

The Magical Memory

The Art of Memory as an Occult Practice

Presented to Sekhet-Maat Lodge

By

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Subtractione, ex lapide fit Mercurius.

@arnemancy

Simonides of Ceos

(c. 556-468 BCE)

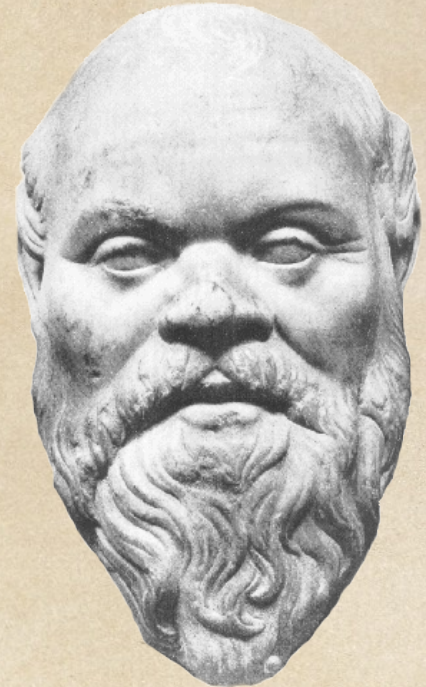


- One of the Nine Lyric Poets of Classical Greece
- Famous for repeatedly escaping death
- Invented the Art of Memory at the tragic feast of Scopas

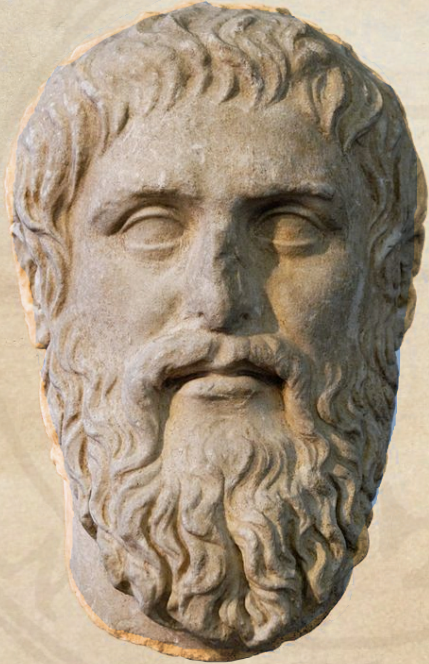
Writing and Memory

For this discovery of yours [letters] will create forgetfulness in the learners' souls, because they will not use their memories; they will trust to the external written characters and not remember of themselves.

Socrates quoting Ammon to Thoth, *Phaedrus*



Learning and the Soul



- Learning is *anamnesis* – the soul remembering.
- Forgetfulness through the trauma of incarnation
- “Memory and sensation, then, are not passivity but power.” – Plotinus

The Memory Palace or Method of Loci



The Rise of Movable Type



- Paper becomes readily available in Europe by 14th century.
- Gutenberg's press developed in the 1430s.
- By 1500, over 20 million volumes printed. By 1600, *over 200 million*.

