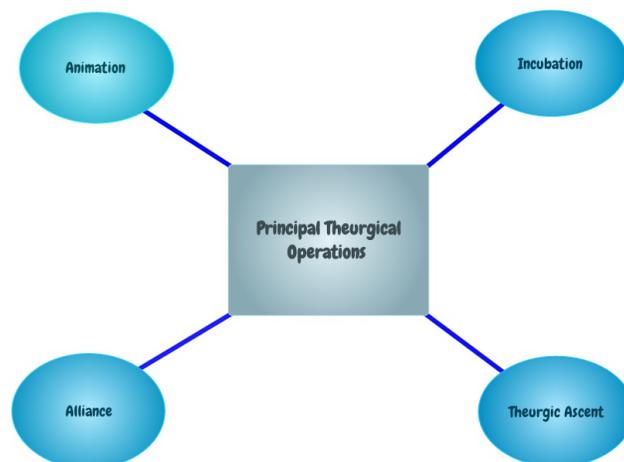


# The Wisdom of Hypatia

## The Third Degree of Wisdom Chapter 12: The Path of Trust

### Learning Outcomes:

- You will be able to use symbols to attune your soul to particular gods and daimons
- You will be able to ensoul an image with a particular divine energy in order to communicate with a god or daimon
- You will be able to facilitate a significant dream and to interpret it
- You will be able to invoke a god or daimon in order to negotiate and form an alliance with it
- You will understand the technique of theurgic ascent to union with a god, a process of deification
- You will understand how theurgy can help you to live a life of meaning in harmony with Providence



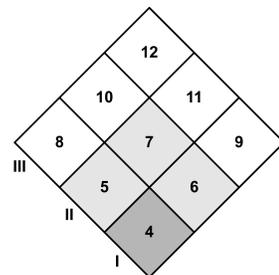
## Key Ideas:

- Different paths of ascent work better for different people, but you should learn them all
- *Theurgy* is the art of communicating with gods and daimons for spiritual insight, guidance, and assistance
- Divine *symbols* are in the lineages of the gods and by tuning our souls to their divine energy, we are drawn up to them
- Symbols can be *material* (stone, animal, plant, incense), *visual* (images, statues, etc.), *auditory* (musical, spoken), or purely *mental*
- Symbols are learned from traditional sources or from the gods themselves
- Invocation does not command gods or daimons to come, but tunes the theurgist's soul to their individual energies
- A divine image can be *animated* by using appropriate symbols in its preparation and by invoking the god or daimon into it
- *Dream incubation* prepares you to have a significant dream, which should be interpreted symbolically
- *Alliance* is a theurgical operation for cooperating with a god or, more commonly, an attendant daimon or angel
- An alliance with your *Shadow* is especially important for psychological integration and for reclaiming your lost powers
- The steps in alliance can be summarized: *invite, engage, contract, enact*
- You *invite* the spirit by using its symbols and watching for signs of animation, but you cannot assume that the spirit you invited is the one who arrives
- Next you *engage* the spirit in dialogue, respecting its divinity while retaining your moral autonomy
- Your goal is to *contract* some agreement with the spirit, satisfying its needs and your own, but this may take several meetings
- Finally, you should confirm your agreement by some ritual action and by *enacting* the agreement in your life
- You can form an alliance with an *unknown spirit* by noting the symbols associated with it
- *Theurgic ascent* is intended to achieve union with a god or The One, and hence *deification* so far as possible for a human
- In it your inner divinity separates from the less divine parts of your soul by means of a symbolic death and ascends the rays, drawn upward by The One
- The ascent is aided by allied spirits and by music and breathing, which shift from sensible to mental
- The descent, the *rebirth*, reverses these operations
- Theurgy will help you to live in harmony with your authentic nature and the nature of the universe

## Exercises:

- Animating an Icon (pp. 279–80)
- Dream Journal (p. 284)
- Dream Interpretation (p. 285)
- Dream Incubation (pp. 285–6)
- Spiritual Alliance (p. 291)
- Alliances with Unknown Spirits (p. 292)
- Theurgic Ascent (p. 297)
- Final and First Exercise (p. 298)

## Your Notes:



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