

# THE SMARAGDINE TABLET

OF

HERMES

Also known as:

**The Emerald Tablet**

(c.1890)

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(Preferred oev Version)

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## Text of Smaragdine Tablet of Hermes

*True, without error, certain and most true; that which is above is as that which is below, and that which is below is as that which is above, for performing the miracle of the One Thing; and as all things were from ONE, by the meditation of ONE, so all things arose from this ONE thing by adoption; the father of it is the sun, the mother of it is the moon; the wind carries it in its belly; the nurse thereof is the earth. This is the father of all perfection, or the consummation of the whole world. The power of it is integral if it be turned into earth. Thou shalt separate the earth from the fire, the subtle from the gross, gently with much sagacity; it ascends from earth to heaven, and again descends to earth: and receives the strength of the superiors and of the inferiors - so Thou hast the glory of the whole world; therefore let all obscurity flee before thee. This is the strongest fortitude of all fortitudes, overcoming every subtle and penetrating every solid thing. So the world was created. Hence were all wonderful adaptations of which this is the manner. Therefore am I called Thrice Greatest Hermes, having the three parts of the philosophy of the whole world. That which I have written is consummated concerning the operation of the sun.*

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### Note

Many commentaries and translations of the *Smaragdine Tablet of Hermes* have been published by prominent persons, including Trithemius, Roger Bacon, Chrysogonus Polydorus, Nuremberg, Georgio Beato, Michael Maier, Aleister Crowley, Albertus Magnus, and Isaac Newton.

Further, C.G. Jung linked *The Emerald Tablet* with a table made of green stone, which he saw in the first of a set of his dreams and visions beginning at the end of 1912, and which resulted in his writing the, *Seven Sermons to the Dead* (1916).

Thus far, the oldest documentable source for the text of the tablet is the, *Kitab Sirr al-Asrar* (*The Book of the Science of Government*) - a book of advice for kings and rulers, by Shaikh Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani (1078-1166 AD). Shaikh Abd al-Qadir al-Jilani was a noted Sunni Hanbali preacher.

### Hermes

Hermes Trismegistus, or 'Thrice Greatest Hermes', was the name given to the Egyptian Thoth or Tehuti - the God of learning, wisdom, and literature. He was the author of the books carried in the sacred processions of Egypt, which were records of ancient events and mysteries. Hermes' books were described by Clemens of Alexandria - a Christian writer of the Second and Third centuries. Clemens believed that the books must be considered as of 'late concoction', and as chiefly of 'Greek manufacture'.

The books noted by Clemens included:

- The two books of Hermes, which were carried by the Chanter.
- The four astronomical books of Hermes, which were carried by the Horoscopus, who also carried a sundial and palm.
- An undesignated book; carried by the Hierogrammatos, who also carried ink and a reed.
- The ten books relating to the 'ceremonies of worship', which were carried by the Stolist.

- The ten books concerning the Gods and the education of the Priests, which the Prophet was bound to learn.

As noted, these books should not be regarded as 'genuine remains' of remote Egyptian antiquity.

Moreover, the total number of 'Hermetic' books are often stated to be 'forty-two', of which, thirty-six are learned by the Ministers of Religion; and the other six books, which contain treatises on medicine, are learned by the Pastophori, or Shrine-Bearers.

### **Neo-Platonic Philosophy**

Hermes Trismegistus is also seen as a personification of the Neo-Platonic philosophy; and is considered to be the 'mystical author' of all wisdom and knowledge - the source of all intellectual light.

He was the result of the union of Oriental and Hellenic Philosophers, and thus the oriental spirit of mysticism and of exaggeration is reflected in the circle of ideas in which Hermes moved and expounded.

Upon the authority of Seleucus, Iamblicus attributes to Hermes, some 20,000 books. However, Iamblicus adds that Manetho has assigned to Hermes, 36,525 books. As this last number (36,525) coincides with the total number of years of the Egyptian chronology in the Ancient Chronicles, which is arrived at by multiplying the 1461 years of the Canicular Cycle by 25, it is suggested that this is the 'mystical mode' of computing the number of books of Hermes of late date.

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### **Basic Commentary on The Smaragdine Tablet Of Hermes**

This commentary is provided to assist the individual in getting a basic overview of the Emerald Tablet.

Tablet text is in italics, and commentary is in normal type.

#### **The Text**

*True, without error, certain and most true;*

This declares that what the student is being exposed to in the Tablet is not just another 'Truth', but is 'Reality'.

*that which is above is as that which is below, and that which is below is as that which is above,*

This is probably the most important, yet one of the simplest principles relative to the Esoteric World. Things above - the Etheric Plane, is as that which is below - the Physical Plane. What that means, in reality, is that we can understand the Etheric Plane by considering the Physical Plane. The same associations, hierarchies, and life principles that exist in the Etheric Plane are mirrored in the Physical Plane. So, in reality, we do not have to look 'Up' for 'God', we only need to look 'Within'.

