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## **The marrow of alchemy : being an experimental treatise, discovering the secret and most hidden mystery of the philosophers elixir : divided into two parts, the first containing four books chiefly illu...**

Philalethes, Eirenaeus

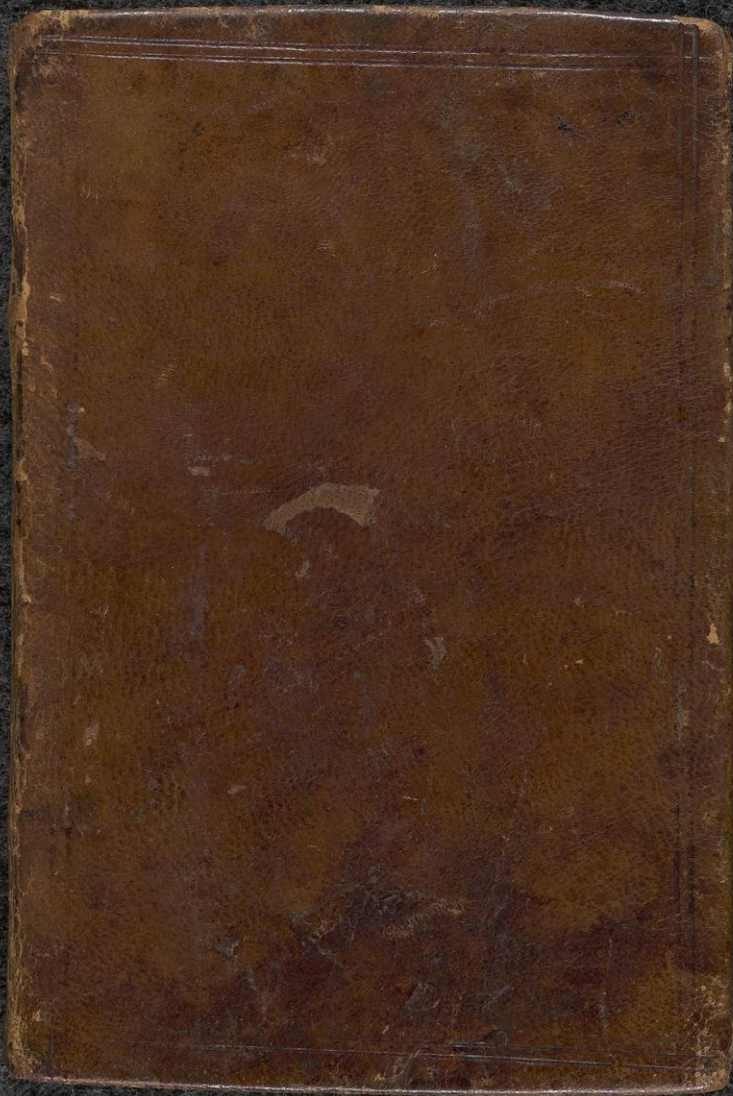
London: Printed by A[braham]. M[iller]. for Edw. Brewster at the signe of the Crane in Pauls Church-yard, 1654

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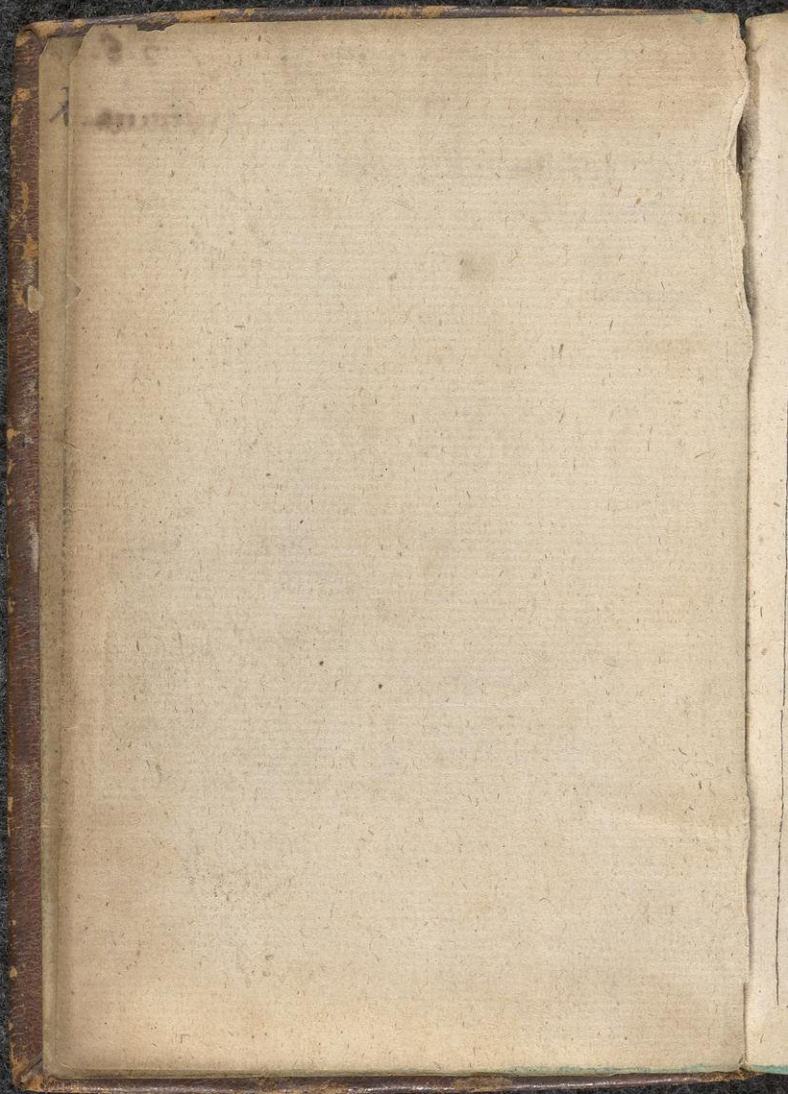
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The Marrow  
O F  
ALCHEMY,  
Being an  
Experimental Treatise,  
Discovering  
The secret and most hidden Mystery  
OF THE  
Philosophers Elixer.

Divided into two Parts :

The first Containing Four Books chiefly  
Illustrating the Theory.

The other Containing Three Books, Eluci-  
dating the Practique of the Art :

In which,

The Art is so plainly disclosed as never any before  
did for the benefit of young Practitioners,

And the convincing those who are in Errours Labyrinth.

---

By *Eireneus Philoponos Philalethes.*

---

L O N D O N,

Printed by A. M. for Edw. Brewster at the Signe  
of the Crane in Pauls Church-yard 1654.







To the  
 Courteous and Studious  
 R E A D E R.

Courteous Reader,



That moved me to put to publike  
 View these hidden curiosities of  
 Nature, I shall inform thee  
 briefly, and in it shall give thee  
 an account partly of the Au-  
 thour and partly of my self: For the Au-  
 thour he was an eye-witnesse of the great se-  
 cret, as he doth testifie of himself; nor that  
 only, but had by gift a portion of that pre-  
 cious Jewell so sought for by many but  
 found of few: Which portion although he  
 did for the most part lose it in hopes of mul-  
 tiplication of it (which he could not attain,  
 being of the white not the Red powder) yet

A 2

by

by diligent search and industry he attained  
the preparation of the *Philosophers Mercury*,  
and by it to the preparation of the *Elixer* of  
the first order, which is indeed but of small  
vertue compared to what it may be advanced to;  
This although it be but small profit;  
Yet is it an infinite satisfaction to a Sonne of  
Art, to see a Medicine which will tinge  
or any imperfect mettall into a although  
not exceeding the proportion of one upon  
an hundred: For my own part, I am one  
who have for many years been one of *Gebers*  
Cooks, roasting my thrift in vain, until it was  
my good fortune to be acquainted with this  
Authour, who demonstratively convinced  
me of my former errors, and set me in a  
right path. I found I say the errors I had  
been in in relying upon the Books of those  
who wrote their bare thoughts, without  
experience, or else were envious and wrote  
knottily on purpose to entangle the unwary.  
He shewed me several Tr. States written by  
him who gave him the powder, hitherto never  
published; Of which the Names were,  
*Ars metallorum Metamorphoseos, Introitus a-*  
*pertus ad occlusum Regis palatium, Brevis*

manus-



*manuductus ad Rubinum Caelestem, Fons Chemicæ Philosophiæ, Opus Elixeris Aurifici & Argentifici, Brevis via ad vitam longam, with a large Comment upon Ripley his twelve gates, and the Epistle to King Edward; Also a Commentary on Arnalds Ultimū Testamentum, and lastly his Cabala Sapientum, or An Exposition of the Hieroglyphicks of the Magi: These Books I confesse of all that ever I read or had seen were the fullest, plainest, and most perspicuous; With much adoe I obtained Copies of them, but no commission to shew them to any body: I asked this my Friend why he did not cast in his Calculus into the Treasury of Philosophers, especially seeing he had been so farre successfull, he told me that indeed till he had accomplished the perfection of the Red, which he hitherto had not, he was unwilling to write: I told him of the Authour of the Rosary who wrote that excellent Book, and yet saith, *Hac ego vidi in diebus nostris usque ad Leonem, Descripsi autem ad complementum licet non viderim*, at last he was perswaded by me to write this Treatise, which he performed in seaven Books, and another in Latine, entituled,*



