

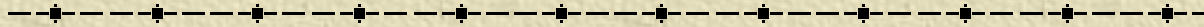


KEY TO THE KINGDOM

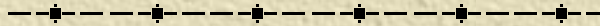
**The Keyhole Symbol of The New Gnosis
as the Key to 'The Kingdom of Heaven'**

Peter Wilberg 2004

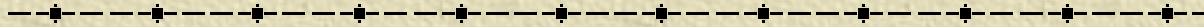
“The soul is an exhalation that perceives.”



Heraclitus

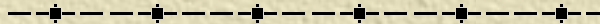



**“The body is a projection into
the three-dimensional field.”**



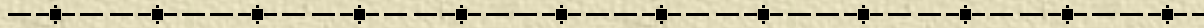
Seth

From ‘The Unknown Reality’ Volume 1. by Jane Roberts

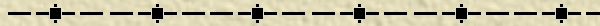




Jesus said “...**The Kingdom is
inside you and outside you.**”



The Gospel of Thomas



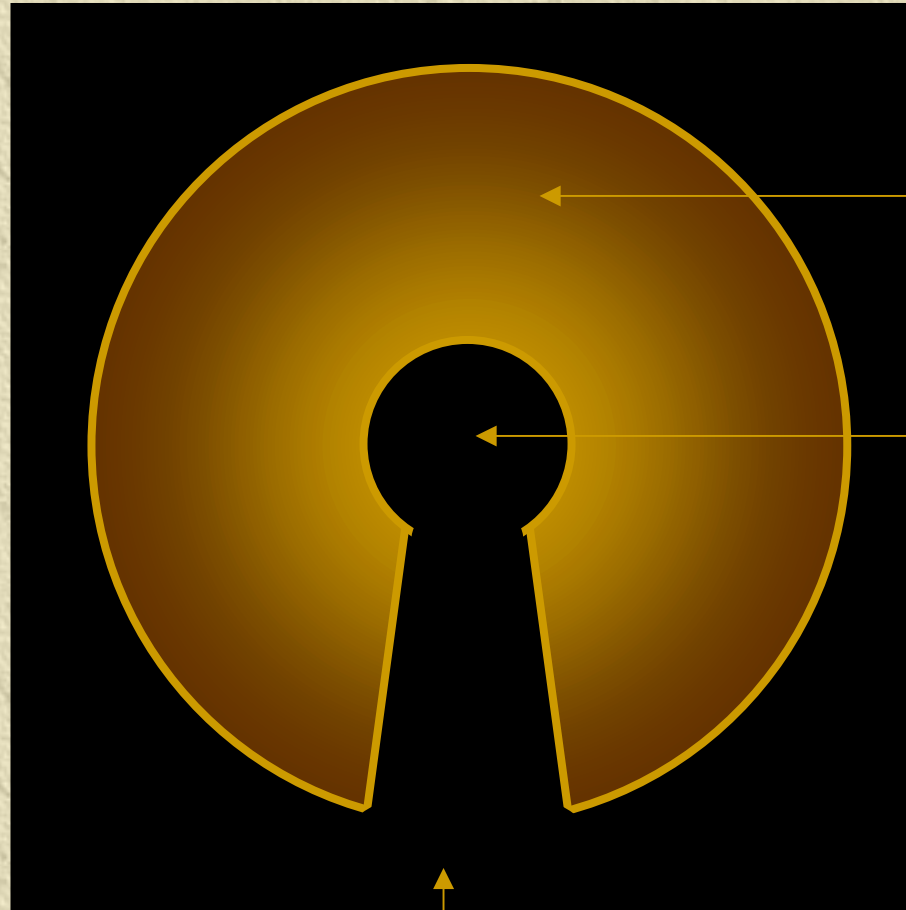
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this presentation is twofold - to explain the symbolic meaning of the 'keyhole' design I adopted as a symbol of **The New Gnosis**, and through it present a new gnostic interpretation of the term 'Kingdom' as employed by Christ. The word 'kingdom' is ordinarily taken to refer to the realm or dominion of a King. In the words of Christ the realm or dominion in question is the "Kingdom of God". The root meaning of the word **dominion** however, has nothing to do with the **domination** of a realm or region. Rather both **dominion** and **domination** share a common root in the word for 'house' (Latin *domus* /Greek *domos* /Sanskrit *damas*). A house is a place in which to shelter, dwell and give birth. As for the word **realm**, this does not refer to a domain that is the private property of a person, even a King. For like the words **rex**, **regal**, **royal** and **reign** the root meaning of **realm** is to 'set straight' or 'set right' - a meaning reflected more directly and correctly in the word **right**, and in such verbs as **direct** and **correct**. True spiritual teachers like Jesus Christ do not claim possession of a dominion or house - for they are more than often homeless and the victims of dominating rulers and kings (*archons*). Rather they seek to 'rule' in a very special sense of setting things 'straight' within the House of God. It belongs to the very essence of gnostic theology, however, that it does not understand 'God' as an *archon* - a being with power over others as a dominating 'first cause' (*arche*) or political ruler. The word **king** has the same root as **kin** or **kindred** - referring simply to someone of special **descent** - who does not 'cause' but rather fruitfully begets or brings forth. As for the word **king-dom**, the meaning of the suffix **-dom** is similar to that of the word 'realm' - meaning 'to set or stand upright'. The 'Kingdom of God' then, is that realm in which things are set straight and stood upright in the House of God. This is a 'house' that knows no bounds and belongs to no one being, human or divine. Rather it is that common and unbounded domain or 'field' of awareness (Greek *noos*) which the gnostics called the divine 'fullness' or *pleroma*. This is the "Heavenly Kingdom" which Christ spoke of, the Kingdom in which all beings first come to be, and in which they 'dwell' through all eternity - 'dwelling' (*buān*) being the root meaning of 'Being' itself.

