

# The Wisdom of Hypatia

## The Third Degree of Wisdom Chapter 11: The Path of Truth

### Learning Outcomes:

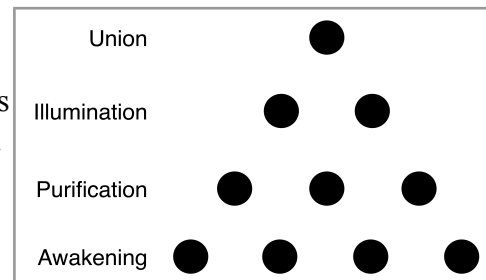
- You will reinforce your preparation for the Ascent by Truth
- You will be able to use interpretation of inspired texts and contemplation of Nature to grasp the Ideas in the Cosmic Mind
- You will develop your ability to see symbolically
- You will understand the Neoplatonic concept of prayer and how to use arrow prayers
- You will prepare yourself for divine union

### Structure of the Ascent by Truth

Macrocosm		Microcosm		Faculty	Stage of Ascent		Virtues	
World Body		body		sensation	Awakening	Change Of Mind	Practical	Ethical
						Watchfulness		
						Discernment		Social
						Guarding the Heart		
World Soul	soul	animal	belief	Purification	Purific. Virtues	Purifying		
		human	rational		reason	Dialectics	Contemplative	
			noetic		contemplation	Physics		
World Nous	Det.	nous	archetypes	noetic intelligence	Illumination	Affirmative Way	Exemplary	
	Indet.		Self			Negative Way		
The One		the god within		union	Perfection		Hieratic	

## Key Ideas:

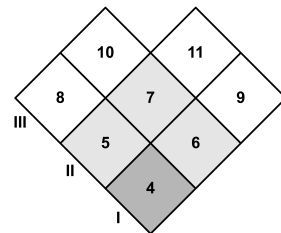
- The first level of ascent, *Awakening*, has four stages: a *change of mind* to a philosophical way of life, *watchfulness* in each moment, *discernment* in choosing the right action in each circumstance, and *guarding the heart* to achieve spiritual freedom
- At the level of Awakening the cardinal virtues (practical wisdom, fortitude, moderation, justice) are interpreted as *practical virtues* to moderate your feelings and behave intelligently in your personal and social life
- The first stage of Purification is *ethical* and focuses on the *purifying virtues*, which disengage your lower soul from your body
- The second stage of Purification is *rational* and focuses on *dialectical analysis* of texts and ideas
- Read sacred and inspired texts symbolically, for mythic truth is truer than literal truth
- The third stage of Purification is *noetic* and focuses on contemplation of Nature
- Through “Seeing All Things in the The One” you intuitively grasp the emanation of The One through the Forms to create the natural order
- “Seeing The One in All Things” develops *symbolic seeing*, the ability to understand natural objects and processes as symbols of Forms
- Both practices develop the *contemplative virtues*, which orient the soul toward the Ideas in the Cosmic Nous
- The highest truths cannot be expressed in words, but must be grasped noetically, for which dialectics and contemplation of Nature are preparation
- The third level is *Illumination*, which prepares you for contact with divine Beings by practicing the *exemplary virtues*
- The first stage of Illumination is the *affirmative way*, in which you contemplate the divine Beings as aspects of The One
- The second stage of Illumination is the *negative way*, in which you maintain inner silence in the face of The Inexpressible
- An *arrow prayer* can help you to maintain inner quietness in contact with the divine
- The purpose of Neoplatonic prayer is not to affect the gods, but to affect us, elevating us to them (deification)
- Through these forms of preparation you might experience the fourth level, *Union*, which is a gift that you should share with others



## Exercises:

- Philosophical Awakening (p. 241)
- The Purifying Virtues (p. 244)
- Textual Commentary (pp. 247–8)
- Allegorical Interpretation (p. 248)
- Seeing All Things in The One (p. 251)
- Seeing The One in All Things (pp. 252–3)
- Arrow Prayer (p. 260)
- Continuous Prayer (p. 262)
- Twelve Thousand Arrows (pp. 262–3)

## Your Notes:



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