

CERTAIN CHEMICAL WORKS WITH THE TRUE PRACTICE

*Gathered into a True Method*

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The Preface to the Reader .

When novelties or strange events ensue,  
Then we beholding greatly do admire  
But being stale, or common to our view  
Farther to gaze thereon have no desire  
Thus I affirm, for that I know in man  
Such secret wonders in ye world are none.

Having a body the World representing  
In which God's Image is so lively set  
I mean ye Soul, which is our understanding  
Within our Bodies pure and delicate  
Wherein such wonders are more secretly knit  
As more to seek will more delight thy wit.

Then what thou art, have care thyself to know  
Thy Substance, state, condition and degree  
The rarest wonder that ye world can show  
Is represented in thine own Body.  
Elements vegetable and Mineral  
Are all contained in thy Animal.

God by his power the world of nothing made  
Which nothing is immortal seed most sure  
Of which ye world took root that cannot fade  
But firm and stable to ye end endure.  
After which Image man was framed I say,  
In ye same Seed, joined to a Fattie Clay.

First know, no tongue is able to express,  
Nor pen can write the wonderous works of God.  
His hidden Secrets will he not confess  
Nor make them common flying all abroad  
His Divine Wisdom clearly doth fore-see  
To place his gifts to each in their Degree.

To some he doth his knowledge more impart  
Than unto some, whose natures divers fall.  
Others again more skillfull in this Art,  
And such wise men Philosophers we call,  
Among the which many delight to see  
.How Nature each thing frames in their degree.

First they divide what she united had  
By which they find three Principles as ground,  
In everything that Nature forth hath led.  
Mercury, Salt and Sulphur pure are found,  
Which Elements of Earth, Water and Air,  
Do make their Quintessence, which they call Fire.

Of this again a Medicine pure they frame  
Which frees sick bodies from Infirmities.  
This pure Elixir is the very same  
That cures the Metals of fowl Leprosie  
This is the Jewel which so few can find  
Though sought of some till smoke ye eyes do blind.

Whose lucks with skill compared, may fitly be  
They want ye vessel Hermes used to bear,  
Which if they had such smoakes they should not see  
Nor half such toiling, out their cloakes to wear  
Neither whole years, nor charge, they should not spend  
But in short time attain the happy end.

Wherefore be well advised ere thou begin  
What is ye substance whereof Gold is made,  
Then boldly mayst thou surely enter in  
And take upon you this most worthy trade  
For many thousand herewith be deceived  
And of their error will not be bereaved.

And thus in hope thou wilt observe this rule  
And with attention, understand it well  
Remembering Virgil since thou wast at school  
And Ovid who of famed heavens tell,  
And know their Gods who was to each their Sire  
So mayst thou come to attain thine own desire.

Likewise do learn our mineral spirits three  
From whence they rise, Arsenick of which being one,  
The other Sulphur, ye last Mercury.  
The Fuming Spirits chiefest of our Stone  
One of those poisonous with his piercing breath  
Congeals Quicksilver to a solid Earth.

But if thou think this strange and far untrue  
Then make a trial hereof if thou wilt  
Taking my former Counsel given you  
If otherwise, your work is surely spilt  
But I assure ye if thou have our Stone  
Thou shalt attain thine own desire anon.

Author to Reader .

Now gentle reader on ye I bestow  
A Secret which as yet thou dost not know.  
If this my book thou read with good advice,  
Shall find ye same ye sayings of ye wise  
How sundry works compiled are in brief  
Light charge, short time, which two I hold as chief.  
All is not writ, some doth behind remain  
Which is a whetstone for to sharp thy brain,  
That it may cut as keen with wisdoms edge  
Thou mayst attain to make ye golden wedge.  
Let Nature therefore grave within thy heart  
That which by writing no man will impart.  
Which is a thing so easy for to gain  
That understood well will requite thy pain.  
Then praise the Author where thou comst in place  
As higher powers above shall give ye grace.

The Authors Will and Testament.

If from this life of breath I be bereaved  
Then as a Log, a Cold, a breathless Stone  
Compare my carcase whcih I have bequeathed  
To sleep in rest till resurrection  
Where flesh and bone to dust shall there decay  
Until they join again at latter day  
Until which time Reliques lay as Rags,  
Of no esteem but yet my Soul Divine.  
Let it ascend out from the Earthly Dregs,  
Among the Angels up in Heaven to shine,

Whereof no tongue be able to express  
The glorious love and joyfull blessedness.  
And he who shall this Book and Verses read  
If by the same he profit chance to find  
First in my Love I wish him God to dread  
And let my Chaos be within thy mind  
That thou may'st shew thyself a grateful man  
To think on him which is dead and gone.

The Author To All The Faithful Sons Of Philosophy.

I write to such as have desire to see  
Into the grounds of true Philosophy.  
But unto such as choke themselves with smells  
Of Earthy fumes, come from mean minerals  
Or else from stinking odours against kind  
Such of my verse but little good shall find  
Until they first these rules do listen well  
To which most briefly I mean here to tell  
Then know that the Philosophers first ground  
Is everywhere, yet hard for to be found.  
Yet England hath it always in store  
For twenty thousand Philosophers and more  
This matter next unto the Soul of man  
More precious thing God neer created none  
And'tis offence unto his Godhead still  
With violent hands this Stone to wrong and kill.  
Yet Natures first intention must be let  
Before the first material you can get  
Else Earth will quake and grone and sadly grieve  
If you will touch ere Nature will off leave.  
For when as Nature she has done and wrought

There we begin, or else our work is naught.  
One Chaos rude as God this World did make,  
To man his little World from Chaos take.  
Proportion several is therein I ween  
Of Gold and Silver five into fifteen  
Not common Gold and Silver which is dead  
For that is living which is in our Lead.  
If thou canst free him from their Prison Dark,  
I will account of thee a Learned Clarke.  
For I assure thee in a shower of Rain  
Cold heat moist dry hard soft therein remain,  
Both thick and thin, a body spirit and soul,  
Which Mercury Salt and Sulphur me do call  
The four elements thou therein shalt find  
Fire Water Air and Earth by kind  
Clear then the Prison and thence set him free  
And place 'em richly in a fair City,  
Walled strongly about to keep 'em from their foe  
Then hast thou rid them from their greatest woe  
When in this City that a while they dwell  
The heat therein will make 'em look like hell  
For that there bodie never did abide;  
So hot a climate as they felt that tide.  
But use will make them well for to endure  
A stronger heat when season will procure  
Then will they strip them to their shirts I fear  
Till white as Snow to sight they do appear  
Under which white is flesh red as blood  
Which will not show till they have passed Noahs flood,  
Then pearl and Ruby will they give thee store  
Silver and Gold what wilt thou wish for more.