WHAT IS 'THE KINGDOM'?

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- ✦ Where does your **body** begin and end? Where do **you** begin and end?
 - ✦ The only boundaries of your **body** and of your **being** are the boundaries of your **awareness**. The 'Kingdoms' outside and inside you are the respective fields of your outer- and inner-bodily awareness.
 - ✦ The Kingdom 'outside' you is the field of your outer, bodily awareness of the world around you – bounded only by the curvature of space-time.
 - ✦ The Kingdom 'inside' you is the inner field or space of awareness you sense as your soul or *psyche*, bounded by your body.
 - ✦ 'The Kingdom Inside' leads down into the 'The Kingdom of Heaven'. This is the 'spiritual world' – an unbounded 'inner' realm of divine awareness which, paradoxically, both surrounds and lies behind the 'outer' realm of the 'The Kingdom Outside'.
 - ✦ This paradox is the key to "The Kingdom" **as such** - as represented by the 'keyhole' symbol. For this shows 'The Kingdom of God' as a unity of three distinct but inseparable fields or Kingdoms (the Kingdoms Inside and Outside, and the Heavenly Kingdom).

THE 'KEYHOLE' SYMBOL

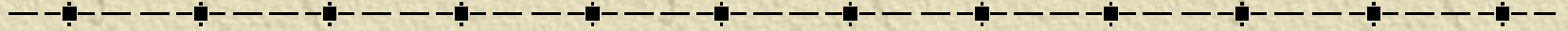


The field of our three-dimensional physical awareness that is the 'Kingdom Outside' - our bodily outsideness.

The psychical field of awareness that is our bodily insideness - the 'Kingdom Inside'.

The 'Heavenly Kingdom' - the unbounded awareness field *inside and within which* the Kingdom 'outside' opens up and *from which* our bodies project into 3-dimensional space.

KEY TO 'THE NEW GNOSIS'



- ✦ The **Keyhole Symbol** is truly a key to **The New Gnosis** and the 'Key' too, to what Christ referred to as "**The Kingdom**". It shows the true nature and topology of this 'kingdom' as a **unified field of awareness** - uniting a Kingdom 'outside' us (the realm of our outer 'physical' awareness of the world) and the Kingdom 'inside' us (the realm of our inner 'psychical' awareness).
- ✦ The design of the symbol shows the Kingdom we sense 'inside' or 'within' our bodies as the bounded inner protrusion or projection of an unbounded realm of divine awareness - the 'Heavenly Kingdom'.
- ✦ The 'Heavenly Kingdom' is the 'inner' spiritual world that both surrounds the 'outer' physical world, and fills every body within it.
- ✦ God not only dwells **within us**. We also dwell **within God**. For all bodies in space and all space-time universes exist within the unbounded field of divine awareness that is **The Heavenly Kingdom** and are filled with its divine breath – **The Holy Spirit**.

‘PSYCHE’ AND ‘PNEUMA’

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- ✦ The Kingdom that is ‘outside’ you reaches as far into the outer space around you as your awareness can.
 - ✦ It surrounds and embraces all other bodies in space like the air that flows around them.
 - ✦ The Kingdom that is ‘inside’ you reaches as far down inside the sensed inner space of your body as your awareness can.
 - ✦ It can fill this space with awareness like the air you breathe.
 - ✦ Awareness has always been likened to air. For it has the character of **air-ness** – it flows in currents and fills **spaces** of awareness.
 - ✦ That is why **The Kingdom Outside** was understood as *pneuma* – meaning ‘wind’ or ‘air’ of awareness outside you.
 - ✦ That is why **The Kingdom Inside** was understood as *psyche* – meaning the ‘breath’ or air of awareness inside you.

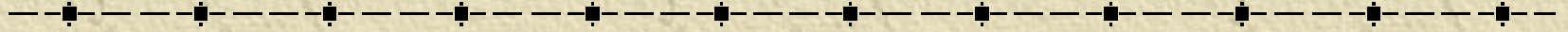
THE 'HOLY SPIRIT'

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- ✦ The word 'spiral', 'spirit', 'inspiration', 'expiration' and 'respiration' have a common root in the Latin *spirare* – 'to breathe'.
 - ✦ Breathing is essentially a **spiritual** activity. Spiritual activity is essentially a type of **breathing** – the breathing of awareness.
 - ✦ We do not breathe because we have bodily organs of respiration. We have bodily organs of respiration because we are breathing **beings** – **spiritual** beings.
 - ✦ Your body as surface skin or 'flesh' (*sarx*) breathes spiritually – for both the physical space around your body and its inner psychical space are **spaces of awareness** - filled with the spiralling wind or air of awareness (*pneuma*) and its in-spired, life-giving breath (*psyche*).
 - ✦ **The Holy Spirit** is the subtle **air, wind and breath of awareness**.

