



Fundamentals of Alchemy

Crafting the Magnum Opus

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1. The Creator's Magnum Opus

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THE CREATOR, WE CALL GOD

God is responsible for the creation of the earth, it's inhabitants, and all living things on the face of it. He created the planets, the stars, and everything we can see. He also created that which we cannot see.

GOD IS OUR FATHER

God is not only our creator, He is our parent. He created our spirit bodies before creating our physical tabernacles.

WE CAN BE LIKE HIM

Because He is our father, we are his children, and as such, inherited the ability to become like Him.

GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO READY INDIVIDUALS WE CALL PROPHETS

We learn about God through prophets. Prophets declare the truth given to them from God. As we apply what the prophets teach, we can know for ourselves that this knowledge comes from God.

GOD IS COMPREHENDIBLE AND DESIRES US TO INHERIT HIS NATURE

Prophets have declared that one way to view God is as a glorified man, or in other words, a perfected version of yourself. He has a supreme desire to help us become like Him in every respect *because He is our father*. And like most parents, He wishes that His children inherit His possibilities, His opportunities, and His glorious physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual characteristics.

God lives and reveals himself to individuals. He orchestrates means and methods to accomplish this. He establishes formal organizations in order to facilitate individual, customizable access to His light and knowledge through personal revelation. He uses this connection to His individual children

by communicating directly with their hearts and minds through His Holy Spirit.

WE CAN PERSONALLY KNOW HIM

We not only have a Heavenly *Father*, but *Heavenly Parents*. In this pattern, both males and females have equally lasting eternal potential. We can develop the same traits and characteristics They possess if we live the same laws which They have allowed Themselves to be governed by.

HE PROVIDES MEANS WHEREBY WE CAN BECOME LIKE HIM

We can progress by applying eternal unchanging principles. They want us to understand these principles so we might also progress like Them. They do everything They can to make these principles available to us, and provide tools to help us comprehend and apply them.

WE EACH HAVE A STEWARDSHIP

God has given us a variety of blessings in the form of unique personal resources and opportunities. Whether it manifests as intelligence, money, opportunities, relationships, or some other form, God expects us to harness the gifts He gives us.

SCRIPTURE:

"It is required of the Lord, at the hand of every steward, to render an account of his stewardship, both in time and in eternity. (D&C 72:3)

They are conditionally given, and have responsibilities attached to each of them. Our capacity and opportunity to learn is part of our stewardship.

GREATER JOY CAN COME OF GREATER FREEDOM

Empowered individual choice is a foundational principle of becoming like our Heavenly Parents, and also part of our stewardship. The more freedom we retain, the more opportunity for joy we gain. Being able to choose for themselves God's same path is essential for Their children to be able to become like Them. We cannot achieve this end without individual freedom.

ULTIMATE FREEDOM COMES OF ULTIMATE TRUTH

Another foundational principle that leads to the fulfillment of man's fullest eternal potential is knowledge of, and subjection of self to all truth.

Knowing and then being subject to truth places each individual in a position to better understand his or her place in relation to the world, and to act according to the state of things as they really are. Knowledge of truth opens the door to help us better navigate the road to Godhood, and then by allowing ourselves to be subject to all truth, it will be brought about.



SCRIPTURE:

"Truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come... He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things." (D&C 93:24, 28)

GOD CAN LEAD US BECAUSE HE HAS MASTERED ALL PRINCIPLES, THE PRIMA MATERIA

SCRIPTURE:

"The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth." (D&C 93:36)

If we learn, apply, and integrate all fundamental eternal principles, we can achieve the state and happiness that God has reached. He knows the process whereby He reached it, and seeks to implement the same with us.

God also perfectly comprehends our current individual state and knows what we might need in order to proceed from our latest situation. He will provide the necessary help and tools in order to achieve this if we ask for it.

SCRIPTURE:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)

WE MUST APPLY WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW

Another foundational principle of achieving our eternal potential is that we must apply what we *already* have been given before expecting God to provide us with more.

SCRIPTURE:

"For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have." (2 Nephi 28:30)

WE MUST ACCEPT TRUTH WHEREVER IT MAY BE FOUND

Truth may be found in many places. We have a responsibility to diligently search for it wherever it might be found.

Read the book, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* by Richard Bach

QUOTES:

“One of the grand fundamental principles... is to receive truth, let it come from whence it may.” (*Discourses of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 199, 9 July 1843)

“(The gospel) plan incorporates every system of true doctrine on the earth, whether it be ecclesiastical, moral, philosophical, or civil; it incorporates all good laws that have been made from the days of Adam until now; it swallows up the laws of nations, for it exceeds them all in knowledge and purity, it circumscribes the doctrines of the day, and takes from the right and the left, and brings all truth together in one system, and leaves the chaff to be scattered hither and thither.” (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, 3–4)

WE ARE EXPECTED TO BE CURIOUS

We are commanded to be as a little children.

SCRIPTURE:

“And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:2-3)

One of the consistent characteristics of children is their insatiable curiosity and willingness to ask questions when they want to know something.

SCRIPTURE:

“Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.” (3 Nephi 13:7-8)

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

2. The Creator's Plan

GOD EXPECTS US TO SUCCEED

God and His Son, Jesus Christ, are all-knowing. They each received a body of flesh and bones, just as we have. Christ is our brother, and God is our Father. They are not distant magicians in some unknown corner of some irrelevant, unquantifiable cosmic dimension, but relatable, passionate individuals with an interest in our development and success.

