ON THE ONE

FOLLOWING TRANCRIPT OF 3/12/82



after all the greatest joy that a human being can have is to try to fathom the unfathomable. When he gets to the point where he gives up then he gets enlightened -- but he better try real hard in the beginning. 704

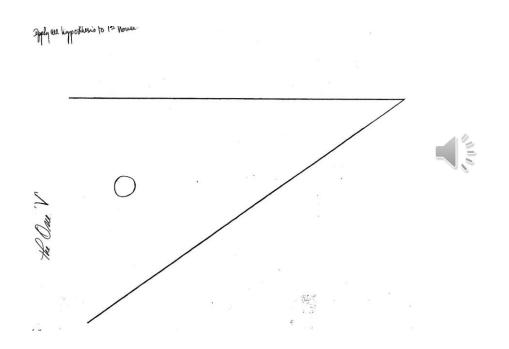


ONE: Simple and Complex

The first point was that the supreme reality is a simplex, utterly selfsufficing. Alright. That's a very important characteristic and we have to keep that in the mind.



this simplicity that we're speaking about is not that of a spatial point or any kind of a blank homogeneity—



we can see that when we are speaking about the One, or the simplicity of the One, it's going to be the most complicated and complex thing that we could deal with. The complexity of Unity is unfathomable.



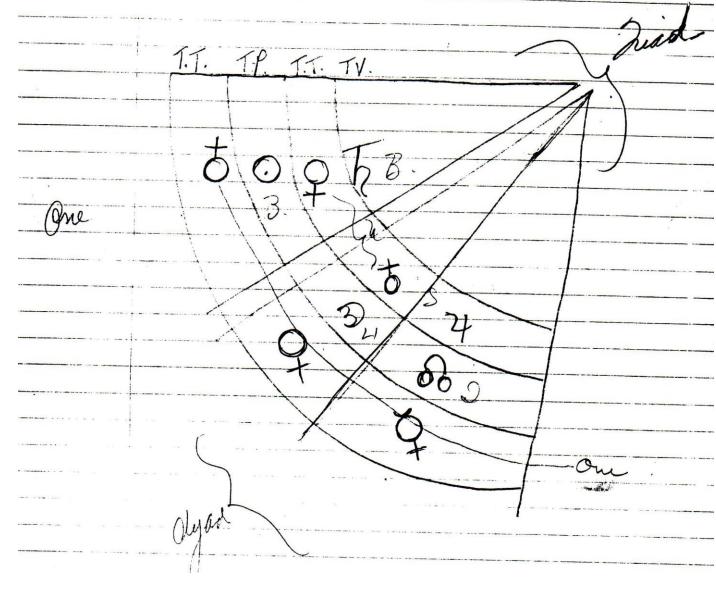
don't import into your understanding the term 'one' as some kind of number to understand unity.



It is so complex in Its undifferentiated simplicity as to include all and everything within It.



1235 One Dyad Triad



ultimately we'll have to find that everything comes from the One. And yet, although everything comes from the One, the One remains intact. That's the paradox, Yeah. That's the paradox.



Plotinus identifies the infinite and indeterminate power of the One as not distinct or apart from this pure knowledge itself.



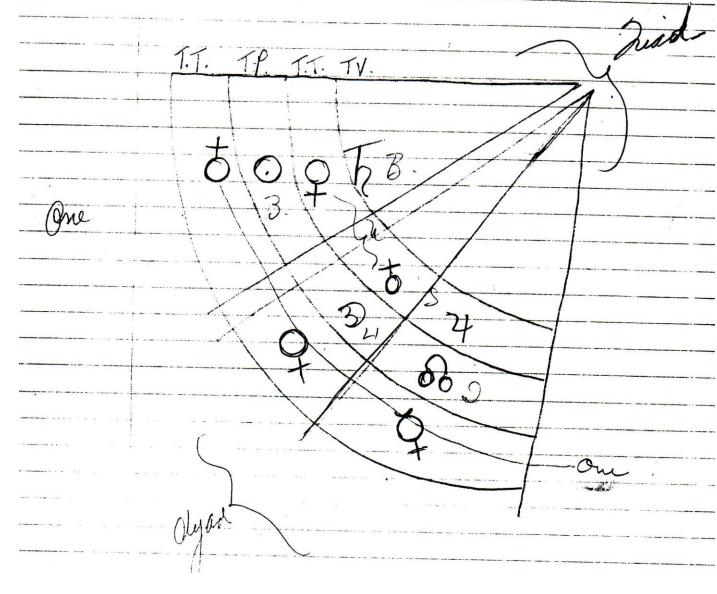
Now we said that the Dyad was this indeterminate power. That's just a name...We're just giving it a name--Sam, Harry, James, Dyad-- (student laughter). You'd be surprised at the nonsense that goes on over this Dyad.



We are thinking about metaphysical infinity, that means the totality of all conceivable possibilities combined in an undifferentiated mode, which of course cancels out the word mode.



1235 One Dyad Triad



So another way of looking at it would be Universal Being, not any particular being, not any kind of being, but **Universal-- Universal Being. Now that** would include power. As a matter of fact there is one place where he speaks about the One as characterizable as the "[infinite] depths of power." (6.9.6)



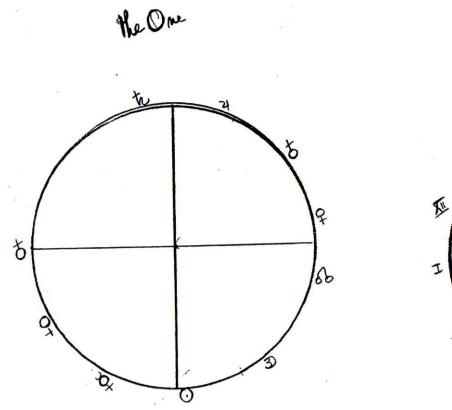
When we conceive of the essential simplicity of the One, that is, its Transcendental aspect, we are considering it as partless and indivisible. Even knowledge of it is excluded. when considered as the principle of all principles it is immanent. Both views are necessary to understand it rightly.



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In other words I have to leave metaphysics, and especially in the first house I have to leave it open all the time, open-ended. Metaphysics by definition can't be closed, it can't be systematized. That's one of the frustrating things you probably all experience in this class. It is not a system. A system has a beginning, a middle, an end, it is bounded, and you can learn everything that operates within that system and get thoroughly acquainted with it. With metaphysics you can't do that.

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