
The Hermetic Blueprint
Two Thousand Years of Inquiry
A Visual Syllabus:
Mapping the Evolution
from Alexandrian Egypt
to Modern American
New Thought

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Hermeticism is not a single static dogma, but a 2,000-year ongoing interpretation of reality.

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Thoth (Egypt)

Scribe of the gods, keeper of records, weigher of souls, god of magic & math.





Hermes (Greece)

God of messengers, boundaries, and travel between worlds.





Hermes Trismegistus

The Thrice-Greatest

A literary and religious creation born in Hellenistic Egypt (post-332 BCE).

Why Thrice-Greatest? Interpreted three ways:

1. Philosopher, Priest, and King.

2. Three spheres of wisdom.

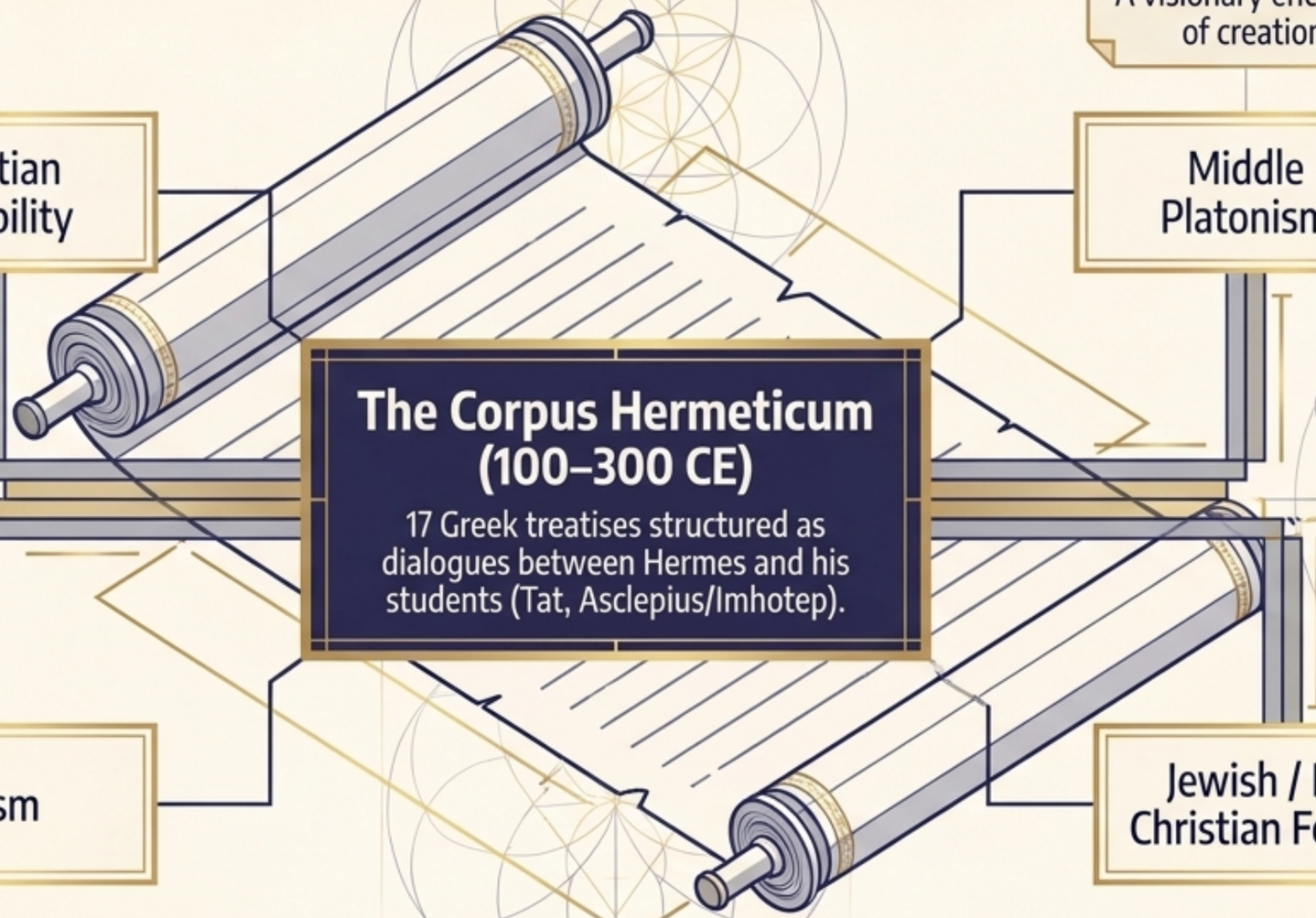
3. Three incarnations across time.

