

Hermes Mercurius Trismegistus

The Divine Pymander

Translated from the Arabic by the learned Divine Doctor John Everard

First printed in London by Robert White for Thos. Brewster & Greg. Moule,
at the Three Bibles in the Poultry, under Mildred's Church, 1650,
as *The Divine Pymander of Hermes Mercurius Trismegistus*.

This edition comprises of Everard's translation of Book 2 of 17 on Πουμάνδρης next to the Greek,
which has probably descended from Psellus' archetype, c 11th CE.



Hermes Mercurius Trismegistus (floor mosaic) Siena Cathedral



1. Ἐννοίας μοί ποτε γενομένης περι τῶν ὄντων καί μετεωρισθείσης μοι τῆς διανοίας σφόδρα, κατασχεθεισῶν μου τῶν σωματικῶν αἰσθήσεων, καθάπερ οἱ ὕπνω βεβαρημένοι ἐκ κόρου τροφῆς ἢ ἐκ κόπου σώματος, ἔδοξά τινα ὑπερμεγέθη μέτρῳ ἀπεριορίστω τυγχάνοντα καλεῖν μου τὸ ὄνομα καί λέγοντά μοι, Τί βούλει ἀκοῦσαι καί θεάσασθαι, καί νοήσας μαθεῖν καί γνῶναι;
1. My thoughts being once seriously busied about things that are, and my Understanding lifted up, all my bodily Senses being exceedingly holden back, as it is with them that are heavy of sleep, by reason either of fulness of meat, or of bodily labour: Methought I saw one of an exceeding great stature, and of an infinite greatness, call me by my name, and say unto me, *What wouldst thou hear and see?* Or what wouldst thou understand to learn and know?
2. φημί ἐγώ, Σὺ γὰρ τίς εἶ; Ἐγὼ μὲν, φησὶν, εἰμὶ ὁ Ποιμάνδρης, ὁ τῆς αὐθεντίας νοῦς· οἶδα ὃ βούλει, καί σύνειμί σοι πανταχοῦ.
2. Then said I, *Who are Thou?* I am, quoth he, *Poimander*, the mind of the great *Lord*, the most mighty and absolute *Emperor*: I know what thou wouldst have, and I am always present with thee.
3. φημί ἐγώ, Μαθεῖν θέλω τὰ ὄντα καί νοῆσαι τὴν τούτων φύσιν καί γνῶναι τὸν θεόν· πῶς, ἔφην, ἀκοῦσαι βούλομαι. φησὶν ἐμοὶ πάλιν, Ἔχε νῶ σὺ ὅσα θέλεις μαθεῖν, κάγώ σε διδάξω.
3. Then I said, *I would learn the things that are, and understand the nature of them, and know God.* How? said he. I answered that I would gladly hear. Then said he, Have me again in they mind, and whasoever though wouldst learn, I will teach thee.
4. τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἡλλάγη τῇ ιδέα, καί εὐθέως πάντα μοι ἦνοικτο ῥοπή, καί ὁρῶ θεάν ἀόριστον, φῶς δὲ πάντα γεγεννημένα, εὐδιδόν τε καὶ ἰλαρόν, καὶ ἡράσθην ιδῶν.
4. When he had thus said, he was changed in his *Idea* or *Form*, and straightway, in the twinkling of an eye, all things were opened unto me. And I saw an infinite sight, all things were become light, both sweet and exceeding pleasant; and I was wonderfully delighted in the beholding it.
5. καὶ μετ'ὀλίγον σκότος κατωφερές ἦν, ἐν μέρει γεγεννημένον, φοβερὸν τε καὶ στυγνόν, σκολιῶς ἐσπειραμένον, ὡς <ῥφει> εἰκάσαι με· εἶτα μεταβαλλόμενον τὸ σκότος εἰς ὑγρᾶν τινα φύσιν, ἀφάτως τεταραγμένην καὶ καπνὸν ἀποδιδοῦσαν, ὡς ἀπὸ πυρός, καὶ τινα ἦχον ἀποτελοῦσαν ἀνεκλάλητον γοῶδη· εἶτα βοή ἐξ αὐτῆς ἀσυνάρθρως ἐξεπέμπετο, ὡς εἰκάσαι φωνῇ πυρός,
5. But after a little while, there was a darkness made in part, coming down obliquely, fearful and hideous, which seemed unto me to be changed into a *certain moist nature*, unspeakably troubled, which yielded a smoke as from Fire; and from whence proceeded a voice unutterable, and very mournful, but inarticulate, inasmuch as it seemed to have come from the Light.



