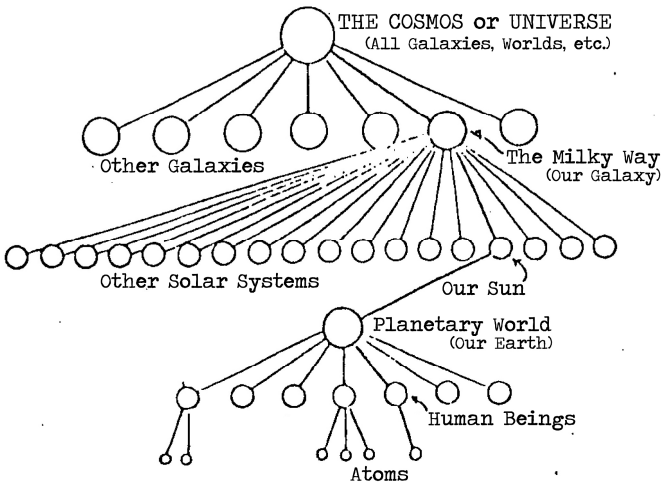
The Mystery Religions of the Ancients

http://www.GnosticStudies.org/Mysteries

Part 2 – Egyptian Mysteries (Supplement)

The Descent of the Central Fire (or Sacred Fire) into Matter



Explanation According to the Ancient's Philosophy	Corresponding Hindu Explanation
1) Universal Spirit (Infinite Space and the Primordial Matter)	1) Mulaprakriti
2) Igneous Radiation of the Primordial Matter (Sound)	2) Akash, Akasha or Akasa
3) Ether	3) Prana (or Waves of Akash)
4) Fire	4) Tejas (Tehas) Tattva
5) Air	5) Vayu Tattva
6) Water	6) Apas Tattva
7) Earth	7) Prithvi Tattva

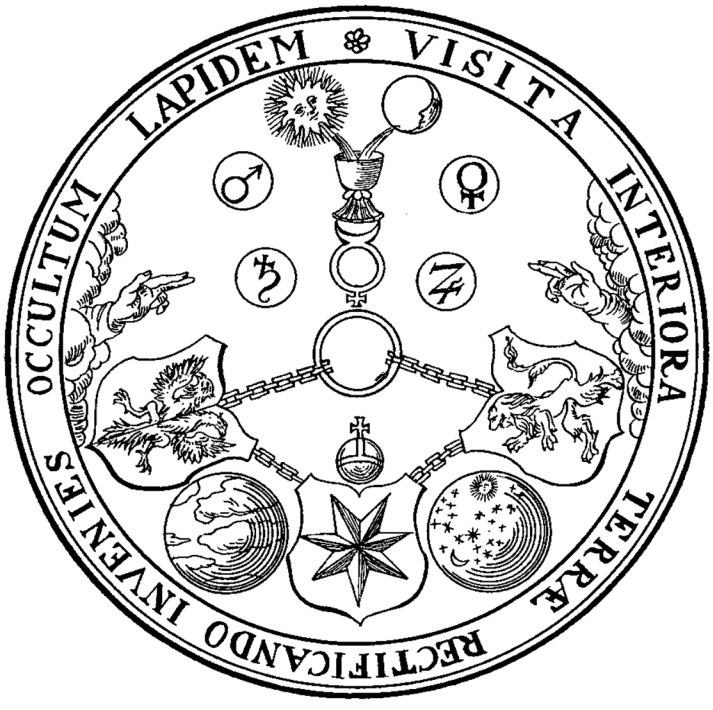
The Alchemical VITRIOL (or V.I.T.R.I.O.L.)

The above word is acrostic, being derived from the Latin phrase:

"*Visita Interiora Terrae Rectificando Invenies Ocultum Lapidem*"

(Visit the Interior of our Earth, and by Rectifying it you will Find the Hidden Stone).





The First Three Stages of the Mysteries in other Cultures

From different Mystery Schools of the European world:

Stage or Class	Pythagorean	Druids/Gallic	Scandinavian
3rd	Mourehimite	Vacies	Elect
2nd	Myste	Bardes	Mysthe
1st	Epopte	Cubages	Epopte

From different Mystery Schools of the Middle Eastern and North African world:

Stage or Class	Chaldean	Zoroastrian	Ancient Egyptian
3rd	Temple of Neschirites (Beauty)	Perfect Magus	Melanephoris
2nd	Temple of Heberimites (Strength)	Elect	Neocoris
1st	Temple of Thalmedinites (Wisdom)	Believer	Pastophris

(The above information if from p.273-441 of *Le Rameau d'Or d'Éleusis* (1862) by E.J. Marconis de Nègre)

Conclusion

The Philosophy of the Ancients was symbolic of internal processes that must be understood in context. The Egyptian Mysteries, like most ancient systems, had 3 stages and each stage built upon the knowledge and symbols of the previous stage: having the goal of 'divesting matter of its impurities'. In the final stage the Initiate was symbolically killed but is then brought back to life.

We can find the key to understanding the Egyptian Mysteries if we study their Mythology. To take the Legend of the Death of Osiris (or any Mythology) literally is to misunderstand its meaning and purpose, but through an analysis of its symbols, we can start to see pieces of an Esoteric Philosophy that will reemerge again and again throughout the Mysteries.

The Egyptian Initiate Hermes taught the descent of Spirit into Matter through the Esoteric Symbolism of the 'Chain of Gold', and that Matter can re-ascend towards the Superior Worlds. All of this was symbolized by the **X** for the disciples of Hermes (and then later as the 'Star of David' by the Hebrews). The keys to the Esoteric Philosophy of the Ancient are found within, by applying the Esoteric Teachings to ourselves.