

THE CONFESSION OF TRITHEMIUS  
(ABBOTT OF SPANHEIM)

*From: "Traité des Causes Secondes"*

Translated by A.A.Wells

God is an essential and hidden fire, which dwells in all things and chiefly in Man. From this fire is everything engendered. It engenders them and will for ever engender them; and what is engendered is the true Divine Light which exists from all eternity. God is a Fire; but no Fire can burn, no Light can manifest itself in Nature without the presence of Air to maintain the combustion; thus the Holy Spirit should act within us as a Divine Fire upon the interior Fire of the heart so that the Light may appear, for the Light must be fed by the fire, and this Light is love, bliss and joy in the eternal Divinity. This Light is **JESUS**, who emanates for all eternity from **JEHOVAH**. Whoever does not possess this Light within him is plunged into a fire without Light; but if this Light is within him, then the **CHRIST** is in him, is incarnate within him, and he will know the Light as it exists in Nature.

All things we behold are interiorly fire and light, in which is hidden the essence of the Spirit. All things are a Trinity of fire, light and air. In other words the Spirit (the Father) is a super-essential light; the Son is the Light manifested; the Holy Spirit is a moving Breath, divine and superessential. This Fire dwells in the heart and sends out its rays all through the body, and thus maintains its life. But no Light arises from the Fire without the presence of the spirit of sanctity.

All things have been made by the power of the Divine Word, which is the Spirit or Divine Breath emanated from the beginning from the Divine fountain. This Breath is the Spirit or Soul of the World, and is called *SPIRITUS MUNDI*. It was at first like air, then condensed into a nebulous substance or fog, and finally transmuted itself into water. This water was at first spirit and life, because it was impregnated and vivified by the Spirit. Darkness filled the abyss, but by, the emission of the Word the Light and the Soul of the World was born. This spiritual Light which we call Nature or Soul of the World is a spiritual body which may be rendered visible and tangible by alchemical processes; but as it is naturally invisible it is called Spirit.

It is a living universal fluid, diffused throughout Nature, and which penetrates everything. It is the most subtle of all substances; the most powerful, by reason of its inherent qualities; it penetrates every body, and determines the forms in which it displays its activity. By its action it frees the forms from all imperfection; it makes the impure pure, the imperfect perfect, the mortal immortal, by its indwelling.

This essence or Spirit emanated from the beginning from the Centre, and incorporated itself with the substance of which the Universe is formed. It is the "SALT OF THE EARTH," and without its presence the plant would not grow, nor the field become green, and the more this essence is condensed, concentrated and coagulated in the forms the more stable they become. It is the most subtle of all substances; incorruptible and immoveable in its essence, it fills the infinities of space. The sun and planets are but coagulations of this universal

principle; from their beating heart they distribute the abundance of their life, and send it forth into the forms of the inferior world, and into all creatures, acting about their own centre and raising the forms on the way of perfection. The forms in which this living principle establishes itself become perfect and durable, so that they no longer decay nor deteriorate nor change in contact with the air; water can no longer dissolve them, nor fire destroy them, nor the terrestrial elements devour them.

This Spirit is obtained in the same way as it is communicated to the earth by the stars; and this is performed by means of the Water, which serves as vehicle to it. It is not the Philosopher's Stone, but this may be prepared from it by fixing the volatile.

I advise you to pay great attention to the boiling of the Water; do not let your spirit be troubled about things of less importance. Make it boil slowly, then let it putrefy till it has attained the fitting colour, for the Water of Life contains the germ of wisdom. In boiling, the water will transform itself into earth. This earth will change into a pure crystalline fluid which will produce a fine red Fire; and this Water and this Fire, reduced to a single Essence, produce the great Panacea composed of sweetness and strength - the Lamb and the Lion united.