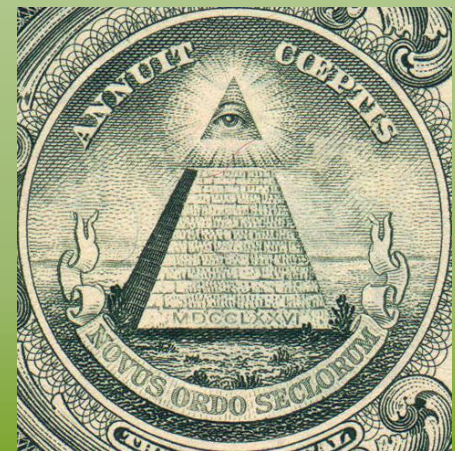




Tracking the Ancient Mysteries from Egypt to the Founding of America

Lecture 3: Greece

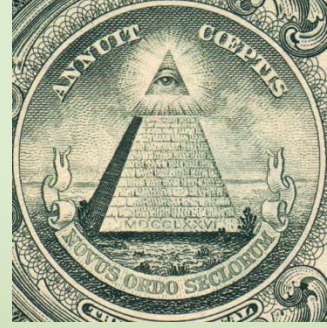


Outline



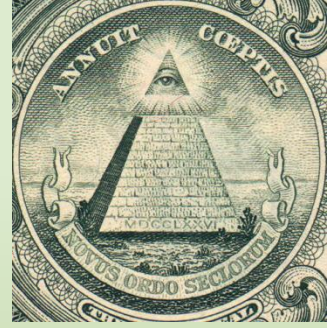
- **Lectures 1 – 5:** Conceptual foundations, Egypt, Greece, The Temple Legend, Vanishing of the Mysteries
- **Lectures 6 – 10:** Early Christian Mysteries, Faith versus Knowledge, Charlemagne, Knights Templars, Cathars, Rosicrucians
- **Lectures 11 – 15:** Renaissance, Leonardo, Founding of America, Freemasonry, Mysteries for the Future

3 Key Insights Tonight



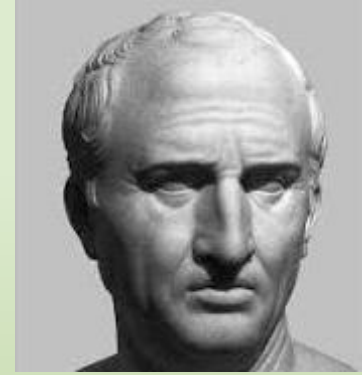
1. Understanding Greek Mythology
2. Meaning of Greek Art
3. Grasping the Philosophies of Pythagoras and Herclitus

Did the Mysteries Exist?



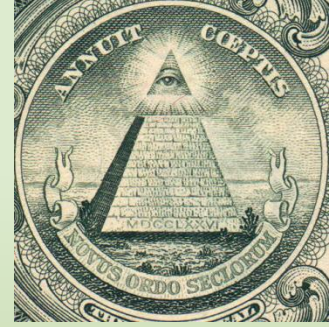
- How do we know what was an oral tradition?
- Plato: "the ultimate design of the Mysteries ... was to lead us back to the principles from which we descended, ... a perfect enjoyment of the spiritually good"
- Mysteries of the Persian e.g. Mithras cult
- Egyptian Mysteries
- Babylonian-Chaldaic Mysteries
- Mysteries of the Near East
- **Greece:** the Eleusinia, Delphi, Athens, Orphic, ...
- Fading of the Gods - Alexander

Cicero (106 BC – 43 BC)



- Roman philosopher, politician, lawyer, orator, political theorist, consul, and constitutionalist
- “For among the many excellent and indeed divine institutions which your Athens has brought forth and contributed to human life, **none, in my opinion, is better than its Mysteries.** For by their means we have been brought out of our barbarous and savage mode of life and educated and refined to a state of civilization; and as the rites are called "initiations," so in very truth we have learned from them the beginnings of life, and have gained the power not only to live happily, but also to die with a better hope.” — Laws II, xiv, 36

The Mysteries



- The Mysteries were a **secret wisdom** in all societies
 - This “secret” existed side by side with the local religion
 - It shed light upon the highest questions. The sages of these peoples speak of the Mysteries with the greatest reverence
 - What was concealed in them? What did they reveal?
 - This spiritual eye allows us to see what the material eye sees, but in a higher light. Those initiated are in the position of a man who can see and who imparts his visual impressions to one born blind.
- Mysteries seen as something **dangerous**.
 - The way leading to the secrets of existence went through a world of terrors. And woe to him who tried to reach them unworthily
- There was no greater crime than the “**betrayal**” of these secrets to the uninitiated. The “traitor” was punished with death and confiscation of property.
 - The poet Aeschylus was accused of having brought something from the Mysteries to the stage. He escapes death only by fleeing to the altar of Dionysus and producing legal evidence that he was not an initiate.

Mythology

...

