

TOPIC

RESEARCH

E-JAY TRIPOLI

1. STARS

2. GAMBLING

3. ALCHEMY

4. RELIGIOUS

PSYCHOSIS

WHICH SHOULD I RESEARCH

[GATHERING DATA]

STARS: |

GAMBLING:

ALCHEMY: |

RELIGIOUS PSYCHOSIS:

STARS AND

STUFF

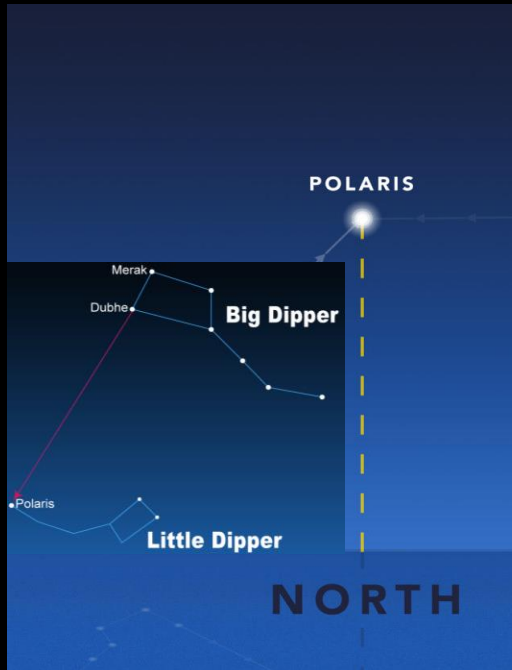
ASTRONOMY & (NOT REALLY) ASTROLOGY



NAVIGATING USING THE STARS

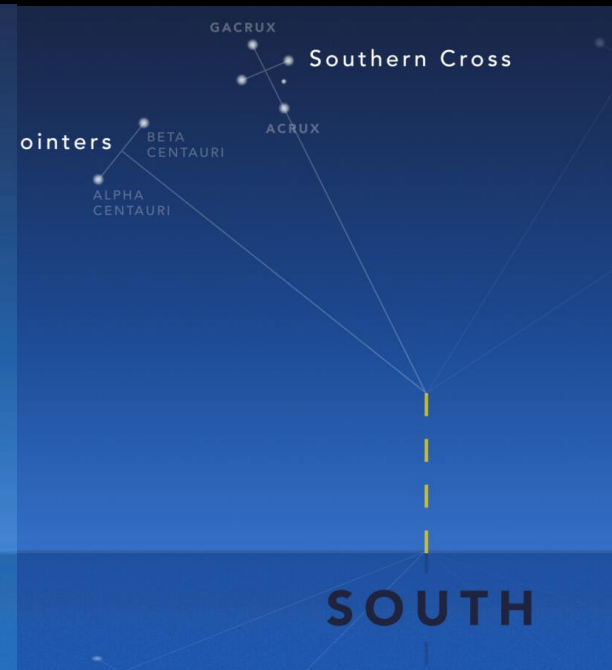
Northern Hemisphere

- Polaris (The North Star) used to find **North**
 - End of Ursa Minor
 - Handle of the Big Dipper
- Orion's belt used to find **South**
 - Orion's sword



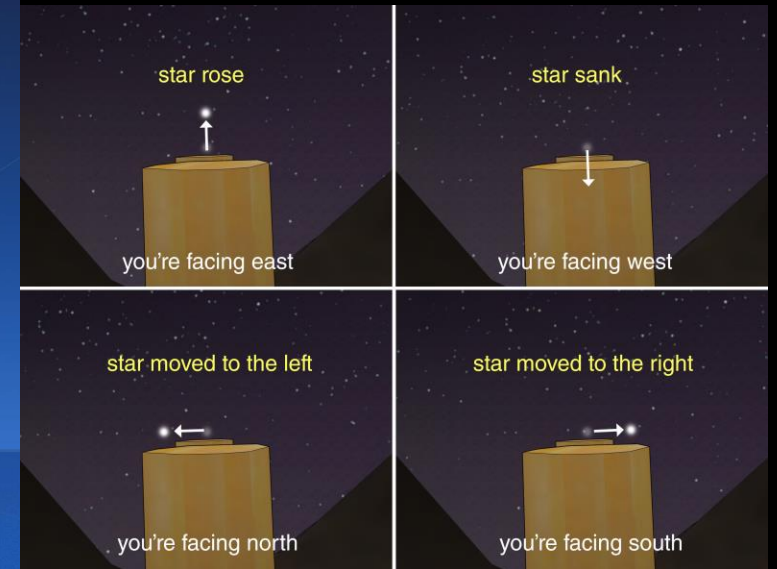
Southern Hemisphere

- Crux [The southern cross]
 - Aligned with pointer stars which bisect at a point perpendicular to south
- Polaris is blocked by the earth