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Poimandres (The Shepherd of Men):
A visionary encounter exploring the nature of creation and the soul's ascent.

Egyptian Sensibility

Middle Platonism



The Corpus Hermeticum (100–300 CE)

17 Greek treatises structured as dialogues between Hermes and his students (Tat, Asclepius/Imhotep).

Stoicism

Jewish / Early Christian Ferment

Not a well-defined "church," but the literary expression of late antiquity's best minds seeking spiritual rebirth and divinization.

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Pre-1614

The 1,500-Year Belief:
The Corpus Hermeticum is older than Moses and Plato. A direct transmission of ancient Egyptian magic.

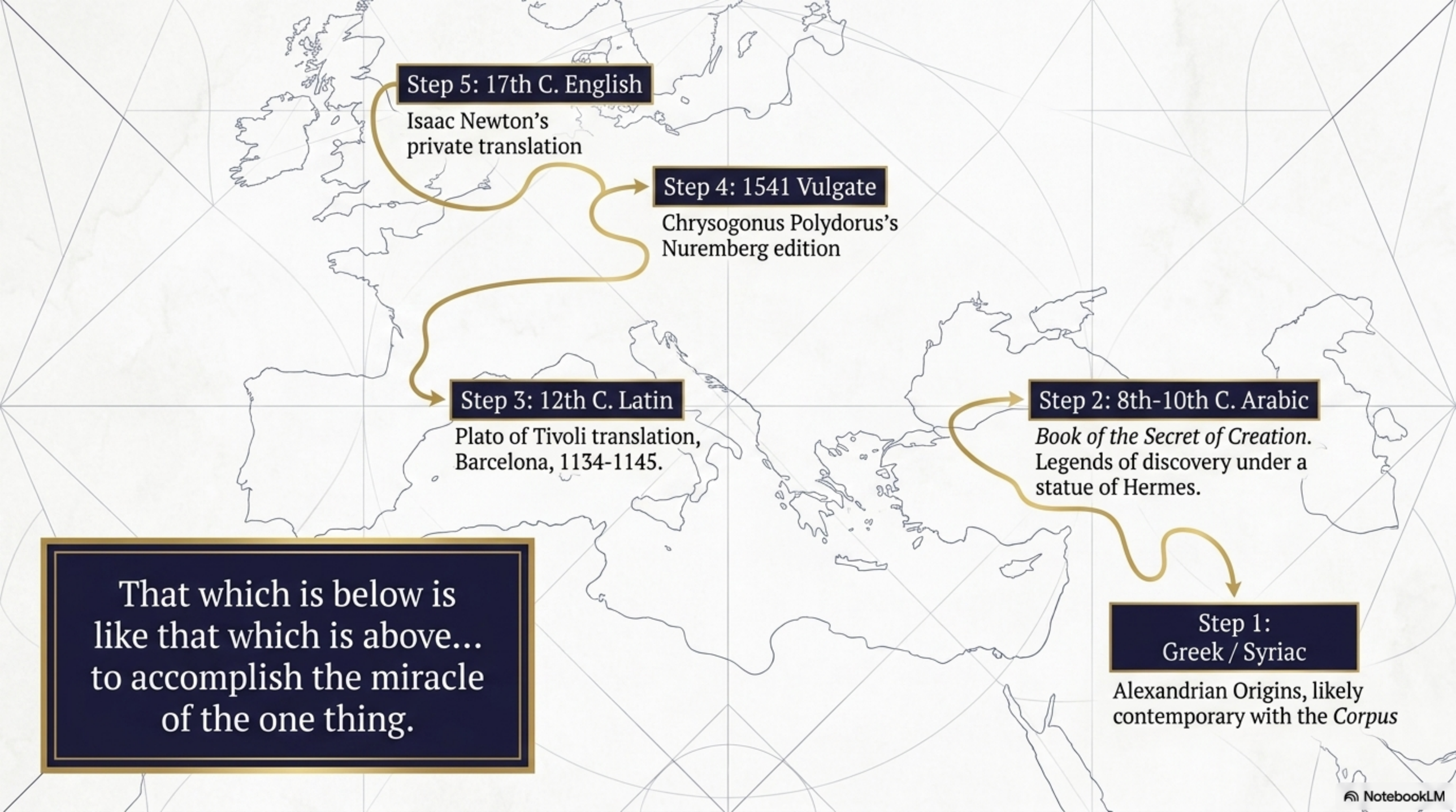
1614: Isaac Casaubon's Philological Discovery

