

The Balcony

- Confuse prestige with power.
- Prestige - widespread respect and admiration felt for someone or something on the basis of a perception of their achievements or quality.
- “A true image born of a false spectacle”
- They acquire the real power of what they act

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- Look at the interior world as a representation of the exterior
 - What is the relation between the interior – exterior
 - Which existence is more important to the characters?

Microcosm and Macrocosm



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- Entity: A thing with distinct and independent existence
 - Something in existence or being

Democritus

460 –370 b.c.e.

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- Collection of Quotes

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- “Things always were and can’t come in or out of being”

Atomism

- Our universe is created of microscopic particles that float in a void
- These atoms never change
- Dense, Invisible, Eternal

- World was flat

Subjective Perception

- What we perceive through senses, varies from person to person

Microcosm and Macrocosm

- Ancient Greek schema of seeing the same patterns reproduced in all levels of reality
- Pythagoras—golden ratio
- Golden mean—a pattern that was reproduced throughout reality
- Greeks saw reality as a whole and noticed patterns that were repeated throughout all the levels of reality.

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- These early thinkers viewed the individual human being as a little world (*mikros kosmos*) whose composition and structure correspond to that of the universe, or great world (*makros kosmos*, or *megas kosmos*). *Kosmos* at this time meant "order" in a general sense and implied a harmonious, and therefore beautiful, arrangement of parts in any organic system; hence it also referred to order in human societies, reflected in good government.

Microcosm and Macrocosm

- Macro- (large)
- Micro- (small)
- Cosom- (Order, world, or ordered world)
- “Cosom” also comes from the idea of the cosmos or the universe

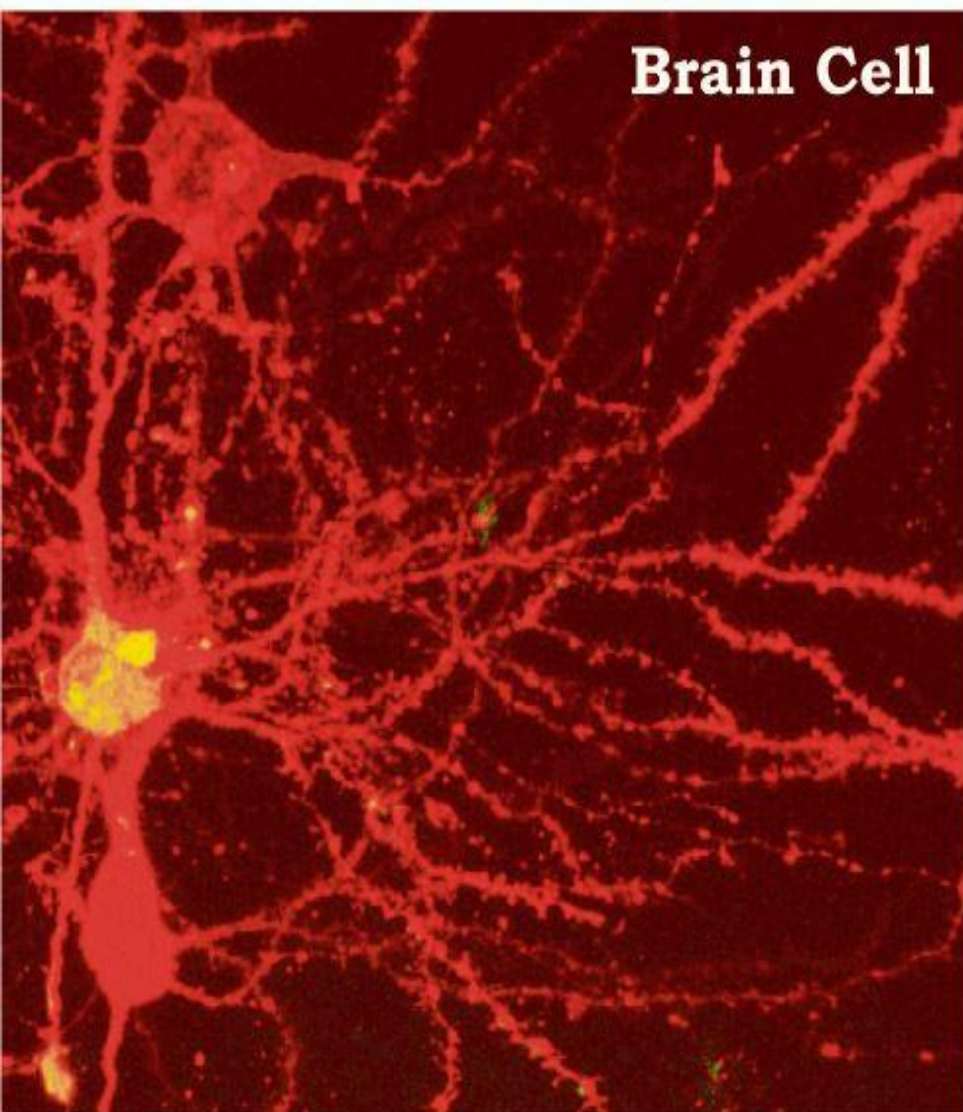
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- *The Emerald Tablet of Hermes Trismegistus*, is: "That which is Below corresponds to that which is Above, and that which is Above corresponds to that which is Below, to accomplish the miracle of the One Thing."

