

# ARCANUM ARCANORUM ARCANISSIMUM

*Translated from the German tract:*

"Geheimnisse Einiger Philosophen und Adepten, aus der Verlassenschaft eines Alten Mannes" edited by Chris. Hilscher, 1780

by: Léone Muller

## ITS PROCESS

In the Elements two kinds of sperm are generated; which are specified from Christmas to the end of the month of May, partly in water, partly in earth. The first is called *Axunga Solis*, or *Mas*, because it contains much Sulphur and little Salt and Mercury. (*Axunngia* is rendered as 'axle grease, kidney suet or animal fat'). The other is called *Marga Lunae*, or *Foemina*, as it contains much Salt and Mercury but little Sulphur. (*Marga* is rendered as 'marrow or marl or a kind of earth'. May mean: "Solar and Lunar seeds". - HWN)

The *Axunga Solis* arises each time from morning to noon and, at sundown, falls on the water as a white scum mixed with many colors

which the wind afterwards drives to the curves of the banks. At dawn it is gathered, if possible cleanly, at the rate of 50 or even 100 lbs., with a net or other instrument into clean big sugar-glasses (which must not be filled above one-fourth) and kept tightly protected from the sun and the air.

This Axunga Solis is also found before sunrise in meadows and pastures. The very purest, however, is found on mountains and looks like a white and green jelly or thick frog-spawn. But when there has been dew or rain in the night, it rises like a blown-up bubble and turns black and seeps into the earth as soon as the sun shines on it.

The Marga Lunae, on the contrary, comes from the North and is found before sunrise, from Christmas to the end of May, in meadows, on trees, and on the mountains. It is oily and looks like white intestines mixed with many colors, simultaneously quite pure and heavy. It contains much Salt and Mercury but little Sulphur. Collect of it likewise 50 lbs. and preserve it from the air and the sun in the shade in clean glasses filled only to one quarter (but the glasses must be well closed).

If now you wish to prepare the Tinctura universalissima (Supreme Universal Tincture) from these two substances, take one part of the Axunga Solis and two parts of the Marga Lunae, put them into large sugar-glasses which must be filled with one part of the matter only, leaving three parts empty. Otherwise the glass would be shattered. Thereafter close the glasses with double wax paper and set them in the sun in the spring and summer till the fall, but always take them into the room at night. In the winter leave the glasses in a warm spot in the room, and the matter will process itself within one or

two months. The Nature-spirit will warm up and cause it to putrefy and this without any external fire. When the matter has turned black, the blackness will disappear again in due course, and the matter will be transformed into a red liquid, which will amaze you. Let the red liquor stand till the Earth has separated from it and has settled at the bottom. Then the first purification is completed

Now pour this red viscous water into other sugar-glasses to allow the Earth to separate completely from it (but guard against the smell of this black earth as it is quite poisonous and attacks the lungs). Keep it separate, then close the glasses again tightly and let them stand in a warm spot or in the sun. The Nature-spirit will again begin to work of its own, and on the water a thick scummy skin will grow, upon which Mercury will sprout like the finest pearls. With this another purification has occurred.

Now have ready another clean glass, remove the white skin with a glass spoon and put it into it, then close it.

After this, close the glasses with the red water once more tightly and let them stand undisturbed till a white skin has again formed on top. Add this to the first skin in the previous glass, and continue doing this till the red water no longer produces a white skin. Then you have accomplished the third purification.

The thus gathered white skin or Mercury again goes into putrefaction and turns black, but when it has stood for some time, it is transformed into a red water upon which you will find a yet much purer skin.

Remove this skin each time and preserve it in a new glass till the red water no longer produces a skin. Then the fourth separation has come to an end.

Now let the glass filled with the gathered skin of Mercury stand quietly in a warm spot, and it will be resolved into a golden-yellow water, dropping a white Virgin Earth. On this water, however, you will see the Double Philosophical Mercury like a pearl-tree. Gather it carefully into a new glass. Preserve the golden-yellow water and the White Earth also very specially as a great treasure till their further elaboration, and the Nature-spirit has completed the fifth separation.

