

Quintivium: The Integration Of Inquiry

Phenomena To Study

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All is Number

Nature is Mathematics patent. Mathematics is Nature latent.
Mathematics is primal. Nature is produced.

The modern academic study of phenomena (Latin *curriculum*, *currere*, an exercise in running whilst carrying; cf. English *cursor*) grew helter-skelter from a four-part curriculum developed in the Greek cultural areas during the 4th and 5th Centuries BCE. That curriculum was called **Quadrivium**. It was used throughout the Mediterranean world, including to North and East Africa, which were Greek areas long before Alexander's time. Roman teachers subsequently amended **Quadrivium** to seven parts, calling their configuration **Septivium**.

By custom, **Quadrivium** is attributed to quasi-Pythagoreans, Plato and others. But this is a careless attribution. Pythagoreans of that era were both reticent and renowned for setting decoys to draw the curious into fruitless endeavor -- and away from themselves. **Quadrivium** was developed by pseudo-Pythagoreans, whose number included Plato, not by quasi-Pythagoreans.

Pythagoreans were monastics, religious. They were private and vegetarian. Silent. They established the principles of the professions (law, medicine, priesthood) and of the arts (engineering, music, drama, iconography). They collated and preserved the Sacred Scriptures.

Pythagoreans supported those they taught or treated and, on principle, took no compensation for teaching or curing them. They attended only those determined to learn, and these they accepted regardless of their condition of birth.

On principle, a monastic propagates wisdom freely, without charge, so confident are they of their holding. This principle is illustrated by the Hippocratic Oath, which is the Pythagorean formulation of the medical profession. (This Oath, incidentally, prohibits iatrogenic abortion and euthanasia.)

Pythagoreans were not academicians *per se*, although they engaged in academic activities. Nor were they scholars. They were creators and constructors, which is the central role of monastics. Academicians, such as Plato, admired them and relied on them for curriculum content. However, academicians are not monastics. They are not seasoned and deepened by renunciation as monastics are. This means their work is tainted with self-interest and therefore less than reliable as it comes to one.

The Pythagorean [study of phenomena](#) (*curriculum*) was expressed by the Star Pentagram, the emblem of the Order. It was a five-fold study

reflecting the five-fold nature of the Universe, which is combinations and permutations of the five [Elemental Principles: Ether, Air, Fire, Water, Earth](#).

All is Number

Pythagoreans placed before academicians, such as Plato, a decoy called [Quadrivium](#). This was a curriculum of four-fold nature, reflecting four Elementals, Air, Fire, Water, Earth, and absencing the first one, Ether. The ruse worked.

Over the centuries, [Quadrivium](#) has undergone scission motivated by hope of supplying its deficiency. The result is an *omnium gatherum* without hope of integration because [Quadrivium](#), itself, is an inadequacy.

Behind any discussion of education reform is this matter of correcting the structure of the [study of phenomena](#) from four to five. This is a *sine qua non* of "education reform." In place of the Pythagorean decoy, we could employ the Pythagorean Archetype, which is Five-ness.

It is called **Quintivium: The Integration of Inquiry**. [Quintivium](#) is the correct [study of phenomena](#), reflecting accurate cosmology and ontology and being appropriate for all grades and manner of student. [Quintivium](#) is a reacquisition of archetypal Indo-European structure of five-ness through a [study of phenomena](#), both empirical and immediate.

[Quintivium](#) embodies the [Five Elemental Principles, Ether, Air, Fire, Water, Earth](#). It embraces the five essential activities of culture, Seeing, Teaching, Guarding, Producing, Crafting. Its comprehension declares the great

principle of the Universe: Non-Dualism (Sanskrit *adwaita*, not two). It asserts that all beings are brothers and sisters in the same family, belonging to God the Father and Effort the Mother.

All is Number

Q U I N T I V I U M

Seeing/Philosophy

ETHER

Teaching/Science

AIR

Guarding/Government

FIRE

Producing/Industry

WATER

Crafting/The Arts

EARTH

Details of **Quintivium are as follows:**

<p style="text-align: center;">Seeing/Philosophy</p> <p>Reference</p> <p>Mathematics</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Logic</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Philology</p> <p>Chemistry</p> <p>Ecology</p> <p>Aesthetics</p> <p>Systematics</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Etymology</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Cosmology</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Chronology</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Ontology</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Epistemology</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Archives</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Libraries</p> <p>Exegesis</p> <p>Diet</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ETHER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Teaching/Science</p> <p>Piety</p> <p>Saints and Sages</p> <p>Anthropology</p> <p>A Primer On</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Afro-Mohammedan</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Imperialism</p> <p>Linguistics</p> <p>Patriotism</p> <p>Paleontology</p> <p>Medicine</p> <p>Physics</p> <p>Oceanography</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>Cartography</p> <p>Geology</p> <p>Botany</p> <p>Zoology</p> <p>Biology</p> <p>Atmospherics</p> <p>Astronomy</p> <p>Homeschooling</p> <p>Online Education</p> <p>K - 12 Resource</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AIR</p>
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Crafting/The Arts