Jason and the Argonauts

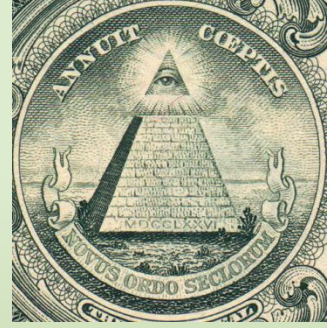
- Iason (E-ah-son)
- He was the son of Aeson, the rightful king of Iolcos.
- He was married to the “sorceress” Medea
- His mother Alcimede sent her son to the centaur Chiron for education
- Quest for the Golden Fleece – *go East*
- Leader of the Argonauts: group of heroes included the Boreads (sons of Boreas, the North Wind) who could fly, Heracles, Philoctetes, Peleus, Telamon, Orpheus, Castor and Pollux, Atalanta, and Euphemus.



Riddle of the Sphinx



- The Sphinx sat outside of Thebes
- She asked a riddle of all travelers
 - If the traveler failed to solve the riddle, then the Sphinx killed him/her
 - If the traveler answered the riddle correctly, then the Sphinx would destroy herself
- The riddle:
 - What goes on four legs in the morning, on two legs at noon, and on three legs in the evening?
- Oedipus solved the riddle so the Sphinx destroyed herself

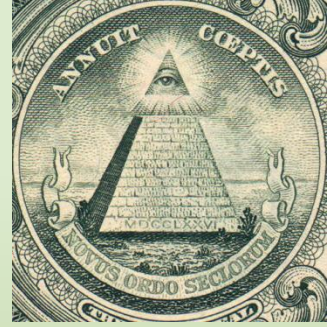


Mythology: Daedalus

- Daedalus attempts to escape his prison, the Labyrinth, in which he was imprisoned at the hands of King Minos of Crete [brain-bound thinker], son of Zeus and Europa.
 - The Labyrinth's original purpose was intended to hold Minotaur [Minos + Taurus] who has a man's body but a bull's head. The defeated Greeks are obliged to send annually 7 male youths and 7 maidens to be fed to Minotaur. Ariadne provides Theseus with a thread to escape the labyrinth after killing Minotaur.
- Daedalus, *the master craftsman*, was imprisoned on the island with his son Icarus because it was he who built the faux cow for the queen [soul] Pasiphae to climb into such that she could copulate with the bull [Taurus].
- Daedalus fashioned a pair of wings for himself and his son, made of feathers and wax. Before they took off from the prison, Daedalus warned his son [future human] to fly neither:
 - Too close to the sun, as the wax would melt, nor
 - Too close to the sea, as the feathers would become sodden

} Duality

Mythology: Daedalus



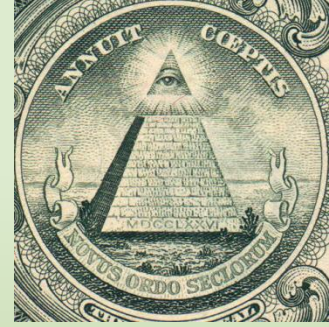
- *'Let me warn you, Icarus, to take the middle way. Travel between the extremes.'*
- Icarus drawn by desire for the heavens flies too close to the sun melting his wings. Icarus' body falls into the sea.
 - Lucifer leaves the body for Ahriman
- Human soul needs wings to cross from the prison of the body to spirit-land

Prometheus



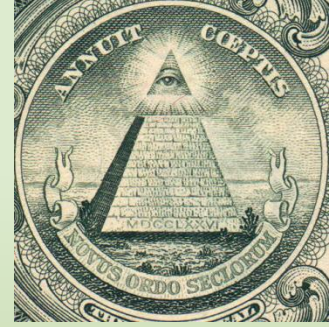
- Prometheus means 'thinking in advance'
- Epimetheus means 'thinking afterwards, reflecting'
- Sons of a Titan, Japetus
 - The Titans are themselves sons of the ancient Greek god Uranus and his wife Gaia. Uranus means 'heaven', and Gaia 'earth'
- Uranus is to the Greeks the same as Varuna to the Indians
- Chronos (Time) usurped the throne of his father Uranus and obtained the rulership for himself
- For this he was in his turn dethroned by his own sons, led by Zeus, and, with all the other Titans, cast into the underworld
- Only Prometheus and his brother Epimetheus remained loyal to Zeus during these events fighting with Zeus against the other Titans

Prometheus



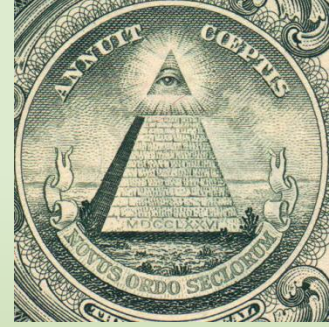
- Zeus had created the human race but humanity had become rebellious, thus Zeus wanted to exterminate it
- Then Prometheus made himself humanity's representative
- He devised a plan to give men the means whereby they could save themselves and no longer be dependent upon the help of Zeus
- Prometheus taught men the use of writing and of the arts, but above all the use of fire
- Because of Zeus's anger, Prometheus was chained to the Caucasus
 - He was forced to endure there much suffering over a long period
- Next the gods, with Zeus at their head, then caused Hephaestus, the god of the smiths, to make a statue of a woman, Pandora
 - Pandora was provided with all those external attributes which adorn human beings of modern times

