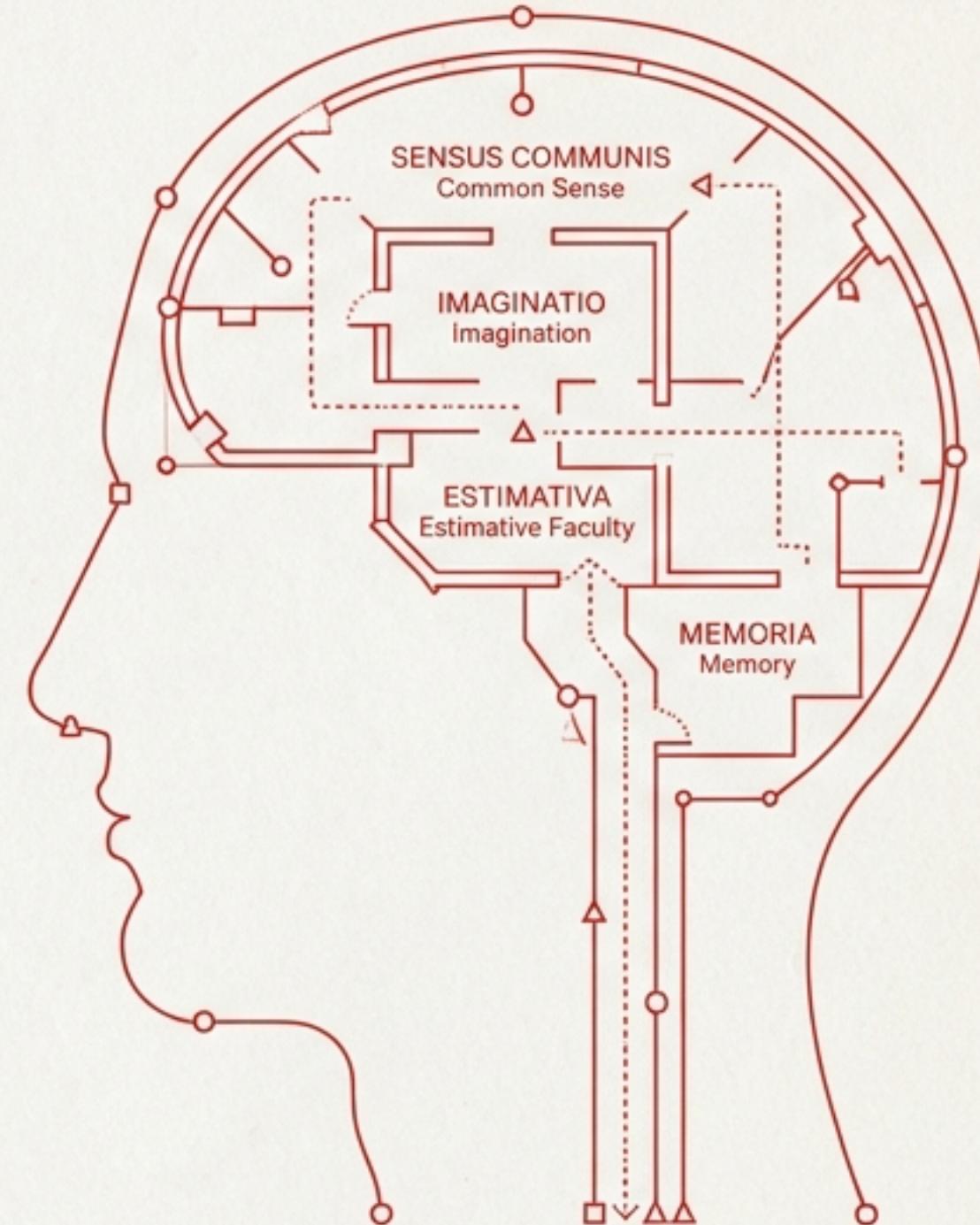
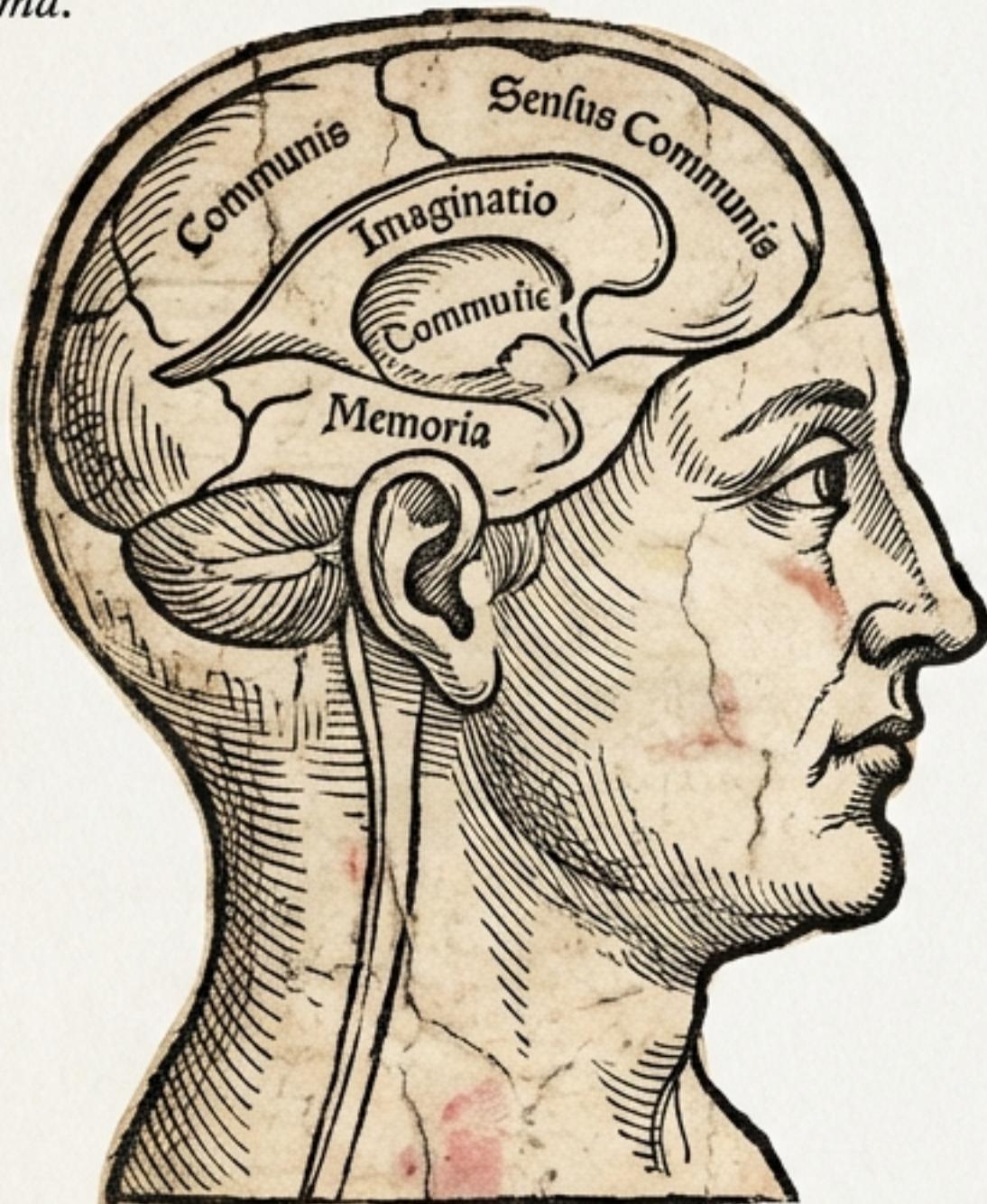