NB. If you now wish to prepare the Supreme Universal Tincture with this golden-yellow water or Double Spirit of Mercury:

Put one Quentgen ( $\frac{1}{4}$  Lot or Loth) to one Lot ( $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce) of Solar calx egr., reverberated to the utmost, into a phial closed with a ground stopper, the thickness of a thumb. Gradually add to it by drops 16 to 20 Quentgen or Lots, according to how much you have got. Now screw the phial tight and seal it with the secret Hermetic Seal or mass, put the phial in a quiet place, and the gold will first dissolve into a green, then a red, then a darkred, but finally a black liquor. Thereupon the blackness will again disappear and the liquor will turn white, yes, like milk, at the same time dropping its White Earth. Now various colors will appear, which no painter could produce more beautifully.

(N.B.) This golden-yellow water is a penetrating spirit, tasting like sugar on the tongue while simultaneously being a great fire.)

But continue letting the phial stand immobile, and the liquor will again become red and look like thick blood. Over the coagulated matter a brilliant star will arise. Following this, the matter will become so spiritual that it will break the glass. Now

our Work has reached the desired end, and by His Grace God Almighty has granted you the Universal Tincture. It has produced itself by the inner fire of Nature, and thus without any external fire, in and by itself, and you had no work to do yourself.

True, it is a slow work which often leads into the 4th., yes, the 5th year, but you cannot wonder enough how the inner fire operates in this matter, cooks it and brings it to the highest perfection of the Universal Tincture. But in this Work you must take careful heed not to disturb this pure Spirit in its operations, and then it will gradually bring everything to the desired end.

If now you wish to test your heavenly tincture to see what powers it has in the transmutation of base metals, take 3lbs. of a well purified Mercury or a simple antimony Regulus. Put it in a crucible over the fire, and when it begins to fume, throw on it one Quentgen of your tincture, wrapped in wax, which will be followed by a bang and a thump. You must therefore use a large crucible to prevent the Mercury from getting out. Thereafter increase the fire, and after 2 hours the Mercury will have melted into a red salt and incomprehensible tincture.

After this, take 16 Lots of the finest gold, put 1 Lot of your red salt in flux on it, and the gold will again turn into a tincture

Of this last tincture put 1 Lot on 1000 Lot of other metals in flux, Saturn or Mercury, and they will be transmuted into 24 carat gold.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE WORK

If you wish to augment the Spirit of Mercury or the golden-yellow

water which you had separated from the White Earth, do as follows.

Take I Lot of gold-leaf, purified to the utmost, and 4 Lots of live Mercury of native cinnabar, or antimony. Make an amalgam of them, wash from it all blackness, dry it, then put it into the Spirit of Mercury and seal the phial. Let it stand undisturbed, and you will see wonder upon wonder, as the Spirit of Mercury will open the gold and transform it into a green liquor. In it everything in the phial will grow, such as trees and precious stones with intermixed gold and silver grains. This will soon disappear and look quite black, and out of that blackness little fire flames will thereafter leap up.

After the blackness has gone, the most beautiful colors will appear. They too, will disappear, and in the phial something like a green meadow will present itself with various kinds of precious stones which likewise change into a crystal, looking like candied sugar, that is, with intermixed yellow colors. After this, it looks as if everything were to become green velvet. Then it changes to a yellow color and finally to a red one which, however, will continue to become brighter. At last, a really bloodred and brilliant substance is left, and on it will appear a purple star. That then is a sure sign that the matter has been congealed into a fixed and liquid salt, which is the greatest mystery of all Nature, with which no thing on earth can be compared. With this salt or tincture you can proceed further, as has already been taught.

