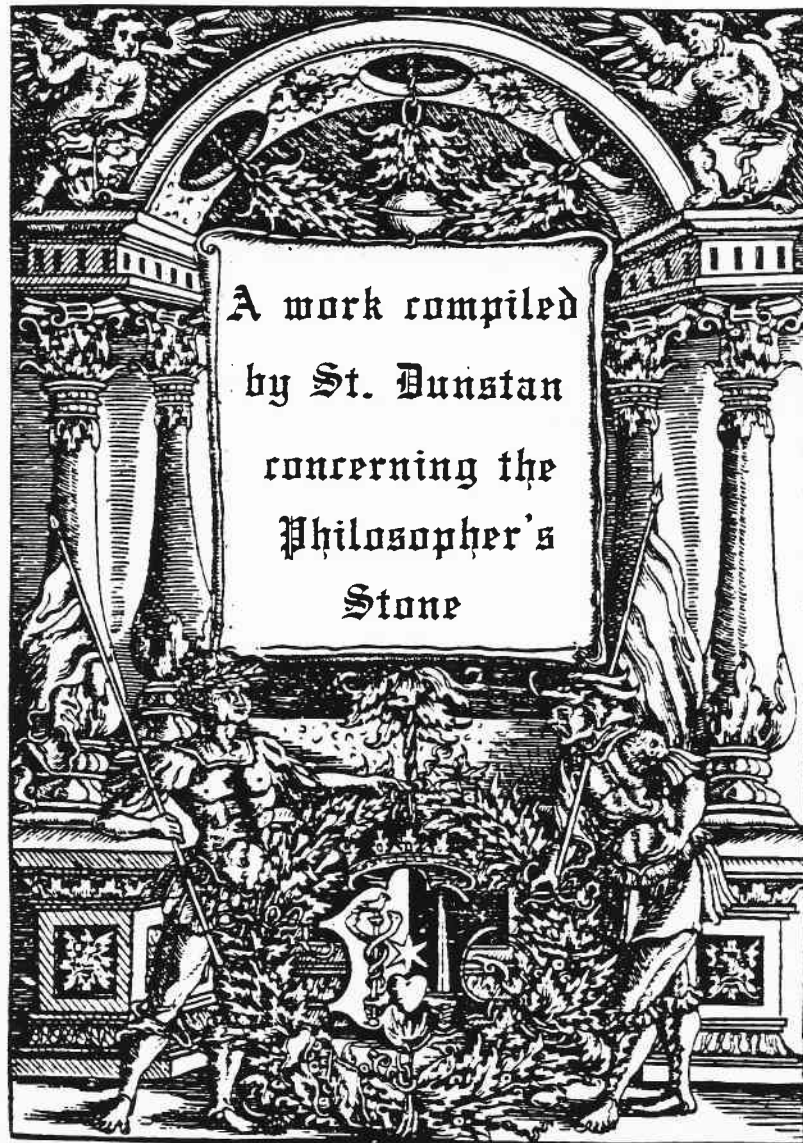


ST. DUNSTAN
PHILOSOPHIA MATURATA
OF THE
STONE OF THE PHILOSOPHERS



TO WHICH IS ADDED CHEMICAL EXPERIMENTS OF Rulandus & Sala

PRODUCED BY:

R A M S

1985

PHILOSOPHIA MATUREATA

AN

EXACT PIECE OF PHILOSOPHY
CONTAINING

THE PRACTICK AND OPERATIVE PART

THEREOF IN GAINING THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE

With the ways and how to make
the Mineral Stone, and the Calcination of Metals.

Whereunto is added,

A Work compiled by *St. Dunstan*
concerning the Philosopher's Stone.

AND THE EXPERIMENTS OF RULANDUS
AND PREPARATIONS OF ANGELO SALA, ALL MOST FAMOUS
CHYMISTS IN THEIR TIME.

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It is highly appropriate to acknowledge the many persons who have either materially or philosophically contributed to the present effort and future ones. For some this might well be the first indication that they are considered as members of R.A.M.S. or that such a group even exists! While the list is long, it includes: C. Collins, Rick Stern , K. Hellesoe, A. Joo, D. and J. Nintzel, N. Ogle, G. Price, F. Regardie, W. van Doren, K. von Koenigseck and especially David Ham. For their labors and contributions, grateful thanks are given. Let their unselfish efforts inspire others to light the fires of Alchemy.

To obtain copies of these materials, or to contribute in some way to this work,

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TO THE UNDERSTANDING READER:

Thou art here presented with an ingenious piece of curious Art which may well be entitled "An exact Piece of Philosophy", for its subject is of such a nature as none but such as are Lovers of Wisdom, are able to comprehend, and that hath made some even cry out, That the Philosophers Stone is indeed an invaluable Gem, but such as deserves only to pass among nominal, not real Jewels, but it would be a toylsom work, and to as little purpose as Certare de lana caprina, to give an answer to such Anomalus Caprichio's.

The following tract (there is no doubt) will yield great satisfaction to all such as knowingly persue this kind of Philosophy, especially when they shall consider i.e. eminency of its Author, for it bears in front the Reverend Character of Learned DUNSTAN, of whom the present world, at least those therein that have conversed in this Science, cannot but know, that he was as exact as diligent, and so diligent, that none before, nor hardly any since did ever arrive herein to equal perfections with him.

