The Emerald Tablet

Comments by Alan Power

The Emerald Tablet was supposed to have been written by Hermes Trismegistus, otherwise known as Thoth or the Atlantean (a very wise man). Trismegistus being thrice blessed. The words in black are the words on the tablet. The words in blue are mine. You can look up further history on the Emerald Tablet by querying it on line.

In truth, without deceit, certain, and most veritable.

Simply saying this is the truth and can be verified.

That which is Below corresponds to that which is Above, and that which is Above corresponds to that which is Below, to accomplish the miracles of the One Thing. And just as all things have come from this One Thing, through the meditation of One Mind, so do all created things originate from this One Thing, through Transformation.

This is a complex statement that follows along with Hermetic teaching as two of the seven principles of Hermeticism laid out in the "Kybalion" by the Three Initiates. The above and below is referring the Microcosm and the Macrocosm. It's also referring to Heaven and Earth, the Tree of Life from the Kabbalah, and your Square and Compasses, among others.

The One Thing is referring to God and by association, God as the One Mind. In other words, the thought is: All (the All) is the Mind or Consciousness of God, and we all exist and have our being within him. Reference to this is found in the words of our Masonic funeral text which calls out that we all have our being or life within Him. And, so, by inference this One Thing (i.e. the Mind of God or The All) allows us to exist within Him.

Its father is the Sun, its mother the Moon. The Wind carries it in its belly; its nurse is the earth. It is the origin of All, the consecration of the Universe; its inherent Strength is perfected, if it is turned into earth.

Here we begin to have reference to the Sun and Moon as the two pillars that form the structure of what and who we are. (Our Deacon's rods). It also acknowledges the old beliefs that the Sun was the source of our life and without the Sun (and the corresponding Moon) we would not exist. (Amen-Ra and Isis) The wind carrying it is simply referring to life here on Earth and that life springs from the Earth. The Ancients believed that spirit "rained down" from the stars (Heaven) and upon landing on Earth, life sprang forth from the Elements. Again the relationship between Heaven and Earth and the common bond of shared "spirit" between them allowing life in Heaven and Earth to exist.

Separate the earth from fire, the Subtle from the Gross, gently and with great Ingenuity. It rises from earth to heaven and descends again to earth, thereby combining within Itself the powers of both the Above and the Below.

This includes the principles of Alchemy and reaffirming the relationship of Heaven and Earth and the shared spirit which animates life. (The triangle of mind, body, and spirit which creates us (personality or soul)). And when your life ceases you return to the Earth (Dust) and yet when you are born you are made of the elements of Earth. And the cycle continues as you travel up and down the Tree of Life. (There is a defined path through the Tree of Life and the reverse when you return.)

Thus will you obtain the Glory of the Whole Universe. All Obscurity will be clear to you.

He is saying that if you understand this, you will know how the Universe (The All) works.

This is the greatest force of all powers, because it overcomes every Subtle thing and penetrates every Solid thing.

The All is The All. There is nothing else. It (God) is everything and we exist within Him. We are a part of the Universe (The All).

In this way was the Universe created. From this comes many wondrous Applications, because this is the Pattern.

This re-enforces the concept above. And He creates everything based on the concepts He holds, and we are but "players" within. God sets the rules, and we must follow.

Therefore am I called Thrice Greatest Hermes, having all three parts of the wisdom of the Whole Universe. Herein have I completely explained the Operation of the Sun.

Hermes is saying that he understands how it all fits together. And if you understand this, you now do too. He uses the Sun as a reference point to God because without the Sun (the life-giver here on Earth) we would not exist, and the Sun is our God's regulator and a figure representing fire (the symbol associated with God). Many get this confused and think that he is saying that the Sun is God. Or that he worships the Sun.

Let's think about this for a moment, whether you believe that the Sun is God (Amen-Ra) or that the Son is God (Christ), or any other derivation of who is God (there are many), there is only one God and that is who we all worship and acknowledge. If we could only stop squabbling about my God and your God and realize there is but one God, the world would be a better place to live in. Remember, religious rules and dogma are man-made.

I hope you enjoyed this explanation of this cryptic tablet. Many have read this tablet and have not understood it. Hopefully, now you do, and you are just as smart on the topic as Hermes Trismegistus. Give yourself a pat on the back.