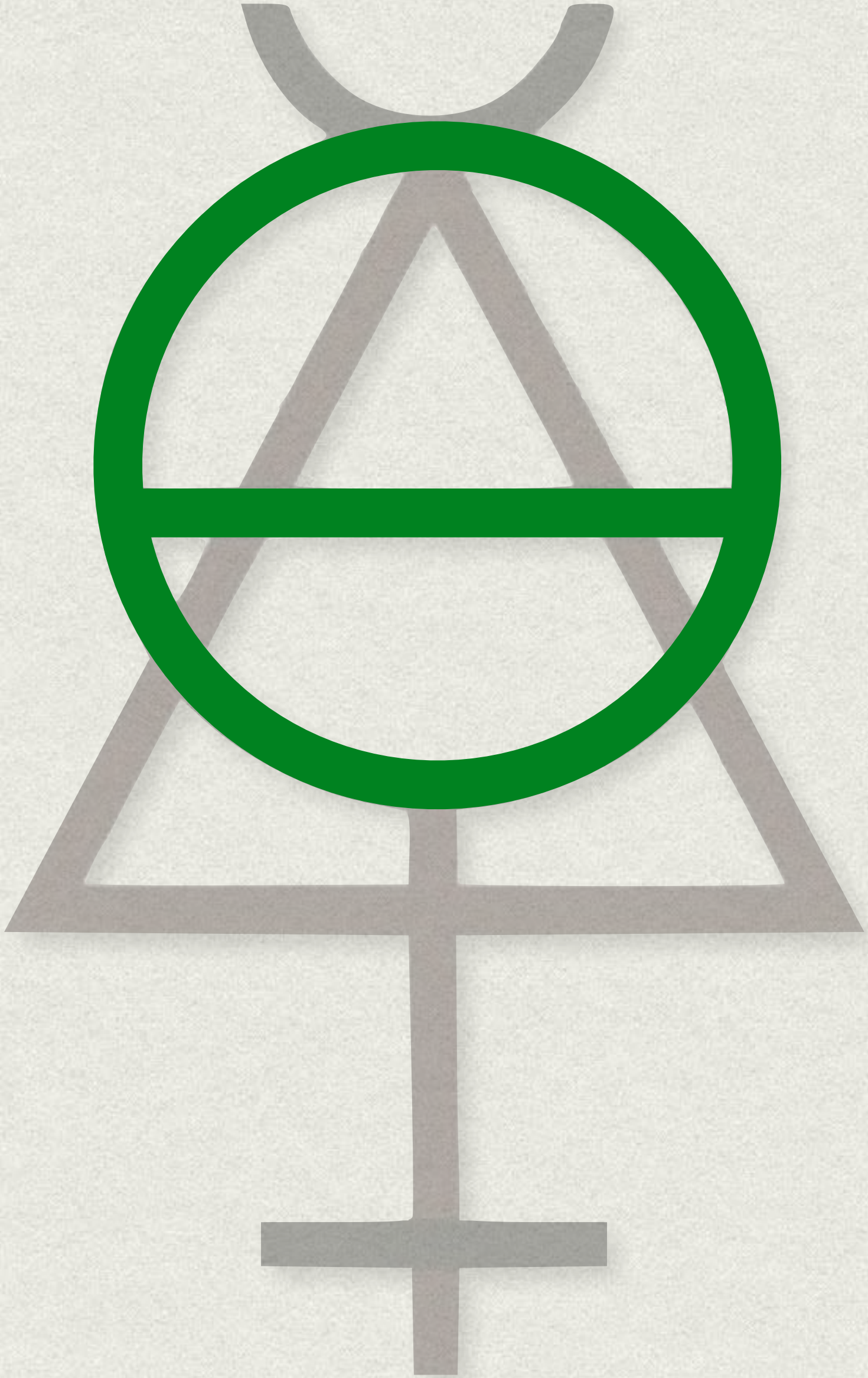
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The serpent was a supreme type of the encircler and turner-round. One of its names in Egyptian is *Rer*, *Rru* or *Ru*. *Rer* denotes the circuit, to go round and make the circuit. This also was a symbol of the old mother who bears its name as *Rerit* or *Lelit* (written with the L) the serpent-woman *Lilith* of Rabbinical tradition. Speaking under this type the Osirified deceased says, "I pass through substances. I pierce the darkness. Hidden reptile is my name. **The soul of my body is a serpent of life!**" –Natural Genesis, v.2:14

Metternich Stele

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EGO SVM NIGER
ALBUS CITRINVS
ET RVREVS

ENS DOMINATUR ASTRI

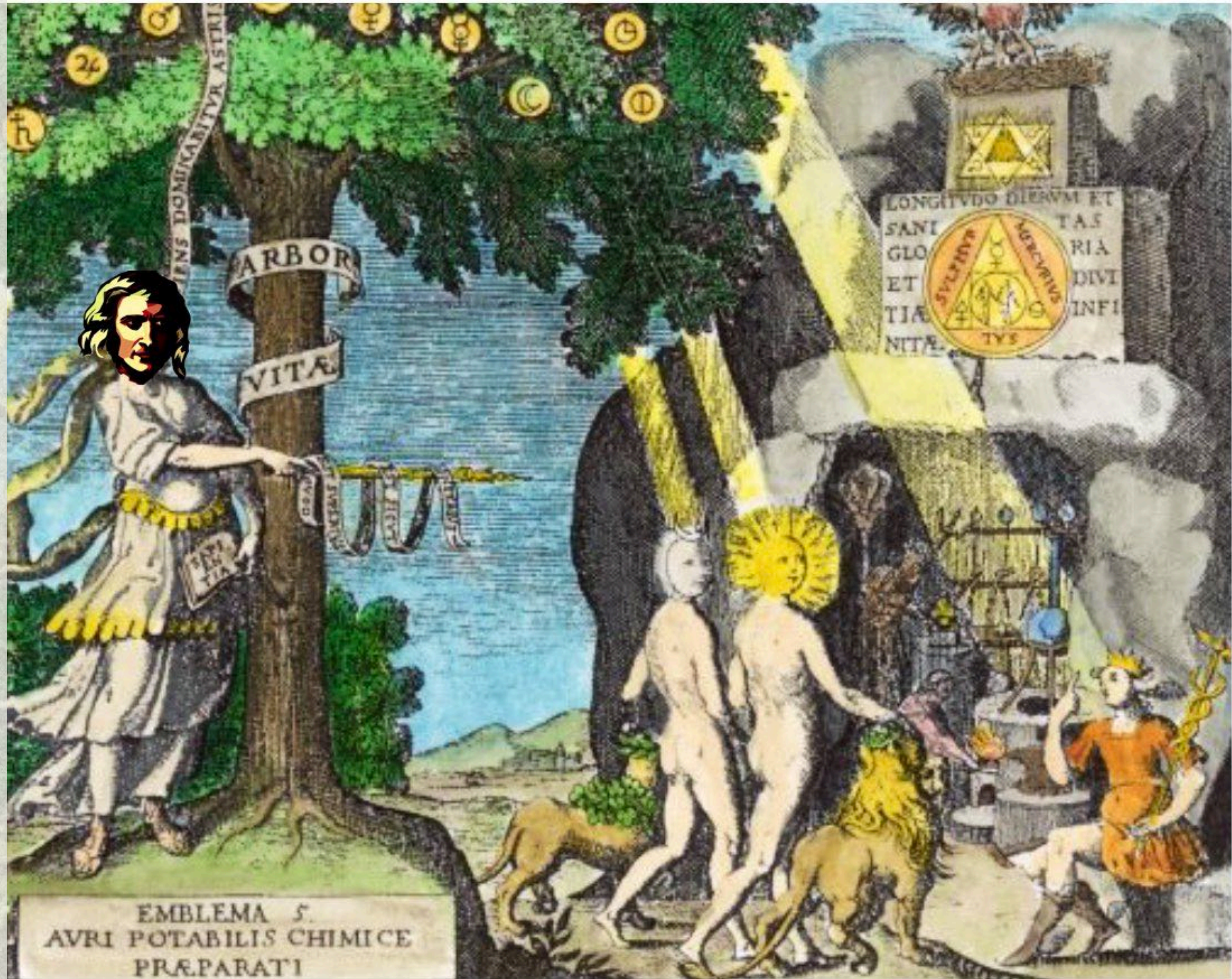
ARBOR
VITAE

LONGITUDO DIERVM ET
SANI TAS
GLO RIA
ET TIA DIVI
NITA

EMBLEMA 5.
AVRI POTABILIS CHIMICE
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Willel. Kallian sculp.

