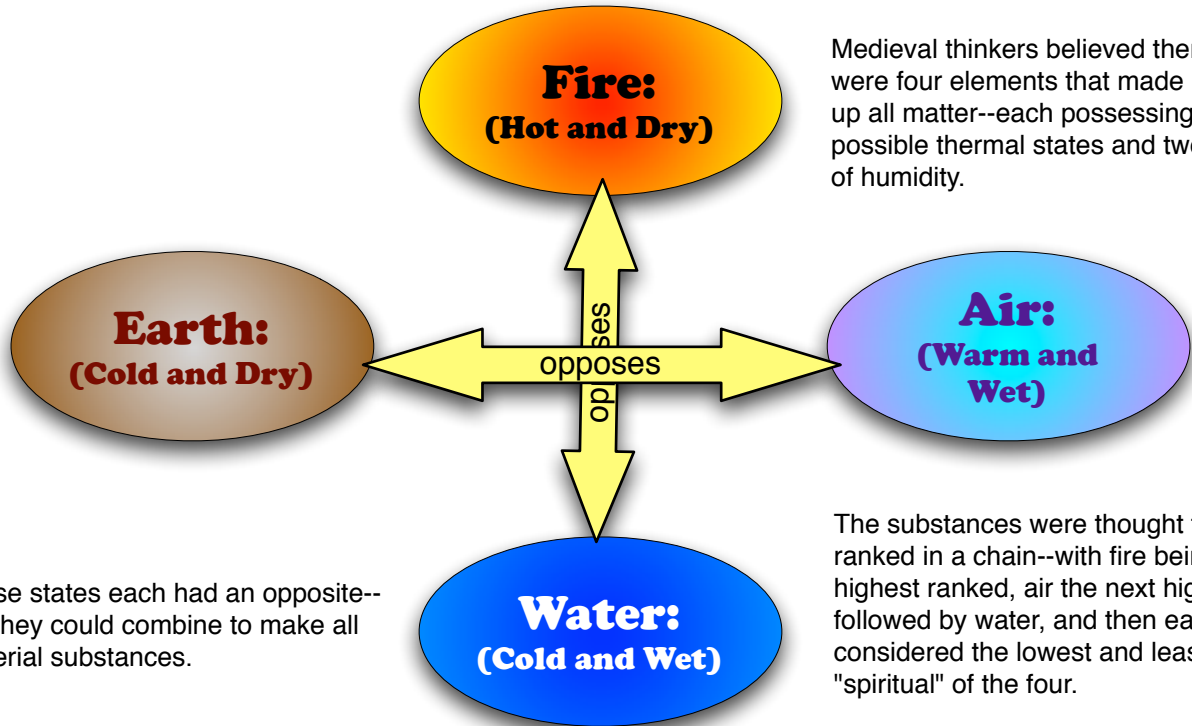


# Four Elements in Medieval Alchemy



Medieval thinkers believed there were four elements that made up all matter--each possessing two possible thermal states and two states of humidity.

These states each had an opposite--but they could combine to make all material substances.

The substances were thought to be ranked in a chain--with fire being the highest ranked, air the next highest, followed by water, and then earth was considered the lowest and least "spiritual" of the four.