Prima materia.

1. Prima Materia which many can of clatter  
Is not found in ought which Earth Imbowells  
Nor on Earth growing comes our first Matter  
As Vegetables Herbs Fruits or Flowers  
Nor Animal nor excrements thence flowing  
Or anything that on earth is growing.
2. Yet in each one of these thou mayest find  
Three sorts of humours therein do conjoin,  
As Water nourishing the Earth by kind,  
When Sun it burns refreshed by rain  
So is the first; next, oilie Radical  
Which is the Substance of heat natural.
3. Last, humour watery as cement knitting  
Bodys of Stones, metal living as dead  
For Mercury, Salt and Sulphur being  
United together and equally spread  
As taste smell and colour the Quintessence call  
Of Vegetable, Mineral, or Animal.
4. Our Salt, a dry water and lively is he  
Which many for Quicksilver did it take  
But the three Spirits our Mercury must be  
And the Earth our Sulphur of which we must make,  
Our noble Elixir both white and red  
Our Adrop so precious and our red Lead.
5. First Matter of Metals is clammy like glue,  
Quicksilver a nearer made of the same thing,  
Then Liqueable Sulphur joined with them two  
Whence vapour doth rise and to the Earth cling.  
Continual heat making decoction  
And thereby made a metalline fusion.



6. Our Stone one thing of Elements four, being  
The Earth and body wherein fire lieth  
Water and Air our spirit Earth dissolving  
Air and Fire the Soul our Compound ripenth.  
All those well from one thing thou mayest divide  
Which one thing known doth all things else exceed.

7. To give thee Light what this one thing may be  
When of the first this hour had of birth  
And bearing life which vegetable growing  
Till ripe as grass his state quite overthroweth  
It is our Chaos as I erst did tell  
If what I said thou do remember well.

8. Then not accepted but as base cast by  
Yet of the wise is held in great esteem  
To bring them health, wealth and free liberty  
And from all thraldom will he them redeem  
If by true Art they have the means to use him  
For worldly wealth they never will refuse him.

9. If that thou wonder where thou shalt it find  
I answer thee that thou in every place  
Art sure to see it if thou be not blind  
Through Natures mantle covered hath his face  
But if thou can'st it not yet understand  
Look that with speed thou do withdraw thy hand.

#### The Principles Of Nature And Of Art.

The grave Philosophers in time of yore  
Divinely wrote that Gold within the Ore  
As other Metals first engendered be  
Of Sulphur and Argent Vive called Mercurie  
And Gold say they, springs from another Mine

Where Argent Vive and Sulphur red do shine  
Which by our artificial fire not great  
The purity thereof we may compleat  
That is more Perfect by a 1000 fold  
Than either Indian or Arabian Gold  
Which is concocted by heat natural  
Within the bowels of the Mineral  
For heat perfecteth all things in his kind  
This must the Artist know if he will find  
The narrow way that God to nature gave  
Is boil, boil, boil if fruit thou seek to have  
And this by seething doth dissolve congeal  
Learn well this lesson if thou wilt prevail  
And Patience have with thy continuance  
Lest too sharp fire cause much grievence  
Yet as the Infant food first is weak  
But stronger as he grows and learns to speak.  
So at the first our work has easy fire,  
And is increased as ripeness doth require.  
And in a Vessel that is made threefold  
Sure sealed up therein concoct thy Gold.  
For our one thing that is to wit our Stone  
And by one way which is decoction  
And in one Vessel do we putrify,  
Dissolve, Congeal, and Seeth continually.  
First grows he Black in dissolution  
Until the end of Putrification.  
That as the moisture doth congeal and dry  
Gay Orient Colours therein thou shalt espye  
And afterwards true Whiteness shall appear  
Like Fishes Eyes or Diamonds shineing clear  
Thus White at last when water yields to air  
Which yields to fire then red it doth appear.

And often yellow red changing hue  
And oft it melt, congeals before Whiteness true  
It doth dissolve, colour and putrify  
Killing itself reviving joyfully  
After his Whiteness do increase the fire  
Keep safe the Ashes which thou dost desire  
Which God shall give thee molten crowned to red  
Which King, Philosophers have honoured.

An Excellent Work.

From Natures four united into one,  
Draw forth the menstroe of our Precious Stone,  
Bodies calcined therewith dissolve to water  
Which then is brought into his own first Matter  
His parts divide the subtile from the gross  
So shalt thou gain when others live by loss.  
The unfixt light spirit superior part of stone,  
Which is made pure by distillation  
Then joined with the inferior part purged clean  
From parts superfluous 'tis the Earth we mean  
By Calcination and Solution  
Is brought at length to quick Ceration.  
Then both are purged by Putrifaction  
And wisely handling Sublimation  
This Oil of Sulphur made of Trinity  
Doth Geber call his Oleagivity,  
Or Aqua Secunda for the second place  
Tis our Tincture ferment and our Gold  
And form of Metal secret doth unfold  
Our Sulphur Tincture and our gory blood  
Which must pass waters of Noahs flood