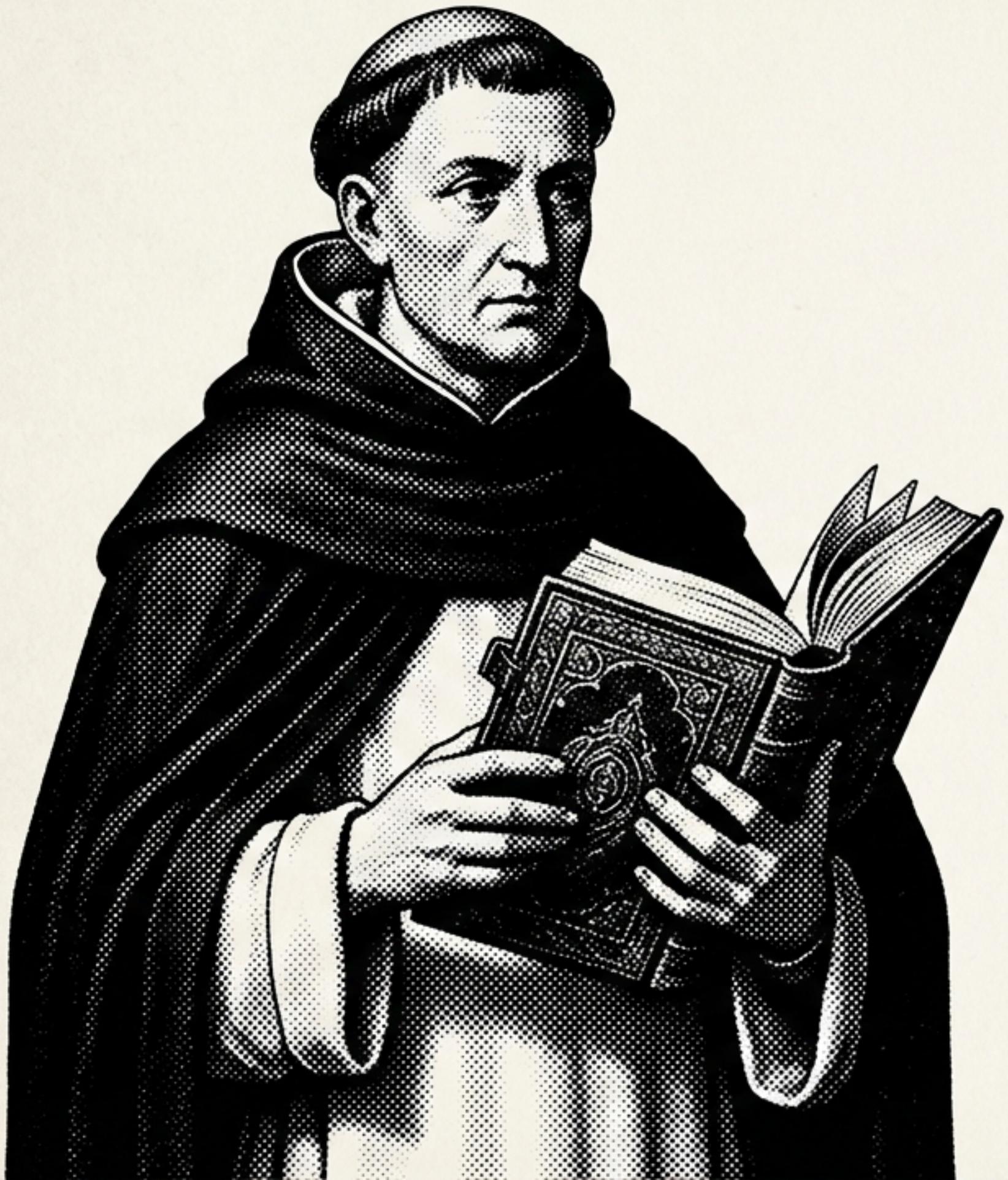


