**The Seven Hermetic Principles**.

"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.

The Seven Hermetic Principles, upon

which the entire Hermetic Philosophy is

based, are as follows

:

I. THE PEINCIPLE OF MENTALISM.

II. THE PEINCIPLE OF COEEESPONDENCE.

III. THE PEINCIPLE OF VIBEATION.

IV. THE PEINCIPLE OF POLARITY.

V. THE PEINCIPLE OF RHYTHM.

VI. THE PEINCIPLE OF CAUSE

AND EFFECT.

VI. THE PEINCIPLE OF GENDER.

These Seven Principles will be discussed

and explained as we proceed with these lessons.

A short explanation of each, however,

may as well be given at this point.

**I. THE PRINCIPLE OF MENTALISM.**

\*'THE ALL is MIND; The Universe is Mental. ''—

The Kybalion,

This Principle embodies the truth that

^^All is Mind.'' It explains that THE

ALL (which is the Substantial Reality

underlying all the outward manifestations

and appearances which we know under the

terms of \*^The Material Universe"; the

'^Phenomena of Life''; ^^ Matter"; En-

ergy. In short, all that is apparent

to our material senses) is SPIRIT, which

in itself is UNKNOWABLE and UNDEFINABLE,

but which may be considered

and thought of as AN UNIVERSAL, IN

FINITE, LIVING MIND. It also explains

that all the phenomenal world or universe

is simply a Mental Creation of THE ALL,

subject to the Laws of Created Things, and

that the universe, as a whole, and in its

parts or units, has its existence in the Mind

of THE ALL, in which Mind we ''live and

move and have our being/ ^ This Principle,

by establishing the Mental Nature of

the Universe, easily explains all of the varied

mental and psychic phenomena that

occupy such a large portion of the public

attention, and which, without such explanation,

are non-understandable and defy

scientific treatment. An understanding of

this great Hermetic Principle of Mentalism

enables the individual to readily grasp

the laws of the Mental Universe, and to

apply the same to his well-being and advancement.

The Hermetic Student is enabled

to apply intelligently the great Mental

Laws, instead of using them in a haphazard

manner. With the Master-Key in

his possession, the student may unlock the

many doors of the mental and psychic tern

pie of knowledge, and enter the same freely

and intelligently. This Principle explains

the true nature of ^' Energy/^ \*\* Power, ^'

and \*\* Matter, '^ and why and how all these

are subordinate to the Mastery of Mind.

One of the old Hermetic Masters wrote,

long ages ago: \*\*He who grasps the truth

of the Mental Nature of the Universe is

well advanced on The Path to Mastery.''

And these words are as true to-day as at

the time they were first written. Without

this Master-Key, Mastery is impossible,

and the student knocks in vain at the many

doors of The Temple.

**II, THE PBINCIPLE OF COBKESPONDENCE.**

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

—

The

Kyhalion,

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 old Hermetic

axiom ran in these words: \*\*As

above, so below; as below, so above.'' And

the grasping of this Principle gives one

the means of solving many a dark paradox,

and hidden secret of Nature. There are

planes beyond our knowing, but when we

apply the Principle of Correspondence to

them we are able to understand much that

would otherwise be unknowable to us. This

Principle is of universal application and

manifestation, on the various planes of the

material, mental, and spiritual universe

—

it is an Universal Law. The ancient Hermetists

considered this Principle as one of

the most important mental instruments by

which man was able to pry aside the obstacles

which hid from view the Unknown.

Its use even tore aside the Veil of Isis to

the extent that a glimpse of the face of the

goddess might be caught. 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. Studying the monad, he understands

the archangel.

**III. THE PRINCIPLE OF VIBRATION.**

\*^ Nothing rests; everything moTes; everything vibrates.

\* '

—

The Kyhalion,

This Principle embodies the truth that

^'everything is in motion'^; '\* everything

vibrates"; ''noj;hing is at resf ; facts

which Modern Science endorses, and which

each new scientific discovery tends to verify.

