

# The Ancient Algorithm for Omniscience

An Anatomy of the Ars notoria and the Medieval Science of Angelic Invocation

**THE ARTIFACT:** A text attributed to Solomon and Apollonius of Tyana.

**THE CLAIM:** A ritual system designed to bypass the limitations of biological memory.

**THE PROMISE:** To allow “corporeal and visible nature to speak, converse, and be instructed by that which is incorporeal and invisible.”

# The 13th-Century Student's Dilemma



**The University:** Decades of Study / Rare Books / High Cost



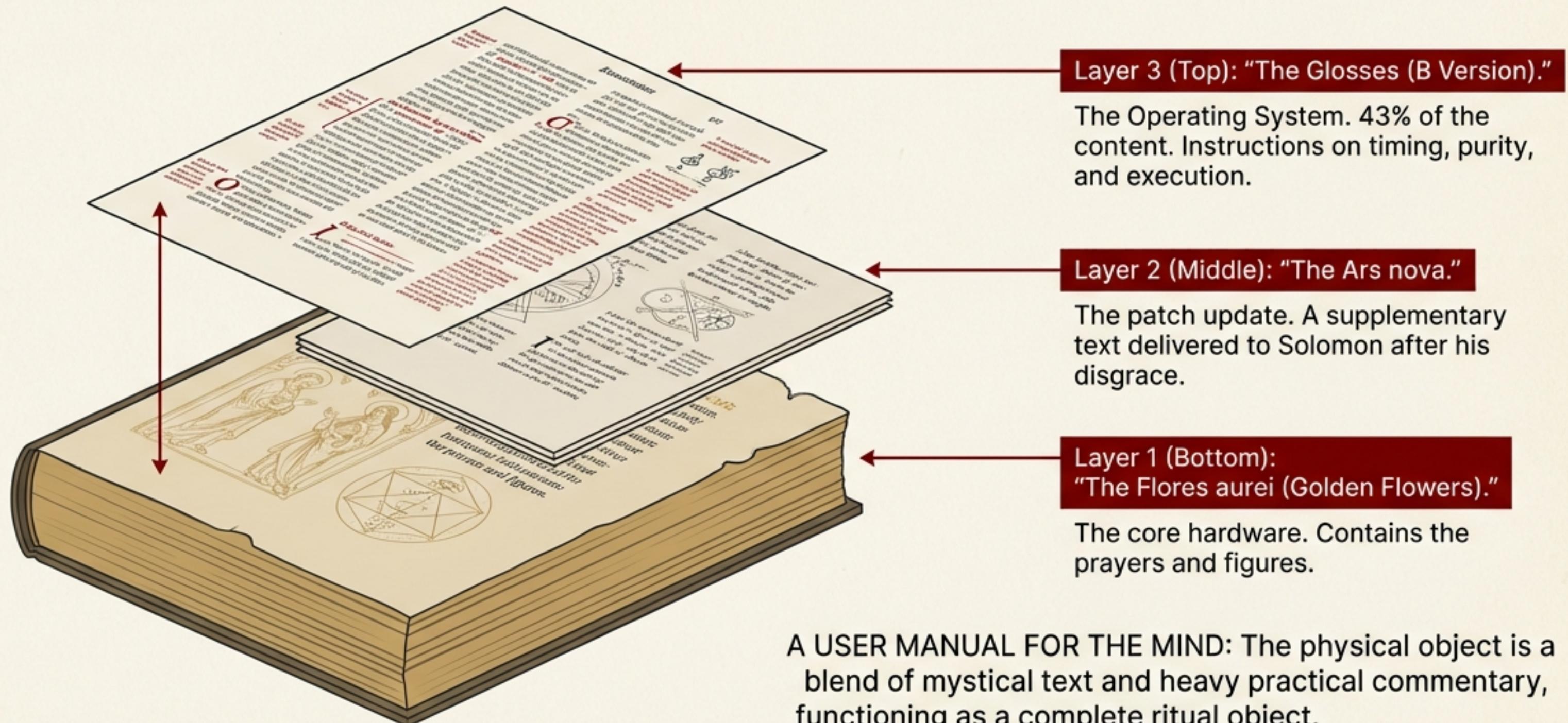
**The Ars notoria:** 4-Month Cycle / Ritual Infusion / Rapid Mastery

**CONTEXT:** As universities rose in Paris and Bologna, the curriculum of the **Liberal Arts**, **Philosophy**, and **Theology** became a crushing burden.