The Architecture of the Soul

Decoding the psychic faculties in Albertus Magnus's commentary on *De Anima*.



Before modern neuroscience, there was Scholastic psychology. In the 13th century, Albertus Magnus systematized the functions of the human psyche. He viewed the soul not as a ghost, but as the machine's operating principle. This deck reverse-engineers his model.



The Universal Doctor

Doctor Universalis

The Context

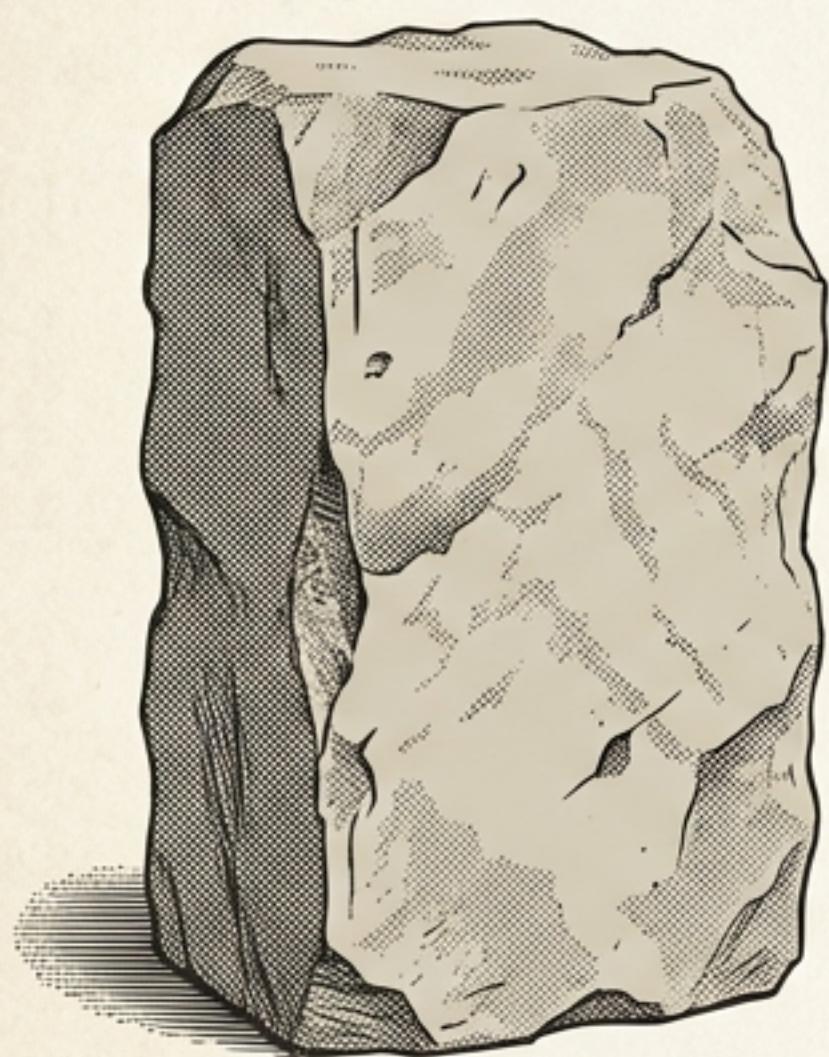
Teacher of Thomas Aquinas.
The only scholar of his age to
be canonized “The Great”
during his own lifetime.

The Method

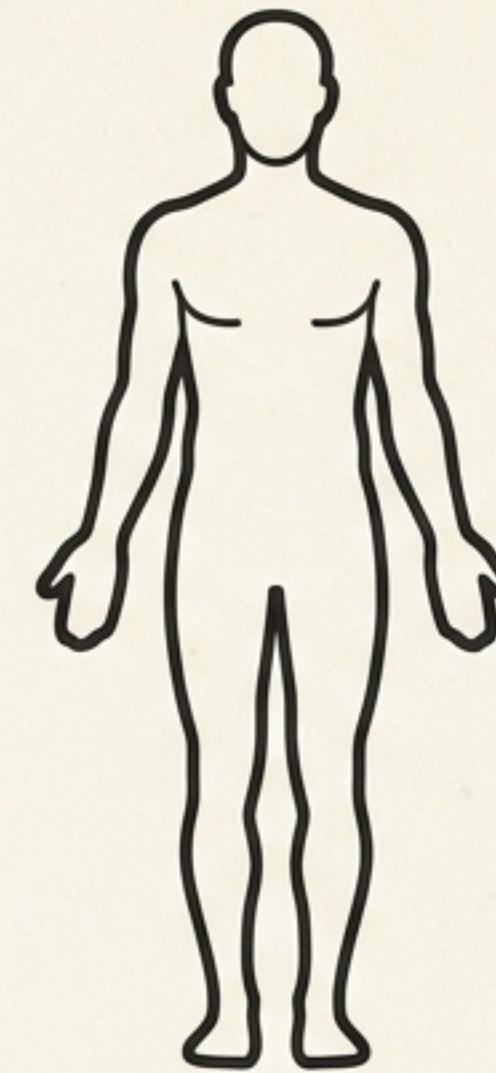
Integrated Aristotelian
philosophy with theology and
distinct empirical observation.
Albertus did not just read about
nature; he looked at it.

**“His commentary on *De Anima*
is a study of life itself.”**

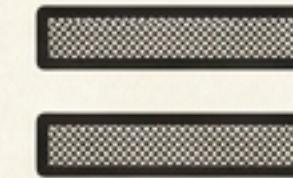
The Form of the Body



MATTER
(Body)



FORM
(Soul)



SUBSTANCE
(Living Being)

The Soul (Anima) is not a separate entity inhabiting a body.
It is the “First Act” of a physical body capable of life.

No body, no soul. No soul, just a corpse. They are a single, unified substance.