1  
*Breve manudactorium ad Campum Sophia*,  
which concerns chiefly *Paracelsus liquor*  
*Alchabest*, in which he clearly, plainly,  
and fully shews the difference between it  
and the Mercury of the Philosophers: And  
lastly, a Treatise called *Elenchus errorum*  
*in Arte Chemicâ deviantium*, which indeed  
is so plain, so full, and so convincing a  
Book, that more cannot be desired: By  
these and the fore-mentioned Books, I soon  
attained the mystery of the Mercury, and  
by it the first Whitenesse, and hope ere  
long to see the Rednesse, in which the Au-  
thour would not instruct me, being by  
Solemn Vow obliged to the contrary, nei-  
ther to effect it himself, nor teach others  
for such a number of years, on which  
Condition he received that from a Ma-  
ster, which (having the Mercury) he  
might else have received from God by in-  
dustry; At last I had liberty of him to  
communicate these Manuscripts with some  
Friends, whom I heartily pitied, to see in  
what a state they were ~~they were~~ through  
the misleading of divers Sophisticall Au-  
thours and Receipts, who coveting the  
Copies

Copies, did so wearily entreat me, that from the time I first began to communicate them, I could never keep them at home; whereupon partly, and partly by the earnest perswasion of such who wanted *Ariadnes* threed in the Labyrinth of Alchemy, but chiefly aiming at the glory of God in it, I did by much entreaty at last prevail with my Friend, from whom I had them (if I would) to make them publike, that others (whom God hath elected to so great a mercy) may reap the fruit by them that I cannot but with much thankfulnessse to God acknowledge my self to have received, who have at least seen an ocular demonstration of the truth in my own work (although I have not yet perfected the mastery) which will recompence my pains, travell, and charge in search, as the first doth satisfie my minde and judgement; For verily my work did not exceed the vertue of one upon 36. which advising with my Friend I had a satisfactory Reason, namely, that the white being not the utmost period, the work in the fire will move beyond it, and it is not easie to discern (but by long and oft



experience) when it is come just to the height of the whitenesse, for before it comes to that passe it will look very glorious, that a man would say, this is the highest white, and yet it is not; so that if taken a little too soon, or let stand a little too long, it doth not tinge what it would do if taken just in time. It would require a large Treatise to tell you what scruples have caused me to stumble between the white and the red now twice, which I hope in not many trials to amend; but in a word, it is my error in Imbibition, Cibation, and Fermentation, in which my Friend will not help me, but hath rather put me out, which I confide he doth, not for envy, but in scruple of his Vow, for my success should be equal to his if he should effect it himself, yet he tels me, that he doth truly instruct me (*per ambages*) which *ambages* I not understanding have twice concluded wrong to the *non-plus* of my skill and ruine of my work. I might here make a large discourse of the *Adepti* and their *Elias*, but shall refer the Raader to the Treatises fore-mentioned, being unwilling my self to fly to writing before my wings be fledged with more experience.

These




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These Treatises, Reader, thou shalt have in order, I began with this first, of which I wold only send out the first part at present, that Artists may *Ex Ungue Leonem*. The second part is wholly practical, which I keep by me till I see how the first will be accepted; If it be as courteously accepted as it was candidly pend, expect the others shortly. And I am solliciting for an *Elenchus Autorum potissimorum in Arte Chemica*, with a *Clavis Chemica* to open their Cabinets, that so Students may have a censure of the true and more perspicuous Authors from a Sonne of Art, and so need not reade in their *Tyrocinij* such Labyrinthian Authors who either through gross ignorance or pure envy misleade the unwary. Farewel, and if thou get good by these lines, let him have thy well-wishes in his operations, who is so studious to serve thee in thine,

*Anonymus Philochemicus,*

*Anagrammatizomenos,*

*Egregius Christo.*



## Programma.

**I**Nveni, accepi, purgavi, pondere justo  
Composui, inclusi fatum, debitoque calore  
Fovi, Expectavi, signa hacque in tempore vidi.  
Mox amplexa virum mulier, sua membra repenti  
Ictu disjunctis, sic sunt facta omnia pulvis.  
Obscuro tinctus sua membra dirempta calore  
Turgidus Exudat, volitatque per Aëra fumus.  
Qui Condensatus generat nigredine Corvum.  
Sæpe fluit liquidus, nec non durescit, & omnes  
Induit in toto quot quot sunt orbe colores  
Hunc putrem aspersi Lymphato rore, lavando,  
Dum color albescentis visus magis Ense coruscans.  
Canduit ad vices septem, lapis hic Paradysi,  
In Lunam tingens impurius omne metallum.  
Non tamen hic finis non hac mea meta laborum :  
Invictus pergo, debitum retinendo Calorem.  
Sanguineus quoadusque color, cum Sole metalla  
Infima sex æquans, vera hæc tinctura Sophorum.


Soli Deo Gloria.

The



# The Introduction.

## The First Book.

1  *Alas* I here invoke thee to my aid,  
To leade in lofty strains my Rustick  
Quill;  
Nymphs of the Muses, let it now be  
said,

That to your Lovers you repay good will,  
Assist me jointly *Phœbus* with thy raies,  
Appear now as thou didst in *Hermes* daies.

2 Thou also who by hidden Centrall heat,  
Dost in the Earth metalline bodies bake  
By long decoction, Thou who hast thy Seat  
In Kingdomes three, do thou likewise awake:  
Gentle *Minerva*, do not now disdain,  
To me thy secret workings to explain.

3 There is a substance Homogeneall,  
Which object lies unto the vulgar view,  
Whence are produced bodies minerall,  
For it of them is th'only matter true;  
This substance altred is by long dgestion,  
To sundry kinds which differ in perfection.

4 Likewise



4 Likewise an art there is which most admire,  
 But few beleewe, he's rare who doth it know,  
 That fixeth mettals which would fly the fire,  
 And makes them to abide all blasts that blow;  
 This transmutation is (as Sages told)  
 Of five to silver, six to perfect Gold.

5 It is a wonder that of Copper base,  
 Tin, Lead, or Iron, should by Art be made,  
 (In shorter time then half an hours space)  
 Most perfect silver which will never fade;  
 Such is the vertue of this stone divine,  
 Nor only this, but to make gold most fine.

6 I doubt not but you gladly news would hear  
 Of this rare Art, whose vertue is so strange,  
 Yet may not every one to whom 'tisdear  
 This Science reach, and able be to change  
 Imperfect mettals from state of Corruption,  
 And free the sick from danger of destruction.

7 Since then all to this Art have not a right,  
 But such alone whom God above doth choose  
 Are heirs thereto, the rest for want of light  
 May grope so long themselves until they lose,  
 Therefore most learned men this Art deride,  
 And all its searchers they severely chide.

8 Yet know for all that it is surely true,  
 Its principles on Nature do depend,

Yea though its Carpers many be, and few  
 Are found who dare stand up it to defend ;  
 This Science ne'rethelesse shall still remain  
 Immoveable, which no reproach can stain.

9 What though some varlets of this Art do boast,  
 Who know therein no more then doth an Ape ?  
 They swear, they swagger, as they rul'd the roast,  
 Alluring such who after wealth do gape,  
 To trust their oaths and lies, and to disburse  
 Upon their skill what ere they have in purse.

10 And when from them their moneys they have  
 In fine it proves their Art is but a cheat, (got,  
 For what they vaunted, wretches ! they have not,  
 Their Skill is founded upon errors Seat ;  
 Then are their greedy Creditors asham'd,  
 And curse their craft, yet both are to be blam'd.

11 The one, sith what they know not they pretend,  
 And so deceive the hasty credulous ;  
 The other who so ready is to spend  
 His goods upon pretences fabulous :  
 Let all beware henceforth lest that they rush  
 To lose a bird in hand for two i'th bush.

12 But yet for all this may we not conclude,  
 Because of false men that the Art is not ;  
 Though Lawyers do their Clients oft delude,  
 The Law is just and free from stain or blot ;

So



So is this Science, let the offenders bear  
Deserved blame, the Art it self is clear.

13 First then I shall by Reasons very plain,  
And also by examples make appear,  
Against opposers who this skill disdain,  
That it on nature grounded is, no fear:  
When this is prov'd the hardest work is done,  
The means it to attain you'l finde anon.