And yet this Hermetic Principle was

enunciated thousands of years ago, by the

Masters of Ancient Egypt. This Principle

explains that the differences between

different manifestations of Matter, Energy,

Mind, and even Spirit, result largely

from varying rates of Vibration. From

THE ALL, which is Pure Spirit, down to

the grossest form of Matter, all is in vibration—

the higher the vibration, the higher

the position in the scale. The vibration of

Spirit is at such an infinite rate of intensity

and rapidity that it is practically atrest—just as a rapidly moving wheel seems

to be motionless. And at the other end of

the scale, there are gross forms of matter

whose vibrations are so low as to seem at

rest. Between these poles, there are millions

upon millions of varying degrees of

vibration. From corpuscle and electron,

atom and molecule, to worlds and universes,

everything is in vibratory motion.

This is also true on the planes of energy

and force (which are but varying degrees

of vibration) ; and also on the mental

planes (whose states depend upon vibrations)

; and even on to the spiritual planes.

An understanding of this Principle, with

the appropriate formulas, enables Hermetic

students to control their own mental

vibrations as well as those of others. The

Masters also apply this Principle to the

conquering of Natural phenomena, in various

ways. '

' He who understands the Principle

of Vibration, has grasped the sceptre

of power, ^' says one of the old writers.

**IV. THE PBINCIPLE OP POLARITY,**

''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. ' '

—

The Kybalion.

This Principle embodies the truth that

\*^ everything is dual"; ^^ everything has

two poles''; ^\* everything has its pair of

opposites, '

' all of which were old Hermetic

axioms. It explains the old paradoxes,

that have perplexed so many, which have

been stated as follows :

\*

' Thesis and antithesis

are identical in nature, but different

in degree''; ^'opposites are the same, differing

only in degree"; ^'the pairs of opposites

may be reconciled"; '^extremes

meet"; ^\* everything is and isn't, at the

same time"; \*'all truths are but halftruths";

^\* every truth is half-false";

\*\* there are two sides to everything," etc.,

etc., etc. It explains that in everything

there are two poles, or opposite aspects,

and that ^'opposites" are really only the

two extremes of the same thing, with many

varying degrees between them. To illustrate:

Heat and Cold, although ^^opposites,''

are really the same thing, the differences

consisting merely of degrees of

the same thing. Look at your thermometer

and see if you can discover where

'^heaf terminates and \*^cold" begins!

There is no such thing as ^ ^ absolute heat '

'

or ^^ absolute cold''—the two terms ^^heaf

and ^^cold" simply indicate varying degrees

of the same thing, and that '^same

thing'' which manifests as ^^heat" and

\*'cold" is merely a form, variety, and rate

of Vibration. So ^^heat" and ^^cold" are

simply the ^^two poles" of that which we

call ^^Heat"—and the phenomena attendant

thereupon are manifestations of the

Principle of Polarity. The same Principle

manifests in the case of \*^ Light and Darkness,"

which are the same thing, the difference

consisting of varying degrees between

the two poles of the phenomena.

Where does ^ darkness" leave off, and

\*4ight" begin? "What is the difference between

'^ Large and Small"? Between \*^Hard and Soft''? Between ^^ Black and

White''? Between ^^ Sharp and Dull"?

Between ^^ Noise and Quiet"? Between

\*'High and Low"? Between \*\* Positive

and Negative"? The Principle of Polarity

explains these paradoxes, and no other

Principle can supersede it. The same Principle

operates on the Mental Plane. Let

us take a radical and extreme example

—

that of \*'Love and Hate," two mental

states apparently totally different. And

yet there are degrees of Hate and degrees

of Love, and a middle point in which we use

the terms ^^Like or Dislike," which shade

into each other so gradually that sometimes

we are at a loss to know whether we

^4ike" or \*\* dislike" or ^^ neither." And

all are simply degrees of the same thing, as

you will see if you will but think a moment.

And, more than this (and considered of

more importance by the Hermetists), it is

possible to change the vibrations of Hate

to the vibrations of Love, in one's own

mind, and in the minds of others. Many

of you, who read these lines, have had per

sonal experiences of the involuntary rapid

transition from Love to Hate, and the reverse,

in your own case and that of others.

And you will therefore realize the possibility

of this being accomplished by the

use of the Will, by means of the Hermetic

formulas. ''Good and Evil'^ are but the

poles of the same thing, and the Hermetist

understands the art of transmuting Evil

into Good, by means of an application of

the Principle of Polarity. In short, the

''Art of Polarization'^ becomes a phase of

"Mental Alchemy'' known and practiced

by the ancient and modern Hermetic Masters.