But why should we waste time in making Eulogyes of him, of whom not only antiquity, but even the wickedness of the present age speak both great and honourable things, (to give them no greater a Title). Let the Work it self advance (as no doubt it will) its own praise, for its Author needed not the stilts of a vain-glorious sustentation.
Farewell.

AN EXACT PIECE OF PHILOSOPHY

TOUCHING THE STONE OF THE PHILOSOPHERS

It is chiefly to be understood, That the Ancient Philosophers did often endeavour to compose in a most short time above the Earth, those things, which by Nature, in many years, were perfected under the Earth; viz. To make most perfect and most precious SOL and LUNA; wherein they imitated the footsteps of Nature, choosing to themselves most pure Earths; white and Red, which they named their SOL and LUNA; joining them together as Nature doth, without repugnance, until at length they were brought to a fixation and subtilty: This thing also is needful for you to perform, if you desire to obtain the desired end in this Science.

For SOL and LUNA, is nothing else, but RED and WHITE Earth, to which Nature hath perfectly joined ARGENT VIVE, pure, subtile, white, and Red, and so of them hath produced SOL and LUNA.

It is therefore needful for thee, seeking this SCIENCE, That first thou get these Earths, White and Red, subtile, pure and fixed, and in these two Earths to fix two MERCURIES, white in the white, and red in the red, without division, and by their least parts, so as they may endure the greatest EXAMEN of the fire, and may have such fusion, that as we see a great quantity of Water coloured with a little Saffron, so they may in the least quantity abundantly tinge every metal, and all metalline spirits whatsoever, so as they be of the same Kind and

Nature, and may altogether and fully bring them to their own quality.

And moreover, that in themselves they may be infinitely multiplied, and able to free the body of Man from the worst and most deadly Diseases; which Properties truly are not found in common SOL and LUNA, without great Labour, (and yet but only in part) because that the Vegetative power, the Mother of all increase, for the most part, is long since extinct in them.

If thou know how to perform this, and to imitate the condition of the inferiour nature in making Metals, thou mayst worthily rejoyce in the name of a Philosopher, as being not meanly expert in natural things.

It is to be noted, That the more Ancient Philosophers used not common SOL and LUNA in this Work, and therefore they said, That their work needed not great Cost and Charges, but that it might be as well performed by the poor, as the Rich: Which were altogether different from the truth, if it could not be performed without Common SOL and LUNA: For they are very precious and rare, and hardly to be gotten of poor men without great labour. Indeed, many have brought great quantities of SOL and LUNA to nothing by this Art, and have unprofitably spent and wasted their Time and Labour, to the destruction both of their Bodies and Souls, which is much to be lamented.

Moreover, in these our Times, we know no man who doth diligently and truly find out the Philosophers Tinctures, but most of them labour absurdly and vainly in vulgar MERCURY and in common SOL and LUNA; therefore few of them obtain this grace.

Let us take heed; for although SOL and LUNA may be subtilated and mixed with tinctures, and so reduced into lesser tinctures, and Elixers with mean profit; yet the true way according to the Doctrine of Philosophers, is not in them: for SOL and LUNA are two tinctures Principal, red and white, buried in one and the same body, which by nature were never brought to perfect compliment, yet they are separable from their dirty and earthly accidental dross, and afterward according to their proper qualities, are made most fit ferments for pure earth, white and red, so as in no sort they are said to need any other thing.

For the whole Work is one, and the thing it self is one, and all the whole is derived from an Image. For our Ancestors knew, that the parts of this our Stone are celestial and concrete; which were altogether absurd, if common SOL and LUNA were needful to the composition thereof.

For it is said, Take a body wherein is ARGENT VIVE, pure, clean, unspotted, and incompleat of Nature: such a body after its compleat and perfect cleansing, is much better then the Bodies of Mineral SOL and LUNA.

Of this self-same body, which is the matter of the Stone, three things are chiefly said; namely, that is a green Lyon, a stinking Gum, and a white Fume.

But this is spoken of Philosophers, purposely to deceive Folks, and to bring them into doubts, by the many different names.

But understand thou shalt, one thing always is really signified, though accidentally and by names it is said to be three: for the GREEN

LYON, STINKING LIQUOR, and WHITE FUME, are spoken of one and the same subject, wherein they altogether lie hid, until by Art they are made manifest.

By the GREEN LION, all Philosophers mean GREEN SOL multipliable and spermatick, which is as yet incompleat by Nature, having power to reduce Bodies to the first matter, and to make fixed things spiritual and flying, and so it is fitly called a LION.

For as every Beast is subject to the Lion, so every Metalline body is confirmed and strengthened by the power of this Liony and green SOL; namely, of our MERCURY, when it is Philosophically prepared.

This is bred and born with a certain water, which we call ARGENT VIVE of the Philosophers, and white MERCURY: Therefore their water White and Red, giveth unto us two tinctures, white and red, proceeding from one body and substance: These are always named our MERCURIES; and after due conjunction, decoction, and digestion, we call our White and Red Stones.

