

T I N C T U R A P H I L O S O P H I C A E

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(A fragment of "*Speculativae Philosophia*")

Translated from Latin by: *Patricia Tahl*

Now, so that my philosophical love for the devoted student shall neither help nor hinder, let me cease adding to the philosophical tinctures of our teacher Theophrastus Paracelsus; by their external and internal use cures may be effected, by renewing the blood. They are the simplest and most powerful of all those prepared by alchemical art, and I have described their method of preparation and administration in the *Chirurgia magna* of Paracelsus, so that what was previously said about the philosophic remedies may easily be understood.

THE TINCTURE OF SOL, OR: GOLD

When the tincture has been extracted from Sol its white body remains behind, and the tincture is truly pure and separated from its impurity, that is, from its body; this is a necessary separation. The tincture ought to be clarified and exalted in degree, and doubled five times twice two + four; it does not go any higher. Then you may give it to anyone to renew their blood to its original state, as will be said when speaking of how to administer it.

HOW TO EXTRACT

The body must be torn away from its metallic nature by agitation with salt water, then the remainder must be washed with sweet water, and then the spirit is extracted with spirit of wine. It rises from the tincture, then remains at the bottom.

EXTRACTION WITH SALT WATER

A water is made from the whitest and purest salt possible, made without the decoction and artificial preparation by which salt is usually made, it is liquefied several times, then powdered and mixed with the juice of radish roots, and shaken up with that, and then it is distilled after it has dissolved, and mixed with equal parts of green blood and all is distilled five times, and in that liquor flakes of gold purified with antimony dissolve into powder. It is washed gently with pure distilled water, till the saltiness recedes, for the salt allows itself to be washed away by itself, and does not mix deeply with the substance, but is separated.

HOW TO MAKE SPIRIT OF WINE

Place a measure of the best pure unmixed wine, red or white, in a circulatory vessel, well luted and closed, and dip the vase in the water bath to the depth of the wine, and allow it to boil for ten days. When you have taken it off the heat let it distill into a cold phial or cucurbit as long as the spirit ascends; it gives its own sign and soon ceases; what follows is eau-de-vie and not spirit.

Pour this spirit of wine on to the residue, which is like a very fine powder, to the depth of six fingers, and having sealed the vessel thoroughly place it in a warm bath, where it is to remain for a month. Then the tincture of Sol ascends into the spirit, and a white powder remains in the bottom of the vessel. These two must be separated in turn. Melt the dust and a white metal may be made from it. Let the spirit

evaporate, according to the art, and a sort of dry liquid will remain in the bottom, which you will graduate five times in a retort large enough for the amount of liquid. This gradation is by elevation only, to make the material spiritual, but the quintessence does not allow itself to be spiritualised any more (that is, 2.4.0), otherwise it burns up if you proceed further.

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