

The One Thing
The Power of Creation
An Alchemical Essay by
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“In truth without deceit, certain, and most veritable.
That which is Below corresponds to that which is Above,
and that which is Above corresponds to that which is Below,
to accomplish the miracles of the One Thing. And just as all
things have come from this One Thing, through the
meditation of the One Mind, so do all created things originate
from this One Thing, through Transformation.”

These are the first two rubrics of the Tabula Smaragdina or the Emerald Tablet, a seven rubric guide to the formula of creation. Legend has it written by Hermes Trismegistus, or thrice greatest Hermes, known by his Egyptian name of Thoth, by the Greeks as Hermes and the Romans as Mercury. No one knows for sure how far back the Tablet goes, portions of it exist in the Pyramid Texts which date back to around 2400 BCE.



Left is the
Pyramid of
Unas home
of the
Pyramid
Texts

In this essay I will be working specifically in the concept of “The One Thing” and how it holds the key to creation on the macrocosmic (Universal/Above) and the microcosmic (Below/human) on all three levels of reality, matter/physical, soul/psychological and spirit/divine.

In Alchemy there are the concepts of the Prima Materia and Ultima Materia and of course the “One Thing” and “One Mind” as illustrated in the Emerald Tablet. After studying this concept for many years I was often confused by these definitions and one day it was revealed to me that these are actually many faces of the same thing that are interdependent on each other and that the answer was always in plain site in the Emerald Tablet. So let’s begin to unravel the mystery and pull back the veil a bit... “In truth without deceit,certain,and most veritable.” The beginning of the Emerald Tablet is stating that this formula is a Universal Truth which transcends the human notion of “emotional” truth or what is true for me is...An example of a Universal Truth is the sacred science of Geometry, as the laws of geometry are true everywhere in the Universe thus is the formula of the Emerald Tablet.

The next rubric in the Emerald Tablet is that famous axiom “as above, so below” or as it reads “That which is Below corresponds to that which is Above,and that which is Above corresponds to that which is Below,”. This statement alone can be an entire paper unto itself, for now let’s agree it is talking about is the metaphor, that which is in Heaven is also on Earth and that which is on Earth is also in Heaven. One example can be found in the Corpus Hermetica “Egypt is the image of heaven,rather, that it is the projection below of the order of things above”. Another example comes from the Christian tradition of the Lords prayer “On Earth as it is in Heaven”. The remainder of that sentence is “to accomplish the miracles of the One Thing.” As more is revealed between the relationship between the above and below we can “see” and “manifest” the miracles of the One Thing. There are another two truths that illustrate this. “All the power that ever was or will be is here now” and “all that ever and will ever exist, already exists in the above”.

So what might the One Thing be? Earlier I said the One Thing and the Prima Materia are interdependent parts of the same thing, another modern phrase “two side of the same coin” might also fit. The ancients were very connected to this concept and can be seen in many different cultures. I will illustrate a few examples from the East and the West as well as modern physics.

The O-ne Thing is the energy behind and before the Prima Materia. I used O in place of 0 to spell One to illustrate. 0 is the notion of no-thing-ness or energy lying in potential.

0 is also assigned to the truth as previously listed “All the power that ever was or will be is here now.” In modern physics the notion of 0 or no-thing-ness is best explained by the concept of Dark Energy which constitutes most of the know Universe. On the microcosmic level this is the space that exists before and between thoughts. The concept of Dark Energy is neutral, meaning it is neither positive or negative or has any of the moral confines of good and evil, it simply is. A good example of this concept called “Akasha”. In the Hindu tradition there is a concept called “Akasha”. Akasha is the undifferentiated Life-Power (energy), the source of all Manifestations, often identified with space (dark energy). The symbol for Akasha is the Egg, which we also see in Tarot key 21 depicting the Universe and is also associated with 0. Rama Prasad, author of The Science of Breath & the Philosophy of the Tatwas, says: “It is out of Akasha that every form comes”. Swami Vivekananda, a Hindu Monk, says: “Akasha is the omnipresent, all penetrating existence. Everything that has form. Everything that is the results of compounds is evolved out of this Akasha”. In the Judea/Christian tradition we have this description of Dark Energy: “In the beginning the earth was a formless void and darkness”. I will site one more myth that brings in the aspect of “potential” is is from the Australian aboriginal legend of creation: “In the beginning the earth was a bare plain. All was dark. The Sun, the Moon and the Stars slept in a dreamlike state until they woke themselves out of their own eternity”.