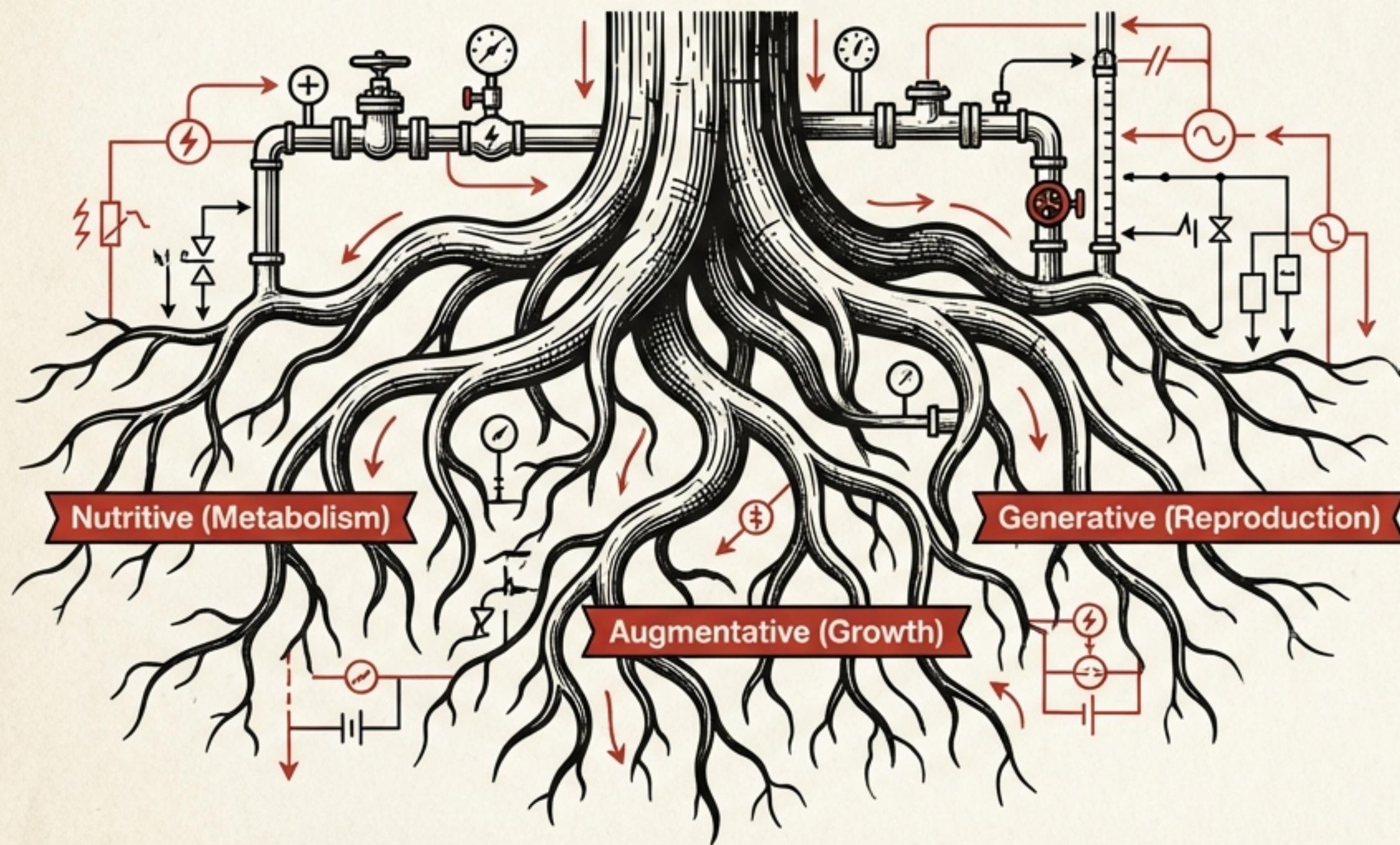
The Nested Hierarchy of Life



Nature does not abandon its foundation as it builds upward. The higher faculties subsume the lower. Humans contain the plant and the animal within.

Level 1: The Engine of Life

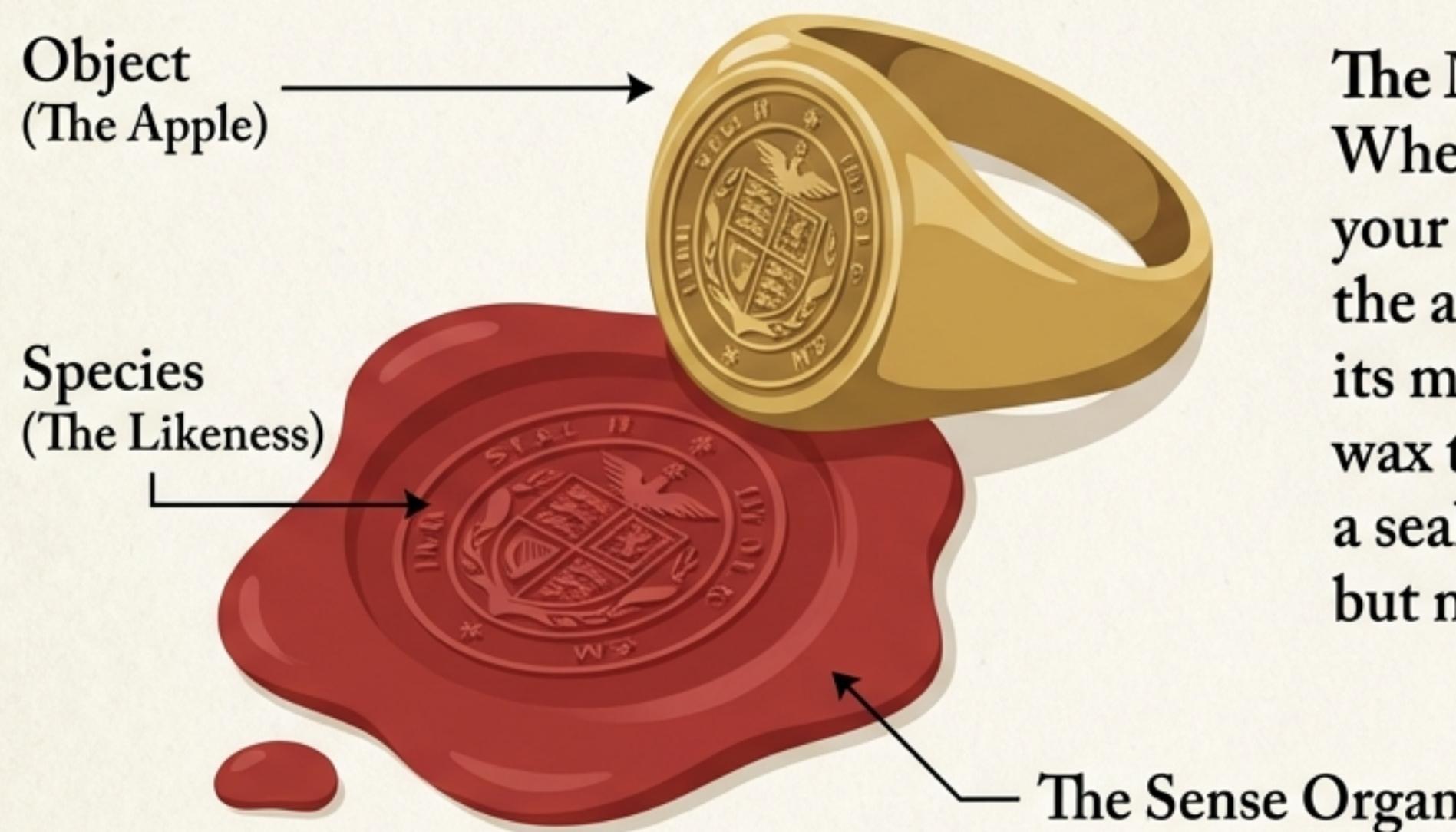
The Vegetative Soul



For Albertus, these are not just chemical reactions; they are directed activities of the soul to maintain existence. The soul is the teleological principle of life.