Post-1614

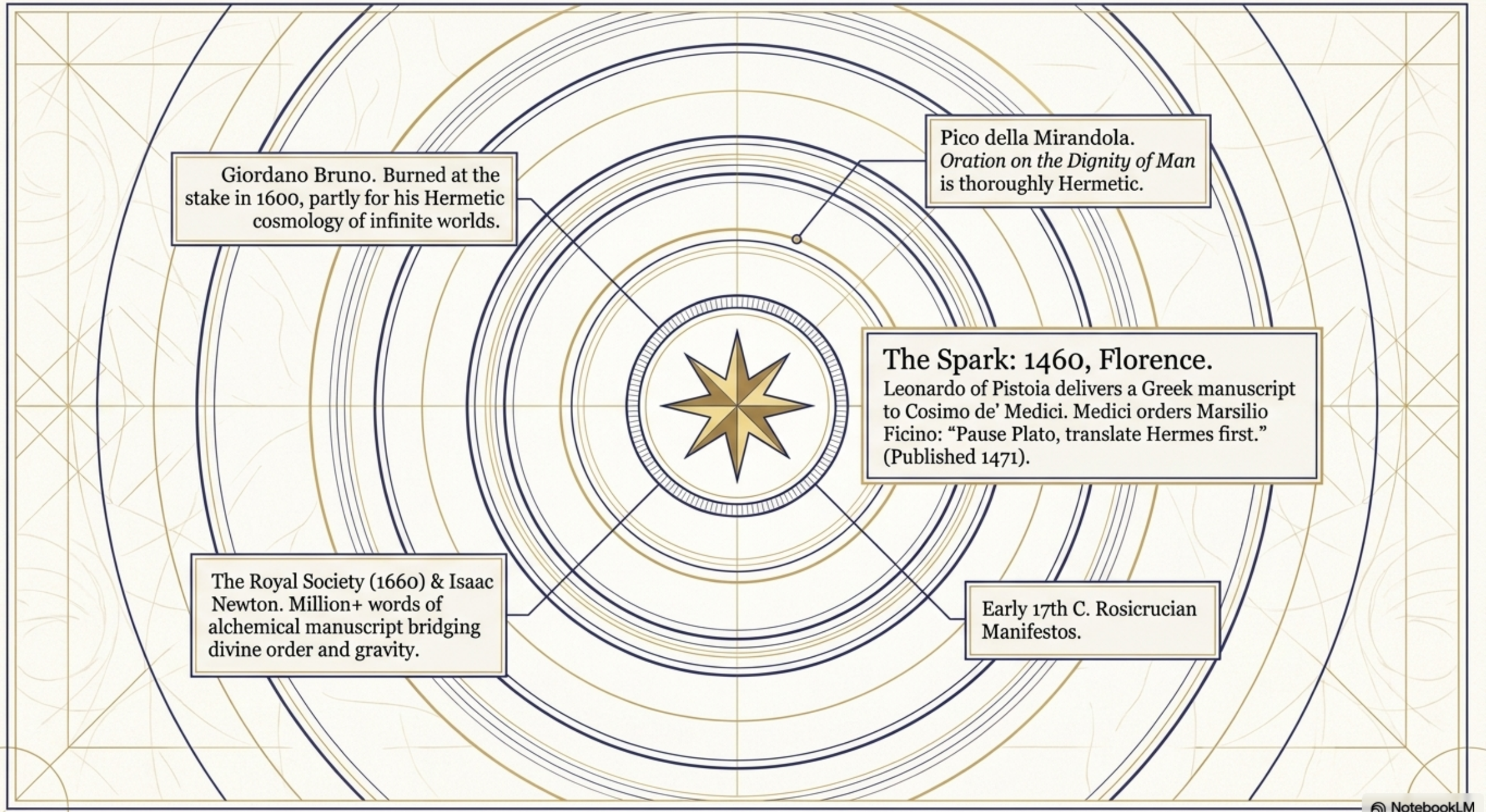
The Reality:
1st and 2nd Century CE Koine Greek.
A Greco-Roman fusion text.