By the STINKING GUM, we mean a certain stinking smell, proceeding from the unclean Body in the first distillation, which is altogether like unto stinking ASSAFATIDA, that with a certain sweetness, whereof it is said before its preparation, its smell is greivous; which is most certain: but after that, thou shalt find a substance endued with these three qualities, know that it is the true matter of the Philosophers Stone.

There ariseth a Question very difficult, which much troubleth fantastick Heads, viz. our Stone sheweth it self in a foul shape, because

it is in everything, and in every place; whence many men reading this, make choice of several and stinking things, which with great labour they distil, calcine, & join together. But let such hear what the Philosophers say, "Who so seeks the Philosophers Secrets in Turds looseth his Labour, and in the end finds nothing but deceit".

Yet there is also another thing which troubleth these mens Brains, viz. our Stone is bred between two mountains, it is cast out into the Dunghill, and troden under mens feet, it is counted a most vile and contemptible thing, it is generated between Male and Female, and lieth hidden in Thee, in Me, and in such like things. And contrarily it is said, Our Stone cannot be in things differing from its kind, namely, from the Nature of SOL and LUNE; for nothing can give that which it hath not. A Nettle cannot produce a Rose, nor a Woman a Dog; How then shall we resolve so many doubts rising from Contrarieties?

Truly, it is easily done for it is plain, That nothing in this World, whether it be Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral, can be generated without a natural and a special appetite.

Therefore according to the Doctrine of Philosophers, which informs us only by obscure Examples; We must understand that the Stone may be by Similitude in every thing, and in all places, chiefly, because it is nothing else but a specifical virtue and quality joined with natural heat, whereby every compounded thing is brought to his perfectest determined end.

Things generally spoken are always generally to be understood, for what earthly thing can be in every thing, and in all places, but

only a specifical Appetite, and a natural Heat; for these are the immediate and near causes without which the Stone cannot be.

Whosoever therefore desireth to understand the Stone, let him not depart from his specifical quality and Original.

Of a Man cometh a Man, of a Rose a Rose; so likewise from a matter which is potentially Gold, having things necessary, and Excrements purged, ariseth SOL by an inward Appetite; therefore from a Metal ariseth multitude of metalline tincture and perfection: The Stone is made of a metal, living, hot and moist, when natural heat is joined with it, whereby it is made apt to generate its like. For our Stone is most pure matter, viz. the nature of SOL containing in it self a vegetable heat, whereby it hath power and virtue always to multiply in its own specifical and natural form; therefore it is called the secret Fire of nature, stirring up the compound, and perfecting it in our Glass into a Stone, in like manner as seeds by reason of its own proper natural heat, and radical moisture, if its mother Earth doth putrifie to admirable Generation and Multiplication.

Whosoever therefore keeps not this our heat, our fire, our balneum, our invisible and most temperate flame, and of one regiment, and continually burning in one quality and measure within our Glass; I say, whosoever understands not this Dunghill, horsebelly, and moist fire, shall labour in vain, and shall never attain this Science.

Thou seest therefore that the radical humidity, which is that first vegetable Virtue, is the cause of multiplication of every thing in its kind. Therefore of the Composition of SOL and LUNA take our burning

water, that AQUA VITE, which the ignorant do think, but falsly, to be extracted from Wine, Oil, and such like Liquors.

I say, such green SOL and LUNA, in which the vegetable virtue is not extinguished, but is living, hot and moist, and hath power to reduce all Bodies to their vegetability; for by this, with Gods permission, bodies extinct, and not multipliable, may more easily get the habit and virtue to germinate, which of Philosophers is called the beginning and term from whence the Stone is generated.

MARIE the Prophetesse in an Epistle to ARON, writeth, that "The Body taken from little Mountains, is a Body white and clear, not suffering putrefaction nor motion, and it is that which is generated between Male and Female"; By these little Mountains is understood SOL and LUNA, which are naturally separated from us by a great distance, by whose influence Gold and Silver are generated, both which are in our Mercury.

By Male and Female, we understand Agent and Patient, Active and Passive, both which are also in our active Mercury, and in our Passive Earth.

Whereby, without doubt, is inferred, that mineral Earth and Water are the Active and Passive matter, as the Philosophers Stone. And here hence appears that community between the Poor and Rich, seeing that the Stone may be made of one thing, without visible SOL and LUNA.

But here by the way, I advertise thee, that betwixt the Elixer and the Stone there is this difference; for the Stone rejoyceth in unity and simplicity, but the Elixer in plurality.

The Stone therefore is one thing, our MERCURY, SOL, LUNA, our Tincture white and red, which may be naturally joined with its own proper Earth, or with the Earth taken from the little Mountains, and may easily be obtained by mortal men. But the Elixer is the same Vegetable MERCURY, which yet by reason of its fixation, is said not to be common, but consisting of many things, for it is absolutely fixed in the Earth of common SOL and LUNA: And therefore it always consisteth of many things, viz. of MERCURY vegetable, and of a different Earth, which is neither Common nor fit for poor men. But of this Earth it is not much to be respected of what substance it is, so it be fixed.