His qualities are to consolidate  
Into a Medicine he will penetrate  
As meat or nutriment of Sulphur true  
And doth convert and multiply thereto  
Doth purge and cleanse and also giveth life  
To Sun and Moon to Husband and to Wife  
It will conjoin natures that disagree  
To wit I say the spirit and body  
Between which two is the pure Oil the mean  
And natures of them both it doth contain  
Without the which they never joined will be  
But as a dust on metal it would flee  
The reason is that Humour radical  
That is chief cause that metals melt at all  
Is here defeat for imbibitions lack  
Which to be fluent often see thou make.  
This fixed earth the Humour will embrace  
And earth in humour rejoyceth in like case,  
Fix-ing the same against all fires trial  
Against the Humour Earth makes volatile.  
Hereof it comes that both being truly mixed  
Is fixed volatile and volatile made fixed.  
The Elixir fusible dissolve in simo (from simus-dung)  
Fixed parts calcined often see this thou do  
Then fix them till the Elixir that they tinn  
Which must melt quickly Mercury to stain  
And after into perfect Sun and Moon  
Which else from fire will flee before they join  
This Elixir is Medicine which doth cure  
Imperfect metals of extreame Sulphur  
Corrupt that form and bring another pure  
With Golden Tincture ever to endure  
To try Elixir if it be perfect

On Copper plate melt some with gentle heat  
If without smoke it spread and tinn throughout  
Is incombustible and perfect then no doubt  
If that our Medicine thus purified  
With Splendour of the Moon be garnished.

A Short Work .

By long concoction of our Watery Stone  
Is Sulphur made of Air and fire alone  
With middle Air make the Red earth to flow  
Of this Quick-silver Philosophers allow  
Which will not moisten but Congeal a maine  
Such flying spirits as it doth retain  
And Mercury called the first Essence  
Must drink two parts of this for his defence  
To join our Sulphur and our Mercury  
Mix and fix them to our Lunary  
Congealing both in our Mercury Water  
Which of all Metals is the first Matter  
Our Earth of Crude Silver our Gold alone  
Fir in all Tinctures is an inward Stone  
Our Quick-silver is a Spirit quick of life  
Ferment to bodies being Man and Wife.  
It is Our Air and Our Fire fugative  
Penetrating bodies and giving life  
Mercury Salt and Sulphur loveingly  
Join as Sperms of Creatures certainly  
Our agent body we do call our Lune  
The patient Mercury which to him must join  
The Menstrue nourishing them in the pot  
Is made of the Salt of Alembrott.

Three days in milk at first our Stone is sure  
Then add we salt to blood like flesh impure  
Which in the water will coagulate  
Then are his members framed to good estate  
And then his Soul God on it doth bestow  
That is to say a Power wherewith to grow  
Then springs our ferment which we call our King  
Which drops of water from dead earth did bring  
Our Stone made quick and born as here you see  
With milk at first do nurse him carefully  
To three part Elixir being grown strong  
Give but two parts of food for doing wrong  
One part of Elixir more then food  
The better to digest and to conclude.

Another Work of the Whole Mastery.

1. Whoso intendeth our rich Stone to make  
Natures true grounds at first must not forsake  
Two Sulphurs which two Mercuries contain  
One Red and moist, one White and pure and clean  
Which Spirits and bodys first Calcine with fire  
And then again turn Earth to perfect Air.

2. Dissolve to Gum which Hyle we call  
The which to Air distill again you shall  
Earth so to Water that to Air you turn  
Which Air to Earth again congeal and burn  
Wash not the Womb with too much Water clear  
For so you may extinguish quite the fire

3. Moderately feed it at each time you may  
Digest then distill the phelgm away  
For fixed shall the volatile remain,  
Which then sublime to Air or volatile Earth  
Ferment his Soul and then you have our birth.

4. For body Spirit and Soul sure knit in one  
Is our Elixir and our Precious Stone,  
Which oft dissolve, congeal with Water clear  
Till fixed oil no fires force shall fear  
Which oil calcine into a Powder Pure  
To White or Red Elixir have you sure.

#### Another (1.)

First putrify thine Elements together  
Then separate them first with easy heat  
By distillation purify with Water  
But Air and Fire by Sand with great fire  
The fiery Soul out drawn with spirit of water  
Which bring on his White foliate soon after  
The Spirit retains the Soul without annoy  
And Soul the body willing doth embrace  
By means of Spirit each one in other joy  
The fire or Soul distill dark clouds deface  
Then will he make of Silver, Gold in view  
And eke the White or Copper, Silver true.  
So bring this work into a perfect White  
Put feces of this fire, distilled with Earth  
Being deprived of all moisture quite  
Then shalt thou have a new conceived birth  
When this dry Earth hath drunk of moisture

Full fifty part that it can drink no more  
Which feed at first by drops and light calcine,  
But first digest in simo for a day  
Encrease the fire wisely at every time  
If too much water be then its a troubled sea  
But if too little then butn to cinders it been  
Therefore in feeding always use a mean  
The Earth having drunk of Quicksilver his fill  
And is most White with fire it then sublime  
For foliate Earth like ashes up shall still  
Which separate from the inferior dust betimes  
For if they join destroyed thy work shall be  
And further profit shall thou never see  
This Sulphur White dissolve in Water red  
And oft Congeal Dissolve sublime the whole  
And the White Sulphur like to dust shall spread  
The White will Copper turn to Silver pure  
The Red turns Sulver to Gold most sure.

Another. (2.)

1. This fountain red of life original  
Whose subtile Spirit is fire natural  
Attending on moisture radical  
A Quintessence fully spiritual  
An Aquae Vitae most ethereal  
Whose nature is well near incorruptible.

2. This Spirit with a gentle fire up rose  
Heating the pipes of water when it did press  
His Liquor Mercury, flame Sulphur shows  
The last from Sal Armoniack tells no less



This Spirit rectify well, lute well the glass  
Lest the exceeding subtile Spirit out pass.