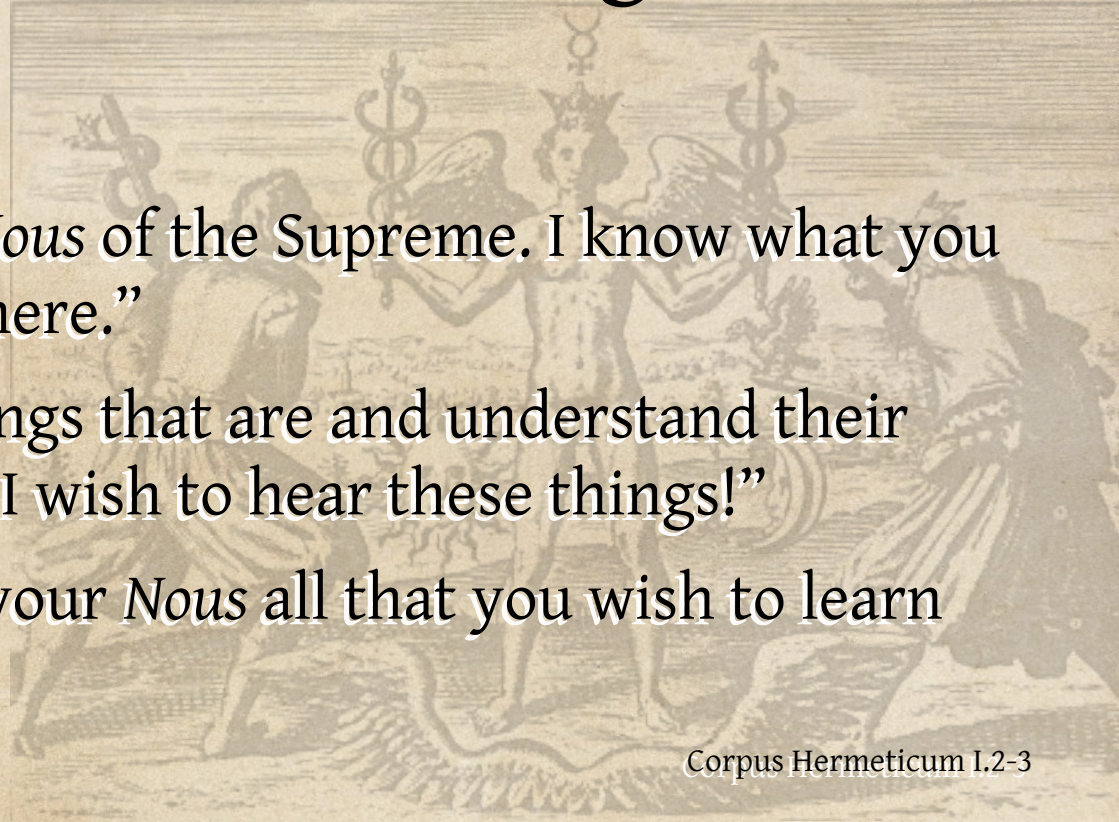
The Return of Hermes Trismegistus

“Who are you?” said I.

He said, “I am Poimandres the *Nous* of the Supreme. I know what you wish and I am with you everywhere.”

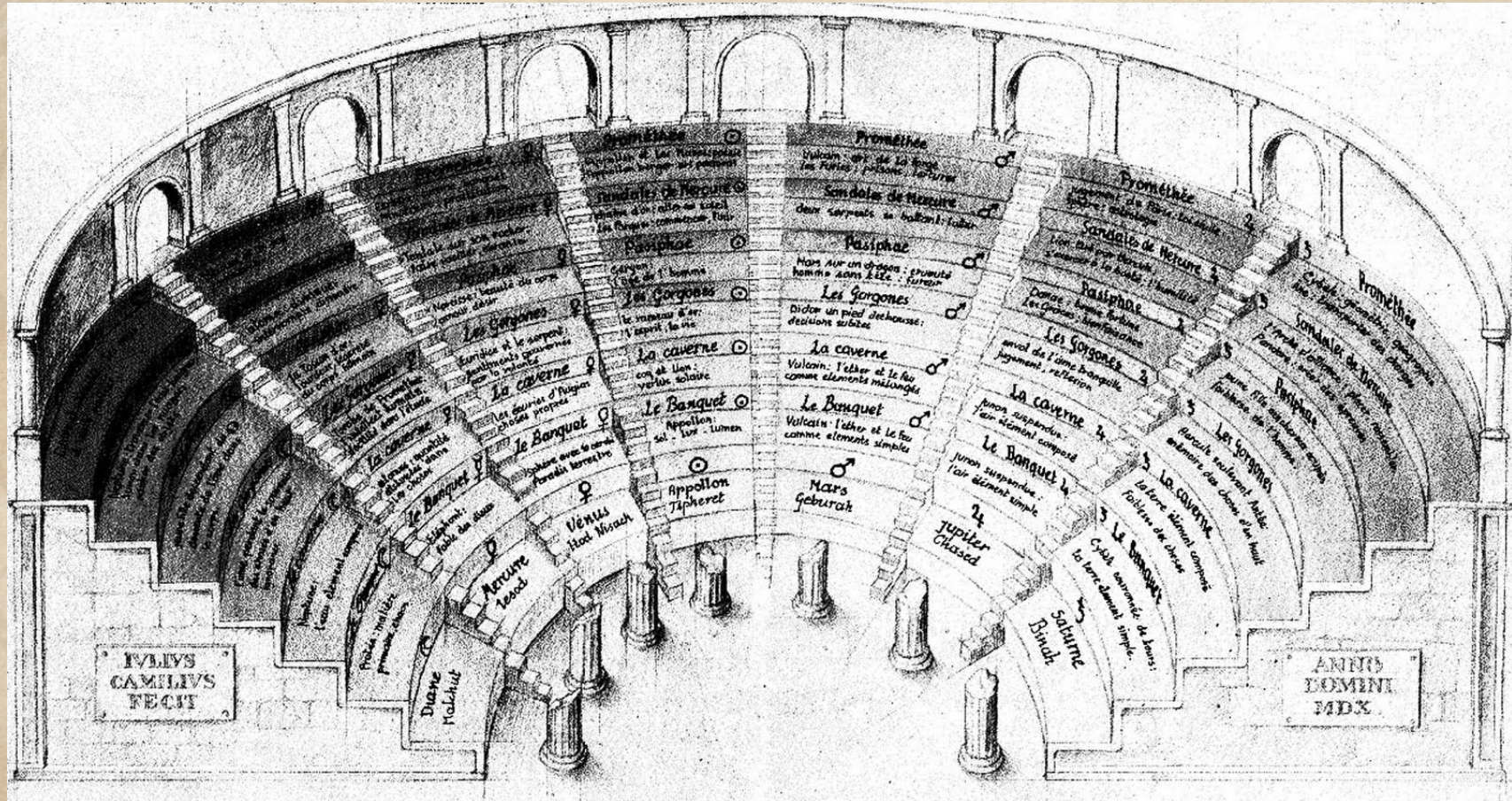
“I wish to learn,” said I, “the things that are and understand their nature and to know God. O how I wish to hear these things!”

