

ON THE STONE OF SATURN

(A TREATISE OF CERTAIN PARTICULARS WHEREOF IS TREATED THE PREPARATION OF THE MARKASITE OF LEAD AS WELL FOR THE TRANSMUTATION OF METALS AS FOR THE ALTERATION OF MAN'S BODIES, ETC.)

by: *THEOPHRASTIS PARACELSUS*

Translated by: *J. Hester, 1596*

(from: "A HUNDRED AND FOURETEENE EXPERIMENTS AND CURES")

The *philosophers SATURN* is properly the *Markasite of Lead*, and in deed doth excell Sol & Luna, in so much that Raymond saith, that in this inferior world, there is no greater secret, than that which consisteth in the Markasite of Lead, insomuch that they which have throughly sought out the force and nature of it, have bound themselves together by the Vow never to utter those secrets of nature unto the ends of their lives. For so much as his operation is of such kind, as truly it hath many and sundry Uses, which being duely prepared, doth not only altar and change the filthie and corrupt humours of our bodies, but also can change and *transmuted* by sundry experiments, LUNA into SOL.

Take of the Mineral Markasite of lead xii pound and grind it into fine powder upon a Marble Stone, as they grind colours with Vinegar; being well ground and tempered, put it into a strong glass, and put thereon a good quantitie of distilled vinegar, and stir it well with a stick, and so let it stand in *Balneum Maria*; then set thereof a blind-head, and there let it stand eight days together, stirring and moving it every day six or seven times; then let it cool; and the vinegar will be of a yellow colour, the which ye shall pour forth into another glass, taking heed that ye stir not the faeces; then put thereon more vinegar, & stir it well with a stick, and set on the blind head and set it in *Balneo Maria* another viii days, as ye did before, then pour forth that vinegar being coloured into the other glass. And this order ye shall use so long until you see the

vinegar no more coloured: For at the last the faeces will remain in a white mass, like white earth.

DISTILLATION OF THE COLOURED VINEGAR

Then take all that vinegar being coloured, and distill it in Balneo until it will drip no more; and there let thy cucurbit stand three days with the faeces, that it may dry well, then take it forth, and thou shalt find in the bottom of the glass a white matter, the which take out, for in that whiteness, the redness of the Markasite is hidden, which being prepared, availeth much to make *Aquam Philosophorum* that they call Ardantem.

THE PREPARATION OF THE FAECES

Take the white faeces or matter, and put it into a distilling vessel with a great recipient very well luted, that the spirits go not forth, and set it in the hot ashes, and give it a gentle fire, and then increase it according to art a day or two, and there will come forth first a white water, and then a red or golden yellow oil, the which is to be kept close with great care.

THE FAECES TO BE TAKEN AGAIN

Then take those faeces and set them in a calcining furnace eight days, then take them forth and grind them finely, and put them in a glass with a good quantity of distilled vinegar and stir them well together; that being done, set it again in Balneo for eight days

together, and stir it every day seven or eight times, the more the better, then let it wax cold and settle, and pour away the clear part from the Faeces, but take heed that ye stir not the dregs or bottom. Then pour on fresh vinegar, and set it in Balneo again, and do as ye did afore, and then pour away the vinegar again, and cast away the faeces; for they are nothing worth.

THE DISTILLATION OF THE VINEGAR

Then take the vinegar which you reserved, and distill it with a gentle fire, and in the bottom thou shalt find a salt, in the which remaineth all the force and strength. Then calcine the said salt again, in a reverberatory, four and twenty hours with a great fire, then take it forth and put it in the glass wherein it was afore, and put thereon fresh vinegar and set it in Balneo. And this thou shalt do so often until the salt leaves no faeces in the bottom; that being done, distill thy vinegar as at the first, and thou shalt find thy Salt prepared liquid and clear as Crystal.

CONJUNCTIO SPIRITUS CORPORIS felicet Olei & Salis

Take the aforesaid salt, and grind it upon a stone, dropping thereon his red Oil by little and little, that being done, put it into a cucurbit luted with *Hermes* seal, and so set it upon a trevet in an Athamor twenty days, and it will be fixed into a red stone, so that ye have the true government of the fire. Then take it forth and grind it upon a stone, and according to the weight put thereunto as many *Letones*, of the Calx of fine Gold, and upon all these put on as

much of the white water which ye distilled afore the red oil as all the whole doth weigh, and close it up with Hermes seal, and set it in ashes in a Athanor with a soft fire until it be fixed, but after it be fixed, there will appear many colours, the which will turn into perfect Oil and true Elixir. Rejoice in this, but before ye begin the work, consider of it and pray.

Finis .