Gnostic Chemistry & Cosmology – Notes 6 (Supplement)

http://www.GnosticStudies.org/ChemistryCosmology/

The Four Stars of the New Science

The following 4 stars, taken from the writings of Éliphas Lévi, are translated here into English. In one of his letters (#42) from Friday March 7th, 1862 to his student Baron Spédalieri[1], he explains:



> "The formula of the Absolute ... is found, with its complement, at the head of my *History of Magic*, in that star[2] which affirms the existence of truth, of reality, of reason, and of justice, in a manner also incontestable with that of being.
>
> This formula ... is not my property any more than it is yours. Great fundamental truths belong to the whole world.
>
> This formula is simple like childhood and deep like the old age of the ancient of days.
>
> Add to that the stars which are in the *Key to the Great Mysteries*.
>
> Reunite, deduce, compare and you will have all of the new science."

Clearly Lévi considered these stars to be the summary of this doctrine and so we present them here so that they can be studied together.

The words in parentheses on the 'Pentagram of the Absolute' (the first star) are from the first chapter of Book 2 of the *Key to the Great Mysteries* (previously translated as *The Key of the Mysteries*) and those in brackets on the 'Red Star' (the fourth star) are an attempt to explain the rays coming from the angles of the star.

The originals are available side by side with the English translations in *The Reconciliation of Science and Religion* from Daath Gnosis Publishing[3], which is the first English translation of Lévi's 'Preliminary Discourse' to the second edition of his two volume series *Dogma and Ritual of High Magic*[4] (previously translated as *Transcendental Magic*). He mentions this 'Preliminary Discourse' in this same letter (#42) where he says:

> "My preliminary discourse to the second edition of *Dogma and Ritual* summarizes and clarifies the principle ideas of the Messianists[5] who have preceded me"

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[1] These letters have been translated in *The Kabalistic and Occult Philosophy of Eliphas Levi - Volume 1: Letters to Students* which is available here: http://www.lulu.com/shop/eliphas-levi-and-daath-gnosis/the-kabalistic-and-occult-philosophy-of-eliphas-levi-volume-1-letters-to-students/paperback/product-23544160.html

[2] This is the first star, called "The Pentagram of the Absolute"

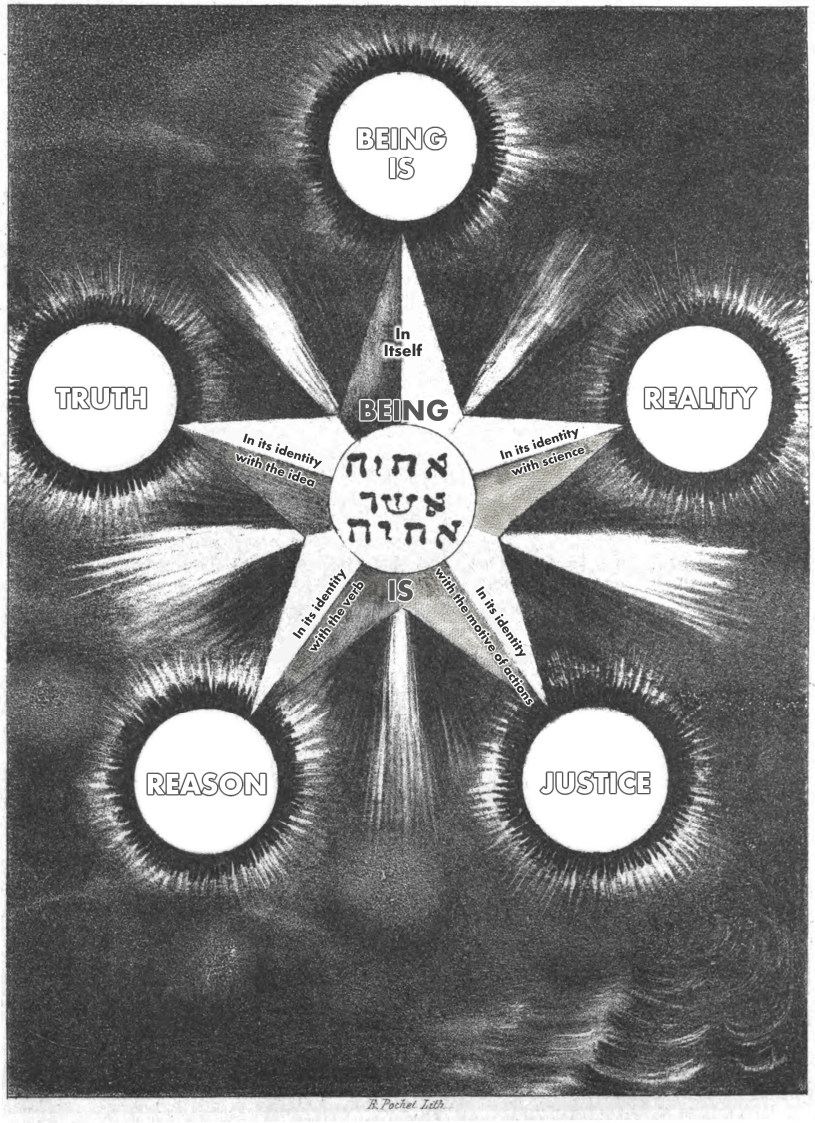
[3] This book is available here: http://www.lulu.com/shop/eliphas-levi-and-daath-gnosis/the-reconciliation-of-science-and-religion-eliphas-levis-discourse-on-gnostic-kabalah-the-human-verb-the-divine-verb-and-the-divine-humanity/paperback/product-21988651.html

