

HERMETICAL EXTRACTS

from

THE WORKS OF

BECHER

Hermetical Extracts

from

Becher's Works.

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Concordantia Chymica. p. 176

If you desire felicity and wish to obtain a blessing, as God lives eternally, there is one subject in the world, which is called the Stone of the Philosophers. It is indestructible, & contains both White and Red. The one is male, the other is female.

It is called Animal, Vegetable & Mineral; such another subject cannot be found anywhere.

It has an active and a passive power, a dead and living substance, & possesses within itself a spirit and a soul, though the ignorant look upon it as a vile thing.

It contains the 4 Elements in its bosom; it is every where, is found in all places, and is commonly possessed by all men. It is bought for a small price - one pound for a penny.

It ascends of itself, grows black, descends & becomes White: it increases and decreases.

It is a thing which the ∇ produces.

It descends from above: it grows White & Red: it is born, dies and resuscitates, and afterwards it lives forever. By many ways it attains the End.

It is a modest and strong soul and is multipliable.

A Process.

Whosoever would obtain the Stone of the Philosophers let him not search in Vegetables or Animals; in \triangle , ∇ or metals; in \oplus , \ominus , \otimes etc. nor in $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\♂$, $\♀$; nor in \curvearrowright or \odot .

Hyle or Chaos does all; it is inclosed in our fountain of salt - the tree of Sol & Luna, called FLOS MELLIS, the flower of honey.

It is ∇ and ∇ : The ∇ is volatile - the ∇ fixt. One does not operate without the other: Both are from one root, and possess the powers of all. The metals, yet IT IS NOT DUG OUT OF THE MINES, Where our matter is found, are never any metals, except in potentia in our Hyle, well known by HOMERUS; THIS HERB has a black root (the ∇) is green, White and blood-red; the God Mercury showed this herb to ULYSSES to preserve himself from the Sorceries of CIRCE.

It is also called THE SOLAR ROOT, well known to the Wise, and is metaphorically compared to the Planets; is likewise called AZOTH, or a — , the Mercury of the Philosophers, ADROP, and ANATRON, SATURNUS.

Saturnus rules the Earth, which is compared to our Subject; This Subject is the red ∇ and RED LEAD, despised by Fools; This is also called the RED and GREEN LION, and TERRA ADAMICA.

This is an Extract of whole Nature; out of this mass or red Earth the Almighty God created Adam; Our matter is also called MICROCOSMUS; learn to know ADAM, THE RED EARTH, which we call THE FIRST MATTER. Now we come to

The Preparation.

Kill the Lion with great Courage, and take its Blood, the Splendor of \odot , separated from the Centre of the stinking ∇ .

Dissolve this ∇ with great Care, and separate the dry from the moist, that is the ∇ from the ∇ , the volatile from the fixt.

∇ and ∇ 2 visible Elements contain \triangle and \triangle invisibly; If you want your work to come to a happy End, marry the Woman to the Husband, because Nature when pure, rejoices in Nature, and wishes the union.

The animated — dissolves the body, and the body coagulates the — ; It is our ♀ alone, on whom is founded our Stone; our ♀ of itself becomes black, green, White and red; is himself THE PROTHEUS, the God OF THE OCEAN, who is caught in a strange manner, dissolves and coagulates itself.

Phenomena.

during the Digestion.

A Wonderful Reaction takes place amongst the Elements, and ∇ covers the whole Earth, and blackness takes place. In order to dry up the humidity continue a gentle Heat, and God will create a new Heaven and a new Earth, which is the Phoenix, Killed and regenerated out of its own ashes, and is become a true Salamander, who lives in the \triangle .

Theophrastus.

Take a fixt Substance, or thy Labour is in vain. Learn to know this only Thing; dissolve, Coagulate, dissolve the body and bind the $\underline{\quad}$, and Thou hast the Art; volatilise the fixt and fix the volatilised, and thou hast the TR.

A Curious Process written and worked by Father Hyeronimus a Franciscan Monk. (If we could discover the Subject, the process itself seems to be very simple and meerly an Operation of Nature and not expensive)

Process

Of the Philosophical Swan.

Take THE BIRD which is not unlike a Swan, (in colour) dressed IN

WHITE AND PURE ROBES, flying from its Supreme astral Seat without wings, to ITS MOTHER, which it had generated, (the ∇) before out of its own Self. (∇ has been made of ∇)

Mind well the Time OF ITS COMING, which happens, when ψ and ∞ receive Phoebus in their Houses (i.e. in December and January) (he seems to mean SNOW, see Eugenius Philalethes his Euphrates, where he speaks of an Experiment with Snow).