6. ἐκ δὲ φωτὸς . . . λόγος ἅγιος ἐπέβη τῇ φύσει, καὶ πῦρ ἄκρατον ἐξεπήδησεν ἐκ τῆς ὑγρᾶς φύσεως ἄνω εἰς ὕψος· κοῦφον δὲ ἦν καὶ ὄξύ, δραστικὸν δὲ ἅμα, καὶ ὁ ἀήρ ἐλαφρὸς ὢν ἠκολούθησε τῷ πνεύματι, ἀναβαίνοντος αὐτοῦ μέχρι τοῦ πυρὸς ἀπὸ γῆς καὶ ὕδατος, ὡς δοκεῖν κρέμασθαι αὐτὸν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ.
6. Then from that Light, a certain *holy Word joined itself unto Nature*, and out-flew the pure and unmixed Fire from the moist nature upwards on high; it was exceeding *Light*, and *sharp*, and *operative* withal. And the *Air*, which was also light, followed the *Spirit* and mourned up to *Fire* (from the Earth and the Water), insomuch that it seemed to hang and depend upon it.
7. γῆ δὲ καὶ ὕδωρ ἔμενε καθ' ἑαυτὰ συμμιγμένα, ὡς μὴ θεωρεῖσθαι <τὴν γῆν> ἀπὸ τοῦ ὕδατος· κινούμενα δὲ ἦν διὰ τὸν ἐπιφερόμενον πνευματικὸν λόγον εἰς ἀκοήν.
7. And the Earth and the Water stayed by themselves so mingled together, that the Earth could not be seen for the Water, but they were moved because of the *Spiritual word* that was carried upon them.
8. ὁ δὲ Ποιμάνδρης ἐμοί, Ἐνόησας, φησί. τὴν θεὰν ταύτην ὃ τι καὶ βούλεται; καὶ, Γνώσομαι, ἔφην ἐγώ. Τὸ φῶς ἐκεῖνο, ἔφη, ἐγὼ Νοῦς ὁ σὸς θεός, ὁ πρὸ φύσεως ὑγρᾶς τῆς ἐκ σκοτὸς φανείσης· ὁ δὲ ἐκ Νοῦς φωτεινὸς Λόγος υἱὸς Θεοῦ.
8. Then said *Poimander* unto me, Dost thou understand this *vision*, and what it meaneth? I shall know, said I. Then said he, *I am that Light*, the *Mind*, *thy God*, *who am before that moist nature that appeared out of darkness*; and that *bright and lightful Word from the mind is the Son of God*.
9. Τί οὖν; φημί. Οὕτω γνῶθι· τὸ ἐν σοὶ βλέπον καὶ ἀκοῦον, λόγος κυρίου, ὁ δὲ νοῦς πατὴρ θεός. οὐ γὰρ διίστανται ἀπ' ἀλλήλων· ἔνωσις γὰρ τούτων ἐστὶν ἡ ζωὴ. Εὐχαριστῶ σοι, ἔφην ἐγώ. Ἀλλὰ δὴ νόει τὸ φῶς καὶ γνῶριζε τοῦτο.
9. How is that, quoth I? Thus, replied he, understand it: *That which in thee seeth and heareth, the Word of the Lord, and the Mind the Father, God, differ not one from the other; and the union of these is Life*.
- Trismeg. — I thank thee.
Poimand. — But first conceive well the Light in they mind, and know it.
10. εἰπόντος ταῦτα ἐπὶ πλείονα χρόνον ἀνώπησέ μοι, ὥστε με τρέμειν αὐτοῦ τὴν ἰδέαν.
10. When he had said thus, for a long time we looked steadfastly one upon the other, insomuch that I trembled at his *Idea or Form*.
11. ἀνανεύσαντος δέ, θεωρῶ ἐν τῷ νοῦ μου τὸ φῶς ἐν δυνάμεσιν ἀναριθμητοῖς ὄν, καὶ κόσμον ἀπεριόριστον γεγενημένον, καὶ περιόχεσθαι τὸ πῦρ δυνάμει μεγίστη, καὶ στάσιν ἐσχηκέναι κρατούμενον.
11. But when he nodded to me, I beheld in my mind the Light that is in innumerable, and the truly indefinite *ornament* or *world*; and that the *Fire* is comprehended or contained in, or by a great moist Power, and constrained to keep its station.



12. ταῦτα δὲ ἐγὼ διενοήθην ὁρῶν διὰ τὸν τοῦ Ποιμάνδρου λόγον. ὡς δὲ ἐν ἐκπλήξει μου ὄντος, φησι πάλιν ἐμοί, Εἶδες ἐν τῷ νῷ τὸ ἀρχέτυπον εἶδος, τὸ προάρχον τῆς ἀρχῆς τῆς ἀπεράντου· ταῦτα ὁ Ποιμάνδρης ἐμοί. Τὰ οὖν, ἐγὼ φημι, στοιχεῖα τῆς φύσεως πόθεν ὑπέστη; πάλιν ἐκεῖνος πρὸς ταῦτα, Ἐκ βουλῆς θεοῦ, ἥτις λαβοῦσα τὸν Λόγον καὶ ἰδοῦσα τὸν καλὸν κόσμον ἐμιμήσατο, κοσμοποιηθεῖσα διὰ τῶν ἑαυτῆς στοιχείων καὶ γεννημάτων ψυχῶν.
12. These things I understood, seeing the word, or *Poimander*; and when I was mightily amazed, he said again unto me, Hast thou seen in thy mind that Archetypal Form which was before the interminated and infinite Beginning? Thus [said] *Poimander* to me.
- But whence, quoth I, or whereof are the Elements of Nature made?
- Poimander*. — Of the Will and counsel of God; which taking the Word, and beholding the beautiful World (in the Archetype thereof) imitated it, and so made this World, by the principles and vital seeds or Soul-like productions of itself.
13. ὁ δὲ Νοῦς ὁ θεός, ἀρρενόθηλος ὢν, ζωὴ καὶ φῶς ὑπάρχων, ἀπεκύησε λόγῳ ἕτερον Νοῦν δημιουργόν, ὃς θεὸς τοῦ πυρὸς καὶ πνεύματος ὢν, ἐδημιούργησε διοικητὰς τινὰς ἐπτὰ, ἐν κύκλοις περιέχοντας τὸν αἰσθητὸν κόσμον, καὶ ἡ διοίκησις αὐτῶν εἰμαρμένη καλεῖται.
13. For the *Mind* being God, *Male and Female, Life and Light*, brought forth by his *Word* another *Mind* or *Workman*; which being God of the *Fire*, and the *Spirit*, fashioned and formed seven other *Governors*, which in their circles contain the *Sensible World*, whose Government or disposition is called *Fate* or *Destiny*.
14. ἐπήδησεν εὐθύς ἐκ τῶν κατωφερῶν στοιχείων [τοῦ θεοῦ] ὁ τοῦ θεοῦ Λόγος εἰς τὸ καθαρὸν τῆς φύσεως δημιούργημα, καὶ ἠνώθη τῷ δημιουργῷ Νῷ (ὁμοούσιος γὰρ ἦν), καὶ κατελείφθη [τὰ] ἄλογα τὰ κατωφερῆ τῆς φύσεως στοιχεῖα, ὡς εἶναι ὕλην μόνην.
14. *Straightway* leaped out, or exalted itself from the downward Elements of God, *The Word of God*, into the clean and pure Workmanship of Nature, and was united to the *Workman, Mind*, for it was *Consubstantial*; and so the downward born elements of Nature were left without Reason, that they might be the only Matter.
15. ὁ δὲ δημιουργὸς Νοῦς σὺν τῷ Λόγῳ, ὁ περιόσχων τοὺς κύκλους καὶ δινῶν ροίζῳ, ἔστρεψε τὰ ἑαυτοῦ δημιουργήματα καὶ εἶασε στρέφεσθαι ἀπ' ἀρχῆς ἀορίστου εἰς ἀπέραντον τέλος· ἄρκεται γὰρ, οὐ λήγει.
15. But the *Workman, Mind*, together with the *Word*, containing the circles, and whirling them about, turned round as a wheel, his own Workmanships; and suffered them to be turned from an indefinite Beginning to an indeterminable end, for they always begin where they end.
16. ἡ δὲ τούτων περιφορά, καθὼς ἠθέλησεν ὁ Νοῦς, ἐκ τῶν κατωφερῶν στοιχείων ζῶα ἤνεγκεν ἄλογα (οὐ γὰρ ἐπέιχε τὸν Λόγον), ἀήρ δὲ πετεινὰ ἤνεγκε, καὶ τὸ ὕδωρ νηκτά·
16. And the *Circulation* or running round of these, as the mind willeth, out of the lower or downward-born Elements, brought forth unreasonable or brutish Creatures, for they had no reason, the Air flying things, and the Water such as swim.