[4] This first volume, *Dogma of High Magic*, is available here: http://www.lulu.com/shop/eliphas-levi-and-daath-gnosis/dogma-of-high-magic/paperback/product-23360930.html and includes the 'Preliminary Discourse'.

[5] Messianist are those who practice Messianism. Messianism is the belief in a messiah, a savior or redeemer. Many cultures and religions have a messiah concept, including the Jewish Messiah, the Christian Christ, the Muslim Mahdi, the Buddhist Maitreya, the Hindu Kalki and the Zoroastrian Saoshyant, etc.

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Pl. I



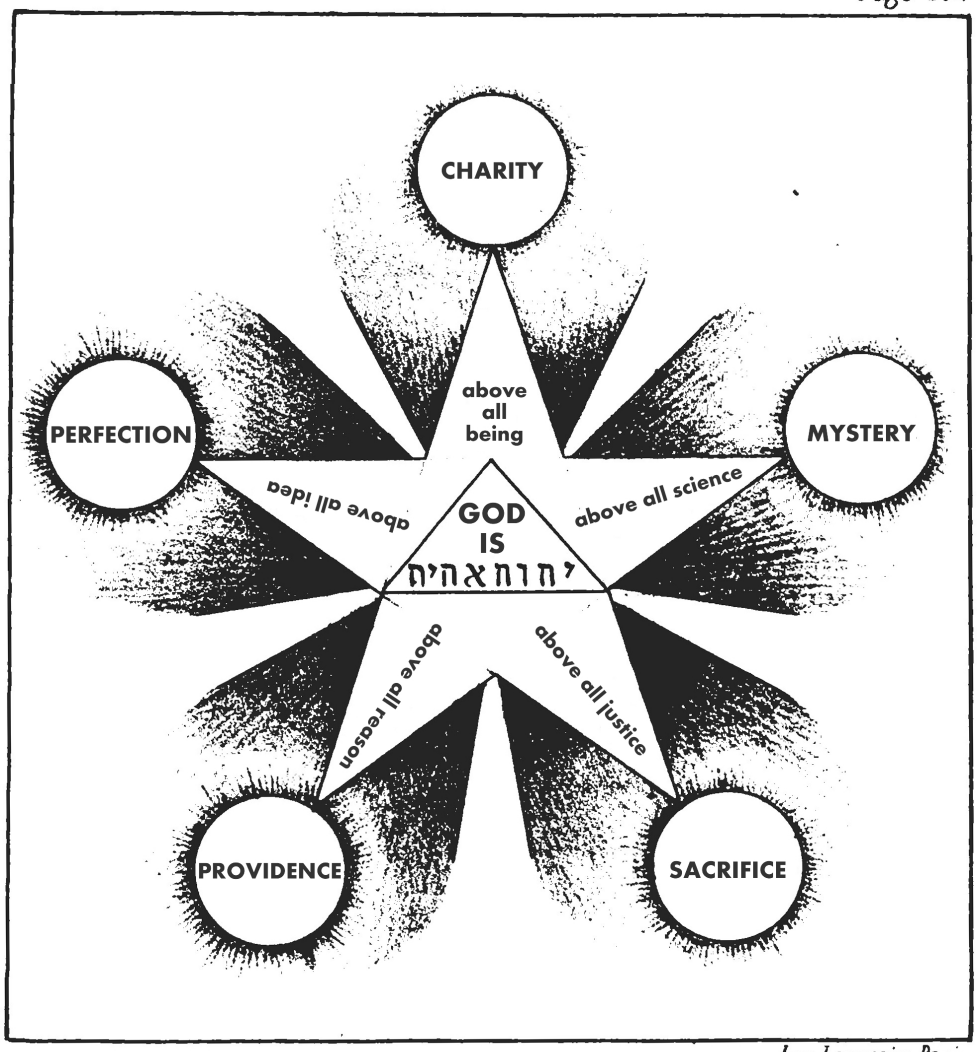
THE PENTAGRAM OF THE ABSOLUTE

BEING IS: BEING in itself[6]
(Man comes to the absolute idea of being through two paths, experience and hypothesis... Experience is science, and hypothesis is faith. True science necessarily admits faith; true faith necessarily [keeps] account scientifically.)
