

*all passes over by the RETORT, & you have made a medicine of the sweetest savour & best odour, which sweet OIL is that essence, the wonderful medicine, & third column of all medicine. Conjoin this OIL with the SULPHUR of GOLD, & draw off the S.V., with a gentle heat, conjoin the remaining & dry material with the spirit of MERCURY in due proportion, circulate & coagulate until it is fixed & perfected without ascension, & you will get a medicine for tinging human & metallic bodies, only let it be fermented with prepared GOLD.*

*To the Thrice Highest & Greatest God be praise & glory for ever.*

**EXTRACT FROM "PRACTICE OF THE WORKS OF THE BROTHERS  
OF THE ROSY CROSS, & THEIR KEY, TO EXTRACT QUICK GOLD,  
NOT RIPE, & SPIRITUAL, FROM ALL THE MINERALS, & ITS  
FIXATION BY COMMON GOLD."**

**(BEGIN AT P. 9.) BY AN ANONYMOUS AUTHOR OF DATE 1763.**

**COMPARE THIS WITH EXTRACT FROM MYSICHT P. 483 & RHENAN P. 487)**

**PREPARATION OF THE ALCAHEST WITH WHICH ONE 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 WATER, & 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 POWDER; pound it very fine, & take of it six lbs., which you will mix well with three lbs, of sea SALT, which has been dissolved, filtered, decrepitated gently, being previously well made into fine POWDER.*

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

*Put this mixture into a large cucurbit with its head & recipient, & SUBLIMATE it, as it is before taught. When all the MERCURY is SUBLIMATED give a stronger FIRE & let it cool.*

Break the cucurbite to take out the *SUBLIMATED* crystal, rejecting the dust, & put the *CAPUT MORTUUM* in a dry place.

Take afresh, four lbs. of your mixture of Vitriol of Hungary & sea *SALT* prepared, in *POWDER*, which you will incorporate with your *SUBLIMATED MERCURY* which you have before made into an impalpable *POWDER*, & in order that the mixture may be intimately made, it must be passed through a silk sieve: *SUBLIMATE* again as above. Take out then your *SUBLIMATE* which you will keep clean in a dry place.

Take out the *SALT* of your two *CAPUT MORTUUM'S*, & wash it with rain *WATER* well filtered. Clarify well this *SALT* & 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 *SULPHUR*, as you will see in this hereafter.

Your above named *SALT* being duly purified, beautiful & dry, pound it into fine *POWDER*, as well as your *SUBLIMATED MERCURY*, carefully preserving yourself from the subtle vapours, which are very dangerous, mix them intimately together, & *SUBLIMATE* them a third time, as above. Keep well this *SUBLIMATE* which is little known for the properties which this last *SUBLIMATE* gives it, which reduces it into a *WATER* which is altogether of *FIRE*.

Take Antimony of Hungary as it comes out of the Mine, well cleansed of its impurities, bruise it to a *POWDER* fine passed through a sieve of silk.

Take then one lb. of your *SUBLIMATED MERCURY*, called dry *WATER* by the Philosophers, reduce it to a fine *POWDER*, pass it through a silken sieve. Mix the whole together with precaution not to breathe the dust which is dangerous, put them into a glass *RETORT*, of which let a moiety remain empty, lute exactly to it its recipient, & place it in a sand pot, with two fingers breadth of *SAND*, washed very clean, dry & proper. Cover entirely the *RETORT* with the same *SAND*, put your dome above it & lute all the joints. Let your lutes dry completely. Precipitate nothing in this work, & especially your *FIRE*, which you must regulate with wisdom & prudence by gradation.

There will pass, first a little phlegm, next a fuming spirit, which is a *MERCURIAL* spirit, very philosophical & secret. Then a thick & glutinous *OIL* of a beautiful redness. There will be found in the neck of the *RETORT* a very red *SUBLIMATE*.

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

Take out the ANTIMONIAL CINNABAR which has mounted into its neck, reduce it to a fine POWDER, & place it in a new RETORT. Poun over it all the liquon which has DISTILLED 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 RETORT in a bath of ashes at once, that is to say the head at the top, & give continual FIRE of digestion, day & night during ten days. Then distill again in a bath of SAND by the same government of the FIRE & precautions as to the first time. In the first place, the spirit will pass over, then the OIL red as blood, which will swim on the top of its spirit. Let it get cold as before, & reiterate it again twice, as at the first, to get the CINNABAR OF ANTIMONY out of the neck of the RETORT, to put it, in POWDER in a new RETORT, & to poun over it all the liquon which has passed into the recipient, to digest during ten days & nights in a bath of NEPTUNE. Let it get cold after that term, & distill it in a bath of SAND, the RETORT 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 OIL will be of a transcendent splendour.

The Furnace & the RETORT being quite cold, remove the lute in the most cleanly manner, & with a separating glass, separate the white spirit from the red OIL which swims at top of it. You must not delay to make this separation because this spirit devours its OIL 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 RETORT to re-cohobate the liquon in a new RETORT, 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 cohobations. It is necessary just the same to be provided with a vessel to meet the top of it proportioned to the RETORT 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 OIL, 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 RETORT, in such manner that it has two good fingers of SAND under the RETORT, & 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 RETORT 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 CAPUT MORTUUM which remains in the RETORT, rub it very fine, calcine it at an open FIRE till it becomes of a greyish white. Then, draw from it its SALT with a good distilled VINEGAR. Congeal, crystallise, dry, the whole with a moderate heat. Clarify this SALT by many dissolutions, congelations, crystallisations & dryings, re-iterated, with distilled rain WATER, & the whole at a gentle heat, until this SALT is crystalline, beautiful, soft, fusible like wax.

When we shall have worked well up to this point, we shall have between 8 Ounces & 10 Ounces of a fuming spirit, 1 Ounce & 15 grains of OIL, & more than 1 Dram of SALT.

Further, as this way of the Magnum Opus is laborious, 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, although 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 SALT as it is given at p. 23 hereinbefore, & that it is well dried & in all purity, if you have 2 Drams of it, put it in a small RETORT, & pour over it 2 Drams of your red OIL ANTIMINII, digest it 2 DAYS & 2 NIGHTS. There ought nothing to mount if your SALT is perfectly pure, because it retains the OIL & re-unites itself like blood, after having passed the colour



Add again 1 Dram of your OIL. Digest it one DAY & one NIGHT. Reimbibe again your SALT with 1 Dram of your OIL, & digest one DAY & one NIGHT. Then quickly out with it, on your SALT will turn into OIL & would be too volatile.

Fuse one  $\frac{1}{2}$  Ounce of pure GOLD, & project upon it, secundum antem, your before said TR. Take care that your GOLD be not hotter than is necessary to retain it in fusion, & it will be reduced into POWDER, of which one part will transmute one thousand of MERCURY, on the base metals into GOLD. 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 TRS., 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 on 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 theory & practice of one year, are enough to make a Philosopher.