

**IDIOT'S
GUIDES**

Alchemy



Dennis William Hauck

The Emerald Tablet

In truth, without deceit, certain, and most veritable.

That which is Below corresponds to that which is Above, and that which is Above corresponds to that which is Below, to accomplish the miracles of the One Thing. And just as all things have come from this One Thing, through the meditation of One Mind, so do all created things originate from this One Thing, through Transformation.

Its father is the Sun; its mother the Moon. The Wind carries it in its belly; its nurse is the Earth. It is the origin of All, the consecration of the Universe; its inherent Strength is perfected, if it is turned into Earth.

Separate the Earth from Fire, the Subtle from the Gross, gently and with great Ingenuity. It rises from Earth to Heaven and descends again to Earth, thereby combining within Itself the powers of both the Above and the Below.

Thus will you obtain the Glory of the Whole Universe. All Obscurity will be clear to you. This is the greatest force of all powers, because it overcomes every Subtle thing and penetrates every Solid thing.

In this way was the Universe created. From this comes many wondrous Applications, because this is the Pattern.

Therefore am I called Thrice Greatest Hermes, having all three parts of the wisdom of the Whole Universe. Herein have I completely explained the Operation of the Sun.

FIGURE 1

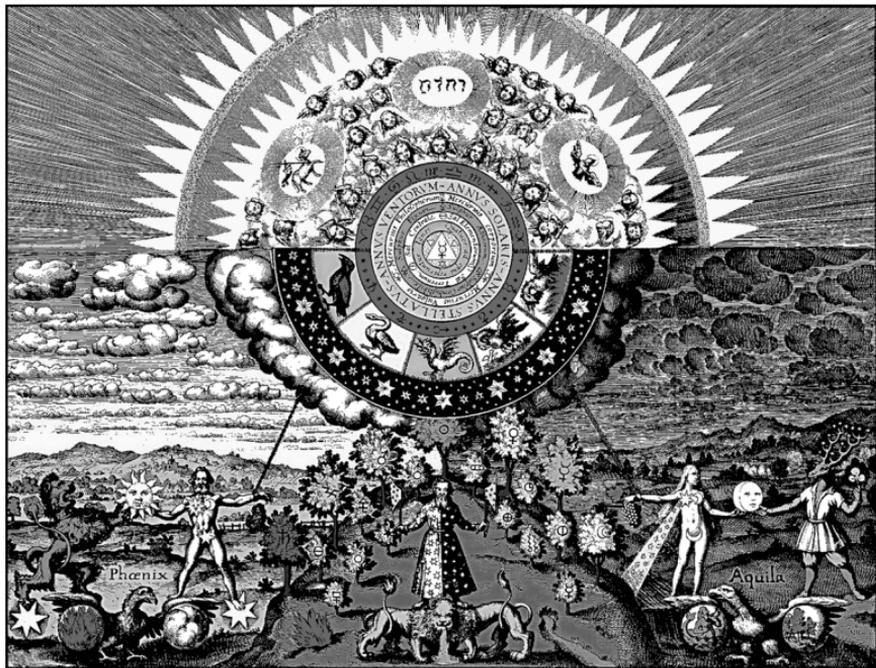


FIGURE 2

	Air		Lead, Saturn
	Albedo (White Phase)		Life Force, Health
	Alembic		Mercury, Quicksilver
	Amalgam		Mixture, to Mix
	Antimony		Multiplication (Aquarius)
	Autumn Work		Nigredo (Black Phase)
	Boiling, to Ferment		Oil
	Copper, Venus		Precipitation
	Combine		Projection (Pisces)
	Composed of		Purification
	Conjunction (Taurus)		Quintessence
	Crucible		Receiver
	Crystal, Crystallization		Retort
	Day and Night		Rubedo (Red Phase)
	Decompose		Salt (General)
	Digestion (Leo)		Salt (Magnesia, Clay)
	Dissolution (Cancer)		Separation (Scorpio)
	Distillation (Virgo)		Silver, Moon
	Earth		Silver (Spirit of)
	Electrum, Platinum		Spirit
	Essence		Spring Work
	Essence (Plant)		Stone (Elemental)
	Fermentation (Capricorn)		Stone (Philosopher's)
	Filter		Sublimation (Libra)
	First Matter (rectified)		Sulfur
	First Matter (unrectified)		Sulfuric Acid
	Fire		Summer Work
	Fixation (Gemini)		Tin, Jupiter
	Fuse, Meld		Vitriol
	Gold, Sun		Water
	Incineration (Sagittarius)		White Lead
	Iron, Mars		Zinc