3. The middle Liquor likewise keep aside  
Reserve the phlegm with which his foeces laver  
Let them digest till they have water dyed  
Then put on fresh reserving still the former  
Continue this till water be dyed no more  
Which keep aside as erst you did before.

4. The foeces will like Crystal clearly shine  
Which do provoke both seed and urine store  
To cleanse the stomach liver and the spleen  
And other virtues it hath many more  
In his circubit close the head on cover  
Put on his spirit two inches floating over.

5. Set this on ashes to digest a space  
The Spirit seperate cleanly from the grounds  
Then pour on fresh continuing the like case  
Till black faeces be Quick smoaking found  
Then hath the Crystal animated the spirit  
With a tart Balsme ferment doth inherit

6. Then in a glass these spirits firmly close  
Cover in Sand where flame goes round about  
Which in six days is White as any Rose  
Calcine and fixed is the Earth no doubt  
With a fourth part then of Spirit animate  
Let both a day by Balneo incorporate

7. In Ashes out a water weak distil  
Pour on more spirit doing as before

Until the fixed Salt retain his fill  
And that the Water loose his force no more  
Which weighing is increased full three fold  
And fixed then make volatile be bold.

8. This Matter then within his Limbeck close  
Receives his Sulphureous humidity  
Then for a day his Ashes repose  
After increase the fire warily  
For twenty hours that no fume appear  
But Crystal Pearl stick on the Glass most clear.

9. In Porphyry Morter beat this matter small  
Powder on that Sulphur which was last distilled  
Moderately feeding till imbibed it be all  
Which for four days in strong Athanor being boiled  
Is our great Lunary and Balsom radical  
Sulphur of nature and true Mercurial.

10. Dissolve this Sulphur philosophical  
In rectified Spirit taught before  
Close them in Pelican Hermetical  
To circulate that two they seem no more  
This our Azure water Celestial  
Dissolve Gold to last perpetual.

11. From Marian and Salt Nitre may distil  
By easy heat a Spirit Mercurial  
A Sulphureous Oil by stronger fire come will  
And fixed Salt of Salt Original  
By force of fire yet will beneath remain  
And thus three Salts extracted are from twain.

12. Which fixed Salt within his Limbeck lies  
Yield unto him Mercury again  
Two days digest extract the phlegm aside  
And volatile with fixed that will remain  
Treble the fixed that it flight may take  
Sublime thy Sal Armoniack them to make

13. Within this Limbeck close the cover sure  
Increase the heat after 3 hours space  
In highest degree let it stand 6 hours more  
Receive the flower of Salt come through the glass  
Whose orient colours no man well can know  
The fixed foeces Whiter lie than Snow.

14. Powder these Pearls and put on Sulphur Oil  
Which Liquor first let putrified be  
Then for a space together let them boil  
Till fixed melting like to wax you see  
This is the Soul or man the Spirit to join  
That from his body never more will twine.

15. Behold the earth with fatness doth abound  
By Virtue of Nitres two flying Spirits  
By sublimation falling on the ground  
The growing substance Quickening life inherits  
This is our Balsom and Fire Natural  
Nitre from Sulphur Armoniack Mercurial.

16. From Pitch lees sharp oil strong fire extract  
Let foeces dry with phlegm 3 fingers cover  
Six days in bath digest in water red, in act  
Have drawn the Tincture; put fresh, then cover,  
Digest, extract in all points as before  
Until the waters be coloured no more.

17. Calcine the Sulphur, fixed Salt to gain  
Which oft dissolve congeal with his own phlegm  
When Crystalline in show it doth remain  
Imbibe him with his Airy Spirit of phlegm  
The Watery substance then distil away  
The Volatile with fixed Salt may stay.

18. And when you shall exceed the same threefold  
By Fire sublime the foliate Earth to gain  
Clearer then Pearl and richer than fine Gold  
And yield to him his Sulphureous oil again  
Join 3 in one which is our Leaven Tree  
First branch whereof we call Antimony.

19. The balm of Gold his Mercury is such  
It purgeth men, the Sulphur of the same  
Will Silver Gold till trial of the touch  
Which put in fire yet will it take no flame  
Within the flowers doth the Salt abide  
Purging by vomit when it shall be tried.

20. The Mercury of this Antimony  
Devouring Luna may well be called  
Swallowing up Gold in his custody  
Killing the Quick, again of Life installed  
And this our Quicksilver is original  
Of crude Quicksilver and all Mineral.

21. The Radical moisture fountain clear  
Where Vulcan washed Venus at the sea  
So clear that no impure spot appear  
But shine as brightly by night as Sun by day  
This precious Liquor is so rare a thing  
Which health and wealth into our state will bring.

Another (3).

1. Of White and Red first was I bred, and Menstrue did me feed  
Now am but one much like a Stone, but am no Stone indeed.  
I lay like Slime shut for a time, heat changed my former shape,  
I was as fine as any twine when first in womb I lape.  
In darkness prest, I long did rest before I came to light,  
Then grew I big, as does the twig, with puissant strength and  
might.

2. Then mark me well, for down I fell, as each thing has his time  
Now cast away, as filthy clay, which was at first but slime.  
So loathsome sure, few will endure me in their hands to hold,  
But yet the wise, me not despise, they think me rich as Gold.  
Can you not tell then? Mark now well from whence I first was  
sought.

3. From Paradise so say the Wise, that Adam first me brought.  
Now where I dwell I shall you tell, and where you may me find,  
I am in thee that readest me, this note bear well in mind.  
With letters three you may name me, and in three me divide  
By fires might, which in your sight, these three are Quickly spied.

