

# Hermetic 7 Principles

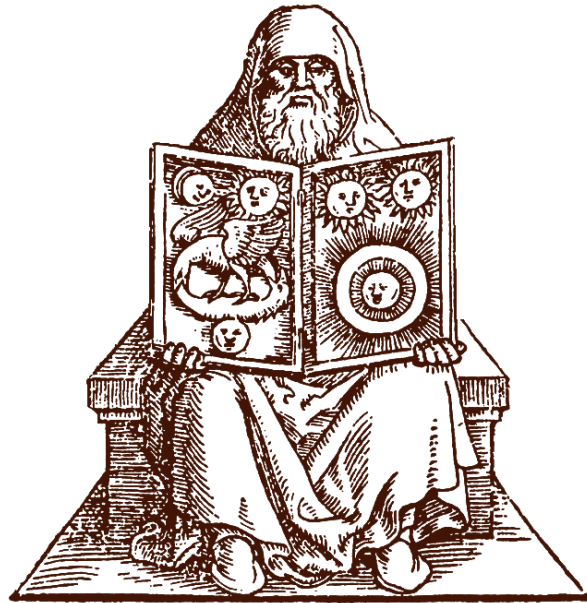
# Hermetic 7 Principles

Primary Source: [Free Man Creator: Seven hermetic principles](#)

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“The Principles of Truth are Seven; he who knows these, understandingly, possesses the Magic Key before whose touch all the Doors of the Temple fly open.”

— *The Kybalion*

# Introduction

The seven hermetic principles appear in the book 'The Kybalion', published in 1908 and written by the anonymous 'three initiates'.

The principles are a high level outline of worldview, the spiritual scientific worldview. This implies they postulate universal principles found in the ancient wisdom teachings of all ages.

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*Zarathustra initiated his most intimate students into these mysteries, but the most profound teachings he imparted to two of them. The first one was primarily instructed in everything that concerns human judgment, such as natural science, astronomy and astrology, agriculture, and other disciplines. All this knowledge was transmitted to this one disciple by a secret process of communication between the two. This prepared the disciple in such a way that in the following reincarnation he was able to carry the astral body of his teacher; and he was reincarnated as Hermes, (Historical scholarship usually considers Hermes as a mythical figure in ancient Egypt, but Steiner thinks he was a living prophet who appeared about 4200 B.C. when the sun moved into Taurus. According to historical speculation the so-called Hermetic books—metaphysical pronouncements about the community of all beings and things—were authored by the Egyptian god Thoth (the Thrice Great), whose name was often translated into Greek as Hermes Trismegistus.) the great teacher and sage of the Egyptian Mysteries. Born with Zarathustra's astral body, Hermes became the bearer of the great wisdom.*

<https://rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA109/English/AP1986/19090121p01.html>

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The Hermetic Teachings are to be found in all lands, among all religions, but never identified with any particular country, nor with any particular religious sect. This because of the warning of the ancient teachers against allowing the Secret Doctrine to become crystallized into a creed. The wisdom of this caution is apparent to all students of history. The ancient occultism of India and Persia degenerated, and was largely lost, owing to the fact that the

teachers became priests, and so mixed theology with the philosophy, the result being that the occultism of India and Persia has been gradually lost amidst the mass of religious superstition cults, creeds and "gods." So it was with Ancient Greece and Rome. So it was with the Hermetic Teachings of the Gnostics and Early Christians, which were lost at the time of Constantine, whose iron hand smothered philosophy with the blanket of theology, losing to the Christian Church that which was its very essence and spirit, and causing it to grope throughout several centuries before it found the way back to its ancient faith, the indications apparent to all careful observers in this Twentieth Century being that the Church is now struggling to get back to its ancient mystic teachings.

