

PRIMA CLAVIS.



First Key. A King on the left and Queen on the right, stand in an open landscape. The king holds a sceptre in his right hand, the Queen holds a three blossomed flower in her right and a peacock feather fan in her left. In front of the King a wolf or dog jumps over a triangular crucible placed on a basin of fire. In front of the Queen, an old man with a scythe and crippled leg (a Saturn figure) steps across a fire on which a vessel is being heated.

II. CLAVIS.



Second Key. A winged Mercury stands holding a caduceus in each hand. To the left is a Sun and to the right a Moon, and at his feet a set of double wings. Approaching him from the left is a man with a sword around which a serpent or snake coils, while from the right is another man with a sword, upon the point of which a bird perches.

III. CLAVIS.



Third Key. A winged dragon with coiled tail and pointed tongue stands in landscape with high mountains in the background. On the left behind the dragon, a wolf or fox, runs off holding a bird (possibly a hen) in its mouth and is attacked by a cockerel riding on its back.

6.
Hæc FIGURA Vta CLAVIS; quam ibi poner.



Fourth Key. A skeleton stands on what appears to be a draped coffin. On the left a candle is burning, while on the right is a decaying stump of a tree. In the background is a church.

Hæc est Figura IV. CLAVIS.



V. CLAVIS

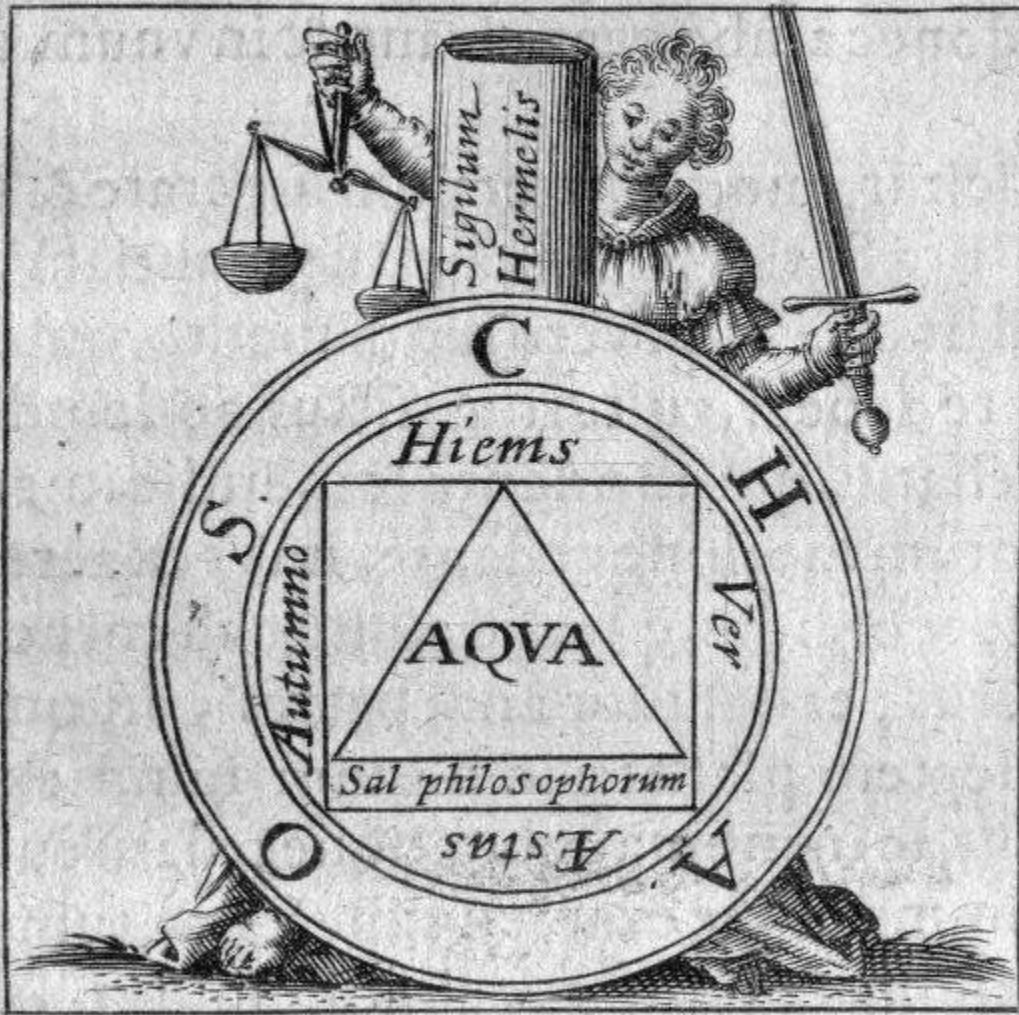
Fifth Key. On the right a woman stands beside a rectangular plinth or furnace. In her right hand she holds a heart out of which grows a seven-blossomed rose flower. A flask resting on the plinth or furnace has a layer of liquid within it from which fumes are rising. The top of this flask seems to merge with the woman's head. Beside this woman stands an alchemist with bellows, and flames emerge from his mouth and the top of his head. In front of the plinth or furnace a blindfold cupid aims an arrow with his bow at the woman. On the left stands a lion with a crown above his head. He raises his left paw as if to attack the cupid, or the woman. Above the lion's head a large Sun shines out.

