



# TEMPLE of THOTH-MAAT

## Paper VI: Source of the Elements in Metaphysics

Edited by Fr. T K

All of the symbols, religious beliefs, mystical systems, and philosophical ideas of mankind were the products of the minds of men and women in their efforts to explain the known and unknown worlds. Sometimes we find the records that reveal the sources of some of these.

### The Elements And The Beings Which Inhabit The Elemental Planes

#### 0582 PYTHAGORAS IS BORN.

Pythagoras of Samos, an Ionian Greek (0582-0507 BCE), was the first to deduce that the earth is round. He gave us the Pythagorean Theorems. The first to use the Greek word “Cosmos” to denote an orderly universe as opposed to a Chaotic universe.

He identified the five perfect solids, the first four belonging to the elements and the fifth with the “heavenly substance”. The fifth was a solid of 12 pentagons and this was dangerous knowledge and kept secret (along with other knowledge) from the masses (This was the source of the term “quintessence”).

He believed that the Earth (material world) was tainted, that the heavens were divine. That the world had a mystical existence unseen by mankind. That Empirical science was an abomination. That the world was knowable through Philosophy and Mathematics, but that this knowledge was the sole property of the elite and not to be revealed to others. “Cosmos” p.p. 184-185

#### 0384 ARISTOTLE IS BORN.

Aristotle, a Greek philosopher (0384-0322 BCE), believed that the Earth (material world) was tainted, that the heavens were divine. That knowledge was the sole property of the elite and not to be revealed to others. “Cosmos” p.p. 187 He also was the teacher of Alexander and his friend Ptolemy. He wrote with intelligence on many subjects and proposed numerous new ideas on philosophy, nature, mankind, the Universe, medicine, physics and metaphysics.

He taught that matter was endowed with the four fundamental properties of metals, cold, hot, dry, and wet. That these properties combined to create the elements Fire (hot and dry), Water (cold and moist), Air (hot and moist), and Earth (cold and dry).

He declared that the heart, not the brain (Alcmaeon 0582 BCE), is the seat of the intellect.

## 1493 **PARACELSUS IS BORN.**

Philippus Aureolus Paracelsus, born Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenhiem (He called himself “Paracelsus” because he saw himself as superior to the 1<sup>st</sup>-century medical author Celsus) (1493-1541 CE), a Swiss alchemist and physician, started the new school of alchemy that looks within the practitioner for the ‘secret subject’ and goal of alchemy, and the first to see Alchemy as a tool of medicine.

He postulated that ‘Mercury’ (Spirit), ‘Sulfur’ (Soul), and ‘Salt’ (Material existence) form the trinity in every substance, and that Aristotle’s “elements” are the four states (solid, liquid, gaseous, and radiant or etheric) in which matter is revealed to our senses.

He believed each of the four elements was of two natures.

1. A subtle vaporous principle (elemental essences).
2. A gross corporeal substance (the four elements).

He believed that there are two kinds of “flesh”.

1. Corporeal, inherited from Adam.
2. Non-corporeal, tenuous, not subject to corporeal limitations.

This is the substance of “elemental” flesh and bone.

Where Aristotle declared that all matter is made of the four elements (Fire, Water, Air, and Earth), Paracelsus advanced the belief that the subtle vaporous (etheric) natures of the Elements are worlds inhabited by Elemental life forms composed of Non-corporeal flesh. These “Elementals” are composed solely of their respective “Elemental Essence”; whereas man is composed of several natures (Spirit, Soul, Mind, and Body). Matter in the corporeal world is always composed of varying proportions of the four gross “Elements”.

The etheric life forms or Elementals he named Salamanders for Element Fire, Sylphs for Element Air, Gnomes for Element Earth, and Undines for Element Water. They inhabit the plane between our world and the Spiritual world of Angels, Archangels etc., live invisible to our normal senses, and their world is concurrent with ours.

He also taught that there is a fifth element (Quinta Essentia) that permeates the other four. The Quinta Essentia is the life spirit of things while the Quinta Vitae is the life spirit of man.

Carbon (earth), oxygen (air), nitrogen (fire) and hydrogen (water) are the constituents of “Protoplasm”.

The Elementals were called “Daemons” by the Greeks.

“Secret Teachings of All Ages” p.p. CV-CVIII, and “Paracelsus Selected Writings” p.p. 14,19, 145-148, 219, 253