

[DISCOURSE ON THE EIGHTH AND NINTH \(NHC VI, 6\)](#)

An initiatory Hermetic tractate featuring a [dialogue](#) between [Hermes Trismegistus](#) as [mystagogue](#) and his “son” (Tat) as initiate. The tractate lacks a title; the one now in use has been editorially assigned on the basis of content. The “eighth” and the “ninth” refer to the spheres above the planetary cosmos wherein the initiate might approach the transcendent divine realm, presumably located at the 10th level. Extant only in Coptic, [Discourse on the Eighth and Ninth](#) was originally [composed](#) in Greek, and is closely related to other texts in which the god “thrice-greatest Hermes” reveals [gnosis](#) to his initiates, such as might have been used in a Hermetic conventicle. It was certainly [composed](#) in Egypt, possibly as early as the second century.

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