

A Document from Sir Isaac Newtons' Personal Alchemical Collection.

### WORK ON VITRIOL FOR THE STONE

On Monday, March 2nd., or Tuesday, March 3, 1696, A Londener acquainted with Mr. Boyle and Dr. Dickenson making me a visit, affirmed that in the work of Jodochus a Rhe, with VITRIOL was not necessary that the VITRIOL should be purified but the oil or spirit might be taken as sold in shops, without so much as rectifying it.

That the fire does not destroy the life of the Oil or Spirit in distilling it from the red hot Vitriol. That two or three pounds of Oil or Spirit will not afford above half an ounce of fixt salt and that, that the Oil affords more fixt salt than the spirit.

That the White spirit is in appearance like rain water, only sweet & fragrant, and that VITRIOLIC Twisdens spirit as I described it to him was genuine. That the white spirit must be rectified seven times from its feces without separating any flegma from it, and that in rectifying it will endure any heat without losing its life. That the remaining matter for extracting the soul must not be calcined to a red heat, but only well dryed, lest the soul fly away. That for extracting the soul the spirit must be digested on this matter not two months, but only till it appear well coloured with the extracted soul. That when you draw off the spirit from the soul you must leave the soul not thick lik honey or butter but thinner then oil so that you may pour it clean, out of your glass like a liquor and that it will keep better in moisture then when too dry and therefore tis safest to err on that hand then bring no danger in keeping it too moist. I think he said also that the

soul must be volatilized by the spirit, but I'm sure 'tis so in the Process of Jodochus, p. 20 & those of Basilius with Gold and other Metals.

He told me also that when all the soul is extracted the remaining matter must be put in a crucible covered with a muffle or hollow cup of iron like a bowl inverted and a fire made round about them for an hour which cannot easily be too hot. Then the salt extracted with the spirit and the matter calcined again and extracted again as before and so on till no more salt can be extracted.

That he imbibed this fixt salt always with 1/8th. part of the spirit (perhaps 8, 10, or 12 times), and that when it was so long imbibed till it became volatile, it was not necessary to sublime it. For all is pure, and if in the sublimation any thing should remain below, that would not be a heterogeneous impurity to be rejected, but an unripe part of the matter which by further imbibition would be all ripened and volatilized like the rest. And that if in imbibing you should at any time use too great heat, all the hurt would be only the loss of so much matter as sublimes and dries upon the upper part of the vessel. And that in every imbibition he let the matter imbibed with 1/8 th. of the spirit continue in the cold for 3 days the better to unite them, and then digested them 4 or 5 days more. And when he had finished the work with the white spirit he imbibed in like manner with eight parts of the red soul (perhaps 7 times). And that when the 3 principles were joined the menstruum becomes a notable one. It then dissolves and volatilizes all metals and gold dissolved and volatilized may be digested with it to the end.

When he had finished the imbibitions, whether with both the white and

red spirits, or rather with the white alone, he said that the matter flowed with an easy heat but in cold congealed and grew hard like a stone, and by digestion passed through the colours, black, white, citrine and red and in the beginning of the decoction and in the decoction it fumed up like a cloud as is described in the process of Jod. Rhe. And that in this decoction if the fire should go out for a while the matter would not thereby lose its life or motion, but go on still when the fire is kindled anew. And that it anew putrefied but in the first decoction, whence I seem to gather that he putrefied with the white spirit alone and multiplied only by imbibing with the red as is described by Jodochus and Basil. The work he fermented by melting with Gold, and said that the whole was finished in 9 months.

THE END.