BEING IS: REALITY in its identity with science
(Reality is the science of truth)
BEING IS: JUSTICE in its identity with the motive of actions
(Justice is the practice of reason)
BEING IS: REASON in its identity with the verb
(Reason is the verb of reality)
BEING IS: TRUTH in its identity with the idea
(Truth is the idea [which is] identical with being.)

[6] Note: In Ch.1 of *The Bible of Liberty* (1841), Levi says "God is Being."

First pentacle, the white star.

Page 312



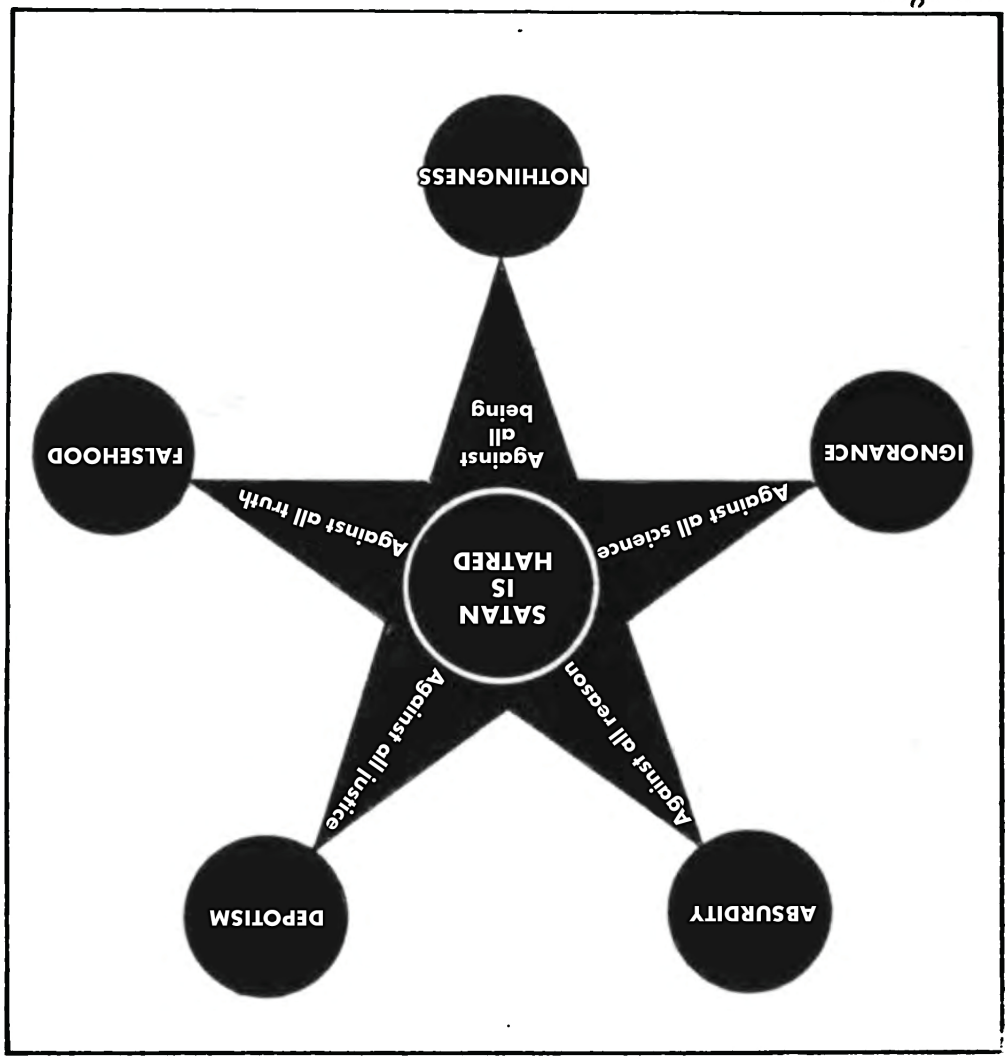
The star of the three magi

GOD IS: CHARITY above all being
GOD IS: MYSTERY above all science
GOD IS: SACRIFICE above all justice
GOD IS: PROVIDENCE[7] above all reason
GOD IS: PERFECTION above all idea

[7] Providence means a manifestation of divine care or direction. The foreseeing care and guidance of God, especially when conceived as omnisciently directing the universe and the affairs of humankind with wise benevolence.