Level 2: The Window to the World

The Sensitive Soul

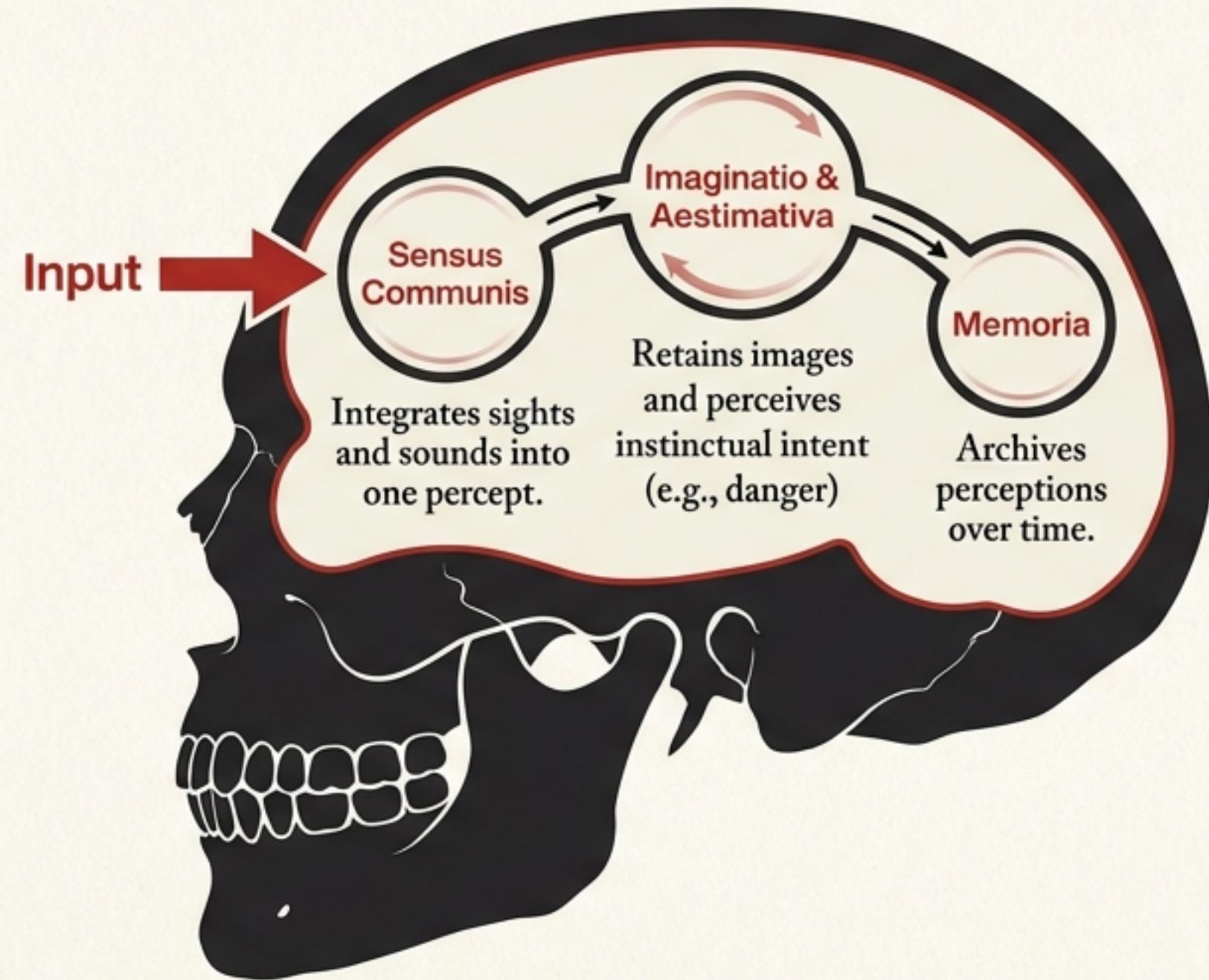


The Mechanism of Sensation:
When you look at an apple, your eye receives the “form” of the apple without receiving its matter. It is like wax taking the impression of a seal—it captures the shape, but not the gold.

- Sight
- Hearing
- Smell
- Taste
- Touch

The Internal Processing Unit

From Eye to Mind



These faculties process “Phantasms”—sensory images that serve as raw material for the intellect.