17. διακεχώρισται δὲ ἀπ' ἀλλήλων ἢ τε γῆ καὶ τὸ ὕδωρ, καθὼς ἠθέλησεν ὁ Νοῦς, καὶ <ἡ γῆ> ἐξήνεγκεν ἀπ' αὐτῆς ἃ εἶχε ζῶα τετράποδα <καὶ> ἔρπετά, θηρία ἄγρια καὶ ἡμερα.
17. And the Earth and the Water were separated, either from the other, as the *Mind* would; and the Earth brought forth from herself, such living creatures as she had, four-footed and creeping beasts, wild and tame.
18. ὁ δὲ πάντων πατὴρ ὁ Νοῦς, ὦν ζωὴ καὶ φῶς, ἀπεκύησεν ἄνθρωπον αὐτῷ ἴσον, οὗ ἠράσθη ὡς ἰδίου τόκου· περικαλλῆς γάρ, τὴν τοῦ πατρὸς εἰκόνα ἔχων·
18. But the Father of all things, the *Mind* being *Life* and *Light*, brought forth *Man* like unto himself, whom he loved as his proper *Birth*; for he was all beautiful, having the image of his *Father*.
19. ὄντως γὰρ καὶ ὁ θεὸς ἠράσθη τῆς ἰδίας μορφῆς, παρέδωκε τὰ ἑαυτοῦ πάντα δημιουργήματα, καὶ κατανοήσας δὲ τὴν τοῦ δημιουργοῦ κτίσιν ἐν τῷ πυρὶ, ἠβουλήθη καὶ αὐτὸς δημιουργεῖν, καὶ συνεχωρήθη ἀπὸ τοῦ πατρὸς· γενόμενος ἐν τῇ δημιουργικῇ σφαίρᾳ,
19. For indeed God was exceedingly enamoured of his own form or shape, and delivered unto it all his own Workmanships. But he, seeing and understanding the *Creation* of the Workman in the whole, would needs also himself *fall to work*, and so was separated from the Father, being in the sphere of Generation or Operation.
20. ἔξων τὴν πᾶσαν ἐξουσίαν, κατενόησε τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ τὰ δημιουργήματα, οἱ δὲ ἠράσθησαν αὐτοῦ, ἕκαστος δὲ μετεδίδου τῆς ἰδίας τάξεως·
20. Having all Power, he considered the Operations or Workmanships of the *Seven*; but they loved him, and everyone made him partaker of his own order.
21. καὶ καταμαθὼν τὴν τούτων οὐσίαν καὶ μεταλαβὼν τῆς αὐτῶν φύσεως ἠβουλήθη ἀναρρῆξαι τὴν περιφέρειαν τῶν κύκλων, καὶ τὸ κράτος τοῦ ἐπικειμένου ἐπὶ τοῦ πυρὸς κατανοῆσαι.
21. And he learning diligently, and understanding their Essence, and partaking their Nature, resolved to pierce and break through the *Circumference* of the Circles, and to understand the power of him that sits upon the Fire.
22. καὶ ὁ τοῦ τῶν θνητῶν κόσμου καὶ τῶν ἀλόγων ζῶων ἔχων πᾶσαν ἐξουσίαν διὰ τῆς ἁρμονίας παρέκυψε, ἀναρρῆξας τὸ κύτος, καὶ ἔδειξε τῇ κατωφερεῖ φύσει τὴν καλὴν τοῦ θεοῦ μορφήν,
22. And having already all power of mortal things, of the Living, and of the unreasonable creatures of the World, stooped down and peeped through the *Harmony*, and breaking through the strength of the Circles, so showed and made manifest the downward-born Nature, the fair and beautiful Shape or Form of God.



