

The **SECRET FIRE** of the **PHILOSOPHERS**

No Author or Date

This, as it is the highest Mystery of Nature, so it is the greatest Secret of the Philosophers: The fire of the peripateticks is dry; but that of the hermetic philosophers is moist.

The common people calcine and burn with a culinary fire, we with a clean and Chrystalline Liquor; for our fire is a sulphurous Water, and the Spiritual Seed of Sulphur, which is our Mercury: So with the mercurial moistness is the Matter of our fire. As the kindled oil in the lamp is the matter of the Light, and by such a matter is augmented.

Nothing is so dark and obscure as the fire, and nothing is more occult than the manner of odering and governing it.

Pontanus after he knew the true matter (as himself confesses) erred above 200 times, before he could perfect the work, because he knew not this fire.

The knowledge of it is so necessary, that when on a time, a Society of the Sons of Art met together on purpose to debate on the Great Work so that they should manifest not every one knew of it.

After various opinions were brought forth and conversed among them; the Youngest of the Company being asked what he knew of that Mystery, answered That he understood the fire and its Regiment, whereupon all rose up and gave him the Pre-eminency, as the Chief Master of this secret, for he can easily perform all things who knows it, and without its knowledge nothing can be performed. Which seeing it is so, you may reply to me, that I have given you no satisfaction in any wise, which hitherto I have written to you.



Yet my dear friend, the things which I have said, do greatly conduce to your desired end, for whosoever is well furnished in other things, and hitherto instructed, is well adapted for the finding out of this secret fire, which he will probably obtain, if only he continues his Inquisition, & God Vouchsafe to bless him.

I must confess that hitherto I have wrote to little purpose, unless you seem to have known the things before, however it will be a great comfort to you, that what I have written may confirm your opinions, and beget a confidence in you how more like a philosopher, than a parrot you have written, and therefore they cannot but be an incitement to promote your beginnings and progress, to which I heartily wish a most happy event; because I suppose you to be a man very fit to be made an adept. And I seriously propose, had I been so fortunate to have had the liberty granted me by my patron, which many Adepts have. I would have opened to you the whole Secret.

But my good friend, let me use that Liberty of speech as to say; that if without the tremendous Anathema of the philosophers, I might open to you the Great Arcanum viz. their secret fire, I do a little doubt whether by this means I might be an instrument of greater felicity, to you.

It is worthy to be noted that sentence of a Chief Father of the Church, God, in Mercy, denied many things which he grants in his Anger; for very many gifts of the Infinite Diety, are made rather punishments than benefits.

My most worthy friend, I heartily pray that if you go about the Great Work, and finish it; this may not be prophetic of you, the circumstances considered which accompany you, therefore I would that when soever God shall make the matter of the Hermetick Wisdom, you would employ it about Medicine and Philosophy; but not making of Gold. FINIS.