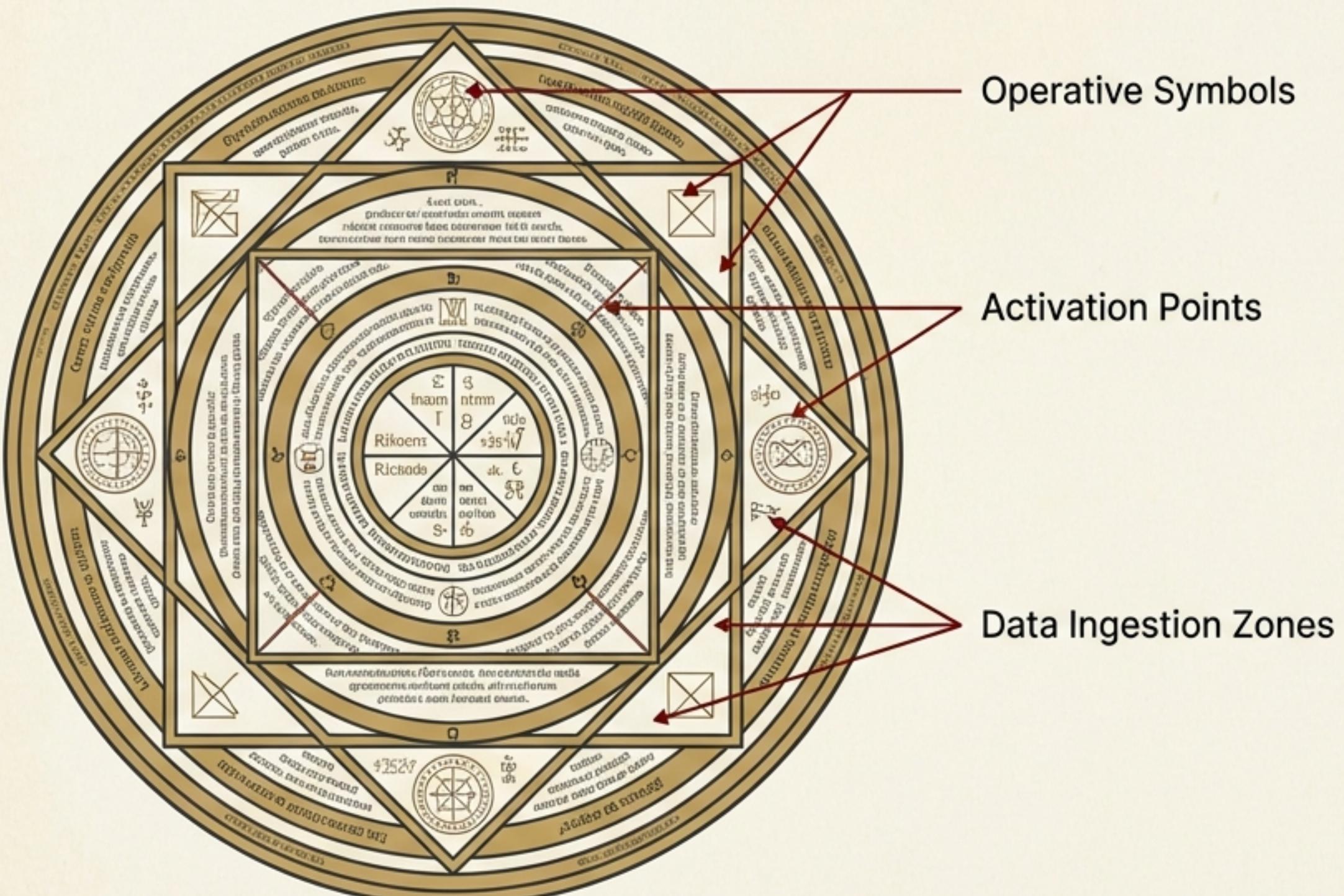
**THE VALUE PROPOSITION:** The text promises a **"rapid learning"** shortcut. Mastery of the **Trivium** and **Quadrivium** not through study, but through **ritual injection of knowledge**.

**SOURCE CLAIM:** "The most precious thing given by the Lord—more precious than anything else except the sacraments."

# Deconstructing the Artifact



# The Interface: Image-Assisted Meditation



**THE MECHANISM:** The Notae are not illustrations; they are gateways.

**THE PROTOCOL:** The user must “inspect” (*inspicere*) these figures while reciting specific prayers.

**THE THEORY:** “Image-assisted meditation.” The gaze functions as the invisible link between the biological mind and the divine data source.