4. An Oil first mark, or Water dark, will seem as red as blood,  
A Salt will fly, and soar on high Quite separate from the flood  
These 3 in One, we call our Stone, our Chaos which doth hold  
As we do read, the perfect Seed of Silver and of Gold.  
You must divide and set aside the Earth from Water and Air,  
To dry the Mud by heat is good till then to touch forbear.  
The outward heat hath wrought this heat by help of inward fire,  
The which did fry to powder dry this muddy Earth our Mire  
On which you shall let Water fall and dry the same again,  
This as I say, is called our Clay and Water of the Mine,

This is our Toad which here is showed, that drinks the grapes so fast,

5. Until he swells, as Ripley tells, till all his bowels brast.  
Being of such might, he devouring as is said;  
For Waters all drink up he shall, which then is called our Lead  
Here naught I fain, but teacheth you plain the first work of the 3  
I show our Stone, to every one that will advised be.  
At the next birth, our foliate Earth, I purpose to declare,  
Until which time, I cease to Rhyme, and wish you to forbear.

#### Of True Principles .

1. Wise Geber, Hermes, Raymond and the rest  
Of grave Philosophers so darkly wrote  
To none but Sons, this Secret they exprest  
For Ignorants they understood it not,  
They want the Principles of Natures ground,  
For by expense this Art is never found.
2. In Vegetables and Animals of kind  
Which stranger be from Nature of Metal  
True Principles of this Art is hard to find  
Common Vitriol we do expell  
Sulphur nor Common Quicksilver we use  
For we from Metals do our subjects choose.
3. But he which hath a wit most natural  
A searching spirit into Natures ground  
And follows Nature in her actions all  
Not reading much which will the sense confound  
By his own reason he may well confine  
How Nature frames the Metal in the Mine.

4. Metal threefold within their roots we find  
Far off a mine and some more nearer be  
If thou canst wash the Sulphur and calcine  
With Salt and Vinegar orderly  
Knowing in Metal our Matter is contained  
Sulphur and Mercury is all Wise men meant.

5. Sulphur alone can never Metals make  
But if he joined be with his Argent-vive  
Congealation and Fixation will they take  
Preparing Sulphur thou shalt see believe  
That many skins above there shall appear  
Which in short time will grow dry, white and clear.

6. For engendring metal and Elixir eke,  
The Sulphur as the father it is  
The Mercury the Woman Menstrue like  
Art imitating Nature oft in this  
And in the Work doth Nature overcome  
There are our Principles both all and some

7. A double fume doth penetrate our Stone  
Wherein the Sulphur privily doth lurk  
And mix itself with Mercury alone  
And are decocted there by Natures Work  
Where she converts them to a Metal pure  
Learn Nature's Secret and then keep it sure.

8. When first the Vapours shall be lifted high  
And descend into an Earth Rose Red  
To common Quicksilver they turned shall be  
From imperfect Metals Vitriols are bred.  
The Sulphureous species prepared right  
Are turned to Mercury, Sol and Luna bright.

9. This is the Seed whence Metals do begin  
And of diversity of mine or place  
And of the Sulphur pure or not washt clean  
Are Metals altered, some fine some base,  
These accidents from radical Seed take  
And then thou mayst the true Elixir make

10. In Metalline bodys are Sulphurs twain  
And their Mercury by calcination  
Which was a Salt and to Salt is turned again  
Of a true Calx the kind and fashion  
Sulphur and Mercury give fixation  
Within the Earth by long Conversion.

11. Our Arsenick doth of these participate  
Wherefore Hermaphrodite we do it call  
But of itself no Metal may beget  
Our Tin and Lead are Salts etherial  
Mars and Venus two fumes from Sulphur rise  
This Water coagulates into a Species.

12. Tutia is a white fume of our Tin  
Giving a yellow colour to our Brass  
Vitriol hath a double fume within  
And Sulphur oftentimes is called Glass;  
But Sulphur and Mercury be fumes  
The which from Vitriol dissolved comes.

13. White fume a red within his belly bearing  
Hath no actual Nature of Element  
Called a Boar a Lion fierce and tearing  
Being indeed our true Quintessence  
The Copper Mine is Salt which Saturn call  
But Saturn is our Chaos holding all.



14. Perfect bodys dissolve into Water  
Are Sulphureous species clean prepared  
For fixed bodys are hard Salts in Nature  
Which we make flying and the flying fixed  
Again the manifest we hide from sight  
And which lay hid we bring again to Light.

15. From Foeces burnt our Mercury we draw  
Multiplication with which must be  
Mark well this Secret following Natures Law  
And many Wonders art thou like to see  
But first prepare then fix, last multiply,  
And these three orders follow warily.

16. Our Stone as King which in himself is rich  
Wants nothing which to it doth appertain  
Geber talks much of Marchasites by which  
Our Stone of Philosophers he doth mean  
Which we ELIXIR call, being Mineral  
And also Vegetable and Animal.

17. In this our Stone consisteth all our skill  
Useing a natural preparation  
In it is Gold and Silver to his fill  
Not common but Spiritual in action  
This Gold is Potable and Radical  
Humidity of Sulphur called the Soul.

18. Our Aquae Vitae from our Stone descends  
And many liquor we extract from thence,  
Among the which some wash and some do cleanse  
Some do congeal and some are a defence  
That fire do not vitrify our Stone  
And thus we make use of every one.

19. Black, blacker than black we do our Sulphur call  
When he grows black in calcination  
But divers colours before White do fall  
And then Citrine and lastly a Carnation  
It is Blackness doth endure forty days  
Fourty in Whiteness and 40 the Red wise.

20. Elixir doth itself coagulate  
Formed like an Egg but that his shell is tender  
From it take nought nor add to his Estate  
Break not the shell for loss of spirits tender  
But nourish it with heat till at the last  
Extracted Colours all be gone and past.

21. The Poets hid this Art in fables dark  
Under Hercules and Anthces Power  
Preparation of Sulphur how to work  
By Jupiter turned to a Golden Shower  
They teach the distillation of our Gold  
Which Wise Men for a Secret great did hold.

22. By Minerva armed we do understand  
That Water distilled, which Water of Sulphur is  
By Vulcan flowing Minerva armed  
Is Sulphur following the Water of his  
And is his Salt in putrifaction  
Which congeals all by fires action.