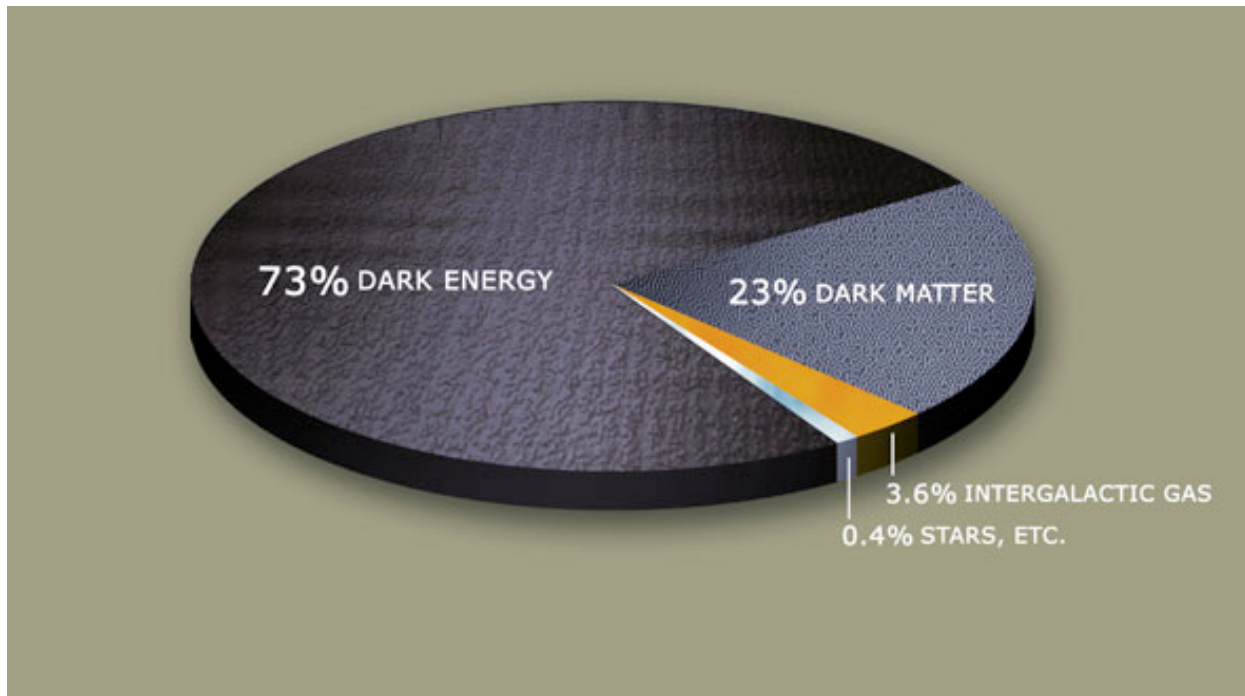
Now we come to the Prima Materia or first matter, the other component of the “One Thing”. The Greek concept of “Hyle” is a great descriptor of the Prima Materia or First Matter. It is defined as a Primary Substance which can neither be predicated nor attributed to something else, a substance that underlies each element. Water is another metaphor used in many cultures including Native American, Judea/Christian, Egyptian and many others. In Egypt the word “Al-khem” or black soil/earth is also known as the Prima Materia and is the genesis of the word Alchemy. In modern physics we have the theory of Dark Matter, the new Al-khem.



On the microcosmic level, the Prima Materia is formed as a thought which in turn fires off the electrical charges in the brain and thus creation begins from this One Thing, more on that later. So in the “below as in the above all potentiality already exists.

We have now come full circle correlating the beliefs of the ancients with the up-to-date theories in modern physics, here is an illustration of the composition of the universe.

Note that 96% of the Universe is composed of the “One Thing”, this illustration also shows the “two sides of the same coin as well as “all the power that ever was or will be is here now”, and that everything already exists in the upper worlds...This diagram is also reflective of the micro cosmic/below of the human brain, where only 10% is believed to be used. This shows the tremendous amount of untapped potential in both realities.