**DATA:** Specific figures for each discipline (e.g., **Rhetoric has 4 figures**, **Grammar has 3**).

# The Code: Verba Mystica and Semantic Compression

## HELYSCEMATH



**THE CODE:** The text relies on **Verba Mystica**—words in Hebrew, Greek, and Chaldean, often corrupted by time.

**THEORY:** These are “codes that God alone can understand.” Unlike necromancy which uses coercion, these passwords trigger “Divine Sympathy.”

**OPERATION:** *Ex opere operato.* The words work automatically by the act of being spoken, similar to a sacrament.

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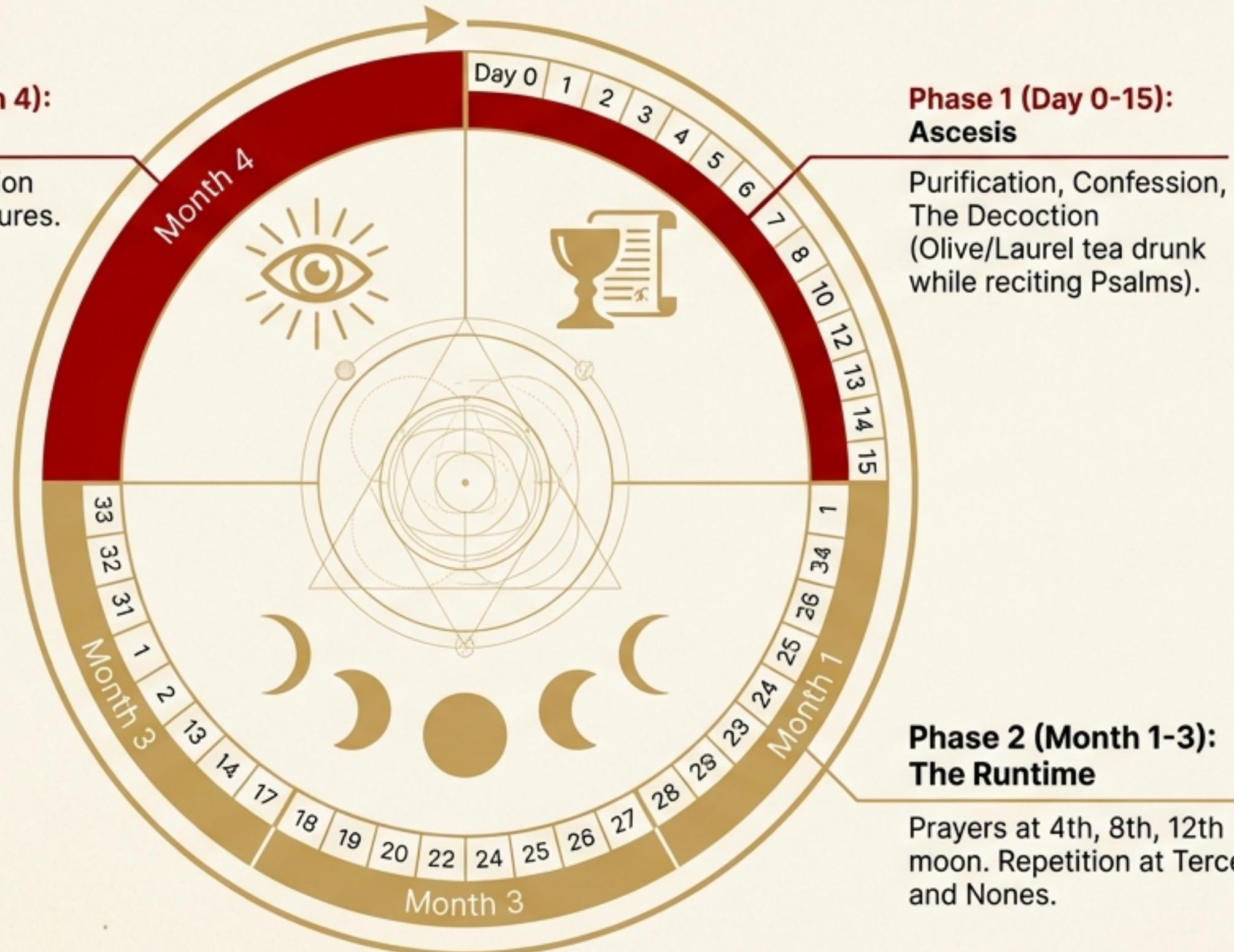
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Semantic Compression: One strange word = Many Latin words.