Casaubon didn't destroy the tradition; he upgraded it. The texts represent a vivid, philosophically rich collision of Egyptian, Greek, Jewish, and Christian ideas in late antiquity.

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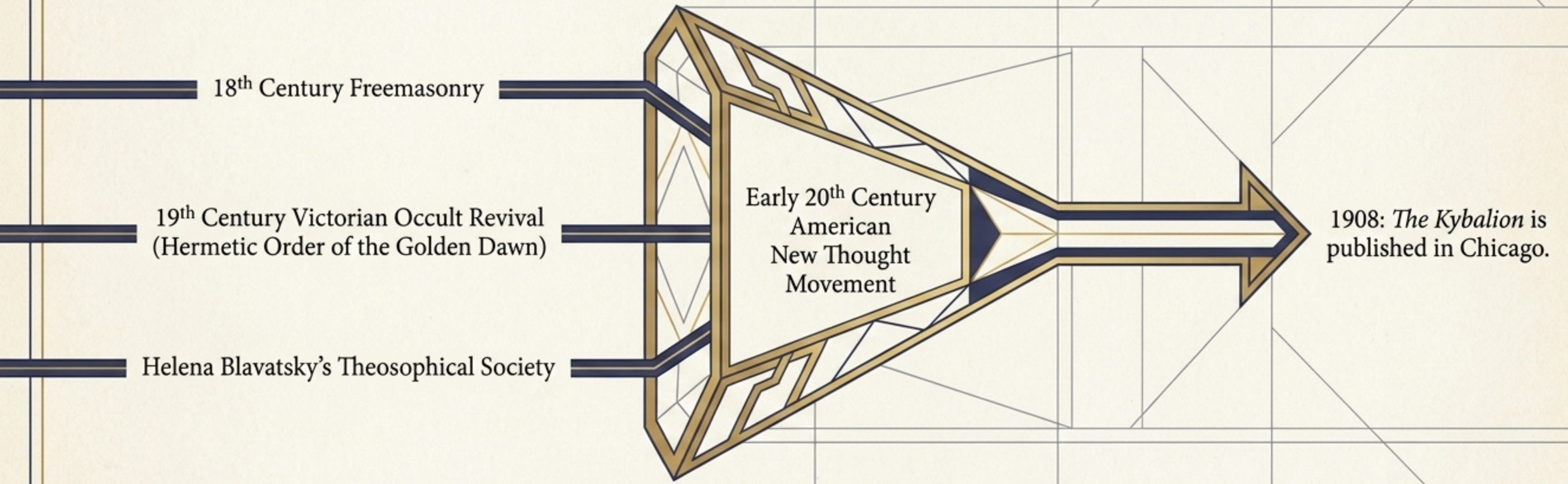

Step 5: 17th C. English
Isaac Newton's private translation
Step 4: 1541 Vulgate
Chrysogonus Polydorus's Nuremberg edition
Step 3: 12th C. Latin
Plato of Tivoli translation, Barcelona, 1134-1145.
Step 2: 8th-10th C. Arabic
Book of the Secret of Creation. Legends of discovery under a statue of Hermes.
Step 1: Greek / Syriac
Alexandrian Origins, likely contemporary with the *Corpus*
That which is below is like that which is above... to accomplish the miracle of the one thing.

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Giordano Bruno. Burned at the stake in 1600, partly for his Hermetic cosmology of infinite worlds.
Pico della Mirandola. *Oration on the Dignity of Man* is thoroughly Hermetic.
The Spark: 1460, Florence.
Leonardo of Pistoia delivers a Greek manuscript to Cosimo de' Medici. Medici orders Marsilio Ficino: "Pause Plato, translate Hermes first." (Published 1471).
The Royal Society (1660) & Isaac Newton. Million+ words of alchemical manuscript bridging divine order and gravity.
Early 17th C. Rosicrucian Manifestos.

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The Post-Casaubon Adaptation



The tradition survived by adapting—trading late antiquity theology for modern esoteric psychology.

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The Legend

Authored by “The Three Initiates”.

Quotes a mysterious, lost ancient text called the “Kybalion”.

The Reality

Published 1908, Yogi Publication Society (Chicago).

Solely authored by William Walker Atkinson.