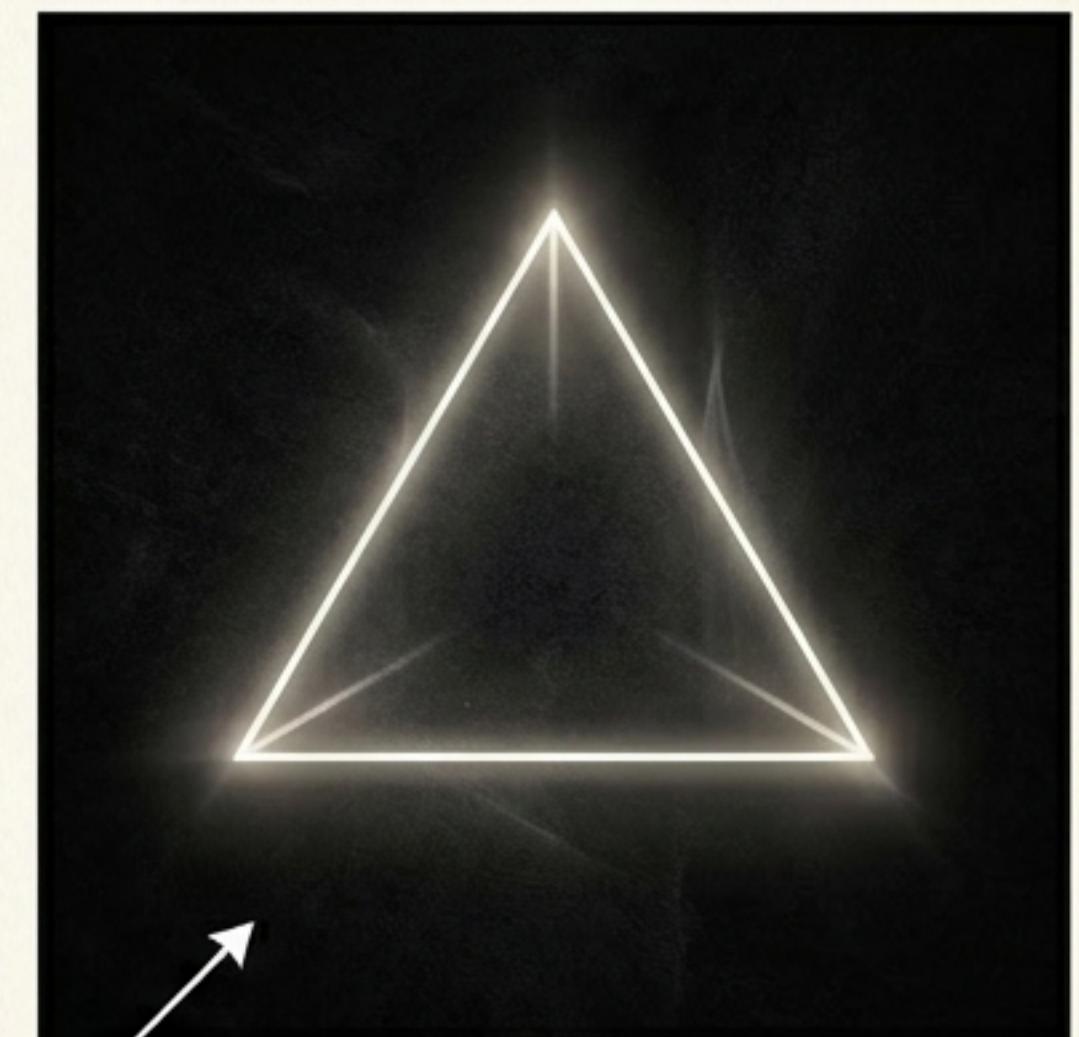
Level 3: The Human Distinction

The Rational Soul



The Problem of Universals:
Senses only know particulars
(this specific object). The
Intellect knows universals
(the concept of the object).
Because matter is finite but
concepts are infinite, the
Rational Soul cannot be
purely material.

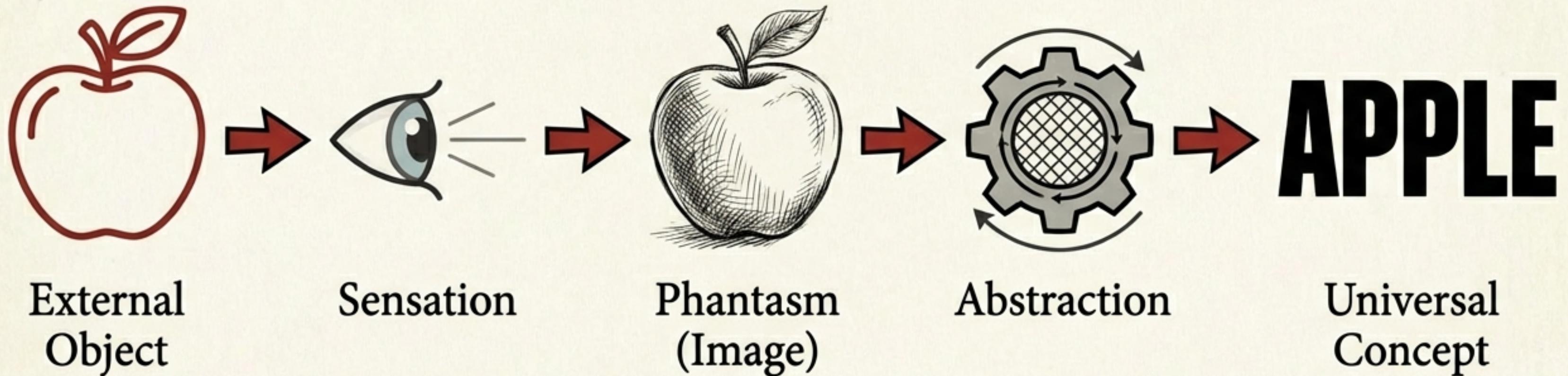
Particular
(Matter)



Universal
(Concept)

The Assembly Line of Thought

“Nothing is in the intellect that was not first in the senses.”