23. By Mars our Sulphur they do plainly show  
By Tin our Air, and oft our Earth they mean  
By the Phoenix which always doth receive we know  
Our Elixir how to multiply certain  
By Demergogous Tale we bring to life  
Which is the Secret that is not so rife.

24. Thus Poets all their works in fables fained  
Because the Art should never be attained.

A Brief Parabolical Description of the Stone.

Though Daphne fly from Phoebus bright, yet shall they both be one,  
And if you understand this right you have our hidden Stone.  
For Daphne she is fair and white but volatile is she.  
Phoebus a fixed God of might and Red as blood is he.  
Daphne is a Water Nymph and hath of moisture store,  
Which Phoebus doth consume with heat and dries her very sore.  
They being dryed into one, of Crystal flood must drink  
Till they be brought to a White Stone which wash with Virgins  
milk.  
So long until they flow as wax and no fume you can see,  
Then have you all you need to ask - praise God and thankful be.

Verum Verissimum .

The True Work.

Wise men will read seek and seek in this latter age  
But miss to find for which too sore they sought.  
Time, Goods, lost spent have put some in a rage  
To seek the Thing which will cost right nought  
A piece of Earth congealed by Natures might  
Much like a Stone, but is no stone in sight.

Prepare this substance to dissolve with fire  
From whence three things at once by heat will rise  
Of which three pints the Wise men did desire

To which they put a Salt congealed like ice  
And then these four things did distill again  
Whence Salt with Oil dissolved did rise with rain

Fire natural with Seed of Gold in Oil  
Remains below which we dry up to dust  
In our Athanor we continually boil  
Which dry Clay moisten often times we must  
For oft we grind, imbibe, bury and dry  
In which the Stone doth kindly putrify.

This Lead dissolve like butter somewhat soft,  
Dissolve in Balneo what will thence arise.  
Then fire of Sand will rise two fumes aloft  
A White, and Red, called Arsenick of the Wise.  
The Feaces black, calcine in fire you may  
Till they be White or else look somewhat Grey.

In thirteen weeks this Earth thou White shall see  
Wherein three parts of water knit shall be  
These fixed Bodies volatile shall be  
If this first Water on again you put  
To Cover it in a small quantity  
Digest in sand one night the head on shut.

In Balneo distil the water weak away  
But Volatile with fixed Salt will stay  
Continue this till Water loose his might  
And that the Earth increased be threefold,  
By heat sublime, comes Sal Armoniac bright  
More richer far than any Indian Gold.

This White leaved Earth, divide it into two  
And in one part the Soul again must grow  
This Soul is Arsenick which likewise divide  
From greatest part sever , the White from Red  
Into fixed Oils whith fire let them be fried  
Which are the Lights, true Leavens for our Bread.

For when the Soul and Body be made one  
These are the Lights which must ferment our Stone  
The foliate Earth which did behind remain  
Dissolve in bath and make our Virgin Milk  
The which must feed our Infant born again  
Till he be strong to wear a suit of silk.

Then with our Gold and Silver set in order  
Let him be guarded with an Orient border.

Carmina Lapidis.

Out of an Old Written Book .

The World is in a Maze and what you why  
Forsooth of late a great rich man did die  
And as he lay a dying on his bed  
These words in secret to his son he said  
My Son, Quoth he, 'tis good for thee I die  
For thou shall much the better be thereby  
And when thou seest life hath me bereft  
Take what thou findest and where I have it left  
Thou dost not know, nor what my riches be  
All which I will declare, give ear to me  
An Earth I had all venome to expell

And that I cast into a mighty well  
A Water eke to cleanse what was amiss  
I threw into the Earth and there it is  
My Silver all into the Sea I cast  
My Gold into Air and then at last  
Into the fire for fear it should be found  
I threw a Stone, worth forty thousand pound  
Which Stone was given me by a mighty King  
Who bade me wear it in a fair gold ring  
Quoth he, this Stone is by that Ring found out  
If wisely thou canst turn the ring about  
For every hoop contrary is to other  
Yet well agree and of the Stone is Mother  
And now my Son I will declare a Wonder  
That when I die this ring will break asunder  
The King said so but yet he said withall  
Although the Ring be broke in pieces small  
An easy fire shall soon it close again  
Who this can do he needs not work in vain  
Till this my hidden treasure be found out  
When I am dead my Spirit shall walk about  
And stay with him till you may riches have  
Make him to bring you fire from the Grave  
These words a worldly man did chance to hear  
Who daily watched the Spirit, but neer the neere  
And yet it met him and every one  
Yet tells him not where is this hidden Stone.

#### Microcosmus.

The adamical matter we may understand to be  
The pains of this most little World wherein we plainly see

All things that needful are and nothing overplus  
Our fiery Mercury it is by Art prepared thus  
The true Hermaphrodite Adam and the true little World  
The which among the Wisest men so highly is extold  
When Corporal Salt with Waters Quick our Spiritual Mercury  
And Sulphur animate be mixt and joined naturally  
Then Nature doth begin to work by her separating fire  
By which impure Sulphur is divided from the pure  
And Earth from Salt is separated likewise and Mercury  
From the faint Water of the Clouds as Nature can devise  
Again decoct these pure parts into a body pure  
In the which Soul and Spirit both are fixed firm and sure.  
This is the only milk and Stone which nourisheth our King  
From the which union again our Mercury doth spring  
Mercury Philosophical, not common of the mine  
But our accidental is, which will with bodys join  
For being fixed it father is of wonders great and small  
It is both body and spirit which we Magnesia call  
But our first composition of Earth parts and dry  
The body of Magnesia we call it certainly.  
But when Quicksilver we do join in bodys to congeal  
Magnesia we do call it, this rule may never fail  
Our Stone being raw we water call wherein contained is  
Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus our filth of Silver cleaned  
Which being in Quicksilver, Magnesia I do mean  
White Sulphur we do call it but being boiled red  
Is Gold, Correl, and Orpiment and Leaven for our bread  
Boil, grind and wash the body cleanse and make his hardness nesh  
His fiery Tincture hide which is his Soul and flesh  
Must in another spirit rest for it is life not dying  
Which to another body join and they will both be flying  
That is our Mercury sublimed of Air and fire Light  
United both in wedlocke band and made our Sulphur bright,