23. ὃν ἰδοῦσα ἀκόρεστον κάλλος <καὶ> πᾶσαν ἐνέργειαν ἐν ἑαυτῷ ἔχοντα τῶν διοικητόρων τὴν τεμορφήν τοῦ θεοῦ ἐμειδίασεν ἔρωτι, ὡς ἅτε τῆς καλλίστης μορφῆς τοῦ Ἀνθρώπου τὸ εἶδος ἐν τῷ ὕδατι ἰδοῦσα καὶ τὸ σκίασμα ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.
23. Which, when he saw, having in itself the unsatiable Beauty, and all the operations of the *Seven Governors*, and the Form or Shape of God, he *smiled* for love, as if he had seen the shape or likeness in the Water, or the shadow upon the Earth, of the fairest Human form.
24. ὁ δὲ ἰδὼν τὴν ὁμοίαν αὐτῷ μορφήν ἐν αὐτῇ οὖσαν ἐν τῷ ὕδατι, ἐφίλησε καὶ ἠβουλήθη αὐτοῦ οἰκεῖν· ἅμα δὲ τῇ βουλῇ ἐγένετο ἐνέργεια, καὶ ᾤκησε τὴν ἄλογον μορφήν.
24. And seeing in the Water a Shape, a Shape like unto himself, in himself he loved it, and would cohabit with it, and immediately upon the resolution ensued the operation, and brought forth the unreasonable Image or Shape.
25. ἡ δὲ φύσις λαβοῦσα τὸν ἐρώμενον περιεπλάκη ὅλη καὶ ἐμίγησαν· ἐρώμενοι γὰρ ἦσαν.
25. Nature presently laying hold of what it so much loved, did wholly wrap herself about it, and they were mingled, for they loved one another.
26. καὶ διὰ τοῦτο παρὰ πάντα τὰ ἐπὶ γῆς ζῶα διπλοῦς ἐστὶν ὁ ἄνθρωπος, θνητὸς μὲν διὰ τὸ σῶμα, ἀθάνατος δὲ διὰ τὸν οὐσιώδη ἄνθρωπον· ἀθάνατος γὰρ ὢν καὶ πάντων τὴν ἐξουσίαν ἔχων, τὰ θνητὰ πάσχει ὑποκείμενος τῇ εἰμαρμένῃ.
26. And from this cause *Man* above all things that live upon earth is double: *Mortal*, because of his body, and *Immortal*, because of the substantial Man. For being immortal, and having power of all things, he yet suffers mortal things, and such as are subject to Fate or Destiny.
27. ὑπεράνω οὖν ὢν τῆς ἀρμονίας ἐναρμόνιος γέγονε δοῦλος ἀρρενόθηλος δὲ ὢν, ἐξ ἀρρενοθήλεος ὢν πατὴρ καὶ ἀϋπνος ἀπὸ ἀϋπνου . . . κρατεῖται.
27. And therefore being above all *Harmony*, he is made and become a servant to *Harmony*, he is *Hermaphrodite*, or Male and Female, and watchful, he is governed by and subjected to a Father, that is both Male and Female, and watchful.
28. καὶ μετὰ ταῦτα, Νοῦς ὁ ἐμός· καὶ αὐτὸς γὰρ ἐρῶ τοῦ λόγου.
28. After these things, I said, *Thou art my mind, and I am in love with Reason.*
29. ὁ δὲ Ποιμάνδρης εἶπε, Τοῦτό ἐστι τὸ κεκρυμμένον μυστήριον μέχρι τῆσδε τῆς ἡμέρας. ἡ γὰρ φύσις ἐπιμιγεῖσα τῷ Ἀνθρώπῳ ἦνεγκέ τι θαῦμα θαυμασιώτατον· ἔχοντος γὰρ αὐτοῦ τῆς ἀρμονίας τῶν ἐπτὰ τὴν φύσιν, οὗς ἔφην σοι ἐκ πυρὸς καὶ πνεύματος, οὐκ ἀνέμενεν ἡ φύσις, ἀλλ' εὐθύς ἀπεκύησεν ἐπτὰ ἀνθρώπους, πρὸς τὰς φύσεις τῶν ἐπτὰ διοικητόρων, ἀρρενοθήλεας καὶ μεταρσίους.
29. Then said *Poimander*, This is the *Mystery* that to this day is hidden and kept secret; for Nature being mingled with man, brought forth a Wonder most Wonderful; for he having the nature of the *Harmony* of the *Seven*, from him whom I told thee, the Fire and the Spirit, Nature continued not, but forthwith brought forth seven Men, all *Males* and *Females*, and sublime, or on high, according to the Natures of the seven Governors.



30. και μετὰ ταῦτα, ὦ Ποιμάνδρη, εἰς μεγάλην γὰρ νῦν ἐπιθυμίαν ἦλθον καὶ ποθῶ ἀκοῦσαι· μὴ ἔκτρεχε.
30. And after these things, *O Poimander*, quoth I, I am now come into a great desire and longing to hear; do not digress or run out.
31. καὶ ὁ Ποιμάνδρης εἶπεν, Ἄλλὰ σιώπα. οὐπω γὰρ σοι ἀνήπλωσα τὸν πρῶτον λόγον.
31. But he said, Keep silence, for I have not yet finished the first speech.
32. Ἴδου σιωπῶ, ἔφην ἐγώ.
32. *Trism.* Behold, I am silent.
33. Ἐγένετο οὖν, ὡς ἔφην, τῶν ἐπὶ ταύτων ἡ γένεσις τοιῶδε τρόπῳ· θηλυκὴ γὰρ <γή> ἦν καὶ ὕδωρ ὀχευτικόν, τὸ δὲ ἐκ πυρός πέπειρον. ἐκ δὲ αἰθέρος τὸ πνεῦμα ἔλαβε καὶ ἐξήνεγκεν ἡ φύσις τὰ σώματα πρὸς τὸ εἶδος τοῦ Ἄνθρώπου.
33. *Poim.* The Generation therefore of these Seven was after this manner: — The *Air* being *Feminine* and the *Water* desirous of Copulation, took from the *Fire* its ripeness, and from the aether Spirit, and so Nature produced Bodies after the species and shape of men.
34. ὁ δὲ Ἄνθρωπος ἐκ ζωῆς καὶ φωτὸς ἐγένετο εἰς ψυχὴν καὶ νοῦν, ἐκ μὲν ζωῆς ψυχὴν, ἐκ δὲ φωτὸς νοῦν,
34. And man was made of *Life* and *Light*, into *Soul* and *Mind*; of *Life* the soul, of *Light* the *Mind*.
35. καὶ ἔμεινεν οὕτω τὰ πάντα τοῦ αἰσθητοῦ κόσμου μέχρι περιόδου τέλους <καὶ> ἀρχῶν γενῶν.
35. And so all the members of the *Sensible World*, continued unto the period of the end, bearing rule and generating.
36. ἄκουε λοιπόν, ὃν ποθεῖς λόγον ἀκοῦσαι.
36. Hear now the rest of that speech thou so much desireth to hear.
37. τῆς περιόδου πεπληρωμένης ἐλύθη ὁ πάντων σύνδεσμος ἐκ βουλῆς θεοῦ· πάντα γὰρ ζῶα ἀρρενοθήλεια ὄντα διελύετο ἅμα τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ καὶ ἐγένετο τὰ μὲν ἀρρενικὰ ἐν μέρει, τὰ δὲ θηλυκὰ ὁμοίως.
37. When that *period* was fulfilled, the bond of all things was loosed and untied by the will of God; for all living *Creatures* being Hermaphroditical, or *Male* and *Female*, were loosed and untied together with man; and so the Males were apart by themselves and the Females likewise.
38. ὁ δὲ θεὸς εὐθύς εἶπεν ἀγίῳ λόγῳ, Αὐξάνεσθε ἐν αὐξήσει καὶ πληθύνεσθε ἐν πλήθει πάντα τὰ κτίσματα καὶ δημιουργήματα, καὶ ἀναγνωρισάτω <ὁ> ἑαυτὸν ὄντα ἀθάνατον, καὶ τὸν αἴτιον τοῦ θανάτου ἔρωτα, καὶ πάντα τὰ ὄντα.
38. And straightways God said to the Holy Word, *Increase in increasing and multiplying in multitude all you my Creatures and Workmanships.* And let him that is endued with mind, know himself to be immortal; and that the cause of death is the love of the body, and let him learn all things that are.