VI. CLAVIS.



Sixth Key. A bishop with right hand raised in blessing, performing the wedding of a King on the left and Queen on the right, under a dark cloud from which heavy rain is falling. Above the cloud a rainbow forms its bow, at the left of which is the Sun and on the right the Moon. On the left in front of the King a cylindrical vessel is being heated on a fire. On top of this vessel is a double-faced head, the mouths of which hold collecting flasks. Flames burn on the top of the head. Behind this in the distance is a swan or goose. On the right in front of the Queen, an alchemist with a trident tends a furnace, pouring water from a flask into a water bath in which an alembic or retort is being heated. The fumes which are emitted condense and are collected in a flask below, which already has a layer of liquid in it.

VII. CLAVIS.



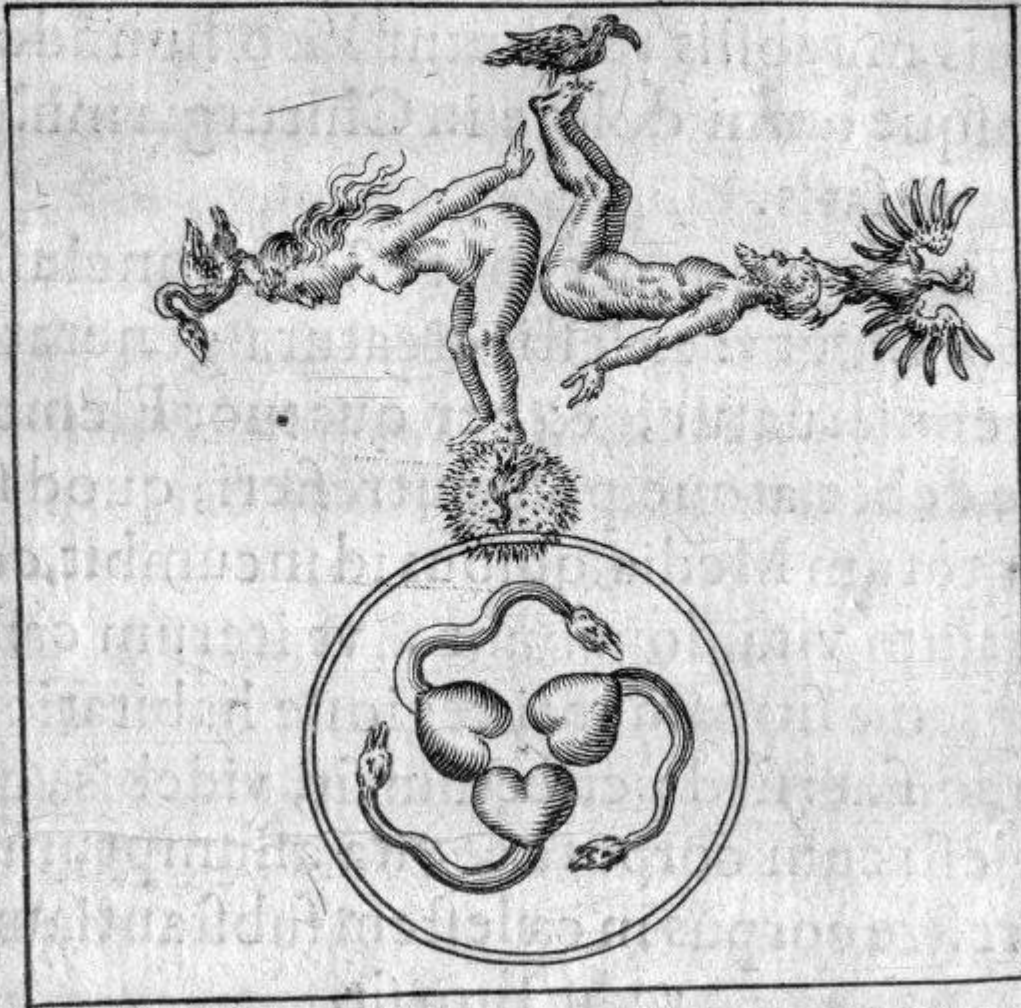
Seventh Key. A woman holding scales in her right hand and a sword in her left, stands behind a large flask on the neck of which is "the Seal of Hermes". Inside the vessel is "Chaos" and within that a circle with the four seasons around a square marked "Salt of the Philosophers", inside of which a triangle is inscribed with "Water".