Mercury, Salt, Sulphur spring all from one rock and mine  
Fix Salt and Sulphur to congeal Mercury not to twine  
In them is such affinity in spermatting aright  
The Agent body Lune I mean and Mercury his Light  
Which patient is the nutriment which Menstrus we do call  
It is the Salt of Alembrott the which congealeth all  
And doth revive the dead from death into a lively Stone  
By means of Water 'tis born nurst by decoction  
The spirits they will neer dwell in bodys foul and hard  
Till they calcined to dust be with simple spirits prepared.

#### A. Problem.

Behold the thing which Quiets every mind  
Which many seek but very few can find  
Here view the dead where Nature can no more  
Work on her Corps as she hath done before  
The Last of birth is first of Joys: the Cause  
And first of Joys is last of Natures Laws  
When first and last by Art is wisely framed  
Then shalt thou see the Bear and Lyon tamed  
The flying Dragon and the Serpent lurking,  
In Waters wild shall close be set to working  
If this my verse be dark unto thy sight  
And then in scenes it nothing thee delight  
Then in good truth set all thy works apart  
And trouble not thyself with this our Art  
For if thou be but of a pregnant wit  
Thy humour right for that they plainly show  
The Mine where Gold and Silver both do grow  
And eke the way to work and bring to pass  
As Nature in the Mine, so in the Glass;



With Equal heat continuing to the End  
Thy Precious Stone with little charge to spend  
Much may be said but briefly to conclude  
They have much writ but only to delude.

### The Philosophers Brass.

Our Golden Tincture springs from bodys four  
Where Souls called Sulphurs lie hid with their Power  
First earthy bodies joined to our brass do call  
Our body of Magnesia name you shall  
But when the spirits be congealed with Clay  
And putrified Magnesia call you may  
But in the time of Putrification  
Call it you may the Philosophers Saturn  
When Quicksilver is in the body congealed  
By grinding washing and boiling is prevailed  
Then bodys soft pure and subtil are found  
Quicksilver burning bodys in one bound  
The Soul our Tincture is in other spirit hid  
And spirit to another body is wed  
Our fiery poison bringing this to pass  
Being decocted long within our glass  
Till bodys be like butter or like brain  
Or that the spirit will ascend again  
With gentle fire then sublime the Soul  
Which will ascend from the dregs corporeal  
By Art make part of this Quicksilver red,  
Divide in two parts to stand thee in stead,  
Mix one part with those things due of our brass  
Dissolve congeal them all within the glass  
The second part is food to feed this youth

At 7 times we give it meat for truth  
Two parts of brass in tables beaten small  
Full seven parts of venom add you shall  
This Sea Water with very gentle fire  
Dissolve the bodys to our own desire.  
But when you see that blackness shall appear  
The bodys then be molten without fear  
In which Sea water boiling forty days  
A Flower of White Salt to the top will rise  
Most shineing white to sight it well appear  
Congealed by heat our white Stone called Air  
If one of three parts Water you congeal  
And keep two parts of Water you do well  
This foresaid Compound being white and dry  
By strong fire it into ashes fry  
Which then will shine like ashes somewhat green  
Seven times dissolve it and congeal again  
With Mercury reserved before  
And to this I need not to write more.

#### Heaven of the Philosophers.

Our Heaven yeildeth to each growing thing  
Both moisture, dryness, heat and chilling cold  
For that our Stars such influence forth do bring  
Saturn and Luna, cold and moist spirits hold,  
But Sol and Mars have spirits hot and dry  
Jovalls hot and moist these bear rule on high

Our fixed Salt which is our heavens ground  
Whose Diamond circles glistening from the sky  
Are shinning fires and burning Comets round

From Sulphureous Substance which flame and fry  
Which in Mercurial Spirits shine so clear  
Proceeding from the Substance of the Air.

Sulphur in flame, and Mercury in wind  
Earth volatile gives Air taste sharp and sour  
Which Sulphur Salt and Mercury we find  
From whence the Air her influence doth pour  
Within the Thunderbolt is Salt full fixed  
Thus, in the Air all three be duly mixed.

From crystal clouds of Heaven doth descend  
A water weak, from water doth distil  
A subtil Air, Mercurial Liquors send  
The Waters gross which Sulphureous parts did fill  
Our penetrating Air more gross of spirit  
Then do our Earthly Mercuries Inherit

The Elemental bodies visible  
Appear in two, one moist the other dry  
A Sandy Earth, deprived of taste or smell  
Unsavory phlegm from whence Quick spirits fly  
There two, the passibe having lost the strength  
And so is Air deprived of force at length

The Elements their active Qualities  
To Mercury Salt and Sulphur do pertain  
The passibe to their bodies in likewise  
And so Salt Sulphur and Mercury do remain  
Which by an Oil are joined all in one  
And Water, Air and Earth by Water alone

Thus by a mean we see a Conjunction made  
As Sand and Water by a fatty Lime  
Thus makes the Dauber Mortar by his Trade  
So Air and Earth by Water well do join  
And fire extracted as from other three  
Quickening the Principals when one there be

A fourth Essence this Air, fire we call  
From form and Matter of ye Elements three  
Which is the Soul that animated all  
The bodies of our Principles that be  
Colours to forms belong this Spirit and Soul  
And Elements clean unto Matter corporal.

#### The Proportions.

On fixed bodies fix our Sulphurs twaine  
But first prepare our ferments pure and thin  
To nourish youth by Quick coroesion  
And to his Nature bring the Sulphur in.  
This Sulphur Enters Nature by a mean  
Of his own Water which it doth retain.