39. τοῦτο εἰπόντος, ἡ πρόνοια διὰ τῆς εἰμαρμένης καὶ ἁρμονίας τὰς μίξεις ἐποίησατο, καὶ τὰς γενέσεις κατέστησε, καὶ ἐπληθύνθη κατὰ γένος τὰ πάντα καὶ ὁ ἀναγνωρίσας ἑαυτὸν ἐλήλυθεν εἰς τὸ περιούσιον ἀγαθόν,
39. When he had thus said, *Providence by Fate of Harmony*, made the mixtures and established the Generations, and all things were multiplied according to their kind. And he that knew himself, came at length to the *Superstantial* of every way substantial good.
40. ὁ δὲ ἀγαπήσας τὸ ἐκ πλάνης ἔρωτος σῶμα, οὗτος μένει ἐν τῷ σκοτει πλανώμενος, αἰσθητῶς πάσχων τὰ τοῦ θανάτου.
40. But he that thro' the error of Love loved the *Body*, abideth wandering in darkness, sensible, suffering the things of death.
41. Τί τοσοῦτον ἁμαρτάνουσιν, ἔφην ἐγώ, οἱ ἀγνοοῦντες, ἵνα στερηθῶσι τῆς ἀθανασίας.
41. *Trism.* But why do they that are ignorant, sin so much, that they should therefore be deprived of immortality?
42. Ἔοικας, ὦ οὗτος, τοῦ των μὴ πεφροντικέναι ὧν ἤκουσας.
42. *Poim.* Thou seemest not to have understood what thou hast heard.
43. οὐκ ἔφην σοι νοεῖν; Νοῶ καὶ μιμνήσκομαι,
43. *Trism.* Peradventure I seem so to thee; but I both understand and remember them.
44. εὐχαριστῶ δὲ ἄμα. Εἰ ἐνόησας,
44. *Poim.* I am glad for thy sake if thou understoodest them.
45. εἰπέ μοι, διὰ τί ἄξιοί εἰσι τοῦ θανάτου οἱ ἐν τῷ θανάτῳ ὄντες;
45. *Trism.* Tell me why are they worthy of death, that are in death?
46. Ὅτι προκατάρχεται τοῦ οἰκείου σώματος τὸ συγγνὸν σκοτός, ἐξ οὗ ἡ ὑγρὰ φύσις, ἐξ ἧς τὸ σῶμα συνέστηκεν ἐν τῷ αἰσθητῷ κόσμῳ, ἐξ οὗ θάνατος ἀρδεύεται. Ἐνόησας ὀρθῶς, ὦ οὗτος.
46. *Poim.* Because there goeth a sad and dismal darkness before its body; of which darkness is the moist nature, of which moist nature the *Body* consisteth in the sensible world, from whence death is derived. Has thou understood this aright?
47. κατὰ τί δὲ «ὁ νοήσας ἑαυτὸν εἰς αὐτὸν χωρεῖ», ὅπερ ἔχει ὁ τοῦ θεοῦ λόγος;
47. *Trism.* But why, or how doth he that understands himself, go or pass into God?
48. φημι ἐγώ, Ὅτι ἐκ φωτός καὶ ζωῆς συνέστηκεν ὁ πατὴρ τῶν ὄλων, ἐξ οὗ γέγονεν ὁ Ἄνθρωπος.
48. *Poim.* That which the Word of God said, say I: Because the Father of all things consists of Life and Light, whereof man is made.
49. Εὖ φῆς λαλῶν.
49. *Trism.* Thou sayest very well.
50. φῶς καὶ ζωὴ ἐσιν ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ, ἐξ οὗ ἐγένετο ὁ Ἄνθρωπος. ἐὰν οὖν μάθῃς αὐτὸν ἐκ ζωῆς καὶ φωτός ὄντα καὶ ὅτι ἐκ τούτων τυγχάνεις, εἰς ζῶην πάλιν χωρήσεις. ταῦτα ὁ Ποιμάνδρης εἶπεν.
50. *Poim.* God and the Father is Light and Life, of which Man is made. If therefore thou learn and believe thyself to be of the Life and Light, thou shalt again pass into Life.



