



Lecture 07 Prima - herbal stones - brief

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While I have a bit of time on my side this evening I thought I would round off the subject of the herbal tincture with a few words about herbal stones.

I am not going to say much about this subject because I have never spent much time investigating it experimentally. A lot of tripe is bandied about concerning vegetable stones making the subject confused. Effective experiment (on the conventional approach to this particular process) often requires way more investment in time and equipment than the subject (in its present state) deserves ... IMHO.

Firstly, a definition for 'vegetable stone'. (1) A vegetable stone can be solid or liquid. (2) A vegetable stone is produced by artificially manipulating the proportions of sal salis, sal sulphurus and mercury that are cohobated at the end of the spagyric process. This means that unlike the standard technique for a herbal tincture, which often ends up with a huge quantity of alcohol-compared-to-salts, ratio, the dry stone has more salts (enough to produce a solid end product) and a wet stone has enough salt-to-liquid ratio to produce what might be called a liquid crystal. A saline solution-solvent. (3) A herbal stone is considered the highest entity of the alchemical herbal pharmacopea. The possessor of such a working stone (which s/he has confected her/himself) is said to be considered a master of the herbal kingdom.

The concept of the vegetable stone is such that it is said that if you macerate a plant in the liquid version, the solvent-stone will extract the 'magistry' (alchemical healing properties) from the herb, causing them to float on the solvent's surface. In this way the same product that you would expect from the spagyric herbal tincture process can be faithfully effected in a few minutes (as opposed to week by the long-usual method.)

While this concept is certainly an ideal fact, attaining this result (by conventional means) is in reality much more difficult than it is often suggested

it should be.

The solid (dry) vegetable stone, likewise, has its own difficulties, and I have only ever seen one (and heard of or seen no other) successful attempt at this product. Like the wet stone, a properly confected dry stone can be hung in water that contains a herb and the power of the stone will cause the proto-quintessence of the herb to be extracted and float aloft, on the surface of the water, in a few minutes.

(Note: if anyone wants me to go to the effort of explaining the method of making such a stone say so and I will devote a post to it, or answer any questions.)

Of equal (and I believe more economical) interest to the conventional herbal stone is the process which has been crudely and generally referred to as the 'volatization of tartar' (potassium carbonate) process. Potassium carbonate is chemically difficult to volatize (to cause to be sublimated or distilled and thereby purified of all its earthy corruption.) But alchemists have known for 100's of years (if not 1000s) a very simple way of effecting this important volatization.

Descriptions of this technique can be found here ...

http://www.terravista.pt/mussulo/2005/ps_e.htm

and here ...

http://www.levity.com/alchemy/steve_kalec.html

The importance of this process lies in the fact that because the potassium carbonate is volatized, the final cohobation (integration of principals) happens much faster. Also, it will be understood, that it is an excellent method of producing a good quantity of volatized salt - and quantity of salt is important from a wet or dry stone. This path to a herbal stone is by far (IMO) more economical and successful than the more conventional methods taught which have (generally) sprung from Fra.Albertus' teachings.

(Note: anyone who wants to know more about this method just ask, and I will answer what questions I can.)

Of much more interest, though, is another preparation which deserves to be put in the same class as the conventional herbal stones and the volatization of tartar, in that it is, like these other works, the summit of the herbal work. This other process is commonly known as the 'Primum Ens Melissa' (the first being or entity of the herb melissa officinalis -

lemon balm.)

This particular work is the subject of my last post on the prima (herbal work), to follow.

For now I will gtake a break and wait for any questions or queries on the material presented to this point.

~rubaphilos

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