In completion, the “One Thing” is the marriage of energy and matter and exists everywhere and nowhere....

And just as all things have come from this One Thing, through the meditation of the One Mind, so do all created things originate from this One Thing, through Transformation.”

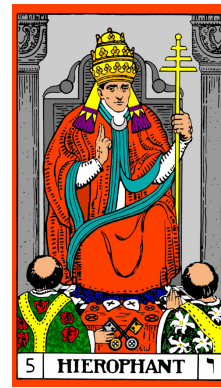
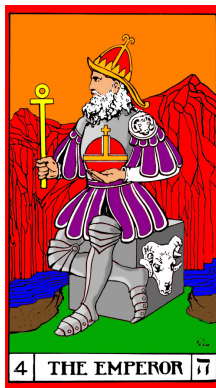
Hermes
Trismegistus
in the Act of
Creation.

Herein lies the
secret
of the Great
Work.....



Like the One Thing and Prima Materia, the One Mind and the Ultima Materia are also two sides of the same coin. The One Mind lies behind, before and through the One Thing, it goes by many names in many cultures, for the sake of this paper I will call it simply The O-ne. In many creation myths through the act of meditation, or realization, a divine light was sent forth and creation began. It was usually in the form of a Logos or word which is an animating principle. In the Judea/Christian tradition this is also known as spirit or Ruach as in “the Spirit moved upon the face of the Water” sometimes referred to as a divine wind.

Spirit being the One Mind and Water being the One Thing and from this comes, Fiat Lux, which means light was made. This story illustrates the macrocosmic/"above" act of creation. It corresponds to the microcosm/below in the same way. When a thought is formed an electrical/light impulse is sent to the brain and from there creation begins. That creation could be in the form of any of the three axis of reality, physical, emotional or spiritual. I call this exercise in creation, "the cross of alignment".



I use Tarot keys to illustrate the cross to stimulate all three axis of reality, Physical, Emotional and Spiritual. I will offer only the briefest of explanations here and invite the reader to follow the path on their own.

The Magician is the conduit and connection from the O-ne/above, who passes on the will or logos/word to the High Priestess, soul/subconscious/below, where it is received. From there it moves up to the Empress, the seat of creation where the thought becomes form. It then moves to the horizontal axis of our perceived reality the Emperor, reason and thought, combined with the Hierophant, intuition and ends in the nexus point of the World, our created reality that combines all the elements of the cross. It is a grand distillation process which is talked about in later stanzas of the Emerald Tablet. The figure in the center of the World tarot card is itself surrounded by O or an egg shape as I described earlier in this paper. which is the reflection of the O of the One Mind.

In order to complete this Illustration, surrounding the cross would be another O or Ouroboros typically illustrated by a dragon or snake eating it's own tail.

The earliest known version is beautifully described in the Pyramid Texts thus, "The male serpent is bitten by the female serpent, the females is bitten by the male serpent, Heaven is enchanted, Earth is enchanted. Here we have the explanation of the ongoing relationship between the above and below as well as the integration of the male and female, which is the figure in the center of the World tarot card. The O card in the tarot deck signifies the macrocosm O or the O-ne. It is called to Fool from the Latin word Follis or bellows or divine wind ie:spirit....



To close we have come full circle.....The O-ne Thing, the O-ne Mind are ultimately the same and can be summed up as an "infinite sphere who's center is everywhere and circumference is nowhere" Hermes Trismegistus. All potential is possible all it requires is your willingness to begin...

footnote: If you are totally confused that is perfect and hopefully will set you on a quest some say a Hero's Journey to find more. If this makes some sense also perfect since I intentionally left out the "how to's" for the more advanced students. If this makes perfect sense, then all is as it should be and you are ready to experience the deeper experiential pieces of Alchemy....You are exactly where you need to be....

Solve et Coagula

John Hernandez

references:

Pyramid Texts

Egyptian Book of the Dead

Paracelsus

Corpus Hermetica

Emerald Tablet Dennis William Hauck

Occult Fundamentals and Spiritual Unfoldment Paul Foster Case

David Goddard

Torah

Bible

various references in cross cultural anthropology and latest theories in modern physics
my own intimations....

Pyramid of Unas was shot by me in Egypt all other images were from various web sources