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A serpent interwoven among the olive leaves on her head, devouring its own tail, denotes that the auriferous ductuosity 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.



From Lenoir's *Lo Franco-Maonnerie*. THOTH, THE DOG-HEADED.

Arcturus, or Thoth, one of the five immortals, preceded the twelve Horus from the south of Egypt 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 Cruz Ankh, the symbol of eternal life, and in the other a serpent coiled staff symbolic of his dignity as conductor of the gods.

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.

The serpent throws off its skin annually and is thereby renewed (symbolic of the resurrection of the spiritual life from the material nature). This renewal of the earth takes place every spring, when the vivifying spirit of the sun returns to the countries of the Northern Hemisphere.

The symbolic Virgin carries in her left hand a sistrum and a cym-

bal, or square frame of metal, which when struck gives the keynote of Nature (Fa); sometimes also an olive branch, to indicate the harmony she preserves among natural things with her regenerating power. By the processes of death and corruption she gives life to a number of creatures of diverse forms through periods of perpetual change. The cymbal is made square instead of the usual triangular shape in order to symbolize that all things are transmuted and regenerated according to the harmony of the four elements.

Dr. Sigismund Bacstrom believed that if a physician could establish harmony among the elements of earth, fire, air, and water, and unite them into a stone (the Philosopher's Stone) symbolized by the six-pointed star or two interlaced triangles, he would possess the means of healing all disease. Dr. Bacstrom further stated that there was no doubt in his mind that the universal, omnipresent fire (spirit) of Nature "does all and is all in all." By attraction, repulsion, motion, heat, sublimation, evaporation, excitation, inspissation, coagulation, and fixation, the Universal Fire (Spirit) manipulates matter, and manifests throughout creation. Any individual who can understand these principles and adapt them to the three departments of Nature becomes a true philosopher.

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 Mocker 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.

The statue of Isis was placed on a pedestal of dark stone ornamented with rams' heads. Her feet stood 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.

In this sense the axioms known to the ancient philosophers are verified; namely:

- Nature contains Nature;*
- Nature rejoices in her own nature;*
- Nature sustains Nature;*
- Nature cannot be amended but in her own nature.*

Therefore, in contemplating the statue of Isis, we must not lose sight of the occult sense of its allegories; otherwise, the Virgin remains an inexplicable enigma.

From a golden ring on her left arm a line descends, to the end of which is suspended a deep box filled with flaming coals and incense. Isis, or Nature personified, carries with her the sacred fire, religiously preserved and kept burning in a special temple by the vestal virgins. This fire is the genuine, immortal flame of Nature—ethereal, essential, the author of life. The inconsumable oil, the balsam of life, so much praised by the wise and so often referred to in the Scriptures, is frequently symbolized as the fuel of this immortal flame.

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 *Lo Franco-Maonnerie*. THE EGYPTIAN MADONNA.

Isis is often shown with her son Horus in her arms. She is crowned with the cornucopia, ornamented with the horns of rams or bulls. Orus, or Horus, the hero, was generally known as the son of Isis and Osiris. He was the god of time, hour, day, and the narrow span of life recognized as mortal existence. In all probability, the four sons of Horus represent the four seasons 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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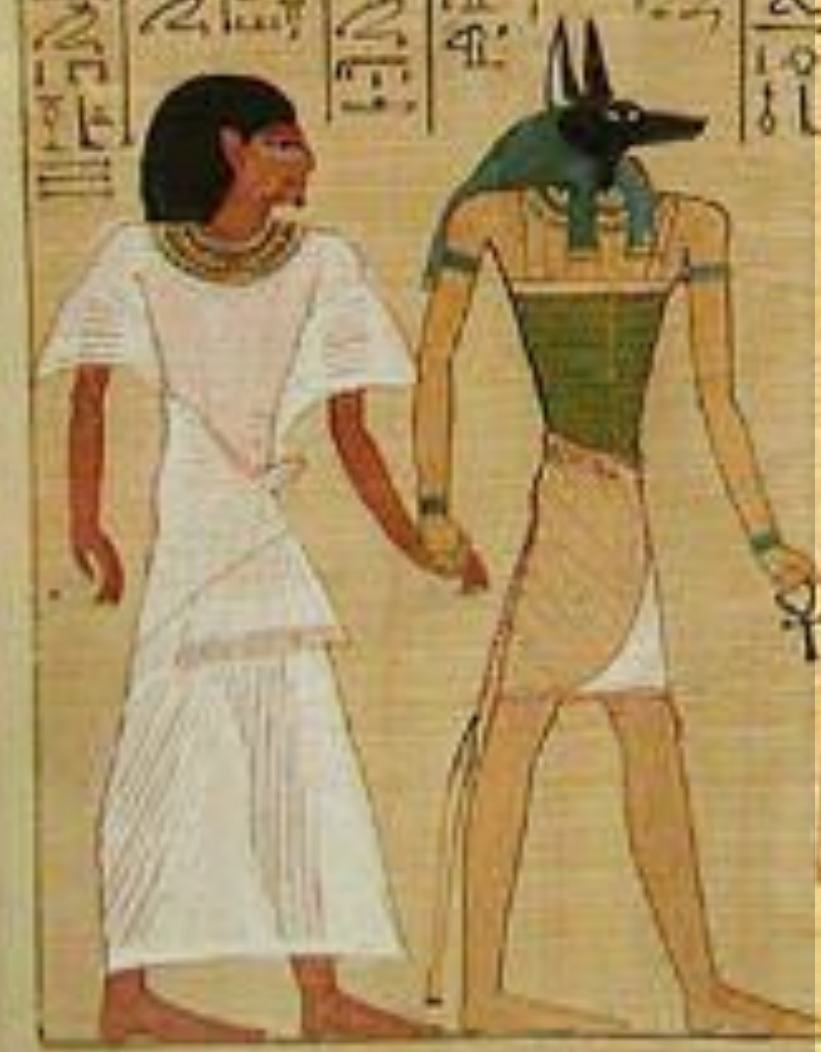
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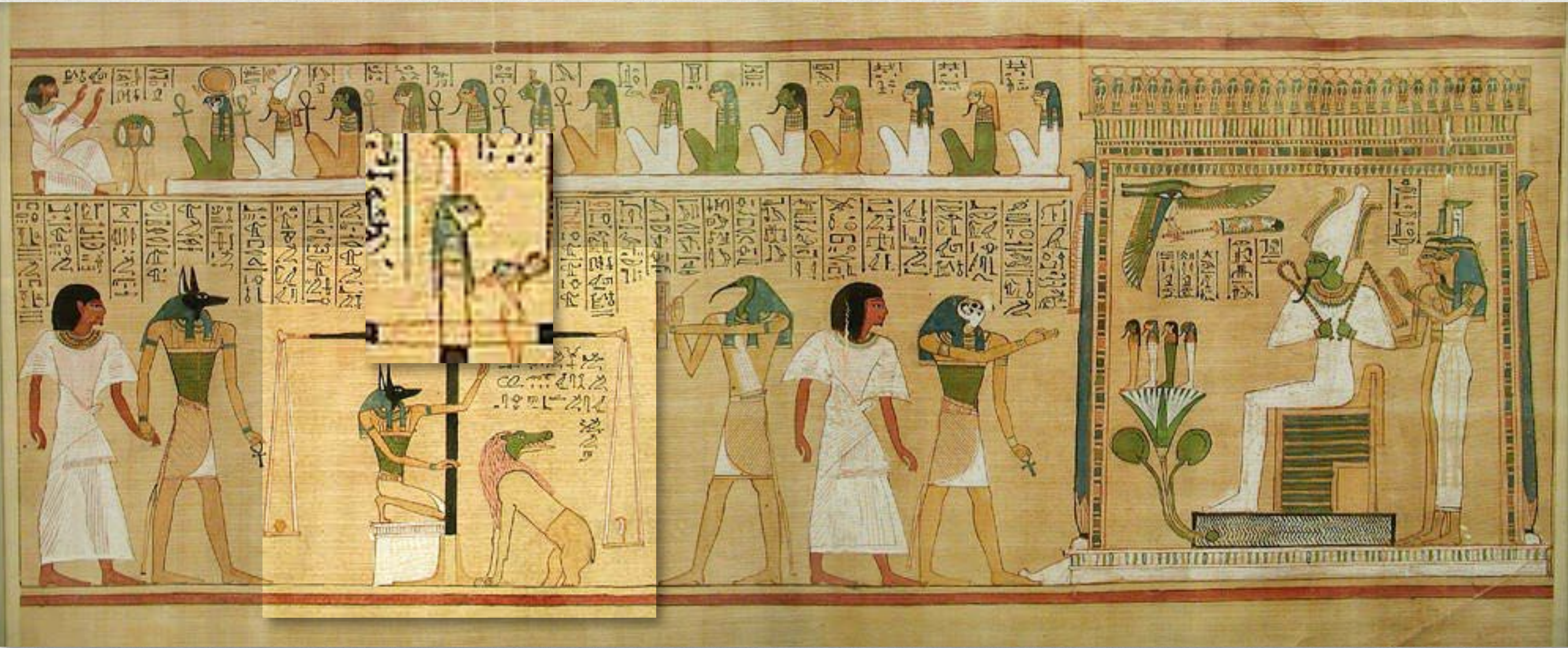
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Columns of hieroglyphic text, likely names and titles of the individuals depicted in the register above.