Prometheus



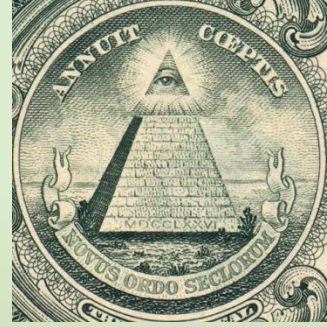
- Pandora was sent to bring gifts to mankind, first to Epimetheus, the brother of Prometheus
- Prometheus warned his brother not to accept the gifts. But Epimetheus was charmed and persuaded
- All these “gifts” of the gods constituted human miseries and sufferings – only the last gift, hope, remained in Pandora's box
- Prometheus was chained to the Caucasus and a vulture gnawed continuously at his liver
- He knows a secret of which even Zeus is ignorant, a secret which Zeus is trying to discover
- Prometheus does not betray the secret, although Zeus sends to him Hermes, the messenger of the gods

Prometheus



- Prometheus can only be freed through the intervention of an initiate
- Such was Hercules, who performed the twelve labors
 - They symbolize the twelve tasks of initiation
 - The execution of these 12 was the achievement of an initiate
- Hercules was an initiate of the Eleusinian Mysteries
- Nevertheless, someone still had to be sacrificed – Chiron the centaur was sacrificed for Prometheus
 - Chiron was already suffering from an incurable malady
 - He was half animal and half man

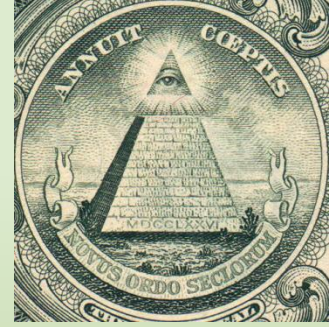
Male – Female in Mythology



- Egyptian: Osiris – Isis – Horace
- Greek: Eleusinian Mysteries
 - Father: radiated the powers of the 7 metals
 - Mother: received the 7, lovingly clothed them in matter
 - Baby: at the breast (Madonna, Isis & Horace)

Greek Art

...

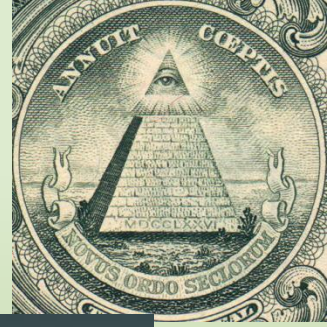


Archaic

- 600 BC
- Cleobis and Biton
- Book 1 of Herodotus' *Histories*, Solon tells the story of Cleobis and Biton to King Croesus
- Cydippe was impressed with their devotion and asked Hera for mortal's gift
- After a feast, the youths lay down in the temple of Hera, slept and never awoke (the same)

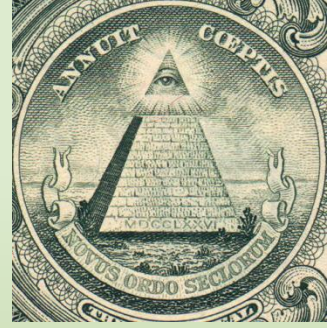


Goddess of Art, Athena

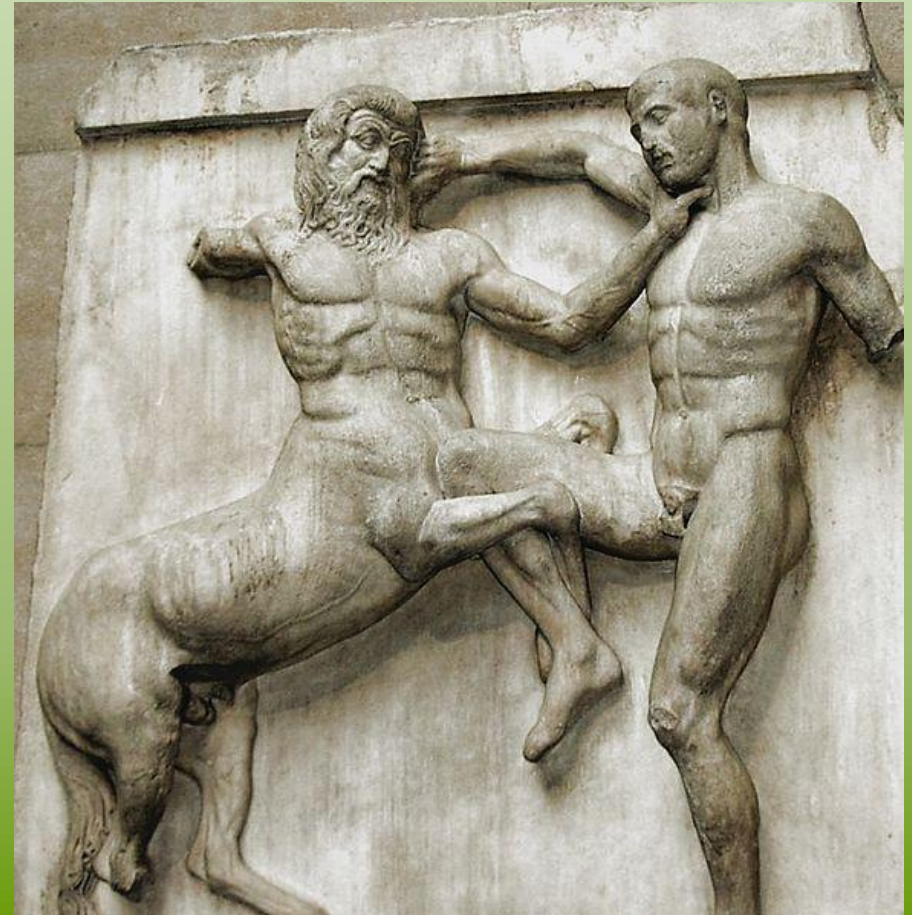


500
BC

Athletes & Warriors

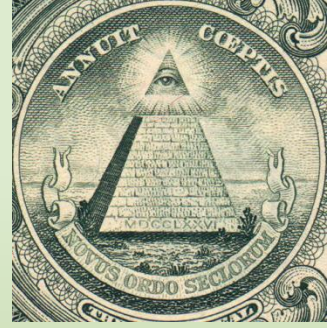


- *Lapith fighting a centaur*
- Parthenon (c.440 BC)