ALPHIDIUS is of the same Opinion, saying, "The Faeces, from whence this Earth is taken, Seeing it is of no value, is althgether to be rejected, and the MERCURY to be planted in another Subtil Earth": For its own Earth is seldom natural in the composition of the Elixer.

Yet, my Friend, I will name it to thee by its own Name, whereby the common People name it; and it is the end of the Egg, whereby we understand the nature of Metals, viz. MERCURY rightly mixed by Nature, with its own sulphur, of its own accord inclined by putrefaction and growing.

From this Egg, three things must be considered; namely, the Yolk, the White, and the Shells; and this last is only and altogether necessary for Philosophers, which is called the end of the Egg; that is, the last part, rejoicing in perfection, having the likeness of a little Mountain, and also generated between Male and Female; which when it is perfectly calcined it exceeds all Earths whatsoever in whiteness and

subtillity, enduring the greatest fire embracing Tincture, and desiring a metal in Nature, which is hardly believed of Workers in the Art, unless they being overcome by experience the Mistress of things, that they be compelled to confess and admire it. But another Earth, wherein there is any Mercurial humidity, will not drink up our MERCURY with so much greediness, and therefore it is not so commodious; the reason is, because it aboundeth with its proper and natural humidity, but this hath no such, for its humidity was naturally transferred to the generation and union of the White and the Yolk.

Yet we deny not, that the virtue is necessary, yet profitable for the preservation of man's Body, which is derived from the outward parts to the inward, yet so as it be mixed with the Elixer of life; this Earth is wholly contemned, when the matter included is corrupted, and is cast out on the Dunghill, and every where troden underfoot, and accounted unprofitable.

Sometimes I desiring to try whether it would join with our unctuous humidity: I put it thereto, which it drunk up with so great appetite as that it seemed spongious, & a most fat congelation, rather than an Earth naturally naked; from which when I had gently evaporated MERCURY, it remained very Citron.

Here I will end and shew what matter, and what way of practice is necessary for this Work and Art.

OF THE PRACTICK AND OPERATIVE PART

In the Name of God take a Drop of the Green Lyon, which I have mentioned before, and dissolve him in distilled Vinegar very well for ten days, stirring the Compound strongly three times every day, that it may be well mixed; then separate the Foeces three times by filter; afterward evaporate the Vinegar with a gentle fire, until it be thick as Pitch, then pour it out, and keep it safe.

Having 12 pounds of the Green Lyon thus brought into Gum, thou mayst believe, that thou hast seen Earth of Earth, and the Brother of Earth, whereof Philosophers have so often spoken; put thereof three pound into a Glass, whose third part may contain at least four Sextaries of Wine; put it into a Furnace with Sand, so as the sand may be two fingers thick under the Glass, and about and above the Matter; then the matter being a little dryed with a gentle heat, put a Receiver not yet luted thereto; after a few hours, having received a certain light Water, when thou seest a certain white Fume begin to ascend, put thereto another most long & most large Receiver, which lay close, least the Spirits break forth, which are most necessary in this Work:

Note also, that from the first appearing of the White Fume, the fire must be discreetly increased by little and little: This same tingeth the Receiver with a certain thick and milky humidity which is our Luna, and therewith shall also ascend a most red oil, called the Philosophers aerial Gold, a stinking Menstruum, the Philosophers Sol, our Tincture, Burning water, the Blood of the Green Lyon; our unctuous

humidity, which is the last comfort of Man's Body in this Life; the Philosophers Mercury, the Solutive Water, which dissolveth SOL under conservation of its Species; it hath also many other Names.

Continue this Distillation from the first appearance of the white Fume 12 hours following: then remove the Receiver, and stop it close, lest the Spirits be lost, which are very volatile and penetrative: And thus thou hast the Blood of the Green Lyon, called THE SECRET WATER, and most sharp Vinegar, by which all Bodies may be reduced to their first Matter, and purgeth Man's Body from all Infirmities.

This is our Fire always equally burning in one measure within the Glass, and not without: This is our Dung-hill, our Horse-belly, working and producing many Wonders in the most secret Work of Nature: It is also the Examiner of all Bodies dissolved, and not dissolved; a Fire hot and moist, most sharp, a Water-carrying Fire in its Belly; otherwise it could not have power to dissolve Bodies into their first Matter: This is our MERCURY, our SOL, our LUNA, which we use in our Secret Work.

Take the Foeces left in the bottom, as soon as they are cold; for they are our Cross-Bill, far blacker than Pitch, which thou mayst set on fire, by putting a kindled Coal into it; so as they shall be calcined of their own accord into a most Yellow Earth: But this Calcination sufficeth not for its perfect cleansing; put it therefore into a Reverberatory, with a moderate heat, for eight days, and so many Nights following, increasing the heat and flame, till it be white as Snow; they may also be calcined in a Potters Furnace, being meanly hot.

