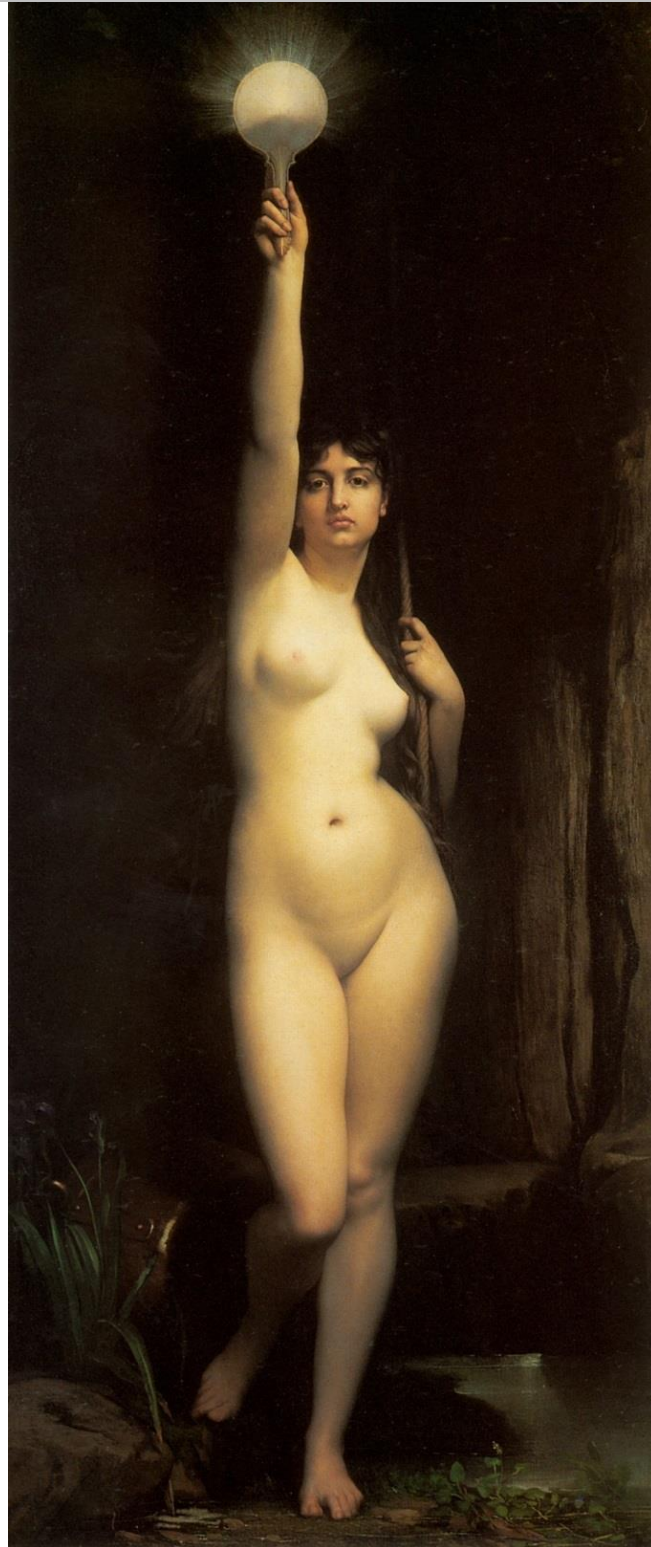


*Beauty of Truth  
unveiled from head to toe*



From *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (COMMENTARY ON THE PISTIS SOPHIA) XIII pp. 76-78.  
Frontispiece: *La Vérité* (1870) Jules Joseph Lefebvre, Musée d'Orsay.