But if you wish to proceed in yet another way, take the Spirit of Mercury with its white Virgin Earth, put them together into a small retort, set it in the sand with a receptacle, and the Spirit will go over together with the Earth, unchanged, sweet as sugar and burning like fire. Now make an amalgam with gold and Mercury, as already

described. Put it in a long-necked phial and pour on it the Spirit together with the white Earth that has gone over with it (but keep the Earth), seal the phial, set it in the B.M., in moderate heat for 14 days and nights. Everything will open into a green liquor which decant into another small retort, lute a receptacle on it, and put the retort in sand in gentle heat. Everything will go over except the Earth of the gold. Now add to it the Virgin Earth which you had preserved.

At this stage there are again 2 ways ahead of you: In one you must divide the liquor or Spirit into three parts and let the first go through the colors in a sealed phial, while augmenting the tincture with the other two parts.

In the other way, however, you must divide the Spirit of Mercury or the liquor into two parts, put one in a flask and set the flask in a B.M., distill the volatile spirit 7 times from it, while pouring it back on each time. Also, cohobate it 7 times with ashes and 7 times with sand. You will obtain only a little Phlegma. Finally, let the flask also stand for 4 days and nights in iron filings till everything has become fixed. Thereafter remove the tincture and put it into a retort. Then again divide the other part of the liquor into 2 parts, pour one part on the tincture of the retort and drive the Spirit of Mercury over in the prescribed manner, making it fixed again. Proceed likewise with the third part of the liquor till everything is fixed, and this tincture will tinge like the first.

Here now you can see what kind of a secret God Almighty has enclosed in the Celestial Sperm, provided the Nature spirit is not hindered in its operations, because it operates without stop, and there is nothing in the world that could be used to assist in this Work-

because the matter contains everything in abundance. It is the cinnabar ore of the ancients, because it gives off a bloodred solution which separates its Mercury, and no artist can accomplish this- you must leave it solely to the operating Spirit of Nature.

IF NOW YOU WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE THE GREAT SECRET OF CREATION:

Take 1 lb. of fresh May dew, let it stand for 40 days and nights to allow all impurities to settle. Then filter it and have at hand a double glass sphere, whose parts must fit precisely in the center. In the upper half there must be a small opening. After this, take your pure dew, put it into the sphere and close the sphere with the secret hermetic seal, or our secret mass. When it has hardened, throw into the small opening of the upper half a grain of rapeseed of the tincture prepared with the astral sperm. Screw the sphere tight with a ground stopper and leave it undisturbed in a place that is not too hot or too cold. The first day, the dew in the sphere will become black and everything will be dark. The second day, open the sphere and do not hesitate to throw in yet another grain of mustard-seed, and the dew will become as clear as a crystal but with some darkness appearing in the depth or at the bottom, and you will see the World Spirit move in its light.

The third day, again throw the weight of a grain of mustard-seed into the sphere, and the World Spirit will move everything together inside it. At last, however, the separation will take place and push the fiery Earth to the bottom. Above this fiery Earth there will take place and push the fiery Earth to the bottom. Above this fiery Earth there will stand a milky viscous water, and above that a clear, crystalline blue water with golden-yellow drops of oil,

showing that the Earth underneath has been hardened by the fire of Nature. That fire also dwells in the Earth and attracts the upper fire. The fact, however, that a milky viscous water stands on this Earth is the sign that the Earth is thereby preserved, so that it will not ignite itself and burn. It is out of this water that the Earth draws its nourishment, and in this milk there is the food for all creatures, and their power of multiplication, yes, it consists of Fire, Air, Water, Earth as well as of the spiritual viscous Elements, as Hermes says:

*Ab Aere quasi in utero gestatur, nutrique a terra.*

(It gestates in air as in a womb, nourish it with earth-HWN)

The golden-yellow oildrops on the azure-blue crystalline water signify the sun, the moon, and the stars, which burn and sparkle through the light-spirit, while the water signifies heaven.

