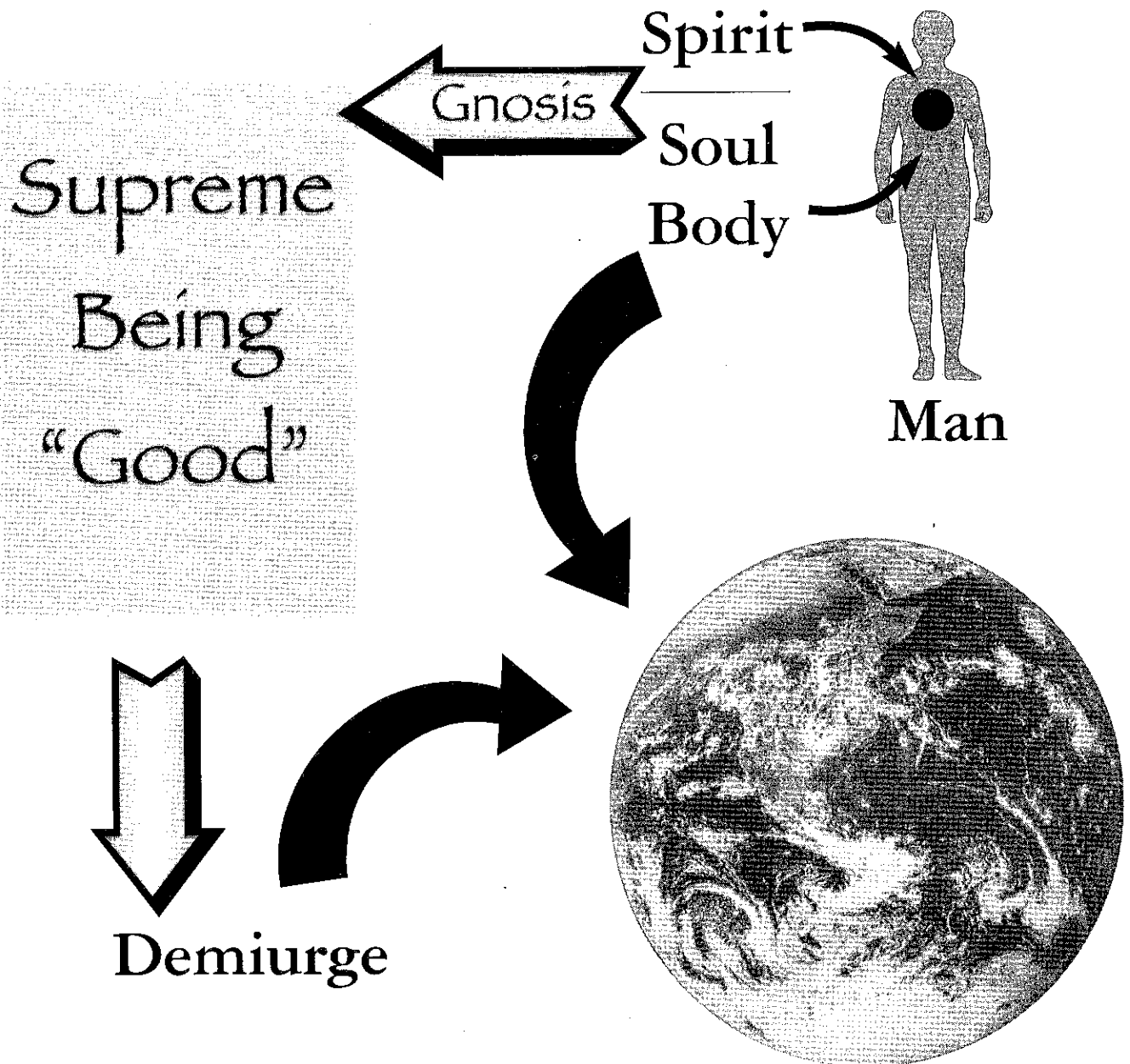


Gnosticism's Concept of Salvation



Gnosticism's concept of salvation is as follows: God did not create the world, but a lesser yet powerful being (the Demiurge) made this evil world and mankind—though within man is a spark of good. Salvation results from enlarging the capacity of that nature while minimizing the hold of materialism, and it is accomplished by means of the secret teachings of Gnostic teachers. In resisting this teaching, Christian writers adopted a worldview that embraced the God of the Bible as the divine creator, affirmed the creation as good though marred by a subsequent devastation, and espoused the salvation of the body as well as the soul.