

THE WORK OF THE  
GREAT ELIXIR



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The

Work

of

THE GREAT ELIXER

Transcribed from an old M.S.

## The Great Elixer.

## Purgation of ☿.

In the name of God, Amen.

Take Mercury, with common salt prepared, in some wooden vessel, and beat and rub it while the salt be made black with the ☿. Then pour hot water upon it and stir it well together with a pestle of wood till the salt be dissolved in the water. Then part the ☿ from the water and put to more salt prepared and do as before said, the second time.

Then put the ☿ into a vessel of glass and set it in a furnace and pour upon it good vinegar & a little Salt prepared, and make a very slow fire under it, and boil it with a soft fire, till the vinegar be consumed away, in vapour.

Then wash the ☿ with clean warm rain water; part the water from the ☿; strain the ☿ through a clean linen cloth, three fold, and put it again in a clean glass vessel upon a slow fire, while it be dried, and avoided of all moistness of the water that was put to it before, and then the ☿ is cleansed from all his filth and will be bright and shining as a glass and is in degree as fine silver.

## Purgation of Copper.

Copper is purged thus: Take ☿ that is pure and melt it, and when

it is molten cast upon it powder of Venice glass (that is glass that contains no lead) finely pounded and searced through fine linen cloth, and stir them well together with a stick while the blackness of the ♀ remain with the powder. Melt the ♀ a second time, and put to it more of the glass powder and stir it well as before-said. Likewise melt the ♀ a third time and do in all things as before.

Then is your copper pure and ready to be reduced into his own proper water.

#### Resolution of ♀ into his own proper Water.

Then file the purged ♀ into fine limel and proceed thus: Take one pound of the limature of ♀, and twelve pounds of ♀ well purged as thou wast taught before. To the 1 pound of limature of the said ♀ purged put a little vinegar made of good wine, and a little salt and stir them together. Then put to it of the foresaid purged ♀ slowly by little and little and bray them well together, and do so till four pounds of the 12 lbs. of the said ♀ and the 1 lb. of the said limature of the said ♀ be incorporated and made all one.

Then put all into one Urinal and close the vessel that no air go out, and set it upon a furnace and make a slow fire under it for the space of one day and one night. Then let it cool, & when it is cold bray it in a wooden dish with warm water. Wash it well and part the water from it and put it again in the urinal upon the furnace to dry with a slow fire. And when it is dry bray it, and strain and wring it

through a clean, strong linen cloth, three fold; and all the ♀ which is resolved will go through the cloth.

Then take that which remaineth in the cloth and bray it as aforesaid, putting to it as before other 4 lb. of the 12 lb. of ♀ well purged, and set it upon a slow fire, in an urinal, a day and a night as before, and do in all points this second time, as thou didst the first, and put the resolved ♀ which thou strainest through the cloth to the other which thou strainest through before.

Then, in like manner, put the remaining 4 lb. of the 12 lb. of purged ♀ to that which remaineth in the cloth, and work as before; and put it in an urinal upon the fire, and proceed in all points as thou didst the first time. And so iterate the work while the ♀ which did weigh one pound be resolved into his own proper water; that is, into ♀, which with the 1 lb. of well purged ♀ will now make altogether 13 pounds.

Mercurification of the Perfect bodies, ☉ & ☾ .

In the same manner that has been taught with ♀, you must reduce pure silver in a glass, alone by himself with 12 times as much of well purged ♀; and in like manner of gold in a vessel apart by itself with twelve times so much of well purged ♀.

And when every one of these metals is resolved, each in its own vessel, into its own proper nature, that is to say into ♀ then proceed as follows.

To bring them into their Elements of Earth  
and Water.

Put the resolved ♀ with his ♂ into his own vessel alone, by himself. Likewise put the resolved ☾ with all its ♀ in its own vessel alone by itself, and do so with the ☉ and his ♀.

Close all the vessels and put them upon a furnace and boil them with small fire day and night until you see blackness upon the upper part of the resolved ♀, and blackness fleeting upon the resolved ☾, and blackness fleeting upon the resolved ☉; the which blackness gather prettily & wisely, but let the matter be cold first.

Keep every blackness alone by itself, and iterate the work with seething and gathering the blackness fleeting upon them so often till in the vessel of ♀ there rise no more blackness and the ♀ appear clear, and till in the vessel of ☉ no blackness doth appear, and so likewise of the ☾.