14 Fie on such Judges rash who will condemn  
That which they know not, nor yet can discern;  
Shall colours censur'd be by sightlesse men?  
Or those of learning judge who ne're did learn?  
'Tis true, still was, and ever will be found,  
Save fools, Art hath no foes upon the ground.

15 We say then and affirm, that Alchemy,  
Its Basis hath so near on Nature laid,  
That it is not the proudest Enemy,  
Of its defence shall make me once afraid:  
And ere I leave I'll make it evident,  
To men of Reason by sound Argument.

16 And first it's no small evidence to us,  
That many witnesses of it are found,  
Of credit good, who if it were not thus,  
Must all b'adjudged false, nor is it sound  
To censure those who have the Art affirm'd,  
As false, that so they may be juglers term'd.



17 For by this rule there is not any thing  
 May Credence gain but what our selves do know,  
 This would the world into confusion bring,  
 From such a root in consequence would grow :  
 They who so hard are to beleeeve would think  
 Full ill, if they of the same cup should drink.

18 Methinks if I a thing affirm'd should reade  
 Or hear from one, against whom there doth lie  
 No just exception, 'twere a shameful deed,  
 To tax the truth of what I hear, for why ?  
 If I would credit finde, should I not trust ?  
 Do as thou wouldst be done by, this is just.

19 But more then this, we have not only here  
 Two or three Witnesses and blamelesse men,  
 As to the point which makes ones word to bear  
 Weight of belief, but also from the pen  
 Of many hundreds is the thing affirm'd,  
 And daily is by many more confirm'd.

20 All Ages, Countreys, Nations eke afford  
 Us store of testimonies, men of worth  
 For skill and learning, so that their bare word  
 Might seem enough this truth for to hold forth.  
 But yet besides with solemn vows they have  
 Asserted it when going to the grave.

21 So that the Word and Oath of honest men  
 And such who have been noble for renown,

Whilst

Whil't living, yea, and after, even then,  
 When to the earth they were just going down;  
 If it prove nothing I am much forgot,  
 A true mans dying words are doubted not.

22 For can we dream such persons as they were,  
 Who with most sacred Protestations did  
 This Art affirm, so great a blot would bear  
 For ever, as to be when death had hid  
 Their eyes, reputed for deceitful men,  
 Beguiling honest Students with their pen.

23 Of those who of this Art do bear a Name,  
 First Noble *Hermes* comes upon the Stage,  
 A Royal Prince and of deserved Fame,  
 His Peer was not afforded in his Age;  
 He Alchemy renown'd as he was able,  
 Comprising 't in his brief Smaragdine Table:

24 In which whoever listeth for to reade,  
 Shall finde it true and free from any lye,  
 That things above a Symphony did leade  
 With those things seated underneath the sky,  
 From whence proceedeth adaptation strange,  
 Of One thing marvellous: I need not range

25 Through other of his writings, which do all  
 But Eccho to the truth which there is couched,  
 A word sufficeth wise men, he that shall  
 Take pains his works to reade, let be avouched,

That



That he shall finde sufficient evidence  
To clear the thing from sound experience.

26 *Geber* and *Haly* with calid ancient Kings  
Attestants are with many others moe,  
Whose names a Book would fill, the world it rings  
With testimonies of them, so that no  
Pretence may be the Art for to deny,  
Except one will these Authours vilifie.

27 *Bernard* of *Tresne* Marquesse, great in skill,  
A modern writer, doth avow the same,  
Who after Errours long, of meer good-will  
A Treatise wrote, both Sophisters to blame,  
And also Searchers deviant to leade, (tread.  
'Twere strange if he condemned paths should

28 The Noble Polack Authour of New light,  
*Flammel* also of worthy memory,  
*Essagnet* likewise, these with all their might  
Do grace the secret Art of Alchemy.

To whom these named Authors wont suffice,  
Say what he list he is more nice then wise.

29 Admit I for a thing no ground can see,  
'Twere folly in me straight for to conclude  
The negative, since many things there be  
In which I have no skill, there's none that's rude  
In any thing, but it to him appears  
Impossible, which yet its Reason bears.



30 And what I cannot with my wit perceive,  
 Because they are removed from my Sphear,  
 Another knows, then shall I not beleeve  
 A knowing man, nor deign to give an ear,  
 Because his words are quite above my reach,  
 Because I cannot learn can he not teach?

31 Moreover divers who did not pretend,  
 Unto this Art, have yet convinced been,  
 Of its undoubted truth, and to defend  
 It from aspersions on the Stage are seen;  
 Learn'd *Hogland* if you list for to peruse,  
 You need not fear lest he should you abuse.

32 For why? the difficulties he relates  
 Of Alchemy, and from it all dissuades,  
 For which end he recounteth his sad fates,  
 Advising men to choose professed Trades,  
 And it forsake, since 'tis so hard to finde,  
 Yet it to blast he was not so unkinde.

33 Brave *Helmonts* Testimony I might cite,  
 To whom presented was a portion small  
 Of the Red powder, which was of the might  
 For to transmute, to bide the trials all  
 Of perfect gold, Unconstant *Mercury*,  
 Full nineteen thousand times its quantity.

34 Old *Anselm* here I on the Stage might bring,  
 Of this same Art an utter Enemy,

Convinced firſt and brought to wondering,  
 By an Experiment which himſelf did try,  
 Of a ſmall powder in an Old Book found,  
 Which tinged Argent vive to gold moſt ſound.

35 At which amaz'd the thing he did relate  
 Unto a Goldſmith his intire friend,  
 Whom to confirm after he told his fate,  
 That which remained he did freely ſpend,  
 And thus a double witneſſe was created,  
 Of whom one formerly the Art had hated.

36 Yet all(perhaps)theſe teſtimonies clear,  
 Not ſcarce the tithe of what we could produce  
 Will ſerve a Caviller, who will not fear  
 For to reproach, where wiſdom might induce  
 His judgement to ſuſpect, and not to throw  
 Scandal on what i'th'leaſt he doth not know.

37 We therefore the Ingenious to ſerve  
 In what we may, ſhall prove by reaſons firm,  
 That th'Art is poſſible, though many ſwerve  
 In ſeeking it, the truth that doth not harm,  
 Let them look to it who the work begin,  
 How they proceed if ere they mean to win.

38 For a firſt ground I hope you underſtand,  
 The qualities of that which we would finde,  
 Elſe you're unfit ſuch things to take in hand,  
 Unleſſe you know how kinde produceth kinde.



This God hath set to Nature for a Law, (draw.  
That from its like each thing its form should

39 T'encrease and multiply he did command  
All Herbs and Trees, all birds and sorts of beasts,  
The Fishes eke, and men who understand  
What Reason to them from his works suggests,  
Yet all in kinde their own kinde must encrease,  
By propagation which shall never cease.

40 This propagation for to bring about  
Each thing he blest with vertue seminal,  
Which Herbs and Trees into the Air bring out,  
But hidden lies in the Reins animal;  
The only question which is now to prove,  
Is, if that Minerals from God above

41 Were blessed with a seed to multiply,  
And to encrease their kinde like other things;  
This once if clear'd no scruple then can lie,  
But that the vertue seminal which brings  
All things to light, it self may multiply,  
In mettals, as in all things under sky.

42 This for to clear to the Ingenuous,  
The generation I shall here relate  
Of Metals, which by Sulphur unctuous  
Engendred are which doth coagulate,  
And fix a fluent moisture mineral,  
Which Mercury Philosophers do call.

draw. 43 This Mercury a dry humidity  
 should Is, which doth flow, yet wetteth not the hand, *W 4 2 A*  
 In it a mighty force doth hidden lie,  
 Th'attempts of Artists it can well withstand,  
 Disdaining to be sever'd by the fire,  
 Its parts so firmly knit scorn to retire.

ts, 44 Of water it the progeny is known,  
 rease, Yet water it doth far in weight exceed,  
 Therefore a hidden vertue we must own,  
 Whence such a condensation should proceed,  
 This vertue is the seed in nature plac't  
 By God alone, and never yet defac't.

out, 45 For can one be so stupid as to think  
 re, That water of its own accord should cause,  
 Within it self so great a change, and link  
Sulphur and Mercury with so firm Laws,  
 Its own dimensions to penetrate,  
 So many times a metall to create.

07 46 No there must be an inward agent granted  
 Else would a thing unchanged still remain,  
This Agent is the form that water wanted,  
 While it its proper nature did retain ;  
This form is light the source of Central heat,  
 Which cloth'd with matter doth a seed beget.

47 The Seed no sooner is produc't, but soon  
 Assays to bring the matter to a change,



On it it stamps its Character, which done,  
The matter lives, and that which may seem strange,  
Co-worketh with the Form t'attain the end,  
To which the seed implanted doth intend.

48 Nor may this seem a fable to the wise,  
For all things live according to their kindes,  
Their life is light which in them hidden lies,  
Discerned by the eyes of soaring mindes ;  
To them discovered is true Natures Map,  
By whom produced nothing is by hap.