- Matches his prolific output and literary style.
- Aligns with his publication practices.
- Fits his habit of using multiple pseudonyms.
- Follow-up volume (The Seven Cosmic Laws, 1932) rehashed the material.

The word “Kybalion” appears in no historical Hermetic source.
It is a 20th-century synthesis—a distillation, not an ancient relic.

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	Authentic Hermetica *(Corpus Hermeticum)*	The Modern Synthesis *(The Kybalion)*
Origin	Greco-Roman Egypt (100–300 CE)	Chicago, USA (1908)
Authorship	Anonymous Hellenistic philosophers fusing Greek/Egyptian thought	William Walker Atkinson (American New Thought)
Historical Context	Late Antiquity religious ferment	20th-century Western esoteric currents
Core Focus	Theology, reverence for the divine, and spiritual union	Individual “mental transmutation” and pedagogical frameworks

We read the Corpus for the original current.
We use the Kybalion for its efficient modern pedagogical structure.

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The Seven Principles: A Map, Not a Mastery

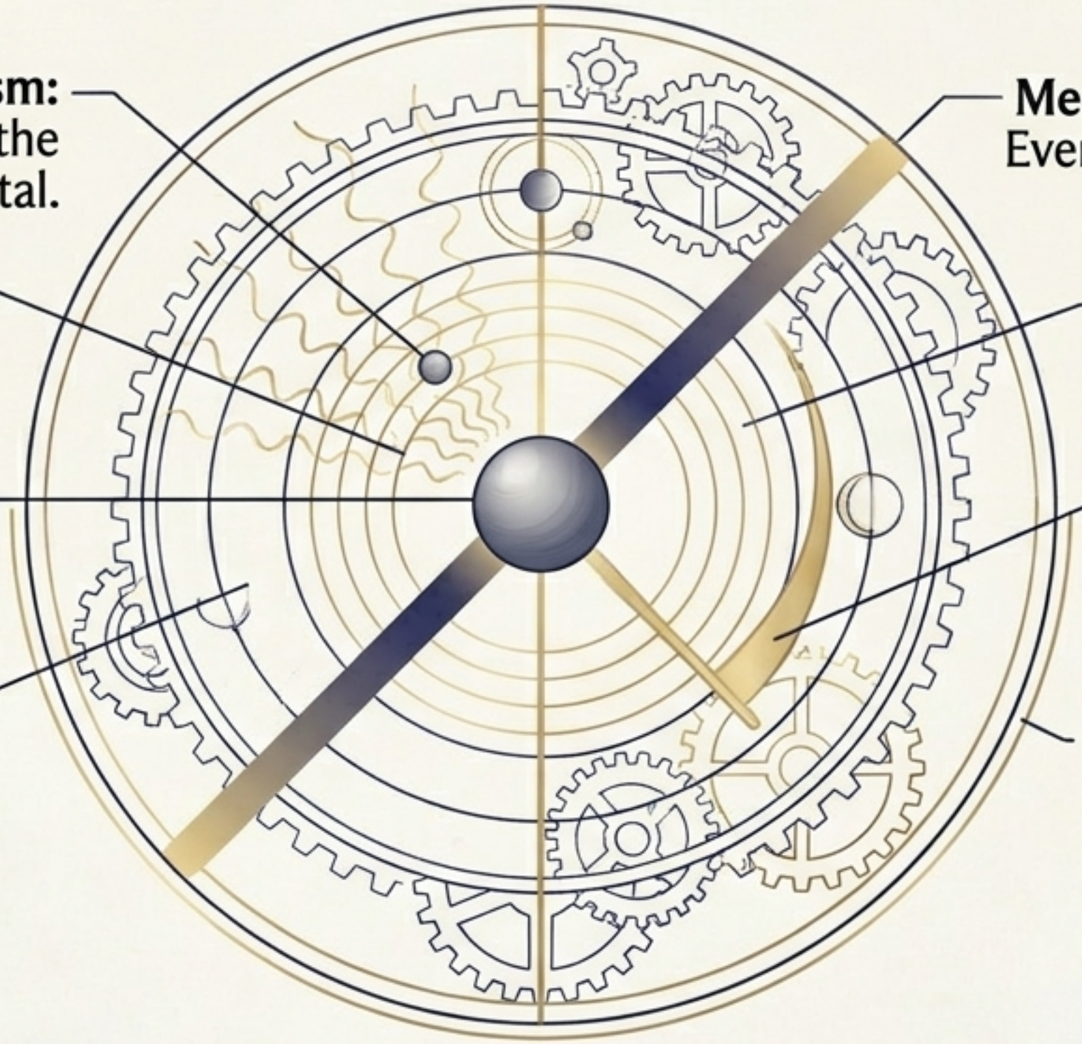
Simply notice them as an interconnected system.