FIGURE 3

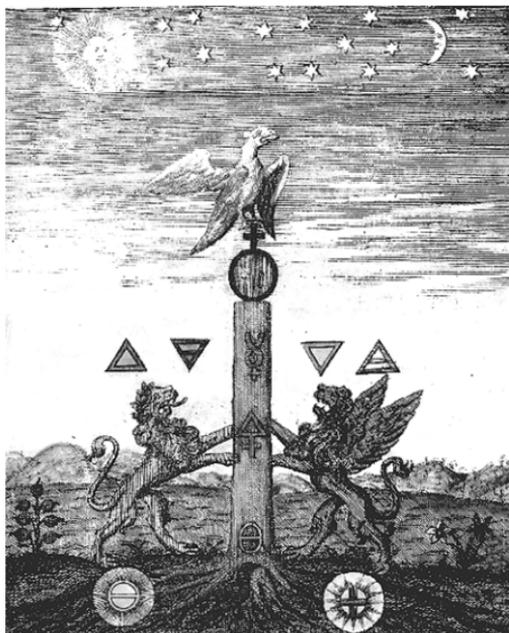


FIGURE 4

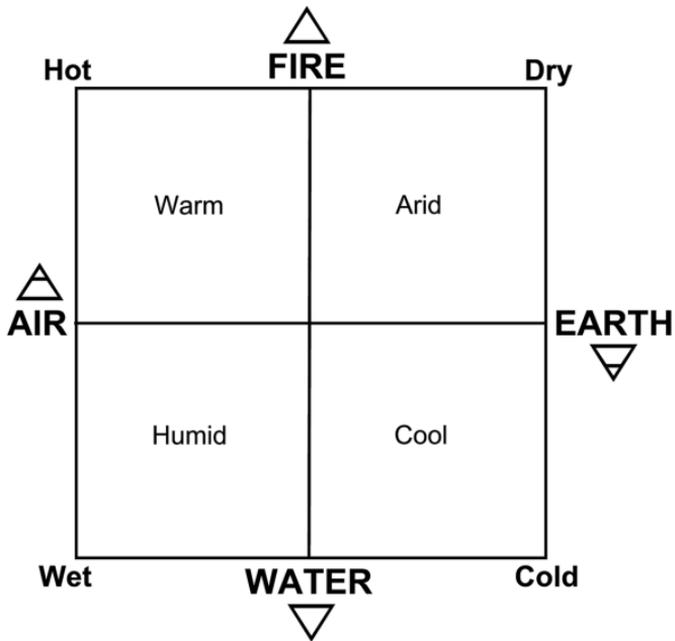


FIGURE 5

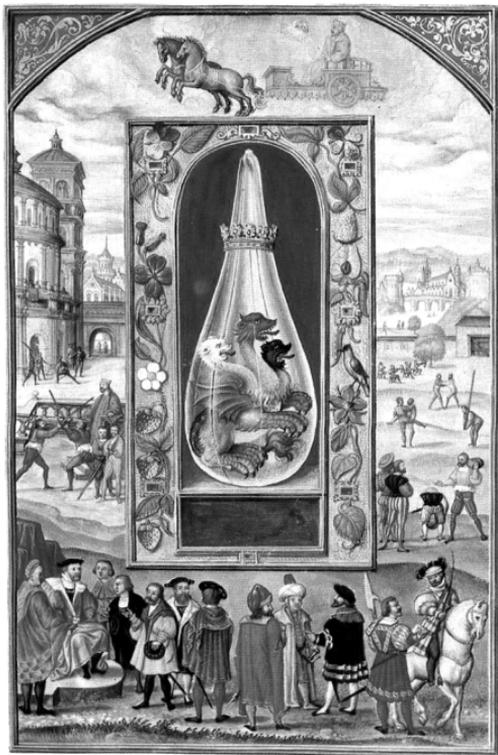


FIGURE 6



FIGURE 7

Correspondences of the Planets

Planet	Metal	Operation	Cipher	Archetype	Zodiac
Saturn	Lead	Calcination (Incineration)	Aries (Calcination) Sagittarius (Incineration)	Contraction, discipline, potential	Capricorn, Aquarius
Jupiter	Tin	Dissolution (Solution)	Cancer (Solution)	Expansion, freedom, sociability	Sagittarius, Pisces
Mars	Iron	Separation	Scorpio (Separation)	Assertiveness, masculinity	Aries, Scorpio
Venus	Copper	Conjunction (Congelation)	Taurus (Congelation)	Receptiveness, femininity, intuition	Taurus, Libra
Mercury	Quicksilver	Fermentation (Digestion)	Capricorn (Fermentation) Leo (Digestion)	Transformation, androgyny, light, mind	Gemini, Virgo
Moon	Silver	Distillation (Sublimation)	Virgo (Distillation) Libra (Sublimation)	Purification, subconscious powers, body, soul	Cancer
Sun	Gold	Coagulation (Fixation) Multiplication (Projection)	Gemini (Fixation) Aquarius (Multiplication) Pisces (Projection)	Empowerment, creativity, true self, energy, spirit	Leo