49 No, she her secret Agent doth possesse,  
Which in the Universe is only one,  
But is distinct through species numberlesse  
According to their seeds, which God alone  
In the beginning did produce, and then  
Set them their Law found out by mental men.

50 The seed is then the mean that doth unite  
The form unto its matter, and doth raise  
An appetite i'th patient, and invite  
The active vertue to its work, and laies  
This Law on all its actions, that it shall  
To its own end direct its motions all.

51 The end attained once, this life is bid,  
And hedged in with senses corporall,  
Where it preserves its body, but doth bid  
Adieu to future working, till it shall

ange,  
d,  
Reviv'd be, and ferment new receive,  
New operations in't then you'l perceive.

52 It therefore is an error very great,  
To think 'cause metals are so firmly knit  
Their principles together, that the seat  
Wherein their seed resides is so up shir,  
That by the eye it cannot be discern'd,  
Therefore it is not; No man that is learn'd

53 Can such conclusion make; For why, 'tis plain,  
All things in Natures Kingdomes which are found  
A hidden spirit in them do contain,  
In which Cœlestiall qualities abound,  
The hider is a body visible,  
The hidden but a spirit invisible.

en.  
e  
54 Yet Concretes all in Kingdoms three do dwell,  
Of which the animal and vegetable  
Enclos'd are with a lesse enduring shell,  
Them to defend from change which is not able,  
They daily therefore move from state to state,  
Until a new form doth the old abate.

55 But in the Kingdom mineral there are  
Bodies of such a perfect composition,  
That they the wasting flames know to out-dare,  
Nor all consuming time from their condition  
May change them, for th'are homogeneous,  
In matter and in form, and therefore shall



56 Changelesse abide in their integrity,  
 If not resolv'd by Agent prevalent  
 To their component principles which lie  
 Closely contain'd, so close, that their intent  
 Many do lose who seek them to untie,  
 And yet their Art cannot ascend so high.

57 The meanest metall, Lead, although sublim'd  
 To vapour, and this work though oft repeated,  
 Or though to Licharge turn'd, or else calcin'd  
 To Ceruse, sugar, or Glasse, yet defeated  
 Shall be his pains, who thinks 'tis then untide,  
 For notwithstanding Lead it doth abide,

58 And may by easie Art and soon be brought,  
 Its former shape again to re-assume,  
 Such labours to this end availeth nought;  
 If Lead then be so firm, we may presume  
 More perfect metals are more permanent,  
 And more delude fond Artists weak intent.

59 Conclude we then and that on certain ground,  
 That metals do possesse metalline seed,  
 Which though retired far may yet be found,  
 By such who search the right way for to speed :  
 Else could they not engendred be, nor kept,  
 In this their Being, of Seed alone th'effect.

60 But now the place wherein it doth abide,  
 May be of use to let you understand,

Since

Since it so secretly it self doth hide,  
 Nor open lies unto each searchers hand;  
 The seat is water homogeneal,  
 Even as it is in other Concretes all.

61 For seed the vital spirit is which doth,  
 In water only of its kinde remain,  
 It lives when water lives, and show' th  
 In it an active force, when this is slain  
 By over-pow'ring might of congelation,  
 It lies perdue, passive in Contemplation.

62 Yet though suppress'd, its life is not extinct,  
 But may by Art be quickened again,  
 And to new motion stirr'd up, and linkt  
 Unto a substance new that may contain  
 Such vertue in a parcell very small  
 As may transcend its Concrete minerall.

63 For why, the life it self seeks to encrease,  
 Where e're its freed from its imprisoned thrall,  
 Much like to fire which kindled doth not cease  
 It self to multiply, nor ever shall  
 An end be found of its encreasing might,  
 If fed with fuell new, since it of light

64 The of-spring is from whence all form doth flow  
 And from it seed doth its beginning take,  
 Whose nature is still more and more to grow,  
 Nor of encreasing any end will make,

So



So long as matter new is still suppli'd,  
Which ceasing straight, this life it self doth hide.

65 But why it is so rare a thing to see,  
In bodies metalline this wondrous might,  
Which vegetables all possesse, that he  
Which it denies, is blinde, also the sight  
Can reach to see this seed in Animals,  
Which yet most secret is in Minerals.

66 The Reason is, for that the former kindes  
Both vegetall and animall are made  
Of parts dissimilar, there is withall  
Of principles unlikenesse, which to fade  
Are all inclin'd, and oft their old form lose,  
Nor long enjoy the new which late they chose.

67 But metals and metalline bodies all,  
Engendred are from a most stable root,  
This root is Mercury, whose bulk though small  
Is wondrous weighty, neither hand nor foot,  
Or head or eye in it is there distinct,  
But its intirely one to Sulphur linkt.

68 Which Sulphur is not vulgar, but indeed  
Unto the Mercury's essentiall,  
Each doth the other hold, and each do need  
Of either help and vertue mutuall,  
These are conjoynd so that no force can  
Them sever, for that Art is hid from man.

69 There.

69 Therefore because the Atome least of gold  
 Is gold, and hath of it the form intire,  
 Its Elements together so do hold,  
 And all its parts so firmly do conspire,  
 The seed of it is therefore by no Art,  
 From its own body to be made to part.

70 So then its seed in truth is nothing else  
 But its own water, which in fetters lies  
 So chain'd within its center where it dwells  
 That it is not apparent to the eyes,  
 Ne to the minde, but of a mental man  
 Who knows a Key this lock which open can.

71 But now of Seed my Muse is brought to sing,  
 I shall its vertue heavenly declare,  
 From which doth rise on earth each being thing,  
 From which all concretes eke engendred are ;  
 'Tis Natures darling, Heavens Progeny,  
 Framed by God all things to multiply.

72 In bodies all it is, yet corporall  
 'Tis not, it worketh visibly, yet is  
 Invisible, it freely acts, yet all  
 Its operations are enforc't to this,  
 That out of kinde nothing engender may,  
 For God and Nature never go astray.

73 So then although I said that Mercury  
 Golds water was its seed, yet understand

My



My meaning not to conſter literally,  
Which is an errour, but on th'other hand,  
Know that this Mercury the ſeed is nam'd,  
Because in it 'tis next of all contain'd.

74 So then the body is the waters neſt  
In which it doth reſide, the water eke  
The Spirits habitacle, where doth reſt  
This heavenly off-ſpring which ſo many ſeek,  
Yet finde it not, becauſe they miſ-conceive  
Their work, and therfore do themſelves deceive.

75 Behold a man who in his reins contains,  
Of mankind the true matter maſculine,  
Which mixt in matrix due, in time attains  
The Parents form, which by a ſoul divine  
Compleated is into a perfect man,  
In time his likenefſe propagate which can.

76 This ſeed or ſperm which to the outward eye  
Is viſible, is not the vitall fire,  
But that a ſpirit is, which to deſcry  
A mental man Natures light doth inſpire,  
For ſenſe doth teach the ſubſtance ſoon may loſe  
The life which it to motion did diſpoſe.

77 Behold an Egge which when the Sun returns,  
In Spring the hen doth lay, how it by heat,  
From thing to thing by conſtant motion turns,  
Of it till time a chicken doth beget,

Yet

Yet shake this Egge till you the matter hear  
Within to jog, 'twill not hatch in a year.

78 Observe a Seed which growing things do bear,  
And which within the earth a life receives,  
To spring and grow, its branches far and near  
Spreading, which are adorn'd with pleasant leaves,  
And yet this seed if in an Oven heated,  
Its vegetative vertue is defeated.

79 So then by these examples it appears,  
The substance or the sperm is not the seed,  
Which is indeed a life of light, which bears  
The nature, which the Heavens only feed,  
It acts in bodies as they are dispos'd,  
Which disposition n<sup>r</sup> is to fools disclos'd.

80 For as an Egge on which a hen hath sate  
Some daies, if suffred to wax through cold,  
Becomes incapable to generate  
A chick, but putrifies, whence to be bold  
You may, that seed of matter, ne of weight  
Partakes, whose death of neither doth abate.

81 Or if you rather list it for to name,  
Of Concrete things the vertue seminall,  
Which in each Kingdom doth its likenesse frame  
In matter due dispos'd, and therewithall  
Doth in the Compound daily motions cause,  
All which are bounded by their proper Laws.

82 There-



82 Therefore a matter duly fitted, then  
 According unto nature well dispos'd,  
 And govern'd rightly, doth from secret den  
 A contrall fire stir up, which being los'd,  
 Unceffantly its task doth never cease,  
 Unlessse some errour Nature doth displease.

83 And thus no doubt I have made to appear  
 That Alchemy is not a feigned Art  
 But reall, which its grounds hath firm, that bear  
 Themselves on Nature, of which but a part  
 I have produc't, and those more generall,  
 In due place other Reasons finde you shall.

