

Second Tract by the same Author
in Latin.

Translated by S. R .

Called

SECRET OF SECRETS, OR, THE MAGISTRY OF THE PHILOSOPHERS

The Great Art comprehended in 12 Tables.

Table I.

Admonition to the true Sons of the Great Art .

1. Pray & work. Do not fret nor weep.
2. Agitate, agitate, agitate, & be not impatient.
3. Do not be too hasty. It is done soon enough if well done.

Table II.

The Great Art.

1. Is a work of women, & boy's play.
2. It is a simple operation of simple Nature. He that knows how to govern this Work agreeably to naked simplicity, shall be king.

3. It is a gift of God; who gives or retains it. He hides it from the wise, but reveals it to babes.

Table III.

Books to be studied in the Great Art .

1. The books of the Scriptures, because therein are contained the source of Divine & human Knowledge.
2. The Book of Nature. Remain in the simple path of Nature. Do not attempt any thing above the earth that Nature does not attempt under the earth.
3. The Book of Reason. Do not adhere always to the letter in reading books, but when you read make use of your reason & consider the possibility of Nature.

Table IV.

Three Principles .

1. In Salt is a Blessing (Oxygen).
2. Sulphur (☉) God has given to all things under the heavens a Sulphur or Sperm.
3. Mercury. There is in Mercury what the wise look for (☿ of ♀ & ♂ of ☉ & of secret Δ revived).

Table V.

Materia Prima.

1. A vile thing found everywhere, but only of a few. (♁ & ♂).
2. The occult magical earth (♁), out of which the blood of Saturn (♁♁♁ or its revived ♁) is extracted, which descending on earth (by circulating in the glass) is coagulated into the Stone.
3. Which is a transparent Red Kernel (the $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$) which one thing revives all things, if you manipulate rightly.

Table VI.

Mercury.

1. The preparing Mercury (the secret Δ , or marine ♁). Mercury is a Virgin by whose means art imitating Nature does extract a Virgins milk (azoth first & afterwards a revived ♁) out of the Virgin Earth (♁♁♁).
2. Mercury to be prepared is that secret milk (azoth & revived Sophic ♁) which must be extracted from the Virgin (from the ♁♁♁) which is not seen until the Artist pleases.
3. The Mercury prepared (the revived Sophic ♁). Whether according to this Author or in our $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$ according to Philalethes, it is the same thing), is the extracted milk made manifest from what was hidden before (in the ♁ & secret Δ) wherewith our infant ($\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$) newly born (the $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$

must be nourished. Here is a hint. The pure revived ♂, squeezed out of the revived ♀ of our Author, is the true subject where with the white & red Sulphur Naturae must be multiplied by imbibition in virtue & quality.)

Table VII.

The Time .

1. Our Mercury is impregnated by seven Planets. (Philalethes explains this by his seven Regimens, viz. Regimen of ♀, ♁, ♃, ☽, - ♂, ♀, & ☉ . "Secrets revealed").
2. By the long first humid but finally dry way, 7 months are sufficient for the Artist, but for the quick dry way, five hours are enough.
(If this be true, then the work can be done in a red hot ∇ . Consider well what the Brassfounder says).
3. The humid & dry way is but One Way, which by diligence or negligence of the operator, may be abbreviated or prolonged.
(So says PHILALETHA).

Table VIII .

Pondus; proportion .

1. The Mercury, The Heaven, runs through the 12 signs of Heaven, wherein Sol employs a year. (This somewhat obscure in the original.)

2. The MERCURY (Sophic) & Sulphur (\odot) are II & I. He has come nearest to Senior's proportion. He has made \odot the 1/12th. part of the $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$.

Senior has taken \odot 1 p., \mathcal{M} 2 p., secret Δ 9ρ = 1/12

or \odot 1 p., \mathcal{M} 3 p., secret Δ 9ρ = 1/13.

Count Bernhard makes \odot the 1/10th. part.

2. Ripley & Philaletha, the 1/8th.

Our Author has taken 11 p., of Sophic \mathcal{S} to 1 p. of \odot , so that \odot is the 1/12 part in his $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$.