But there were always a few faithful souls who kept alive the Flame, tending it carefully, and not allowing its light to become extinguished. And thanks to these staunch hearts, and fearless minds, we have the truth still with us. But it is not found in books, to any great extent. It has been passed along from Master to Student; from Initiate to Hierophant; from lip to ear. When it was written down at all, its meaning was veiled in terms of alchemy and astrology, so that only those possessing the key could read it aright. This was made necessary in order to avoid the persecutions of the theologians of the Middle Ages, who fought the Secret Doctrine with fire and sword; stake, gibbet and cross.

## Markides quoting Daskalos

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*I explained that the Hermetic Philosophy dealing with esoteric, mystical wisdom is believed to have been started by a Greek named Hermes Trismegistus who lived in ancient Egypt hundreds of years before Christ. ...*

*When I mentioned that interpretation of the origin of the Hermetic Philosophy to Daskalos, he shook his head and laughed.*

*Daskalos said that **Hermes Trismegistus is any human being who reaches the state of superconscious self-awareness.***

***Anyone who has mastered his or her three bodies - the physical, astral and mental - is a Hermes Trismegistus.***

*The winged god Hermes symbolizes flight, that is, the mastery of Out of Body Experience or what is also called 'astral travel'.*

*The word trismegistus in Greek literally means 'the thrice-great'—that is, the one who has attained mastery over the three bodies and therefore can travel freely in these other dimensions of existence, accumulating knowledge and wisdom and disseminating it to those, like us, who carry on a life confounded within the lower levels of awareness.*

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# I

## The universe is spiritual

The principle of mentalism or spirit, or put differently: the spiritual nature of creation and the universe.

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*The All is mind; the universe is mental.*

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This maps to the concept of the absolute divinity or beingness as the 'all' underlying creation and the whole cosmos which is spiritual in nature.

It is important to realize the limits of intellectual thinking with our contemporary Waking consciousness, whereby thinking is mostly about sensory perception and delineated, separate things within time and space. In the higher spiritual world, time and space as we know no longer exists. If one maps it to our experiential language, 'everything interpenetrates everywhere with everything at all times'. Hence, the nature of spiritual realities at Planes or worlds of consciousness above the spirit world, such as nirvana plane or above, can not be grasped fully in its true nature with current Waking consciousness. There is a limit or 'ceiling' to how much sense it makes trying to grasp spiritual realities of higher dimensions. Initiates with intuitive clairvoyance have given tentative and symbolic descriptions, and these are about all one can expect at the current low level of intellectual thinking and consciousness.

## Meditations on the Tarot

God made man "in his image and likeness" (Genesis i, 26). The divine image and the divine likeness coincided in the first man, before the original sin. But their coincidence did not persist after the Fall. The image has remained intact, but the initial likeness has been lost. Man is, following the original sin, in the "disfigurement of unlikeness", whilst conserving the image.



Man was made in the image and likeness of God: in image he possesses freedom of will, and in likeness he possesses virtues. The likeness has been destroyed; however, man conserves the image. The image can be burnt in hell, but not consumed. It is damaged but not destroyed. Through fate as such it is not effaced, but subsists. Wherever the soul is, there also will be the image. It is not so with the likeness. This remains in the soul which accomplishes the good; in the soul which sins it is wretchedly transformed. The soul which has sinned ranks with beasts devoid of intelligence. (St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Sermon on the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; French trsl. M. M. Davy, Oeuvres de Saint Bernard, vol. i, p. 106)

According to St. Bernard, the image is therefore the essential structure of the human being and the likeness in him is the totality of functions or the functional structure. It is the essential structure of the human being, the image, which is indestructable and which establishes freedom in an inalienable and irremovable way.



## 2

# Correspondence

The principle of correspondence

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*As above, so below; as below, so above.*

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There are two primary planes of existence - the Spiritual plane and the physical plane. These are intimately related and are inseparable. What occurs on the physical plane creates an effect on the Spiritual plane. The reverse is also true. God and those divinities that exist on the Spiritual plane are at all times effecting, and are affected by, events on the physical plane. God and the Hierarchies are intimately involved in every one of our lives and, indeed, in all of Creation.

