

Extract from "Practice of the Works of the Brothers of the Rosy Cross, & their key, to extract quick ☉, not ripe, & spiritual, from all the Minerals, & its fixation by common ☉ ." (begin at p. 9.) by an Anonymous Author of date 1763.

(Compare this with extract from Mynsicht p. 165 & Rhenen p. 168).

PREPARATION OF THE *ALKAHEST* WITH WHICH CAN DO WONDERS IN METALS & MEDICINE WHICH IS THE *UNIVERSAL SOLVENT*.

Dissolve Vitriol of Hungary in rain water distilled, filter it afterwards, evaporate gently one part of the ▽, & set it to crystallise in a cellar, make as many of these crystals as you have need of, which you must calcine, according to the quantity you wish to employ, into a yellow ☉⁺; pound it very fine, & take of it six lbs., which you will mix well with three lbs., of sea ⊖, which has been dissolved, filtered, decrepitated gently, being previously well made into fine ☉⁺.

Six lbs., of the above said mixture, & two lbs., of purified running ☉⁺, as it is previously taught in its place; pound the whole together till the ☉⁺ be wholly divided.

Put this mixture into a large cucurbite with its head & recipient, & seal it, as it is before taught. When all the ☉⁺ is seal ed, give a stronger Δ & let it cool.

Break the cucurbite to take out the seal ated crystal, rejecting the dust, & put the ☉ in a dry place.

A fresh, four lbs., of your mixture of Vitriol of Hungary & sea ⊖ prepared, in ☉⁺, which you will incorporate with your seal ated ☉⁺ which you

have before made into an impalpable ☉, &, in order that the mixture may be intimately made, it must be passed thro' a silk sieve: ☽ again as above. Take out then your ☽ which you will keep clean in a dry place

Take out the ☾ of your two ☺, & wash it with rain ☽ well filtered. Clarify well this ☾ & dry it well with a gentle heat, & keep it in a dry place, the residue out of reach of the air, because it contains a powerful Solar ☊, as you will see in this hereafter.

Your above named ☾ being duly purified, beautiful & dry, pound it into a fine ☉, as well as your ☽ ated ☋, carefully preserving yourself from the subtle vapours, which are very dangerous, mix them intimately together, & ☽ them a third time, as above. Keep well this ☽ ate which is little known for the properties which this last ☽ gives it, which reduces it into a ☽ which is altogether of ☊.

Antimony of Hungary as it comes out of the Mine, well cleansed of its impurities, bruise it to a ☉ fine passed thro' a sieve of silk.

Then one lb. of your ☽ ated ☋, called dry ☽ by the Philosophers, reduce it to a fine ☉, pass it thro' a silken sieve. Mix the whole together with precaution not to breathe the dust which is dangerous, put them into a glass ☉, of which let a moiety remain empty, lute exactly to it its recipient, & place it in a sand pot, with two fingers breadth of ☽, washed very clean, dry & proper. Cover entirely the ☉ with the same ☽, put your dome above it & lute all the joints. Let your lutes dry completely. Precipitate nothing in this work, & especially your ☊, which you must regulate with wisdom & prudence by gradation.

There will pass, first a little phlegm, next a fuming spirit, which is a ☋ ial spirit, very philosophical & secret. Then a thick & glutinous ☽ of a beautiful redness. There will be found in the neck of the ☉, a very red ☽ ate.


Make at the end a great Δ by gradation, so that the \curvearrowright becomes quite red all over, & that during the space of four Ξ . Then let the Δ die out of itself, & let the \curvearrowright be quite cold.


Take out the \ddagger which has mounted into its neck, reduce it to a fine \circ^{\ddagger} , & place it in a new \curvearrowright . Pour over it all the liquor which has --- ated into the recipient, close it on the instant with a head which fits exactly, & lute it equally so. Let the lute get well dry, place the \curvearrowright in a bath of ashes at once, that is to say the head at the top, & give continual Δ of digestion, day & night during ten days. Then distill again in a bath of \therefore by the same government of the Δ & precautions as at the first time. In the first place, the spirit will pass over, then the $\circ\circ$ red as blood, which will swim on the top of its spirit. Let it get cold as before, & reiterate it again twice, at the first, to get the \ddagger out of the neck of the \curvearrowright , to put it in \circ^{\ddagger} in a new \curvearrowright , & to pour over it all the liquor which has passed into the recipient, to digest during ten days & nights in a bath of --- . Let it get cold after that term, & distill it in a bath of \therefore , the \curvearrowright being quite covered, & by the same degrees as at the first time.