- *The Victorious Youth*
- Bronze (c.300 BC)

Greek Art and Culture



- Human as balance between Heavens and Earth



Discobolos, 480 BC

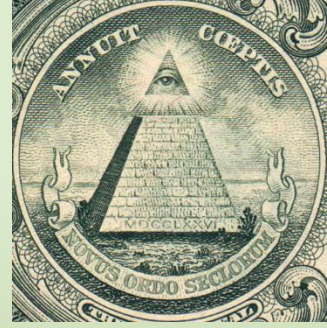


Poseidon, 460 BC



Aphrodite, 100 BC

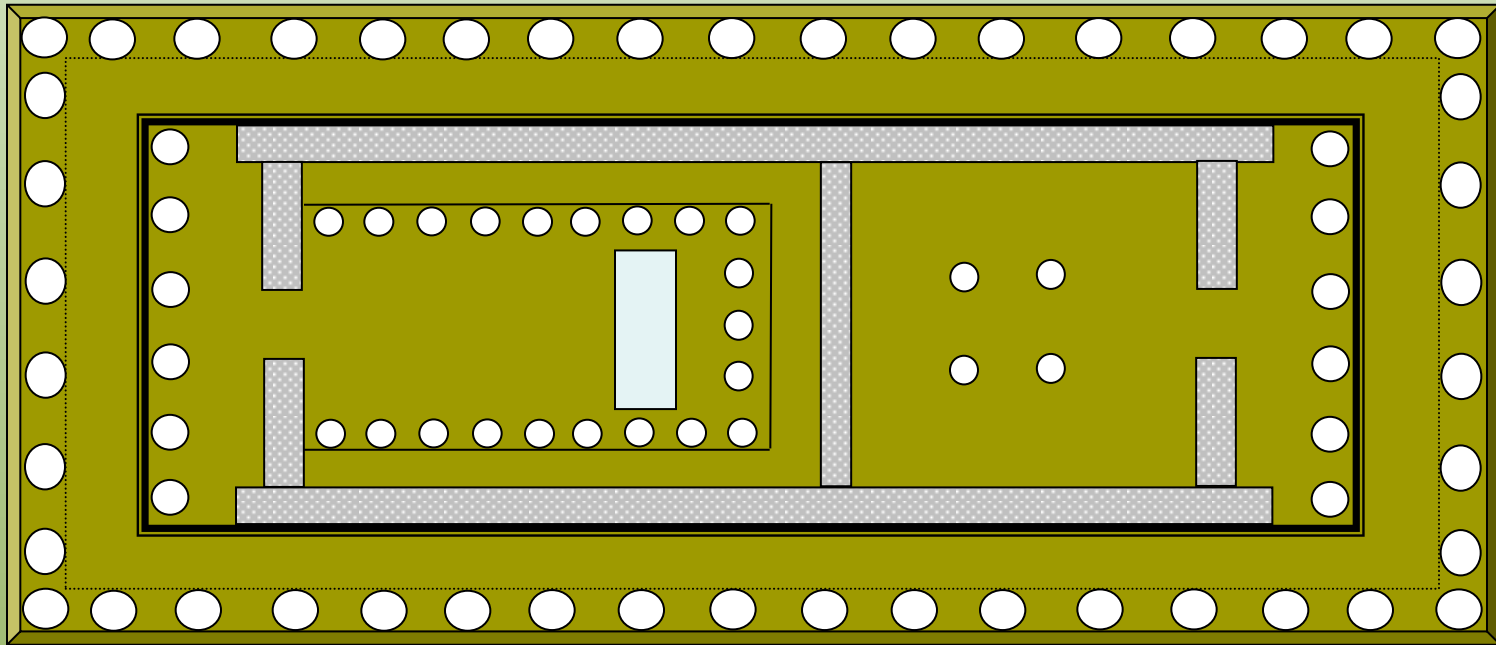
Greek Temples and Art



- Marriage of spirit and matter
- Sculpture: Imprint of spirit on matter
- Conquered matter without losing the spirit
- Was this for satisfaction of bodily desires/needs?
- Temple: a place where the god could dwell