FIGURE 8



FIGURE 9

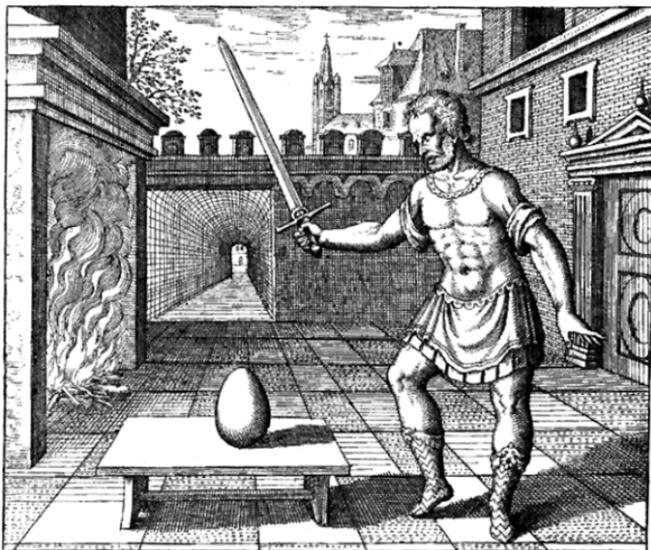


FIGURE 10

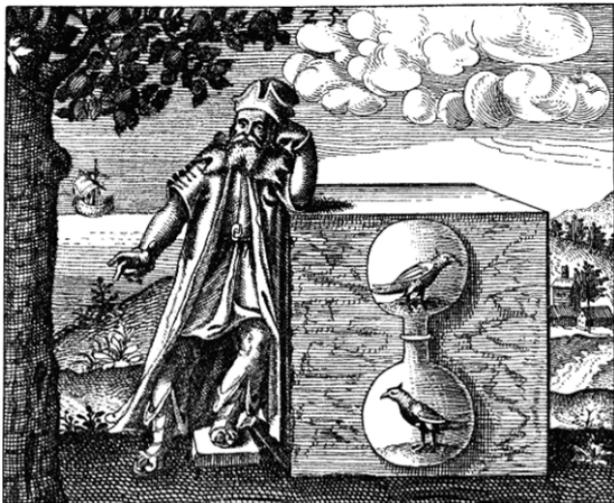


FIGURE 11



FIGURE 12



FIGURE 13



FIGURE 14



FIGURE 15



FIGURE 16



FIGURE 17

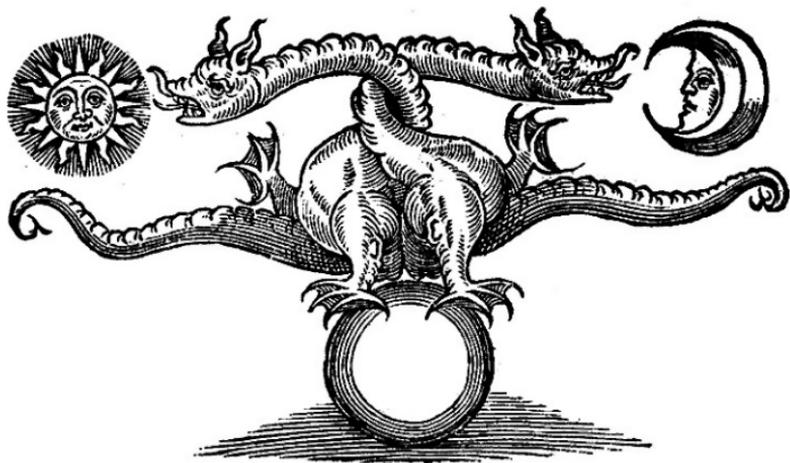


FIGURE 18



FIGURE 19

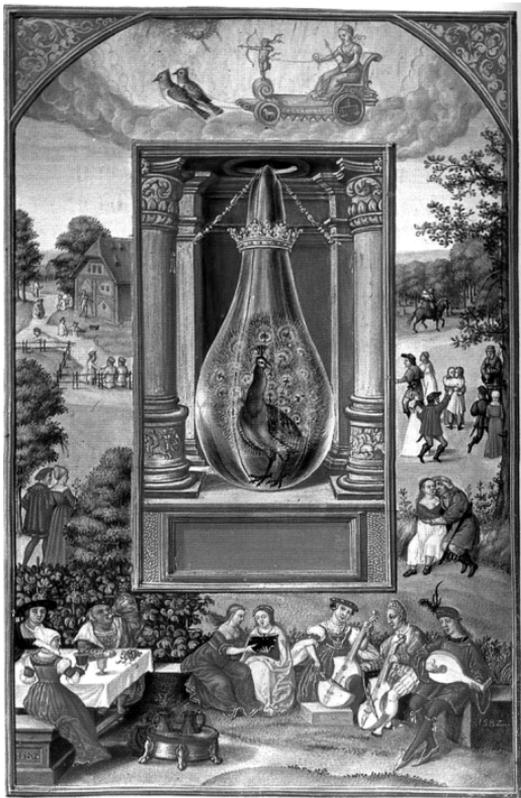


FIGURE 20



FIGURE 21

Glossary

- adept** Someone who is initiated into the secrets of alchemy or has passed through an alchemical apprenticeship.
- albicification** Whitening of a substance by washing, scrubbing, grinding, or bleaching with chemical agents.
- alchemy** The art and science of transforming substances, situations, or living things to perfect them.
- alembic** The upper part of a still; a stillhead or type of retort. *See* distillation.
- aludel** A pear-shaped vessel, open at both ends. Used as a condenser in the sublimation process, it thus came to signify the end stages of transformation. Also called the Hermetic Vase or the Philosopher's Egg.
- amalgamation** The formation of an amalgam or alloy of a metal with mercury. This term is sometimes extended to mean any union of metals.
- archetypes** Elementary ideas rooted permanently in our consciousness. They are the divine ideals or spiritual essences from which existing objects or situations arise.
- athanor** From the Arabic word *al-tannur* (oven), the furnace used by the alchemists. Built of brick or clay, it usually was shaped like a tower with a domed roof and was designed to keep an even heat over long periods of time.
- Azoth** Formed from the first and last letters of the English alphabet, which stand for the alpha and omega or the beginning and end of all creation, the Azoth is the ultimate solvent and coagulant that can change anything to its perfected essence.
- baths** In alchemy, symbolize the dissolution process in which metals are cleansed and purified.
- brimstone** From a German word meaning "burning stone," refers to sulfur.
- caduceus** Staff with two serpents entwined in opposite directions around it. The serpents represent the life force, and the caduceus is often shown with two wings that represent the purified or ascended life force.
- calcination** An operation in alchemy in which a substance is dehydrated and reduced to ashes in a fire.
- cibation** The addition of liquid to the contents of the crucible at precisely the right moment.
