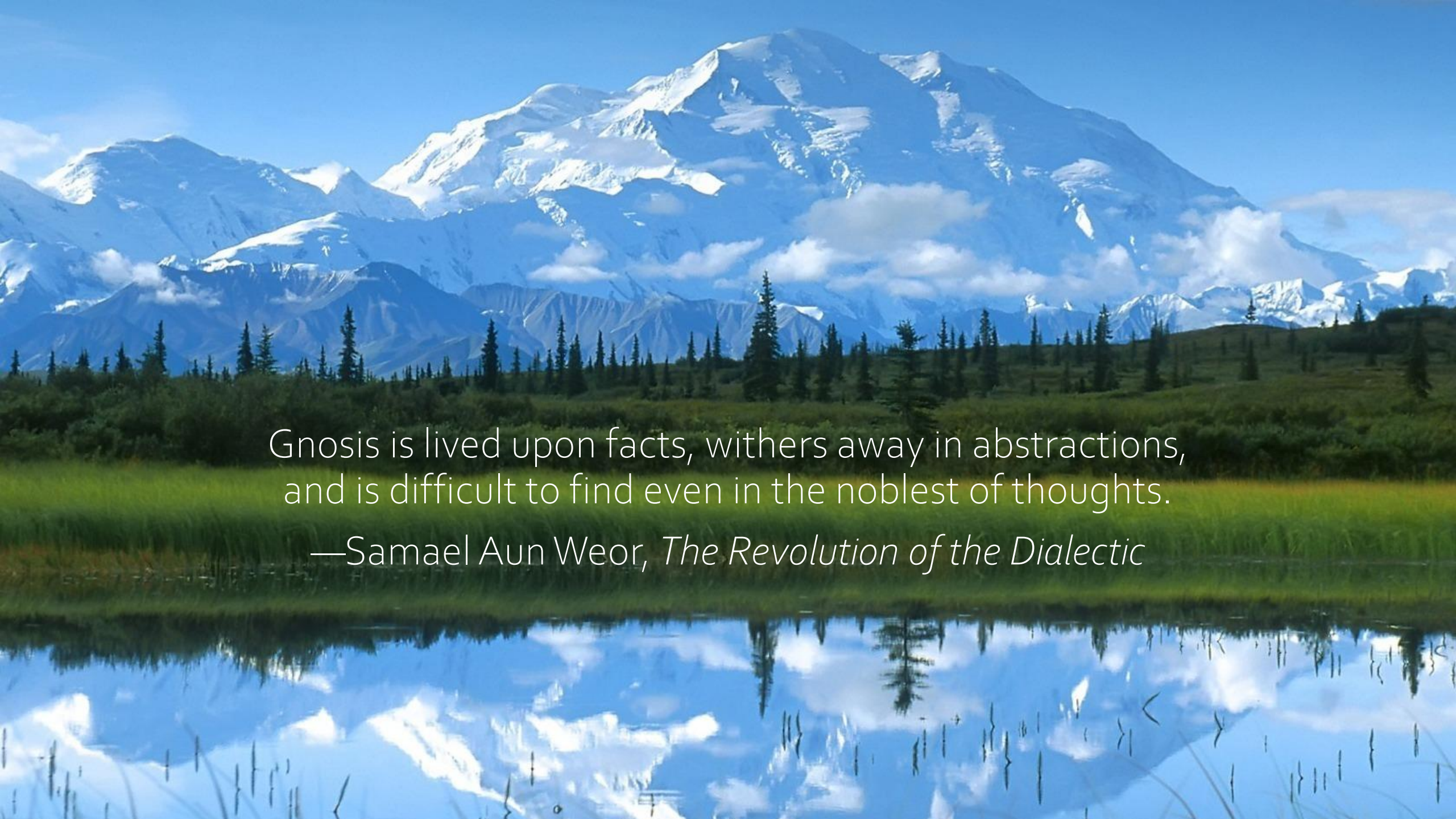
Fundamentals of Gnosticism

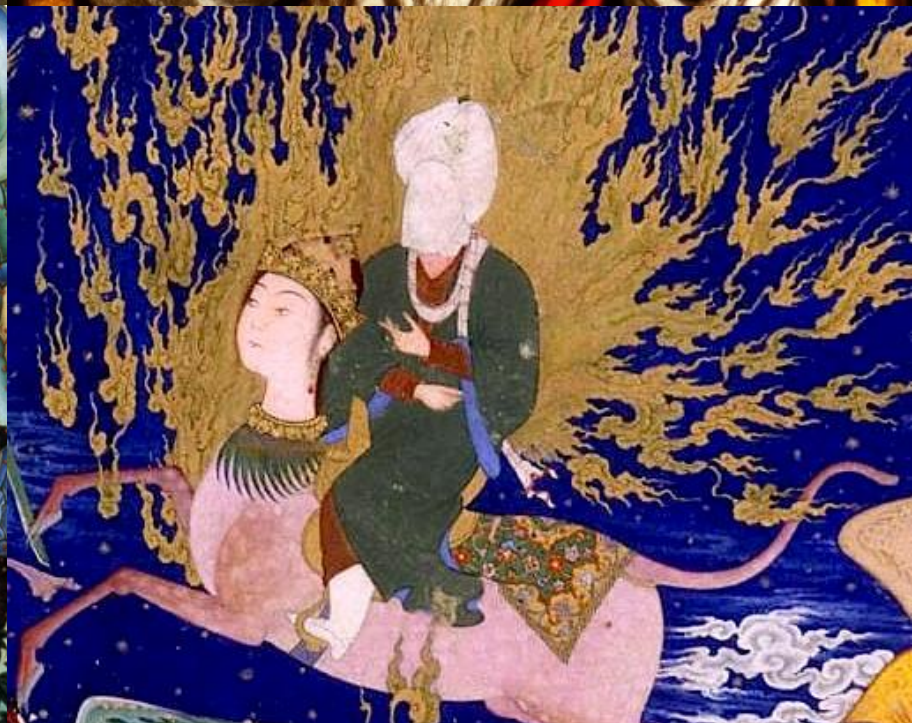
chicago gnosis


Gnosis is lived upon facts, withers away in abstractions,
and is difficult to find even in the noblest of thoughts.
—Samael Aun Weor, *The Revolution of the Dialectic*

Gnosis γνῶσις (knowledge)