THE AIR OF AWARENESS

According to Seth there are “animations arising from consciousness, the consciousness within each physical particle, regardless of its size - of molecular consciousness, cellular consciousness, as well as the larger gestalts of consciousness with which you are usually familiar. These emanations rise as naturally as breath, and there are other comparisons that can be made, in that there is a coming in and a going out, and transformation within the unit, as what is taken into the lungs, for example, is not the same thing that leaves on the exhale stroke. You could compare these units, simply for an analogy, with the invisible breath of consciousness. Breath is of course, also a pulsation, and these units operate in a pulsating manner. They are emitted by the cells, for example, in plants, animals, rocks, and so forth. They would have colour if you were able to perceive them physically. They form - and their nature is behind - what is commonly known as air, and they use this to move through. The air, in other words, can be said to be formed by animations of these units. Air is what happens when these units are in motion, and it is in terms of weather that their electromagnetic effects appear most clearly to scientists...”

'THE LIGHT' AND 'THE LIFE'



- ✦ At what point does the air you breathe into your body become **you**, or the air your body exhales cease to be **you**?
- ✦ Your body is **alive** only because it is able to breathe in the air around you, and absorb its oxygen into your blood.
- ✦ **You** are alive only to the extent that you are able to fully breathe in your awareness of the sensory realm or **Kingdom Outside** and absorb its currents (*pneuma*) into the **Kingdom Inside** - your soul or *psyche*.
- ✦ You do so through the breathing (*spirare*) of awareness that is 'spirit'.
- ✦ But the world around you and everything in it, is visible, audible and tangible only **in the light** of your own awareness of it.
- ✦ You are **spiritually** alive only to the extent that you breathe in that light - the **light of awareness** in which all things become manifest.

‘SOMA’ AND ‘SARX’

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- ✦ Compare three-dimensional space to the inner space of a balloon.
 - ✦ If you poke a finger into the balloon it creates an involution or ‘invagination’ of its rubbery skin or surface.
 - ✦ Now imagine that this inward projection or invagination of the balloon exists and retains its form even without protruding a finger in it.
 - ✦ Your ‘body’ (Greek *soma*) is such a projection into three-dimensional space, comparable to a hollow inward protrusion into the balloon..
 - ✦ The Greek word for ‘flesh’ is not *soma* but *sarx* - meaning ‘skin’. Your ‘flesh’ is comparable to the rubbery surface or ‘skin’ of the inward protrusion into the balloon - except that unlike the rubber of a balloon it is a permeable **breathing** membrane or ‘skin’.
 - ✦ It is ‘the flesh’ itself – understood as this breathing membrane or ‘soul-skin’ - that links **The Kingdom Outside** (the **physical** space around your body) with **The Kingdom Inside** – the inner **psychical** space of your bodily projection into three-dimensional space.

THE ‘SOMA-PNEUMATIKOS’

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- ✦ New Testament Greek distinguishes between *soma* (‘body’) and *sarx* (‘flesh’). The Apostle Paul also distinguished the *soma-psychikos* (usually translated either as ‘physical’ or ‘psychical’ body) and the *soma-pneumatikos* (usually translated as ‘spiritual body’).
 - ✦ The *soma-psychikos* is our body as a hollow inward protrusion of the ‘balloon’ of three-dimensional space. We each dwell in our **own** balloon-like ‘universe’ of three-dimensional space, perceiving each other as ‘secondary’ protrusions into that sphere
 - ✦ Our body as *soma-pneumatikos* is our ‘balloon’ as a whole. Our ‘flesh’ is not just the surface ‘skin’ (*sarx*) of that part of the balloon which protrudes inwardly as the physical form of our own bodies. Instead it is the **entire** surface or skin of the balloon – of our larger ‘spiritual’ or ‘heavenly’ body, the *soma-pneumatikos*.
 - ✦ The ‘Resurrection of the Flesh’ is the realisation within this life that our ‘psycho-physical’ body (*soma-psychikos*) and our larger ‘spiritual’ body (*soma-pneumatikos*) are one, united by that single breathing and balloon-like skin of awareness that is essence of **The Flesh** (*sarx*).