These 2 unite & disunite & you will have the true weight. He $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$ tes first 1 p. of \odot with 11 p., of Sophic \mathcal{S} , by rubbing. Then he squeezes the loose \mathcal{S} from the amalgama, & he has the true weight. We do the same.

3. The weight of Nature is to be minded, not the weight of the things. (i.e. how much will adhere together, without running from it). Senior has remarked- find that & the secret Δ is dissolved.

Table IX.

The Vessel .

1. In an oval shape, the Philosopher produces the Egg.
2. Amongst the least porous matters, the best glass must be chosen.
3. For grinding a porphyry mortar is the best. A Wedgewood ware mortar is as hard.

Table X.

The Furnace.

1. An Athanor pleases philosophers.
2. Some have used it.
3. Use what you like if you do but understand your heat, so that you be able to increase or diminish its degree.

Table XI .

The Fire .

1. Our fire does not burn the hands.

(He means, here the secret Δ , or the metallic fire of $\♂$ & \odot in his revived Sophic ♀ . Both are the same after revivification).

2. A well directed bath is very convenient.
3. In the room of Δ , heated ∇ may be used.

Table XII.

Contains twelve operations of the great Art.

Operation I.

Preparation.

Join the pure to the pure. (According to our Author, make your $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$. According to us: make Rebis.)

II.

Calcination.

By this subtilisation, the volatile parts are elevated by a fume.
(He hints at the black fume, which precedes putrefaction of the $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$ in the glass).

(Our calcination is performed 1st. in Rebis, 2nd. in the glass, when we digest our $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$, when our work & his are one, & the same).

III.

Solution .

Volatilise the fixed (\odot).

Our Author has but one volatilisation by solutions. In our work, we have Three Solutions.

1. In Rebis, whereby the body \odot is opened for the ∇ to enter, see "Marrow of Alchemy".

2. By means of the secret fire & Azoth.

3. The last & genuine solution of \odot by our \wp revived in the $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$.

During the last solution, the \odot is volatilised. The preceding solutions were only preparatory, in order to obtain our $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$.

IV.

Separation .

Separate the subtle from the thick pleasantly, with much ingenuity. This expression is borrowed from the Emerald Table, & is explainable in two ways:-

1. The natural separation in the glass, performed by Nature.
2. The separation of the Azoth from the $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$ in our process.

V.

Conjunction.

Conjoin the male or red servant (☉) with his odoriferous wife & after their union, they will generate the Art.

(The wife is the revived Saphic ☿).

(Perfect conjunction per minima takes place in \bar{R} alba).

VI .

Coagulation.

Fix the volatile.

(This takes place in \bar{R} alba, & not before).

VII.

Putrefaction .

The corruption of one thing causes a production of another.

(An expression borrowed of Paracelsus).

(This cannot take place before genuine blackness of the $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$.

VIII .

Resurrection .

After death I shall live for ever.

(This is spiritually & materially true).

(Here it means \overline{R} alba & rubea.

IX .

Albification .

Know then, my son that in whiteness is hidden redness.

(The white must proceed from blackness, & redness after whiteness in due time).

X.

Rubefaction.

Now the King of Glory is born.

(\overline{R} rubea.)

XI .

Fermentation .

Our ☿ does not tinge, except it be tinged first.

(Our ☿ial, ♁eous, ☾ine Tincture, although the glorious medicine for the human body, yet is not the Elixir for metals, except it be fermented with ☉ in the ♁ by fusion).

XII.

Multiplication .

He that has made the Stone once, has no need to make it a second time. (As he may multiply his Work before & after corporeal fermentation). Altho' all these things are absolved by one operation, yet they are compared with the following.

Twelve Labours of Hercules .

Hercules his first Labour.

Whilst Hercules was an infant, he killed two serpents which were sent him by Juno.

Hercules derived from Hera, is the Earth, i.e., Cleos, i.e., Glory, as a Glory on Earth.

