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The Coachman and the Carriage

Plato's charioteer read gnostically: the Being, the mind, the emotions and the body, and what happens when direction is lost.

THE COACHMAN AND THE CARRIAGE

From Plato's allegory to a Gnostic interpretation

1. PLATO: THE CHARIOTEER

In the *Phaedrus*, Plato compares the soul to a chariot guided by a charioteer and drawn by two horses.

One is noble and disciplined; the other, rebellious and impulsive.



2. THE ESOTERIC INTERPRETATION

In a later interpretation:



3. WHEN DIRECTION IS LOST

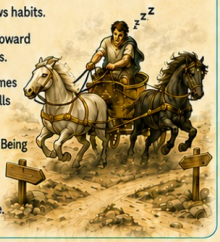
The body follows habits.

Emotions pull toward different desires.

The mind becomes distracted or falls asleep.

The voice of the Being is not heard.

RESULT: mechanical life.



4. INNER ORDER

The Being provides direction.

The mind understands and guides.

The emotions cooperate.

The body serves a conscious purpose.

Consciousness unites and harmonizes the parts.



5. KNOW YOURSELF

Observe yourself during the day:

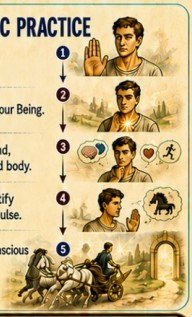
- What am I thinking?
- What am I feeling?
- How am I acting?

Recognize which part is trying to direct your life.



6. GNOSTIC PRACTICE

1. Pause.
2. Remember your Being.
3. Observe mind, emotion, and body.
4. Do not identify with the impulse.
5. Choose a conscious action.



WHEN THE BEING GUIDES, THE MIND LEADS AND LIFE FINDS DIRECTION

Plato spoke of the charioteer and two horses; the image of the carriage, horse, coachman, and master belongs to a later esoteric adaptation.