This Principle embodies the truth that there is always a Correspondence between the laws and phenomena of the various planes of Being and Life. The grasping of this Principle gives one the means of solving many a dark paradox, and hidden secrets of Nature. Just as a knowledge of the Principles of Geometry enables man to measure distant suns and their movements, while seated in his observatory, so a knowledge of the Principle of Correspondence enables Man to reason intelligently from the Known to the Unknown.

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*We will understand what we have to say about it if we keep to an ancient saying, a saying that is called the Hermetic Principle. It comes from one of the greatest initiates, Hermes Trismegistus, the Egyptian initiate. Many scholars consider him to be a fabulous personality. However, spiritual science knows that he was the greatest teacher of Egyptian culture. This sentence may at first seem strange, it reads: "Everything above is as it is below, everything below is as it is above."*

*What does this mean? You will understand when you consider the following: You see a smiling expression on a person's face; it is immediately clear to you that serenity is present in that person's soul. You see a tear, and it is clear to you that sadness or pain has settled on this person's soul. You draw conclusions about the inner being from what the eyes see on the outside, and about the material from the spiritual. Now, in the sense of the philosophy of Hermes Trismegistus, the material is called the lower, and the spiritual-soul is called the upper. And anyone who is familiar with this philosophy is aware that there is a spiritual world and that everything that takes place in this spiritual world can find expression in the material world. This philosophy tells us that at some point every spiritual reality finds material expression. There is no spiritual reality that does not express itself in the material world, and no material reality that does not have a spiritual side. Everything down in the material as well as up in the spiritual.*

*<https://rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA068b/English/SOL2024/19070122p01.html>*



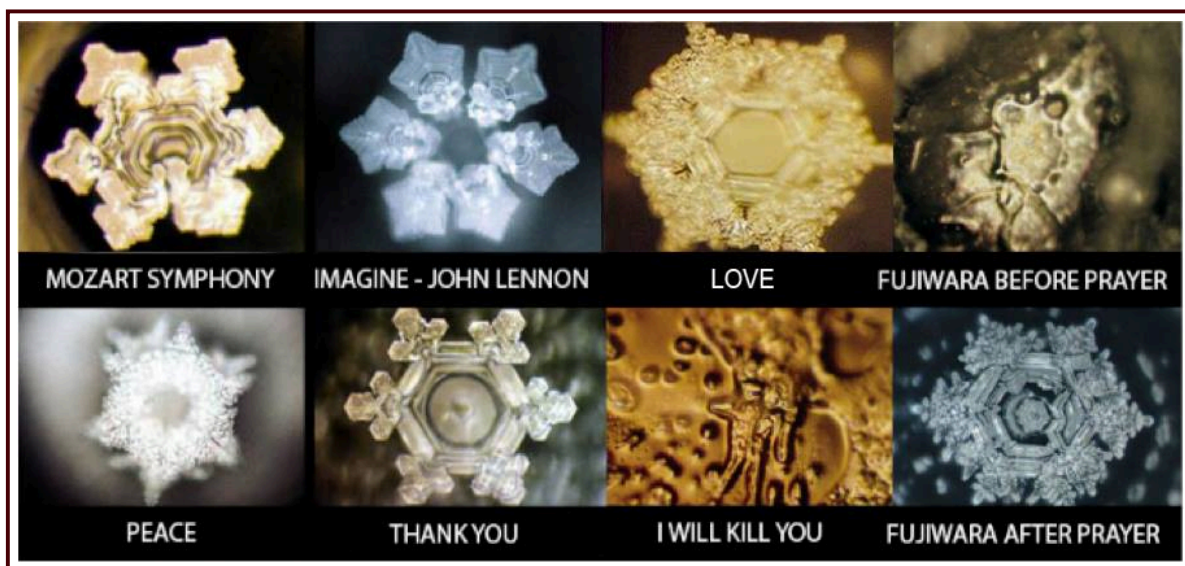
# 3

## Vibration

The principle of vibration: everything is in a continuous dynamic of evolution.