Juno is the Earth, out of which come forth the 2 principles, the superior and inferior (secret \triangle & Rebis or \underline{M} & sophic ☿ (i.e., the two serpents). Which on account of their venomous nature (\underline{M} & ☿) which they draw out of the impure ♁ for food, have been called SERPENTS by

the Philosophers (i.e., \mathcal{M} & \mathcal{F}) (the same as the 2 Doves of Diana) whom Hercules deprives of their venom (in the glass or even before in the $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$).

Second Labour.

Hercules erected two columns in the West.

The two Columns are two Rules:- Volatilise the fixed (\odot) & refix the Volatile. The West is the Philosophical Massa; not yet clarified (the foul $\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$ black & durty, which is to be clarified by washings called Eagles by Philaletha) which Massa ($\bar{a}\bar{a}\bar{a}$) under its obscure veil, conceals yet the splendour of Sol.

Third Labour .

Hercules fights the Hydra or ∇ Snake, which he conquers by Δ (1 by the secret Δ ; 2 by the fire of Nature in \odot).

Hydra so named from the ∇ . It is the ∇ (\mathcal{M}) transmuted into ∇ , (i.e., \mathcal{F}) which reduces all things into ∇ (\odot or \mathcal{D}) (i.e., into \mathcal{F}) for which reason it is said that after the Hydra's head had been cut off by Hurcules, a Serpent grew out of its trunk (i.e., the revived Sophii \mathcal{F}). This Serpent he also killed with a certain natural Δ (i.e., the Δ of Nature in \odot fixed finally the \mathcal{F}). When he transmuted the ∇ (the Sophii \mathcal{F}) into ∇ (into the \mathcal{R}).

Fourth Labour.

Hercules killeth & skinneth the Nemaan Lion & hangs the skin over him.

THE NEMAAN LION is that ∇ which is also called the Green Lion ($\underline{m}\delta\delta$). He takes that Lions hide off, & having washed it very clean (having purified the $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$) he dresses himself therewith (i.e., put it into a glass).

Fifth Labour .

Hercules catches a Deer whose feet were of BRASS (white brass is the \underline{m}) but the head was of \odot (\odot in Rebis) (ultima rerum materia).

The Deer, which was a female denotes the volatile ∇ (\underline{m}) which he fixes.

The Legs denote the first imperfection whilst the \odot or head signifies perfection, our perfect Sulphur.

(i.e., Rebis is the female Deer, which allegory Lamspring has borrowed of Ovid).

Sixth Labour .

Hercules woundeth the breast of Juno (\underline{m}) with a three-pointed arrow; (\odot , \underline{m} , secret Δ) or the Dragon with three heads) because she caused him so much labour.

Juno is the ∇ prepared beforehand, at the sweat of his brows. (i.e., a highly purified $\underline{m}\delta\delta$).

The three-pointed arrow is the key (the three principles) wherewith

he woundeth the breast (Rebis) & draws out of the wound a MILK mixed with BLOOD.

(This was a cruel action, but the Milk is the revived Sophii ♀ ,
ããã ted with ☉) the Blood or \bar{R} or ☉ in the ããã).

Seventh Labour .

Hercules kills the Harpies (which were females).

The Harpies are the black or evil spirits (the black mad dog of Iren-
aeus) concealed in OUR EARTH (in the \mathcal{M}) which by their impurity bring
damage. For which reason Hercules (the Operator) rejects them as a put-
rid or damned ♁ .

This explains the washings of the ããã of its black ♁ extracted by the
secret Δ & Azoth during the preparatory labour).

Eighth Labour.

Hercules conquers the RIVER ACHELOUS, a Son of Oceanus, ($\ddagger \ominus$ mar:) & of Terra (\mathcal{M}) which is changed into Various Forms (first ♀ , then \underline{f} , then Azoth, & finally ♀ revived).

Achelous is that Third Thing (the revived Sophii ♀) which results out of the ∇ above (Azoth) & the ♁ below ($\mathcal{M} \sigma$) & passes through various forms, yet inclines always to become ∇ (i.e., ♀). Therefore Hercules changeds his fluid Nature (ããã) into a fixed ♁ (the \bar{R}).

Ninth Labour .

Hercules robs the Three Sisters of the Hesperides of their Golden Apples, after having killed a Dragon who watched them.

