

# THE SCIENCE OF ALCHEMY

From the files of Dr. Sigismond Bacstrom

(copied from an old manuscript)

\* \* \*

## OF MERCURY AND QUICKSILVER

They be divers in speech yet are they but one in Kind: And ye shall understand that there is two Manner of ☿.

The First is ☿ of Kind, the which is THE PUREST MATTER OF THE EARTH and is called *Sherma* or *Aqua Viscosa* of the which Quicksilver is engendered and all Metals.

The Second ☿ is Quicksilver which with other Metals; by Kind Dissolveth himself with Himself, without any other Body, of other Engendering, coming between them; and when they are all loosened in this Manner, then they are very ☿ and Sulphur and be called *Aqua Permanens* having and possessing all that is requisite to give perfection; for this is the ☿ of Craft that the Philosophers use, and the same that he was before that he was Congealed into Metal, for they be turned down again to their Center.

Why speak the Philosophers of the Herb called *Lunary*, saying that in that Herb is all the Perfection of this Science?

Clerks that be wise say that *Lunary* is three Languages, that is Latin, Greek and Hebrew. LUNA is the Moon in Latin; A (alpha?) standeth for Azoc and is the Greek word, and standeth also for a Planet called ☿; (blank) is the Hebrew word and is the ☉ that worthy Planet.

The ☉ they put for Gold, and call it Masculine, Active, Head and King of the Tincture.

By the ☽ they understand Silver, which they call Feminine, Passive, and Lady of this Science.

Quicksilver is the ☿, and is the Mean to join the Tinctures in the privie of the Philosophers.

The Ferte of Gold and silver is only Holden in Quicksilver, for Silver and Gold hold in themselves no more Tincture than is required to their own Perfection.

But by the ☉ and ☽ understand also HOT and COLD, for all kindly changing comes by Heat and Cold; for in Solution the ☽ hath Dominion and is called Lady of Moisture; she Governeth Fishes & Floods. And the ☉ is Hot and cause of all Congealation and Nourisheth all this Work.

Therefore say all the Philosophers, hiding this Science, that Lunary waxeth and waineth as doth the ☽, which is called Cold and Moist, for it is the CAUSE of our Solution.

The Quality of Hot and Dry is of the ☉, the Cause of Congealation; for Heat is Cause and Nourisher of Life in All Living Beings.

Therefore say the Philosophers that all the Benefits of this Art is in ☉ and ☽ certainly.

It is a most wonderous thing that so much Tincture should be found in Quicksilver as may be shewed in it, Passing all other Metals.

It is much against reason that Metals should not be Medicine except they die First; But the Death of our Quicksilver is the Beginning of this Work: And as He is turned into Water with heat it seemeth that he was First Water. But Metals may be turned into ☿ and here is their Question answered that say that they may not be turned, which is not Truth, wherefore it showeth that the turning is Possible.

## OF SOLUTION

Now further will I shew the Practice of this Science.

Take the Dead Body a pound and make clean lamels of it and mingle it with 12 pound of ☉, Grind the Lamel with salt and Aysoll ( Vinegar?) till they be well mingled together. Then put to it a good Quantity of the Water; grind all together and put the whole in a parting Glass over the Fire upon Ashes, and make, underneath, a lent Fire for the space of a Night and a Day and then with draw the Fire.

When all is cold strain the Matter through a linen cloth and if there be any of the lamel undissolved put them into the glass again with some more of the water of Life and set them over the Fire a Day and a Night more: And do so till all the Body be turned to Water, that is to say into ☉ that was his First Matter.

## SEPARATION OF EARTH FROM WATER

Then take all this Water and put it into a glassen vessel over a soft fire till thou see a Black scum shew and swim above, the which scum thou shalt gather off finely as you may till the Water stand clear without any scum. Now hast thou Earth and Water.



## CLEANSING OF THE EARTH

Take then this Earth and do it in a vessel of Glass and give it as much of the foresaid Water as will cover it, and set it on a Furnace with a little Fire the space of ten days; and then put of the same Water thereto and set it in the same wise. Do this oft till the Earth be made white and clean. And this is that which the Philosophers say, The Earth rots and is made clean with

Water. The which Earth thus rotten & cleansed and made white with the help of God as Our Matter is brought into a right Way.

And after, thou shalt take this Earth that is thus cleansed and made white, and do it in a corl with a limbeck upon it and with a sharp Fire raise the water congealed with the Body, till the Earth be left in the Bottom calcined White.