- cipher** A stylized symbol or glyph used to signify fundamental principles or universal constants.

circulation The purification of a substance by a circular distillation in a pelican or closed distillation apparatus.

coagulation An operation in alchemy in which a solution thickens, congeals, or crystallizes into a solid material or body.

coction The cooking or heating of a substance at a moderate heat for an extended period.

cohobation A kind of distillation in which the distillate is poured back into its residue; a method of redistillation.

conjunction The marriage of two different substances.

crucible The melting vessel of the alchemists. It is made of inert material such as porcelain and can withstand great heat.

cucurbit The lower part of a still, containing the original liquid. Made of glass or earthenware, it was also known as a "gourd" on account of its shape; a receiver.

digestion A kind of putrefaction in which the nutrients or essences are reabsorbed; the slow modification of a substance by means of a gentle heat.

dissolution To turn a solid into a liquid, or a process by which something is mixed with a liquid.

distillation The process of purifying a liquid by boiling it and condensing its vapors; an operation of alchemy in which volatile essences are separated from solutions.

dross Scum formed by oxidation at the surface of molten metals; any worthless material that should be removed. From the old English word "dros," meaning dirt or dregs.

essential oils The volatile oily components of plants, trees, and grasses. They are found in tiny sacs or glands located in the flowers, leaves, roots, bark, or resins of a plant.

exaltation An operation by which a substance is raised into a purer and more perfect nature. It usually involves the release of a gas or air from a substance.

fermentation Transformation of an organic substance into new compounds by the action of a ferment such as yeast. In general, the introduction of new life, agitation, excitement, or inspiration into a substance or situation.

filtration A kind of separation in which material is passed through a sieve or screen designed to allow only pieces of a certain size to pass through.

First Matter The primordial chaos out of which the universe originated; the first principle or soul of a substance.

fixation To make a volatile subject fixed, stable, or solid so that it remains permanently unaffected by fire.