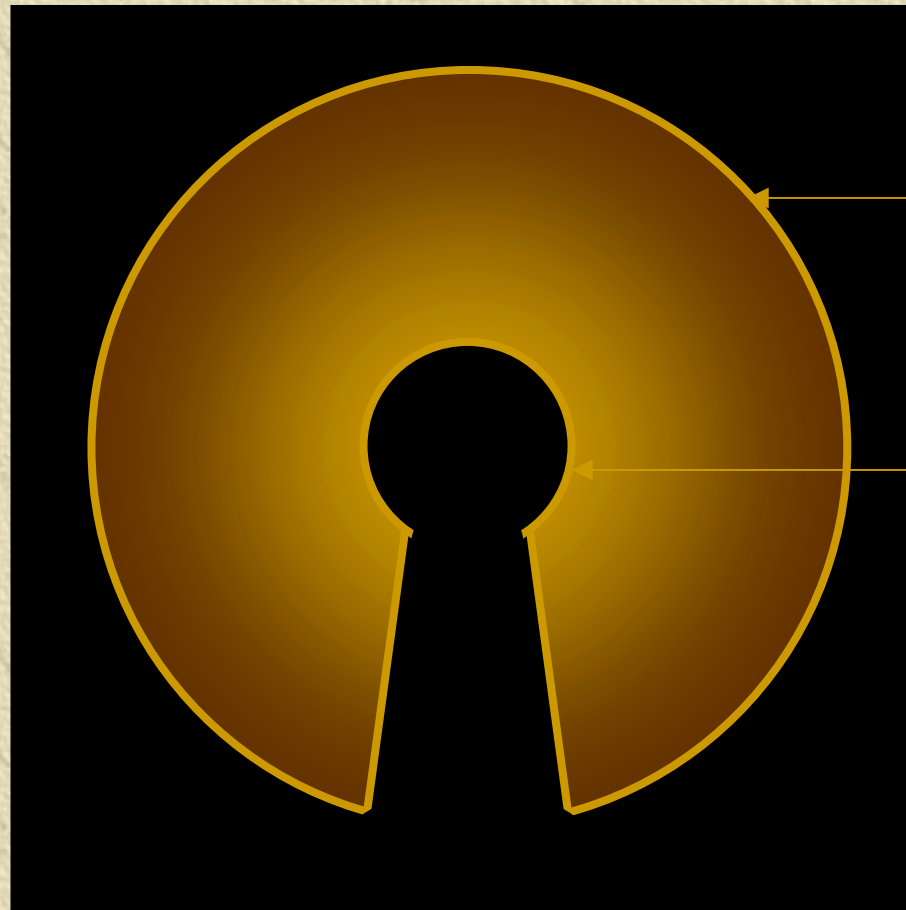
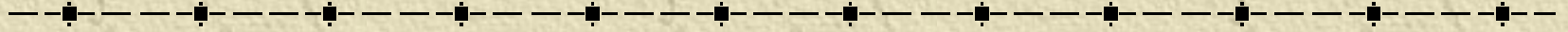
THE ‘SOMA-PSYCHIKOS’

The Flesh as *soma-psychikos* (our ‘psycho-physical’ body) has its own innate consciousness - not just the ‘psychical’ space of our own inner-bodily self-awareness, but the innate consciousness of our ‘physical’ cells themselves.

“Body is also pattern – period. While the material that composes it changes constantly, the pattern maintains an integrity. The form is etched in space and time, and yet the pattern itself exists outside that framework also – the body is a projection, therefore, into the three-dimensional field. The consciousnesses of the cells within it, however are eternal. The physical framework then, is composed of immortal stuff.”

Seth, in *The Unknown Reality* (Vol. 1) by Jane Roberts

THE FLESHLY KINGDOM



'The Flesh' (*sarx*) as spiritual body or *soma-pneumatikos*, a singular surface 'skin' or field-boundary of awareness between the Kingdoms Outside and Inside and the unbounded field (black) of awareness that is the Heavenly Kingdom.

'The Flesh' (*sarx*) as *soma-psychikos*, an internal projection or 'invagination' of the spiritual body or *soma-pneumatikos*, bounding the Kingdom Outside and the Kingdom Inside.

SOMA-SPIRITUALITY

From the Apostle Paul:

- ✠ **“Life is more than meat, and the body [*soma*] more than its raiment.”**
- ✠ **“But some say ‘How are the dead raised? With what body do they come?’ You fool. Not all Flesh is the same Flesh. There are Heavenly bodies and Earthly bodies.”**
- ✠ **“Sown a psychical body [*soma-psychikos*] it is raised a spiritual body [*soma-pneumatikos*]”**
- ✠ **“...in him [Christ] dwells the whole fullness [*pleroma*] somatically.”**

MEDITATING THE 'KINGDOM OUTSIDE'

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- ✦ Look around and observe the space around you with your eyes, using your eyes to widen and intensify your awareness of the Earthly Kingdom around you.
 - ✦ Now become 'all eye'. To begin with become aware of your entire skin and body surface. Use this surface awareness to sense the entire space around your body – visible and invisible, front and behind, above and below, left and right.
 - ✦ Now begin to feel your awareness extending as light to the furthest horizons of cosmic space, left and right, above and below, in front and behind. Know that your larger spiritual body embraces the entire Kingdom of outer space.
 - ✦ Feeling your body surface again, sense the air around you. Now feel your awareness of the space around you filling that space just like the air within it.
 - ✦ Now choose a particular object or person and feel your awareness illuminating that object like light and surrounding it like the very air around it.
 - ✦ Observing its qualities with your eyes, feel your entire body surface as 'all eye' - not just taking in the way it looks to your eyes but breathing in its whole sensual 'feel' - the way you sense and feel its body with your body as a whole.
 - ✦ Know that your own body and every body in The Kingdom Outside is formed of and emanates the same divine God-stuff, the light and air of awareness itself.