### PREPARATION OF THE FERMENT

Then take Ferment, whichsoever you will, equal to a Fourth Part of the Dead Body. That is to say take  or , for there is no other Ferment, and make Earth thereof, right as thou didst of the Dead Body, using it in the same wise in all manner of thing.

### CONJUNCTION

Then join the Calx of the Dead Body with the Ferment and do them in a vessel or Phial of glass and give them to drink a little of the water of the Dead Body, the vessel closed over a little Fire. Then add a little of the Water of the Ferment and so of either of them, by little and little, for the space of 3 days or more, over a little Fire; giving them drink and seething them aye till these 2 Bodies be brought into one; the which thou shalt know when thou seest the colour not vary in them but remain permanently White; for before it come to this you shall see every colour that can be imagined.

### MULTIPLICATION

Then open the glass and put in of the foresaid Water by little and little till it drink up as much as it may: For by this joining of the Spirit the Body

is made to incorporate therewith and they become one, the glass being closed and set in Heat as before, till it pass the colours and become White again if ☾ have been used for Ferment; but if ☉ have been used it will go on to the Red.

#### EXPLANATION OF DARK SAYINGS

Let us now attend a little to the Dark and obscure words of the Philosophers: And first of SOLUTION which in our work is the Beginning of our ☿. In this labour if you cleanse not the Body ye work in vain, as say the Philosophers: Though many there be that sayeth that the cleansing of the Spirit (that is the ☿) without the Body suffieth: But they cleanseth not by imbibition of the water, but it is evident that the Body is turned into Water of which it was first made, that is to say into crude ☿.

The second word is that EARTH IS MADE, as the Philosophers say; of the boiling and concealing of water the Earth is made.

The third is of THE CLEANSING OF THE EARTH, of the which Morien the Philosopher sayeth, this Earth rotteth with his Water and is made clean. The which when thus cleansed, with the help of God all our Matter is brought to a Right Way.

The fourth word is of the SWEATING OF THE WATER that ascendeth up in the distilling of the foresaid Earth: And so hast thou Earth, Water & Air. And that is what the Philosophers say in the Book of Turbo: "As soon as it is made white, subliming with Fire a little the Spirit goes out of it." It mounts into the Lembeck & is called the Bird of Hermes, the Earth that remains in the bottom of the vessel is of the kind of the Fire. Of this Earth calcined and in powder in the bottom of the vessel Morien saith, "These ashes in the Bottom of the vessel, Despise them not, for they are the Diadem of the Art." After that Ferment must be added which is none other but the ☉ or the ☾ as



Morien saith.

CLEANSE THE UNCLEAN BODY and make it White and so put in Him a Soul, that is to say Ferment or else thou profiteth not in this Mastery: Nor may Spirits be joined with Bodies, and with joining shew as many colours as they mayest think, and the imperfect Bodies be coloured with Stable Colour.

Another Philosopher says: "TURN MINDS and thou shalt find that thou seemest." Truth; for in our Mastery first we make of the Body Water, and after of that water we make earth, and thus turn we kinds. We make that which is within such as is without; that is of a Spirit we make a Body and of a Body we make a Spirit; of a Body we make water, of water we make earth shewing that our Stone contains four Elements.

It is also a Body, a Soul & a Spirit: But the Philosophers say that it is made of one Thing: Truth; for all our Mastery is but Water, for it dissolveth the Bodies into their First Kind, that is ♀; and IT calcineth and maketh them white & clean; it is it also that slayeth and also Quickeneth, and maketh Black colour to shew in the Beginning when it turneth into Earth, and also in the putting of ye Water of the Body to the Water of the Ferment sheweth many colours, but last of all White.

Here I open unto thee Secrets. Note! Our Spirit is ♀ and when it is joined with the Earth of the Dead Body, which is called their Mother, that is Mother of ☉ and ☾, for Earth is Mother of all Things, that is called ENGENDERING:

And when this Earth beginneth to hold some of the ♀ with him that is called CONCEIVING, for then warmeth kindly the ♀ in the Earth.

Then the Water, that is to say Quicksilver being made to Fly, Ferment being joined with the Body and both concocted with the Water till they be made all one in sight and in colour, THE BIRTH Cometh: Then is the Stone Borne, the which Philosophers call a King, saying Besides, "Behold your King coming out of the Fire in a Diadem: Nourish Him & Feed him till he come to Full Age. His Father is the Sun, His Mother is the Moon." The ☉ is called a Perfect Body,

the ☾ an Imperfect Body.

Feed the Stone and Nourish him till he weighs wonderous much, thou shalt nourish him with his own Mother's Milk, that is to say ☽, oft and oft till he have drunken that sufficeth him.

T H E   E N D