He spoke to me again. “Hold in your *Nous* all that you wish to learn and I will teach you.”



Corpus Hermeticum I.2-3

Giulio Camillo's Theatre of Memory



Protestants vs. Idolatry

- Martin Luther's 95 Theses
- Targets Catholic cults of idols
- Rejection of neo-pagan Renaissance
- Counter-Reformation began with the Council of Trent in 1545.



Bruno and the Shadows of Ideas



- To create images in the mind is natural, not supernatural.
- Different understanding of the line between “material” and “spiritual”

Might there not be a universal truth available to anyone, lest we shut our eyes like the dead?

Classical	Bruno	Meaning
Locus/Loci	Subject	Memory location
Image	Adject	Mnemonic image

Bruno's Rules for Subjects (*Loci*)



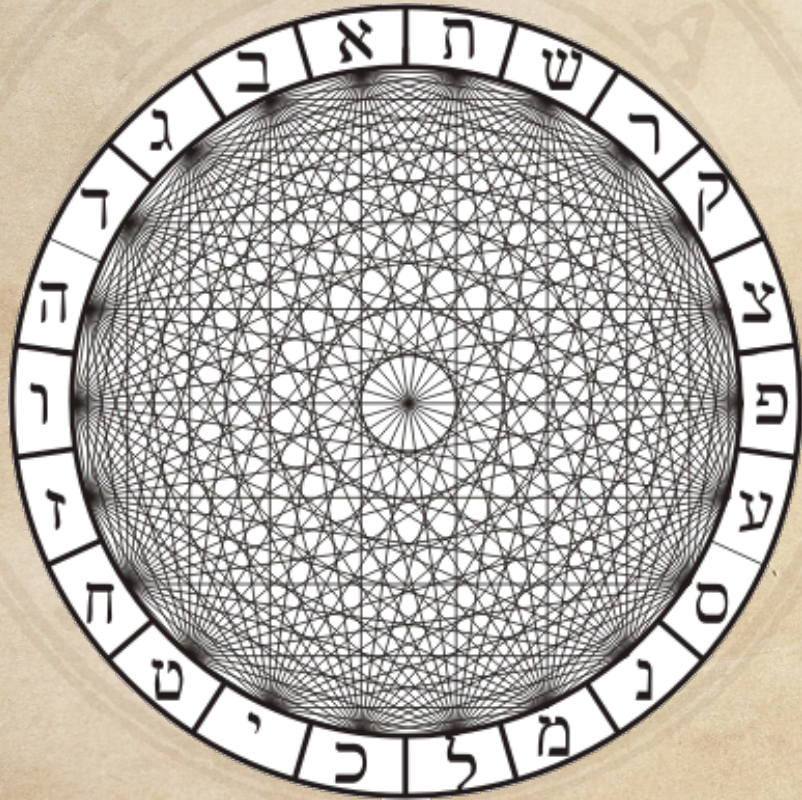
- “A healthy image derives from a happy and noble subject.”
- Emphasize speed and confidence in recall.
- Addition or subtraction to aid visualization.
- Daily practice!