#### IN CONCLUSION

I will now reveal to you the true *Sigillim Hermetis*, supreme secret, with which you must not only seal the glasses but also reopen them. In general, there are still much greater secrets hidden in it, but which the Philosophers were very careful not to divulge and considered worthier than even the Philosophers' Stone.

Make an amalgam of 3 Lots of English tin, beaten into fine leaves, with 5 Lots of pure live Mercury in a glass bowl. When it has turned into an amalgam through trituration, mix it with 8 Lots of unadulterated sublimated Mercury, taking care not to add either gold silver, or any other metal. Thereupon put it into a retort with a wooden scoop.

Or: Of the beaten English tin and live Mercury take 1 lb. in equal parts, pound it in a glass mortar into an amalgam, mix 2 lbs., of sublimated Mercury with it, and put the powder in a glass retort with a big receptacle into which you must previously have poured 3 Lots of the volatile Spirit of Mercury, that is, *Spiritus Roris Majalis*, (Spirit of dew) the processing of which will follow at the end. After you have well luted the receptacle to the retort, set it in iron filings and melt them in the beginning with a very gentle fire, and a clear spirit will go over with great impetuosity. If you give too strong a fire, however, the spirit will break the receptacle into a 1000 pieces. It is therefore necessary to put the receptacle into cold water, to allow the all too strong heat to cool down in it, as in this way everything goes well. Finally, increase the fire to make the retort redhot. Then let the fire go out and the retort cool.

With the spirit that has gone over mix the sublimate which you have received at the same time. Pour them together into another retort, lute a receptacle quite tightly fitting on to it as this spirit, like the Nature-spirit, at once begins to coagulate, which should not yet happen at this time. Now put the retort in a sand cupel, distill the spirit over once more, and you will obtain a crystalline liquor. Pour this into a new phial, seal it, and put it continually in a warm place.

This spirit makes all glasses soft and tough, so that they can be worked with one's hands. The glass itself in which it stands becomes like a leather purse which can be pressed together and opened again. But as soon as this spirit is put in a cold place, it coagulates into crystalline butter, and it is impossible to remove it from the glass

That is why the glass must be kept standing in a gentle heat.

If now you wish to prepare the crystalline matter or our secret seal, take some transparent crystalline pebbles that are not streaked with green, red, or yellow little veins. Make them redhot in a crucible, then quench them in a stone vessel that contains some of the Universal Spirit, that is, the roris majalis, (the May Dew), and they will be reduced to a white powder. Pound this in a glass mortar to a very fine consistency. NB. Take care, however, not to add anything metallic to it. Of this powder put 2 Lots in a double glass bowl and pour 4 Lots of your liquor on it. Keep what is left over in gentle heat. Now the powder is dissolved and everything is transformed into a crystalline substance, together with the glass, and everything will be shining and as soft as butter, just like the substance in the glass. You must also keep this matter, together with the bowls, on a continual heat, for as soon as the substance has contact with the air, it becomes as hard as a diamond.

NOTE. Another Philosopher teaches that one should pour as much of this spirit over 12 Lots of finely pounded white glass in a burnt stone pot as will make a pap of it. Thereafter it is to be put in gentle heat in ashes, well covered. The pulverized glass will become like a resin within four days, by which anything poured over it will turn hard like a diamond in the air.

When now you wish to seal your phial, rub the glass stopper with it. Then take some of it from the bowl with a clean piece of wood and form it with your hands, for as soon as the matter reaches the air, it turns into a crystalline dough. Take this out and put it around the grooves of the stopper, and it will close everything and become harder than the glass itself. This is the secret Hermetic

Seal of the wise, because with it they can perform miracles, and it is to be valued much more than the Philosopher's Stone.

If now you wish to detach the seal from the phial, coat it twice with the double liquor which you must at all times keep in a warm place. The former substance will again become soft, so that you can remove it. You must keep this in a clean glass, in a warm spot, for further use, because only a little of the double spirit is added each time.