# The Protocol: A Four-Month Cycle

## Phase 3 (Month 4): Inspection

Solitary inspection  
of the Notae figures.



**STRICT COMPLIANCE:** Success requires Monastic Rigor.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Solitude is mandatory. "Secret place, far from the noise of the crowd."

**INGREDIENTS:** The ritual drink requires leaves inscribed with the names Hagnadam, Merabor, Merabor, Hamiladei, Pesiguaguol.

# The Definition Problem: Theurgy vs. Magic



## THE OPERATOR'S VIEW

The goal is education and salvation.  
The method is asking for aid via  
'Divine Sympathy.'

## THE CRITIC'S VIEW

If it works without a natural cause,  
and isn't a church sacrament, it  
must be a pact.

## SCHOLAR'S NOTE

Historians use 'Theurgy' to distinguish  
these rituals from demonic magic,  
acknowledging the practitioner's pious intent.

# The Theological Attack

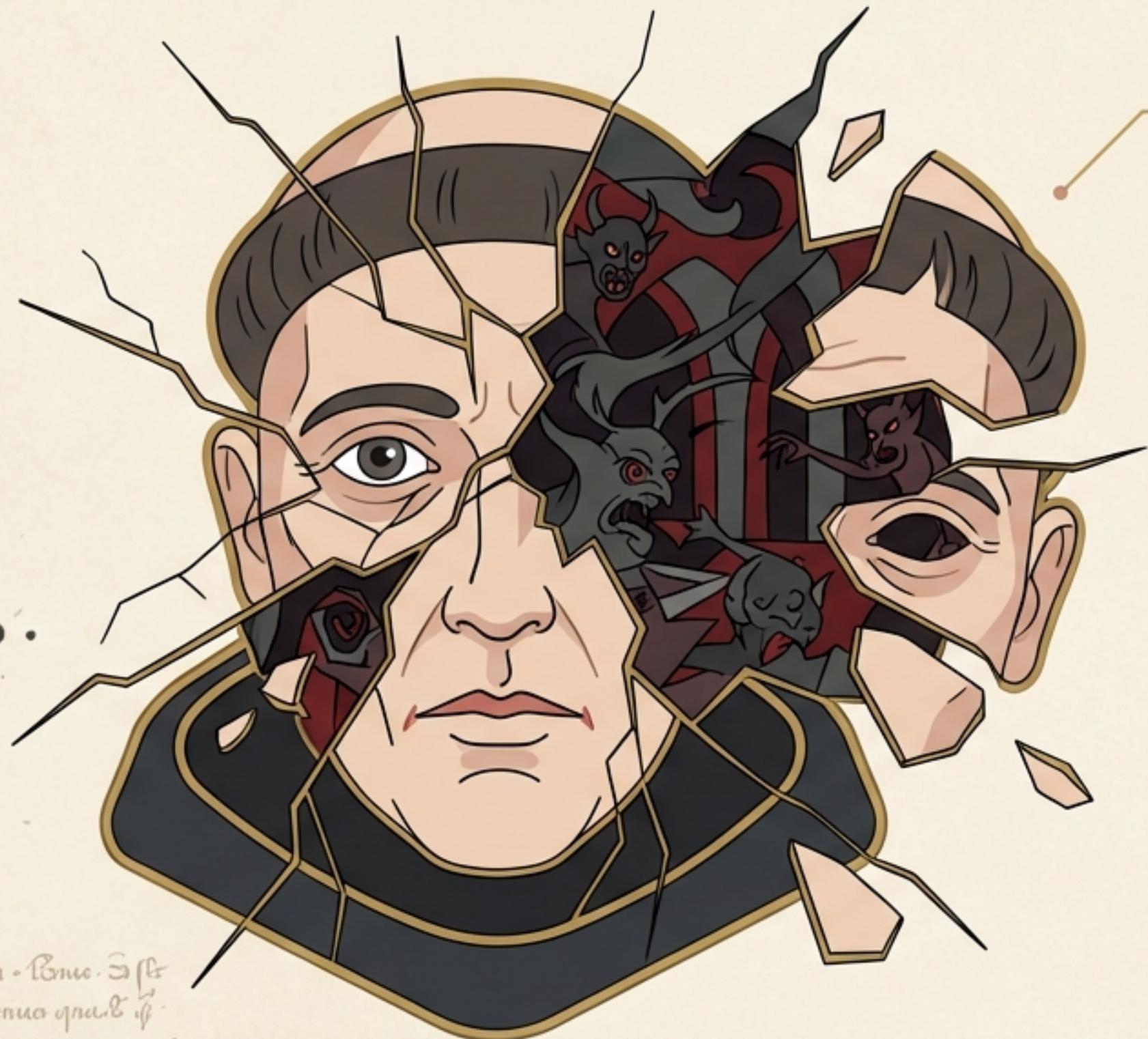


**THE ARGUMENT** (Thomas Aquinas):

- 1. NO NATURAL CAUSE:** Words cannot teach geometry; only study can.
- 2. NO DIVINE COMPELCTION:** Angels cannot be coerced by human rituals.
- 3. THE CONCLUSION:** If it is not natural, and it is not God, it must be demons masquerading as angels.

