

who was responsible for the inclusion of the ceremonials based on the skrying of Sir Edward Kelly. There is much in these Golden Dawn rituals and ceremonies that is of the greatest value; but from the first grade to the last it is all vitiated by these dangerous elements taken from Dee and Kelly. Furthermore, in many places, the practical working is not provided with adequate safeguards, so that, to the present writer's personal knowledge, an operator working with the Golden Dawn rituals runs very grave risks of breaking down his physical organism, or of obsession by evil entities.

The Seven Hermetic Laws as Stated in *The Kybalion*

The Kybalion has had a cult following since its publication, and remains in print in various editions. The mysterious nature of the work probably adds to its attraction. Whether or not we can determine who wrote it, it presents well-researched Hermetic principles, though the language is archaic.

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.

— *The Kybalion*

The Seven Hermetic Principles, upon which the entire Hermetic Philosophy is based, are as follows:

- I. THE PRINCIPLE OF MENTALISM
- II. THE PRINCIPLE OF CORRESPONDENCE
- III. THE PRINCIPLE OF VIBRATION
- IV. THE PRINCIPLE OF POLARITY
- V. THE PRINCIPLE OF RHYTHM
- VI. THE PRINCIPLE OF CAUSE AND EFFECT
- VII. THE PRINCIPLE OF GENDER

These seven Principles will be discussed and explained as we proceed with these lessons. A short explanation of each, however, should be given at this point.

I. The Principle of Mentalism

THE ALL is MIND; The Universe is Mental.

— *The Kybalion*

This principle embodies the truth that "All is Mind." It explains that THE ALL (which is the Substantial Reality underlying all the outward manifestations and appearances which we know under the terms of "The Material Universe," the "Phenomena of Life," "Matter," and "Energy"; and, in short, all that is apparent to our material senses) is SPIRIT, which in itself is UNKNOWABLE and UNDEFINABLE, but which may be considered and thought of as A UNIVERSAL, INFINITE, LIVING MIND. It also explains that all the phenomenal world or universe is simply a Mental Creation of THE ALL, subject to the Laws of Created Things, and that the universe, as a whole and in its parts or units, has its existence in the Mind of THE ALL, in which Mind we "live and move and have our being." This Principle, by establishing the Mental Nature of the Universe, easily explains all of the varied mental and psychic phenomena that occupy such a large portion of the public attention, and which, without such explanation, are non-understandable and defy scientific treatment. An understanding of this great Hermetic Principle of Mentalism enables the individual to readily grasp the laws of the Mental Universe, and to apply the same to his well-being and advancement. The Hermetic Student is enabled to apply intelligently the great Mental Laws, instead of using them in a haphazard manner. With the Master Key in his possession, the student may unlock the many doors of the mental and psychic temple of knowledge, and enter the same freely and intelligently. This Principle explains the true nature of "Energy," "Power," and "Matter," and why and how all these are subordinate to the Mastery of Mind. One of the old Hermetic Masters wrote, long ages ago: "He who grasps the truth of the Mental Nature of the Universe is well advanced on The Path to Mastery." And these words are as true today as at the time they were first written. Without this Master Key, Mastery is impossible, and the student knocks in vain at the many doors of The Temple.

II. The Principle of Correspondence

As above, so below; as below, so above.

—*The Kybalion*

This Principle embodies the Truth that there is always a Correspondence between the laws and phenomena of the various planes of Being and Life. The old Hermetic axiom is "As above, so below; as below, so above." And the grasping of this Principle gives one the means of solving many a dark paradox and hidden secret of Nature. There are planes beyond our knowing, but when we apply the Principle of Correspondence to them, we are able to understand much that would otherwise be unknowable to us. This Principle is of universal application and manifestation, on the various planes of the material, mental, and spiritual universe—it is a Universal Law. The ancient Hermeticists considered this Principle as one of the most important mental instruments by which man was able to pry aside the obstacles which hid from view the Unknown. Its use even tore aside the Veil of Isis to the extent that a glimpse of the face of the goddess might be caught. Just as a knowledge of the Principles of Geometry enables man to measure distant suns and their movements, while seated in his observatory, so a knowledge of the Principle of Correspondence enables Man to reason intelligently from the Known to the Unknown. Studying the monad, he understands the archangel.

