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Gnostic Symbolism of Animals · Part Two

Transformation and inner work: mastery of the beast, alchemy, metamorphosis and the inner path.

GNOSTIC SYMBOLISM OF ANIMALS

PART 2 · TRANSFORMATION AND INNER WORK

1. MASTERY OF THE BEAST

- Horse: animal passions.
- Pegasus: the man who triumphed over the beast.
- Black panther: Lucifer and demonic forces.



2. ALCHEMY AND ELEMENTS

- Donkey or burro: raw Mercury or quicksilver.
- Two-headed animals: sulfur and mercury.
- Lizard: earth element.



3. METAMORPHOSIS

- Butterfly: soul, psyche and intelligence of the true man.
- From the chrysalis emerges the butterfly; from the intellectual animal must emerge the authentic man.
- Frog or toad: death, resurrection and immortality.



4. THE INNER PATH

Rabbit: hidden hearing, the Word and inner cave.

- Deer: human soul that suffers, struggles and seeks reality.
- Camel or dromedary: passage through the desert of life.



Understanding the symbol requires uniting Being and knowledge through deep meditation.

Source: The Fifth Gospel.