**THE VERDICT:** The *Ars notoria* was condemned as superstitious and potentially demonic.

# Case Study: The ‘Bad Trip’ of John of Morigny



**THE USER:** John of Morigny, Benedictine monk (early 14th Century).

**THE EXPERIENCE:** A “Power User” who followed the protocol. He achieved visions, but they curdled into demonic masquerades.

**THE PIVOT:** He concluded the “**strange names**” were corrupt. He **“refactored”**

- the code, creating the *Liber florum*.
- He stripped out the ***Verba Mystica*** and replaced them with prayers to the Virgin Mary, effectively **“patching”** the software for safety.

# Escalation: The Liber iuratus Honorii

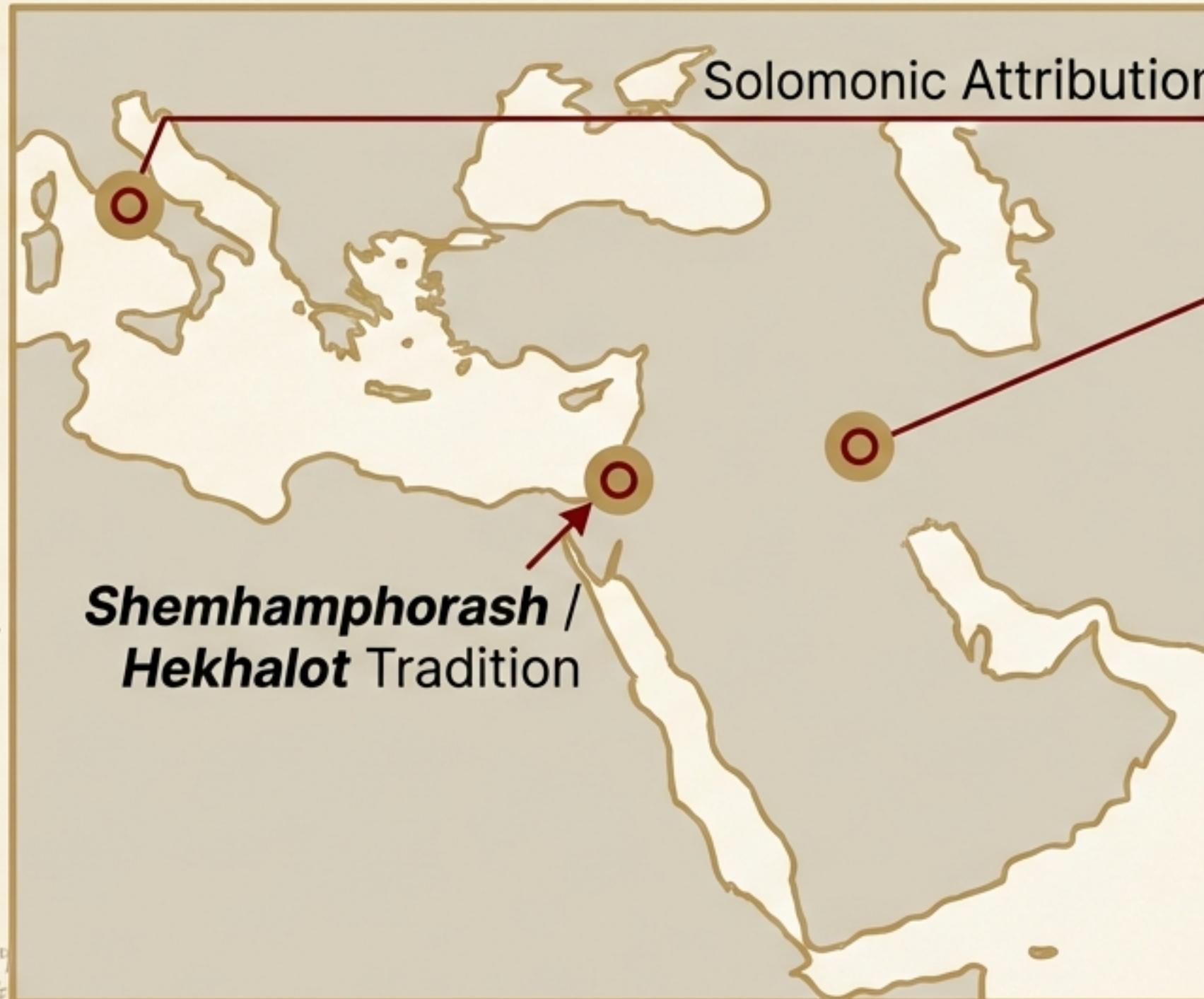


**THE GOAL:** Pushing beyond knowledge to the “Beatific Vision”—seeing God face-to-face in this life.

**THE CLAIM:** “The book which was the most precious thing given by the Lord... by which corporeal and visible nature can speak... with that which is incorporeal.”

**THE METHOD:** Theurgic aim pushed to the limit—the divinization of the human operator.

# The Source Code: A Medieval Bricolage



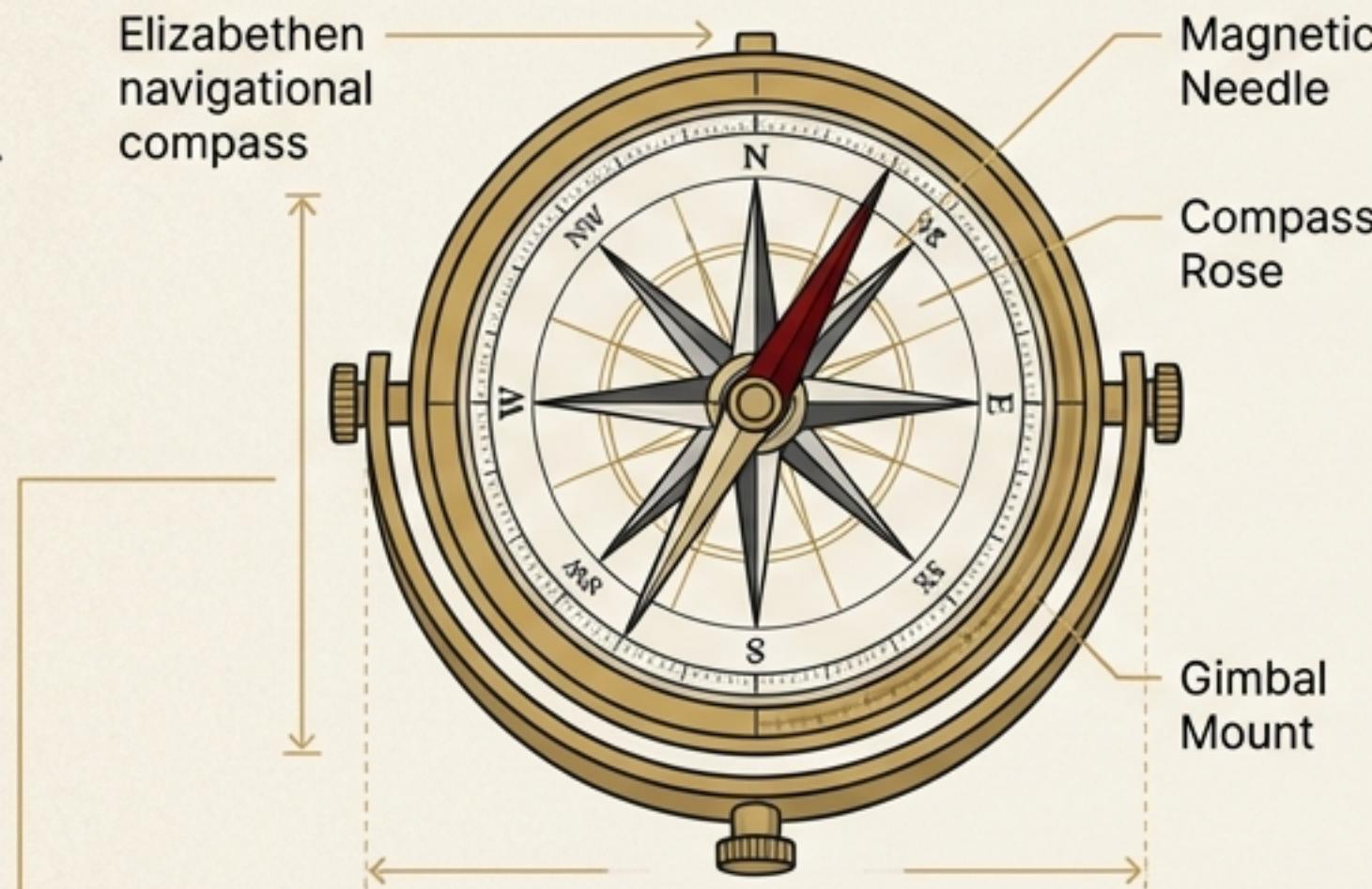
**The Text**

Al-Kindi  
(Theory of Rays)