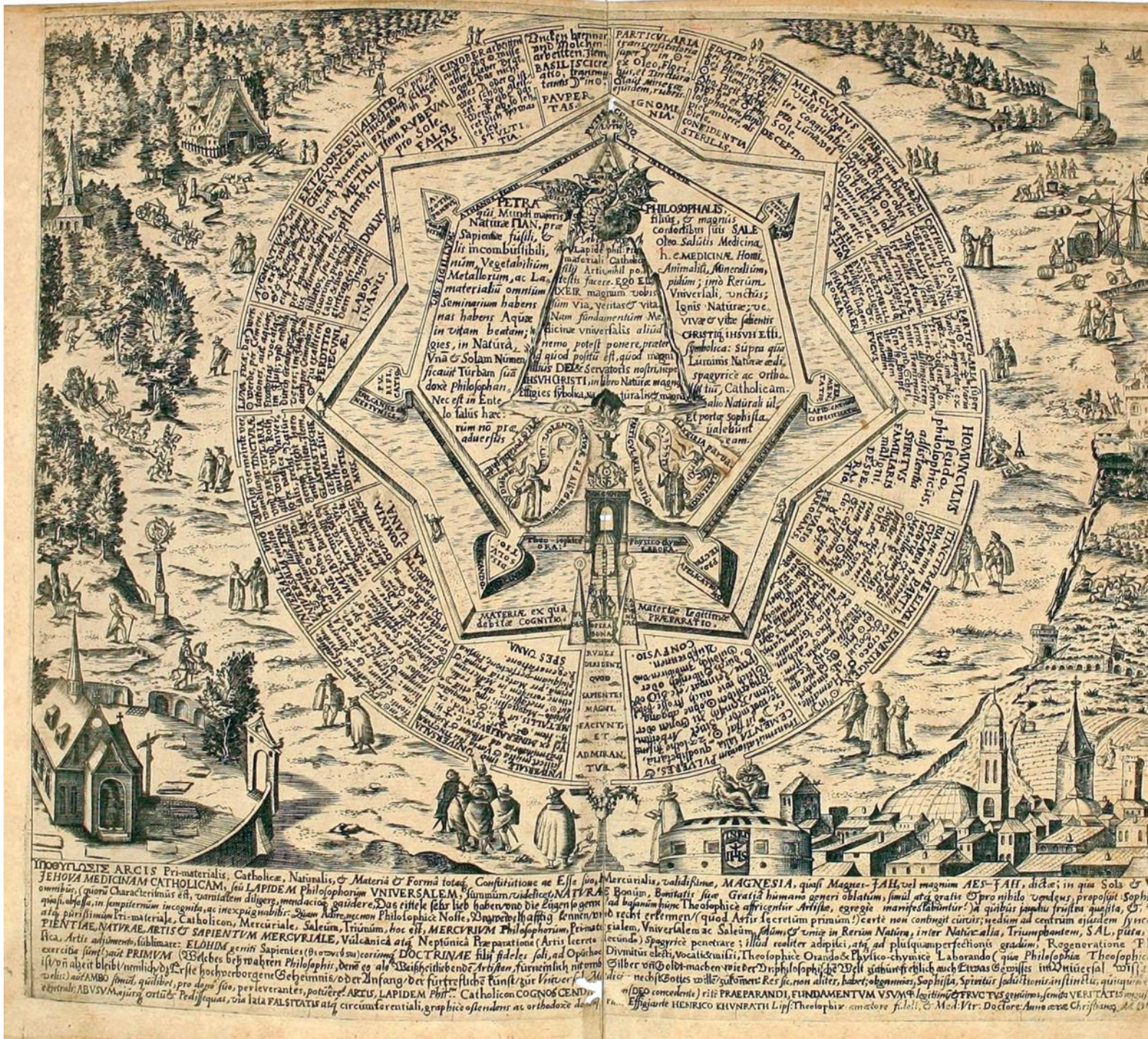
Synonyms

- Jñāna ज्ञान (Sanskrit)
- Da’ath דעת (Hebrew)
- Dharma धर्म (Sanskrit)
- Torah תּוֹרָה (Hebrew)
- Marifah المعرفة (Arabic)