Having this white Earth, thou may'st putrifie and alter it, or the Calxes of other Metals prepared; as I will teach you in that which followeth, at thy pleasure, into a new Whiteness or Redness, by meanes of our LUNA or MERCURY, which putrifieth with them by Generation, and Vegetation; which Properties they wanted before: for the Philosophers say, first calcine, then putrifie and dissolve; distill, sublime, descent, and fix often with our AQUA VITAE; wash and dry; and make a Marriage between the Body and the Spirit; and if the Water be congealed, by a natural commixture with the Body, then the Body shall die of the Flux, shedding its blood, and putting on many Colours; after the third Day, he shall ascend and descend, first to the Moon, then to the Sun, through the round Ocean Sea, and without end, sitting in a very little Ship; and when his Journey is ended, he shall immediately obtain the Victory, for doing whereof, there shall not need any great expence: And thus thou may'st wait again patiently the Harvest, and thou should be filled with Joy and Riches. And now we will speak of Putrefaction.

Take an ounce of this Calx hidden before in the Philosophers Egg, and thereon put of the red tincture to cover it two fingers; then seal it, and set it to putrefie eight days in a most cold place; which being ended, it will drink up the humidity; again pour on as much of the tincture, and let it stand as before for other eight days, continuing again the said imbibitions and times: Let it stand till it cease to drink any more tincture; remove it not from its place, until it be blacker than any pitch; which being seen, set it into a natural balmy, that the moisture with the black Earth may be digested, and fixed into

a white Mineral: then divide it into two equal parts, and work the one for the white, and the other for the red stone: which thou shalt thus easily perform; Ferment the one part with the oil of LUNA, that is, with white water, and the other part with the oil of SOL, that is, with the red water; and so by greater heat and digestion, it shall be converted into a most red powder, like Dragons Blood.

This powder being joined with a part of our MERCURY, and circulated, is called AURUM POTABILE, Elixer of life and of Metal, s , which transmuteth MERCURY and all imperfect metals into most perfect SOL.

But here learn a general Rule; if thou ordain the Elixer only for the white, then keep one part of the red work, distill the other part with a gentle fire, taking the white water, which we call our white tincture, our Eagle, our white MERCURY, and Virgins milk, and having these two MERCURIES, thou may'st practise with them, either upon their own Earths, or upon the calxes of Metals prepared.

For it is said, The Earth is not much to be respected, so that it be fixed. Therefore take which thou wilt, being first altered into whiteness; and for the white work, you may ferment thus;

Take the Calx of LUNA and earth altered, equal parts, grind them together, and temper them with white MERCURY, named Virgins milk, which keep safe; sublime the rest not fixed, and that which ariseth to the sides of the glass, like MERCURY sublimed, reiterate upon his proper calxes, grinding and tempering with our Virgins milk, distilling and subliming as before, until no fire will raise it.

This our MERCURY sublimed and fixed, made of the white Earth of

bodies altered, arising at first admirably by the virtue and help of water.

This is that MERCURY, instead of which the unlearned take the compounded of common MERCURY, VITRIOL, and SOL sublimed; wherein they are deceived; when this is thus fixed into white earth, it is afterward calcined, whereof is made an Elixer or stone as followeth; Put it into a circulatorie, and pour thereon Virgins milk to cover it, then circulate it to the thickness of oil, by drying and calcining it, as often as thou wilt, for by this means it may be augmented infinitely.

But before thou make projection, congeal it into an oily powder, one part thereof converts a thousand, nay ten thousand parts of ARGENT VIVE, and the other Metals into pure LUNA, enduring all trials.

In like manner thou shalt work with the Red Water upon the calx of Metals, by fermenting and subliming upon the calx of SOL altered.

And note, That thou canst have no perfect ferment, until it be altered with MURCURIE from their first qualities, into a new whiteness and redness by means of Putrefaction and alteration, which before it wanted.

But when after putrefaction, it shall be reduced into Whiteness, then it becomes spiritual, and is more apt to join better with our MERCURIE sublimed naturally, and by the least parts, and also to be fixed together inseparably; which would not be so natural, if one part were fixed, and the other part to be separated .

Moreover, when spirits have not virtue to penetrate bodies, nor bodies appetite to imbrace spirits, it is impossible that they should be joined by their least parts.

But contrarily, when ferments are made spiritual, then spirits will join with spirits, and the body which was most perfectly fixed, is naturally disposed, and inclined to return to his former fixation; which without doubt cannot possibly be in bodies which were never perfectly fixed, but the body before fixation, desiring a solid habit and fixation, draweth with him, and into his disposition, all spirits whatsoever, which are joined with him, and not degenerating as SULPHUR VIVE, ARSENIACK sublimed, BOLE-ARMONICK, and such like.

Common MERCURY sublimed, may very well be joined with spiritual ferments, which with calx of ferment not altered, will never be perfectly joined.

Therefore this part of natural Philosophy excludeth all citrinations and dealbations, which were not produced by a perfect alteration before the tincture, were joined to their bodies and spirits.

For nothing can be made an Elixer, until it hath passed the Philosophical Wheel; which being unknown, all labour comes to nothing.