**SYNCRETISM:** The users were **Christian monks**, but the technology was **intercultural**.

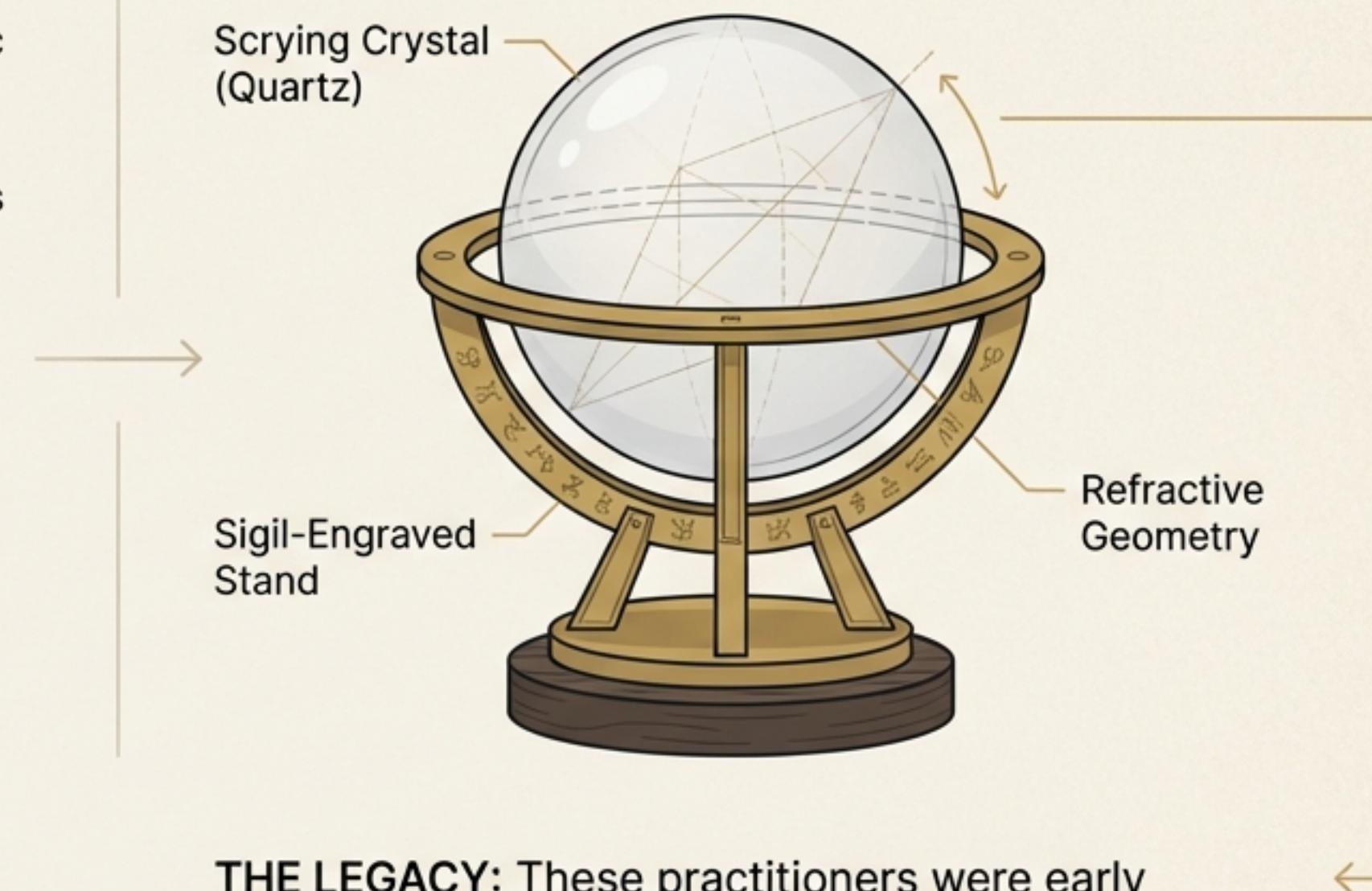
**KEY INSIGHT:** A “**bricolage**” of Abrahamic traditions packaged as a **Solomonic revelation** to make it **palatable to the Latin West**.