Then by the grace of God thou hast of the copper resolved two elements, that is to say earth and water; and likewise of ☉ and ☾ two elements, that is to say earth and water. For the blackness so gathered is earth, and the ♀, that remaineth clean is the WATER OF LIFE.

To obtain the other two elements, Air, and  
Fire.

Then take the black earth of ♀ and one little portion of its own

WATER OF LIFE, grind them and beat them together and put them in a glass vessel, & pour a little portion more of its own water of life to it, and close the vessel well, that no air go forth; and look that the water of life do swim over the earth.

And so shall thou do with the black earth of ☾ and its own proper water of life; and so also with the black earth of ☉ and his proper water of life, keeping each alone by itself.

Set the vessels on a furnace and make under it a slow fire for the space of 12 days, and look ever that the vessels be well closed. And when twelve days are passed look whether every earth have drunk in its own water of life, and if it be so make a strong fire under the vessels and, by alembick, convey away what of the water of life will not remain coagulated and congealed with the black earth, and then the black earth falleth into ashes.

Then bray those ashes, and let them drink in part of the water that was conveyed forth of them by the strength of the fire.

Then put the ashes again into a vessel of glass, as is aforesaid, each kind by itself, and pour upon each part of its own water of life, and seeth them for the space of twelve days. And do likewise in all points four times. Again pour upon every black earth alone by itself another portion of its own water of life and close the vessel as aforesaid and set them upon a furnace and give a slow fire another twelve days; and do so from time to time till every black earth become white and clean.

And when thou hast every earth alone by itself, white and clean,

thou shall put every white earth alone by itself in a strong vessel with an alembic put upon it and set it upon a furnace, and at the first give a slow fire and afterwards a stronger and stronger; and so continue, seething the earth, till every water of life go forth of his own proper earth and ascend up into his lembick, and then every white earth shall remain in the bottom of his vessel calcined and dry as unslacked lime.

Thus hast thou obtained other two elements: that is air and fire of ♀, air and fire of ☾, and air and fire of ⊙. For every water of life, which hath come forth of its own earth and hath ascended by alembick, through the strength of fire, is in his own nature as AIR, and is called of the Philosophers the PERPETUAL WATER (aqua permanens), and every white earth which remaineth in the bottom of his vessel dry and calcined is in his nature as FIRE, and is called the PHILOSOPHERS ASHES.

#### Conjunction for the White Work.

Then proceed thus unto the White work. If you have one pound of the PHILOSOPHERS ASHES (the white earth) of ♀, take one fourth part of the SOPHIC ASHES (the white earth) OF SILVER, that is 3 ounces, with one portion of the PERPETUAL WATER of the white earth of ♀, (viz. the ▽ that came forth of the white earth of ♀ by strength of the fire & ascended into the lembick) and put them into a glass vessel well closed on a furnace, and make under it a slow fire and so seeth the medicine with a soft fire till the *3 iij* of the white earth of ☾ have drunk the



portion of the perpetual water of the earth of ♀ which was put to it.

Again the second time let the aforesaid 3 ij of white earth of ☾ drink in another portion of the aforesaid perpetual water drawn and sublimed out of the white earth of ♀ and seeth them in a close glass vessel with a slow fire in all points as before, and and after the same manner water, bray and seeth them a third time, and do in all points as at the first and second time.

After this same manner water, bray and seeth the pound of white earth of ♀ with one portion of the perpetual water drawn and sublimed out of the white earth of ☾. Seeth it with a slow fire, till the pound of the white earth of ♀ have drunk a portion of the perpetual water of the white earth of ☾ that was put to it. Thou shall do likewise a second time, and a third time.

Then take the residue of the perpetual waters drawn and sublimed out of the white earth of ♀ and out of the white earth of ☾ and mingle them together and make of these two waters one water.

Then take one part of the white earth of ☾ so imbibed as aforesaid and three parts of the white earth of ♀ so imbibed, & mingle and join them together with a little portion of the foresaid water mixed and compounded of the foresaid residence of the two perpetual waters.

Again put one part of the white earth of ☾ to three parts of the white earth of ♀ and mix & join them together with braying and watering with one other good portion of the foresaid water mixed and compounded of the residue of the perpetual waters as aforesaid.