Four Elements The four archetypal principles that emerged from the First Matter: Fire, Water, Air, and Earth.

head The top of the retort flask used in distillation.

Hermetic Secret; referring to the teachings of Hermes. “Hermetically sealed” means sealed airtight so no outside influences might corrupt the contents.

iatrochemistry The use of chemicals or drugs in medicine as pioneered by Paracelsus. Iatrochemists believe that health depends on chemical reactions in the fluids of the body.

impregnation To saturate thoroughly in order to produce a crystallization or new compound.

inhumation To bury under the earth; sometimes used to mean any process that buries the active substance in a dark earthy material. Also applied to placing a flask in the warm heat of a dung bath.

karmic The effect of a person’s actions on his or her life or next incarnation. Selfless acts and compassion are thought to create good karma.

litharge (or **letharge**) The leftover scum, spume, or ashes of a metallic operation; reddish-yellow crystalline form of lead monoxide formed by fusing and powdering massicot.

magnesia A mystical term to the alchemists that denoted the primordial transforming substance in the universe.

matrass A round-bottomed flask with a very long neck, sometimes called a “bolt-head.”

menstruum An alchemical term meaning a solvent or alkahest having both the power to dissolve and coagulate at the same time. Based on the belief that the ovum takes its life and form from the menses, the menstruum was also referred to as the Mercury of the Philosophers.

mental alchemy The use of alchemical techniques and operations on the psychological level in an attempt to perfect one’s character and personality.

microcosm and macrocosm The “little universe” of human physiology, psychology, and society as opposed to the “greater universe” of planetary, cosmic, and spiritual processes.

mortification A process during which the substance undergoes a kind of death and seems to have been destroyed but eventually is revived.

multiplication A process of distillation and coagulation in which the power of transmutation is concentrated; an increase in the amount of the Stone as obtained from its pristine form.

Perennial Philosophy The belief that there are certain universal truths sensed by all sentient beings and common to all cultures and systems of knowledge.

Philosopher's Stone A magical substance or chemical catalyst that would immediately turn any metal into gold. A powder or elixir made from the Stone could perfect or cure anything.

precipitation To cause solid matter to separate from solution or suspension; to cause a vapor to condense and fall or deposit residue.

projection The final stage of coagulation in which the power of transformation is directed toward a body; the final process in making gold, in which the Stone is tossed upon the molten base metal to transmute it.

pulverization The breaking down of a substance to smaller fragments through repeatedly striking it with a blunt instrument, such as a hammer or mallet.

purgation Purifying a substance by casting out a gross part of it.

rasayana A form of Indian alchemy that focuses on mercury preparations and tinctures. It is considered part of the ancient healing system of ayurveda.

receiver The flask attached to the outlet of the condenser tube during distillation that contains the distillate or distilled product.

rectification The purification of the matter by means of repeated distillations, the distillate being again distilled.

retort A spherical container (usually glass) with a long neck or spout used to distill or decompose solutions by the action of heat or acids.

reverberation To reflect or radiate heat or light. The action of a reverberatory furnace or kiln in which heat is radiated from the roof.

separation An operation of alchemy in which useful essences are removed from materials by filtration, sifting, ceration, and chemical binding.

signatures The characteristics plants and other objects share with the planetary powers and astrological events in the heavens.

social alchemy The application of alchemical principles and operations in relationships and for the general welfare of society.

spagyrics The applied alchemy of isolating the essences of plants and herbs.

spiritual alchemy The application of the principles and operations of laboratory alchemy to mental and spiritual processes of transformation.

sublimation The vaporization of a solid without fusion or melting, followed by the condensation of its vapor in the resolidified form on a cool surface.

Tantra A form of Asian alchemy that combines elements of Hinduism and mystical teachings to transform bodily energies using mantras, meditations, and erotic rites.

Three Essentials The trinity of forces that make up creation, named by the alchemists as Sulfur, Mercury, and Salt.

transmutation The permanent change of one substance into another at the physical or atomic level, as in the transmutation of uranium into lead by radioactive decay.

transubstantiation The mystical process of becoming the body of Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Worshippers partake of the bread, which is the body of Christ, and of the wine, which is the blood of Christ, and become one with Him.

transudation A process that occurs if the essence appears to sweat out in drops during a distillation or when heated.

trituration The reduction of a substance to a powder, not necessarily by the use of grinding but also by the application of heat.

volatile Changing readily from a solid or liquid into vapor. Anything characterized by erratic changeability.

volatilization To cause a substance to pass off into a vapor. Also, tending to erupt suddenly or violently.

Zep Tepi An epoch in Egyptian history over 12,000 years ago when divine beings arrived to share their wisdom and civilize the primitive peoples.