Take that Swan without touching it with your hands, and inclose it in a Wooden prison, taking care that the Winds may not hurt it, but when PHOEBUS will have THE FISHES behind him and γ before him (at the Entrance of Spring) then take the Swan out of its wooden prison and immediately observe it in a transparent Tower, where its white garments will be stolen from it (the subject will change and become black).

For that reason the Swan will be sad and by weeping will shed many Tears, until it transmutes its Life and Soul into a Fountain of living ∇ . (The total Liquifaction of the subject).

The Body of the Swan, during some space of time, will hide itself in the fountain out of Shame, because it has lost ITS WHITE ROBES.

Therefore the Swan desires to be born a Second time and to be dressed in a New WHITE SHIRT and A PURPLE ROBE, and wishes to be crowned with a Crown of \odot , that it may become a King. (a fermented TR.).

Whilst PHOEBUS expands his Rays from γ to δ the Body of the Swan will be separated from its \sim , and resting in its grave, must be left there to putrify.

The Sign of this putrifaction is, when the Body of the Swan is

surrounded with the blackest Colour of the Raven.

After this, the Swan's Body longs to be humected by its own Ω , that it might be washed clean, and fed with its own blood until PHOEBUS shall have enlightened the Road of Π and \mathcal{C} (during May and June) when at last the Body of the Swan receives its own Ω again and a new Life, and puts on a New WHITE and DEPURATED SHIRT (TR. ALBA).

The Ω of the Zodiac now Killed by PHOEBUS, sheds his blood, and a few drops had fallen on the New white Shirt, and became thereby as white as Snow.

(The Sun going out of Leo in August, the perfect white TR. was obtained).

When PHOEBUS saw this, that the Shirt was not soiled by the blood of the Lion, but on the Contrary was become more splendent, He (Phoebus) sent the heavenly Virgin (\mathcal{M}) that she might fill the Ballance (\mathcal{B}) with the Lions Blood, and therewith stain the Shirt all over, in order to convert that White garment into a SCARLET ROBE. /: \mathcal{R} Rubra :/

Which red Robe Phoebus proposed to send to the King by the \mathcal{M} and \nearrow . (When the \odot is in \nearrow the Red Medicine will be completed).

This operation of the incombustible Swan was written and absolved by Father HYERONYMUS MONK OF THE ORDER OF ST. FRANCISCUS. A.D. 1498
AGED 86 YEARS.

FINIS.

Tinctura M. LEPIRENI, which he communicated
to the Emperor Rudolphus.

(The Emperor Rudolphus was a possessor at the time of Augustus Elector of Saxony in the year 1580)

What great power there is in the SAL ANATRON or DUNCCH. Ancient and modern Philosophers have frequently mentioned, and as that Salt is Animal, Vegetable and Mineral, and contains also a secret metallic — , for that reason it operates in all metallic, animal and vegetable Substances; and the whole Earth is filled with this Salt, so that nothing can grow without its power.

If it is putrified by the help of Art, it becomes A LION which devoures all Things, and by its great power brings them into a new Essence.

This mineral Earthly Salt, when it is reduced to a ∇ , it is compared to an Eagle, and is called a — , because whatever causes a fume or vapour is called MERCURY or a — .

Therefore this Salt is a true Mercurial — .

This Salt is inwardly a true \triangle , although outwardly cold and cooling, therefore it is also called \triangle , because \triangle is the Life of every Thing. When this \triangle vanishes, the End of Substances is near at hand, as we may observe that in animal, vegetable and mineral Substances.

There is in this Salt a fixt principle, and is in its own Nature a Body, nay a Spiritual Saline Body, It follows from thence, that in this Salt there are 3 PRINCIPLES, viz. \triangle , \circ , \ominus , i.e. Anima, — , Corpus, and these 3 are concealed in the 4 Elements, which are also

plainly conspicuous in this \ominus , viz: \triangle , \triangle , ∇ , and ∇ , and appear by separation and Reduction, therefore the Ancients have called it A STONE, containing the 4 Elements; They have chosen this \ominus FOR THE TRUE MATTER OF THE STONE, and have called it the FIRST MATTER; because they made use OF THIS TERRESTRIAL SALT as a Key to open \odot or \circlearrowleft , so as to become a Tincture.

(Baron Rusenstein says in many places of his Book, that no more is wanted for obtaining a TR. then A FIT MENSTRUUM to open \odot or \circlearrowleft centrally and Naturally, to putrify the same and nature herself will regenerate and perfect it.)