51. Ἄλλ' ἔτι μοι εἰπέ, πῶς εἰς ζωὴν χωρήσω
ἐγὼ, ἔφην, ὦ Νοῦς ἐμός;
51. *Trism.* But yet tell me more, O my Mind, how I shall go into Life.
52. φησὶ γὰρ ὁ θεός· «ὁ ἔννους ἄνθρωπος
ἀναγνωρισάτω ἑαυτόν».
52. *Poim.* God saith, Let man, endued with a mind, mark, consider, and know himself well.
53. οὐ πάντες γὰρ ἄνθρωποι νοῦν ἔχουσιν;
53. *Trism.* Have not all men a mind?
54. Εὐφήμει, ὃ οὔτος, λαλῶν· παραγίνομαι
αὐτὸς ἐγὼ ὁ Νοῦς τοῖς ὀσίοις καὶ ἀγαθοῖς καὶ
καθαροῖς καὶ ἐλεήμοσι, τοῖς εὐσεβοῦσι, καὶ ἡ
παρουσία μου γίνεται βοήθεια, καὶ εὐθύς τὰ
πάντα γνωρίζουσι καὶ τὸν πατέρα ἰλάσκονται
ἀγαπητικῶς καὶ εὐχαριστοῦσιν εὐλογοῦντες
καὶ ὑμνοῦντες τεταγμένως πρὸς αὐτὸν τῇ
στοργῇ, καὶ πρὸ τοῦ παραδοῦναι τὸ σῶμα
ιδίῳ θανάτῳ μυσάπτονται τὰς αἰσθήσεις,
εἰδότες αὐτῶν τὰ ἐνεργήματα·
54. *Poim.* Take heed what thou sayest, for I the mind come unto men that are holy and good, pure and merciful, and that live piously and religiously; and my presence is a help unto them. And forthwith they know all things, and lovingly they supplicate and propitiate the Father; and blessing him, they give him thanks, and sing hymns unto him, being ordered and directed by filial Affection and natural Love. And before they give up their bodies to the death of them, they hate their senses, knowing their Works and Operations.
55. μᾶλλον δὲ οὐκ ἐάσω αὐτὸς ὁ Νοῦς τὰ
προσπίπτοντα ἐνεργήματα τοῦ σώματος
ἐκτελεσθῆναι. πυλωρὸς ὢν ἀποκλείσω
τὰς εἰσόδους τῶν κακῶν καὶ αἰσχροῶν
ἐνεργημάτων, τὰς ἐνθυμήσεις ἐκκόπτων.
55. Rather I that am the Mind itself, will not suffer the operations or Works, which happen or belong to the body, to be finished and brought to perfection in them; but being the *Porter* or *Doorkeeper*, I will shut up the entrances of Evil, and cut off the thoughtful desires of filthy works.
56. τοῖς δὲ ἀνοήτοις καὶ κακοῖς καὶ πονηροῖς
καὶ φθονεροῖς καὶ πλεονέκταις καὶ φονεῦσι
καὶ ἀσεβέσι πόρρωθέν εἰμι, τῷ τιμωρῷ
ἐκχωρήσας δαίμονι, ὅστις τὴν ὀξύτητα
τοῦ πυρὸς προσβάλλων θρώσκει αὐτὸν
αἰσθητικῶς καὶ μᾶλλον ἐπὶ τὰς ἀνομίας
αὐτὸν ὀπλίζει, ἵνα τύχη πλείονος τιμωρίας,
56. But to the foolish, and evil, and wicked, and envious, and covetous, and murderous, and profane, I am far off, giving place to the revenging *Demon*, which applying unto him the sharpness of fire, tormenteth such a man sensible, and armeth him the more to all wickedness, that he may obtain the greater punishment.
57. καὶ οὐ παύεται ἐπ' ὀρέξεις ἀπλέτους τὴν
ἐπιθυμίαν ἔχων, ἀκορέστως σκοτομαχῶν,
καὶ τοῦ τον βασανίζει, καὶ ἐπ' αὐτὸν
πῦρ ἐπὶ τὸ πλεῖον αὐξάνει.
57. And such an one never ceaseth, having unfulfilled desires, and unsatisfiable concupiscences, and always fighting in darkness; for the *Demon* always afflicts and tormenteth him continually, and increaseth the fire upon him more and more.



58. Εὖ μοι πάντα, ὡς ἐβουλόμην, ἐδίδαξας,
ὦ Νοῦς, ἔτι δέ μοι εἰπέ <περὶ>
τῆς ἀνόδου τῆς γινομένης.
58. *Trism.* Thou hast, O Mind, most excellently taught me all things, as I desired; but tell me, moreover, after the return is made, what then?
59. πρὸς ταῦτα ὁ Ποιμάνδρης εἶπε, Πρῶτον μὲν ἐν τῇ ἀναλύσει τοῦ σώματος τοῦ ὑλικοῦ παραδίδως αὐτὸ τὸ σῶμα εἰς ἀλλοίωσιν, καὶ τὸ εἶδος ὃ εἶχες ἀφανὲς γίνεται, καὶ τὸ ἦθος τῷ δαίμονι ἀνερέργητον παραδίδως, καὶ αἱ αἰσθήσεις τοῦ σώματος εἰς τὰς ἑαυτῶν πηγὰς ἐπανέρχονται, μέρη γινόμενα καὶ πάλιν συνανιστάμενα εἰς τὰς ἐνεργείας.
59. *Poim.* First of all, in the resolution of the material body, the Body itself is given up to alteration, and the form which it had becometh invisible; and the idle manners are permitted, and left to the *Demon*, and the senses of the body return into their Fountains, being parts, and again made up into Operations.
60. καὶ ὁ θυμὸς καὶ ἡ ἐπιθυμία εἰς τὴν ἄλογον φύσιν χωρεῖ. καὶ οὕτως ὁρμᾷ λοιπὸν ἄνω διὰ τῆς ἁρμονίας,
60. And Anger, and Concupiscence, go into the brutish or unreasonable nature; and the rest striveth upward by Harmony.
61. καὶ τῇ πρώτῃ ζώνῃ δίδωσι τὴν αὐξητικὴν ἐνεργείαν καὶ τὴν μειωτικὴν,
61. And to the first *Zone* it giveth the power it had of increasing and diminishing.
62. καὶ τῇ δευτέρῃ τὴν μηχανὴν τῶν κακῶν, δόλον ἀνερέργητον,
62. To the second, the machinations or plotting of evils, and one effectual deceit or craft.
63. καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ τὴν ἐπιθυμητικὴν ἀπάτην ἀνερέργητον,
63. To the third, the idle deceit of Concupiscence.
64. καὶ τῇ τετάρτῃ τὴν ἀρχοντικὴν προφανίαν ἀπλεονέκτητον,
64. To the fourth, the desire of Rule, and unsatiable Ambition.
65. καὶ τῇ πέμπτῃ τὸ θράσος τὸ ἀνόσιον καὶ τῆς τόλμης τὴν προπέτειαν,
65. To the fifth, profane Boldness, and the headlong rashness of confidence.
66. καὶ τῇ ἕκτῃ τὰς ἀφορμὰς τὰς κακὰς τοῦ πλοῦτου ἀνεργήτους,
66. To the sixth, Evil and ineffectual occasions of Riches.
67. καὶ τῇ ἑβδόμῃ ζώνῃ τὸ ἐνεδρεῦον ψεῦδος.
67. To the seventh *Zone*, subtle Falsehood, always lying in wait.
68. καὶ τότε γυμνωθεὶς ἀπὸ τῶν τῆς ἁρμονίας ἐνεργημάτων γίνεται ἐπὶ τὴν ὀγδοατικὴν φύσιν, τὴν ἰδίαν δύναμιν ἔχων, καὶ ὑμνεῖ σὺν τοῖς οὖσι τὸν πατέρα· συγχαίρουσι δὲ οἱ παρόντες τῇ τούτου παρουσίᾳ, καὶ ὁμοιωθεὶς τοῖς συνοῦσιν ἀκούει καὶ τιῶν δυνάμεων ὑπὲρ τὴν ὀγδοατικὴν φύσιν φωνῇ τινὶ ἠδεῖα ὑμνουσῶν τὸν θεόν·
68. And then being made naked of all the Operations of *Harmony*, it cometh to the Eighth Nature, having its proper power, and singeth praises to the father with the things that are, and all they that are present rejoice, and congratulate the coming of it; and being made like to them with whom it converseth, it heareth also the Powers that are above the Eighth Nature, singing Praise to God in a certain voice that is peculiar to them.



