

The Wisdom of Hypatia

The Third Degree of Wisdom Chapter 8: The Macrocosm

Learning Outcomes:

- You will understand the Platonic Forms and the central role they play in Hypatia's philosophy
- You will know the planes of reality and how they are related
- You will practice several visualization exercises that will imprint the structure of reality on your mind
- You will understand the nature of the gods and the realm where they reside
- You will understand that there are beings that mediate between gods and humans
- You will understand the Platonic view of supreme principle and ultimate cause of the universe

Focus on Three Parts of Soul:

Degree	Focus on	Mental State	Leads to
Third	“Head” (mind)	stillness	spiritual enlightenment
Second	“Heart” (will, impulse, feeling)	freedom from suffering	freedom
First	“Belly” (appetites, desires)	lack of disturbance	happiness

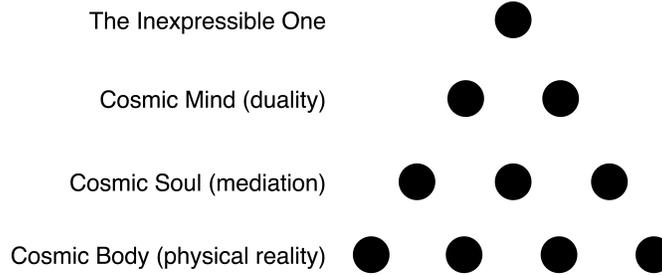
Stages of Initiation:

Initiatory Stage	Teaches	Through	Topics
Purification	Virtues	Philosophy	First Degree Second Degree
Instruction	Spiritual Knowledge	Theology	Macrocosm Microcosm
Revelation	Spiritual Practice	Theurgy	Path of Love Path of Truth Path of Trust

Key Ideas:

- A Platonic *Idea* or ideal *Form* is the eternal and perfect principle of some class of objects
- The *Macrocosm*, or universe outside, and the *Microcosm*, or universe inside, mirror each other
- The Macrocosm can be divided into *four planes of reality*
- The highest level is *The One*, the ultimate principle of unity, which unifies all opposites
- The One is indefinable in ordinary terms, and so it is called *Inexpressible* or *Ineffable*; it can be known only through *union*, one goal of the third degree
- Descriptions of The One as “God,” “the Good,” “Love,” “Truth,” etc. are convenient but misleading
- The *Cosmic Mind* is the realm of Being, in which the Ideas / Forms reside
- The gods are archetypal Beings in the Cosmic Mind and aspects of it
- The *Cosmic Soul* brings the Ideas / Forms into manifestation in space and time in the Cosmic Body
- Two goddesses, *Wisdom* and *Nature*, preside over the Cosmic Soul
- The Cosmic Soul contains *daimons*, who are manifestations in space and time of the archetypal gods, and serve as mediators
- The *Cosmic Body* is the level of ordinary physical reality, the realm of Becoming, in which everything is in flux
- The *Triadic Principle* says that each level simultaneously *abides* in itself, *proceeds* into lower levels, and *returns* from them to itself
- Several images will help you visualize the Macrocosm, chief of which is the *Tetractys*

The Tetractys:



Exercises:



Triangle Contemplation



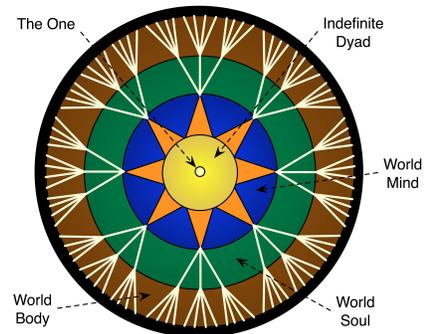
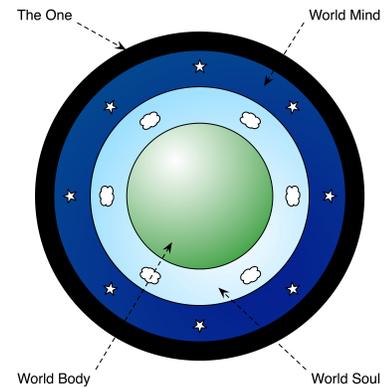
The Geocentric Ascent



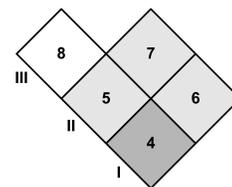
The Geocentric Descent



Journey to the Central Fire



Your Notes:



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