Themis

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

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From Lenoir's La France-Macconerie.
THOTH, THE DOG-HEADED.

Anaxeris, or Thoth, one of the five terrestrial, 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 disk, carrying in one hand the Crux Ansata, the symbol of eternal life, and in the other a serpent-wound staff symbolic of his dignity as counselor of the gods.

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 infested 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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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 quiescence 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 Mother 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.

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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From Lenoir's La France-Macconerie.
THE EGYPTIAN MADONNA.

Isis is often shown with her son, Horus in her arms. She is crowned with the horns of rams or bulls. Osiris, or Hermes, became 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.

LA
FRANCHE - MAÇONNERIE

RENDUE

À SA VÉRITABLE ORIGINE,

OU

L'ANTIQUITÉ DE LA FRANCHE-MAÇONNERIE

PROUVÉE

PAR L'EXPLICATION DES MYSTÈRES ANCIENS ET MODERNES ;

PAR M. ALEXANDRE LENOIR,

ADMINISTRATEUR du Musée royal des Monumens français, Conservateur des Objets d'art de Malmaison, Membre de l'Académie des Antiquaires de France ; de l'Académie italienne, de celle des Sciences, Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres ; de la Société Philotechnique ; de l'Athénée de la Langue française, et des Sociétés des Sciences, Lettres et Arts de Toulouse, de Nancy, de Soissons, du Département de la Loire-Inférieure, etc., etc., etc.

AVEC DIX PLANCHES,

Gravées par les meilleurs Artistes de Paris, sur les dessins de M. MOREAU jeune, graveur du cabinet du Roi, et Membre de l'ancienne Académie de Peinture, etc., etc.

PARIS,

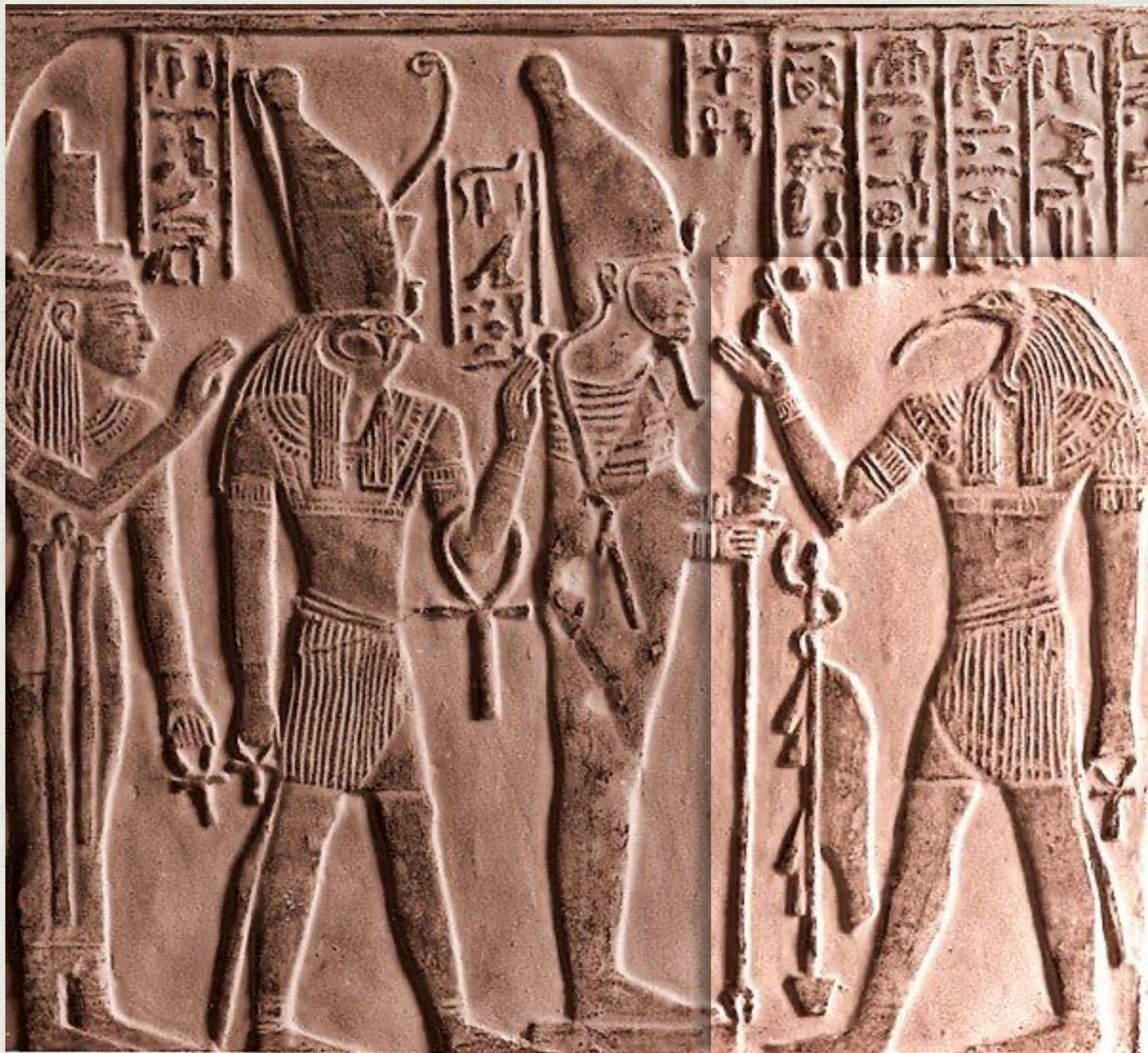
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OCTOBRE 1814.