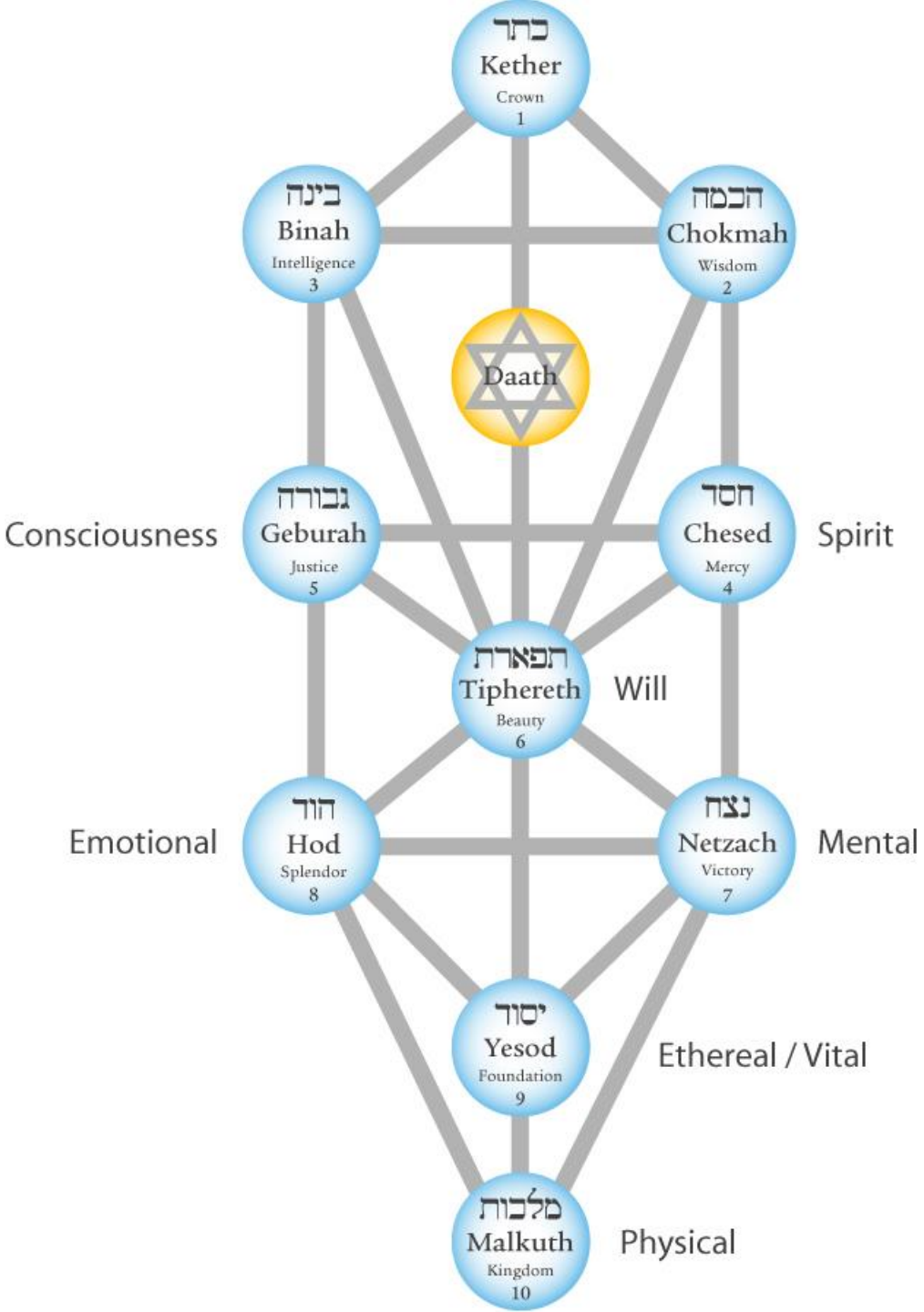
Levels of Teaching

- Introductory / Exoteric / Body
- Intermediate / Mesoteric / Soul
- Advanced / Esoteric / Spirit



Aspects of Self

1. Divinity
2. Humanity
3. Impurity



The תּוֹרָה of יהוה is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the יהוה is sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of יהוה are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of יהוה is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of יהוה is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of יהוה are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are *they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there *is* great reward.

Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O יהוה, my strength, and my redeemer.

—Psalms 19:7-14

The Four Pillars of Gnosticism

- Science
- Mysticism
- Art
- Philosophy

Science

mid-14c., "what is known, knowledge (of something) acquired by study; information;" also "assurance of knowledge, certitude, certainty," from Old French *science* "knowledge, learning, application; corpus of human knowledge" (12c.), from Latin *scientia* "knowledge, a knowing; expertness," from *sciens* (genitive *scientis*) "intelligent, skilled," present participle of *scire* "to know," probably originally "to separate one thing from another, to distinguish," related to *scindere* "to cut, divide," from PIE root **skei-* "to cut, to split" (cognates: Greek *skhizein* "to split, rend, cleave," Gothic *skaidan*, Old English *sceadan* "to divide, separate."