Two stakes method

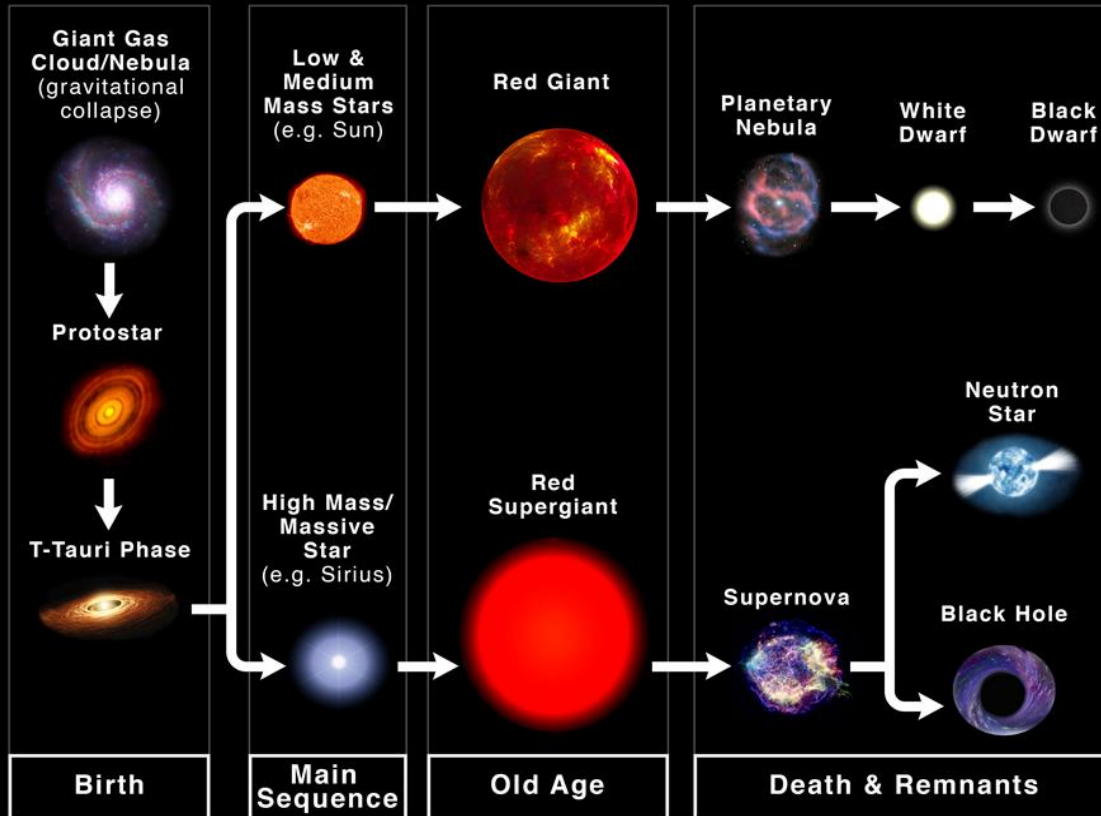
- Place two stakes in the ground arms-width apart and stand to the side of them
- Locate a star and follow it until both stakes are parallel
- Provide information about what direction you're facing



PHYSICS OF STARS

Life-Cycle of a star

- Stars at different cycles of life appear different to the human eye
 - Stars can live from **millions to trillions of years**
- Our sun is currently in its main sequence stage as a low-mass