So in Waters dissolve our Sulphur first  
That into bodies it may better mix  
Then into ferment thrice dissolve to dust  
And by often iteration will our Sulphur fix  
Boil Air and Mercury not fixed thereon  
That both may take a fit impression.

Let ferment white three times his Sulphur bear  
And Earth must equal Air and Water or more  
As two of Water one and half of Air  
And three and half of Earth or less then four.  
Fix Water on Earth and Air on Water  
Then shalt thou have a perfect Matter.

But to thy Gold let Earth two parts suffice  
Of Water three as much of Air do take  
One part and half of fire if thou be wise  
Let weight of Fire half the Water make  
If Colour want add Medicine as before  
If too much Colour then put Matter more.

Grind three parts Silver with Mercury six  
One part white Sulphur with his Water  
With one part more Water likewise let him mix  
Then with strong fire sublime both anon  
And that which on the Vessel clear shall shine  
With his own Water pour on dregs of Wine.

Grind seeth and roast till pap it be mixed  
Again sublime it doing as before  
Reiterate this work till Earth be fixed  
With twice his weight of Water and no more,  
Then in like sort by drops with Air it feed  
With gentle fire when it shall need

And in this sort fix all this Air you may  
Both day and night with fire then strong it bake  
Let fire increase the second night and day  
But in the third the stronger fire make  
Tis substance feed upon a vehement fire  
Till like to wax it melt to your desire.

A Declaration of the First Matter with the Order of the Work, the  
Name of the Author and His Profession.

Even as the rocks which bind thy solid Earth,  
Doth Microcosme in it self contain  
Worlds coin the lees which bringeth forth a birth,  
Adamical Matter foul and unclean  
Rectify this as Nature doth us guide  
Distil, Calcine and Earth from Air divide.

Nesh oft thy womb with oil, water and air,  
Oft dry and grind till Earth have drunk up all,  
Which done dissolve again this Earth to clear  
Even as before distil that which will fall,  
Let faeces black calcined be by fire,  
Like to burnt Salt but in colour somewhat higher.

Or cover this with his first water bright  
Four fingers over place it then in sand  
Distil again till water loose his might  
And be as faint as water of the Land  
And this continue till increase you again  
Fourfold at least and then sublime again.

Then foliate Earth which is our fire will rise  
Over the head and hang as white as snow  
Receive this flower thats honoured of the Wise  
Dissolve with milk and let the Infant grow  
Except one part of this be made a Child  
Your labours lost and you yourself beguiled.

Return the Soul and Spirit to body dead  
Earth or Ashes which we had did rest  
Nurse well this Infant being newly bred  
Milk let him have from his own Mothers breast  
Until such time he strongly may endure  
New food to eat his courage to procure.

Good gentle reader understand my Trade  
Iron indeed the basest Metal is  
Rest thee content though Gold I never made  
By gains of Metal all my Living is  
And credit me if that thou be of skill  
Thou wilt in love requite my great good will.

To The Deriders Of Alchemy.

What follows oft consist in Learned Men,  
Whose Quick invention shewed by their pen  
Can write a tragick story or devise  
Some commick toy to please the viewers eyes,  
But missed to see how blinded some be still  
To write against Arts wherein they have no skill  
And often times to please both fools and sage,  
Will cause their work (to) be acted on a stage  
This bringeth gain into the poets purse  
The fox fares best when most men do him curse  
And when he can not well obtain his prey  
He discommends the thing as many say  
To such as write against this Art Divine  
Not knowing ought thereof do grudge and pine  
But if such Quick conceits should change their stile  
And know wherein the Wise did them beguile

Where in their books their writing they obscure  
With offers great the simple to allure  
For that such readers wanting Art or skill  
Break pot and glass, use bellows Coal and Still  
Sow Gold and Silver multiply with brass  
And in the End can nothing bring to pass,  
Threadbare their cloaths their Members out of frame  
Abuse the Art, not knowing ought the same  
Such workmen Chaucer in his tale doth flout  
But the true Art commendeth without doubt,  
And so would all our poets if they knew  
The mine wherein our Seed of Gold doth grow  
What do they think themselves to be more wise  
Than Hermes, Arnold, Bacon and the rest  
Who by their writings had this Art exprest,  
But yet so darkly writ that few or none  
Can know or find the meaning of our Stone  
Such as know naught and nothing seek to find  
Their writings vain and they themselves as blind  
Blind in this Art, I say, though Eye sight clear  
And Quick their wits as by their works appear  
Yet let them write naught against but what they know  
And for the same can a good reason show  
True Alchemist though few such sure therebe  
Do know full well with what Art doth agree  
They seek the thing Nature did work and frame  
And having ended she did cast away the same  
It had a time, the which time did expire  
And his new birth began by force of fire  
And every one who doth not know his price  
Esteem it not but yet the Learned wise  
Account thereof as the only thing on Earth  
That liveing dies and hath a second birth.



Hard as a Stone but once was soft and tender  
Small as a hair white pure and as tender.  
Now like an Egg in Nature not in show  
By fire from thence will divers Liquors flow  
Earth White and Red our Chaos doth infold  
Which we concoct and bring to seed of Gold  
Which seed we Mercury and Sulphur call  
From whence all Metals spring both great and small  
Not common brimstone or Quicksilver crude  
But foliate Earth and Arsenick to conclude,  
Of which by long concoction we do frame  
A Powder Red which Elixir name  
Aurum Potabile we do it call  
When into oil it is dissolved all  
But to divide our Chaos in his kind  
In Genesis or Esdras you shall find  
Water and Air from Earth God first did take  
Then muddy Earth with fire did dry and bake  
Within which Earth all treasures hid do lie  
But Air as Wind about the Earth did fly  
Unto the which I fittly may compare  
The scoffs of such as here mentioned are.

Finis Per Edward Nowell .