# From Ritual to Empiricism: Humphrey Gilbert



**THE FIGURE:** Humphrey Gilbert (16th Century), navigator and explorer.

**THE ACTIVITY:** Practiced 'scrying' using these medieval rituals to ask **angels** for **navigational data**.



**THE LEGACY:** These practitioners were early **empiricists**. They sought knowledge of the natural world through **experimental methods**, laying a strange foundation for the **scientific method**.

# The Solomonic Science

Rational Goal  
Education /  
University Curriculum  
in Inter



Mystical Method  
Revelation /  
Magic Circle  
in Inter

**SUMMARY:** A rational pursuit of knowledge attempted through irrational means.

**THE ENDURING GLITCH:** It represents the eternal human desire for the '**Downloadable Brain**'—to bypass biological limits and access the **Divine Intellect** directly.

# Final Thoughts

This is the book by which anyone at all can be saved and unhesitatingly be led forth into eternal life.

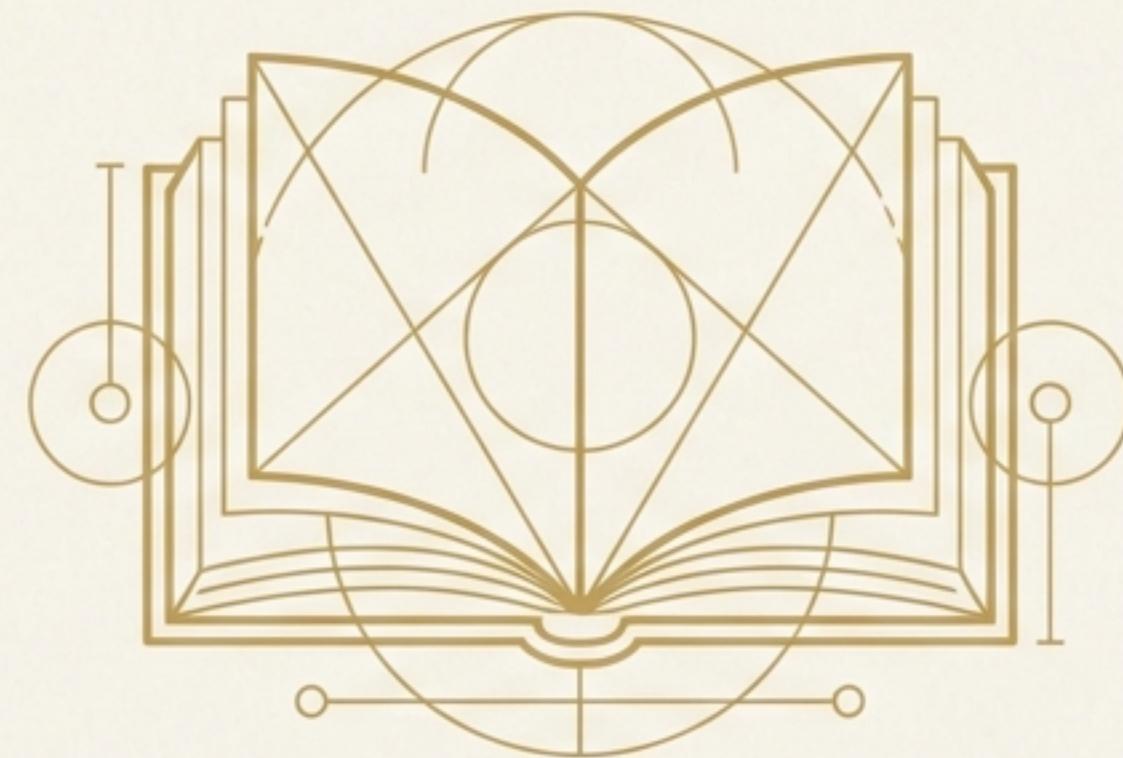
— **Liber iuratus Honori**



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# Sources & Further Reading



- Claire Fanger (Ed.), **Invoking Angels: Theurgic Ideas and Practices** (2012)
- Julien Véronèse, **L'Ars notoria au Moyen Âge** (2007)
- Jean-Patrice Boudet, **Entre science et nigromance** (2006)
- **Manuscript: BnF lat. 9336** (Bibliothèque nationale de France)