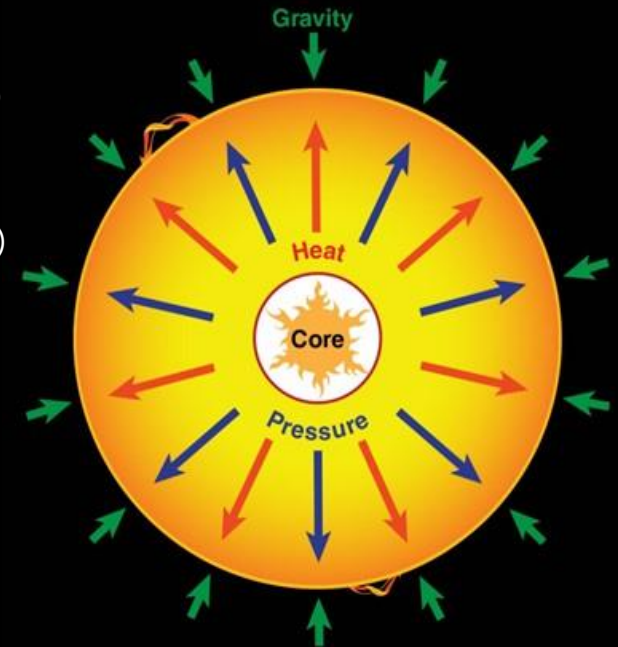
Forces of a star

- Stars stay stable as long as its inward force of gravity and outward force of pressure stay in equilibrium
 - Small mass > White Dwarf
 - Larger mass > Neutron Stars
 - Largest mass > Black Holes

Interacting with the Universe

- Stars can fling celestial bodies into space
- Star radiation causes ice on comets to turn into gas (sublimate)
- Stars with more intense radiation blow more dust and gas
- Influences the size of planets that form around them

What holds a star together?



GAMBLING

LETS GO GAMBLING





THE LORE OF GAMBLING

Ancient Gambling

- First records of gambling in 2300 BC
 - Dice games (Rudimentary rules based on luck)
 - Ancient China, Greece, Rome
 - Gods played games of chance in myths [Norse, Greek gods etc]



Cultural Symbolism

- Gambling is often seen as a **test of fate** [East Asia – Japan China]
 - luck (運, *yun*) and destiny (命, *ming*), reflecting harmony between human action and cosmic order.
- Gambling is also seen as temptation in western countries
 - Often depict the **financial state** of a person, region or culture [Economic depression, desperation, inequality etc.]
- Dice and cards were often used in religious divination



THE DARK PSYCHOLOGY OF GAMBLING

How casinos leverage the human mind

The Near-Miss effect

Showing players that they've *almost* won

Gambler's fallacy

The thought that previous outcomes influence future potential outcomes

Variable Ratio

Rewarding players after an unpredictable amount of actions

Sunk-Cost fallacy

Players are more inclined to continue investing time or money because of a prior investment, even with the knowledge that stopping would be beneficial