Mentalism: The All is Mind; the Universe is Mental.

Correspondence: As above, so below.

Polarity: Everything is dual; opposites are identical in nature.

Gender: Everything has its Masculine and Feminine Principles.



Mentalism: The All is Every cause has its effect.

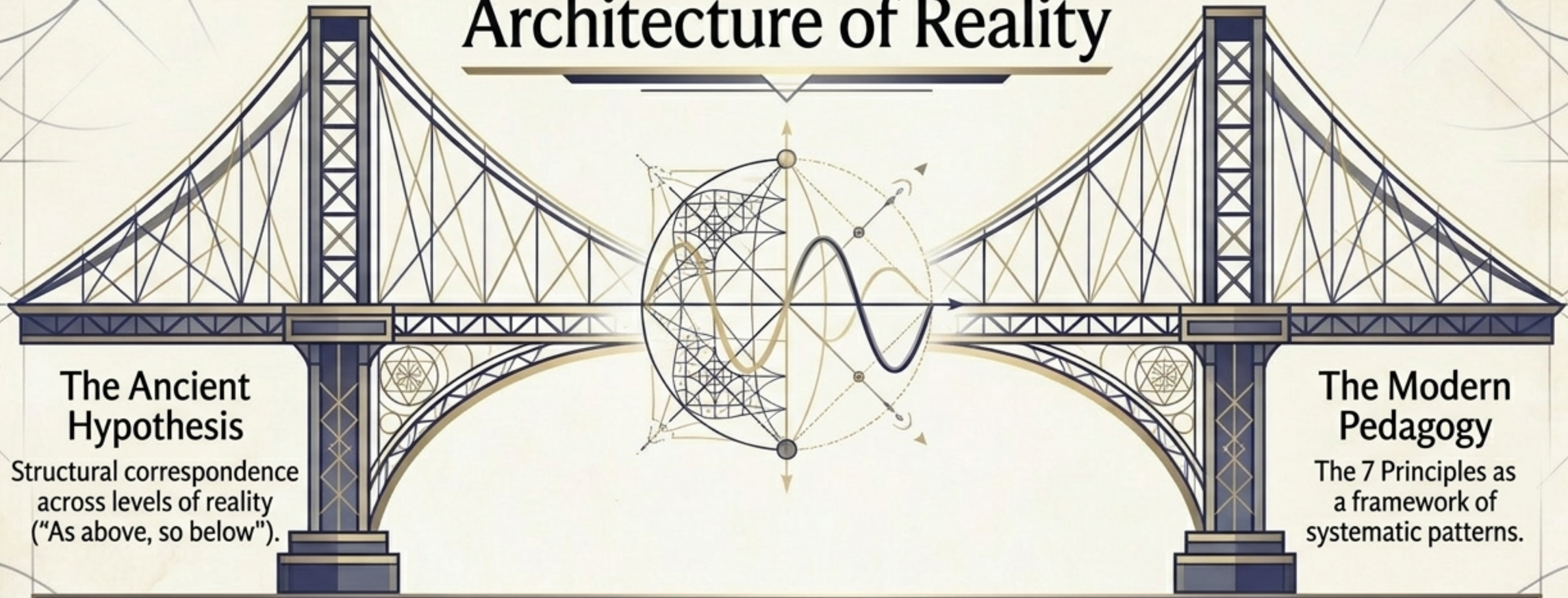
Vibration: Nothing rests; everything vibrates.

Rhythm: The pendulum-swing manifests in everything.

Gender: Everything has its Masculine and Feminine Principles.

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The Enduring Architecture of Reality



The Ancient Hypothesis

Structural correspondence across levels of reality ("As above, so below").

The Modern Pedagogy

The 7 Principles as a framework of systematic patterns.

These texts are not merely religious dogma or historical curiosities. From the alchemists to Isaac Newton to modern seekers, they represent an ongoing hypothesis about the structural nature of the cosmos. The ultimate question remains: Are these principles poetic metaphors, or the deepest statement about reality itself?

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