

THE
PRACTICE OF PHILOSOPHERS



anonymous



(WRITTEN IN BACSTROM'S HAND)

OF CHANGING WHITE INTO RED

Now let us divide the White body fixed into two parts of the which one must be conserved for the White Elixir.

The other part which is for the red put it in his glass and pour upon him of the water conserved for him, that it may overcome him. Shut the vessel strongly and seeth him with soft fire till he liquify as water. Then decoct him further with a little augmentation of fire till he wax thick like fat or oil. After that with more fire continue till he be coagulated into a dry red stone. Then imbibe it as before is said and seeth him and coagulate him, and etc. till he be dry. So do until he have drunk all his vapour conserved for him. Put that part so dried into a round earthen vessel, glazed well without, lute it and put it in the furnace forty one days and nights, so that he remain continually in one equal heat more than before, till the Spirit enter the body by his regimen.

Sow thy purest fruit in thy mercury till he be dead in him. Dissever the quick from the dead, the dry from the moist, with care, and imbibe the dead with the quick, and the dry with the moist, till the dead have overcome the quick.

Take hard, heavy, hot and dry
Do together, for so did I
Take hard and moist & wet
Do together even I mete
Then are thou richer than the King
Unless that he have the same thing.

First you should put into the said body a little water and a little of your powder. Then take another glass and put a little of the same water in this glass and of the powder as you did before into the first glass. And when it is all dissolved, put it into the first glass. And so do little and little unto the time that all the powder be dissolved.

And when it is all dissolved and put in our body, then lute a blind head upon the mouth of that body Luto Sapientae. And when the lute is dry, set that same body with all the said matters in a very hot balneo for seven days-Hoc Facto.

Take up that body and do away with the blind head, soft and fair, that none of the lute fall into the body of the glass for hurting of the work. Hoc Facto. Lute a good head of glass with Alembic to the mouth of the said body-luto sapientae- and set him in a dry furnace with hot ashes; Sicut Primus and make first lent fire till that you see the said body of the said glass begin to wax red. Then increase the fire more and more unto the time that your feces that lyeth in the said glass be dry, then let it cool. HOC FACTO.

Take it from the furnace again and grind it upon a marble stone as you did before with that, that is sublimed in the head. And dissolve it in a new corrosive water made of Ti of Sal petre, a half part, and one ounce of Sal armoniac, drawn as you did before, and ever remember that in all your drawing of your corrosive waters that you put away your faint waters, that is to say, the first water, the which what be ipetive like the colour of whey. And keep it in a glass, for it will serve for another work and not for this. And all your corrosive water must be made under the form before said.

Then put your faeces so dissolved in the said body of glass and in your corrosive water in balneo again seven days as you did before. And then congeal him and dissolve him unto the time that you have him in an oil.

Then put that oil in a glass well closed and luted, luto sapienae,

keep it by himself. Then take one ounce of fine Sol and make thereof thin plates.

Then take a great cruse (crucible?) and put therein as much lead as you will and melt it. And then lay a broad thin plate of Iron full of small holes upon the said cruse, and upon the same plate of Iron lay your thin plates of SOL, plate by plate, so that none of them touch each other (Stratum Super Stratum), and turn them often times.

And look that the said cruse with your lead may stand very hot and liquid. For the fervent heat and the spirit of the hot lead will cause the said plates of Sol to break into powder. Then when it is so brittle that it is somewhat brought into powder, grind that powder of Sol upon a marble stone very small, but not hard for grinding of the stone amongst the Sol. Then take that small powder of Sol and dissolve him in the corrosive water, before said, made with Sal amoniac, sal petre and roman Vitriol. And congeal him and dissolve him until the time that it be an oil.
Hoc Facto.

Put the first oil and the oil of Sol together and put them in a body of glass with a blind alembic well luted-luto sapientae; and set him in balneo hot 5 days natural; and then let it cool; Then take it up and set it in a circle fire, not too hot 5 days, and then put him again in balneo another 5 days, gradus primus, and then put him into a circle fire another 5 days, sicut primus, and so do as it is before said.

What in balneo and what in circle fire until the time that the said matters be congealed into a stone, the which will be done within 9 weeks.

Then take one ounce of the said medicine and cast upon 10 ounces of fine lead molten in a crucible and one ounce of that lead so arrayed cast upon 10 ounces of fine Luna well purged, while that it doth run, and it shall be as good Sol as any in the world to abide all manner of examination and Test.

To fix Lune unto the weight and quality of Sol, take lune and fine it with Saturn as well as you can, till it be fined at the full: Then take Saturn and set him in a test one ounce or as much as you will and dry it and in the drying cast therein powder of glass, and always as the powder waxeth white strike it off, and cast in more, and so 3 or 4 times till the glass have his colours. Then strike clean away the glass from the saturn with some instrument so that the fourth part of thy saturn be washed away. Then take that saturn from the fire and in a clean pot melt him by himself and cast it into a pot with Vinegar and so do 9 times: and then is thy Saturn well prepared.

Then take 2 parts of that Saturn prepared and 1 part of the lune aforesaid well fined and set him in the fire and melt him together, and cast him into strong Vinegar, and so do 9 times; then set it in a test and dry him till you have the lune clean by himself and then hast thou thy lune as dense and as heavy as Sol.

Now if you will make thy lune fix as is Sol to abide cementation: Take of thy Saturn prepared and melt him and quench him in strong Vinegar and so do 9 times. Then take of thy dense lune two parts and melt him and when it is melted cast in 2 parts of thy Saturn last prepared and have ready by thee a Vessel with two parts of Vinegar and one part of Sal ammoniac dissolved in the same Vinegar; And in that liquor quench thy metal and so melt and quench 9 times, and when thou hast done so, then set him in a test and fine out the Saturn till thou have thy lune clean by himself, and at all times look that thy test be right hot or thou put thy matter therein.

This lune will abide cementation Royal, like as Sol will and is called AUREUM ALBA.

Then take one ounce of Sol and one ounce of the said aureum alba and 4 ounces of Venus and melt them together and plate the metal into thin plates and lay them in cementation in a crucible with these materials:

Take Sal Alkali, sal ammoniac, Vitriol, borace croufer or cros-
fer is used.

----- 'tis quenched in the galle of a bowl; Red powder of tiles
Sal EVEN (an abbreviation D.H.) the juice of celedone, of earth
and like meche.

Then temper him with honey and make him like a paste and then
make thy cementation with the plates between 2 crucibles and lute
him fast, and dry him well and put him into the fire 24 hours.

Note well that thou cement him till all the Venus be wasted
and have no more but the weight of the 2 principle bodies. Then
melt him with borace and thou shalt have the fairest Sol that
ever thou sawest, the which will abide cementation Royal.
Exphat ars ista vera et pbata.

A good way for Sol: Take one ounce fine Sol and one ounce fine
lune and $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of fine Venus, melt them together and wash him
in stale wine (urine) after that you have cast him in an ingot.
And beat him into thin plates and keep him to the cementation.

Then tinc. 1 part of Roman Vitriol and make powder thereof and
temper him with child's urine and boil him together till thou
see him rise up green and yellow, then take him off the fire and
grind him with tinc. 1 part of Sal ammoniac and one ounce of
Sal gemme and temper him with strong Vinegar unto the time that
he be as thick as paste, and then cement the plates with that
paste and melt the metal and cast him in an ingot and thou shalt
have good Sol and gentle in working.

Q.D.R.