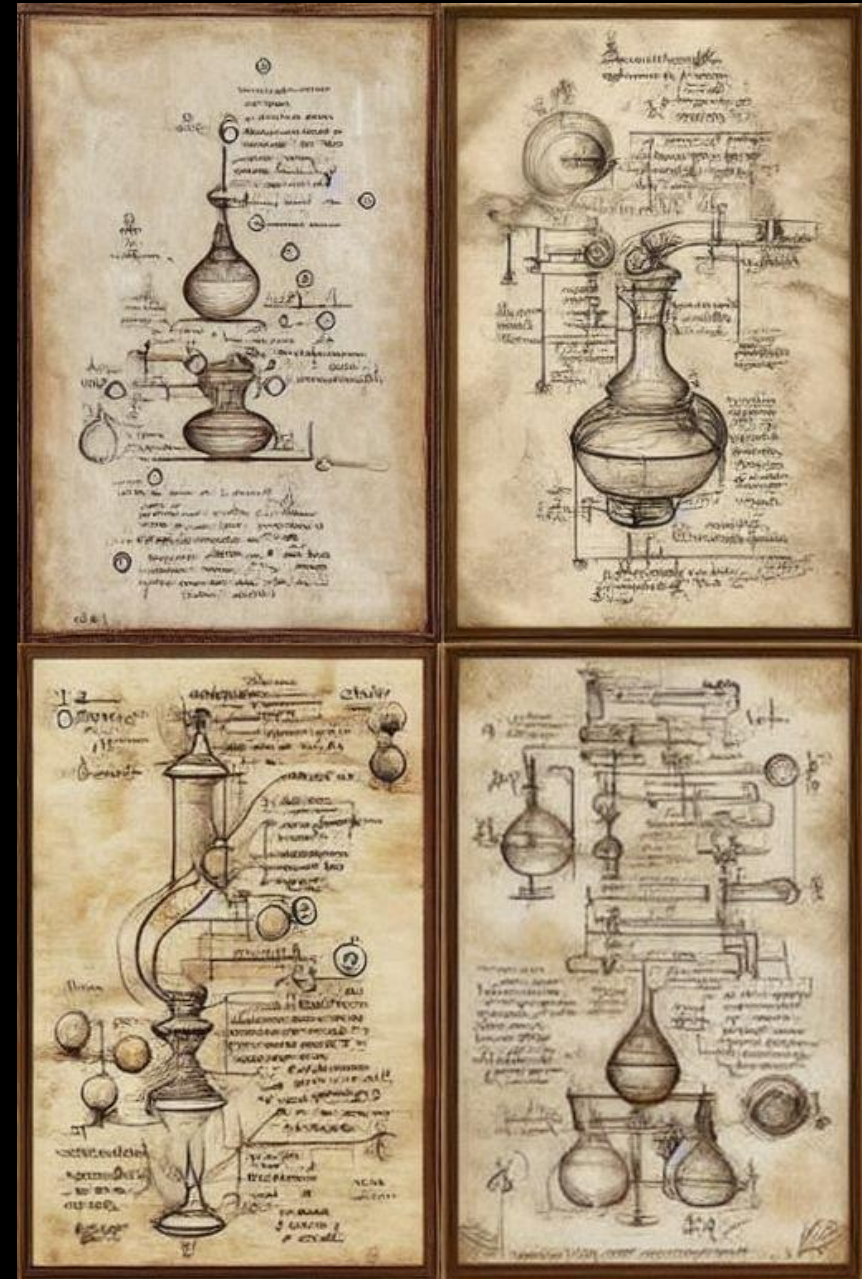


Gambler's fallacy

When I go to the casino, I choose machines that haven't won in a long time since they are due to win.



ALCHEMY CHEMISTRY BUT NOT



WHAT WAS ALCHEMY?

An ancient philosophical and proto-scientific practice from various cultures [2000 BCE to the 18th century]

Philosophical and Scientific Ideas

Transmutation

- Transformation of base substances into others (lead → gold), symbolising the purification of the soul.

The Philosopher's stone

- Roots in Ancient Egyptian and Greek Philosophy - developed in the Islamic world before spreading to Western Europe
- Alchemists sought the stone through the 'Magnum Opus'

A mythical alchemical substance believed to:

- Transmute metals into gold
- Create an Elixir of Life
- Act as a symbol of divine perfection and spiritual purification

THE SEVEN STAGES OF ALCHEMICAL TRANSFORMATION



Calcination
CHEMICAL
 Heating a substance over a flame until it turns to ashes.
PSYCHOLOGICAL
 Breaking down the ego and attachment to the worldly.



Dissolution
CHEMICAL
 Dissolving ashes of substances into water.
PSYCHOLOGICAL
 Immersion into the unconscious. Conscious mind releases control, leading to a resurfacing of parts of ourselves that were hidden.



Separation
CHEMICAL
 Isolating and filtering the products of dissolution.
PSYCHOLOGICAL
 Review resurfaced material and decide what to separate or integrate. What parts of our shadows can we learn from, and what hinders us?



Conjunction
CHEMICAL
 Form a new substance from the separated elements we choose to keep.
PSYCHOLOGICAL
 Merging of the conscious and the unconscious aspects of the self to a single essence. The union of dualities allows for the true self to emerge.



Fermentation
CHEMICAL
 Induce chemical breakdown of substance with bacteria or other micro-organisms.
PSYCHOLOGICAL
 Initiation of spiritual awakening through testing the strength of the solution. To first create wine, grapes must rot. Suffering breeds resilience.