[PS 241-242] “. . . And every one that shall receive the Mystery which is in the Space of the Universal Ineffable, and all the other sweet Mysteries in the Limbs of the Ineffable . . . which pertain to the Regulation of the One and the Same, the Deity of Truth, from the feet (upwards) (1) . . . each shall inherit up to his proper Region . . . ”

(1) [*The Limbs of the Ineffable, the Deity of Truth.*] An exposition of this Gnostic tenet will be found in PS 125 (1). The information there given may be expanded with advantage by the following passage from Irenaeus,<sup>1</sup> where speaking of the system of Marcus, he writes:

And the Quaternion [sc. the *higher* personal consciousness at one with the divine triad Ātma-Buddhi-Manas, forming the Supernal Tetractys], he [Marcus] said, having explained this to him, added,

Now then I am minded to manifest unto thee the very Truth herself. For I have brought her down from the mansions on high, that thou mayest look on her unclothed, and discover her beauty, yea, and hear her speak, and marvel at her wisdom [for Truth is the Bride of the Heavenly or Perfect Man, the Initiate]. Behold then her head above, the A and Ω; her neck B and Ψ; her shoulders with her hands, Γ and X; her bosom Δ and Φ; her chest<sup>2</sup> E and Y; her belly<sup>3</sup> Z and T; her lower parts<sup>4</sup> H and Σ; her thighs Θ and P, her knees I and Π; her legs<sup>5</sup> K and O; her ankles Λ and Ξ; her feet M and N.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Adversus Haereses*, Bk. I, ch. xiv, § 3 and 4; also found in Epiphanius, *Panarion* xxiv, § 4.

<sup>2</sup> [diaphragm]

<sup>3</sup> [back]

<sup>4</sup> [abdomen]

<sup>5</sup> [*i.e.*, knemis, from the knee to the ankle]

<sup>6</sup> [Alternative translation of this passage from *The Apostolic Fathers with Justin Martyr and Irenaeus*, edited by Philip Schaff:

Moreover, the Tetrads, explaining these things to him more fully, said:

I wish to show you Aletheia (Truth) herself; for I have brought her down from the dwellings above, that you may see her without a veil, and understand her beauty — that you may also hear her speaking, and admire her wisdom. Behold, then, her head on high, *Alpha* and *Omega*; her neck, *Beta* and *Psi*; her shoulders with her hands, *Gamma* and *Chi*; her breast, *Delta* and *Phi*; her diaphragm, *Epsilon* and *Upsilon*; her back, *Zeta* and *Tau*; her belly, *Eta* and *Sigma*; her thighs, *Theta* and *Rho*; her knees, *Iota* and *Pi*; her legs, *Kappa* and *Omicron*; her ankles, *Lambda* and *Xi*; her feet, *Mu* and *Nu*.

Such is the body of Truth, according to this magician, such the figure of the element, such the character of the letter. And he calls this element Anthropos (Man), and says that is the fountain of all speech, and the beginning of all sound, and the expression of all that is unspeakable, and the mouth of the silent Sigē. This indeed is the body of Truth. But do you, elevating the thoughts of your mind on high, listen from the mouth of Truth to the self-begotten Word, who is also the dispenser of the bounty of the Father.]

This is the body of Truth ascending to the Magus: this is the figure of the element, this is the character of the letter: and he calls this element *Man*: and he says, it is the source of every Word (*Verbum*), and the beginning of the universal *Sound* (*Vox*) and the utterance of every unspeakable, and *the mouth of speechless Silence*. And this indeed is her body; but do thou, lifting on high the understanding of thy intelligence, hear from the mouth of Truth, the self-producing Word, which also conveys the Father.

And when she had said this, the Truth [Marcus says] looked upon him, and opened her mouth and spake a Word: and the Word became a Name, and the Name was what we know and speak, Christ Jesus; and immediately she had uttered the Name, she became silent. And when Marcus thought that she would speak further, the Quaternion came forward again and said:

Thou didst hold as contemptible the Word which thou hast heard from the mouth of Truth, but this is not the Name which thou knowest and thinkest thou has possessed for long; for thou has only its sound, as to its virtue, thou art ignorant thereof. For the Name Jesus is that of the Sign [the Stigma, the sign of the Greek numeral 6], for it contains six letters, known by all *who are called* (*lit.*, of the calling). But that which is with the Aiōns of the Plērōma, since it is in many places, is of another form and another type, and known by those of its kinship whose greatnesses are with him [them, the Aiōns, Epiph.], eternally: [that is to say, those *who are chosen*, the Initiated or Perfect].