Architecture

Engineering

Mechanics

Construction

Shooting

Warfare

Trades

Cooking

Cleaning

Sewing

Writing

Painting

Sculpture

Music

Drama

Dance

Photography

Web Design

EARTH

Since deciding to homeschool and adopting **Quintivium** as the structure of our study of phenomena, the central direction of our effort has not changed. Our understanding of what we are about has expanded. Our sense of going forward in a proper manner has deepened. The success of our undertaking is gratifying.

We start by recognizing that these are not our children. They belong to He Who made and is them. We are care-takers, accountable as hired hands are to a property owner.

We try to discover and lead out the inner necessity of each child. This is the nature of education (Latin *ex*, from + *ducare*, lead). We lead by encouraging self-motivation.

More than anything else,
we desire that the children have good character.

This is possible only if the parents have good character and the children are constant beneficiaries of their careful attention. Part of this attention is to keep off deleterious influences -- bad company -- much as a gardener keeps weeds and pests away from young plants.

We stress algebra. The reason is simple: the unique characteristic of the human being is the ability to reason; this ability, therefore, must be fostered; and the best way to do that is to develop skill with algebra. A person who can think can do anything needful. A person who cannot think is useless to themselves and to society.

After algebra, we stress proper use of the English language. Proper use is thinking, speaking and writing the Truth. The word communication has a significant etymology: Latin *com*, being with + *unus*, one. The word communication means *at-one-ment*, reuniting that which is estranged by virtue of having existence. Thinking, speaking and writing the Truth is reunion, being at one. Proper usage is thinking, speaking and doing the truth.

Elevating poetry is a central part of the literary diet. Really, poetry is music and music is communicating.

The Word is The Beginning

Brahma Kavi

God is the Poet -- The Poet is God

Each child's life is unique. A child takes birth in order to fulfill its own destiny, not the wishes of others, including parents.

Our public and private schools ask, 'How can we shape this child to our ends, making it obey our will, fulfill the goals we have established for it.' There are aspects of life that make this approach both desirable and imperative. We may call these aspects and the teaching of them the primary school of life. They include personal hygiene, diet and recreation, obeying parents and laws of the community and nation, reverence for elders, constant self-examination and other activities of reason.

However, these aspects are not the whole story. Beyond this primary school are the secondary and post-secondary schools of life where we focus on character formation and the development of skills. In these schools the inner necessity of the student more and more takes precedence. Train the heart to be pure (character formation) and the hand to be useful (skill development). This is the goal. Detail emerges gradually as the child matures.

And all goes to leading out the vocation that is the child's destiny to fulfill, not a vocation laid on him from the outside. Each person takes birth with a destiny they are meant to fulfill. The educator guides a student and himself to recognize what that destiny is and what skills are needed to fulfill it.

Each child, male and female, should learn a trade or blue-collar occupation. They will have a livelihood that is simple, direct and always-in-demand, and they will have a reserve against uneven times, which always come. Trade skill is an indispensable component of an educated person.

The trade chosen should be that determined by the inner necessity of the child, at about age 15 or 16.

Consider that Gandhi spun cotton to the day he died, Washington was a surveyor and Lee a civil engineer. Consider, also, that the [study of phenomena](#) at the United States Military Academy begins with the work of a private soldier and progresses through the Enlisted, NCO and Officer ranks.

Nothing is more debilitating to society than leaders (Officers) who do not understand and cannot do the work of trades-people. Conversely, no situation is happier than one in which leaders empathize with their charges because they understand and can do their work.

The difference between leaders and managers may be expressed this way: managers minimize potentials and maximize actuals while leaders minimize actuals and maximize potentials.

God accepts but does not approve of prayer. God appreciates self-reliance. Just so, a teacher is happiest when a student is self-taught, operating on their own two feet. Actuals are always less than what is required and potentials are always more than what is commonly wanted while also being what is required.

Inner necessity is, by nature, ascetic and eremitical.

Self-reliance is a hallmark of an educated person.

Homeschooling is one of the ten aspects that comprise our system of education. Homeschoolers are teachers of note. Qualities they seek in an educated person are paradigmatic for the whole society.

A new day is come for our system of education. *Gitche Manito* has called us to the sacred river, to bury our weapons, to bathe and emerge clean, refreshed, not fighting. The Call of the Divine is an Invitation that has to be accepted. Let us take note and take heart.

A.M.D.G.