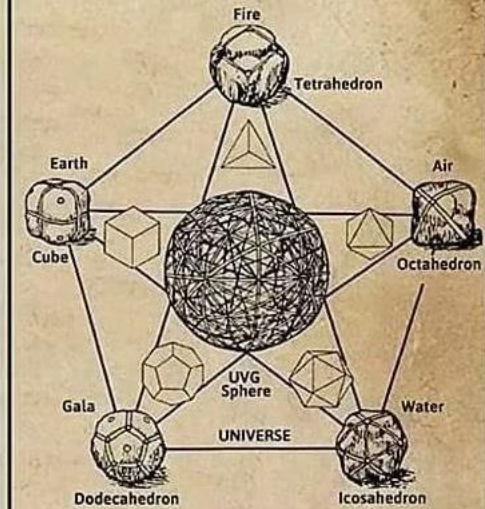


Distillation
CHEMICAL
 Boil and condense solution to increase purity.
PSYCHOLOGICAL
 Purification of the spirit - where we make sure the ego no longer controls us, giving us ability to appreciate the beauty of the collective self.



Coagulation
CHEMICAL
 Transformation to a solid state.
PSYCHOLOGICAL
 The union of matter and spirit that allows us to perceive the world without dualities, and to perceive life on all levels of consciousness. Similar to the state of Nirvana. The supposed end result is the famed Philosopher's Stone.

PYTHAGOREAN COSMIC MORPHOLOGY



ALCHEMICAL SYMBOLS HERMES THE ALCHEMIST



THE HISTORY OF ALCHEMY

Alchemy's Origins

Ancient Egypt

- "Alchemy"'s etymology stems from *Khemia* ("the black land") referring to Egypt's black soil and *al-kimiya* ("Casting" in Greek)
- Metallurgy, Religion and the afterlife

Hellenistic (Ancient Greek)

- Believed in hidden divine truths through transformation, linked alchemy to hermeticism

Islamic Golden Age

- Scholars blended empirical science and spiritual psychology

Alchemy's influence on the world

Early experimental chemistry

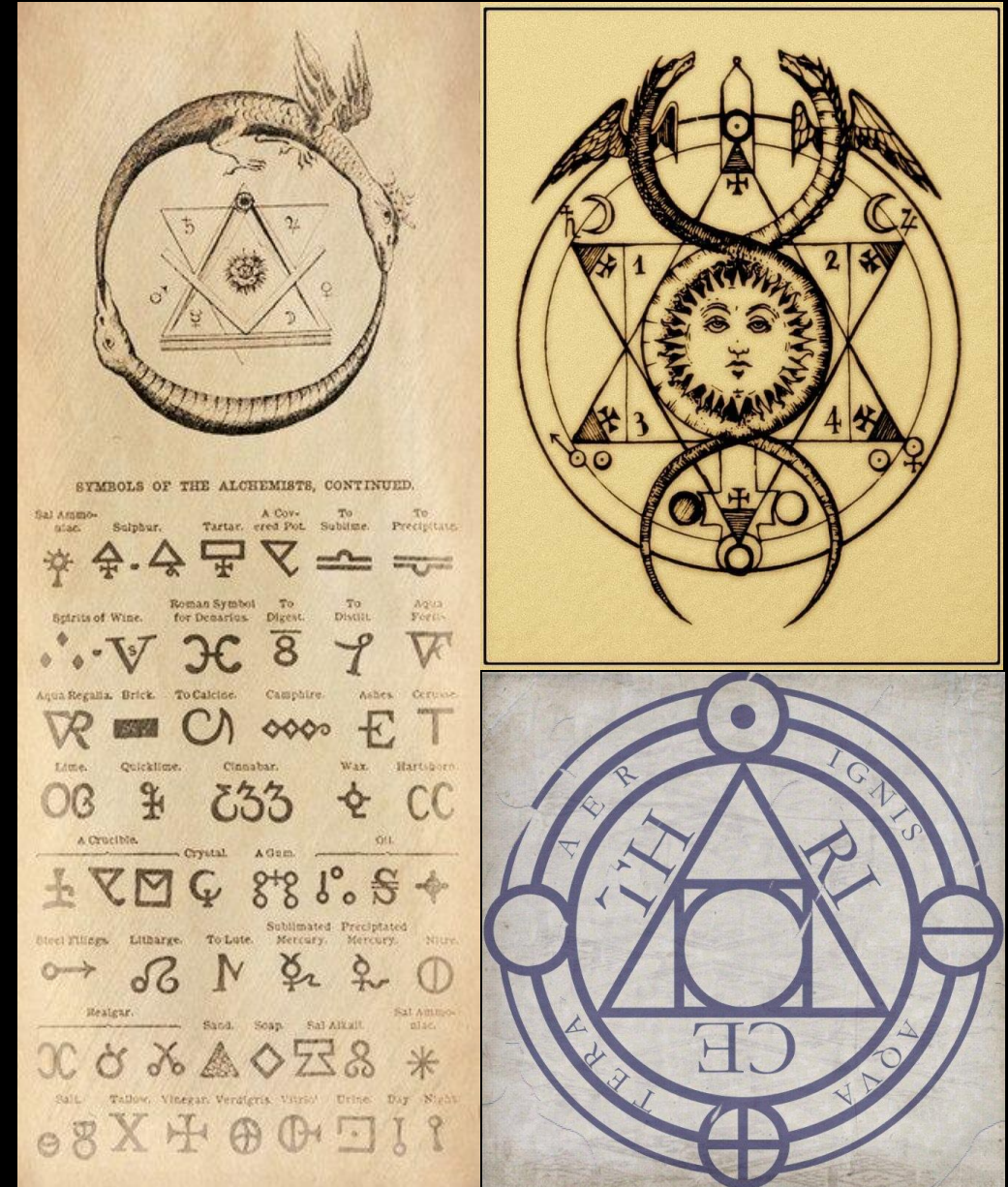
- Medicinal chemistry and empirical early empirical sciences