God is our parent, the *literal* pattern after which we have been designed and built; it is intended that we follow in His footsteps and develop and grow as He once developed.

SCRIPTURES:

"The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth." (D&C 93:36)

"He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things." (D&C 93:28)

GOD IS INTENTIONAL AND JUDICIOUS

God is perfect in all things. He also comprehends the quickest and most straightforward way of accomplishing all things. He loves us perfectly; when we do as He asks, He provides the most thorough and efficient means of accomplishing his objective(s).

When God speaks, He chooses His words carefully; He does not waste. When He is particularly succinct, we ought to take note, but if he repeats Himself, we should be *especially* aware.

GOD REALLY WANTS TO SHOW HIMSELF TO US

The Lord wishes to reveal as much as He can of himself. He heightens our curiosity and inspires

us to look further. He wishes us to want to learn more about Him, about His life, and how we can become more like Him.

SCRIPTURES:

"Every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am." (D&C 93:1)

"Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (D&C 4:7)

"And it came to pass that... the Lord stretched forth his hand and touched the stones one by one with his finger. And the veil was taken from off the eyes of the brother of Jared, and he saw the finger of the Lord; and it was as the finger of a man, like unto flesh and blood; and the brother of Jared fell down before the Lord, for he was struck with fear. And the Lord saw that the brother of Jared had fallen to the earth; and the Lord said unto him: Arise, why hast thou fallen? And he saith unto the Lord: I saw the finger of the Lord, and I feared lest he should smite me; for I knew not that the Lord had flesh and blood. And the Lord said unto him: Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon me flesh and blood; and never has man come before me with such exceeding faith as thou hast; for were it not so ye could not have seen my finger." (Ether 3:6-9)

THERE IS A UNIFIED UNCHANGING SCHEMATIC OF LAWS HE FOLLOWS, THE ANIMA MUNDI

God understands and is governed by a network of eternal truths. His system includes every law, including but not limited to those measured or considered by science. The laws of music, art, religion, and science are all incorporated into His

understanding. As taught in the temple endowment, God incorporates everything, for truly,

SCRIPTURE:

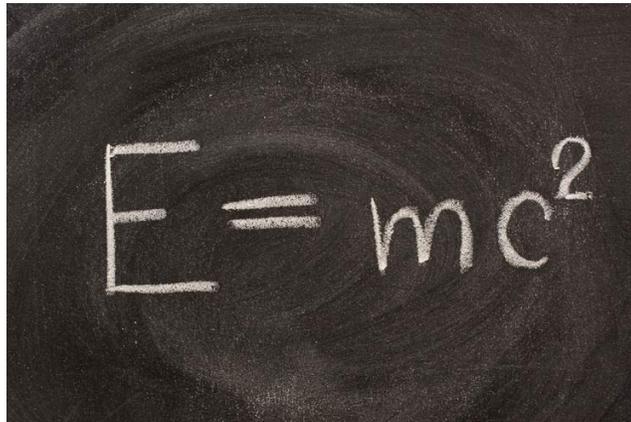
"All truth can be circumscribed into one great whole." (Formal Instruction, *Temple Endowment*)

HIS SYSTEM IS DEFINABLE

God is the ultimate scientist. To be so, everything He does is theoretically replicable and measurable, and follows definable principles, though, we may not yet comprehend the particular mechanics.

QUOTE:

"Our religion is nothing more nor less than the true order of heaven—the system of laws by which the gods and the angels are governed. Are they governed by law? Certainly. There is no being in all the eternities by what is governed by law." (*Discourse of Brigham Young, 1*)



WE CAN FOLLOW THE SAME SYSTEM

We, as His children, by our very natures have access to God's system of learning and opportunity to become. If we discover, comprehend, and apply the same principles, we will grow like He did.

SCIENCE HAS SIMILAR IDEAS

Einstein once spoke of his desire to discover a "Theory of Everything." While he had discovered General Relativity, he still yearned to push the boundaries of man's knowledge further. He sought a formula that would predictably describe the behavior of all phenomena in the universe. Sadly, he was unsuccessful in his lifetime, but

even now physicists imagine and seek for an idea that will incorporate General Relativity and quantum physics, as well as every other measurable phenomenon in the universe.

WE ARE TO BE ANALYTICAL

Understanding cause and effect is essential when attempting to understand how things work. If we react to our emotions without thinking as to why, we are prevented from reaching our potential as children of God. If we can know what causes a particular phenomenon, we are better able to act to bring about the effect if we desire it.

THIS SPHERE IS PATTERNED AFTER THE PREVIOUS AND IS PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT

The purpose of this life to learn to become *more* like God.

While often there are principles we cannot grasp due to our current *contextual* understanding, there is nothing that can be comprehended in the *next* life that cannot be learned

here.

SCRIPTURE:

"We will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them; And they who keep their first estate shall be added upon... and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever." (Abraham 3:25-26.)

QUOTES:

"Surely the most powerful and compelling of all the glorious principles to reenter the world by way of Palmyra was the doctrine of inherent deity.

Dare we think it? Could we say it? Would we be labeled blasphemers and heretics for believing it—that we are all literally the spiritual offspring of God, his rightful daughters and sons, who through a kind of divine DNA and the atoning mediation of that greatest of all heirs, the Lord Jesus Christ, have been given the chance to somewhere, someday by "diligence and obedience" know what God knows and do what God does?" (Jeffrey R. Holland, *A School in Zion*, BYU Devotional, Sept. 1988.)