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Aroueris, or Thoth, was 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 Crux Ansata, the symbol of eternal life, and in the other a serpent-wound staff symbolic of his dignity as counselor of the gods.



Isis, Horus, Osiris and Thoth



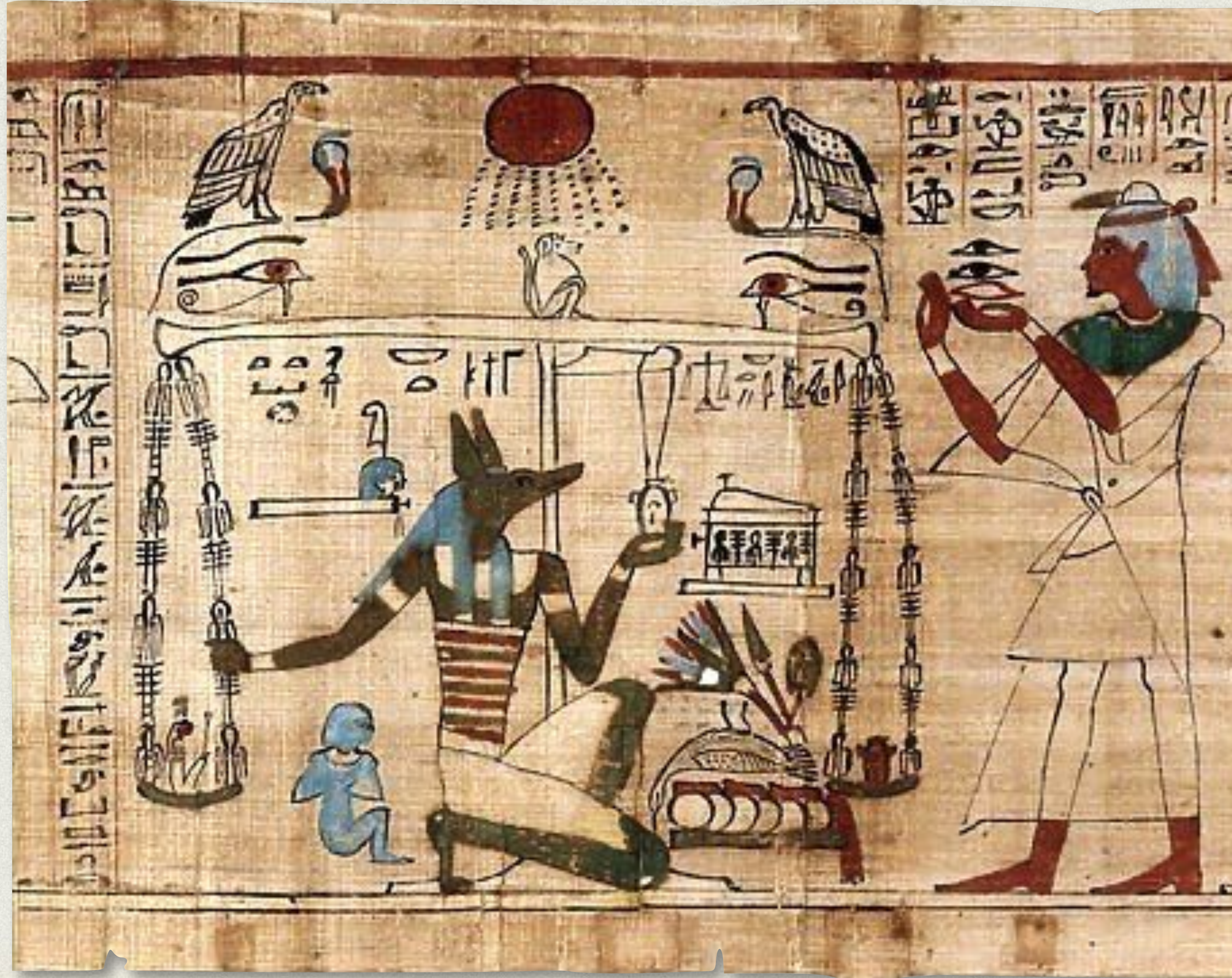
A scribe worshipping Anubis



Ibis-headed Thoth





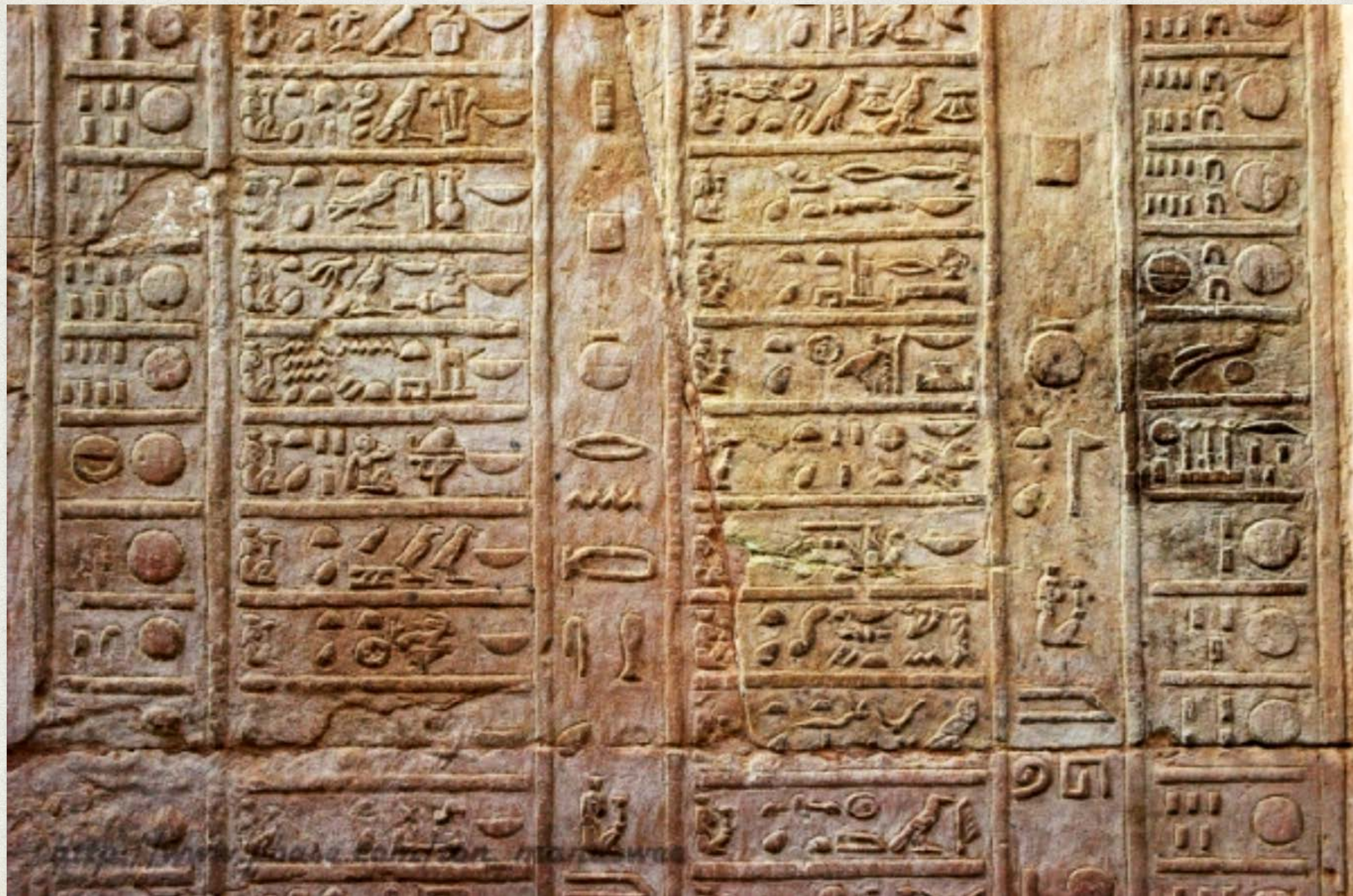




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From Lenoir's *La Franche-Maconnerie*.