MEDITATING THE 'KINGDOM INSIDE'

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- ✦ Feel the entire surface of your face and of your head - top, back and sides.
 - ✦ Now feel your entire head as a hollow vessel – one that brightens your eyes and fills with the light of awareness as you breathe in through your nose.
 - ✦ Feel the entire surface of your chest – front, back and sides.
 - ✦ Now feel your entire chest as a hollow vessel that expands - filling with awareness as your lungs fill with air.
 - ✦ Now centre your awareness and your breathing in your abdomen, using only your diaphragm and front abdominal muscles to draw in air.
 - ✦ Feel your abdomen too, as a hollow vessel - a warm, womblike space in which you can come to rest deep within yourself.
 - ✦ Keeping your eyes open, feel your gaze turned inwards, sensing the hollow inwardness of your head, chest and abdomen united as one singular inner space of awareness – The Kingdom Inside – which can comfortably hold and contain any thoughts, emotions, impulses or sensations you experience in that space.

MEDITATING THE 'HEAVENLY KINGDOM'

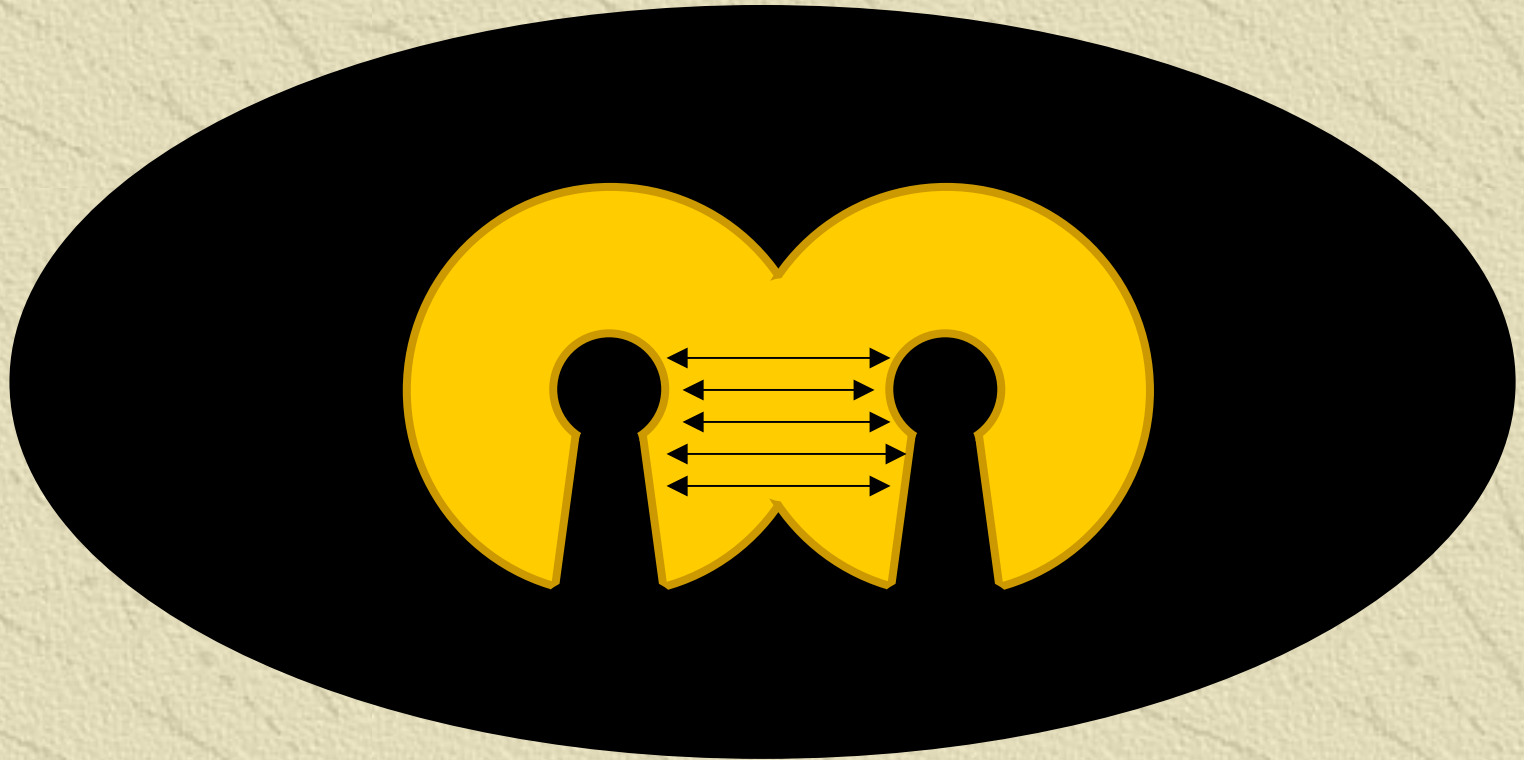
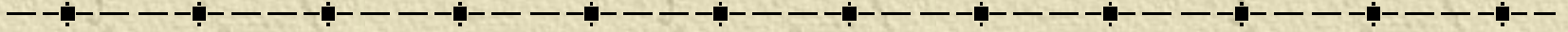
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- ✦ Feel your head, chest and entire upper body above the waist. Feel it more.
 - ✦ Feel your feet, legs and entire lower body below the waist. Feel it more.
 - ✦ Finally, feel a bottomless space of awareness opening up below the ground.
 - ✦ Having grounded your awareness in your lower body, centre your awareness and breathing in your abdomen, keeping your mouth closed.
 - ✦ With each in-breath feel yourself drawing a flow of awareness up from that fathomless space below the ground.
 - ✦ Feel that with each in-breath you are filling and muscularly expanding your abdomen like a balloon – filling it not with air but with awareness.
 - ✦ Feel each out-breath as a downflow of awareness from your abdomen into that fathomless space below the ground.
 - ✦ Feel that underground space as one which widens out to embrace and contain the entire space around your body – leading you from the Kingdom Inside to that Heavenly Kingdom which lies behind and surrounds the Kingdom Outside.