"An intelligent being, in the image of God, possesses every organ, attribute, sense, sympathy, affection, that is possessed by God himself. But these are possessed by man, in his rudimental state, in a subordinate sense of the word. Or, in other words, these attributes are in embryo, and are to be gradually developed. They resemble a bud, a germ, which gradually develops into bloom, and then, by progress, produces the mature fruit after its own kind." (Parley P. Pratt, *Key to the Science of Theology*, 61–62.)

SCRIPTURES:

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48.)

"That same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world." (Alma 34:34, *Book of Mormon*)

QUOTE:

"Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection. And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come." (D&C 130:18-19.)

WE ARE MOST OFTEN OUR LIMITING FACTOR

God is willing to help us grow according to the degree of our trust in Him.

SCRIPTURES:

"The days have come; according to men's faith it shall be done unto them." (D&C 52:20.)

"There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated." (D&C 130:20-21.)

"Yea, he that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing- unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed; yea, and it shall be given unto Such to bring thousands of souls to repentance, even as It has been given unto us to bring these our brethren to repentance." (Alma 26:22)

"What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled." (D&C 1:38)

3. The Creator's Process

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THE LORD TAUGHT IN PARABLES

The mortal Jesus taught in parables, in coded language whereby those who were prepared to understand, could see beneath the cloak, see things for what they truly were, and were intended to be seen and understood by them.

SCRIPTURE:

"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." (Matthew 13:10-13)

THE TEMPLE IS A SPECIAL PARABLE

The Lord continues to use cloaked and symbolic tactics of teaching in His Temple.

SCRIPTURE:

"This greater priesthood (Melchizedek) administereth the gospel and holds the key of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God. Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest." (Abraham 3: 19-20)

THE TEMPLE IS CENTERED AROUND SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES

The Lord does not exclude doctrinal principles to one particular medium, for instance, the temple. The scriptures are full of the same principles and allusions represented there.

RESPECT FOR THE BUILDING ITSELF IMPLIES RESPECT FOR WHAT IS TAUGHT WITHIN

We appreciate what we must sacrifice for. In this way, the requisite cultural value of temples *heightens our perceived value* of the doctrines taught within it. The principles are set apart in order to draw specific attention to them due to their intended significance and weight.

GOD USES TYPES AND SHADOWS

SCRIPTURE:

"And behold, all things have their likeness, and all things are created and made to bear record of me, both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are in the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath: all things bear record of me." (Moses 6:63)

Throughout His creation, and throughout holy writ, the Lord has embedded types and shadows —patterns to teach us. These types resonate in every facet of the gospel.

EXAMPLES:

The Two Priesthoods

Both Melchizedek and Aaron were individuals who served within the two respective priesthoods, and these priesthoods bear their names still today. It could also be said that Melchizedek, the 'Prince of Salem' or essentially 'Prince of Peace' was a *type and shadow of Jesus Christ*. Aaron, active participant and leader within the Mosaic Law and spokesman for Moses, could in the same vein be considered a shadow of John the Baptist, who would later prepare the way for the Lord in the meridian of time.

Law of Moses and the Gospel of Christ

When the Lord came in the Meridian of Time, it was in fulfillment of the Law of Moses. Christ came not to destroy the law, but to catalyze it into a higher version. He understood, as did many of the prophets, the purpose of the Law was to help train the House of Israel to be able to grasp the heavier, more weighty law. He did not destroy, he built. One was a *fulfillment* of the other.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

Attend an Endowment Session if you have a temple recommend.

4. The Creator's Anima Mundi

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST IS THE EMBODIMENT OF TRUTH

We subject ourselves to His Gospel because it is truth embodied. As we are subject to truth, we increase in freedom.

SCRIPTURE:

"The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth." (D&C 93:36)

OUR DESIRES MUST BE PURE

We learn in the temple, "Desires, appetites, and passions are to be kept within the bounds the Lord has set."

The Lord sets bounds on our appetites in order to help us to harness them properly.

A CENTRAL PURPOSE OF THE GOSPEL IS TO PURIFY AND MAKE HOLY OUR DESIRES

Faith in Christ, repentance, baptism, and receiving the Holy Ghost are activities intended to both cleanse and sanctify our souls. These activities help change our desires and give our passions purpose. We put off the natural man in favor of becoming like Christ. Our motives go from being selfish and self-centered, to being inclusive of others and oriented to uplift and love our fellow man.

The Gospel is designed as a catalyst to, among other things, help supplant our natural desires with those that God possesses. Foundationally, our desires must be aligned to God's if we are to ultimately become like Them. In order to learn in the Creator's way, we need to be clean like Them, and possess Their same desires.

WE ARE INTENDED TO ACT, RATHER THAN BE ACTED UPON

As we apply the principles of the Gospel, and it has its intended impact on our natures, God wishes us to enjoy greater freedom.

SCRIPTURE:

"(Mankind has) become free... to act for themselves and not to be acted upon." (2 Ne 2:26)

WE ARE TO NOT ACT OUTSIDE OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

We learn in the temple endowment that desires, appetites, and passions are to be kept within the bounds the Lord has set. When we act outside of our stewardship, our desires are outside the Lord's established parameters. We will reap the natural but undesirable consequences if we step outside of this.

COERCION IS WHEN WE ACT OUTSIDE OUR STEWARDSHIP

Any time we enforce our will upon those who have the capacity incorporate a will of their own, we are acting outside of our stewardship.

COERCION LEADS TO DYSFUNCTION

Common sense tells us that healthy, functioning human beings don't respond well to force or compulsion from others. This is because we are acting outside of our stewardship.