*The End of the First Book.*

The

## THE SECOND BOOK.

1 **T**He Noble Art of secret Alchemy,  
 We undertaken have to vindicate,  
 And have defi'd the stoutest enemy,  
 With reason it for to calumniate,  
 And for this cause we have by argument,  
 To prove its possibility our forces bent.

2 Its witnesses almost innumerable  
 Of such who Artists were, and not a few,  
 Who to attain the skill were never able,  
 Have by the eye convinc't been that its true,  
 And not as some rash censors it esteem,  
 Who groundlessly it for a fancy deem.

3 And for that Argument doth most convince,  
 Which from experience for proof is brought,  
 I by the same this truth can well evince  
 Unto my self, for it is not bare thought,  
 But witnesse of the eye doth me engage,  
 Which to deny is nothing else then rage.

4 An Artist once I said, I knew him well,  
 And oft and long with him I did converse,  
 He in this skill did many men excell,  
 Of whom I from my knowledge can rehearse,  
 That he had both Elixer white and red,  
 So much as would all credit far exceed.



5 Of the white medicine to me a part,  
 He freely gave two ounces weight and more,  
 Which was of vertue truly to convert,  
 Into pure silver, finer then from Oar,  
 Is ever melted (without any lye)  
 Full sixscore thousand times its quantity.

6 But since so far I have disclos'd, because  
 It may be danger if I should conceal,  
 How that I spent it most, for me the Laws  
 Of covertise so bound, that all that deal  
 I fondly spent; The Saddle for to win,  
 I lost the Horie; Thus for a silly pin

7 I many pounds did lose, which you shall hear,  
 For so the giver did his gifts bestow,  
 That self might self intrap, who without fear  
 Attempted things to work I did not know;  
 Yet what I bring this for, by it is proved,  
 Unlesse my faith to question you be moved.

8 But be that as it will, I do protest,  
 That divers hundred ounces I have seen  
 Of silver, true for goodnesse to the best  
 Equal, which by my hands have tinged been,  
 By bare projecting of this substance small,  
 Of Mercury, which streight it tinted all.

9 For do not think that it doth only sever,  
 That which is perfect from that which is crude,

But

But tingeth all, and fixeth, so that never  
 It shall from fire fly, nor doth exclude  
 Ought from partaking of perfections type,  
 But what is heterogeneous, not unripe.

10 Of *Mercury* a pound its weight will be  
 Of Silver pure, within a scruples losse,  
 Lead little more with waste, but tin to see (drops  
 Would make one wonder, whence although a  
 Were burnt, yet will its weight in fire encrease,  
 Though fire to waste by nature doth not cease.

11 The reason is for that in Tin an Air,  
 Is visibly contain'd, as *Theophrast*,  
 And *Helmont* well observe, which being rare  
 The substance unto which it is made fast,  
 Makes lighter then it self, so Ice doth lack  
 Of its own weight to water when brought back.

12 On Copper, and on Iron, yea, on Brasse,  
 And Pewter I my medicine did assay,  
 On Spelter eke, Soder, yea on Tinglasse,  
 And Regulus of Antimony, and may say  
 With truth it conquers all metalline things,  
 And with ♀ all to perfection brings.

13 I nothing found which was to it of kin,  
 But it would tinge it into silver pure,  
 Yea perfect gold by fire it entred in,  
 And to a white glasse turn'd it, which t'endure  
 All trials would teach other metals base,  
 But then this Lune which had of Lune the face



14 Would like to gold abide in *Aqua fort*,  
 And would like gold passe Antimony, yea,  
 In weight it equal'd *Sol*, so that report  
 Hath told me it was white gold by th'affay,  
 The reason was because the tincture white  
 With red earth was fermented, either Light

15 Did therefore shew its vertue in projection,  
 Which did produce gold of a Lunar hue,  
 Or *Luna* which *Sol* equal'd in perfection,  
 Only of *Sol* it wanted colour due,  
 If I had known this working when I had  
 More of my medicine, I had been made.

16 For why this Lune is gold indeed, and will  
 For gold be sold at more then half the rate,  
 At which that *Sol* which tincted hath its fill,  
 And in all trials when examate  
 Will be allow'd, this knew I not till that  
 Twice forty ounces went at Lunar rate.

17 But if with Silver pure your medicine  
 You melt, you shall have a most pure glasse,  
 Like to a new slipt sword which bright will shine,  
 In which the owner may behold his face,  
 Yet is its vertue not a whit encrease,  
 (But only further spread) ne yet decreast.

18 This man who gave this gift to me posselt  
 Both red and white, his Name shall not be known,  
 For living he's I hope, long be he blest  
 With happy daies, for his life as mine own

I do esteem, he was so sure a friend  
To me, and will be so unto the end.

19 His present place in which he doth abide  
I know not, for the world he walks about,  
Of which he is a Citizen, this Tide,  
He is to visit Artists, and seek out  
Antiquities on voyage gone, and will  
Return, when he of Travell hath his fill.

20 By Nation an Englishman, of note  
His Family is in the place where he  
Was born, his Fortunes good, and eke his Coat  
Of Arms is of a great Antiquity,

His Learning rare, his years scarce thirty three;  
Further description get you not from me.

21 Acquaintance with him very strangely came  
To me beyond my expectation far,  
His love to me was cordial, the same  
I must and will acknowledge, nor a bar  
I hope hereafter may the same divert,  
Though it to purchase I do want desert,

22 Full long I knew that he a Master was,  
And oft had seen it by experiment,  
Ere he would so far me vouchsafe to grace  
With any portion of it, his intent  
I hoped was at last me so to blesse,  
Which yet I durst not over-boldly presse.



23 And what if worthy he shall finde by proof  
 Me to continue? I my self assure  
 He further will bestow, this shall me move  
 To be so faithfull to him, that t'allure  
 Me to do ought unto his prejudice,  
 No favour shall prevail in any wise.

24 When then on me he freely did conferre  
 The foresaid blessing, also he did adde  
 A portion of his Mercury, and there  
 Assumed me, that I a Treasure had  
 Matchlesse, if God my eyes would please to ope,  
 Or else I blindly might be left to grope.

25 This Mercury was that with which he did  
 Ris Redstone multiply exceedingly,  
 This was the Menstrue with such cunning hid,  
 By all the Masters of this mystery,  
 Nor this of faith from him I barely had,  
 But I had seen by him experiment made.

26 I saw him put his red stone in by weight,  
 In that same ♀, which then digested  
 Dissolved it, and also made it streight  
 Colour to change, and from that time ne rested,  
 Nor day nor night, till in three daies it was  
 Red perfect, but first black and white did passe.

27 I thought (O fool) I thought that if the red  
 And white were both multiplicable, then  
 One progresse linear to either led,  
 Which was a false ground, this my error ten

Of twelve parts quite destroy'd, and yet unwise,  
So many losses might me not suffice.

28 Those two parts then I mixt with *Luna* pure,  
Ten other times its weight, and then anew  
I fell to work again, hoping that sure,  
Once right might nineteen errors losse renew,  
Yet when my fire was almost out, I thought  
Upon the reason of the thing I sought.

29 I then began to think of Authors laws,  
And them in minde I very oft revolv'd,  
My operations judg'd by Natures Laws,  
At length by Meditation I resolv'd,  
That each thing hath its proper disposition,  
And each thing's ordered after its condition.

30 I found my medicine which for the white  
is either Atomes, as the Artift findes it  
After that Nature hath it fixt, when bright  
s of the black created, then who mindes it,  
T'encrease in vertue or in quantity,  
Must order his working accordingly.

31 If to encrease its *pondus* he intend,  
He then may it imbibe, not being cold  
With milk made warm, the glass then shut t'tend  
his fire let him be sure, nor be he bold  
To give it milk so largely it to glut,  
Nor then forget of meat to it to put.



32 But if his glasse have once been cooled, then  
 He must ferment his white-work warily,  
 Observing its proportion due, for when  
 A man ferments, he may too moist or dry  
 His Compound make, which then requires a cure  
 Of which to misse a stranger will be sure.

33 I knew at last the Red was like the fire.  
 The white more like the Air, the first with water  
 Mixed as in the first work doth desire  
 The same heat, and produceth signs thereafter,  
 Although in shorter time the work succeed,  
 Because the matter nothing lesse doth need.

34 But the white stone which is lesse fire, more air,  
 If it have such a quantity of milk,  
 Will drowned be, nor will the drynesse bear  
 Sufficient force, to powder soft as silk,  
 To re-congeal more then a fourth of water,  
 Then must another fourth part follow after.

35 Thus must it be by turns imbib'de until  
 It be brought to a courage sturdy bold,  
 Then must all be close-sealed, and it will  
 A somewhat stronger fire expect, and hold  
 Thee afterwards in blacknesse fourty daies,  
 And then will shew white *Phæbe's* splendent raies.

