

# The Nature of Hermetic Wisdom

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As it is below, so is it above; As on the earth, so in the sky.

There are 2 states of being; one is mortal, the other Immortal.

That which is mortal is dissolvable, and dissolvable bodies pass away like a mist in the morning.

An Immortal Body is an essence which is eternal and incorruptible.

But the twain, the mortal and the Immortal, cannot exist together forever, but each returneth to the place from whence it came.

The mortal body is sensible, but the Immortal is reasonable.

The former contains nothing which is perfect,  
the latter nothing which is Imperfect;  
for the one is the essence of the Spirit,  
the other is the essence of Matter,  
and man, the microcosm, holds the balance between the twain.

And there is a fierce warfare for the Victory,  
between the upper and lower,  
as they both desire to obtain the body as their prize;  
for the state of man is envied by the lower  
and glorified as a noble estate by the higher.

Now as the man inclines toward the lower Nature which is mortal,  
he thereby aids the lower imperfect powers to oppose the higher which is  
Immortal,  
and must suffer the pains of slavery for his disobedience to the workman his  
maker.

But if he inclines to the higher, then he is truly wise and blest.  
Should man, after being attracted by the vanities of the world  
and then after obtaining a knowledge of the things that really are,  
return to the vanities of the world,  
he will be punished with torments and fire

in the darkest states of disembodied Souls.

Should man, after knowing the things that are,  
become rebellious of restraint to that part which is Immortal,  
and return to the vanities of the world,  
the higher essence will straightaway depart from him,  
and he will become the slave of the lower essence  
which will seize upon him and drive him to all sorts of wicked arts and evil  
ways.

When a man has thus impiously disobeyed nature  
and turned his face away from that which is Immortal,  
behold, he is then disinherited from his birthright,  
and is no longer counted among the children of Nature  
because he has become an evil perverse thing,  
possessing only those whose things which are mortal,  
and he is punished with death.

And so death is meted out to all those who rebel against Nature impiously,  
because they know the things that are.  
But to these foolish souls who are ignorant,  
and who have not knowingly rejected Nature, behold,  
they are purified after much suffering and are sent to the world again.