Bruno's Rules for Adjects (*Imagines*)

- Visually striking and dramatic
- Endowed with motion and thus with soul
- Subjects and adjects should be related.
- Discretion, determination, and ordination



Memory for Phantastic Ritual



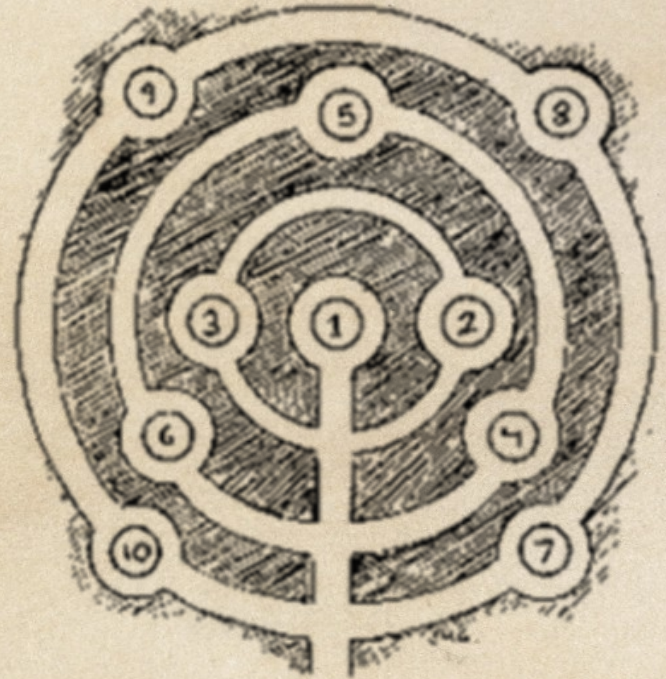
- Effective ritual is performed from memory.
- Including visualization.

*Twenty-two foundation letters:
He placed them in a circle
like a wall with 231 gates.*

Sefer Yetzirah, 2:4

Greer's Memory Garden

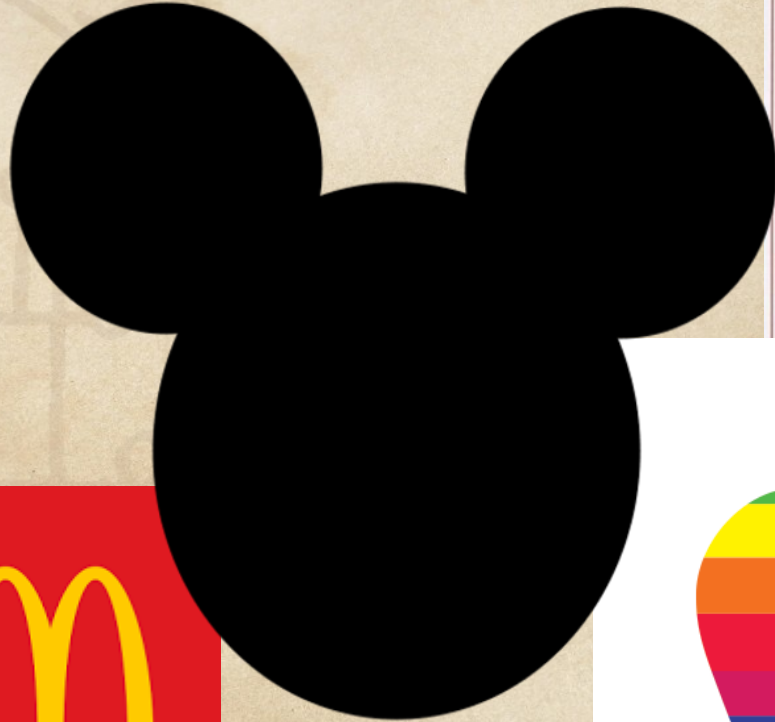
- Easy to learn memory palace
- *Loci* are occult-themed gazebos
- Built entirely around esoteric and occult symbolism



Advanced: Bruno's Memory Wheel



Where are Images Now?



Thank You!

Slides at <http://arnemancy.com/>



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