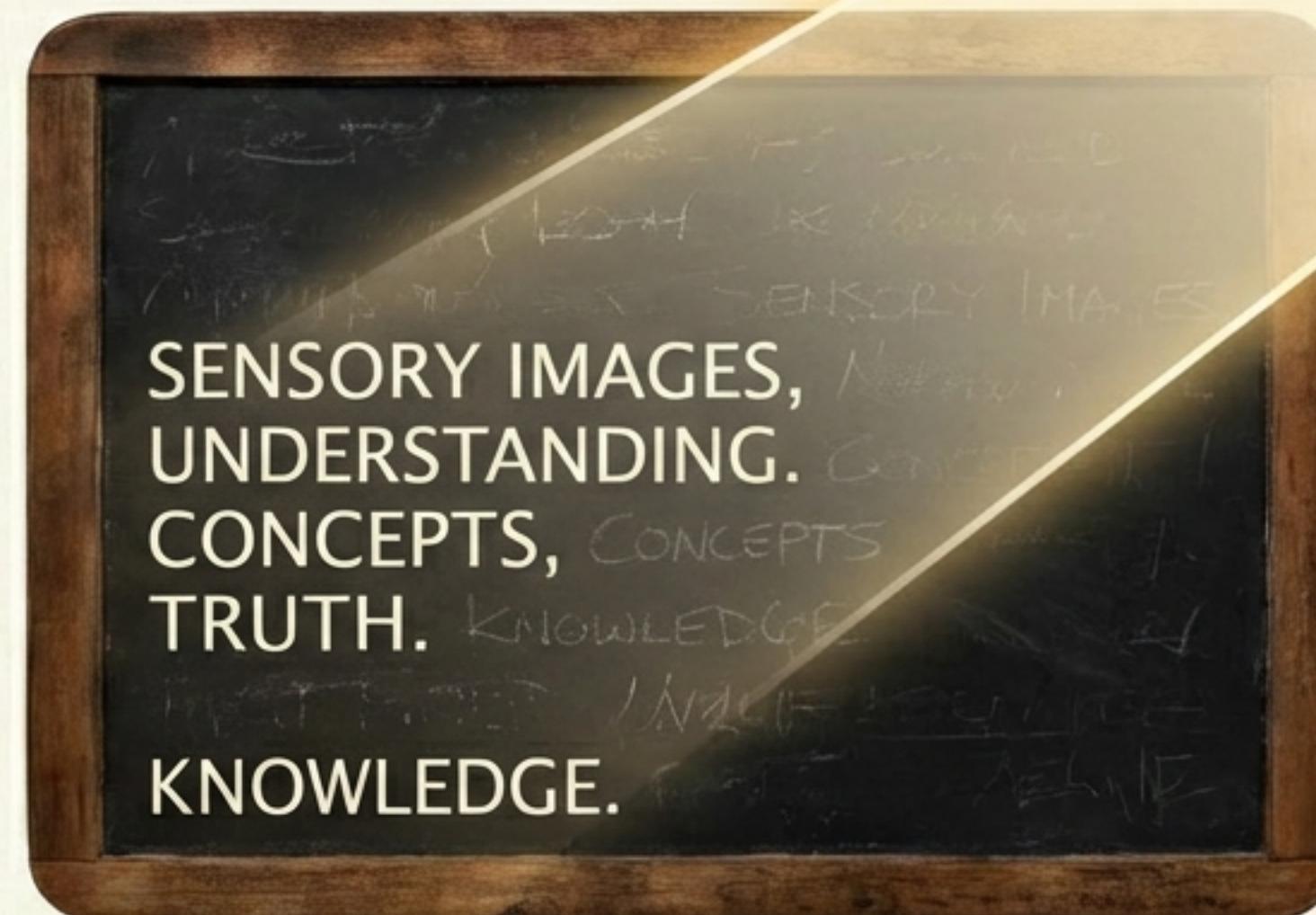


Abstraction strips away matter to reveal the form.

The Light and the Slate

The Passive Intellect is a blank slate with the potential to know anything.

The Active Intellect is the ‘light’ that illuminates sensory images,
making them readable to the mind.

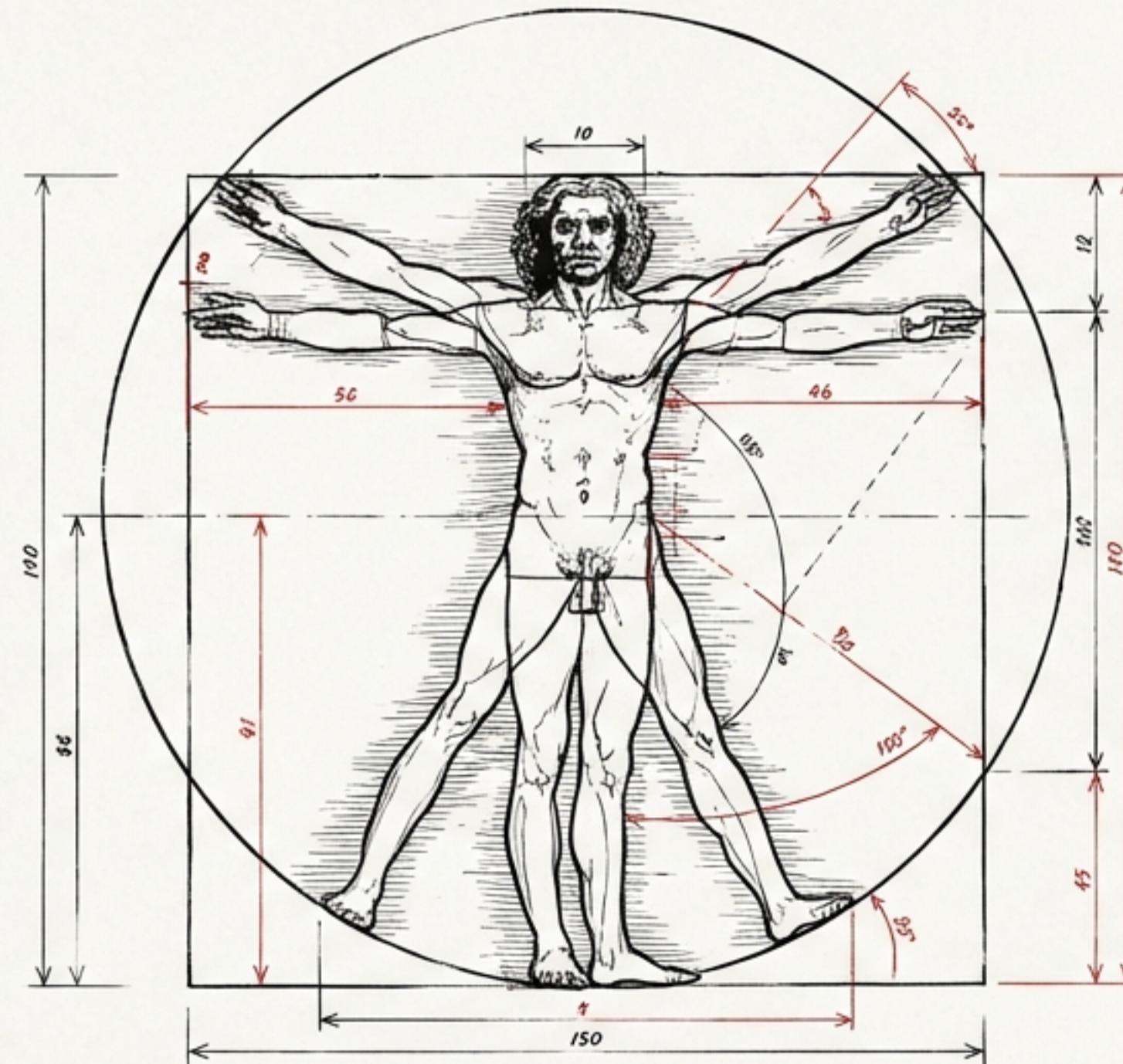


Active Intellect

Passive Intellect (Tabula Rasa)