Floor Plan of the Parthenon

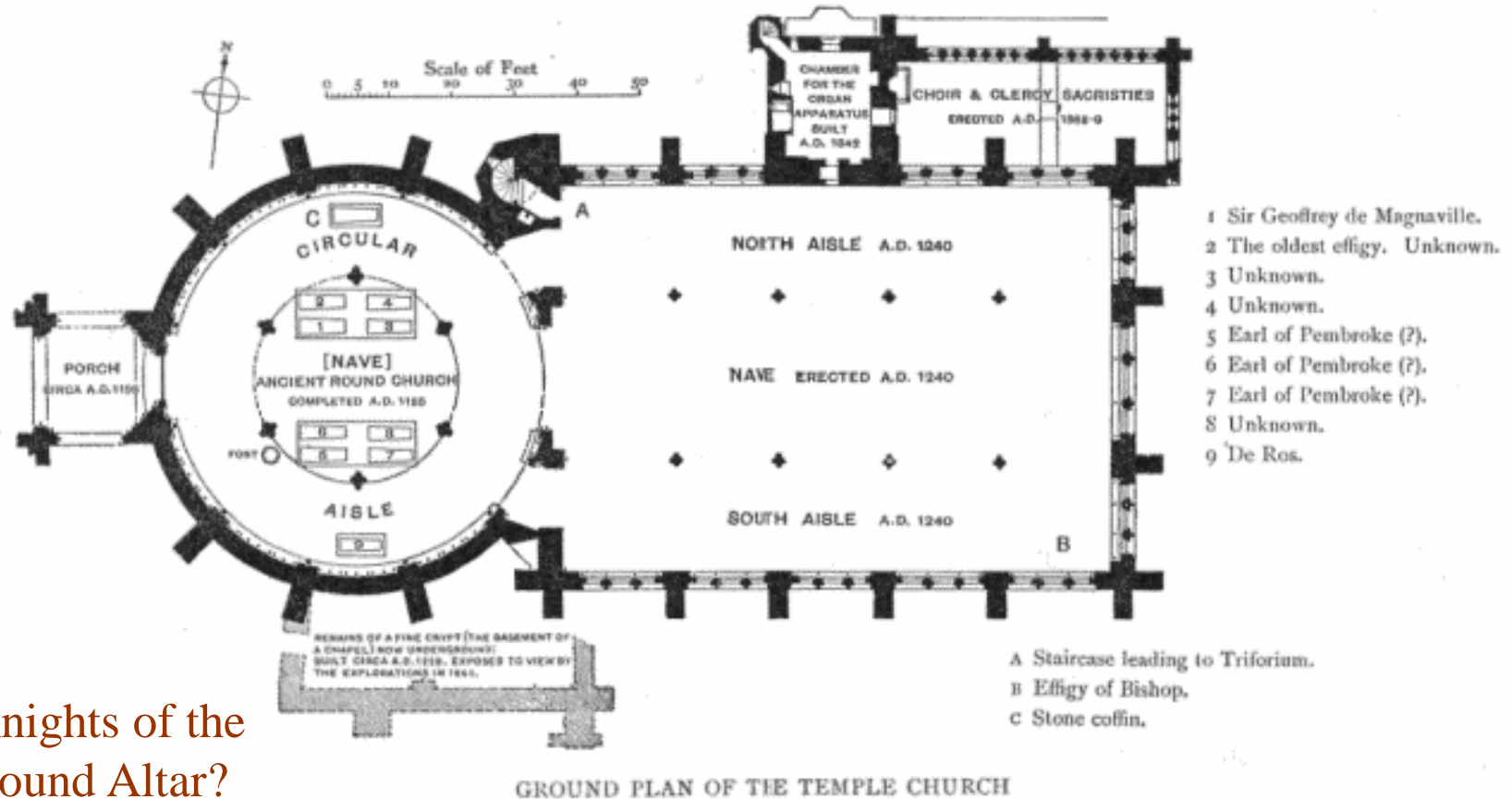
Divine image of Pallas Athena (or other gods) “builds” the temple around herself



Open structure because the Divine is “out there” and comes in to an inner place
The harmonies of the pillars and walls fit with those of the divinity

Templar Architecture

Does the entire structure express what the structure is meant to serve?

