



Mensionization Complementation *The Mathematics of Hermetic Alchemy*

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The Four Elements of the Alchemists' Natures of Mankind

Most philosophers and alchemists believed that the *four elements* exhibited themselves in mankind as four varying natures and one was almost always more prevalent in each individual than the other three. *Empedocles* said that those who have near equal proportions of the four elements are more intelligent and have the most exact perceptions.

Astrology was a staple of defining human nature in *Alchemy* from ancient times up through early nineteenth century when its popularity started waning. An elemental sign of a person was determined from a person's Philosophical Astrological chart. It is the elemental quality of the sign the *Sun* resides in at the moment of birth. If you are an *Aries* by birth then your elemental sign is *Cardinal Fire*. If you are a *Cancer* then your elemental sign is *Cardinal Water*.

Some of the qualities associated with the elemental signs are listed below. The following text is how the *Alchemists* defined Human Nature from the *Four Elements*.

The Alchemical Four Virtues of Man

<i>Fire</i>	<i>Earth</i>	<i>Air</i>	<i>Water.</i>
<i>Righteousness</i>	<i>Propriety</i>	<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>Benevolence</i>

The *Fire signs* exhibited *righteousness*. These type people conform to the standard of moral law. They do what is right and are known for their sense of fair play. They are truthful, straightforward, just, upright and virtuous in their dealings with other people.

The *Earth signs* show *propriety*. They are conventional, proper and fitting. They follow what is socially acceptable in conduct, behavior and speech. They have excellent manners and are very polite. They are prudent and have a deep regard for conventional rules of behavior.

The *Air signs* possess the virtue of *knowledge*. This does not mean they are more intelligent than anyone else but are generally well rounded and informed. They are good communicators. Most have a good grasp of the language and generally know a little something about everything. They have good personalities and are easy to get to know.

The *Water signs* exhibit *benevolence*. These type people are charitable, have a kindly disposition and promote goodwill. They are concerned with the welfare of others. Where other people are concerned they are kind, generous and philanthropic. They seldom harbor hostility. They derive pleasure from doing good deeds.

The Alchemical Four Cores (Individualities) of Man.

<i>Fire</i>	<i>Earth</i>	<i>Air</i>	<i>Water.</i>
<i>Warriors</i>	<i>Merchants</i>	<i>Seers</i>	<i>Servers</i>

The *Fire signs* are the *true warriors*. They demonstrate courage, fortitude, zeal and pugnacity. They have the mental and moral strength that enables them to venture into unknown waters and to persevere and withstand danger. They seldom show fear and are confident in their actions. They have mettle, resolution, and tenacity. They can face danger or difficulty without flinching or retreating. They will fight for their principles and have a stubborn persistence that is unwilling to recognize defeat. They have grit, back bone, guts, and are willing to keep fighting under all odds. They are aggressive and thrive on challenge.

The *Earth signs* by nature *are merchants*. They are the storekeepers, barterers and traders. They are at their best when buying or selling material or tangible commodities. Most are very business oriented.

The *Air signs* are what the philosophers called *seers* or *priests*. These are mentally inclined people. They actively acquire knowledge through experience, education and association. In

ancient times, the only educated people were priests, royalty or those who took it upon themselves to acquire knowledge (*seers*). The *Air signs* are curious, have initiative, are original, generally are well disciplined and are quick thinkers.

The philosophers called the *Water signs servers*. People under this elemental sign are cooperative, companionable, hospitable and sociable. They are true humanitarians and are concerned with the welfare of other people. They are called *servants* or *servers* because of their unselfishness and sincere devotion to the welfare of humanity. They unconditionally come to the aid of the sick and the unfortunate just as they would for one of their own family, and most often ask nothing in return.

The Alchemical Four Natures of Man.

Fire

Earth

Air

Water.

Spiritual

Physical

Mental

Emotional

The *Fire signs* are of a *spiritual nature*. They have a nature that gives them physical energy, strength and vital powers. Their essential characteristic qualities are liveliness, energy, ardor, enthusiasm, courage and action. They have a firm, courageous and assertive disposition which is their most characteristic quality.

The *Earth signs* have a *physical nature*. They have a characteristic love for the material, tangible things. They derive pleasure from sensory stimulation such as taste, smell and feel. They surround themselves with tangible items such as fine furniture; art, jewelry and most have a nice home that is expertly decorated. They have good taste in clothing and most are connoisseurs of food and drink.

The *Air signs* have a *mental nature* and are keen witted. They rationalize by thinking things out rather than being influenced by emotional or physical factors. They enjoy any type of entertainment where they can use their intellectual capacity and their ability to think quickly and accurately often gives them the upper hand.