The Three Sisters are the Three Principles, Body (☉) Soul (M) & Spirit (Secret Δ) from which a Golden Liquor is extracted (i.e., an animated Solar ☽, or the $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$), which is the life of the Stone; named the Golden Apples.

The Dragon (i.e., the Babylonian Dragon of Flammel) denoted the ∇ , black $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$ (M ♂♂) as yet impure.

Tenth Labour .

Hercules has conquered King Gerion, who had three bodies & six arms, & it was therefore necessary to conquer him three times, & after the third victory, Hercules took all his property away with him. Ovidius-Her. IX., 91.

Gerion is the Stone consisting of three principles or bodies, & passes thru' three principal Colours, Black, White, & Red. The first Colour denotes Death, the second Lunar, & the third, Solar, perfection. Hercules having conquered him by long patience, at last carries off his property or riches.

Eleventh Labour .

Hercules has also carried the Heavens on his shoulders by request of Atlas.

The Heavens denote our ♀ (our first ♀ i.e. $\underline{m} \ddagger \text{♂}$) which contains the rudiments of the Planets (Metals) the four metallic elements & the Sign of Aries (♂) whose figure is a Symbol of the eight Heaven, where the fixed Stars are called by Plato the Eternal Fires. Aries is also a fiery Sign.

Twelfth Labour .

Finally, Hercules has conquered (fixed) Antheus (Lapis or Soph. ♀ fixed) a Son of Terra ($\underline{m} \text{♂}$) who, during this Battle, whenever he fell on the ground, became stronger than he was before (multiplication of the \overline{R}).

Antheus is the perfected Sophii ♀ , i.e., the Lapis generated out of our ∇ ($\underline{m} \ddagger \text{♂}$ or Rebis), which, during its formation, when the ∇ (revivified ♀ in the $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$) is coagulated into ∇ (into Sulphur of Nature, white & red) it acquires constantly greater powers, until that Tincture is finally exalted or multiplied to so high a state of Simplicity or fierceness, that it can no longer touch the earth ∇ , i.e., be converted into ∇ , but stands like a fiery ruby red oil. (which gives light by emanation).

By this, the several multiplications are indicated.

Explanation of the foregoing .

You must kill the fiery Dragon (the Dragon without wings \odot) in an egg (♂) by the assistance of the fugitive Servant (\underline{m}) & the flying

Eagle (secret \triangle) in a certain weight & proportion, & by a certain regimen of the \triangle , according to a continued motion of the Heavens, by sublimation, distillation & cohobation, repeated 7 times or 9 times (7 or 9 Eagles) up to putrefaction & perfect solution.

By God's blessing you will see the Raven's Head (blackness). In this is concealed the Form & Soul of the Dragon (\odot) in the same manner as the body (\odot) rests therein. This which has now been rendered Spiritual by the above named operations, eagerly longs for the soul to be there-with reunited for the sake of its exaltation, as the dried earth longs for rain, for the sake of fertility.

Therefore resuscitate! Observing legitimate composition. Return now the soul to the body, by a proper regimen of heat, by calcination, incineration, exhalation, coction, dealbation & rubification, until perfect fixation.

Or, change the black Raven's head by means of the permanent ∇ (the revived Soph. ♀ in the $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$) hidden in the body of the Green Lion (♂) into the whitest fixed white & you will have the LUNAR TINCTURE, & then by a dry & stronger Decoction, convert it into the Red Lion until perfect fixation, & you will possess the Solar Tincture.

Praise & Glory to God. Amen .

Finis. December 1806.

P.S. Amongst other Herculean (S.B.) labours, is mentioned the cleansing of the Stables of King Augias, which stables Hercules cleansed in ONE DAY, having caused the River Peneus to run that way. From this, the proverb derives, "cleansing the Augean stables." This I explain by washin

the $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$ from its blackness by warm ∇ , cleansing or washing away the black mad dog, the black burning \triangle of the \mathcal{M} . Add to this that Hercules killed that Eagle (secret Δ) which did eat the liver out of Prometheus his body, who was fastened to Mount Caucasus, & finally delivered Prometheus himself. Prometheus is the ♀ in the composition, which is finally revived in the $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$.

S. B.