

THE KYBALION

Participant Study Guide

Session 2, Chapter 2

Chapter 2: The Seven Hermetic Principles

The Magic-Key and the Seven Lenses

I. HEADER

A. Reading Covered: Chapter 2 (The Seven Hermetic Principles)

B. Time Commitment: 20 to 30 minutes of reading, plus one week of practice

II. OVERVIEW

A. Why this chapter matters

1. Chapter 2 introduces the Seven Principles, which the text presents as the foundation of the book.
2. The Principles are offered as a framework you can test in daily life, even if you do not agree with every claim.
3. The goal is not perfect belief. The goal is clearer awareness, wiser choices, and better results.

III. ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY (CHAPTER 2)

1. **principle:** a foundational law or rule that the text presents as universal.
2. **law:** a consistent pattern of operation that can be observed, tested, and relied on.
3. **paradox:** a statement that seems contradictory at first, but points to a deeper truth when held together.
4. **Planes of Causation:** causation can be understood at different levels, from being pushed by circumstances to acting with greater awareness and intention.
5. **Magic-Key:** the understanding of the Seven Principles in a usable, living way.
6. **Mentalism:** the universe is mental in nature.

7. **Correspondence:** patterns repeat across levels.
8. **Vibration:** everything moves, and differences are differences in degree.
9. **Polarity:** opposites differ by degree.
10. **Rhythm:** life moves in tides and cycles.
11. **Cause and Effect:** events have causes and produce effects.
12. **Gender:** complementary qualities operate across planes.

B. The Magic-Key, the Doors, and the Temple

1. The Magic-Key is the usable understanding of the Seven Principles, not mere memorization.
2. The Temple represents the larger body of Truth and inner knowledge. The Doors represent specific insights that feel closed until you have a working framework.
3. “All the Doors of the Temple fly open” means patterns become easier to recognize, and confusion loses its grip when you begin to think with these Principles.

C. How to use this guide

1. Read the axioms slowly and in plain language.
2. Choose one Principle to test for one week.
3. Track small changes. A small shift counts.

IV. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. Core Understanding Goals

You will be able to:

1. Name the Seven Hermetic Principles.
2. Explain each Principle in plain language.
3. Describe how the Principles function as a framework for interpreting experience.

B. Critical Thinking Goals

You will be able to:

1. Distinguish between metaphor and literal claim.
2. Identify what would count as evidence in lived experience.
3. Bring abstract language back to practical meaning.

C. Practical Application Goals

You will be able to:

1. Choose at least one Principle, and how you see it operating in your daily life?
2. Apply one Principle to a real-life situation and describe what it reveals about choices, state of mind, and results.
3. Choose one habit or practice that aligns with that Principle and test it for one week.
4. Track what changes in perception, emotional state, and behavior, then reflect on the results.

V. STUDY PLAN

A. Before the meetup (20 to 30 minutes)

1. Read Chapter 2 straight through once.
2. Re-read and underline the axioms for each Principle.
3. Choose one Principle you want to focus on this week.

B. During the meetup (what to expect)

1. A short overview of the Magic Key and the Seven Principles.
2. Group discussion using a framework and applied questions.
3. A guided activity where you map one Principle onto real life.

C. After the meetup (one-week test)

1. Apply your chosen Principle once per day in a real situation.
2. Notice what shifts in perception, emotional state, and behavior.
3. Write a short reflection at the end of the week.

VI. CORE CONTENT: THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

A. The Seven Principles at a glance

| Principle | Axiom (from the text) | Plain meaning |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mentalism | “The All is Mind; The Universe is Mental.” | Mind is presented as the underlying reality, not only a personal experience. |
| Correspondence | “As above, so below; as below, so above.” | Patterns repeat across levels. One area of life often reflects another. |
| Vibration | “Nothing rests; everything moves; everything vibrates.” | Everything changes by degree. States can shift over time. |
| Polarity | “Everything is Dual... opposite poles... different in degree.” | Opposites are connected and differ by degree. |
| Rhythm | “Everything flows, out and in... tides... rise and fall.” | Life moves in cycles. You can learn to stay steady through swings. |
| Cause and Effect | “Every Cause has its Effect... everything happens according to Law.” | Inputs shape outcomes. You can become more deliberate and less reactive. |
| Gender | “Gender is in everything... Masculine and Feminine Principles.” | Complementary qualities work together to produce creation on all levels. |

B. Principle I: Mentalism

1. Axiom: “The All is Mind; The Universe is Mental.”

2. Plain meaning: The text claims mind is foundational. Your inner state shapes how you experience life.

3. Reflection prompts

1. Where do you see your state of mind shaping your day right now?
2. What does self-command look like for you this week?

4. One-week test idea:

1. Choose one daily moment to pause, name your state, and choose one calmer or wiser degree before you respond.
2. Before retiring to bed or before falling asleep, meditate on one Principle and its corresponding axiom.

C. Principle II: Correspondence

1. *Axiom: "As above, so below; as below, so above."*
2. Plain meaning: Patterns repeat across levels. A pattern in one area of life often echoes elsewhere.
3. Reflection prompts
 1. What repeating pattern do you notice in relationships, work, or habits?
 2. What might that pattern be trying to teach you?
4. One-week test idea:
 1. Pick one pattern and write one small change you will make when it shows up this week.

VII. KEY QUOTES (CHAPTER 2)

A. Opening quote

1. *"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."*

B. The Seven axioms (one line each)

1. *"The All is Mind; The Universe is Mental."*
2. *"As above, so below; as below, so above."*
3. *"Nothing rests; everything moves; everything vibrates."*
4. *"Everything is Dual; everything has poles; everything has its pair of opposites; opposites are identical in nature, but different in degree."*
5. *"Everything flows, out and in; everything has its tides; all things rise and fall."*
6. *"Every Cause has its Effect; every Effect has its Cause; everything happens according to Law."*
7. *"Gender is in everything; everything has its Masculine and Feminine Principles; Gender manifests on all planes."*

VIII. GUIDED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. Framework questions

1. Which Principle feels most clear to you, and why?
2. Which Principle feels most abstract to you, and why?
3. Which Principle feels most useful for your life right now, and why?

B. Applied questions

1. If you applied Correspondence to your current life, what repeating pattern stands out?
2. If you applied Cause and Effect to your current life, what input would you change first?
3. If fear and courage differ by degree, what is your next better degree today?

IX. ACTIVITY: PRINCIPLE MAPPING

A. Purpose

1. Help you move from abstract Principle to real application.

B. Steps

1. Choose one Principle.
2. Name one real-life situation where it applies.
3. Identify one choice that aligns with that Principle.
4. Share your map with the group.

C. Worksheet

1. My Principle:

2. My real life situation:

3. What the Principle reveals about my choices, state of mind, and results:

4. One practice I will test for one week:

IXX. ONE WEEK PRACTICE LOG

Use this log to track small shifts. A small change counts.

| Day | Situation | Starting state | Tool or choice | New degree | Evidence of change |
|-----|-----------|----------------|----------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |

X. PARTICIPANT REMINDERS

A. Keep it practical

1. You do not need to force belief. Test the Principles as lenses and learn from the results.

B. Stay honest and gentle.

1. This work is about awareness and improvement, not blame or perfection.

C. Focus on the degree.

1. A small shift counts. One better degree is progress.