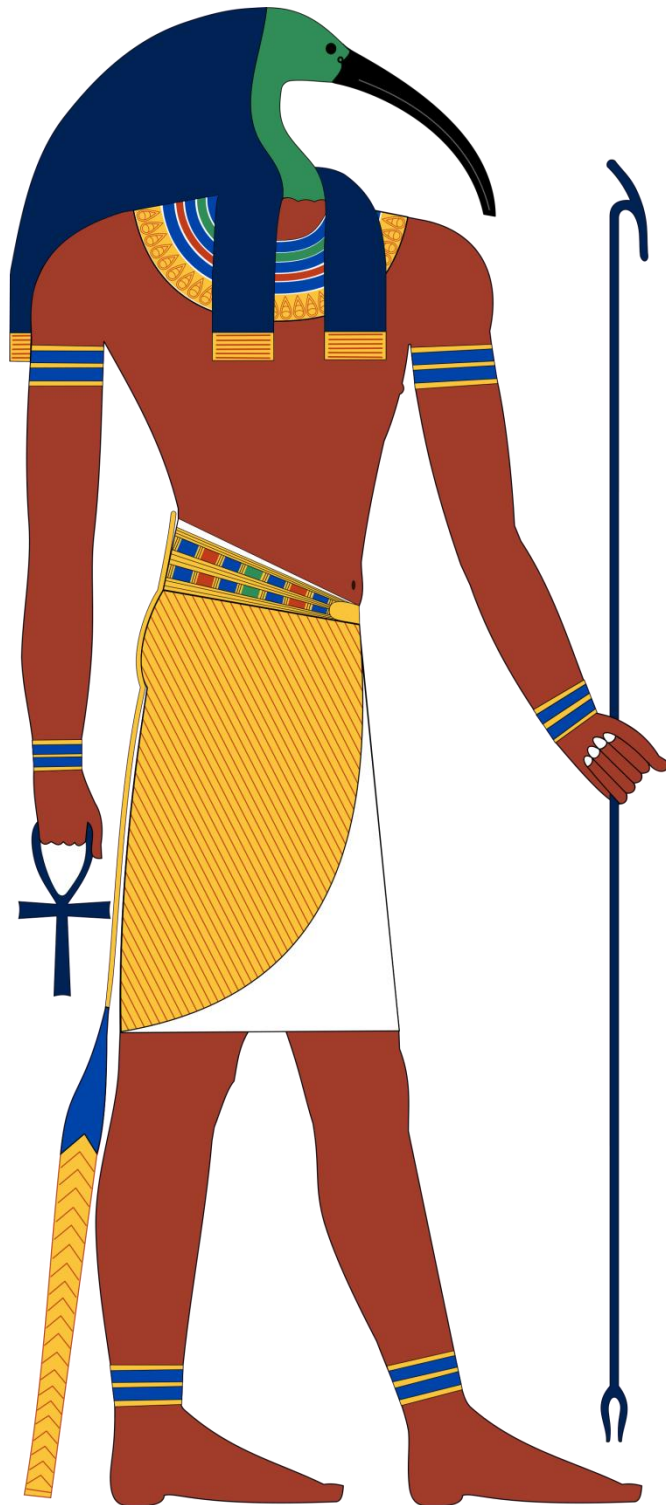


*Éliphas Lévi on the consequences  
of Hermetic philosophy*



**M**AN IS THE SON OF HIS WORKS; he is what he wills to be; he is the image of the god he makes; he is the realisation of his ideal. Should his ideal want basis, the whole edifice of his immortality collapses. Philosophy is not the ideal, but it serves as a foundation of the ideal. The known is for us the measure of the unknown; by the visible, we appreciate the invisible; sensations are to thoughts even as thoughts to aspiration. Science is a celestial trigonometry: *one* of the sides of the absolute triangle is nature, which is submitted to our investigations; the *second* is our soul, which embraces and reflects nature; the *third* is the absolute, in which our soul enlarges. No more atheism possible henceforward, for we no longer pretend to define god. God is for us the most perfect and best of intelligent being, and the ascending hierarchy of beings sufficiently demonstrates his existence. Do not let us ask for more, but, to be ever understanding him better, let us grow perfect by ascending towards him. No more ideology; being is being, and cannot perfectionist save according the real laws of being. Observe, and do not prejudge; exercise our faculties, do not falsify them; enlarge the domain of life in life; behold truth is truth! Everything is possible to him who wills only what is true! Rest in nature, study, know, then dare; dare to will, dare to act, and be silent! No more hatred of anyone. Everyone reaps what he sows. The consequence of works is fatal, and to judge and chastise the wicked is for the supreme reason. He who enters into a blind alley must retrace his steps or be broken. Warn him gently, if he can still hear you, but human liberty must take its course. We are not the judges of one another. Live is battle-field. Do not pause in the fighting on account of those who fall, but avoid trampling them. Then comes the victory, and wounded on both sides, become brothers by suffering and before humanity, will meet in the ambulances of the conquerors.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Waite A.E. (Tr.). *Transcendental Magic: Its Doctrine and Ritual by Éliphas Lévi* (alias of Alphonse L. Constant). London: George Redway, 1896; pp. 383-84. Cf. § "Listen to the Clarion Call" in *Compassion* (2009), pp. 313-15.