AN ABBREVIATION OF THE WORK

*Wherein almost all Elixirs are
contained, and the ways
to make them.*

THE FIRST ABBREVIATION

Take Vitriol, calcine it into ashes, then beat them into most subtile powder; put them in an Urinal, and pour thereto Virgins Milk to cover them, stop the Urinal with a Linnen cloth, and let it stand eight days, then add thereto as much of the aforesaid Milk, reitering this from eight days to eight days, and when it will drink no more, let it stand in a cold place, close stopt, until a certain Crystalline earth like Fishes eyes, appear in the upper part thereof, which separates from the gross part remaining in the bottom, which put into the Philosophers Egg to digest discreetly untill it be perfectly fixed.

Then increase the fire, till it be perfect yellow, and then again increase the fire, until it be red as Dragons blood: Then add to this a part of red Mercury, to cover it, and congeal it by circulation into Oil, and afterward into Powder, and do thus three times.

Project one part of this Powder upon forty of most pure Luna, melted with one part of most fine SOL, and it shall be converted into most pure SOL: or if you project it upon Amalgam of Mercury and Sol, or of Mercury and Luna, it shall be more certain, and more plentiful.

But if thou wilt have Gold most perfect, and most high, take the Elixer out of the Egg, put it in an Urinal, and pour upon of the fore-said red Mercury, equally compounded, and mixed with a strong Corrosive made of Vitriol and Sulphur, which evaporate from the Elixer with a most gentle fire, and by this means the tincture of the one water and of the other, shall be fixed with the Elixer, by augmenting its quantity and colour; which being often repeated, the Elixer shall be converted into the form of Oil, in which if you quench Lamins of Luna nealed, they shall be throughout tinged into most perfect Sol, which being melted with a part of most pure Gold, it shall be purer then any common Gold.

But if you take as much of the white Earth of MARS altered as before, of Vitriol, fixing it upon the calx of Sol altered, and afterward rubified, and then convert it into Oil as before, with the said compounded water; thou shalt have a great Elixer, converting every Metal into most pure Gold.

This work may be done in twelve weeks; but it is not good for the health of Mans body.

In the same manner with the ferment of LUNA altered, thou mayst fix the white Earth of Vitriol, and of MARS altered, which are reduced into Oil, with the aforesaid Virgins Milk, being equally mixed with water of common Mercury, sublimed, fixed, and calcined, so hast thou the best Elixer to convert all Bodies into most pure LUNA.

THE SECOND ABBREVIATION

If thou canst artificially prepare the aforesaid white or red water, thou mayst far sooner attain the end of the work. First therefore fix MERCURY sublimed and calcine it, and then dissolve it in the other MERCURY white or red, until they be made one water: purifie the water three weeks, and it will alter the calxes of any Metal; for in this work is joined a twofold Water, namely, natural and against nature.

The way to fix MERCURY sublimed, is thus: First sublime MERCURY; if there be half a pound of it, join hereto half a pound of Saltpeter, and as much of Vitriol, grinding and tempering the mixture with distilled Acetum, till all become like white Paste; when they are thus incorporated, sublime seven times, that of his own accord he may be clear, then fix it in this manner: put two or three pounds in a long receiver, stop the mouth, place it in ashes, so as the Globe may be wholly covered; the first week, give it a gentle fire; the second week stronger, and the third most strong: this done, it shall be very well fixed. Again, dissolve it in Virgins Milk, after the foresaid way and order; if thou wantest money, thou mayst obtain a branch or particular, in far shorter time.

Thus, take the foresaid white compounded Mercury, and fix it upon the calx of LUNA, not altered by circulating it thereon, and when one part is fixed, add more, repeating it often, until the calx it self melt like Butter on a fiery Coal.

One part thereof projected upon ten of Mercury purged, maketh good

LUNA for Vessels and Household Ornaments. This self-same way thou mayst handle our red Mercuries composition, being made as before with the said water extracted from Mercury sublimed, fixed, and calcined, and dissolved in the said red Water, so as it be then calcined upon the calx of SOL not altered, and thou hast the best tincture to convert LUNA into SOL, whereof Rings and other things may be made.

THE THIRD ABBREVIATION

Put into a Circulatory an ounce of the calx of the Egg-shells very well reverberated, and pour thereon of white or red MERCURY to cover it; then nip the glass, or stop it close with lute made of powder of Iron, Vitriol, and Honey, well boiled together, circulating in balneo, till it be dried up into powder.

This done, pour in more observing the same order until it be made oil; This converts MERCURY, and the other Metals into most perfect SOL and LUNA, according to the nature and disposition of the Elixer.

After the same manner thou mayst circulate our MERCURY upon the Calxes of Metals. There can be no way shorter than this; for if thou put an ounce of calx of SOL with MERCURY, before likewise fixed, and pour thereto as much red Mercury as may cover the calx two fingers breadth, then stop it close with Paste compounded with Honey, Bole-armenick, and Iron dust, mixed and strongly tempered and boiled, till it be stiff and black.

Then set the circulatory in a Furnace, and with gentle heat digest

the red MERCURY into a red and fixed calx, then add thereto as much more of that MERCURY, circulate and dry it as before, till the Calx have drunk as much MERCURY as it can, and be converted into a thick blackish oil, and so thou hast an Elixer which converts ten parts of MERCURY, purged and heated, into a most red powder dry and fixed, which if thou also put into a Circulatorie with increase, and digest by imbibition and congealation, as before, it shall be so much increased in quantity: And thus thou mayst multiply this Elixer infinitely.