VIII. CLAVIS.



Eighth Key. In a circular walled enclosure, two men with crossbows sit and aim at a square target with a circular bulls-eye, and a key standing above it. Seven arrows have already hit the target. Between these two men is a grave out of which a man or resurrected corpse is emerging. On the left beside this corn is sprouting. In the foreground a corpse lies in a ploughed field on which man on the left is scattering grain, and is greeted by winged angel sounding a trumpet and holding a sceptre. Behind the man four birds are eating the grain.

IX. CLAVIS.



Ninth Key. In a circle at the bottom are three hearts out of which three serpents or snakes emerge, their heads arching round as if to seize one another's tail. On top of this circle are a man and woman their bodies bent so that together they point in the four directions with their head and feet. At the woman's feet (South) is a Peacock, at her head (West) a Swan. At the man's feet (North) is a crow or black bird, and at his head (East) is a Eagle with wings outspread.

1. IX - The Ninth Key

Saturn, who is called the greatest of the planets, is the least useful in our Magistry. Nevertheless, it is the chief Key of the whole Art, howbeit set in the lowest and meanest place. Although by its swift

flight it has risen to the loftiest height, far above all other luminaries, its feathers must be clipped, and itself brought down to the lowest place, from whence it may once more be raised by putrefaction, and the quickening caused by putrefaction, by which the black is changed to white, and the white to red, until the glorious colour of the triumphant King has been attained. Therefore, I say that though Saturn may seem the vilest thing in the world, yet it has such power and efficacy that if its precious essence, which is excessively cold, be reduced to a metallic body by being deprived of its volatility, it becomes as corporeal as, but far more fixed than, Saturn itself. This transmutation is begun, continued, and completed with Mercury, sulphur, and salt. This will seem unintelligible to many, and it certainly does make an extraordinary demand upon the mental faculties; but that must be so because the substance is within the reach of everyone, and there is no other way of keeping up the divinely ordained difference between rich and poor.

In the preparation of Saturn there appears a great variety of different colours; and you must expect to observe successively black, grey, white, yellow, red, and all the different intermediate shades. In the same way, the Matter of all the Sages passes through the several varieties of colour, and may be said to change its appearance as often as a new gate of entrance is opened to the fire.