WHY WE DO SOMETHING AFFECTS HOW IT COMES INTO US

We are to be conscientious of what motivates us when we act. When we act on our desires, it transforms into our purpose.

Purpose is the spirit that possesses us when we act. We can be possessed by both good or bad purposes. We can become more susceptible to

the influence of a purpose once it has been given the chance to inhabit us.

SCRIPTURES:

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Matthew 6:22)

"The laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish." (2 Ne 26:31)

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

WE ARE TO CULTIVATE OUR RIGHTEOUS DESIRES

The Lord intends for us to not only possess our unique desires, but to cultivate them.

SCRIPTURE:

"Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened." (3 Nephi 13:7-8)

The scriptures are replete with examples of righteous people whom the Lord trusted and encouraged to engage with the desires of their hearts. He did this after they had shown by obedience the desire to become like Him. He knew their motivations and desires, and discerned that they were ready to further embrace their God-like potential as creators.

SCRIPTURES:

John the Beloved & the Three Nephites

"What will ye that I should do unto you, when I am gone unto the Father? And they sorrowed in their hearts, for they durst not speak unto him the thing which they desired. And he said unto them:

Behold, I know your thoughts, and ye have desired the thing which John, my beloved, who was with me in my ministry, before that I was lifted up by the Jews, desired of me. Therefore, more blessed are ye, for ye shall never taste of death; but ye shall live to behold all the doings of the Father unto the children of men, even until all things shall be fulfilled according to the will of the Father, when I shall come in my glory with the powers of heaven." (3 Nephi 28:4-7)

Nephi the Prophet in 3 Nephi

"Blessed art thou, Nephi, for those things which thou has done... I will make thee mighty even that all things shall be done unto thee according to thy word, for thou shalt not ask that which is contrary to my will." (Helaman 10:4-5)

THE HOLY GHOST IS AN INVALUABLE PART OF THIS PROCESS

QUOTE:

"The gift of the Holy Ghost...quickens all the intellectual faculties, increases, enlarges, expands and purifies all the natural passions and affections; and adapts them, by the gift of wisdom, to their lawful use. It inspires, develops, cultivates and matures all the fine-toned sympathies, joys, tastes, kindred feelings, and affections of our nature. It inspires virtue, kindness, goodness, tenderness, gentleness, and charity. It develops beauty of person, form and features. It tends to health, vigor, animation, and social feeling. It invigorates all the faculties of the physical and intellectual man. It strengthens, and gives tone to the nerves. In short, it is, as it were, marrow to the bone, joy to the heart, light to the eyes, music to the ears, and life to the whole being" (Parley P. Pratt, *Key to the Science of Theology* 9th ed. [1965],101.)

The Holy Ghost serves many purposes. He cleanses us, He sanctifies us, He directs us, He comforts, and He warns. In other words, He serves to prepare us to be more like God.

OUR DESIRES, APPETITES, & PASSIONS ARE LARGELY MISUNDERSTOOD

Usually we think of passions as being things that ought to be limited. This is shortsighted.

Many people have incorrectly viewed passions as things to be stopped and halted, rather than harnessed.

In the Temple Endowment, we are simply told, "Desires, appetites, and passions are to be kept within the bounds the Lord has set." Within the parameters given by God, we have the opportunity to use them to their fullest potential.

EXAMPLE:

Our current education system spends a considerable amount of time squashing and controlling the otherwise healthy inclinations of students in order to conform the students' actions to the system's idea of what constitutes worthy behavior. Some teachers actively minimize desires by conditioning students to ignore these impulses through grooming with weaponized testing and its pointless twin evil, rote memorization. Other educators simply lack the knowledge, training, and/or means to be able to effectively harness these underutilized assets.

As a result, student passions are often negatively impacted. Further, sometimes *unhealthy* passions are even awakened and *encouraged* in this same system! More than one artificially inflated ego has arisen to afflict an individual's inspired potential out of the ungrounding pomp and circumstance of academia.

WHEN HARNESSSED PROPERLY, DESIRES, APPETITES, & PASSIONS ARE INTENDED BY GOD AS FUEL TO PROPEL US TO FULFILL OUR POTENTIAL

God has given us each of us uplifting and radiant desires as gifts to harness for our benefit, and they ought to be viewed as such.

For instance, in the Book of Moses, we learn that one of the first commandments given man was

to, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." (Moses 2:28)

In the temple, this is expanded upon inasmuch as we learn that the purpose of multiplying and replenishing the earth is, "that (we) might find joy and rejoicing in (our) posterity."

Despite having a bad rap, sexual desires can serve to facilitate great joy if harnessed correctly.

SCRIPTURE:

"Bridle all your passions, that ye may be filled with love." (Alma 38:12)

RIGHTEOUS DESIRES, APPETITES, & PASSIONS ARE PART OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

Not everyone is given the same set of desires and passions. Some people are strongly motivated by one thing, while others are absolutely devoid of enthusiasm for the same subject.

In the temple endowment, we learn that all things God creates have a "measure of creation," and that in fulfilling said creation, we find joy. Another way to describe one's measure of creation is "God's unique objective for each of His children." It is in fulfilling this objective that we find joy.

Our desires, appetites, and passions are a key to helping us discover our own particular 'measure of creation.' This is why we find so much joy in fulfilling our righteous desires!

Therefore, what our passions are doesn't matter; what matters is whether they are *our* righteous desires. If we take God's admonition seriously and learn to bridle or harness them to do good, we will find joy.

"Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward." (D&C 58:27-28)

WE MUST USE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN

SCRIPTURE:

"Neglect not the gift that is in thee." (1 Timothy 4:14)

God expects us to use *everything* He's given us before He gives us more. Desires, appetites, and passions are valuable assets that when harnessed properly, can achieve great good. We have a responsibility to make full use of these invaluable resources He has provided us before we can expect Him to assist us further.

When it comes to sexuality, seeking to *destroy* this passion rather than to *harness* it often leads to big problems. Relatedly, denying our less acknowledged but no less serviceable appetites can cause problems as well.

Until we learn to harness, rather than hamper, the innate and valuable appetites that God has given us, we will never see the full flowering of our divine potential.

EXAMPLE:

The phenomenon of the midlife crisis is real. It is the result of individuals reaching a point in their lives where they finally come to themselves and observe the lack of fulfillment they have achieved thus far.

Individuals experiencing this lose all motivation, fall into depression, and sometimes endure great personal pain and anguish as they grapple with the truth of their lost opportunities.

Not only does society experience a loss of immediate productivity, but this is indicative of a much larger waste in years of *potential* energy misspent through lives half lived.

If we help each other discover, cultivate, and harness healthy passions, we will not only be helping ourselves, but society at large.

SCRIPTURES:

"For what doth it profit a man if a gift is bestowed upon him, and he receive not the gift? Behold, he rejoices not in that which is given unto him, neither rejoices in him who is the giver of the gift." (D&C 88:33)

"For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. (Matt 25:29)

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

Read the book, *the Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

5. Creation's Frame of Reference

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HIGHER AND LESSER, PREPARATION AND FULFILLMENT

SCRIPTURE:

"The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth." (D&C 93:36)

Through the scriptures and modern revelation via the temple endowment, a recurring two-part principle is carefully and redundantly taught and demonstrated to us by God. He illustrates it through word and with visual aids in both abstract terms and direct imagery.

It's in the temple's Holy teachings and most obscure and abstract symbols that He draws attention to this prevalent concept.

The idea can be boiled down to two parts: one part is 'lesser,' or preparatory, and the second is 'higher,' or the fulfillment.

These two parts don't exist independently, but together have a unique, independent, definable relationship.

This pattern is found throughout nature. It is also found in science. It is found in man's story structure.

This pattern is very important.

EXAMPLES:

The Dedication of the Kirtland Temple



The dedication of the LDS Kirtland Temple is an example of the pattern of preparation and fulfillment.

First, the saints did all they could to build this physical structure. At this point it was still just a physical structure. It was after the saints sacrificed according to His commands that the Lord then entered and sanctified it, filling it with His spirit, and making it a holy temple. Both parts were necessary: without the physical structure, the Lord's spirit would not have anything to fill, but without the Lord's spirit, the temple would still be just an empty building.

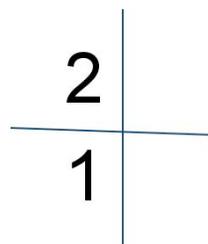
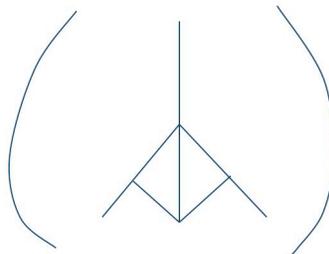
Ordinances

The elements of preparation and fulfillment exist within the relationship of the bread and the water of the Sacrament. The bread represents the body and

resurrection of Christ, and the water represents the blood, or sacrifice for our eternal life. The first prayer reflects the preparation and need of commandments, whereas the second is

preoccupied with simply having the Spirit of Christ, which negates the need of commandments by altering the desires of the one who possesses it.

The same archetypal relationship can be recognized between the interrelated elements of baptism by water and the Gift of the Holy Ghost.



The doctrinal relationship between man's eternal spirit and mortal body reflects the same two-part relationship; one came first, with the intention of laying the foundation of the other.

The Parentage of All Living Things

The physical relationships illustrated between parents and children is an example of the preparation/ fulfillment dichotomy. It applies not only to humans, but through the animal kingdom. It also plays out largely in the plant kingdom.

The Scientific Method

The relationship between a scientist's hypothesis and her experimentation manifests this pattern.

The Golden Ratio

The pattern of preparation and fulfillment can be seen in something as abstract as nature's "Golden Ratio," expressed in the equation: $[a/b = b/(a+b)]$, or in layman's terms, the smaller is to the larger as the larger is to the whole.

HISTORICAL EVENTS FOLLOW A REPEATING PATTERN

EXAMPLE:

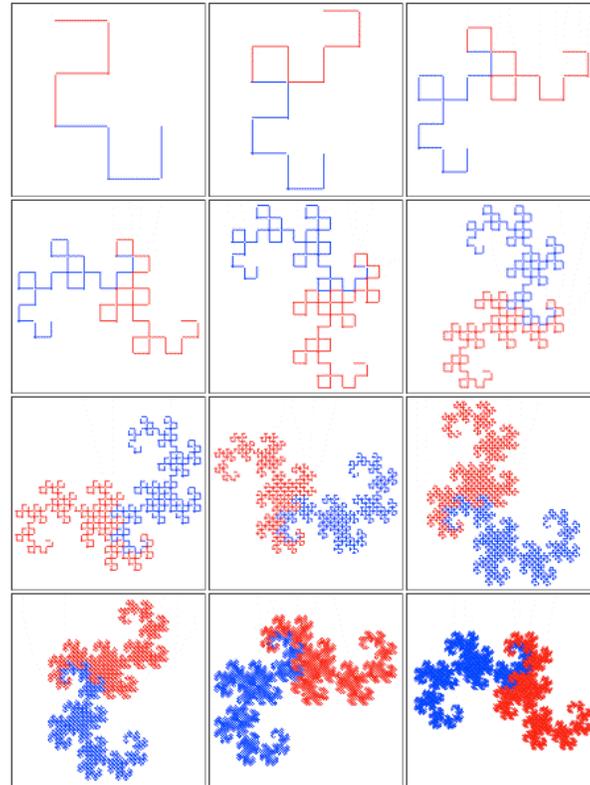
The Timeline by Merle Cunnington

Merle Cunnington was an artist, teacher, and scriptorian based in Woodland Hills, CA. In the course of his lifetime, he made some incredible discoveries about the way events in history follow a typified, multi-layered, iterative pattern. This

framework was derived from identifiable archetypes articulated and expressed by two distinct prophets in the New Testament. These

types manifest through both type and timing.

To simplify, what he found was that there is a pattern in all things *historical*; his analysis showed that on successive scales, 'smaller' historical events were shadows of larger historical events. Each string of events were a microcosm within a greater macrocosm, each repeating the same types. The same pattern was restating itself over and over with the same rhythm and beat; there was *recurring resonance* in the events of the world,



and they followed archetypes given to us in the scriptures.

Further, through his work Merle extrapolated that even the progress of the creation a la evolutionary biology could be contextualized on this timeline, and followed the same 'prophetic framework,' as he described it. Significant temporal events such as the development of significant biological processes coincided archetypically with events of spiritual significance with remarkable precision.

THIS PATTERN IS A FRACTAL

Fractals are self repeating, quantifiable mathematical models that iterate with increasingly acute expressions of an archetypal pattern as the count of successions approach an infinite number.



Fractals exist throughout the natural world.

If history and the advent of life, do in fact follow a repeating pattern, it's likely that that pattern is a fractal.

A fractal by definition is made up of layers, but each layer expresses the same unique pattern. This could be called or seen as the 'building block' of the archetypical fractal. Each iteration expresses this same pattern though successive iterations, though higher iterations may evolve to express the building block's parameters more acutely. This idea can be seen in the example to the left.



EMBODIMENT CONCEPT IS ITERATIVE

The preparation and fulfillment concept, also called the "Embodiment Concept," doesn't occur in isolation. Each 'fulfilled' iteration is in a way, the preparation for a secondary, or higher iteration's fulfillment. In this way, the two-part principle can be *iterative*, and a perfect building block for a fractal.

EXAMPLES:

Parents and Children

As a child is the fulfillment of its parent, once that child grows up, it creates another child and therefore has become the preparation for the fulfillment of its own child.

In Science

Experimentation leads to data. As a scientist considers the data's impact on his initial hypothesis, it gives rise to a new, improved

hypothesis. One hypothesis becomes the preparation of the fulfilling second. And so it continues.

THE FORMS OF LIFE FOLLOW THIS PATTERN

If the advent of life is an iteration of a fractal, then by definition (and extrapolation), the bodies created by that iteration would of necessity be a part of that same fractal.

EXAMPLE:

Sunflowers embody a fractal

The fractal of life can most readily be seen in the pattern of seeds developing within a sunflower.

Since the nature of a fractal itself implies essentially infinitely recurring iterations, hypothetically it can be deduced that more than just the seed head of a sunflower is a part of this fractal; there may be resonating elements of the fractal that we don't recognize.

Through evolutionary biology we learn that flower petals are actually *specialized leaves*—not an original development within the plant, but an *adaption*, an altered or secondary version of the leaves. So developmentally, leaves are

preparatory, and petals are a fulfillment of that preparation in terms of a sunflower building towards the objective of iterating itself.



Further, sunflowers ultimately replicate

themselves, leading to new sunflowers,

continuing the iterative, preparation-fulfillment pattern.

If this is the pattern for sunflowers, it is reasonable to suggest that this is the pattern that all life follows.

If this is the case, then life itself can be described as a collection of iterations of a similarly recurring fractal.

THE PROCESSES OF LIFE ARE PART OF THE SAME PATTERN

If all life reflects this pattern, then we should be able to view our *physical* bodies through the same lens.

If our bodies are part of a fractal, then what happens within these bodies is also part of that same system, and so we should be able to view the *processes* within our bodies through the same frame of reference.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

Read *The Timeline* by Merle Cunnington.

6. The Nature of a Creator

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MAN EMBODIES A FRACTAL

Man is alive, and Life is iterations of a fractal, so man constitutes iteration(s) of a fractal.

MAN HAS MULTIPLE ITERATIONS OF THE FRACTAL WITHIN HIMSELF

Sunflowers have multiple iterations of a fractal within themselves, and mankind are even more complicated than sunflowers. Likely we have many iterations of that fractal within us.

THE EMBODIMENT CONCEPT IS THE BUILDING BLOCK OF MAN AND GOD

From beginning to end, our spiritual, physical, intellectual, and emotional lives are made up of successive layers of preparation and fulfillment. These layers are interdependent; often fulfillment in one leads to development in another.

MAN IS MEANT BY GOD TO LEARN TO ACT, RATHER THAN BE ACTED UPON

As children of God, we exist with the intention to learn to act upon our surroundings, and to learn mastery over the world around us.