The Unity of the Substance

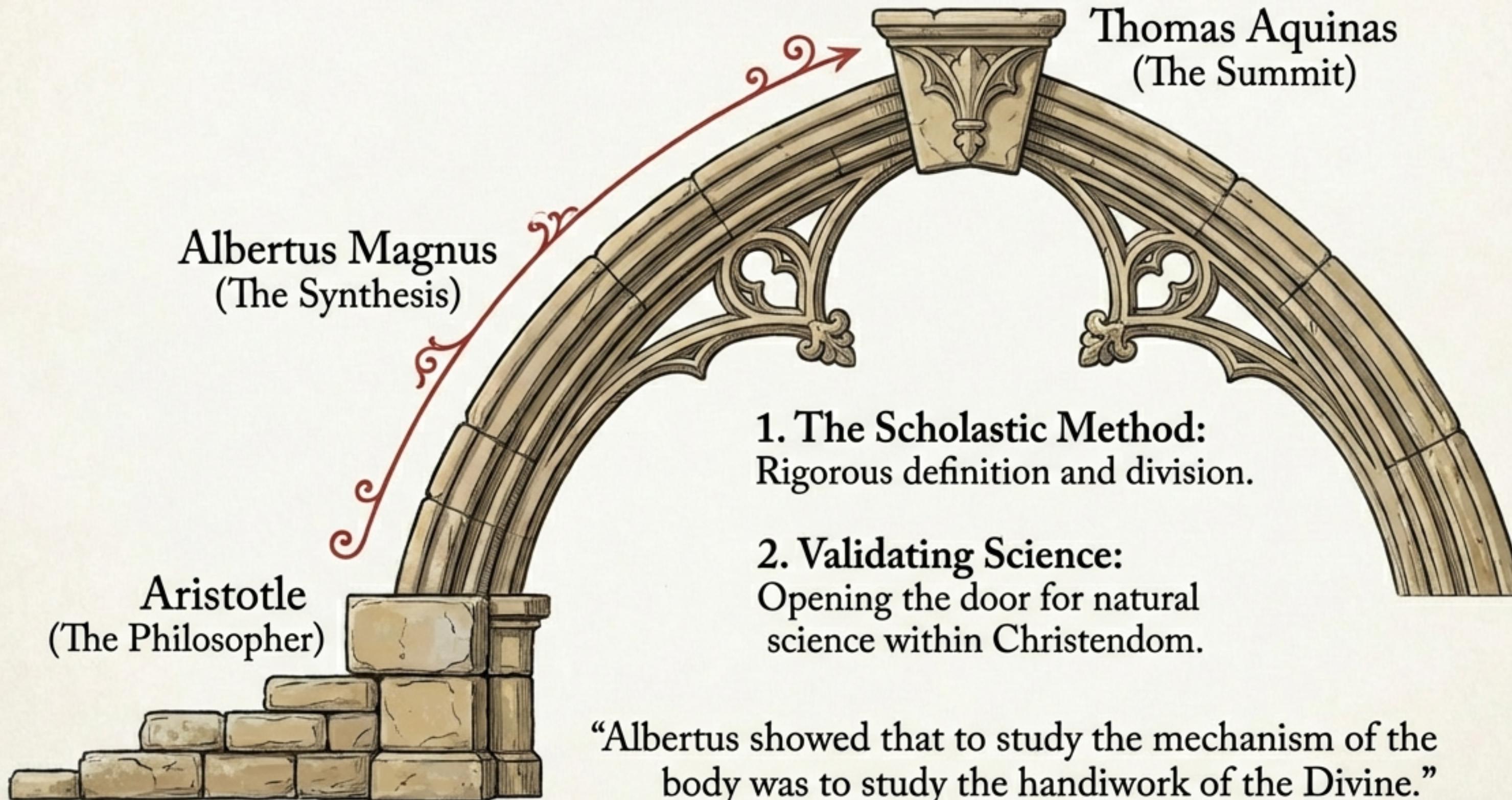
Rejection of Dualism



Rejection of the “Pilot in the Ship” model.

The human is not a soul trapped in a body. The Rational Soul performs the vegetative and sensitive functions itself. It is one single substance that thinks, feels, and grows.

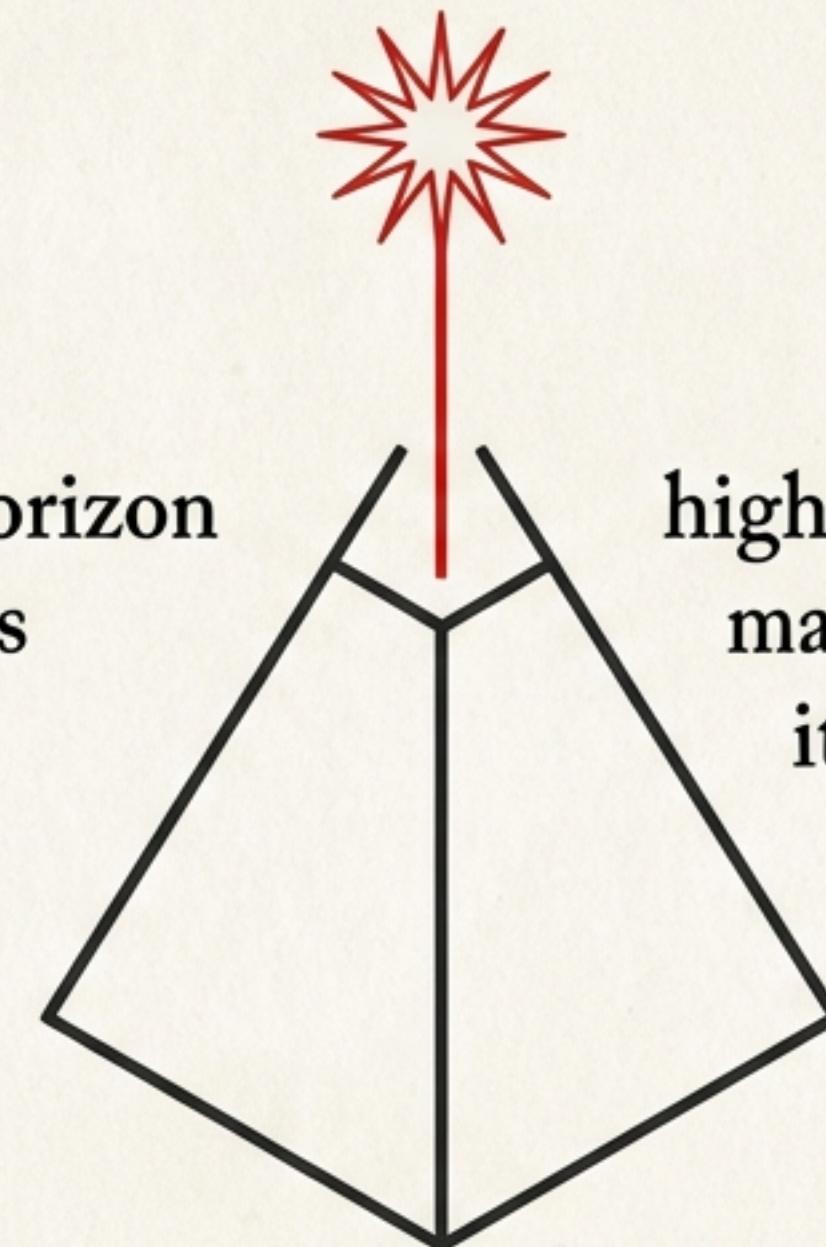
Faith, Reason, and the University



The Horizon of Eternity

The human soul stands on the horizon between time and eternity. By its lower powers, it embraces the

higher powers, it embraces the material world. By its higher powers, it touches the divine.



We are the bridge between matter and spirit.