III. The Principle of Vibration

Nothing rests; everything moves; everything vibrates.

—*The Kybalion*

This Principle embodies the truth that everything is in motion, everything vibrates, and nothing is at rest; facts which Modern Science endorses, and which each new scientific discovery tends to verify. And yet this Hermetic Principle was enunciated thousands of years ago by the Masters of Ancient Egypt. This Principle explains that the differences between different manifestations of Matter, Energy, Mind, and even Spirit result largely from varying rates of Vibration. From THE

ALL, which is Pure Spirit, down to the grossest form of Matter, all is in vibration, and the higher the vibration, the higher the position in the scale. The vibration of Spirit is at such an infinite rate of intensity and rapidity that it is practically at rest—just as a rapidly moving wheel seems to be motionless. And at the other end of the scale, there are gross forms of matter whose vibrations are so low as to seem at rest. Between these poles, there are millions upon millions of varying degrees of vibration. From corpuscle and electron, atom and molecule, to worlds and universes, everything is in vibratory motion. This is also true on the planes of energy and force (which are but varying degrees of vibration); and also on the mental planes (whose states depend upon vibrations); and even on to the spiritual planes. An understanding of this Principle, with the appropriate formulas, enables Hermetic students to control their own mental vibrations as well as those of others. The Masters also apply this Principle to the conquering of Natural phenomena, in various ways. "He who understands the Principle of Vibration has grasped the scepter of power," says one of the old writers.

IV. The Principle of Polarity

Everything is Dual; everything has poles; everything has its pair of opposites; like and unlike are the same; opposites are identical in nature, but different in degree; extremes meet; all truths are but half-truths; all paradoxes may be reconciled.

—*The Kybalion*

This Principle embodies the truth that "everything is dual," "everything has two poles," and "everything has its pair of opposites," all of which were old Hermetic axioms. It explains the old paradoxes that have perplexed so many, which have been stated as follows: Thesis and antithesis are identical in nature, but different in degree; opposites are the same, differing only in degree; the pairs of opposites may be reconciled; extremes meet; everything is and isn't, at the same time; all truths are but half-truths, every truth is half-false; there are two sides to everything, etc., etc., etc. It explains that in everything there are two poles, or opposite aspects, and that "opposites" are

really only the two extremes of the same thing, with many varying degrees between them. To illustrate: heat and cold, although "opposites," are really the same thing, the differences consisting merely of degrees. (Look at your thermometer and see if you can discover where "heat" ends and "cold" begins.) There is no such thing as "absolute heat" or "absolute cold"—the terms "heat" and "cold" simply indicate varying degrees of the same thing, and that thing which manifests as "heat" and "cold" is merely a form, variety, and rate of Vibration. So "heat" and "cold" are simply the two poles of that which we call "heat"—and the phenomena attendant thereupon are manifestations of the Principle of Polarity. The same Principle manifests in the case of "light" and "darkness," which are again the same thing, the difference consisting of varying degrees between the two poles of the phenomena. Where does "darkness" leave off and "light" begin? What is the difference between "large" and "small"? Between "hard" and "soft"? Between "black" and "white"? Between "sharp" and "dull"? Between "noise" and "quiet"? Between "high" and "low"? Between "positive" and "negative"? The Principle of Polarity explains these paradoxes, and no other Principle can supersede it. The same Principle operates on the Mental Plane. Let us take a radical and extreme example—that of "love" and "hate," two mental states apparently totally different. And yet there are degrees of hate and degrees of love, and a middle point in which we use the terms "like" or "dislike," which shade into each other so gradually that sometimes we are at a loss to know whether we like or dislike—or neither. And all are simply degrees of the same thing. And, more than this (and considered of more importance by the Hermeticists), it is possible to change the vibrations of hate to the vibrations of love, in one's own mind, and in the minds of others. Many of you, who read these lines, have had personal experiences of the involuntary rapid transition from love to hate, and the reverse, in your own case and that of others. And you will therefore realize the possibility of this being accomplished by the use of the Will, by means of the Hermetic formulas. "Good" and "evil" are but the poles of the same thing, and the Hermeticist understands the art of transmuting evil into good, by means of an application of the Principle