MEDITATING

‘THE HOLY SPIRIT’ (1)

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- ✦ The ‘Holy Spirit’ is made up of flows of awareness which connect us **outwardly** with other beings - through both the air and the realm of sensory awareness we share and breathe – ‘The Kingdom Outside’.
 - ✦ Attend to your awareness of another person’s face, eyes and body surface as a whole, feeling your awareness surrounding their body like the air around it.
 - ✦ Now feel the surfaces of your own eyes, face and chest as open and receptive, transparent and porous. As you breathe, feel yourself breathing in and absorbing your sensory awareness of another person’s body surface through your own.
 - ✦ Feeling your own eyes and face, allow them to take on the outward look you perceive in the face and eyes of the other. In this way begin to sense from the look in their own face and eyes how they feel inside.
 - ✦ Feeling the inner spaces of your head, chest and abdomen as empty and clear, begin to sense the inner spaces of the other person’s head, chest and abdomen.
 - ✦ Feel how connected they are, and feel the tones and texture of awareness that fill them. In this way begin to take and feel the inwardness of the other person through your awareness of their outwardness.

OUTER CONNECTION

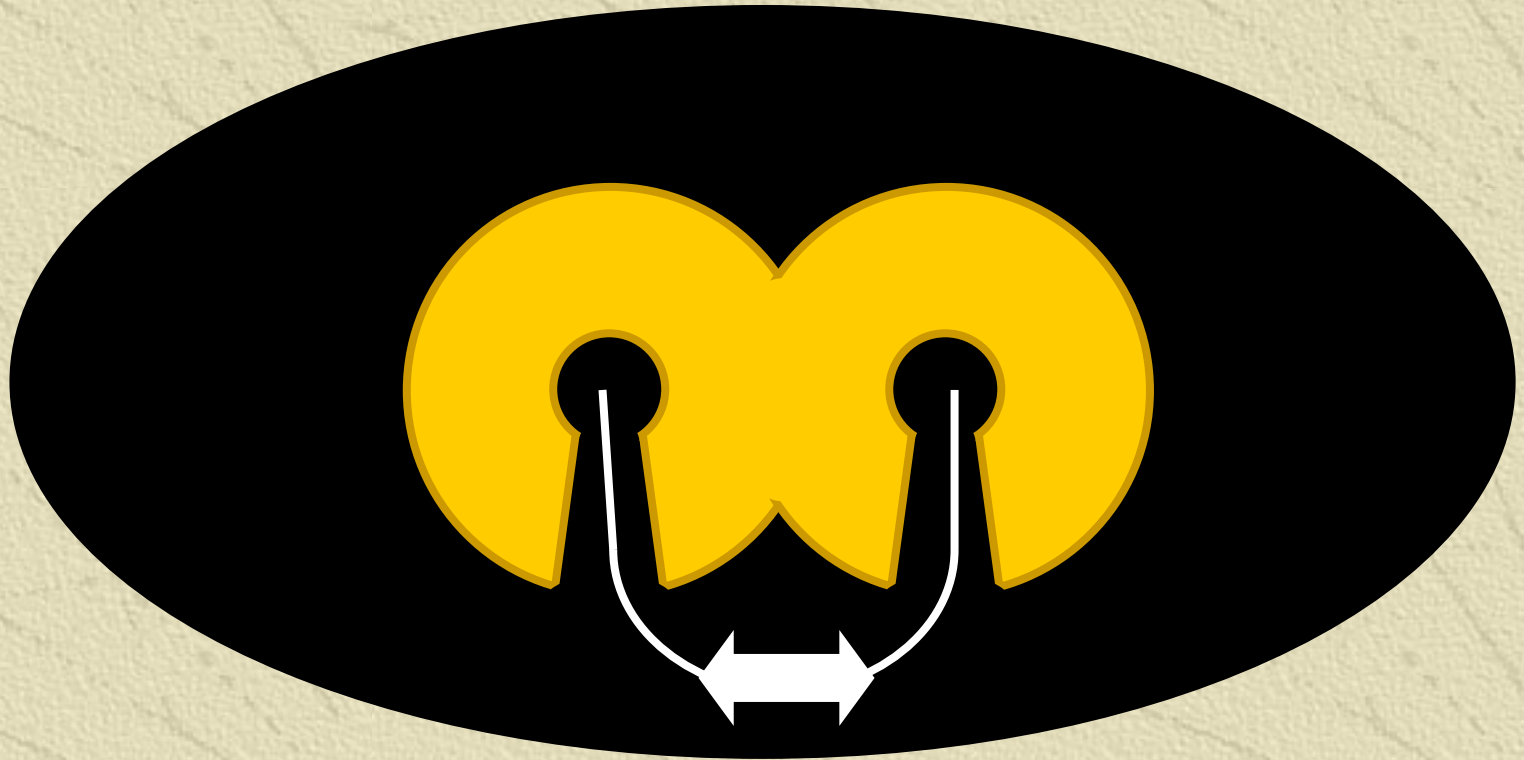
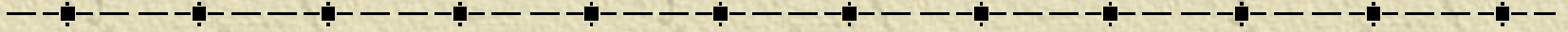