SCRIPTURE:

"(Mankind has) become free... to act for themselves and not to be acted upon." (2 Ne 2:26)

MAN HAS FOUR DISTINCTIVE ITERATIONS, OR PARTS

Man has a spirit or purpose, a physical body, an intellect, and a manifestation or resulting feeling, aka. emotional unit or entity.

EACH ENTITY OR ELEMENT WITHIN US HAS A UNIQUE STEWARDSHIP

The spirit is the steward of the body, the body is the steward of the mind, and the mind is the steward of the emotions.



WHEN WE ACT UPON OTHERS, WE ARE GOVERNED BY AN OBJECTIVE

When humans act, their behavior and actions are governed by an objective, or motivating purpose. It is what animates and drives the

individual, consciously

or unconsciously. By definition, an 'objective' is the animating motive behind an individual's desire to act upon an audience.

AN ACTOR'S 'AUDIENCE' IS ITS SUBJECT BEING ACTED UPON

Whenever an individual acts upon another, the individual or group being subject to this action is referred to as his 'audience.' By definition, every objective has an intended *audience*.

EACH ITERATION, OR PART WITHIN MAN IS HYPOTHETICALLY CAPABLE OF AN OBJECTIVE

Each part of man can act within its sphere with an objective. An objective can be emotional, intellectual, physical, and/or spiritual.

If we know and internalize our objective, we can have more control over our actions.

IDENTITY: THE RESPECTIVE UNIQUE CONTEXTS DEFINING ACTOR AND AUDIENCE

Each actor and each audience has unique defining characteristics that set them apart and defines and distinguishes them from all others. This is measurable and described as one's identity, or context. It is a singular signature that determines the perspective of the actor, as well as the choice of tactics the actor uses to accomplish his objective when seeking to act upon the particularly chosen audience.

ONE OBJECTIVE CAN POSSESS ANOTHER

More than one objective can operate at a time, but one primary objective is always in control.

EXAMPLE:

Art is an Expression of Objective

An author may have the objective to teach the attendees of his theater about the foolishness of feuding and grudges. The same author creates plot, characters, scenes, and dialogue in order to accomplish this. His primary objective inspires his usage of the tools which conspire to achieve that initial singular objective. His physical objective is to type or write a script to reflect these ideas. His intellectual objective is to think of elements that are consistent, believable, and engaging for his audience. His emotional objective is to accomplish his overarching objective successfully so he might be satisfied that he used his resources and capacities in order to fulfill his purpose as an inspired artist.

OBJECTIVES CAN BE BROKEN DOWN FURTHER

The physiology of an 'objective' or 'purpose' within an creator can be broken down into four distinct successive subjecting iterations of the archetypical fractal.

'Purpose' itself is preparation for the 'Plan,' or tactics which are intended to carry out that 'Purpose' within us. Our 'Plan' is then fulfilled by the 'Process(es)' which are designed to execute that 'Plan.' And then a 'Pattern' of action emerges as the 'Processes' we look to are called upon to discern how to achieve the 'Plan' called upon that we might achieve our 'Purpose.'

KEYS TO THE SPIRIT OF DISCERNMENT

The grasping of the principles of stewardship, identity, objective, and audience are *essential* to becoming a fully effective, efficient, resourceful creator. When coupled together, they can allow the user to discern the path forward in accomplishing one's objective. They also allow one to more quickly perceive the intentions of another.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

Participate in an acting (theater) class.

7. MANIFESTATIONS OF THE PATTERN

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LEARNING THROUGH ABSTRACTION

The Purpose of an Iteration is to Iterate Itself

The self-defined purpose of the iteration of a fractal is to iterate itself. We are all a part of the fractal. It is built into us, and defines us. So by extension, our purpose is to iterate ourselves in the various ways that we as iterations have available to us.

We Iterate Ourselves

When we have children, we instill within them the same divine potential that we inherited. Our divine potential is the Pattern of God's Nature, or His completed Fractal Nature. This fulfilled pattern is the very pattern we have been designed to fulfill ourselves.

SCRIPTURE:

"That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continuity in God, receiveth more light; and that light growth brighter and brighter until the perfect day." (D&C 50:24)

HEALTHY HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY

The elements of our bodies are designed to fulfill their stewardships. In doing so, they fulfill the measure of their creation, and joy will result.

EXAMPLES:

The Spirit Subjects the Body

Our spirit is designed to possess our body. As children of God, we learn to act upon our bodies through our spirits. We use processes like fasting to learn to strengthen one's spirit over one's body.

The Body Subjects the Mind

The physical body is organized to act upon the mind. The mind is an extension of the body, and is reliant on the body's proper function to work properly. If governed by a proper spirit, the body

should take precedence over the mind. If not subjected by the spirit, the body has the potential to initiate fulfillment of its own independent objective.

The Mind Subjects the Emotions

The mind serves as the place of logic, deduction, conceptualization, and understanding within man. When properly organized, the mind is designed to act upon the emotions. We are able to feel emotion as a result of the information we collect and the conclusions we deduce within our minds. In this way, the emotional core is reliant on the mind, or is possessed by the mind.

NAVIGATING BY WAY OF ARCHETYPES

As we are possessed of the objective to seek to become like our Heavenly Parents, the quintessential qualities of their ideal being manifest in us and the world as archetypes. These can act as both motivation and as signposts, allow us to recognize pivotal and iconic states of being we might inhabit. They exist as ideal destinations for the soul in the pursuit of the measure of our creation and indicate to us where to go and what to become.