But so that you may learn that this seal is to be valued more than the Philosopher's Stone, I will teach you in detail in the following chapter. Only of this I will here remind you: If you use some of our diamond substance for sealing, you must always use a fresh supply, because it becomes contaminated even if you keep your hands ever so clean. Some dirt will adhere to it, so that it cannot be used again for sealing. This is truly the greatest mystery.

HOW TO PREPARE VARIOUS DIAMONDS AND PRECIOUS  
STONES FROM OUR CRYSTALLINE MATTER, WHICH ARE  
FAR MORE PRECIOUS THAN THE ORIENTAL ONES.

This then is done as follows: When you are preparing the above-mentioned crystalline substance, you can form it into various figures, but you must take care that no impurity gets mixed up with it.

The forms must be of gold. If now you wish to shape a figure, let it lie outside in the open air for one night, and it will become harder than a diamond. Thereafter put it in a clean glass and pour enough of the seven-times rectified Universal Spirit over it to cover it completely. Now close the flask with a blind alembic and set it for one month in gentle heat, when the diamond or the figure will get a great brilliance. Then take it out.

But if you wish to prepare a ruby of it, take some of the very finest gold and have it beaten into thin little leaves. Dissolve it in our Universal Menstruum, as you heard before, and you will obtain a grass-green solution together with the separation of the Earth. Take I Lot of this gold solution and 2 Lots of the prepared pebble powder, put it in a round glass sphere and mix it with 4 Lots of the glass-making substance. Screw the sphere tight and set it in ashes in gentle heat for one month. You will get a fiery transparent substance. Now let it harden in the air, as has already been taught. After this, put the substance in a sphere and pour some of the seven-times rectified Universal Spirit upon it, as much as has already been mentioned. Let it rest in it for one month when the ruby will develop a mighty light, causing it to shine at night like lightning. You can have the required form prepared like a star, together with the cover of gold, but they must first be hollow-ground inside.

If you wish to prepare an emerald, however: Take some Japanese copper and dissolve it in the Universal Menstruum or Spirit. The copper will be colored grass-green. Now separate the solution from the feces and add to it I Lot of a gold solution. Proceed with this as has already been taught, but better use its greenspan. (verdigris)

If you wish to prepare a ruby: Make a crocus of iron, as I have taught in my writings. Take of it one Lot and pour it on 4 Lots of the Universal Menstruum or Spirit. Extract it in gentle heat, and the Menstruum will turn red. Pour this off into another glass. Mix one Lot of this with 2 Lots of prepared pebble powder and 4 Lots of crystalline substance - but not with your bare hands or something metallic. Use a clean piece of wood. Do it with the greatest speed

in a warm spot, (NB. This must be done in connection with all stones) and proceed in everything as has already been taught, and you will obtain a ruby of inestimable worth.

BUT IF YOU WANT A TURQUOISE THAT SURPASSES THE ORIENTAL ONES:

Take one Lot of pure silver, beaten into leaves. Pour 4 Lots of the Universal Menstruum on it in a flask, set it in gentle heat, and the Menstruum will turn blue-green. If the turquoise is not to be transparent as the oriental ones are, take one Lot of that solution - but previously well shaken, so that the Virgin Earth that has settled at the bottom becomes part of it.

If it is to be transparent, you must take one Lot of the pure solution and proceed as you have been taught in connection with the preparation of all stones.

But if you wish to prepare an amethyst: Take 1/2 Lot of the solution of the crocus of iron and 1/2 Lot of the silver solution, in the previous composition, and proceed as has already been taught. You will obtain a pure amethyst. And in this way you can make all stones.

Lead results in the most beautiful carnelians (a variety of chalcidony) tin, instead, in white, milky, colored stones mixed with rainbows. Thus you can see what the Light of Nature is capable of doing after it has been separated and, as a primordial Spirit, reveal the *Mysterium Magnum*, (the Great Secret) in all things. In this way I have also revealed to you the Universal Chaos, the foundation out of which everything follows according to the Order of Nature.