The King shares his royal dignity with noble Venus, and appears in splendid state, surrounded by all the dignitaries of his court. Before him is borne a beautiful crimson banner, in which there is an embroidered representation of Charity in green garments. Saturn is the prefect of the royal household, and in front of him Astronomy bears a black standard, with a representation of Faith in yellow and red garments.

Jupiter is the Grand Marshal, and is preceded by a banner of grey colour, borne by Rhetoric, and adorned with a variegated representation of Hope.

Mars is at the head of military affairs, and executes his office with a certain fiery ardour. Geometry carries before him a crimson banner, on which you may behold Courage in a crimson cloak. Mercury holds the office of Chancellor; Arithmetic is his standard bearer, and his standard is of many colours; on it may be observed the figure of Temperance in a many coloured robe.

The Sun is Vice-Regent, and is preceded by Grammar, bearing a yellow banner, on which Justice is represented in a golden robe. Though Venus seems to cast him into the shade by the gorgeous magnificence of her appearance, he really possesses more power in the kingdom than she.

Before the Moon, Dialectic bears a shining silver banner, with the figure of Prudence wrought into it in sky-blue, and because the husband of the Moon is dead, he has transferred to her his task of resisting the domination of Queen Venus. For among all these there is enmity, and they are all striving to supplant each other. Indeed, the tendency of events is to give the highest place to the most excellent and the most deserving. For the present state of things is passing away, and a new world is about to be created, and one Planet is devouring another spiritually, until only the strongest survive.

Let me tell you allegorically that you must put into the heavenly Balance the Ram, Bull, Cancer, Scorpion, and Goat. In the other scale of the Balance you must place the Twins, the Archer, the Water-bearer, and the Virgin. Then let the Lion jump into the Virgin's lap, which will cause the other scale to kick the beam. Thereupon, let the signs of the Zodiac enter into opposition to the Pleiads, and when all the colours of the world have shewn themselves, let there be a conjunction and union between the greatest and the smallest, and the smallest and the greatest.

*If the whole world's nature
Were seen in one figure,
And nothing could be evolved by Art,
Nothing wonderful would be found in the Universe,*

And Nature would have nothing to tell us.

