

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BASICS OF ANCIENT EGYPTOLOGY

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Hermetism began with Hermes of Egypt. The Egyptians, after his death, regarded him as one of their secular gods known as “Thuth.” The Greeks even regarded him as their god of wisdom. Some historians date his existence back to the time of Ibrahim, the father of monotheism. Some acknowledged that Ibrahim learned from Hermes. Others think that he existed sometime before Ibrahim. Some historians regarded him as the father of civilization of thought where many nations were influenced like the Chinese, Indians, Syrians, Persians and Greeks. Although it is difficult to locate Hermes exactly in time and space it is possible to elucidate his principles.

Hermetism is constituted by seven themes in which Hermes identified as philosophical principles. The themes alphabetically are: causality, gender, harmonic parallelism, mentality, polarity, rhythm and vibration.

Causality states that everything is cause and effect. No phenomenon exists independently. Every phenomenon is connected to other phenomena and that any particular phenomenon is the cause of other and effects other phenomena. Hermetism does not favor the conception of coincidence. A coincidence is merely the lack of human understanding because nothing exists outside the domain of cause and effect. Simply, a coincidence is due to an unperceived cause that might not be comprehended by the human faculties.

The process of causality, according to Hermetism, is also an unstoping continuum. This unstoping continuum is not to be confused with the concept of “becausality.” The concept because tends to give the idea of creation and purpose to the result of the cause. This means that phenomenon one creates phenomenon two and brings it to manifestation. With Hermetism, this is not the case at all. There is a difference between cause and because. Cause is a property of causality, whereas because is a property of reason. Causality is a chain of events posing affects on each other as matter of interaction; becausality is when something gives existence to another. The later, is a matter of creation where the second phenomenon owes its existence to the first one. Simply put, every effect has a cause behind it. Every cause has a result which is an effect caused by it. An effect is caused by the cause and not necessarily created by it.

When this theme is understood, it could elevate humanity to new horizons. According to Hermetism, there are many planes of causality. The wise ones try to transcend to higher planes, which give them the ability to be the cause instead to being effected by everything else. This gives ability to

be movement instead of being the moved as a result of other effects. This theme has the connotation that everything we do causes and has effects on everything else whether immediate or not.

The second theme is gender. Gender represents masculinity and femininity, male and female.

According to this theme, everything has both genders in it. Male has male and female contained within. Female also has male and female contained within. Both masculinity and femininity exist in all planes. In the plane of physicality, for example, it is sex. The higher the transcendence is, the higher the theme of gender elevates and this elevation does not change the principle but only its forms.

There is a clarification to be made here. When masculinity and femininity or male and female are mentioned, it does not necessarily mean man and woman. It could mean any phenomenon described by masculine or feminine characteristics.

The next theme is harmonic parallelism. This might be where the old saying, "as above so below and vice versa," originated from. This theme constitutes the notion that there are different planes of existence. This is, of course, not to be confused with places. A place is more of a physical term. The word parallel is not used here in any symmetrical form. It is to describe the idea that there are neighboring planes to this physical plane of ours.

Harmonic parallelism includes a physical plane, a mental plane and a spiritual plane. These planes are not places but different advancements of human life, so to speak. According to Hermetism, even these planes have different realms. Simply, they are planes of manifestations containing sub-planes of manifestations, so to speak. These planes range from containing the physicality of entities such as solidity all the way to containing super-unlimited-existents.

The emphasis here should not really be on how many planes and sub-planes there are but it should be understood that all these planes of manifestations work together harmoniously without the limiting dimensional distinctions between them. As existents advance they move through these planes of advancements. For the sake of simplicity the main three planes should be in focus here.

The fourth theme is mentality. This theme is the most inclusive of all themes. Mentality represents the Spirit which all are manifestations of. Put simply, the cosmos and everything within them whether perceived or not is created in the mind of the Spirit. The Spirit includes all there is to include

without need for more or less, without definition, without associations, without similarities or comparisons. Simply, the Spirit is that which is.

The universe or even cosmos are mere mentals of the Spirit. This Spirit is an infinite living mind. This Spirit or mind is called The All. Nothing can understand, comprehend or absolutely know The All except The All. Any attempt to describe the nature of the All is considered a waste of time by Hermetism. Hermetism gives certain qualities for the mere teaching and understanding of The All. The All is; it is unchangeable; it is infinite without bound or limit and it is eternal.

Another theme of this philosophy is polarity. Everything, according to this theme, has two opposites that are the same in nature. Right and left, for example is the two opposites of direction but they are the same in their ultimate nature. Simply there are two opposite sides to everything they only differ in degree. Opposites are the same and their opposition is due to their degree of vibration, which will become clearer when vibration is explained.

The sixth theme is rhythm. The closest example to describe this theme is the waves of the ocean. The waves (tide) come in to hit the rocks of the shore and go backward away from the shore. To Hermetism, every existent does this. Every manifestation has motion of inward and outward movement. This principle is in the way civilizations rise and fall, ocean comes in and out, birds fly upward and come back down to nest.

Rhythm is not only a property of the physical world of perception. It is also in the mental states where movements between polarities are felt such as sadness and happiness, laughing and crying. Simply, rhythm, like the other themes, exists not only in the physical plane but also beyond it. Hermetic philosophy is understanding the balance of movement of rhythm. When a person, for example, is extremely happy the movement of rhythm will carry this emotion to the opposite pole in a similar depth. Simply, when one is deeply and extremely happy, one will be some other time deeply and extremely sad. If one, so to speak, wants to lower the amount of sadness, one has to lower the amount of happiness. Simply, rhythm moves between the two poles and the person should learn to adjust these two poles not to reach the extreme that is harmful.

The seventh and last theme is vibration. This theme simply means that everything is in constant motion. Everything is a result of certain vibration. This vibration, although existing in all planes constitutes them and what is within them. This ranges between the mere physicality of things all the way to the highest which is The All that is fully and purely spirit. Basically, the higher the vibration of an entity is the higher plane. This means that the highest vibration is that of The All. The All vibrates in such extreme high intensity that it is almost not moving.

The main idea of this philosophy is integrality. All themes presented here complement each other. There is no distinction or separation between them.

A Hermetic must lead a life that contain and apply all of the previously mentioned themes. Humans are the same but differ in their degree of vibration. We are to understand this vibration (energy) and use it along side causality to move up through the realms of harmonic parallelism. Besides using vibration and causality, humans can understand the gender of masculinity and femininity within them and use it. Through this movement of choice, it is important to know not to reach one of the two extremes of polarity of anything. Simply, stay natural by keeping the pendulum of rhythm from swinging too far and reaching the unnatural zone. Understanding these themes, practicing and using them according to the specific situatedness of every day life will cause transcendence from lower planes to higher ones. The higher the plane the person occupies, the closer that person to the union with The All.

The All is immanent and transcendent. The All is within everything and beyond. Everything is also within The All. Everything is interconnected. As a result, the most important answers reside within. Since everything is interconnected, because of causality, vibration, what happens in the physical effects the mental and spiritual planes. The way of transcendence is balance.

With balance, finding inner and natural answers the human being can develop and transcend to rejoin the infinite Spirit of The All.