69. καὶ τότε τάξει ἀνέρχονται πρὸς τὸν πατέρα, καὶ αὐτοὶ εἰς δυνάμεις ἑαυτοὺς παραδιδόασι, καὶ δυνάμεις γενόμενοι ἐν θεῷ γίνονται.
69. And then in order they return unto the Father, and themselves deliver themselves to the Powers, and becoming Powers they are in God.
70. τοῦτό ἐστι τὸ ἀγαθὸν τέλος τοῖς γνῶσιν ἐσχηκόσι, θεωθῆναι.
70. This is the Good, and to them that know, to be desired.
71. λοιπὸν, τί μέλλεις; οὐκ ὡς πάντα παραλαβὼν καθοδηγὸς γίνῃ τοῖς ἀξίοις, ὅπως τὸ γένος τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος διὰ σοῦ ὑπὸ θεοῦ σωθῆι;
71. Furthermore, why sayest thou, what resteth, but that understanding all men thou become a guide, and way-leader to them that are worthy; that the kind of *Humanity*, or *Mankind*, may be saved by God?
72. ταῦτα εἰπὼν ὁ Ποιμάνδρης ἐμοὶ ἐμίγη ταῖς δυνάμεσιν.
72. When *Poimander* had thus said unto me, he was mingled among the Powers.
73. ἐγὼ δὲ εὐχαριστήσας καὶ εὐλογήσας τὸν πατέρα τῶν ὅλων ἀνείθην ὑπ' αὐτοῦ δυναμωθεὶς καὶ διδαχθεὶς τοῦ παντός τὴν φύσιν καὶ τὴν μεγίστην θέαν,
73. But I, giving thanks, and blessing the father of all things, rose up, being enabled by him, and taught the Nature of the Nature of the whole, and having seen the greatest sight or spectacle.
74. καὶ ἤρξαμαι κηρύσσειν τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὸ τῆς εὐσεβείας καὶ γνώσεως κάλλος,
74. And I began to Preach unto men, the beauty and fairness of Piety and Knowledge.
75. ὦ λαοί, ἄνδρες γηγενεῖς, οἱ μέθη καὶ ὕπνῳ ἑαυτοὺς ἐκδεδωκότες καὶ τῇ ἀγνωσίᾳ τοῦ θεοῦ, νήψατε, παύσασθε δὲ κραιπαλῶντες, θελγόμενοι ὕπνῳ ἀλόγῳ.
75. *O ye people, men, born and made of the earth, which have given yourselves over to drunkenness and sleep, and to the ignorance of God, be sober and cease your surfeit, whereunto you are allured and visited by brutish and unreasonable sleep.*
76. Οἱ δὲ ἀκούσαντες παρεγένοντο ὁμοθυμαδόν. ἐγὼ δὲ φημι,
76. And they that heard me come willingly and with one accord; and then I said further:
77. Τί ἑαυτοὺς, ὧ ἄνδρες γηγενεῖς, εἰς θάνατον ἐκδεδώκατε, ἔχοντες ἐξουσίαν τῆς ἀθανασίας μεταλαβεῖν; μετανοήσατε, οἱ συνοδεύσαντες τῇ πλάνῃ καὶ συγκοινωνήσαντες τῇ ἀγνοίᾳ.
77. *Why, O Men of the Offspring of Earth, why have you delivered yourselves over unto Death, having power to partake of Immortality? Repent and change your minds, you that have together walked in Error, and have been darkened in ignorance.*
78. ἀπαλλάγητε τοῦ σκοτεινοῦ φωτός, μεταλάβετε τῆς ἀθανασίας, καταλείψαντες τὴν φθοράν.
78. Depart from that dark light, be partakers of Immortality, and leave or forsake corruption.