One ounce thereof will congeal a hundred of crude MERCURY into powder, one ounce will convert ten of any metal into most pure SOL.

And this way thou mayst work with the Calx of LUNA and MERCURY joined together, so as evaporation be made by Circulation, and adding our natural white MERCURIE, until it be reduced into oil, proceeding in all points as in the former, with the red MERCURIE upon the calx of SOL, and so thou shalt have a white Elixer converting all bodies into most pure and perfect LUNA.

THE FOURTH ABBREVIATION

Take an ounce of the Earth of the Quintessence, smelling most sweetly, and an ounce of the MERCURY of Virgins Milk; powder the Earth, and join it with the MERCURIE.

This way shall be made a perfect composition in the first order for the white Elixer, which by longer time and greater fire is reduced into a red Elixer; put therefore the compound into a blind Urinal (as

it is called) very close stoppt, and digest it in dung equally for 15 days; then take it out, and shut it up in a Philosophers Egg; and digest it in a gentle heat, till it be black, and so into perfect whiteness. This we call a white Elixer: within this time, the fire being increased, will be red, of which one ounce cements hundreds of MERCURY into SOL.

To multiply it, take a part thereof, and join it in the foresaid manner with Virgins milk, digest as before, unto whiteness, and then unto redness.

In this second repetition, the Projection will be upon four hundred. By this Projection thou mayst multiply it at thy pleasure.

THE FIFTH ABBREVIATION

Dissolve the red Calx of SOL and MERCURIE in the first most strong Corrosive composed of Salt-Peter and Vitriol the common way; put the solution in a pelican in balneo; drawing off the one half, then stop it most close, dry it up with a gentle heat; then add more of the Corrosive, observing the foresaid order, in dissolving, evaporating and congealing ten times, until the Corrosive cease to arise; which is then done, when by no fire it can be fixed into powder, but remaineth like oil and thick.

This Elixer converts MERCURY, and every metal into most perfect SOL; This work ought to be done in a Circulatory placed in an Earthen Pot, wherein it must stand covered with dung to the middle; This Pot

must be full of holes in the bottom, and must be placed upon the mouth of a Copper Vessel half filled with hot water, as a Copper Vessel is placed of a Furnace, wherein fire must be made to be continued discreetly for necessity of digestion.

This Experiment is called RUSTUM.

OF THE MINERAL STONE

God is wonderful in his Works, who is Virtue, teaching Truth.

Take in this name the MERCURY white or red, simple or compounded, and dissolve therein five stones of the Sea; Doing in all things as you did in VITRIOL, and thou shalt have the great ELIXER.

By the same way of utrifaction, all Minerals may be altered, and so of every fixed thing (a due matter being added) may be made an ELIXER, for our MERCURY white and red must be joined with fixed things which want MERCURY; and this way the Metalline Bodies may be brought into a metalline form, namely a Vitriified Powder, as also Egg-shells, which when they are perfectly calcined, will endure fire more than SOL; and thereof being well and artifically tinged, Philosophers have made SOL in the space of one day, which Nature cannot do under-ground in a thousand years: A thing hard and incredible to the unlearned; yet true and most certain, and confirmed by the testimony of many men.

Be thou therefore not solicitous or curious in choosing thine Earth, so that it be of a Metalline Nature, and induring the Fire.

Hereby Glass is made malleable, and by means of this Tincture, is

converted into transparent and fixed Metal, whereby it appeareth, that this Science is possible.

For there is no Earth which doth more easily embrace the Spirituality of our MERCURY, than that which is most deprived of MERCURY, and moisture; which Privation thou shalt not find in Bodies of another Nature, although yet they be very much calcined.

Wherefore it appeareth manifestly, that seeing SOL and LUNA, are nothing else but Earth, Red and White, wherein a most pure MERCURY is fixed and joined by the least parts, that Philosophers (having the same Elements) may artificially imitate Nature in her Composition under the Earth, to produce the same effect: for it is certain, that Earth may be fermented to Water, so as it be fixed; and Water fermented to Earth, if it be perfect and cleansed; and this without the help of any common SOL or LUNA: And therefore Philosophers in their Writings have taught, that the Stone is equally common both to the Poor and Rich.

These things considered, thou shalt understand, that our Stone lyeth hidden, and secretly lurketh, often in places least suspected, and nothing esteemed, whose matter and nearness, if it should be known, would produce most great danger.

It is to be noted, that the Philosophers have found out divers ways of handling this one thing: But I answer for them all, and briefly conclude, That our Earth doth drink up and fix our MERCURY; and that this MERCURY doth wash and ting our Earth, and so doth perfect it into the Stone, without any further ferment.

For the white MERCURY giveth a most perfect Tincture of LUNA, and the Red MERCURY of SOL: Therefore, when they are fixed in convenient Earths, they make SOL and LUNA, without the help of common Gold and Silver. Behold thou understandest this Tincture, which we draw out from a vile thing of no price: yet note, that he that hath Salt in his Breast, may ferment this Tincture with common Gold, whereby he may obtain incomparable Riches, yet with Wisdom, with most great Cost, and not without danger.