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- "a community constituting a world unto itself"

Microcosm and Macrocosm

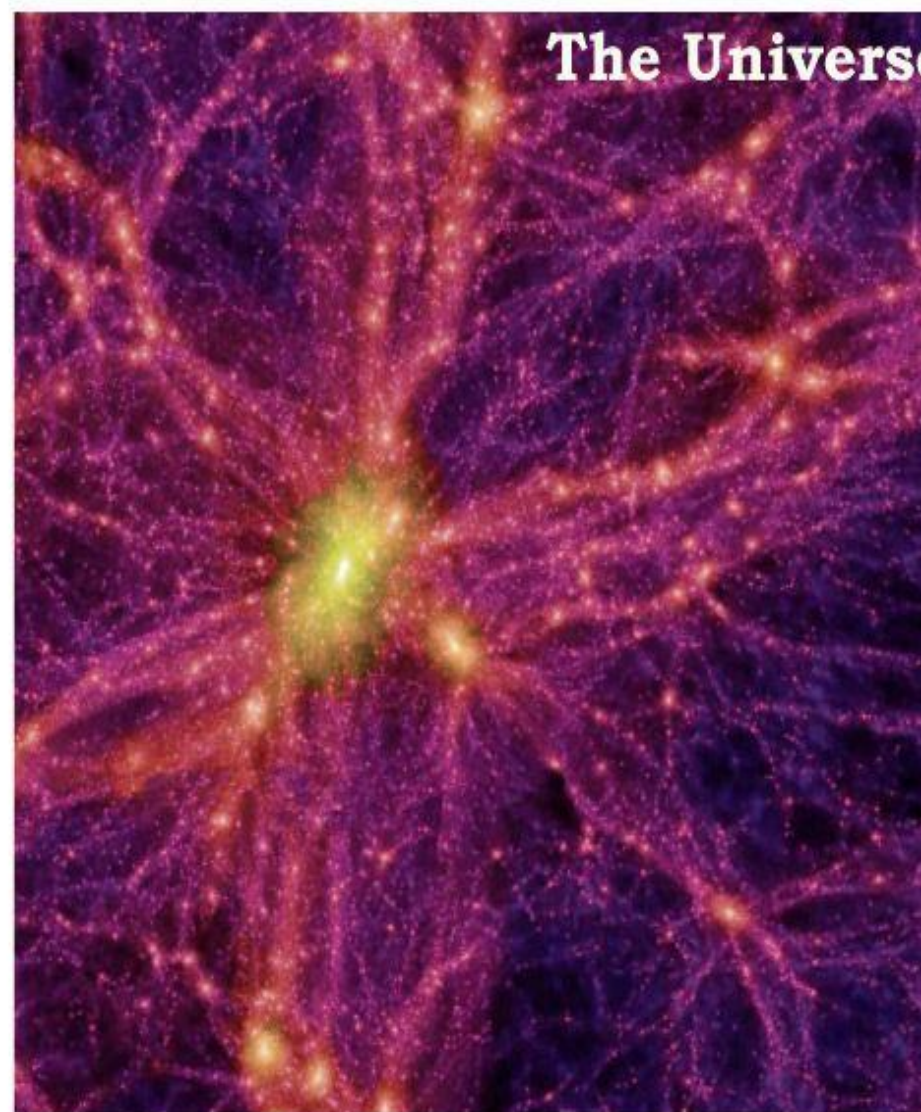
- Simply put, it is the recognition that the same traits appear in entities of many different sizes, from one man to the entire human population.

One is only micrometers wide. The other is billions of light-years across. One shows neurons in a mouse brain. The other is a simulated image of the universe. Together they suggest the surprisingly similar patterns found in vastly different natural phenomena. *DAVID CONSTANTINE*



Mark Miller

Mark Miller, a doctoral student at Brandeis University, is researching how particular types of neurons in the brain are connected to one another. By staining thin slices of a mouse's brain, he can identify the connections visually. The image above shows three neuron cells on the left (two red and one yellow) and their connections.



Virgo Consortium

An international group of astrophysicists used a computer simulation last year to recreate how the universe grew and evolved. The simulation image above is a snapshot of the present universe that features a large cluster of galaxies (bright yellow) surrounded by thousands of stars, galaxies and dark matter (web).

MISE EN ABYME

- Placement at the center of an escutcheon of a smaller copy of the same escutcheon : containment of an entity within another identical entity : image of an image





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- Robert Fludd's (1574–1637) impressively illustrated *History of the Macrocosm and Microcosm*

Giovanni Pico della Mirandola (1463–1494) offered a sustained discussion of the microcosm in his *Heptaplus*

- The **Literary Microcosm**: Theories of Interpretation of the Later Neoplatonists - James Coulter