The *Water signs* have an *emotional nature*. They have strong feelings and sensibilities. They tend to make decisions based on their *emotions* rather than by *reason*. Although they are

emotional in nature, most do not outwardly express it. Their feelings are easily hurt but they tend to not let it show.

There Are Four Basic Types of Emotions.

<i>Fire</i>	<i>Earth</i>	<i>Air</i>	<i>Water.</i>
<i>Goal Oriented</i>	<i>Sensory Stimulation</i>	<i>Self Appraisal</i>	<i>Other People</i>

The emotional nature of the *Fire* sign is *goal oriented*. These people like to win or be the best in anything they pursue. Their aggressive nature makes them just one big ego. There is nothing more stimulating to them than to win, and there is nothing more depressing to their ego than to lose. They strive to be the center of attention and are at home when showing-off.

The *Earth signs'* emotions are aroused by *sensory stimulation*. Each of the five senses can produce an emotional response. Sight, sound, touch, smell and taste bring joy or depression. Nice surroundings, good music, the feel of quality materials, the smell and taste of good foods and financial security are the conditions required for an emotionally happy Earth sign.

The emotional nature of the *Air signs* is directed toward *self-appraisal*. These people have a tendency to judge themselves very harshly. They have certain standards they set for themselves such as hygiene, the way they dress, education, job performance and family. The *Air signs* are almost as ego-oriented as the *Fire signs*.

The *Water signs'* emotions are directed toward *other people*. They are deeply concerned about the welfare of their friends and family. They also care about what other people think and say about them. An insensitive remark from someone can hurt their feelings deeply, although they may not show it. They give of themselves and their material possessions freely to help a less-advantaged person gain confidence and stature. They will go all out where close friends or family is concerned. It is not easy to make friends with a *Water sign* because they are skeptical and naturally shy & secretive. They will be generous and kind to a certain point, but when you gain their confidence you will have an all-weather friend who will stand by you through your struggles.

The Alchemical Four Evils of Man.

Man's treatment of other men is not without its faults. Each individual, when angered or mistreated in some fashion, exhibits one of the four evils more predominantly than the other three.

<i>Fire</i>	<i>Earth</i>	<i>Air</i>	<i>Water.</i>
<i>Deceit</i>	<i>Fraud</i>	<i>Trickery</i>	<i>Falsehood</i>

Deceit is one of the faults of the *Fire signs*. They are determined, spiteful and revengeful. When angered, they will go to almost any extreme necessary to get revenge, and that revenge will more often be at the moment of the anger. When they're mad they want everyone around them to be mad. They are spiteful and will deliberately and openly do things, which irritate someone to the point of anger. They are very short-tempered and anger easily. They are straightforward and have no reservations about hurting the feelings of others, and they are prone to inflict *physical* pain as well as *mental* pain. Just as the main virtue of this sign is being just and right, its main fault is *deceit* and *spite*.

The *Earth signs* are normally not prone to physical violence, but as in any situation, there are exceptions. They are *revengeful* but *patient*. Their attitude is 'my time will come' and they *do* hold a grudge. They will eventually get their revenge one way or another more often by hitting a person in his pocketbook. When angered, *Earth signs*, similar to the *Fire* and *Air* signs, are quick to express that anger verbally though most likely not physically unless as a last resort.

Air signs resort to *trickery*. These people are crafty, under handed and ingenious when it comes to evil. They are also prone to *physical violence*. Whereas the *Fire signs'* anger is generally of the moment and soon after forgotten, the *Air signs* at their worst are *mean*. They carry a grudge, and like *Fire signs*, they are quick to express their opinion and are very opinionated. Aquarius and Libra are not as violent as Gemini. Gemini and mind altering drugs such as alcohol just does not mix. The *Air signs* will not hesitate one moment to express their anger verbally, but physical violence is not a first choice during that anger (the exception being Gemini who will act in an instant).

The *Water sign's* fault is being *untruthful*. They will suppress the truth by words, writing and conduct to do damage to another. This is not spite. This is their non-violent way of getting their

revenge. Milder cases include stretching the truth a little, not exactly untrue but not the full truth. *Water signs* are emotional people and tend to get carried away in the heat of a situation. These people are not prone to physical violence normally, but being of an emotional nature and having the tendency to let things build up inside them, they can become extremely caustic. The exception is the sign *Scorpio*. Scorpios are self-confident, intelligent, and strong-willed...they will tell it like it is - whether you like it or not makes no difference to them. They will resort to abusive verbal and often time's physical violence in an instant.

As you can see, just from the knowledge of the elemental sign of an individual the *Alchemists* could get a good idea of a person's *virtues*, *evils*, *nature*, and *emotions*.