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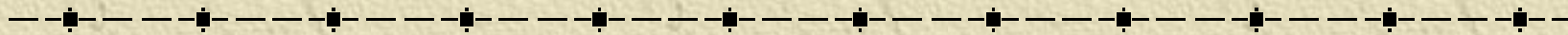
‘THE HOLY SPIRIT’ (2)

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- ✦ The ‘Holy Spirit’ is also made up of flows of awareness that connect us **inwardly** with other beings – directly connecting our own bounded bodily inwardness (‘The Kingdom Inside’) with the inwardness of another being through the realm of unbounded inwardness that is ‘The Heavenly Kingdom’.
 - ✦ To experience this direct Inner Connection, begin by letting your awareness descend into the deepest region of the ‘The Kingdom Inside’ - the sensed inner space of your abdomen, for therein lies your spiritual and physical centre of gravity – the core of your being,
 - ✦ Then, with each out-breath, feel your awareness descending even further down from this space, reaching down to and below the ground.
 - ✦ Focussing your outer awareness on the lower body and abdomen of another person, feel a current of awareness flowing down below the ground from the inner space of your abdomen and filling the inner abdominal space of the other.
 - ✦ At the same time intend and feel yourself making direct contact from the innermost abdominal core of your own being to that of the other person.

INNER CONNECTION

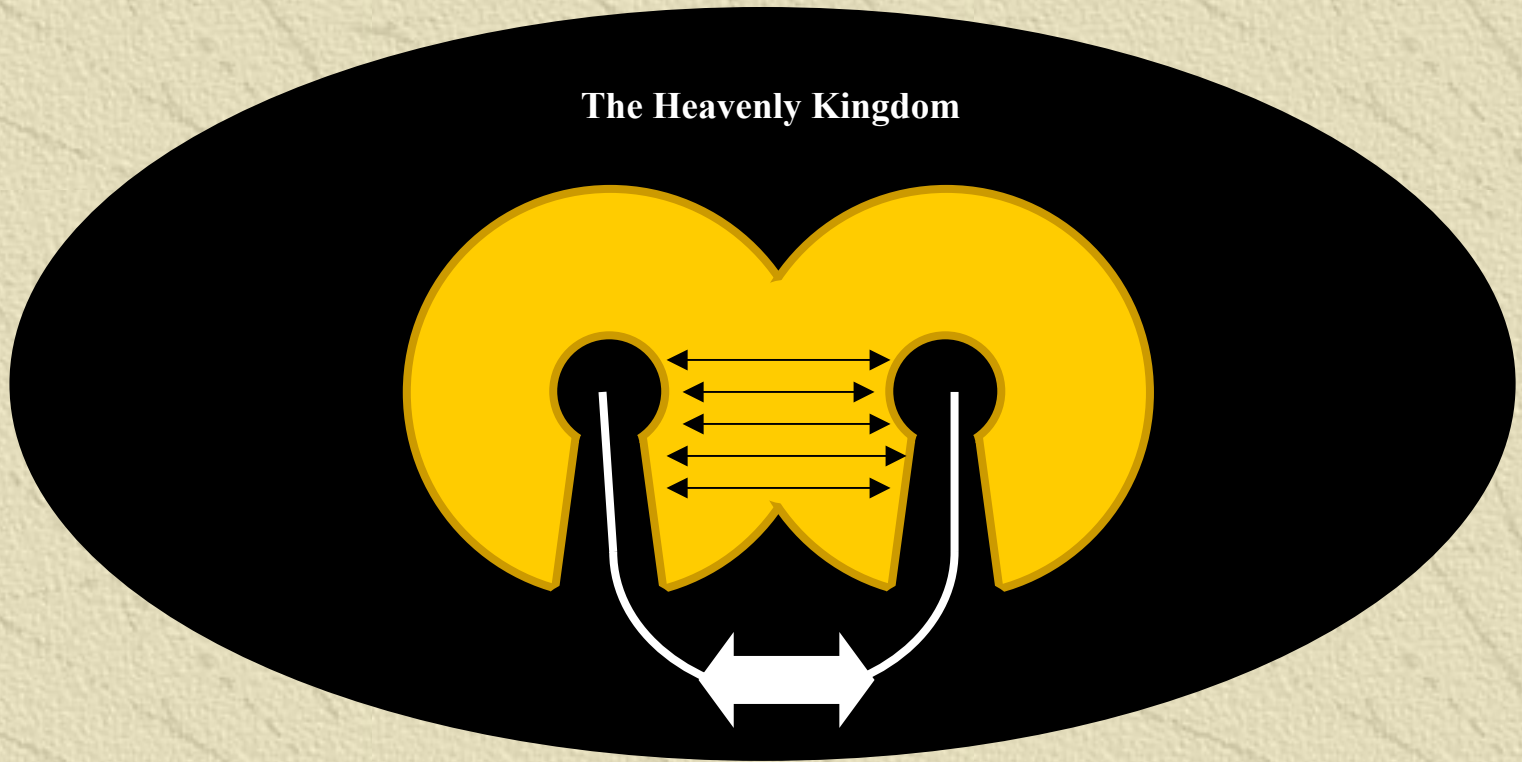
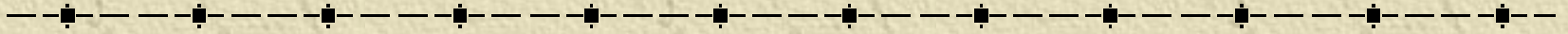