ARCHETYPES ARE THE SEEDS OF PURPOSE WITHIN US

There are archetypal purposes we have been designed to ultimately fulfill which when reached are promised to us to result in a fullness of joy. These most frequently appear in our lives as identities and roles determined and defined by eternal truth.

PURPOSE IS THE SEAT OF OUR DESIRES

When purpose is rooted inside, it inspires desire in us. There is an interdependent play between our desires and our purpose. Desire is ultimately

designed to be subjected to purpose. Desire is emotional, while purpose is spiritual.

WE CAN INFLUENCE OUR DESIRES

While our desires are not within our immediate power to alter, we do have the ability to invite and control our purpose. We may be predisposed to certain desires, but we are not necessarily predestined to fulfill them. If we wish to manipulate our desires, we must first take control of our purpose.

WE CAN CHOOSE OUR PURPOSE, AND CONSEQUENTIALLY, MANIPULATE DESIRES

The purpose we choose to cultivate will lead to either possession or reception of the desire that defines it. Possession is coercive, while reception is voluntary and collaborative.

As we fulfill and practice a purpose, we are opening ourselves up to it in a way that can take up residence in us. As we give it time, and through experiences where we allow it to act out, it can emerge from within us.

SOME CHILDREN OF GOD ARE MORE SENSITIVE TO RECEPTION/POSSESSION BY CERTAIN EXTERNAL PURPOSES OR DESIRES

Because of who we are, the makeup of our bodies, & and our life experiences, we can be or become more accustomed to taking on or picking up purposes that initially are or were not

our own. The more one allows the supplanting of purpose from another, the more potential for influence that person can feel and channel of that purpose. It becomes conditioned into us. One can become open to reception/possession by a single or myriad of purposes.

THE FORMS THAT A PURPOSE MIGHT TAKE

There are many purposes that can root in us: Spiritual, physical, intellectual, and emotional. These might look like anything from life to jobs, to goals, to relationships, to appetites, to ideas, and even to feelings.

WE HAVE MORE POWER THAN WE REALIZE

If we can learn to manipulate our purpose, we can indirectly but predictably control our desires. In this and in other ways, we are literally the creators of our own futures.

FURTHER APPLICATIONS

As the ideas of the fractal nature of our existence, purpose, and potential are understood and applied, a great many meanings and insights will come to light; only a limited number are articulated here. It is the responsibility of the reader to apply what they have learned in order to gain more desired insights.

8. CONCLUSIONS

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WE ARE TO SURROUND OURSELVES WITH THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND TRUTH

Culture plays a dominant role in helping us hold ourselves accountable for the things we understand, whether or not we have fully integrated the truth into ourselves. In this way, we assist ourselves in better establishing a preparatory foundation wherein it is more likely for the fulfillment to occur.

Culture also assists in the aggregation of resources that might lend a hand in the fulfillment of those creative goals one might set for oneself.

WE ARE TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO APPLY THE TRUTH WE UNDERSTAND

Each learner has a responsibility to apply the truth within their power to do so.

THE SCIENTIFIC CASE FOR LOVE

In terms of the fractal of man, love is significant and powerful because it is the embodiment of systematic empowerment to act accomplished through the marshaling and collaboration of one's resources. In other words, it is an objective that facilitates the propagation of other's objectives. More specifically, it is a self-perpetuating objective that leads to the fulfillment of other's self-perpetuating objectives, or the expression of an objective that perfectly perpetuates the fractal. In other words, love begets love.

SOMETIMES THE ONLY WAY TO TOTALLY GRASP A CONCEPT IS TO APPLY IT

Sometimes truth requires us to step outside of our comfort zone. Sometimes it is only in application of a truth that its ultimate roots are revealed to us. Have courage and don't let your fears dominate your future.

SCRIPTURE:

"Be not afraid, only believe"
(Mark 5:36)

THERE ARE THINGS THAT CAN HOLD YOU BACK THAT YOU ARE NOT CONSCIOUS OF

Sometimes traumatic experiences in our background prevent us from developing in the way that would ultimately bring us to our greatest potential. These incidences or conditions which we may have been subject to are often beyond our control. They imprint in us dysfunction and bind us up in ways we might struggle to understand or cope with. Further, these experiences may affect us for so long that they seem to have become a part of our character. It may feel entirely hopeless, and undermine our willingness to try to overcome.

At this point, it may be necessary to address these concerns through professional help. Therapists are trained to assist individuals who desire to change these patterns of being. Ask a few people you trust for perspective and insight on these matters, and do what it takes to overcome what is holding you back.

YOU CAN OVERCOME YOUR STUMBLING BLOCKS

Some people live most of their lives turned in on themselves, unable to progress because of the limitations of their development. While trauma is tragic, the greater sadness comes as the individual comes to believe, and then act out the falsehood that they are beyond repair.

USING THE FOUR ELEMENTS TO MASTER TRAUMA

We can use the four elements of alchemy to overcome trauma. Wind, water, earth, and fire are metaphors of the four successive stages to overcoming hurts. First, we learn to run from it

(wind). Then we learn to dismiss the ideas by bending them away (water). Third we learn to dismantle them and understand what is being done to us and put up boundaries to stop it (earth). Lastly, we learn to initiate of our beliefs and act upon those around us with our own intentions (fire).

YOU ARE WORTH IT

SCRIPTURE:

“Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning after mine own image.” (Ether 3:15)

Experiences can't define our potential, only our current state of being. You can find help to overcome your dragons, and it will be worth it.

Trust God, and believe in yourself, and don't be afraid of the unknown. Moreover, believe in the truth and possibility of your own potential, and act accordingly.