For from SOL alone, by means of this Tincture, which is our burning Wine, is made a most precious and a most perfect Elixer, white and red; for it rejoiceth in fulness of white and red Sulphur, whereby may be made most perfect Silver.

Of this Work, I have written more fully in my Seventh Book; wherein I Treat of the manifold plenty of Gold, and of the greatest Elixer of Life: But here also I will briefly touch it. Understand therefore, that it behoveth thee to alter the Calx of Gold (with the foresaid Stone, equally mixed with the Water of MERCURY, sublimed and perfectly fixed) into most white and fixed Sulphur.

Then calcine it well, that the strength and poison of the Fire against Nature put to it, do hasten to Putrifaction and alteration, may be utterly destroyed.

Then imbibe it with the foresaid simple Milk, until the Calx it self have drunk up a reasonable quantity thereof, and that it be fixed.

Dissolve it again with the same Milk, and make it volatile; afterwards fix and calcine, and then bring it into Oil, with a little part

of that Virgins Milk by circulation, and so it shall be a perfect Elixer, converting MERCURY, and each imperfect Metal, into most perfect LUNA: and by the same way, thou mayst rubifie the other part with our Red MERCURY, by fixing and calcining, and afterward dissolving it with the same Red Menstruum; and at last by circulating it into a thick Oil, which we call potable Gold, a curing and preserving Elixer of Life; and of Metals.

Know also, that if our Red MERCURY equally with MERCURY sublimed and fixed, be circulated with Luttie, Vitriol, or Iron, before and after Rubification, be digested into Oil, it will convert thin Lamins, of LUNA nealed and injected into pure SOL, which if thou afterward taketh out, it will serve for all need to live withal.

It is a general Rule, That if thou wilt be a Master of this Art, it is needful to make all Medicines gumous and fusible, melting like wax of their own accord, without Fume, upon a Plate nealed.

For by this means, each part will follow the other in Projection and will jointly dilate themselves through the Pores of the Metal, without any disjunction: but if any part be ponderous, it will separate the parts of the Metal, & make it brittle.

Therefore the Medicine must often be subtilated, after that it is perfectly fixed, that at least it may be an incombustible Oil, and rather may be called A SPECIES, then a GENUS, because it is nothing else but a fixed Tincture of Colour.

If (this thing observed) thou canst prepare thy Medicine thus, thou shalt make fair Metals, and malleable, or else not.

Also here understand, two Bodies to be dissolved with the Natural Menstruum, is always the second Calx, not the first; and therefore it behoveth thee to dissolve Calx of Metals with a compound MERCURY, as before is taught, that they may sooner putrifie, and be altered into the second Calx (which we call SULPHUR OF NATURE, and FOLIATED EARTH) which we then dissolve and coagulate (circulate) into Oil, with a Simple Menstruum; namely, Natural.

THE CALCINATION OF METALS

Now learn how Metals are to be calcined: Know therefore, that SATURN and JUPITER we calcine only one way, which is this: Put either of them into a great Iron Vessel, and in the Fire, so that the Flame may beat upon the Metal; and draw off the Scum with an Iron Rake, to the sides of the Vessel, stirring it often, until it grow white; then cease it, & gather the subtile Powder; one Ounce is sufficient for thee.

Sprinkle VENUS and MARS with the best Vinegar well distilled, that they may gather Rust: burn this with most strong Fire in an Iron Dish, when it is red-hot, cool it in the best Acetum, evaporate that Acetum, and gather a most red Earth; which dry, and keep safely.

Amalgame SOL and LUNA, and grind it on a Marble with Powder of Salt, prepared without any moisture, until no MERCURY appear: then sublime and evaporate the MERCURY with strong fire; grind that in the bottom, into most subtile Powder, and sublime, until no MERCURY remain with it; wash the Calx with hot Water, to take away the Salt; dry it,

and thou shalt have a Calx more subtile then Meal.

Another way is thus: Take thin Lamins of SOL, Neal and cast them into MERCURY, heated on hot Ashes; so the MERCURY will drink up the SOL.

Note, That every Ounce of SOL requireth four and twenty Ounces of MERCURY; put this amalgame in a large Glass; bury it in Sand in a great Furnace, give it Fire by degrees; after the sixth hour make it vehement: continue this heat five days and nights, at each hour putting down the MERCURY which ascendeth, with a linnen Cloth, bound with a little Iron Rod, and stopping the Glass with Lute, till at last all become a Powder redder then Blood, which then we call the first Calx, good and perfect; with which, if you mix Fire of Nature, to use his Virtues, as it requireth, thou canst not err in this Science.

THE RECAPITULATION

I have told out of what, and how thou shalt make our MERCURY white and red, and how this MERCURY is to be actuated and sharpened; how thou shalt prepare Calx, how to purifie and alter them into a new Whiteness, which we call our MERCURY sublimed; how to abbreviate the time of Putrifaction and Alteration; how to fix and dissolve again, and then how to circulate into a white and red Elixer; how by Imbibitions, with proper Waters white and red, they may be infinitely multiplied to an incredible profit.

Learn therefore PATIENCE, fear God and love him, keeping these Secrets, and then the Lord will bless thine Endeavours.