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. Orus, 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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Virgin Suckling the Child
by Hans Memling







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Horus



Khonsu



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The World Virgin is sometimes shown standing between two great pillars—the Jachin and Boaz of Freemasonry—symbolizing the fact that Nature attains productivity by means of polarity. As wisdom personified, Isis stands between the pillars of opposites, demonstrating that understanding is always found at the point of equilibrium and that truth is often crucified between the two thieves of apparent contradiction.

The sheen of gold in her dark hair indicates that while she is lunar, her power is due to the sun's rays, from which she secures her ruddy complexion. As the moon is robed in the reflected light of the sun, so Isis, like the virgin of Revelation, is clothed in the glory of solar luminosity. Apuleius states that while he was sleeping he beheld the venerable goddess Isis rising out of the ocean. The ancients realized that the primary forms of life first came out of water, and modern science concurs in this view. H. G. Wells, in his *Outline of History*, describing primitive life on the earth, states: "But though the ocean and intertidal water already swarmed with life, the land above the high-tide line was still, so far as we can guess, a stony wilderness without a trace of life." In the next chapter he adds: "Wherever the shore-line ran there was life, and that life went on in and by and with water as its home, its medium, and its fundamental necessity." The ancients believed that the universal sperm proceeded from warm vapor, humid but fiery. The veiled Isis, whose very coverings represent vapor, is symbolic of this humidity, which is the carrier or vehicle for the sperm life of the sun, represented by a child in her arms. Because the sun, moon, and stars in setting appear to sink into the sea and also because the water receives their rays into itself, the sea was believed to be the breeding ground for the sperm of living things. This sperm is generated from the combination of the influences of the celestial bodies; hence Isis is sometimes represented as pregnant.

Frequently the statue of Isis was accompanied by the figure of a large black and white ox. The ox represents either Osiris as Taurus, the bull of the zodiac, or Apis, an animal sacred to Osiris because of its peculiar markings and colorings. Among the Egyptians, the bull was a beast of burden. Hence the presence of the animal was a reminder of the labors patiently performed by Nature that all creatures may have life and health. Harpocrates, the God of Silence, holding his fingers to his mouth, often accompanies the statue of Isis. He warns all to keep the secrets of the wise from those unfit to know them.

The Druids of Britain and Gaul had a deep knowledge concerning the mysteries of Isis and worshiped her under the symbol of the moon. Godfrey Higgins considers it a mistake to regard Isis as synonymous with the moon. The moon was chosen for Isis because of its dominion over water. The Druids considered the sun to be the father and the moon the mother of all things. By means of these symbols they worshiped Universal Nature.

The figure of Isis is sometimes used to represent the occult and magical arts, such as necromancy, invocation, sorcery, and thaumaturgy. In one of the myths concerning her, Isis is said to have conjured the invincible God of Eternities, Ra, to tell her his secret and sacred name, which he did. This name is equivalent to the Lost Word of Masonry. By means of this Word, a magician can demand obedience from the invisible and superior deities. The priests of Isis became adepts in the use of the unseen forces of Nature. They understood hypnotism, mesmerism, and similar practices long before the modern world dreamed of their existence.

Plutarch describes the requisites of a follower of Isis in this manner: "For as 'tis not the length of the beard, or the coarseness of the habit which makes a philosopher, so neither will those frequent shavings, or the mere wearing [of] a linen vestment constitute a votary of Isis; but he alone is a true servant or follower of this Goddess, who after he has heard, and been made acquainted in a proper manner with the history of the actions of these Gods, searches into the hidden truths which lie concealed under them, and examines the whole by the dictates of reason and philosophy."

During the Middle Ages the troubadours of Central Europe preserved in song the legends of this Egyptian goddess. They composed sonnets to the most beautiful woman in all the world. Though few ever discovered her identity, she was *Sophia*, the Virgin of Wis-

dom, whom all the philosophers of the world have wooed. Isis represents the mystery of motherhood, which the ancients recognized as the most apparent proof of Nature's omniscient wisdom and God's overshadowing power. To the modern seeker she is the epitome of the Great Unknown, and only those who unveil her will be able to solve the mysteries of life, death, generation, and regeneration.

MUMMIFICATION OF THE EGYPTIAN DEAD

Servius, commenting on Virgil's *Aeneid*, observes that "the wise Egyptians took care to embalm their bodies, and deposit them in catacombs, in order that the soul might be preserved for a long time in connection with the body, and might not soon be alienated; while the Romans, with an opposite design, committed the remains of their dead to the funeral pile, intending that the vital spark might immediately be restored to the general element, or return to its pristine nature." (From Prichard's *An Analysis of the Egyptian Mythology*.)

No complete records are available which give the secret doctrine of the Egyptians concerning the relationship existing between the spirit, or consciousness, and the body which it inhabited. It is reasonably certain, however, that Pythagoras, who had been initiated in the Egyptian temples, when he promulgated the doctrine of metempsychosis, restated, in part at least, the teachings of the Egyptian initiates. The popular supposition that the Egyptians mummified their dead in order to preserve the form for a physical resurrection is untenable in the light of modern knowledge regarding their philosophy of death. In the fourth book of *On Abstinence from Animal Food*, Porphyry describes an Egyptian custom of purifying the dead by removing the contents of the abdominal cavity, which they placed in a separate chest. He then reproduces the following oration which had been translated out of the Egyptian tongue by Euphan-tus: "O sovereign Sun, and all ye Gods who impart life to men, receive me, and deliver me to the eternal Gods as a cohabitant. For I have always piously worshipped those divinities which were pointed out to me by my parents as long as I lived in this age, and have likewise always honored those who procreated my body. And, with respect to other men, I have never slain any one, nor defrauded any one of what he deposited with me, nor have I committed any other atrocious deed. If, therefore, during my life I have acted erroneously, by eating or drinking things which it is unlawful to eat or drink, I have not erred through myself, but through these" (pointing to the chest which contained the viscera). The removal of the organs identified as the seat of the appetites was considered equivalent to the purification of the body from their evil influences.

So literally did the early Christians interpret their Scriptures that they preserved the bodies of their dead by pickling them in salt water, so that on the day of resurrection the spirit of the dead might reenter a complete and perfectly preserved body. Believing that the incisions necessary to the embalming process and the removal of the internal organs would prevent the return of the spirit to its body, the Christians buried their dead without resorting to the more elaborate mummification methods employed by the Egyptian morticians.

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The Egyptians also believed that Osiris was the river Nile and that Isis (his sister-wife) was the contiguous land, which, when inundated by the river, bore fruit and harvest. The murky waters of the Nile were believed to account for the blackness of Osiris, who was generally symbolized as being of ebony hue.