Second pentacle, the black star.

Page 312



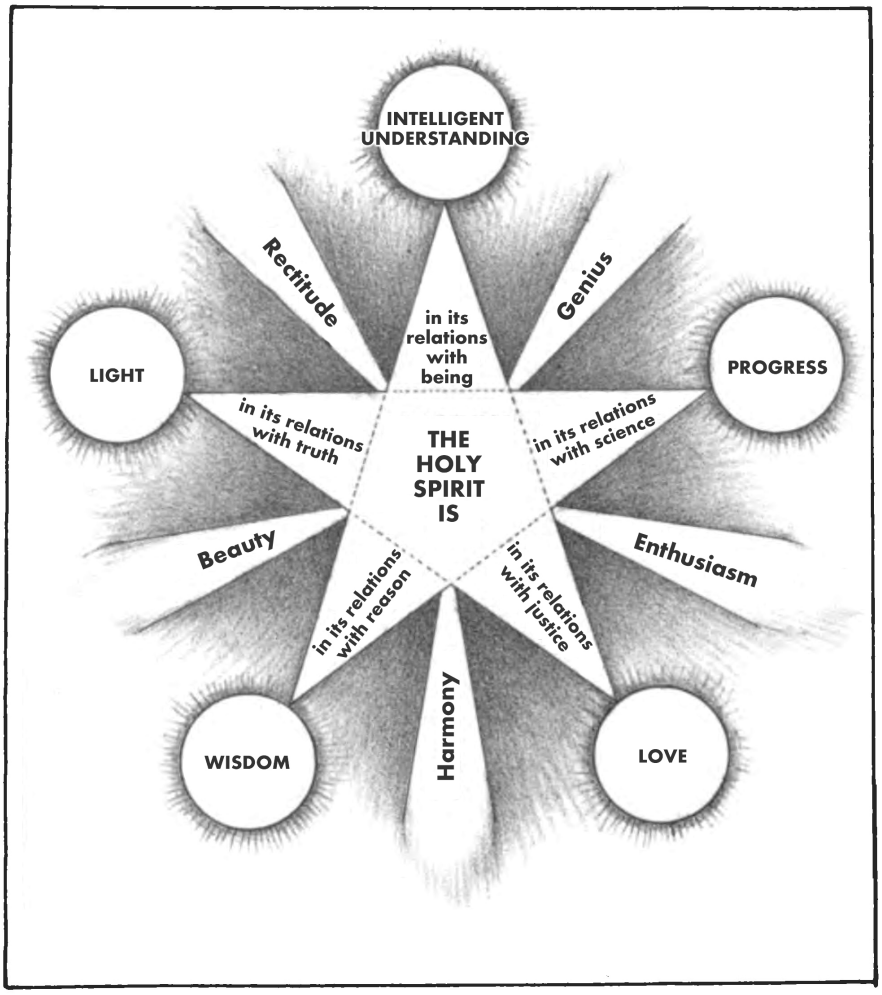
The evil star

SATAN IS HATRED: Against all beings, NOTHINGNESS.
SATAN IS HATRED: Against all science, IGNORANCE.
SATAN IS HATRED: Against all reason, ABSURDITY.
SATAN IS HATRED: Against all justice, DESPOTISM[8].
SATAN IS HATRED: Against all truth, FALSHOOD.

[8] Despotism means the rule of a tyrant or oppressor; the exercise of absolute authority. Absolute power or control; tyranny.

Third pentacle, the red star.

Page 312



Pentagram of the divine Paraclete

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS: [INTELLIGENCE or] INTELLIGENT UNDERSTANDING
in its relations with being.
(Genius [unites Intelligence and Progress])
THE HOLY SPIRIT IS: PROGRESS in its relations with science.
(Enthusiasm [unites Progress and Love])
THE HOLY SPIRIT IS: LOVE in its relations with reason.
(Harmony [unites Love and Wisdom])
THE HOLY SPIRIT IS: WISDOM in its relations with justice.
(Beauty [unites Wisdom and Light])
THE HOLY SPIRIT IS: LIGHT in its relations with truth.
(Rectitude[9] [unites Light and Intelligence/Intelligent Understanding])

[9] Rectitude means rightness of principle or conduct; moral virtue; correctness.