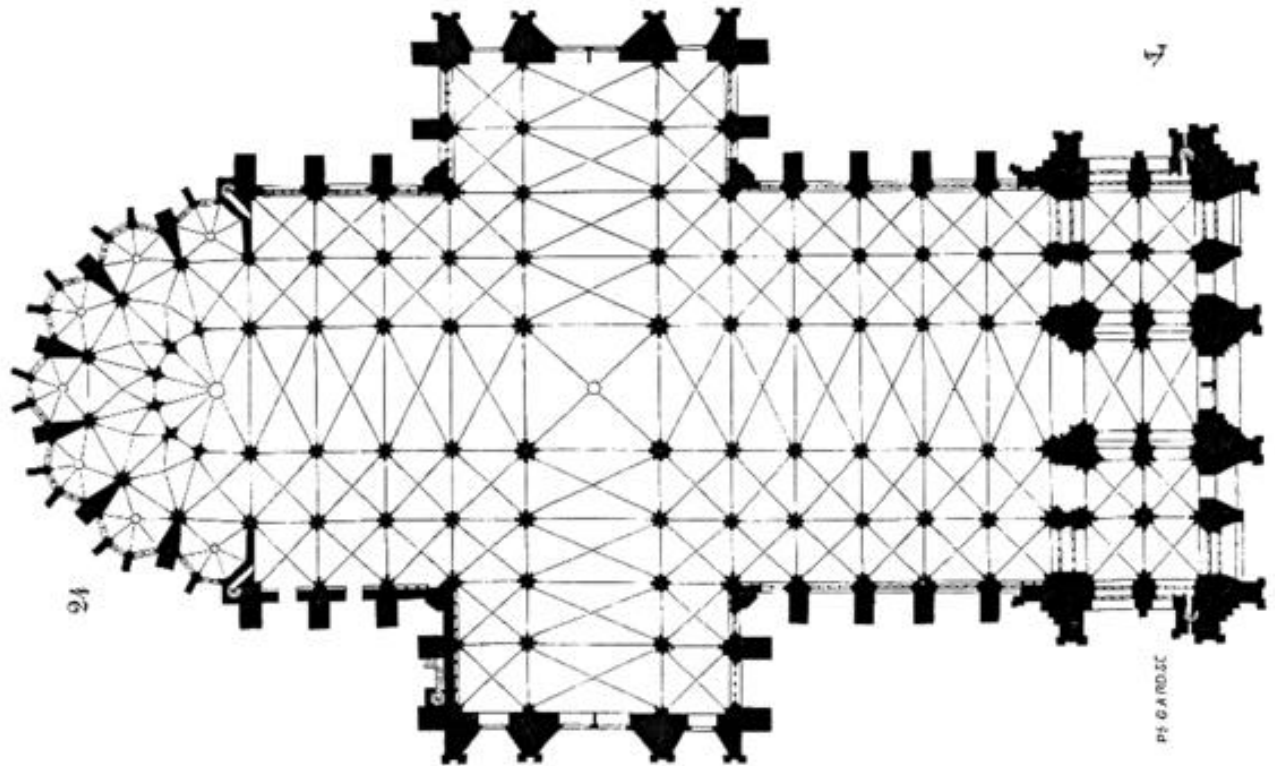


Knights of the
Round Altar?

Gothic: Cologne Cathedral floorplan

Floor plan
becomes the
Human Being

Congregation
within walls



Philosophy

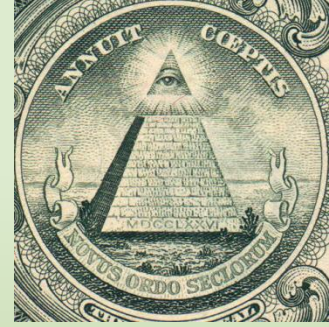
when does it arrive?

...

“Immortals take on mortality, mortals immortality;
death is the eternal life of mortals, earthly life the death of immortals.”

Heraclitus

Atlantis? Taoism?



- Taoism in China, fragment known as *The Classic of Purity*.
- Essence of a philosophical system later known as Taoism, whose last historical exponent was Lao Tse in the fifth century B.C.
- The scribe Ko Hsuan says of this work: “ I got from the Divine Ruler of the eastern Hwa; he received it from the Divine Ruler of the Golden Gate; he received it from the Royal Mother of the West”.
 - Texts of Taoism, translated by James Legge, Vol. 40, Sacred Books of the East.
- The treatise expounds the mystery of the Tao, “the Way” the Heart of all Being, the Logos
- From far off Atlantis thus we hear of the Tao: “The great Tao has no bodily form, but It produced and nourishes heaven and earth
- The Great Tao has no passions, but It causes the sun and the moon to revolve as they do.
- The Great Tao has no name, but It affects the growth and maintenance of all things – I do not know Its name, but I make an effort, and call It Tao” [*remember Tao for the Temple Legend*]

Greek Concept of the Human

1 Thessalonians 5:23, Paul refers to human nature as consisting of body, soul, and spirit

Human Members:

- Pneuma – Spirit
- Psyche – Soul
- Soma – Body

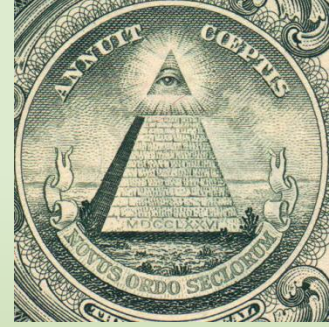
Trinity of each member

Relationship to Nature

Image of Soul in Skeletal:

- Head – Earth, sphere, (*thinking*)
- Rhythmical – Sun, lemniscate (*feeling*)
- Limbs – Stars, radial (*willing*)

Review: Concept of the Human



Spirit

- Atman
- Buddhi
- Manas

Soul

- *Consciousness* – Dianoetikon
- Intellectual – Kinetikon
- Sentient – Oreetikon

Body

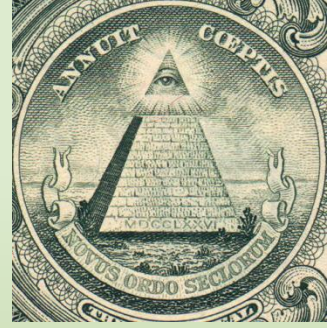
- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| • Ego (I am) | love&freedom | fire/warmth |
| • Astral – Aisthetikon | wisdom | air/light |
| • Etheric – Threptikon | beauty | water/chem |
| • Physical – Gaia | strength | earth/life |