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2

HIGH PRIESTESS





The title, High Priestess, means literally "chief feminine elder," or primary receptive aspect of the Life-power. In Hindu philosophy this is Prakriti, the precosmic root substance which is the substratum beneath all the objective planes of existence. Thus the woman in Key 2 is in one sense identical with the First Mother, or First Matter, of the alchemists, who often call this *Prima Materia* their Virgin Diana. Diana is the goddess of the crescent Moon. She is also the Great Hecate of Greek occult philosophy. Hecate, often confused in ancient mythology with Luna, was

supposed to have all secret powers of nature at her command. In fact, the High Priestess corresponds to all the virgin goddesses of the ancient world - to Artemis, guardian and helper of childbirth, to Maia, mother of Hermes, to Bona Dea, who "out of modesty never left her bower, or let herself be seen of men," and to Kybele, whose sanctuaries were caves. Dr. Waite says "she is the spiritual Bride and Mother, the daughter of the stars. . . the Queen of the borrowed light, but this is the light of all." Thus she also represents Eve, before her union with Adam. -The Tarot:50-1

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The sheen of gold in her dark hair indicates that while she is lunar, her power is due to the sun's rays, from which she secures her ruddy complexion. As the moon is robed in the reflected light of the sun, so Isis, like the virgin of Revelation, is clothed in the glory of solar luminosity. Apuleius states that while he was sleeping he beheld the venerable goddess Isis rising out of the ocean. The ancients realized that the primary forms of life first came out of water, and modern science concurs in this view. H. G. Wells, in his *Outline of History*, describing primitive life on the earth, states: "But though the ocean and intertidal water already swarmed with life, the land above the high-tide line was still, so far as we can guess, a stony wilderness without a trace of life." In the next chapter he adds: "Wherever the shore-line ran there was life, and that life went on in and by and with water as its home, its medium, and its fundamental necessity." The ancients believed that the universal sperm proceeded from warm vapor, humid but fiery. The veiled Isis, whose very coverings represent vapor, is symbolic of this humidity, which is the carrier or vehicle for the sperm life of the sun, represented by a child in her arms. Because the sun, moon, and stars in setting appear to sink into the sea and also because the water receives their rays into itself, the sea was believed to be the breeding ground for the sperm of living things. This sperm is generated from the combination of the influences of the celestial bodies; hence Isis is sometimes represented as pregnant.