Psychoanalytical science

- Carl Jung interpreted alchemy as a metaphor for **individuation**

Literature

- Used as a metaphor for creativity, transformation and moral purification [e.g. *The Alchemist*]



RELIGIOUS PSYCHOSIS



WHAT IS IT?

Psychotic experiences or symptoms that include religious content , e.g. Delusions of divine communication, possession, or spiritual mission.

It can manifest as:

Religious delusion

Fixed false beliefs involving God, angels, demons, or divine purpose

Auditory hallucinations

Hearing voices interpreted as divine or demonic

Grandiosity

Belief in special divine powers or identity

Persecution

Belief in being targeted by evil forces

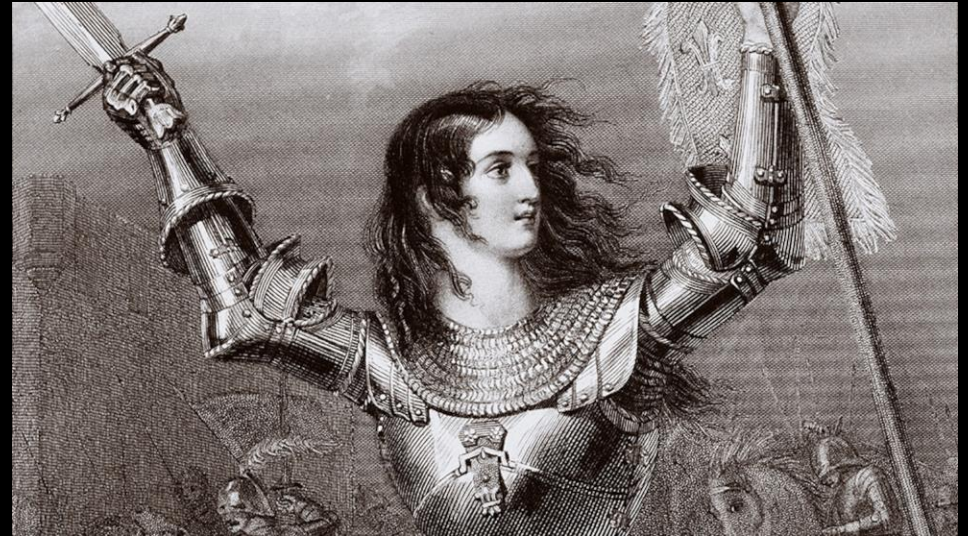


CASE STUDY

Joan of Arc was born a French peasant girl who became a military leader in the 15th century. Centuries later, she was canonized as a Roman Catholic saint in 1920.

- Around the age of 13, she began to have visions and auditory experiences she believed came from divine sources
 - Voices of saints giving her commands
 - Saw the figures of Angels
- These voices instructed her to lead the French army's victory over the English army
 - Ensuring the coronation of Charles VII

Ultimately captured by the English in 1430, tried for **heresy and witchcraft**. Resulted in her execution by burning a year later.



**THANKS FOR
LISTENING**