Process.

How the Salt ANATRON or DUNECH is to be prepared and volatilised, so as to become an opening all penetrating ♀ ; wherewith the perfect Bodies may be unlocked, to become

Tinctures.

Therefore take this \ominus anatron or dunech, q.v. purify it, until its Crystals become perfectly transparent.

Weigh 4 ℥ of this and powder it in a Stone mortar, then take 7 ℥ of potters Clay, of broken unbaked vessels, reduced to a powder and sifted, mix the 2 Incred. in the mortar.

Then put it into a roomey well Coated glass P , which bury in the P pot, and apply a very large Balloon-Receiver, which lute carefully to the P .

Now light your Δ , and let it be gentle and gradual, during \circ and \circ , beginning early in the morning, until all the White and grey $_$ are come over;

When you see the red $_$ s or Vapours come, take the Balloon away with the white $_$ s, and apply quickly another very dry Receiver, and lute quickly with a Stroke of Linen and paste and thus you will obtain the red vapours.

Now increase your Δ a little to force all the red $_$ s over, and give a still stronger heat the 3rd day, until no more does come over.

(It appears plainly by this, that a red $_$ of $\textcircled{1}$ is made here.)

Let the $_$ s cool and rest 24 hours, then take the Receiver off and pour the $_$ into a large bottle with a glass stopper.

This mercurial $\text{\textcircled{2}}$ or Sulphureous $\text{\textcircled{3}}$ is the Key to our Art.

Composition.

Take 2 $\text{\textcircled{4}}$ of pure $\text{\textcircled{5}}$, beat into thin Leaves, which cut into small bits with a pair of scissars, put them into a digesting globe, and pour upon it of your above prepared $_$, so as to cover the $\text{\textcircled{5}}$ 2 fingers high. (shut the globe, and set in Summer Heat.)

Note that your $_$ must be acuated with its own fixt \ominus in the following manner. (it must be an $\text{\textcircled{6}}$.)

Extract the fixt \ominus with boiling ∇ out of the $\text{\textcircled{6}}$ remaining in the $\text{\textcircled{6}}$, and clarify it well.

Then dissolve 2 $\text{\textcircled{7}}$ of your fixed \ominus in 4 $\text{\textcircled{7}}$ of your $_$, out of

your glass bottle, put the Solution into a small glass P , and distil the r over, and in 2 or 3 Cohobations all the fixt \ominus will come over with the red r . (6 z of r)

This r dissolves the \odot radically.

(4 z of r will not volatilise 2 z of fixt \ominus , but 3 parts to 1 part will do it).

When your \odot Leaves are perfectly dissolved, which must be done in a digesting glass with a long neck, (The neck must be shut, the globe stands in a warm place in about 76) then pour the \odot Solution into a small glass Body, which place over a Baln. Vap., apply an alembic on the body and a Receiver, and distil the r s from the \odot , and the most fixt spirits will adhere to and remain with the \odot , whilst the most volatile forsake it and come over, and the dissolved \odot becomes heavier, and when you set it in a cool place, it stands LIKE A RED BUTTER.

Pour fresh r upon your \odot , such as has been acuated with its own fixed \ominus , and distil it from it in Baln. Vap. as you did before.

Repeat this with fresh r , until the \odot has increased in Weight from 2 z to 3 z . Then it is enough.

This Solution of \odot is, over a gentle Heat, a red fixt Butter; of the Colour of a Sturcheon Flower, rather deeper, but in the cold it seems quite hard or stiff.

Now as you have made your \odot ponderous in the above manner and impregnated it with the Universal r or \triangle , you must now wash or purify it as follows.

Purification of the Solar Solution.

Take distilled Rain ∇ and pour it upon the \odot , so as to cover it 2 fingers high, and the Solution will be diluted in the ∇ and will look of a \odot Colour.

Let it stand 24 hours, then pour it off perfectly clear, in Case there should be any Impurity at the Bottom, into a small clean and dry glass body, which place over a Vapour Bath, apply an alembic and Receiver, and distil the ∇ gently from the \odot , until it remains like an $\odot\odot$ of a deep Orange Colour.

If it should not be perfectly pure, this same operation must be repeated, until it is so.

Take it from the Bath, and it will stand coagulated like a red Butter.

Digestion.