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The Virgin of Revelation

XLVIII

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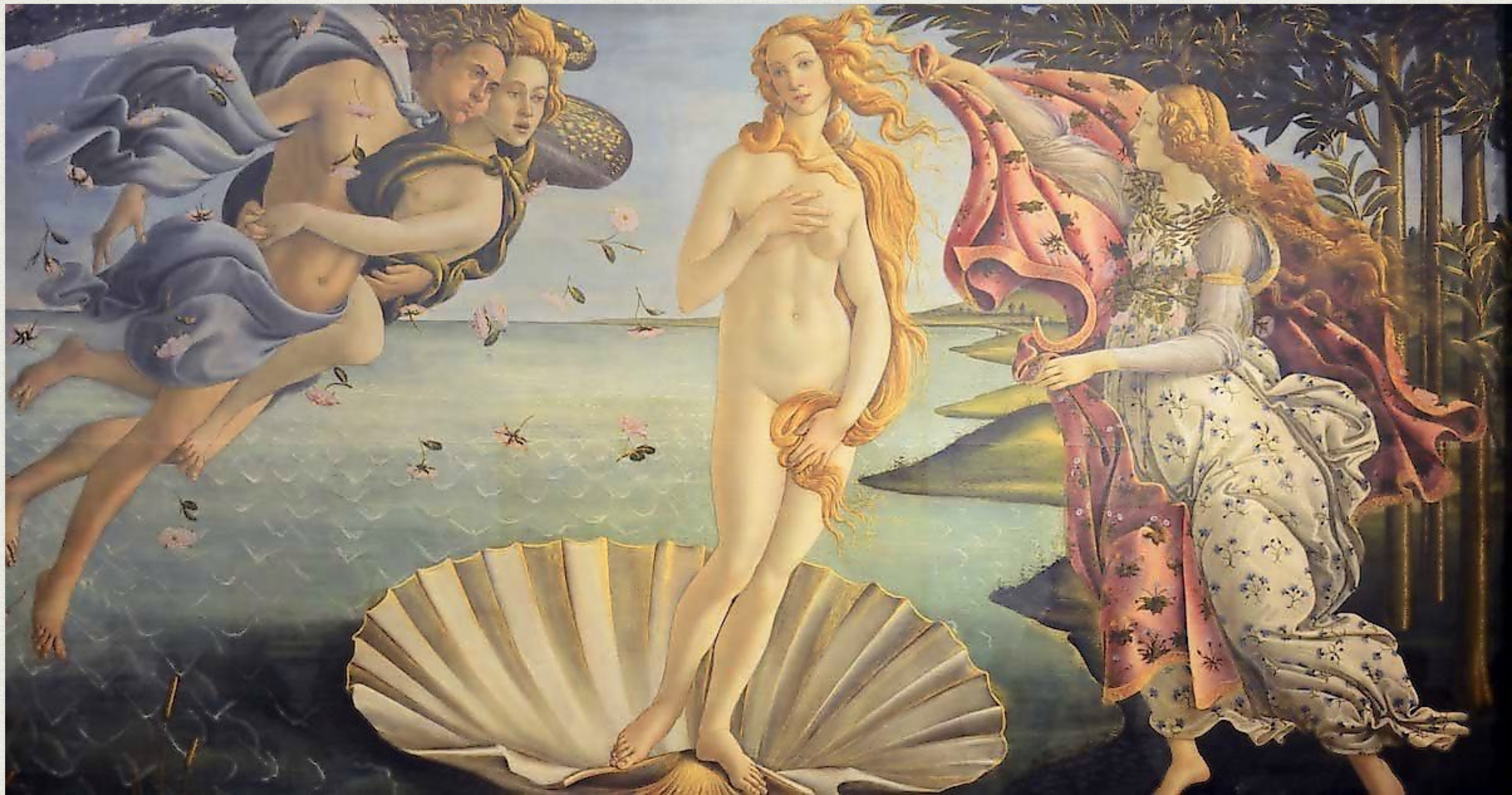
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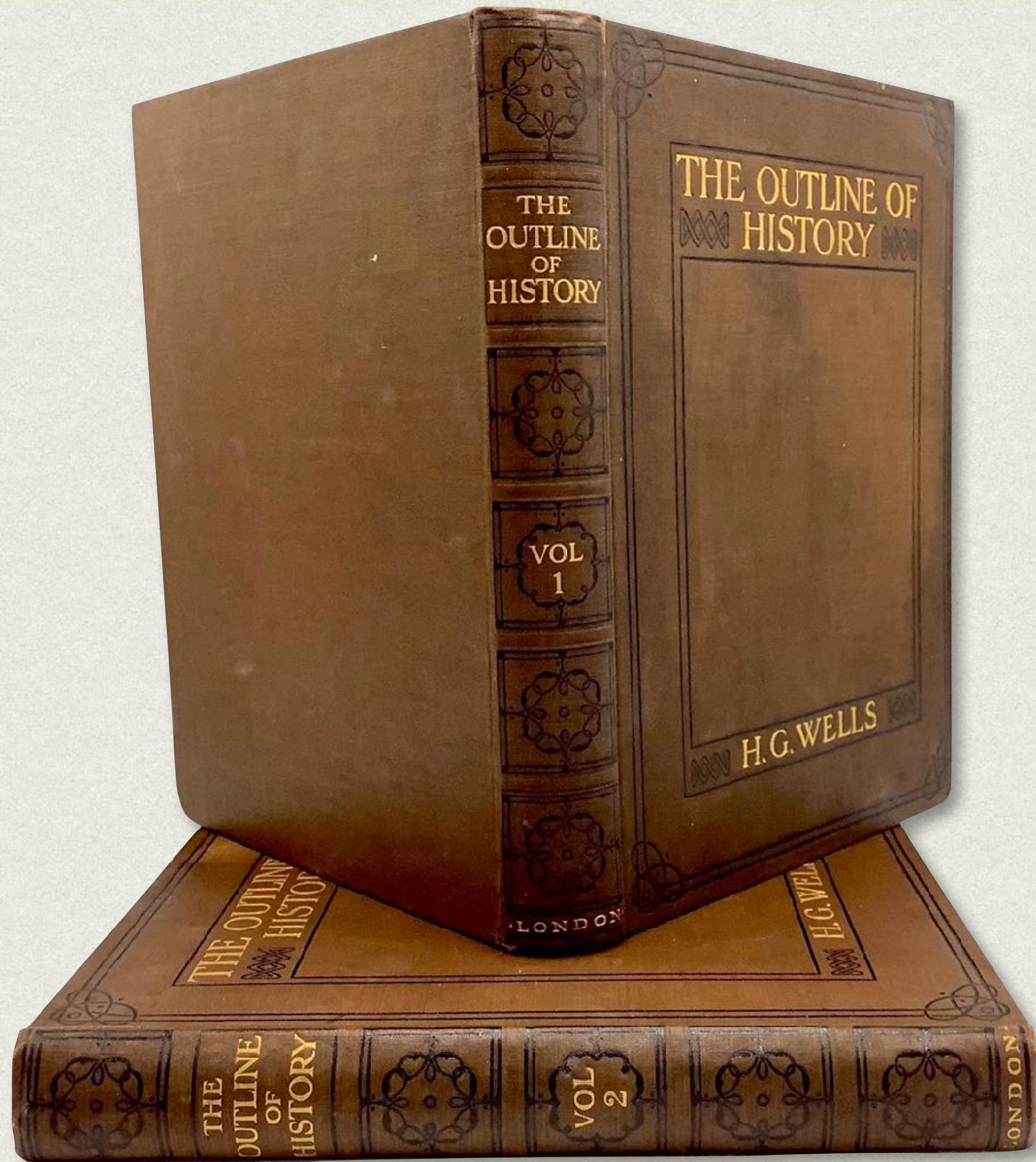
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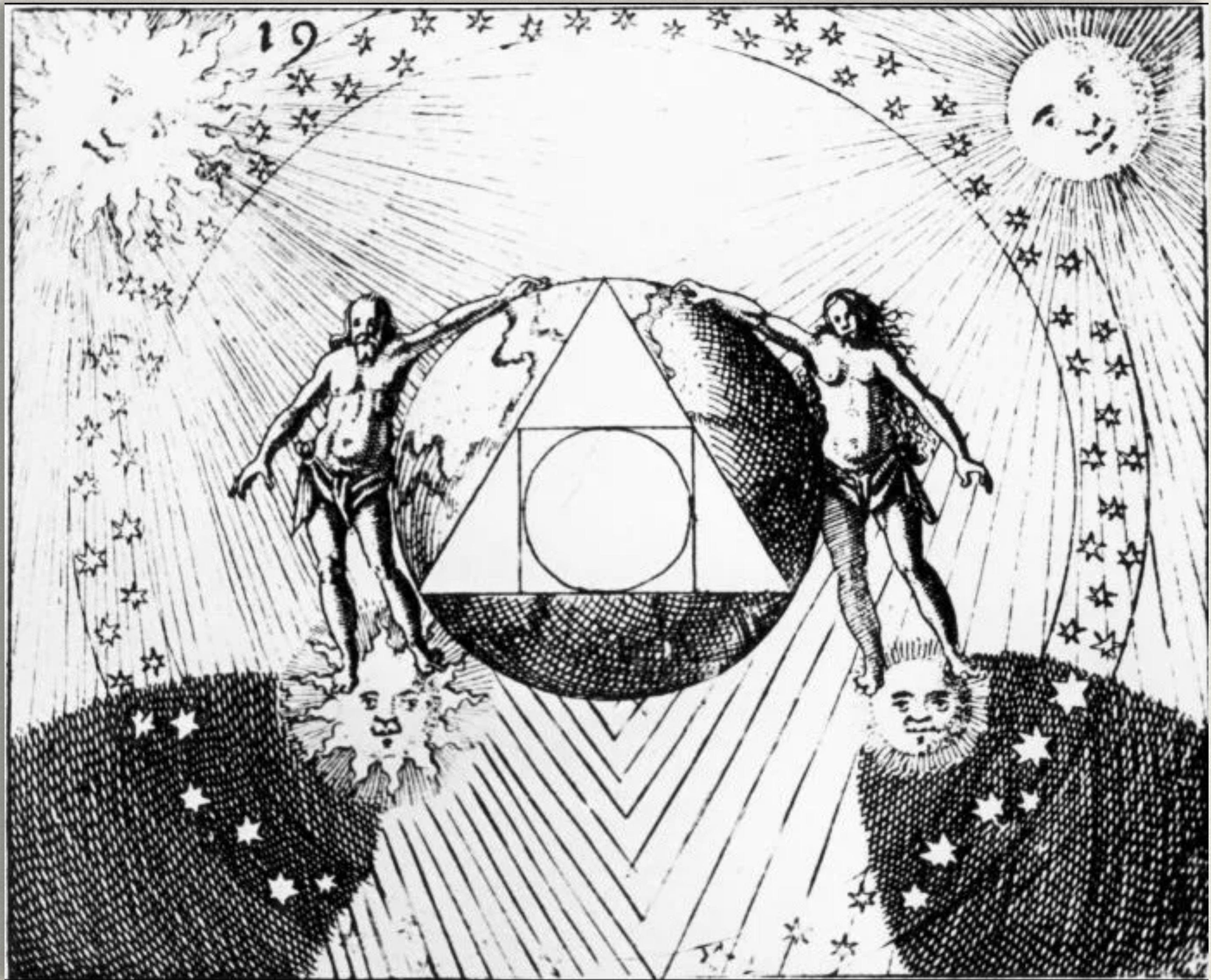
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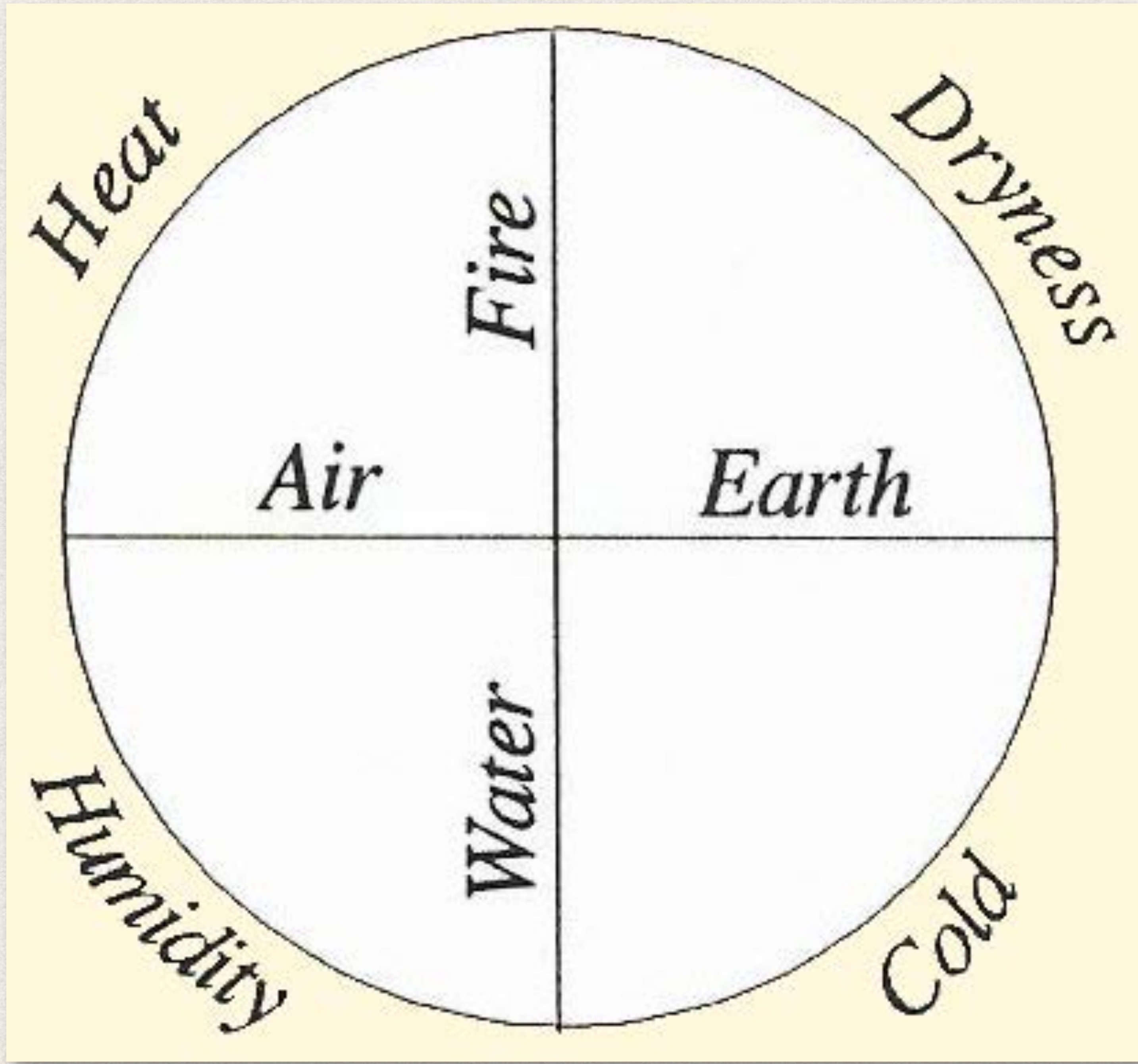
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Osiris and Isis with Horus
Bronze, 26th dynasty