36 This when I well had weigh'd, my hand I held,  
 And what I had of my white medicine left,  
 I kept, resolving I would not compel'd  
 With Gods assistance be wholly bereft

Of that so great a secret for to live,  
But keep it for his sake who did it give.

37 So that few grains excepted I did waste  
All what I had bestowed on me, hoping  
To hit at length upon the right, and plac't  
My thoughts so on it, that thus madly groping  
I rob'd my self thus of a twofold treasure,  
The losse of which I may repent at leisure.

38 My fire nigh out, I forced was to spend  
Some of what did remain to serve expence,  
Till that I found I soon should see an end  
Of all, if thus I did go on, and thence  
I did conclude with vow the rest to keep  
Unspent, unseen, until I slept death's sleep.

39 With solemn vow I therefore did reserve  
Some few grains (very few) nor of the force  
As it was given first, yet to preserve  
My life on urgent need, without remorse,  
I might make use of what I had, yet so  
That beyond need I would in spending go.

40 And need since that inforced me to use  
Some little of a little, so that now  
The rest I was compel'd (ne could I choose)  
To mix with Luna fine, or else I trow  
I soon a grain might lose which was my store,  
This then I mixt with other ten grains more.



41 Thus have I told a Story very true,  
 Not what I heard by hearfay or by fame,  
 But what my self beheld, which thing but few  
 Have seen, yet this on credit of my Name  
 I do averre, and know no cause, but why  
 Another may beleieve not judge a lie.

42 Now for the ♀ which did remain *L W d o v*

A many trials perdy I did prove  
 On gold which by this ♀ is flain,  
 Corrupts and loseth form, so great the love  
 Is which between him and his Sister is,  
 That in her arms his soul returns with blisse.

43 Then she her garment like Pearl orient  
 Doth stain with colours till at length the black  
 Eclipse both Sun and Moon in Firmament,  
 And both of them all spark of light do lack;  
 The Earth then water doth become, and so  
 The water thickned into earth doth grow.

44 This I did try, and saw, and after black,  
 The colours of the Rainbow did appear  
 The Peacocks-Tayl, and when all these did slack,  
 The Crescent Moon appeared very clear,  
 I saw until the Earth like Heaven shone,  
 And all became like a celestial Throne.

45 This for the season of the year was ill,  
 And suited not unto the latter fire,  
 And for I was afraid it son to spill  
 After perfection, which was my desire

To try, that I might see a work begun, (Sun.  
And brought unto the Moon though not the

46 This then on ♀ I did project,  
Being with ♀ first of all allai'd,  
It tinged fifty parts, I did direct  
My course this to imbibe, but it affai'd  
In vain, for why? I had it cooled so  
To Imbibition foolishly did go.

47 And so who thought the red to have attain'd  
Without least doubt, yet found by proof I was  
Unskil'd in this, though Nature not disdain'd  
To bring me to the Black, which I did passe,  
And after colours gay the white admir'd,  
Yet fell short far of what I most desir'd.

48 Thus with my trials oft my Mercury,  
Was now to nothing brought or very little,  
I then considered how fondly I  
Had wasted that which might have built a spittle,  
And with my menstree all my Art was lost,  
Of whose skill since I may full truly boast.

49 Then God I praised with most thankful minde,  
That he had shewn me by a demonstration  
Infallible, which none can be so blinde  
As not for to beleve, a Consolation  
In all my losses this to me remained,  
That I had seen what here I have explained.



50 At last my good friend once again I met,  
 And what had happened I did not hide,  
 I praied him my folly to forget,  
 And hop'd anew from him to be suppli'd,  
 But this also my hope was much deluded,  
 Nor did it so fall out as I concluded.

51 For when he understood what I had tri'd,  
 And what at last God prospered me to see,  
 He saw if that he me anew suppli'd,  
 That I could go to the Hesperian Tree,  
 And pluck the Apples at my list, and then  
 Might do much mischief unto honest men.

52 Thus therefore said, Friend, if that God hath  
 You to the Art, he will in time bestow (chose  
 The same, but if he in his wisdom knows  
 You are unfit, or that you'l mischief do,  
 Accursed shall that man be who shall arm  
 A mad man, to do thousand others harm.

53 When you were rude a gift I gave you great,  
 A gift but such as might it self destroy  
 If Heavens so ordain'd, nor is it meet  
 I see for you at present it t'enjoy ;  
 What Heavens have deni'd may I not grant,  
 Or else I shall be guilty of your Rant.

54 This lesson of so much divinity,  
 At the same time I heartily confesse  
 Did nothing please me, for my hopes did lie  
 On him, which this his answer did distresse,

For said he, fates to you have knowledg granted,  
But yet the thing by you must now be wanted.

55 Then strait I gave him for to understand  
How God had of the water taught the skill,  
By which said I in time I may command  
What you deny, which therefore try I will,  
Nay then, quoth he, attend to what I say,  
It will be good, and you may blesse this day:

56 Know then that we are so severely bound  
By strongest vows never for to supply  
Any man by our Art, who may confound  
The world, if he at will it held, for why?  
What ill foe're he act upon this score,  
It all shall lie before the Tellers dore.

57 Now then consider what a prise you had,  
Both of the Stone and of the Mercury,  
Would any one have thought a man not mad,  
So much would lose without a reason why?  
Had reason guided you you might ere now,  
Of what I gave have had enough I trow.

58 For had you taken gold most perfect pure,  
And added but a grain of this your Stone  
To it in fusion, it would have been sure  
To have united, then might you have gone  
About the work with that your Mercury,  
With which this gold had mixed speedily.

59 Your



59 Your work had then been shortned very much,  
Which you might well have govern'd to the red,  
Where when 'twas come you saw how I with such  
Sulphur and Mercury new gold did wed,  
You saw the *pondus* and the Time, and heat,  
What more could you have wisht the Art to get?

60 But also seeing now you know the Art  
How to prepare this fiery Mercury,  
You might have been so stored for your part,  
That few should more have had, do not you spy,  
How God is adverse to your work to cause  
You thus to spil the same? his holy Laws

61 Perhaps he sees that you would lewdly break,  
Or do some wrongfull deed, and therefore he  
The Knowledge hath imparted, yet doth speak  
Thus by his providence, I plainly see  
That he will have you for some years without  
Th' enjoyment of what you'd misuse no doubt.

62 Now know that if this Art you do assay  
Without a ferment, then you must beware  
Lest oft you erre, and from the right path stray,  
And often shall you erre for all your care,  
Nay and perhaps you may not while you live  
This treasure win, which God alone must give.

63 For why? if you the straitest course do take  
A year shall run before that you shall finde  
The perfect period, but if you take  
Wrong waies, you oftentimes shall be set behinde  
Some-

Sometimes a year, and must your charge renew  
And pains, or else your folly you may rue.

64 In which time if your minde cannot be free  
But be incumbred with distracting care,  
A thousand perils you shall surely see,  
And much shall lose which you can hardly spare,  
Attend therefore unto my counsell, so  
You shall conditionally this secret know.

65 You here before the mighty God shall swear,  
That you for such a time your self shall keep  
From it attempting, which I shall declare,  
Nor shall you in that time (though you should sleep  
Deaths sleep) reveal some points which I disclose,  
Which therefore I make known under the rose.

66 I sware, and so his minde he did unlock,  
And did to me the secret all declare,  
And to assure me that he did not mock,  
I with mine eyes beheld those sights most rare;  
Of which I now full honestly shall treat,  
Nor ought shall hide but what to tell n<sup>r</sup>is meet.

67 My oath I shall inviolate preserve,  
And so I may, for there's no Son of Art,  
But by what I discover, the reserve  
May finde out, if he seek with upright heart,  
And it attempt, not without judgement sound,  
The want of which doth searchers rash confound.



68 I shall not need examples more to bring,  
 The Art is true and sure, though hard to finde,  
 Not to be bought with riches of a King,  
 Nor yet abhorring from a vulgar mind;  
 If fates thee call, then follow me into  
 A Royal Palace whither few do go.

*The End of the Second Book.*

### THE THIRD BOOK.

1 **I** Sing th' adventures for the golden Fleece,  
 A Noble Subject fit to employ the Quill  
 Of the most flowing wits that ever *Greece*  
 Did breed, would I might climbe the Muses hill  
 Thence to bring down the pleasant measures, we  
 This Subject might adorn with fluent speech.

2 The Indies with it may not once compare,  
 It is a gift of all things temporal  
 Most to be prized, he that hath a share  
 In this most seeret Art, admire he shall  
 In creatures the Creators excellence,  
 Who still above all hath preheminnence.

3 This is the fithe that with one stroak cuts down  
 All covetise, of evil all the root,  
 This who possesseth fears not fortunes frown,  
 Things momentany casts he at his foot;  
 His work is only his God to behold,  
 Counting as rubbish, silver, Gems, and Gold.