At the fourth & last distillation the spirit will pass over more fiery, & the red $\circ\circ$ will be of a transcendent splendour.

The Furnace & the \curvearrowright being quite cold, remove the lute in the most cleanly manner, & with a separating glass separate the white spirit from the red $\circ\circ$ which swims at top of it. You must not delay to make this separation because this spirit devours its $\circ\circ$ successively, which has caused this spirit to be called the WINGED DRAGON.









Note that each time that you remove the lute from the recipient of the \curvearrowright to re-cohobate the liquor in a new \curvearrowright , you must have a vessel to

meet it all ready, & which adjusts itself instantly to the mouth of your recipient which you will lute to it in the interval of your cohobation. It is necessary just the same to be provided with a vessel to meet the top of it proportioned to the  for digestion, at each time, & not to fail in any of the preliminary precautions which it requires, in the whole course of this labour. One default only is capable of making you lose the whole treasure.

Preserve your Spirit, & your  , each in their flask of double glass with a stopper of the same, so well adjusted that nothing can transpire, & that your flasks are, at least, a fourth part empty, in order that the matter may not crack the vessel.

As to the top of your furnace, it must be proportioned to your  , in such manner that it has two good fingers of  under the  , & as much around it & above it, in observing all the precautions & attentions herein before recommended. The operation has no inconvenience to be feared. I have caused it to be done in my presence up to this point with all the success possible, there being no danger at the second distillation & the following when the  begins to crack, but much at the first.

Note that all which is prescribed in this first operation must be religiously observed in the following with abbreviations to avoid repetitions

Take then the  which remains in the  ; rub it very fine, calcine it at an open  till it becomes of a greyish white. Then, draw from it its  with a good distilled  . Congeal, crystallise, dry, the whole with a moderate heat. Clarify this  by many dissolutions, congelations, crystallisations & dryings, re-iterated, with distilled rain  , & the whole at a gentle heat, until this  is crystalline, beautiful, soft, fusible like wax.

When we shall have worked well up to this point, we shall have between
3 viii & 3 x of a fuming spirit, 3j & gr. xv of $\circ\circ$, & more than
3j of \ominus .

(here we leave off at p. 24 of the French M.S. & proceed to p. 44., for
the shorter & less expensive tho' not so profitable a Process. The object
of this translation is only to compare the Process given by Mynsicht &
Rhenanus to see whether it is not given more clearly & more in detail by
this French M.S. We therefore go on at p. 44.

Further, as this way of the Magnum Opus is labourous, long, & costly
in proportion to its extent, we can, if we please, avail ourselves of
the short way to procure the requisite means to pursue at one's Will all
the curious operations which this way includes, altho' this short work
is greatly inferior in its completion, it is always considerable & very
sufficient. Its Practice is as follows.

When you have well clarified your \ominus as it is given at p. 23 herein-
before, & that it is well dried & in all purity, if you have 3ij of it,
put it in a small ω , & pour over it 3ij of your red $\circ\circ$ ♁ ii, digest
it 2 ♁ & 2 ♀ . There ought nothing to mount if your \ominus is perfectly
pure, because it retains the $\circ\circ$ & re-unites itself like blood, after
having passed the colours.

Add again 3j of your $\circ\circ$. Digest it one ♁ & one ♀ . Re-imbibe
again your \ominus with 3j of your $\circ\circ$, & digest one ♀ & one ♁ . Then
quickly out with it, or your \ominus will turn into $\circ\circ$ & would be too volatile.

Fuse one ♁ of pure ♁ , & project upon it, secundum artem, your be-
fore said ♁ . Take care that your ♁ be not hotter than is necessary
to retain it in fusion, & it will be reduced into ♁ , of which one part
will transmute one thousand of ♀ , or the base metals into ♁ . This

preceding operation agrees with what I have previously said as to Salia enixa to tinge them by means of the mercurial spirit, & to reduce them into \mathcal{R} . as above. Now, it is not necessary that these Salia Enixa or Saturnian should have this Alkahest, but only a Mercurial Spirit such as we find heretofore in this, & of which I shall give directions in the following part of this work.

But in this operation or way of the Magnum Opus the above said Alkahest is requisite in all the process.

Besides, this way is the key of the most secret Hermetic operations of the Philosophers by the number of discoveries which it includes & of those of which it gives intelligence to an Artist studious of the Hermetic Science, & of Natural Philosophy, which do not require a study of ten years, as it is necessary to learn a simple Art; whether it be of Music, Painting, & others, but a good theorie & practice of one year, are enough to make a Philosopher.