@merjaattia



Mother of the World
by Nicholas Roerich, 1937

XLVIII

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Tiamat, tiled mosaic

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Harpocrates, Silver statuette, Ptolemaic Dynasty, 350-30 BC.

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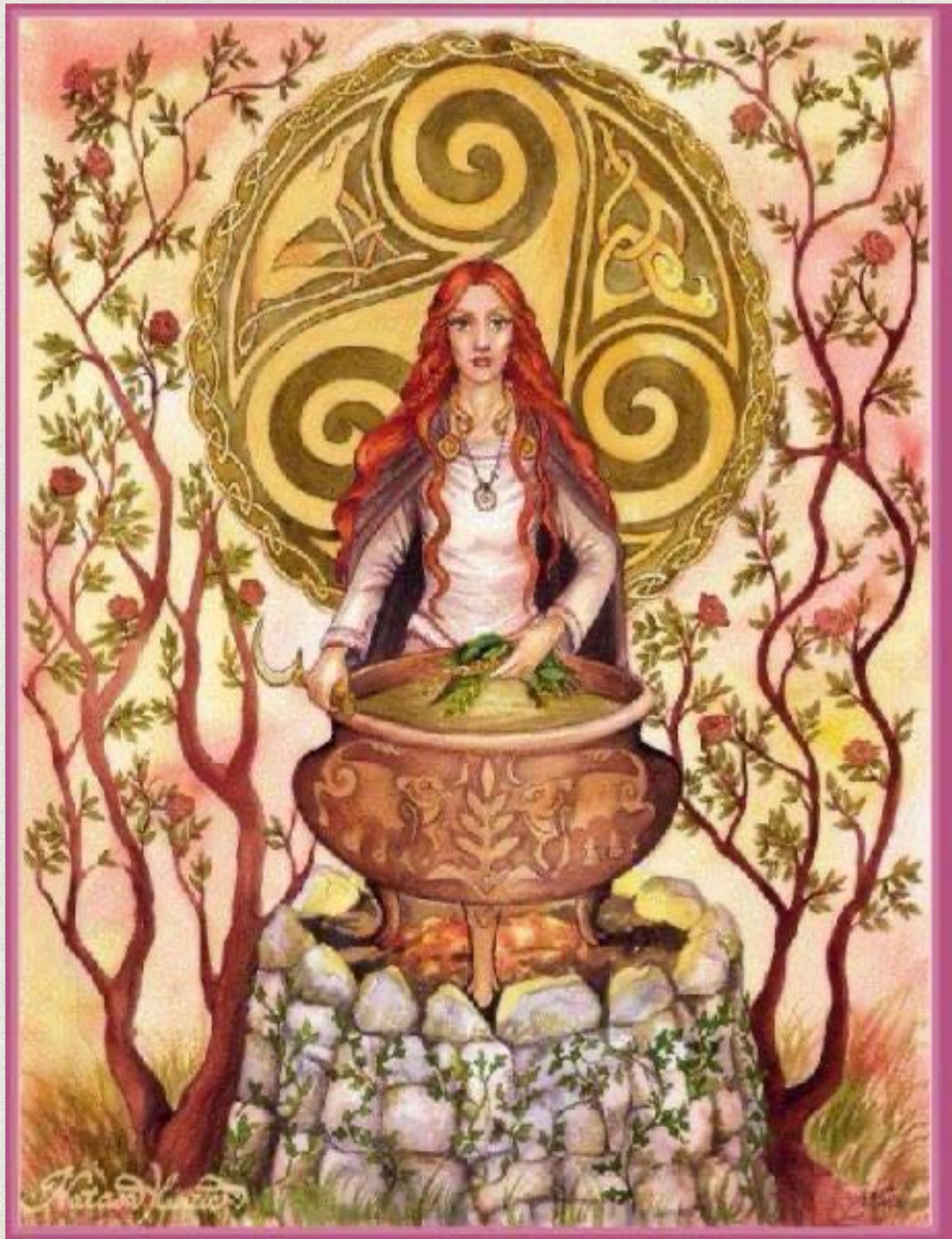
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The Greek *Selene*



Belenus

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Now has come the cold season
when I can cast off my grief,
for never again can it avail me
the fair weather or the colours
or the coolness or the warmth,
for never again can it avail me
the fair lady who took me from myself.

Venus, who with all colours
makes the world bright and serene,
and gives joy and worth
to men and to women,
is not at all of her worth
that her mortal body sustains her,
but never again can she hold it.
—by Raimbaut de Vaqueiras.

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The goddess Sophia

In his treatise *On Isis and Osiris*, Plutarch, the ancient Greek philosopher, biographer and initiate, at one time priest of the Delphic Apollo, tells us that over the portal of the Temple of Isis in Egypt the following mystical words were engraved in everlasting stone:

"Isis am I; all that was, all that is, all that ever will be. And no one of mortals has ever discovered my garment."

As will be noticed, our rendering of this famous inscription differs somewhat from the one usually given: "... and no mortal has ever lifted my veil." This is an important difference, because it introduces a new significance to the meaning of the Greek phrase, really more close to the deep esoteric sense of this majestic declaration. It is

noteworthy that Plutarch ends this inscription after the words *"discovered my garment,"* whereas Proclus, the well-known Neoplatonic philosopher, says that it also contained the further words: *"The fruit that I brought forth became the sun."* There are two explanations of this statement. The first is that the eternal wisdom or Sophia, which has always been, now is, and always will be, is the virgin-mother of initiates: a mother always fertile, always bringing forth a constant, uninterrupted series of buddha-like men. This is the ancient wisdom, a wisdom ever enduring, a representation in human terms of the operation, structure, and very nature of the universe — divine, spiritual, astral and physical. Such was the mystic Isis. –Fountain Source of Occultism:416

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