

The Esotericism of Money (by Steve Kalec)

On many occasions, I've pointed out that absolutely every aspect of life, in a traditional civilization, was connected with the Sacred, and could serve as a "support" toward realization. Traditional coinage was no different.

In traditional Rome for example, coinage was not minted by the secular rulers (if they can truly have been called secular in the modern sense), but by the religious authorities.

It was the goddess Juno Moneta who governed minting and currency, and her temple WAS the mint. Currency thus existed, only by the Will of Heaven, and the true "value" of things, was not in terms of "price", and "cost", but to the extent that they (or the results they produced), mirrored or reflected the Will of Heaven that sanctioned the very existence of the currency.

The name "Moneta" incidentally, is where the contemporary term "money" is derived. The goddess Moneta had roles other than just overseeing coinage. She also provided "warnings" about "instability". That is to say, instability in the form of "economics", and related governmental and social events. Her message was that the way to economic and social stability was following the Will of Heaven. Lastly, Juno Moneta promised Rome, that as long as they restricted themselves to just wars, Rome would not suffer monetary lack.

One could likewise investigate the history of coinage among the Celts, Hindus, and many other civilizations up through Medieval Europe, and find similar situations. It is also important to stress, that the more ancient the coinage, the more likely it is that one will find symbols of a traditional, or more specifically, esoteric character. It isn't too far fetched to say that the most traditional coinage, minted under the authority of the priestly castes, and only according to certain rites, was "more than money"—instead, this coinage possessed a talismanic nature. The very basic shape and form of coinage, which originated with the ancient priesthoods, itself contains a doctrinal lesson.

Why are coins (generally) circular, when they could just as well easily be square, triangular, or any other geometric shape?

Why do they two faces, when they might have been made as cubes, or spheres?

Actually, to help distinguish denomination, minting coins in a variety of shapes and facets, would have been the best way to go. In modern parlance, there is the saying that “there are two sides to every story”...this saying comes from the two faces of a coin.

I’ve written that a tradition is properly comprised of exotericism, and an esotericism. If one examines coinage from a number of traditional civilizations, they will note that one side usually represents the ruler or government at the time the coin was minted, thus the “outward” face. While the opposite side usually depicts a symbol or symbols of a sacred character, the “inward” face. The more ancient the coins, the less this can be seen, as the most ancient depict the Sacred on both sides—but, we are far from that period.

Nonetheless, what we have are two “faces” of the same thing, existing inseparably, within the parameters of a circumference—which of course, represents the macrocosm, or “Heaven”.

An even more interesting study of all this, involves the traditional Chinese coinage, in which a cut-out square exists in the center of the circular coin (like the familiar I Ching divination coins). In this case, we end up with, in addition to the foregoing, the specific addition of “Earth” (the square) as an added feature.

This type of coin, also conveys several other inclusive meanings by its particular shape, and the “void” involved.

Usually (but there are exceptions), true coins are of a metallic substance. At least what we can say is that coins that are *minted* are of metals. Now, traditionally, and this especially applies to Rosicrucianism, the metals are each ruled by a planet, and moreover, each planet has a benefic and malefic aspect. Obviously then, a metal in a raw state, consists of a mixture of both—although for practical use, only the benefic is desired.

The medicinal aspect of practical Hermeticism (Alchemy) is the path that attempts to separate the toxins from the viable (benefic) properties of a metal. As concerns traditional coinage, the ritualized minting is employed to separate the malefic effects of a planet, from the coins' use in commerce.



It is curious that at about the time in Europe when the sacred aspects of minting vanished, there appeared a great number of grimoires, describing how to manufacture the “pantacles” of the various planets, in their various metals, always in the form of

“coins”. Essentially, the so-called “grimoiric tradition” is a type of “memory” of the traditional methods and purposes of coinage!

That each type of metal has a particular planetary ruler ship, or influence, is also seen in several different types of Initiation. According to my memory, the Initiates of the Mithraic Mysteries were to have no metal objects when entering their chamber...in some of the contemporary forms, that inherited something from the Rites of Mithra, candidates are also required to leave outside the chamber, anything metal or mineral—so as not to attract any imbalanced influences from a given planet.

This should make people think.

Why HAS gold had the value attributed to it, and silver a different value?

Or, why has lead always had the least value?

Despite the fact that in antiquity, when these relative values among metals, were not based on how they can be used “scientifically”, or even the frequency of how often found in the earth’s crust!

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