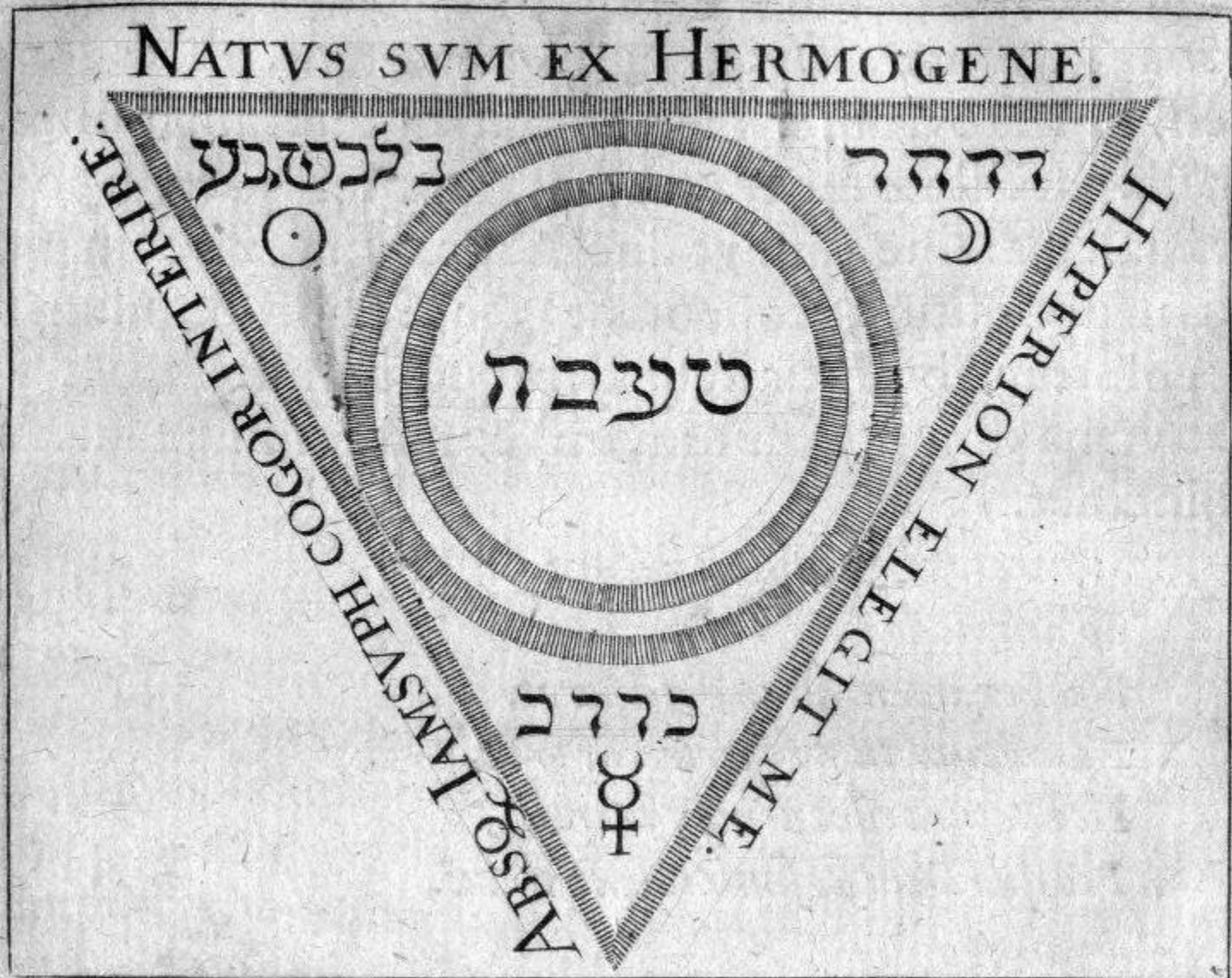
For which let us laud and praise God. - [source](#)

2. According to this student of Aor/Schwaller de Lubicz, this last paragraph holds the key:

"Let me tell you allegorically that you must put into the heavenly Balance the Ram, Bull, Cancer, Scorpion, and Goat. In the other scale of the Balance you must place the Twins, the Archer, the Water-bearer, and the Virgin. Then let the Lion jump into the Virgin's lap, which will cause the other scale to kick the beam. Thereupon, let the signs of the Zodiac enter into opposition to the Pleiads, and when all the colours of the world have shewn themselves, let there be a conjunction and union between the greatest and the smallest, and the smallest and the greatest."

So ordinarily we start with Aries as number one and so on... So you take the order he gives above with its number and it's supposed to give the correct order that the keys should be read in.

X. CLAVIS.



Tenth Key. Around a downward pointing radiant triangle are the words "I am born from Hermogenes. Hyperion elected me. Without Iamsoph I am destined to perish". Inside the vertices of the triangle are the symbols of the Sun on the left, the Moon on the right and Mercury at the bottom. Within the triangle is a double radiant circle inside of which is written some Hebrew letters.

XI. CLAVIS.



Eleventh Key. Two lions approach and attack each other from left and right. The Lion on the right has siezed the others muzzle in its mouth. On the back of each lion rides a woman holding in her hand a heart from which sprouts a plant with a Sun flower and a Moon flower. (The woman on the left holds this heart in her right hand, the woman on the right in her left.) Behind the woman on the left a knight stands with sword raised as if to strike her. Behind the lion on the right walk four cubs.

XII. CLAVIS.



Twelfth Key. Inside a laboratory an alchemist stands with tongs in his left hand, while with his right he points to a triangular crucible on a bench behind him, with two rose-like flowers growing out of it and the symbol of Mercury above it. On the left is a barrel-like furnace from the top of which flames emerge. On the right a lion devours a snake. Through an open window behind, the Sun and Moon are seen.