Macrocosm - Microcosm

“I am a son of Earth and of starry sky” -- popular grave inscription

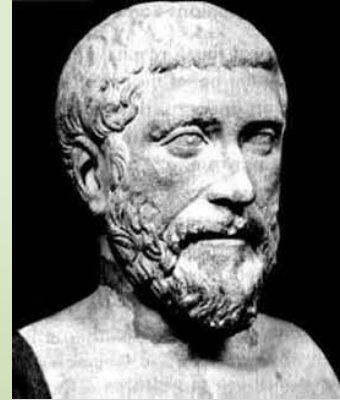
Element/Ether

The 4 Bodies: Birth and Death




- Physical body – what happens at death? Disintegrates.
- Etheric body – builds up physical to reveal form
- Astral body and Ego – destroys physical
 - Example Health & Illness: plant poisons used to heal
- Before birth: we have soul, thus we can think, feel, & will
- When we are born, our thinking dies, feeling goes to dream-conscious level, willing goes to dreamless level
 - Physical body “holds” thinking, feeling, and willing together
- Our body is the tomb in which our living thinking is placed
 - This is the Story of Osiris

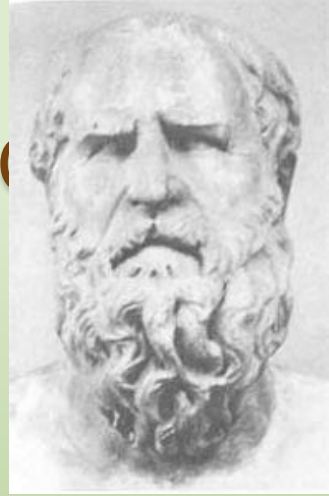
Pythagoras (~580 – 500 BC)



- The first lover of Sophia (philosopher)
- Revered as a great mathematician, mystic, and scientist
- Aristotle: Pythagoras was a wonder-worker with a “golden thigh” (a sign of divinity) who could travel through space and time and to communicate with animals and plants – Soul origins from “Primordial Mothers”, not “Gods”
 - Transmigration of souls - reincarnation
- The Pythia prophesied that his pregnant mother would give birth to a man supremely beautiful, wise, and of benefit to humankind
 - The Pythia was the priestess presiding over the Oracle of Apollo at Delphi.
 - The Delphic oracle was well established by the 8th century BC.
 - Its last recorded response was given in 393 AD, when the emperor Theodosius I ordered pagan temples to cease operation.
 - During this period the Delphic Oracle was the most prestigious and authoritative oracle in the Greek world.
- Legend says his teacher was Hermes Trismegistus of Egypt
 - About 535 BC Pythagoras went to Egypt where, according to Porphyry, he was accepted into the Diospolis priesthood after completing the admission rites
 - A Mystery Stream: Zarathustra (Zoroaster) to Hermes to Pythagoras
- “ π (pi) \cong 3.141592654 ..., “e” \cong 2.718281828 ..., “ Φ (phi) \cong 1.618033989 ...

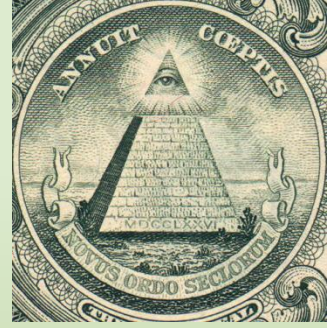

$$a^2+b^2=c^2$$

Heraclitus the Obscure 535–475 B.C.



- “Everything is in a state of flux” *Moralia, Fragments 40, 41*
 - Opposites are necessary for life
 - They are unified in a system of balanced exchanges [Duality]
- Describes “a path which is difficult to travel,” that anyone who approaches uninitiated will find only “obscurity and darkness but if an initiate be your guide, the path shines brighter than sunlight. ”
(*Anth. Pal. Book IX, 540*)
 - Heraclitus was called “The Obscure” because only the light of the Mysteries provided the key to his conceptions.
- “Immortals take on mortality, mortals immortality; death is the eternal life of mortals, earthly life the death of immortals.”
- Declares the everlasting Logos is the archetype of all
- “Hades is the same as Dionysus,”
 - Dionysus, the god of lust for life, of germination and growth same as
 - Hades, the god of annihilation and destruction.
- “For men to get all they wish is not the better thing. It is disease.”

450 BC



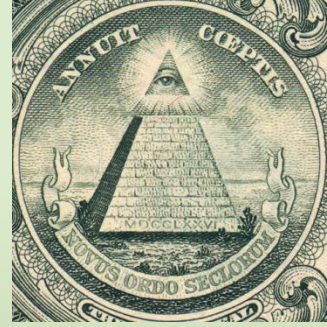
- End of the ability to reach spiritual heights
- Gradual fading away of the active Mysteries to memory
- Love for the Mysteries continues
- Impulse of the Mysteries continues but less visible
- Many Mystery Centers close by 450 AD

Hippocrates (460 – 377 B.C.)