Because in the preceeding pages the use of a Universal Menstruum is required, I will reveal to you its preparation from the book of *Trithemius*, "The Light of Nature," Book I, Chapters 2 and 3.

From dew and rainwater collect an Ohme (an old measure for wine, a cask containing about 150 Liters or quarts.) full of dew in the first months of the year, or of rainwater that has come down with thunder and lightning.

NB. The Universal Spirit is mostly present in dew.

Let it stand and putrefy of itself for one month, then stir it well together and first distill the most volatile and spiritual part off in a flask. Rectify it 7 times, then keep it in a big spacious glass, as the Spirit would otherwise smash the glass into pieces, after which leave the glass in a cool place.

Thereafter, distill all the Phlegma and keep it for the cleaning of the salts.

When everything has been distilled to the consistency of liquid honey, let it cool and pour this honeylike residue into a retort, put it in an ash cupel and distill the Phlegma over with the azoth and the golden-yellow oil. Separate this oil in a tritorium and keep it in a clean ground glass. After this, take what is left out of the retort, pound it small, put it in a flask, pour the azoth with the distilled Phlegma back upon it, digest them together, then decant and filter to remove the few feces. Now add to it half of the Spirit which you had kept, set it in the B. M., with gentle heat then distill the Spirit off. When everything has cooled down, pour the Spirit back upon it and set the flask in the ash, distill the Spirit off again, and when big drops appear, quickly add another receptacle.

Distill the Phlegma over, and when acid drops appear, let the fire go out. When everything has cooled down, pour the Spirit back upon it once more, set the flask in the B. M., and distill half of it off. Put what is left in a cool place, and a heavenly salt will sprout. Collect it carefully. What does not sprout must be evaporated to salt. Purify the latter with the phlegmate by dissolving and coagulating it till it flows in the fire like oil. Now pound your first crystal small and add it to the salt which has been made to melt in the fire like oil. When the salts have cooled down, add the other half of the Spirit - but the latter must have been rectified 7 times to transform it first into a quite volatile and pure spirit.

Set the flask with the matter in the B. M., for 2 nights and days. Then pour everything together into a retort, set that in ashes with a receptacle and distill half of it over. When everything has cooled, pour back what has been distilled over, and in this way distill half of it twice more. When everything is cold, pour the Spirit back once more, set the retort in the sand, distill half the Spirit over, also cohobating 3 times.

When everything is cold again, pour the distilled Spirit back, put the retort in iron filings and distill over *per gradus*, the last time with a strong fire, and everything will go over as a Universal Menstruum.

Pour this Menstruum into another retort and distill it twice more out of the sand. Now it is perfectly prepared for radically dissolving all metals and separating the Earth from them, so that the philosopher's Stone can afterwards be prepared. Details can be read in Chap. III. of the Nature-Light of *Trithemius*.

This is the Universal Menstruum of the world, prepared out of the Universal Chaos, the key for opening everything in Nature. It separates the dark Earth, so that the sweet fire and Light can thereafter be obtained in pure form. This blessed *Maym*, is indeed the blessing of the great Spirit of Jehovah, by which He moistens the land and renders it fertile. It is the Fire of Life.

But if you wish to try another experiment with this Spirit, take some Regulus of antimony of Mars, melt it together with one Lot of fine gold, then pulverize it and pour the powder into a big phial, again pour as much Spirit over it as there has been powder, lute the opening and set the glass in a mild digestion which will extract the Spirit from this powder. Pour that into another clean glass and keep it. You must repeat 7 times the pouring on of fresh Spirit in the amount described, in addition to digestion and decanting. Thereafter pour the extractions together and abstract them several times. Then you will obtain a beautiful salt after the last abstraction and refrigeration, like a diamond, which will have wonderful powers in medicine.

SAPIENTI SATIS