*for performing the miracle of the One Thing;*

The 'Miracle of the One Thing' is the expansion and transmutation of personal existence by personal experience on the 'Physical Plane' as well as the 'Etheric Plane'.

*and as all things were from ONE,*

The 'ONE' refers to the Source that emanates the Universal Life-Force Energy (ULFE) - the source of all existence.

*by the meditation of ONE,*

The Harmonic creation of Existence by the Source's "will to experience".

*so all things arose from this ONE thing by adoption;* - The subsequent division of the Life Force-Energy (ULFE) as manifested from the Source through the Primary Soul Group (PSG) , into its component bands and harmonics. Thus producing the Vibrations and symbols that condense into all existent entities - both animate and inanimate.

*the father of it is the sun,*

The Traditional Objective Element of Fire, and the Spirit Plane.

*the mother of it is the moon;*

The Traditional Objective Element of Air, and the Astral Plane.

*the wind carries it in its belly;*

The Element of Water, and the Etheric Plane.

*the nurse thereof is the earth*

The Element of Earth, and the Physical Plane. The forgoing describes the migration of an existence (you) as it migrates through the planes - Spirit, Astral, Etheric, and Physical. Thus the individual gains the desired Expansion of Existence through personal Experience.

*This is the father of all perfection,*

The methodology whereby an Existent being can expand its conscious existence to the infinite level of the Source (No-Thing).]

*or the consummation of the whole world.*

This is the purpose of the Planar System in general, and the purpose of the Etheric/Physical Plane relationship in particular.

*The power of it is integral if it be turned into earth.*

It is necessary that the finer energy of the Spirit, Astral, and Etheric Planes be channelled through the transmuting environment of the Physical Plane so that beings can expand the ULFE energy, Vibration, and Symbols through a personal conscious experience. The planes and bodies (Spirit, Astral, Etheric, and Physical) work in harmonious concert concerning this operation.

*Thou shalt separate the earth from the fire, the subtle from the gross, gently with much sagacity;*

This describes the understanding of the Lower Self - The Earth/Water, and the Higher Self - The Fire/Air. The Lower-Self corresponds to the Elements of Earth and Water, and to the Sensation of Physical and the Feeling of Emotional. The Higher-Self corresponds to the Elements of Fire - the principle of mentalisation, and Air - the Sensation of Mental and Spiritual. The purpose of an Earth Plane life-cycle is to bring into balance the Higher and Lower selves through Earth Plane experiences (3 Dimensions + 5 Senses).

*it ascends from earth to heaven, and again descends to earth:* - The energies flow in both directions

Up as well as Down.

*and receives the strength of the superiors and of the inferiors*

Both planes benefit from this movement of entities, energy, and life force between the Physical and Etheric Planes. Entities who cycle within the Physical Plane can elect to accept guidance from entities within the Etheric Plane. And conversely, entities within the Etheric Plane, who do not wish to cycle through Physical Plane experience, can remain in the Etheric Plane and gain the experience of the Physical Plane vicariously. This vicarious transfer is effected through agreement with those who elect to experience life cycle incarnations within the earth plane. This 'vicarious transfer' is the foundation of God Hierarchies, Epistemological Archetypes, Systems, and Guide activity.

*so Thou hast the glory of the whole world;*

This allows the flow of energy from the Source as Universal Life Force Energy (ULFE), which can be used by all entities, in all planes, without any attenuation, loss, or distortion of that energy.

*therefore let all obscurity flee before thee.*

Use this reality to understand the esoteric universe, and dispel all falsehoods that may creep in. Use this reality to create your own personal archetype, system, and reality within which you will operate.

*This is the strongest fortitude of all fortitudes, overcoming every subtle and penetrating every solid thing.*

This is the reality of operating with the Universal Life-Force Energy.

*So the world was created.*

All reality, particularly reality in the physical plane, is created this way.

*Hence were all wonderful adaptations of which this is the manner.*

All evolution and development is simply harmonic adaption from the Universal Life-Force Energy (ULFE) flowing through the Primary Soul Group (PSG), and all realities can, and will, exist within that relative spectrum of refracted ULFE energy.

*Therefore am I called Thrice Greatest Hermes,*

Hermes Trismegistus - This was the name given to the Egyptian Thoth or Tehuti, the God of learning, wisdom, and literature.

*having the three parts of the philosophy of the whole world.*

This refers to the three parts of man's existence - Physical, Mental, and Spiritual.

*That which I have written is consummated concerning the operation of the sun.*

The sun represents the energy flowing from the Source as Universal Life-Force Energy (ULFE).

Smaragdine Tablet of Hermes (*The Emerald Tablet*)

End

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