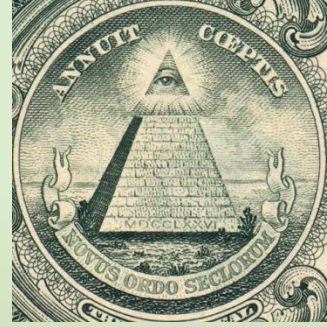
- The father of western medicine
- Founder of the Hippocratic School of Medicine
- **Hippocratic Oath** taken by physicians and other healthcare professionals swearing to practice medicine honestly
 - To hold him who has taught me this art as equal to my parents
 - I will apply dietetic measures for the benefit of the sick according to my ability and judgment; I will keep them from harm and injustice
 - I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody if asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect
- Atavistic medicinal knowledge departing – wrote it down
- Explained illnesses as results of faulty mixture of four body fluids: blood, yellow bile, phlegm, and black bile

Logic: Dialectics



- Aristotle said that pre-Socratic philosopher Zeno of Elea invented dialectic and that Plato's dialogues are mere examples of the Socratic dialectic method
- Logic used in dialectics *unlike* the logic of today
 - It presupposed a spiritual world
 - It presupposed that spiritual beings thought into a person or could inspire a person
 - Karl Marx Dialectic Materialism versus Dialectic of the Gods
- Education: Trinity of grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric
 - Beauty and art held sway
 - Then added arithmetic, geometry, astronomy and music

The Question: What is Man?

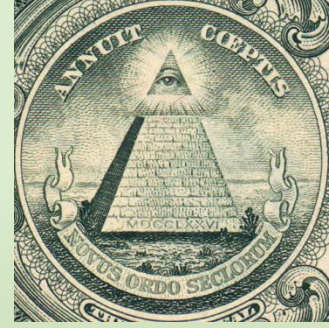


- David's question, "What is Man?" (Psalms)
- Delphi entrance "Oh Man, Know Yourself"
- The without should kindle self-knowledge; the within should teach knowledge of the world

The **without** should kindle self-knowledge; the **within** should teach knowledge of the world. In these two statements, or rather in their realization in the world, lies true spiritual insight into existence and the impulse to real human love, to a love filled with insight -- Rudolf Steiner, from *The After Effects of the Atlantean Mysteries in America and Asia*, Dornach, September 18, 1916

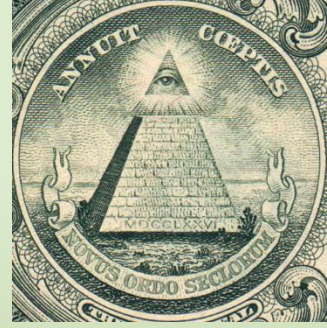


Greeks and Their Gods



- Memories of the Gods
 - As Egyptians traced by to Lemurian times, Greeks traced back to Atlantean times
 - Gods were “retarded” Angeloi completing their development
- Pictures of the Gods (phantoms) rather than full experiences
- Gods formerly appeared in the Mystery center
 - Time aligned – long waits possible
 - For example: Saturn: 30 years, Moon: 18 years

Tonight's Summary

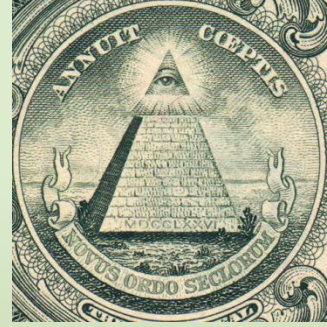


1. Understanding Greek Mythology
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Questions?

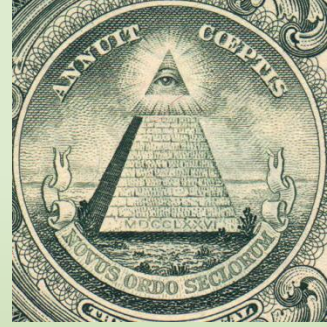
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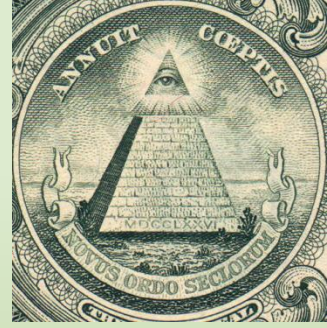
Midnight Sun on 12/25



- The pupils gathered in the early evening. In quiet contemplation they had to make clear to themselves what this most important event signified. In deep silence they sat together in the darkness. By the time midnight drew near, they had been sitting in the dark room for hours. Thoughts of eternity pervaded their souls. Then, toward midnight, mysterious tones arose, resounding through the room, up welling and diminishing. The pupils who heard these tones knew that this was the music of the spheres. Then the room became dimly lit, the only light emanating from a dimly lighted disc. Those who saw this knew that this disc represented the earth. The illumined disc became darker and darker, until finally it was quite black. Simultaneously the surrounding space grew brighter. Those who saw this knew that the black sphere represented the earth. The sun, however, which ordinarily irradiates the earth was concealed; the earth could no longer see the sun. Then around the earth-disc, at the outer edge, rainbow colors formed, ring upon ring. Those who saw it knew that this was the radiant Iris. At midnight a violet-reddish circle gradually arose in place of the black earth sphere. On it a Word was written. This Word varied according to the peoples whose members were permitted to experience this Mystery. In our language the Word would be Christos. Those who saw it knew that this was the sun, which appeared to them at the midnight hour, when the world around rests in deepest darkness. The pupils were now told that what they had experienced was called "Seeing the sun at the midnight hour."

Plato Quotations





Degrees of Initiation

1. Raven: the messenger, the intermediary
2. Disciple: Meditant in the Temple
3. Warrior: Proclaimed the Truth experienced
4. Lion: Consciousness has reached the Tribe
5. True (nation): e.g. "True Israelite" or "Persian"
6. Sun Hero:
7. Father:

Goethe:

As long as you have not
Died and been reborn,
You are but a gloomy guest
Upon the darkened earth.

Signs and Symbols