4 This

4 This is the Tree of Life which doth preserve  
 From sicknesse humane body, and renews  
 The youth, it suffereth Nature not to swerve,  
 But it doth keep intire; this good accrues  
 By this rare Art, riches, with length of daies,  
 Freedom from sicknes, which men most dismaies

5 Only the destiny of death which all  
 Are subject to cannot avoided be,  
 But yet to live in health, and therewithall  
 Whatever this life craves to have, that he  
 Need never want to fear, how great a blisse  
 I need not tell to him whose lot it is.

6 But over and besides for to enjoy  
 Power whatever good one list to do,  
 How happy state it is, when to employ  
 Ones self the poor to succour, and bestow  
 On pious uses what the minde suggests  
 No mean is wanting, what estate more blest?

7 Then brake my Muse into a joyful strain,  
 Sing out aloud, and eke thy spirits raise,  
 This Art to celebrate, in lofty vein  
 Let all thy Notes be carried, no praise  
 Too great, oh happy they who it do know,  
 Whose secrets these few lines do fully shew.

8 Let *Craesus* hide his head, let *Midas* treasure  
 No more remembred be, for why 'tis sure,  
 That their vast wealth was bounded with a measure  
 Nor could their wealth their fading bodies cure.



Lo here a Spring of Wealth, a Tree of Life,  
No wealth so great, no sicknes here is rise.

9 Here in a Map thou seest the creatures all  
Abridged, and reduc't to their perfection,  
Here thou beholdest in a Subject small,  
From this worlds miseries a full protection;  
Rejoyce, and give to God alone the glory,  
And now proceed we to this pleasant Story.

10 Gold fits as Prince supreme and head of all,  
The Bodies which in Kingdom minerall  
Contained are, whose body no force shall  
Destroy, the fiercest fire may nought appall,  
His courage, he doth in the flame abide,  
Which from it only foulness doth divide.

11 The Sun terrestriall he named is,  
To whom the next in dignity is plac't,  
The Moon a goodly body which doth misse  
Some part of *Sols* perfection, yet is grac't,  
With permanency to abide the flame,  
All other metals do avoid the same.

12 The other four, *Mars, Venus, Jupiter,*  
With *Saturn* hold so much of crudity,  
That they are vile esteem'd, yet to averre  
I shall be bold that he who can descry  
The inward vertue of the planets nam'd,  
Shall finde them all of *Sols* true matter fram'd.

13 *Mars*

13 *Mars* is the stout and valiant God of War, L 58  
 His body vile, and little is esteem'd,  
 He's fierce of courage, conquering near and far  
 All sturdy opposites, and may be deem'd,  
 That his rough outside hidden doth inclose,  
 A spirit whose full vertue no man knows.

14 *Venus* a Planet fair the God of Love,  
 Whose beauty the stout God of War allures,  
 Her Central Salt, who so hath wit to prove  
 Shall finde a key all secrets which assures  
 The owner for to finde, I say no more,  
 For this by none disclos'd hath been before.

15 Propitious *Jupiter* a Planet bright, L 59  
 And so benign, that of all the gods  
 There's none more glorious if so thy fight,  
 Can our true *Jove* behold, great is the oddes  
 Betwixt the vulgar, and what we call ours  
 Which from old *Saturn* doth derive his source.

16 This Melancholy God a stone devour'd,  
 Thinking that he had eaten *Jove*, but then  
 He found himself deceiv'd, at which he lour'd,  
 Ne would he comfort take, for straightway when  
 This stone *Abadir* in his bowels came,  
 It chang'd the Eater to another frame.

17 Old *Aberipe*, his childr'n which did eat,  
 Had of this Stone a Son begotten, who  
 In his Sires stomach prov'd such uncouth meat  
 That he forthwith did melancholy grow,



And from this Son as I have heard them sain,  
Engendred was most noble Abrettane.

18 Beside these six nam'd Planets, there is one  
Remalning of a Nature wonderful,  
His name is *Mercury*, for he alone  
Is of the Gods the messenger, but dull  
He is until a life he doth receive,  
Till then fond Artists he will aye deceive.

19 And thus the gods in order I have nam'd,  
I now shew of each the pedegree,  
Their lineage, habit, and how they are fram'd  
In manners, also their whole dignity  
I shall rehearse, for this to our intent  
Makes much, and therefore Reader be attent.

179. 20 The matter first of metals Mercury,  
A moisture is which wetteth not the hand,  
Yet flows, and therefore 'tis nam'd water dry,  
The vulgar is at every ones command,  
But this is not the water we desire,  
For in our water is our secret fire.

21 This matter while its life it did retain,  
Was apt all metals for to procreate,  
The life when gone then dead it doth remain,  
Till a new soul shall it re-animate,  
This matter is to metals all of kin,  
All which do hide a Mercury within.

22 But nearest it is unto gold alli'de  
 To *Luna* next, and then to *Jupiter*,  
 To *Saturn* after him as hath been tri'd  
 By many, who this Art have sought, but there  
 Is lesse affinity with ~~brave~~ red, *Venus*  
 And least with *Mars* who scorns with it to wed.

23 With gold that it hath most affinity  
 May hence appear, first by their equall weight,  
 And next by their components constancy,  
 For neither it nor gold by any sleight,  
 Will suffer any one for to divide  
 Their principles which may not be unti'de.

24 Except by one only humidity  
 Which them divides in way of generation,  
 And doth their Elements sweetly untye  
 Them after knitting thus to propagation  
 Enabling them, and by one liquor strange  
 All Concretes, wch doth from their nature change

25 And them dissolve unto their matter first,  
 Dividing all their principles asunder,  
 These two excepted, there is none that durst  
 Assay these to destroy therefore no wonder,  
 If Artists old by rule most firm decreed,  
 That its most hard t'unlock this secret seed.

26 He then who knows the parts of Mercury,  
 And can its superfluities decrease,  
 And with true Sulphur it can vivifie,  
 For dead it is, though (fluent) he with ease



May gold unlock, and after recongeal,  
Both to an essence which all griefs can heal.

27 O *Mercury*, thou wonder of the world,  
How strange thy nature is, and how compact  
A body dost possesse which doth infold  
A spirit unexpressible, to act  
Our mysteries, this only we desire,  
This is our water, this our secret fire.

28 For Argent vive is gold essential  
Only unripe, which if thou canst prepare  
By art, it gives the secret menstrual  
The mother of our stone which is so rare,  
Our oyl, our unguent, and our marchasite  
Which we do name, also our fountain bright.

29 O Christal fountain, which from fourfold spring  
Runs down the valleys with its perled drops  
Distilling, with the which our Noble King,  
Is wash'd, and carri'd to the mountain tops,  
Where he the vertue of the Heav'ns receives,  
Which never after him when fixed leaves,

30 This is our Maydew which our Earth doth move  
To bring forth fruit, which fruit is perfect gold,  
This is our *Eve* whom *Adam* doth so love,  
That in her Arms his soul (strange to be told)  
He doth receive, who erst as dead was seen,  
And quickned first appears in colour green.

31 Next unto *Mercury* in first degree,  
Of metalline digestion is found,  
Old *Saturn*, who though vile and base to see,  
Yet is he of our secrets all the ground.

Thus then in essence *Mercury* is gold,  
In form *Saturnine*, earthly, moist and cold.

32 I mean the *Mercury* which doth present  
It self at first unto each Artifts eye,  
And vulgar it is cal'd, to our intent  
Unserviceable quite, the reason why  
If you desire, this for an answer take,  
No dead thing can a dead thing living make.

33 Nor can that which is in its substance foul  
And filthy, cause transcendant purity,  
Ne yet can that which is without a soul  
A body fixed cause aloft to fly,  
No there must be a near affinity,  
Or else in vain you shall your fancies try,

34 How then? Ev'n thus, in *Saturn* there is hid  
A soul immortal which in prison lies,  
Untie its fetters, which do it forbid,  
To fight for to appear, then shall arise,  
A vapour shining like pearl orient,  
Which is our Moon and sparkling Firmament.

35 To *Saturn*, *Mars*, with bonds of love is ti'd  
Who is by him devour'd of mighty force,



Whose spirit *Saturns* body doth divide,  
 And both combining yeeld a secret source,  
 From whence doth flow a water wondrous bright  
 In which the Sun doth set and lose its light.

36 Dame *Venus* a most shining Star to see  
 To *Mars* espoused is by him embrac't;  
 Their influences must united be,  
 For she alone the only mean is plac't,  
 Betwixt the Sun and our true *Argent vive*  
 Them to unite, that they may never strive.

37 The generation of the metals all  
 If I should here declare, it would require  
 A Volume large, at present then I shall  
 Content my self and answer your desire,  
 Omitting these and many other things,  
 Which to our secret Art lesse knowledge bring.