—Online Etymology Dictionary

Mysticism

From the word “mystic,” late 14c., "spiritually allegorical, pertaining to mysteries of faith," from Old French *mistique* "mysterious, full of mystery" (14c.), or directly from Latin *mysticus* "mystical, mystic, of secret rites" (source also of Italian *mistico*, Spanish *mistico*), from Greek *mystikos* "secret, mystic, connected with the mysteries," from *mystes* "one who has been initiated" (see mystery (n.1)). Meaning "pertaining to occult practices or ancient religions" first recorded 1610s.
—Online Etymology Dictionary

early 13c., "skill as a result of learning or practice," from Old French *art* (10c.), from Latin *artem* (nominative *ars*) "work of art; practical skill; a business, craft," from PIE **ar-ti-* (cognates: Greek *arti* "just," *artios* "complete, suitable," *artizein* "to prepare;" Latin *artus* "joint;" Armenian *arnam* "make;" German *art* "manner, mode"), from root **ar-* "fit together, join" —Online Etymology Dictionary

Philosophy

c. 1300, "knowledge, body of knowledge," from Old French *filosofie* "philosoph yknowledge" (12c., Modern French *philosophie*) and directly from Latin *philosophia* and from Greek *philosophia* "love of knowledge, pursuit of wisdom; systematic investigation," from *philo-* "loving" (see philo-) + *Sophia* "knowledge, wisdom," from *sophis* "wise, learned;" of unknown origin.

—Online Etymology Dictionary