

THE MATRIX

From the fifth chapter of *The Three Principles of the Divine Essence* (1619)

2. If the Reader be born of God, there is no nearer Way for him to come to the Knowledge of the third Principle, than by considering the new Birth, how the Soul is new born by the Love of God in the Light, and how it is translated out of the Prison or Dungeon of Darkness into the Light by a second Birth.

11. All that has been born in this third Principle continues eternally in the Matrix. And if a Man has in this Lifetime attained the second Principle, so that he is born therein, it is well with him; but if he has not, then he shall remain still eternally in the Matrix, yet not reach the Light of God.

12. The Matrix is inanimate and void of Understanding, out of which also a Principle void of Understanding is generated; as is plain before our Eyes, that in this World there is no true Understanding, either in the Stars, or in the Elements; and in all its Creatures there is only an Understanding of how to operate, to nourish itself, and to increase, as the Matrix in itself is.

13. Hereupon you are to know, that the Matrix in the second Principle (which yet has its Original and eternal Root in the first Principle) is an eternal, uncreated Spirit, which has no such fiery intolerable Light as is found in the first Principle, but all there is pleasant and cheerful, and the eternal original Matrix is not known there; but the soft Light of the Heart of God makes all courteous and cheerful.

14. Man would not have known the original fiery Matrix, if he had not eaten of the Fruit thereof, whereby the Matrix presently took hold of him, captivated him, qualifies in him, nourishes and also drives him, as is plain before our Eyes.

15. But you are to know that the second Principle has the Matrix in its Power, and there alone is Wisdom and Understanding; also therein now is the Omnipotence. And this third Principle is the second's proper own, not separate, but one Essence in it, and with it, all over, and yet there is a Birth between them, as may be seen, by the rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16), the one being in Paradise, and the other in the most original Matrix, or Hell.

16. And therefore God generated the third Principle, that he might be manifested by the material World: He having created the Angels and Spirits in the second Principle in the paradisiacal World, they could thereby understand the eternal Birth in the third Principle, also the Wisdom and Omnipotence of God, wherein they could behold themselves, and set their Imagination upon the Heart of God, in which Form they could remain in Paradise, and continue to be Angels; which the Devils have not done, but they intended to rise up in the Matrix, and domineer in great Power over Paradise, and all angelical Regions, upon which they fell out of Paradise, and besides were driven out of their Place (or *Locus*) into Restraint, so that the Matrix of this World also holds them captive.

17. For the *Locus* or Space of this World was their angelical Kingdom, where they were in the Place of this World.

18. But though we speak of the paradisiacal Essence, and also of the Principle of this World, of its Power and wonderful Birth, and what the divine and eternal Wisdom is, yet it is impossible, for us to utter and express it all; for the Lake of the Deep can be comprehended in no Spirit, (whether it be Angel or Man,) therefore the innumerable eternal Birth and Wisdom makes a wonderful eternal Joy in Paradise. This innumerable Power and Wisdom may now also be known by us Men, in the third Principle, if we will take it into our Consideration; if we look upon the starry Heaven, the Elements and living Creatures, also upon Trees, Herbs, and Grass, we may behold in the material World, the Similitude of the paradisiacal incomprehensible World; for this World is proceeded out of the first Root, wherein stand both the material, and also the paradisiacal spiritual World, which is without Beginning or Transitoriness.

19. And now if we meditate and consider of the Original of the four Elements, we shall clearly find, see, and feel the Original in ourselves, if we be Men and not Beasts, full of Malice and Gainsaying and the Matrix of this World. For the Original is as well known in Man, as in the Deep of this World; although it seems wonderful to the unenlightened Man, that any should be able to speak of the Original of the Air, Fire, Water, and Earth, as also of the starry Heaven; he supposes this impossible to be known; thus he swims in his own Mother, and desires not to know it, neither was it good for Man to know it; but since the Fall of Adam has cast us headlong into it, it is highly necessary for us to know it, that we may fly from the bestial Man, and learn to know the true Man.

21. To find this Root, you must look into the Matrix, and there it is wholly manifest, and you may know it in all Things, for the Matrix of this World stands in the eternal Matrix, from which Paradise and the Kingdom of Heaven has its Origin. Now as the eternal Matrix is a Birth that goes forth, where in the Original there is Harshness, Darkness, Hardness, and Anguish; so you may see, that when the Spirit of God has kindled the inward Matrix, then it becomes stirring, working, and active.

24. When God in the first Matrix moved himself to create, and created the Angels, he created them in Paradise, in the light holy Matrix, (which is this and no other;) but the Matrix, with its fiery, dark, and harsh bitter Property, remained altogether hidden; for the Light of God from Eternity preserved it, and kept it pleasant, clear, and bright. But when God moved himself to create, then it became manifested; for the Angels were created out of the indissoluble Band, out of the Matrix, and were corporized from the moving Spirit of God.

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