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Engraving «Melencolia I» reflects the basic postulate of the theory of cognition (epistemologi), of the descent and ascent of the Immortal Omniscient Soul of man (1) on the steps of Reason (2), as well as the moment of intellectual illumination (3) which is made possible only by the complete disengagement of the sense organs (4) (the nail is a cabbalistic symbol of one of the sense organs).

The door bell
6

The ancient
window with
transom made
of lead

It also reflects the intermediate state of mathematics, which Plato assigned to it in the process of cogitation (the window (5) and door (6) are the medieval symbols of the dividing line between the visible and the speculative, between the real and the ideal).

The similarity of the functional movement of the mill-stone and grinding disc (7) to the movement of the well known Plato's child's spinning top point to Plato's doctrine of the relativity of movement and rest in the Universe.

The images of the mason's rule, the plane and the ruler all reference to Plato's definition of Irrelative Beauty (ideally straight and even surfaces 8).



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