And so do, mingling & joining by little and little together the

white earth of ♀ and the white earth of ☾ with the foresaid proportion of mixed and compounded waters of the residue of the two perpetual waters aforesaid, while the foresaid earths with the foresaid waters be incorporated together.

Then put them into a glass vessel, well closed that no air go forth, and set it upon a furnace and make under it a slow fire for the space of four days. And so iterate the work and bray it and water it, with a slow fire boiling it, until the foresaid earths have drunk the foresaid water mixed and compounded of the remnant of the foresaid PERPETUAL WATERS.

Then take the water of life out of which the black earth of ♀ was gathered and the water of life out of which the black earth of ☾ was gathered and mix these two waters together as thou didst with the perpetual waters drawn and sublimed out of the foresaid earths.

With a portion of the water so mixed and compounded of the aforesaid waters of life bray the aforesaid earths and put them in a glass vessel well closed; and set it upon a furnace, and boil them with a slow fire 4 days. Again put water to it and bray & beat it in all points as afore, & so iterate the work again, braying watering and boiling till all the waters be drunk into the foresaid earths.

That done, boil all the medicine with a slow fire six days, and that in a very good glass well closed that no air come forth. And after six days, by little and little make the fire stronger, but at last keep an even fire, neither increasing nor diminishing, under the furnace for 14 days or till the said earths and water be brought into one body-

the which thing you shall perceive when the colour is not divers in the earths and waters, but as well the earths as the waters be perfectly coloured with a perfect colour of pure silver. For in the hour of joining together, before their perfect dealbation or whitening; and before the perfect colour of fine silver come, all the colours in the world shall appear; and in the end, after the transitory colours, the whole medicine shall become white and coloured most perfectly with the colour of fine silver.

Then is the STONE ingendered & our labour ended, for the earth of ♀, the earth of ☾; and the waters of life and the perpetual waters are joined together with the bodies aforesaid, cleansed and sublimed, and converted into their nature which could not be before because of their uncleanness and grossness. With these Nature increaseth and augmenteth that the stone may be indued with a multiplying power. For the stone shall be fully made and ingendered by watering the bodies with ♀ and after digestion or concoction as aforesaid.

#### Multiplication.

The Stone groweth and may be multiplied to infinity, and that is thus:

Take of ♀ - what kind of ♀ thou wilt - purge and purify it in all points as hath been showed before. Pour part of the ♀ upon the Stone slowley by little and little, ever giving him new ♀, and boil them on a slow fire. And again imbibe and boil and so iterate the work with

water ( that is ☽ ) and boiling until the stone have drunk in and be multiplied as much as you will, for there is no end of multiplying.

Reduction of the Multiplied white Stone into  
Silver.

If thou wilt thou mayest melt part of the work for present support. Take as much of the white stone as thou wilt, put it in a crucible and give fire, but without the blast at the first. Afterwards raise the heat with the blast and it shall be turned and melted into most fine ☾, perfectly pure.

The residue which thou intendest to continue multiplying keep unmelted, for when once it is melted it is only ☾ and cannot be multiplied any more; but before melting it may be multiplied AD INFINITUM being still the Stone called Elixir.

The Red Stone.

By proceeding in all points & in the same manner and form as thou didst for the White Elixir, with the same proportion and measure, thou mayst make conjunction with the white earth of ☉ and four times as much of the white earth of ☽, using the perpetual waters and the water of life of the same, as in the former work, and the Red Elixir shall be ingendered.

And in like manner as in the white work it may be augmented and multiplied to infinity. And it may be nourished and watered with ☿ , of whatever kind it be, whether ☿ found in the earth or ☿ made of ☿ , of lead, of tin or of other metals.

The cause of this, according to the Philosophers, is this Mercury; is naturally all one matter in all metals, and therefore from all manner of ☿ well fined, purified and sublimed may fine ☉ and fine silver be made.

According to the authority of Aristotle in LIB. 4, let all artificer of Alchemy know that the metals cannot be serviceable except they be brought to their first matter, mercury, and be cleansed from their corruption by heat of fire. But by the reduction of metals to the first matter, that is to ☿ , the work is possible and easy; and then they may be augmented and multiplied AD INFINITUM, for everything that is ingendered and groweth may be augmented and multiplied, as in vegetables and animals.

Finis.