79. και οί μὲν αὐτῶν καταφλυαρήσαντες ἀπέστησαν, τῇ τοῦ θανάτου ὁδῷ ἑαυτοὺς ἐκδεδωκότες, 79. And some of *them that heard me*, mocking and scorning went away, and delivered themselves up to the way of Death.
80. οἱ δὲ παρεκάλουν διδαχθῆναι, ἑαυτοὺς πρὸ ποδῶν μου ῥίψαντες. ἐγὼ δὲ ἀναστήσας αὐτοὺς καθοδηγὸς ἐγενόμην τοῦ γένους, τοὺς λόγους διδάσκων, πῶς καὶ τίνι τρόπῳ σωθήσονται, καὶ ἔσπειρα αὐτοῖς τοὺς τῆς σοφίας λόγους καὶ ἐτρέφηναν ἐκ τοῦ ἀμβροσίου ὕδατος. 80. But others casting themselves down before my feet, besought me that they might be taught; but I, causing them to rise up, became a guide of mankind, teaching them the reasons how, and by what means they may be saved. And I sowed in them the Words of Wisdom, and nourished them with *Ambrosian Water of Immortality*.
81. ὀψίας δὲ γενομένης καὶ τῆς τοῦ ἡλίου αὐγῆς ἀρχομένης δύεσθαι ὄλης, ἐκέλευσα αὐτοῖς εὐχαριστεῖν τῷ θεῷ καὶ ἀναπληρώσαντες τὴν εὐχαριστίαν ἕκαστος ἐτρέπη εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν κοίτην. 81. And when it was evening and the brightness of the same began wholly to go down, I commanded them to go down, I commanded them to give thanks to God; and when they had finished their thanksgiving, everyone returned to his own lodging.
82. ἐγὼ δὲ τὴν εὐεργεσίαν τοῦ Ποιμάνδρου ἀνεγραψάμην εἰς ἑμαυτόν, καὶ πληρωθεὶς ὧν ἤθελον ἐξηυφράνθην. 82. But I wrote in myself the bounty and benevolence of *Poimander*; and being filled with what I most desired, I was exceedingly glad.
83. ἐγένετο γὰρ ὁ τοῦ σώματος ὕπνος τῆς ψυχῆς νῆψις, καὶ ἡ κάμμισις τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν ἀληθινὴ ὄρασις, καὶ ἡ σιωπὴ μου ἐγκύμων τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ, καὶ ἡ τοῦ λόγου ἐκφορὰ γεννήματα ἀγαθῶν. 83. For the sleep of the body was the sober watchfulness of the mind; and the shutting of my eyes the true sight, and my silence great with child and full of good; and the pronouncing of my words the blossoms and fruits of good things.
84. τοῦτο δὲ συνέβη μοι λαβόντι ἀπὸ τοῦ νοός μου, τουτέστι τοῦ Ποιμάνδρου, τοῦ τῆς αὐθεντίας λόγου. θεόπνους γενόμενος τῆς ἀληθείας ἦλθον. 84. And thus it came to pass or happened unto me, which I received from my mind, that is *Poimander*, the Lord of the Word; whereby I became inspired by God with the Truth.
85. διὸ δίδωμι ἐκ ψυχῆς καὶ ἰσχύος ὄλης εὐλογίαν τῷ πατρὶ θεῷ. 85. For which cause, with my soul and whole strength, I give praise and blessing unto God the Father.
86. ἅγιος ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τῶν ὄλων. 86. *Holy is God, the Father of all things.*
87. ἅγιος ὁ θεός, οὗ ἡ βουλή τελεῖται ἀπὸ τῶν ἰδίων δυνάμεων. 87. *Holy is God, whose will is performed and accomplished by his own powers.*



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| 88. ἅγιος ὁ θεός, ὃς γνωσθῆναι βούλεται
καὶ γινώσκεται τοῖς ἰδίοις. | 88. <i>Holy is God, that determineth to be
known, and is known by his own, or those
that are his.</i> |
| 89. ἅγιος εἶ, ὁ λόγῳ συστησάμενος τὰ ὄντα. | 89. <i>Holy art thou, that by thy Word has
established all things.</i> |
| 90. ἅγιος εἶ, οὗ πᾶσα φύσις εἰκὼν ἔφυ. | 90. <i>Holy art thou, of whom all Nature is
the Image.</i> |
| 91. ἅγιος εἶ, ὃν ἡ φύσις οὐκ ἐμόρφωσεν. | 91. <i>Holy art thou, whom Nature hath not
formed.</i> |
| 92. ἅγιος εἶ, ὁ πάσης δυνάμεως ἰσχυρότερος. | 92. <i>Holy art thou, that art stronger than all
power.</i> |
| 93. ἅγιος εἶ, ὁ πάσης ὑπεροχῆς μείζων. | 93. <i>Holy art thou, that art stronger than all
excellency.</i> |
| 94. ἅγιος εἶ, ὁ κρείττων τῶν ἐπαινῶν. | 94. <i>Holy art thou, that art better than all
praise.</i> |
| 95. δέξαι λογικὰς θυσίας ἀγνὰς ἀπὸ ψυχῆς
καὶ καρδίας πρὸς σὲ ἀνατεταμένης, | 95. <i>Accept these reasonable sacrifices
from a pure soul, and a heart that
stretched out unto thee.</i> |
| 96. ἀνεκλάλητε, ἄρρητε, σιωπῇ φωνούμενε. | 96. <i>O unspeakable, unutterable, to be
praised with silence!</i> |
| 97. αἰτούμενω τὸ μὴ σφαλῆναι τῆς γνώσεως
τῆς κατ' οὐσίαν ἡμῶν ἐπίνευσόν μοι καὶ
ἐνδυνάμωσόν με, καὶ τῆς χάριτος ταύτης
φωτίσω τοὺς ἐν ἀγνοίᾳ τοῦ γένους, μοῦ
ἀδελφούς, υἱούς δὲ σοῦ. | 97. <i>I beseech thee, that I may never err
from the knowledge of thee; look merci-
fully upon me, and enable me, and
enlighten with this Grace those that are in
Ignorance, the brothers of my kind, but
thy Sons.</i> |
| 98. διὸ πιστεύω καὶ μαρτυρῶ· εἰς ζῶην
καὶ φῶς χωρῶ. | 98. <i>Therefore I believe thee, and bear wit-
ness, and go into the Life and Light.</i> |
| 99. εὐλογητὸς εἶ, πάτερ. ὁ σὸς ἄνθρωπος
συναγιάζειν σοὶ βούλεται, καθὼς
παρέδωκας αὐτῷ τὴν πᾶσαν ἐξουσίαν. | 99. <i>Blessed art thou, O Father, thy man
would be sanctified with thee, as thou
hast given him all power.</i> |





Hermes Mercurius Trismegistus by Salomon Trismosin,
From *Splendor Solis*, Plate 2 of 22 alchemical stages (1532-35), British Museum

