

True Alchemy

Alchemy is a philosophy, and a spiritual way of life which seeks to achieve ultimate wisdom and immortality by the adherent. In ancient times, Egyptians held the reputation of being skillful workers in metals, and, according to Greek writers, they were familiar with the process of transmutation by learning how to separate gold and silver from the native matrix. The result was said to possess amazing powers associated with the underworld god Osiris who was credited with having magical properties. This is the scenario which gave way to the belief that magical powers existed in fluxes and alloys. There is very little doubt however, that Egyptian custom was the groundwork upon which the art of Alchemy was built.

Essentially, Alchemy was known as the Art of Transmutation and the intended purpose was the transmutation of common metals into gold or silver. However, on a more esoteric level, it was actually practiced in hopes of creating a "*panacea*," or a universal remedy that would cure all diseases and prolong life indefinitely. Although this was not the only use for this discipline, it was the one most widely accepted or documented.

In Hermeticism, the transmutation of lead into gold is actually a metaphor for the transmutation of the physical body. In looking at Alchemy as a spiritual discipline, the metaphysical aspects were actually the true basis of the art. Organic and inorganic chemical substances, physical states, and molecular material processes were all simply metaphors for spiritual entities, spiritual states, and, ultimately, transformations. Theoretically speaking, the transmutation of metals can also be thought of as a symbol of the change of the self to a state of higher consciousness and the discovery of the elixir as an extension of eternal life. However; the exact meaning of Alchemical Formulas and their true spiritual philosophies were concealed due to their conflict with the Christian Church and the threat of heresy. Even though the bible itself can be considered to be alchemical in nature if we look at the book of Exodus, where Moses grinds up the golden calf and gives it to the children of Israel to drink. Also, it was believed that the knowledge Moses received from the Egyptian priests, reflected what many thought to be an ancient, pure wisdom that had been corrupted over time but could be rediscovered.

Subsequently, Alchemy is both a symbolic practice, as well as the technical research into the nature of matter, and an imaginary exercise on the spirit of matter and its overall potential for change. While some Alchemists were driven by technological traditions, others were inspired by a more spiritual approach; this was based in large part on the discovery of some ancient texts presumably belonging to the Hermes. This particular school of thought came to be known as *Renaissance Hermeticism*, whereby the celestial bodies were often observed through the intervention of a cosmic spirit or the link between God and physical matter. Their belief hypothesized that celestial qualities permeate everything in existence, and these Alchemists sought to extract such powers solely for the purpose of making useful medicines.

In Alchemy, nature is divided into four aspects: the dry, the moist, the warm and the cold, and all things in existence are derived from some aspect of these four parts. It is an original energy that was separated in space-time into distinct physical elements which were separated into four directions. It is perceived as transmutable through shared qualities or associations all of which could one day be reunited into a unified whole. Alchemy also considers nature to be divisible into two primary components; the male and the

female and that nature is the divine breath, the central fire, invisible yet ever active. As such; the Alchemist has to be ever patient in following nature in its alchemical performance. They must also understand that like attracts like, and know how to obtain the nature of metals, which was produced by the four elements through the will of the Universal Intelligence and the imagination of nature. But we have to be very careful when utilizing such terms as they can easily be misinterpreted by someone that is not trained in the way of the Alchemist thus taking these to be literal references as opposed to the metaphysical nature offered by spirituality.

The practice of Alchemy somehow changes the mind and spirit of the Alchemist. Understandably, this causes a transmutation in consciousness. The art of transmutation is nothing more than finding the Philosopher's Stone within the inner workings of spirit and thus seeking to change the molecular structure of thought energy. We are all Alchemist in the sense that each and every day of our lives we seek to change that in which we're displeased into something more appealing. We rearrange some things here-and-there just as if we were engaged in a chemical process. We use the elixir of thought vibration to literally rearrange the chemical structure within our bodies. This elixir of positive vibrations permeates every cell of our being thus bringing about a transfiguration. What was once lacking in value such as lead now becomes gold and much like the Sheppard boy in the famous story written by Paulo Coelho in *The Alchemist*, we are each seeking to find our hidden treasure by pursuing our own personal legend.

Alchemy in its truest sense is nothing more than coming into your own personal greatness. You will find that the language of the Alchemist is about learning to communicate with the Soul of the World through signs, omens and by simply listening to your heart's desires because it is in that yearning that you become nearer to your true power. In doing so, you come to know your own soul which is actually the Soul of God. Throughout your transformation, you will gradually start to notice that all things change and they are continuously changing or being transformed into something different and perhaps even better than they were prior. Symbolically, gold has evolved beyond any other metals thus far making it the example of your own evolutionary goals as a spiritual being. It's no secret that if you subject metal to extreme temperatures that it's just a matter of time before it begins to free itself of any impurities leaving only the purest nature of itself. So too is it with you and I. Therefore, ridding yourself of any impurities is your own "Master Work" where you are able to discover for yourself what the true elixir of life is thus transforming you into the true Philosopher's Stone.