An understanding of the Principle

will enable one to change his own Polarity,

as well as that of others, if he will devote

the time and study necessary to master

the art.

v. **THE PRINCIPLE OF RHYTHM.**

''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. ' '

—

The Kyhalion.

This Principle embodies the truth that

in everything there is manifested a measured

motion, to and fro; a flow and inflow;

a swing backward and forward; a

pendulum-like movement; a tide-like ebb

and flow; a high-tide and low-tide; between

the two poles which exist ,in accordance

with the Principle of Polarity described

a moment ago. There is always

an action and a reaction ; an advance and

a retreat ; a rising and a sinking. This is

in the affairs of the Universe, suns, worlds,

men, animals, mind, energy, and matter.

This law is manifest in the creation and

destruction of worlds ; in the rise and fall

of nations ; in the life of all things ; and

finally in the mental states of Man (and it

is with this latter that the Hermetists find

the understanding of the Principle most

important). The Hermetists have grasped

this Principle, finding its universal application,

and have also discovered certain

means to overcome its effects in themselves

by the use of the appropriate formulas and

methods. They apply the Mental Law of Neutralization. They cannot annul the

Principle, or cause it to cease its operation,

but they have learned how to escape its

effects upon themselves to a certain degree

depending upon the Mastery of the Principle.

They have learned how to USE it,

instead of being USED BY it. In this and

similar methods, consist the Art of the

Hermetists. The Master of Hermetics polarizes

himself at the point at which he

desires to rest, and then neutralizes the

Rhythmic swing of the pendulum which

would tend to carry him to the other pole.

All individuals who have attained any degree

of Self-Mastery do this to a certain

degree, more or less unconsciously, but the

Master does this consciously, and by the

use of his Will, and attains a degree of

Poise and Mental Firmness almost impossible

of belief on the part of the masses

who are swung backward and forward like

a pendulum. This Principle and that of

Polarity have been closely studied by the

Hermetists, and the methods of counteracting,

neutralizing, and USING them form an important part of the Hermetic Mental

Alchemy.

VI. **THE PBINCIPLE OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.**

\*' 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.''

—

The Kyhalion.

This Principle embodies the fact that

there is a Cause for every Effect; an

Effect from every Cause. It explains that

:

'^Everything Happens according to Law''

;

that nothing ever \* 'merely happens '

' ; that

there is no such thing as Chance; that

while there are various planes of Cause

and Effect, the higher dominating the

lower planes, still nothing ever entirely

escapes the Law. The Hermetists understand

the art and methods of rising above

the ordinary plane of Cause and Effect,

to a certain degree, and by mentally rising

to a higher plane they become Causers instead

of Effects. The masses of people

are carried along, obedient to environment; the wills and desires of others

stronger than themselves ; heredity; suggestion

; and other outward causes moving

them about like pawns on the Chessboard

of Life. But the Masters, rising to the

plane above, dominate their moods, characters,

qualities, and powers, as well as the

environment surrounding them, and become

Movers instead of pawns. They help

to PLAY THE GAME OF LIFE, instead

of being played and moved about by other

wills and environment. They USE the

Principle instead of being its tools. The

Masters obey the Causation of the higher

planes, but they help to EXILE on their

own plane. In this statement there is condensed

a wealth of Hermetic knowledge

—

let him read who can.

VII. THE PEINCIPLE OF GENDER.

"Gender is in everything; ererything has its Masculine

and Feminine Principles; Gender manifests on all

planes. ' '

—

The Kyhalion,

VII. **THE PRINCIPLE OF GENDER.**

This Principle embodies the truth that there is GENDER manifested in everything—

the Masculine and Feminine Principles

ever at work. This is true not only

of the Physical Plane, but of the Mental

and even the Spiritual Planes. On the

Physical Plane, the Principle manifests as

SEX, on the higher planes it takes higher

forms, but the Principle is ever the same.

No creation, physical, mental or spiritual,

is possible without this Principle. An understanding

of its laws will throw light

on many a subject that has perplexed the

minds of men. The Principle of Gender

works ever in the direction of generation,

regeneration, and creation. Everything,

and every person, contains the two Elements

or Principles, or this great Principle,

within it, him or her. Every Male

thing has the Female Element also ; every

Female contains also the Male Principle.

If you would understand the philosophy of

Mental and Spiritual Creation, Generation,

and Ee-generation, you must understand

and study this Hermetic Principle. It contains

the solution of many mysteries of Life.