*Nothing rests; everything moves; everything vibrates.*

God does not rest, He is forever active upon His creation. If it were possible to catch a glimpse of His being, however, He would appear as if He were indeed at rest. This is due to the high frequency at which He vibrates. Objects of His creation vibrate at varying frequencies, from the highest, which is Spiritual, to the lowest, which is of the grossest material form. Human beings, created in the blessed image of the Creator, possess the power to control the frequency of thought at which they function on the physical plane through the disciplined exercise of free will. To discipline the mind to operate at a higher frequency brings oneself closer to God - while he yet remains on the physical plane.



Dr. Masaru Emoto's photos showing the results of his cymatic experiments.

The science of Cymatics in water illustrates that when sound frequencies move through a particular medium such as water, air or sand, it directly alters the physical structure of matter. As you can tell, the water labeled with positive words is far more symmetrical and aesthetically pleasing than that labeled with darker, negative phrases.



# 4

## Polarity

The principle of polarity (or could also be called 'duality'): everything has dual opposite poles.

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*Everything is dual; everything has poles; everything has its pair of opposites; like and unlike are the same; opposites are identical in nature, but different in degree; extremes meet; all truths are but half-truths; all paradoxes may be reconciled.*

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Everything is and everything is not, at the same time. Anything that can be measured has its polar opposites. These opposites do not differ in their material nature, rather they only differ by degrees. A high vibrational frequency and a low vibrational frequency are identical in nature, differing only in degree. Heat and cold are the same thing, also only differing in degree. Either extreme of a given matter on the physical plane is disruptive to the achievement of equanimity, the highest goal of one's character. Equanimity is found in the balance between extremes. This is often referred to as the middle way.

This principle is also found in many sources and various forms. It has to do with the fact that the Earth is in a cradle held by the Sun and Moon influences.



# 5

## Rhythm

The principle of rhythm; it is an intrinsic characteristic of the continuous dynamic.

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*Everything flows, out and in; everything has its tides; all things rise and fall; the pendulum-swing manifests in everything; the measure of the swing to the right is the measure of the swing to the left; rhythm compensates.*

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A key to achieving the equanimity previously stated is understanding this principle. The principle of vibration cannot be escaped. The principle of polarity reveals the existence of extremes that exist in the material on the physical plane. To achieve equanimity, one can utilize the principle of rhythm by compensating for a "swing" too far in one direction with the proper degree of polarization in the opposite direction. This is known as the Mental Law of Neutralization.



## 6

# Cause and effect

The principle of cause and effect across planes of existence.

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*Every cause has its effect; every effect has its cause; everything happens according to law; chance is but a name for law not recognized; there are many planes of causation, but nothing escapes the law.*

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There are no accidents, there is no such thing as chance outside God's Law. To understand this is to understand the beauty and harmony of Creation. Fate is a person's given roadmap for their life. Free will affords one the opportunity to make choices that "color" a given cause, thereby affecting the resulting effect. The result is the fashioning one's fate into one's own destiny. Ultimately this principle signifies value and purpose in every single life, and also every form of life.





# 7

## Gender

The principle of gender.

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*Gender is in everything; everything has its masculine and feminine principles; gender manifests on all planes.*

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This principle is related to the fourth, polarity.

Everything identified as "being" is composed of a duality of gender. These are the polar end points of personality. Each acts and reacts (cause and effect) upon the other in vibrational rhythm. Each being possesses a degree of both principles, or qualities. Properly balanced, the masculine brings strength while the feminine tames extremes.

Rudolf Steiner teaches us that the Human etheric body of a man is female and that of the woman is male. Thus, the masculine-feminine contrast is reversed for the etheric bodies of man and woman, and so are the cometary and lunar effects. These effects are also there in relation to the astral body and the I. (1910-03-05-GA118)

Man's physical gender and male and female sexuality is a temporary phenomenon in evolution that appeared in the middle of the Lemurian epoch and will disappear again in the future. The division of the sexes happened through the influence of the Spirit of Form Jehovah working from through the Moon forces (GA013, Ch. 4 part 6).





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