Now you must have a double phial, where the neck of the upper one is ground in the neck of the Lower; and of such a size, that only the $\frac{1}{3}$ part of the globe is filled; paste strips of Linnen over the joints. Then put your globe in a lamp furnace and let your heat be as gentle as possible, and in the space of 30 \odot ρ , the whole substance will be a \odot coloured ∇ , which will begin to ferment and become darker from day to day, until it is as black as Ink, and does putrefy and smells very badly through the Joinings of the Necks.

Before it is quite black, dark clouds ascend and descend again.

This blackness lasts 40 \circ or 50; continue the gentle Heat, until it dries up and becomes WHITE. After the White is completed the Heat is increased a little and continued to redness. Finish the process as Nature requires it.

Finis.

(The above process must be compared with that in DIGBY'S CHYMICAL SECRETS P. 31. If it is true that Sir Kenelm had 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ of \circ for 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ put in the glass, p. 32, then this process may be true also, as they are both worked with an ∇ , wherein is \ddagger and alcali)

(Consequently ABBE' ROUSSEAU'S process upon the mother Liquor of \circ , or the Solvent prepared his way, may be treated with fine \circ exactly in the same manner as this process of LEPERENI, tho' I like ABBE' ROUSSEAU'S SOLVENT still better than this)

(I believe LEPERENI'S Digestion must be extremely gentle, not above 90 or 100 Degrees or the Ether in the ∇ will soon burst the glass, which is double for the sake of giving more room to the Expansion of the animated highly elastic \triangle therein contained)

(The Author calls his Solution of \circ A BUTTER which however it is not, as it is yet perfectly fixt in the ∇ ; but I do not doubt, that during the gentle and long Digestion the \ddagger and alcali in the ∇ by Reaction are fully capable to open the \circ radically and centrally, and then of Course it must die and putrefy, and Nature i.e. the Universal $_$ WITHIN AND WITHOUT will certainly regenerate it.)

(In the room of distilling the red $_$ of \circ , I think a common good

— of $\textcircled{1}$ might be bought, and carefully rectified in a gentle Heat, making use of the red Vapours, i.e. \triangleup Naturae, alone; (Becher tells us in his PHYSICA SUBTERRANEA, and Stahl repeats it that $\textcircled{1}$ contains abundantly THE \triangleup NATURAE, and Sea \ominus THE $\textcircled{1}$ VIRGIN ∇ as the first principle of $\textcircled{1}$) then I would rectify a Common — of Sea \ominus 2 or 3 times, and this done, mix the 2 rectified — s in equal quantities, and you have certainly a most admirable ∇ , which is as red as a Ruby; I made it once in this manner -

We cannot ascend more universally, but in the mean time CORPOREAL AND PALPABLE, than to $\textcircled{1}$ and Sea \ominus . Then if this is practicable, as it seems to be from SIR KENELM'S PROCESS with $\textcircled{\circ}$ and ∇ p. 31, there must also exist a short way with $\textcircled{1}$, Sea \ominus and $\textcircled{\circ}$ in the ∇ ; or with $\textcircled{1}$ and \ominus without $\textcircled{\circ}$) (to procure a universal Solvent or Key for $\textcircled{\circ}$ in the ∇)

(MR. POTT a pupil of SHAHL, tells us, that if you pour Ether of $\textcircled{\circ}$ upon a Solution of $\textcircled{\circ}$ in ∇ , and set the glass in a very gentle degree of heat, the $\textcircled{\circ}$ forsakes the ∇ and ascends into the Ether, which does not mix with the ∇ . One MONSR. MACARTY AT PARIS made $\textcircled{\circ}$ medicinal by this process, and got a vast deal of money by this kind of $\textcircled{\circ}$ rm POTABLE, as it performed some very great Cures. This has happened about the years 1750 until 70, when MACARTY died at Paris near a 100 years old; I have this fact from a french Gentleman, COUNT LAURAGUIS, who was in London in 1772.

Nevertheless I do not deem MACARTY'S potable $\textcircled{\circ}$, A REGENERATED $\textcircled{\circ}$, by no means!)

(a Thought occurs to my mind concerning the foregoing LEPERENI'S process, and perhaps it is a good one, which Experience would discover.)

(I would begin treating an \mathcal{L} of pure \odot by the Fulman of PARACELSUS, as taught by MONTE SNYDER in DIGBY'S CHYMICAL SECRETS p. 16, in order to obtain a \odot n \mathcal{A} , which will be of a \odot Colour and transparent.

This I would treat with a good ∇ , as LEPERENI teaches in preference to \odot in Leaves, as a Solar \mathcal{A} is already opened by the Fulman, whilst \odot in Leaves is quite corporeal and locked up.)

Finis.