KEY TO THE SACRAMENTS



- ✦ **The Keyhole Symbol of The New Gnosis** is also a new gnostic key to the inner meaning of the early Christian ‘Mysteries’ or ‘Sacraments’.
- ✦ **BAPTISM:** the complete submersion of inner bodily awareness in the unbounded sea of awareness (The Kingdom of Heaven) into which the body’s own inwardness (The Kingdom Inside) leads - and the resurfacing or resurrection of the flesh, now filled with the waters of the Holy Spirit.
- ✦ **COMMUNION:** the experience of the entire Earthly Kingdom and space-time Cosmos (The Kingdom Outside), and of every body within it as a part of one’s own larger spiritual body or *soma-pneumatikos*, a body that itself dwells within the unbounded realm of The Heavenly Kingdom transcending the physical space-time cosmos.
- ✦ **THE BRIDAL CHAMBER:** union of the Kingdom Inside and the Kingdom Outside within the Kingdom of Heaven - achieved through the Holy Spirit as the union of both Inner and Outer Connection with other beings.

THE BRIDAL CHAMBER



THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM AS A 'FIFTH DIMENSION'

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- ✦ The limit of the **Keyhole Symbol** is that it attempts a **two-dimensional** representation of the relation between the **three-dimensional** space of awareness around our bodies (**The Kingdom Outside**), the psychical inwardness of bodies in space (**The Kingdom Inside**) and the unbounded spiritual realm into which the depths of the soul or *psyche* leads – **The Kingdom of Heaven**.
 - ✦ This 'Heavenly Kingdom' is represented (two-dimensionally) as surrounding and projecting into the worlds of three-dimensional awareness. And yet whilst all space-time universes open up **within** The Kingdom of Heaven, neither **The Heavenly Kingdom** nor **The Kingdom Inside** are **physical space-time** dimensions. Instead they are dimensions of **psychical time-space**.
 - ✦ All spatial boundaries and temporal limits belong only to objects and actions in **space-time**. **Time-space** however, is neither restricted by the three dimensions of space nor by the **single** dimension of time that is seen as the '4th dimension'. Instead it is the unbounded spatiality of temporal **awareness**, embracing all that appears as 'past' or 'future' from our own **limited** awareness of the present.
 - ✦ **The Heavenly Kingdom** can be understood as a **Fifth Dimension** – but one transcending all **space-time** dimensions postulated by physics. It is an unbounded **time-space** or "spacious present" (Seth) - embracing not only all actual realities in space-time but all **potential** realities. **The Heavenly Kingdom** is above all the realm of **unbounded potentiality** that is the source of all actualities.
 - ✦ **Potential realities** exist only in **awareness** – as potential patterns and planes of awareness. The universe of three-dimensional awareness we know as the **Kingdom Outside** is only one of the countless patterns and planes of awareness - actual and potential - that make up **The Heavenly Kingdom**. Our **planet - The Earthly Kingdom** – is but the three-dimensional **pattern** taken by one of these **planes** of awareness in the **Fifth Dimension**.