38 And shall proceed to teach the certain ground,  
 On which an Artist may with hope rely,  
 Nor trouble him with things wch might confound  
 Him in his search, for I intend to fly  
 All darknesse, also all ambiguous words,  
 That handling most which to us most accords.

39 And first I shall lay down the definition  
 Of that rare substance we so highly prize,  
 Which causeth metals change their own condition,  
 And turns imperfect bodies, that to eyes,

To touch, to test, and in each trial they  
Are perfect prov'd, which erst would fly away.

40 A substance it metalline is, for why,  
With metals else it could no wise agree,  
And of *Sols* essence, else to dignity,  
Of gold it could not tinge crude *Mercury*,  
*Saturn*, and all the metals, as it doth,  
Adding fixation and *pondus* both.

41 But yet golds simple vertue it exceeds,  
Else could it not the least communicate  
Of its own tincture, but its self must needs  
Embas'd be, since nought can graduate  
An unripe matter to its own degree,  
Unlesse in it transcendent ripenesse be.

42 Of Nature spiritual it is beside,  
Else bodies it could never penetrate,  
Betwixt the pure and impure to divide,  
And cause them when they are exanimate  
By flame of bellows stoutly to endure,  
Which to perform requires a perfect cure.

43 And yet besides its penetrative might,  
It must contain a wondrous fixity,  
Since what it wants nothing can give by right,  
Nor can that which inured is to fly,  
Retained be but by an Agent fixt,  
Where Spirit and body are together mixt.



44 So then in brief all this to recollect,  
*imature* Our stone is nought but th' essence true of gold,  
 Which that it might what we do seek effect,  
 Its spirit doth the body surely hold,  
 And both together make a substance new,  
 A reall spirit yet a body true.

45 Like the Suns Atomes 'tis a powder fine,  
 White for the white, and red for red projection,  
 The metals by it tein'd, exceed the Mine  
 In purity, and such is its perfection,  
 That he who hath it in an hours space  
 And lesse may command in any place.

46 At first it is of vertue very small,  
 Compared with the might it doth attain  
 By oft reiteration, who so shall  
 It oft dissolve, and then congeal again,  
 Shall finde a medicine that will translate  
 Innumerable parts to *Sols* estate.

47 'Tis ponderous and yet in grains divided,  
 That powder all appears as soft as silk,  
 On metall it like wax in flux is guided  
 To enter to the center just as milk,  
 Is penetrated by the Rennet four,  
 And curdled in the minute of an hour.

48 For look how boyling oyl doth straitway soak,  
 And pierceth through sinking paper, so

Our

Our stone it entreth metals without smoak  
 When they by force of fire are made to flow,  
 Or else reduced to a glowing heat,  
 If they of harder flux bide fire great.

49 Or if an Argent vive you list to cast  
 Your effence then it must in fire stand,  
 Till it begin to fly, whose flying haste  
 To stay you suddenly shall countermand,  
 By throwing in one little grain or more,  
 Which fixeth what was fugitive before.

50 This medicine is best thus to project,  
 First on a portion of that metall pure,  
 Which of the powder is to be the effect,  
 As red on gold, on silver eke be sure,  
 The white to throw one part of this your stone  
 On four of metal, or else five to one.

51 Then brittle like to glasse that Masse will be,  
 Of Colour bright, and shining very clear,  
 Yet not transparent, also thou shalt see  
 Its vertue lessened which will appear  
 To view most glittering like a Rubie fair,  
 Then upon Argent vive cast this with care.

52 On ten parts one so long project until  
 The tincture to decrease thou shalt perceive,  
 Which being done, thou soon shalt at thy will  
 Most perfect *Sol* or *Lune* from fire receive;

Thus



Thus guide thy operation and be sure,  
The effect will prove both gold and sil<sup>r</sup> pure

53 And if thou list thy essence to augment  
In goodnesse or in weight, thou so maist work,  
That never shall thy stock with use be spent,  
So great a power in this stone doth lurk,  
That it like fire is apt to multiply  
It self in weight as eke in dignity.

54 A portion once I saw and found by proof,  
That which a mans beleef might far exceed  
Of the Red medicine, which for behoof  
Of such who to this Sciencee may proceed  
I shall declare, by which may well appear,  
That uselesse it is not as many fear.

55 For some, who though the Art they not deny,  
Compel'd by reason and by witnesse plain,  
Of such whom 'twere unjust to vilifie,  
Yet of the Art they cease not to complain,  
Mistaking all our operations true,  
Those following which we warn to eschue.

56 For thus they think that we of gold the soul  
Extract, which from a masse a substance small  
Is had, though it tinge witbout controul,  
Yet scarce so much t'abide the trials all  
Of fire and test of gold there will proceed,  
As first was us'd to yeeld that tinging seed.

57 So then if labour once to losse redound,  
 Whatever pleasure in the work appear,  
 It cannot choose but make mens want abound,  
 And so their skill is purchas'd full dear.  
 This is th'objection which is often cast  
 In the Artists dish, his Art and him to blast.

58 But I who oft these secrets have beheld  
 And have observ'd with curiosity,  
 Their progresse and their reason are compel'd *am*  
 To stand up for to clear their dignity,  
 Nor shall the cavils of the vulgar, cause  
 Me to condemn Natures most Noble Laws.

59 I saw then as I said a powder so  
 Encreast in vertue (scarce to be beleev'd)  
 That so small quantity as scarce would show  
 In bulk a grain, nor weigh'd much more indeed,  
 Which yet to gold so great a quantity  
 Could well transmute, as may be deem'd a lye.

60 No man by Art its number could attain,  
 So great it was, yet was the tincture sound,  
 For on an ounce projected was that grain,  
 In which perfection did so abound,  
 That all was essence made, of which one grain  
 Was cast upon ten times as much again,

61 That is one ounce in ten, and these likewise,  
 On ten times more, which yet was med'cine made,

Ten.



Ten more to one of these would not suffice  
 To metall it to bring, nor was't allaid,  
 So with these oft projections made before,  
 But one at last ting'd ninety thousand more.

62 Now cease rash censors henceforth to reproach  
 This Noble Art so useful and so just,  
 'Tis not this skill which Sophistrys doth broach,  
 No, it is only such which seek their lust  
 For to maintain, who doth the world abuse,  
 Whose errors all this Treatise fully shews.

63 But thou of Truth a lover, be advis'd,  
 Beware, and be not easily seduc't,  
 For be thou sure that all that is devis'd  
 By such, this Art to treat who were induc't  
 By envy, is not true, nay very little  
 In some books, and in some scarce any tittle.

64 For know this Art a virgin pure remains,  
 Though many Lovers do her fondly sue,  
 She scorns a Sophister, and still disdains  
 A breast for to inhabit that's untrue,  
 Yet many presse to win the golden fleece,  
 'Tis that they gape for as the masterpiece.

65 But a true Son of Art doth wisdom prize  
 Beyond all earthly good, and his desire  
 To it is bent, ne fondly doth devise  
 By riches to ambition to aspire :

His studies all to knowledge are inclin'd,  
Prizing alone the riches of the minde.

66 To such alone these labours I intend  
To them I write, but others I exclude,  
Advising them their folly to amend,  
And to forsake those fancies which delude  
Them, and destroy their works, for why its sure,  
No error can a secret true procure.

67 Our Art therefore which we so much esteeme  
Is not as many men do misconceive,  
For toyl ne yet for charge, what ere fools deem  
So hard, but that it may with Natures leave  
Be perfected as after may appear  
Unto the red in lesse space then a year.

(minde

68 And who that time would grudge that in his  
Shall call how that the waiting husbandman,  
No lesser space expects his crop to finde, (began,  
Whose seed though sow'd when Autumn first  
Yet is not reapt and thresht, and fit to eat (yet  
Till that time twelvemonth seare so soon, and

69 His patience is not weary, but doth wait  
Till Autumn and the Winter both be past  
In *Vere* the early rains, and when the heat  
Of Summer parches, latter rains, and last  
Of all his harvest he expecting staies,  
Nor is impatient of these long delaies.

70 Yet



70 Yet is his profit scarcely six for one,  
 His labour hard, and chances that may fall  
 Innumerable, insomuch that none  
 Can promise good successe, and yet for all  
 These hardships, hazards, and these long delays,  
 The sweet expected all this sower allayes.

71 The charge if any one desire to know,  
 The wisemens resolution I shall give,  
 By this a man that in this way would go  
 May try his skill, and without doubt beleewe,  
 That if his charge five peeces price exceed,  
 He may be sure he is not like to speed.

72 His heat indeed constant expence doth crave,  
 But with one heat so many works he may  
 Effect, that if he list he soon may save  
 The worth in other works which by the way  
 He to deceive the time may daily try,  
 Of which I shall discourse now by and by.

73 But if one glasse, one furnace, and no more  
 He shall employ, yet ten pounds may excuse  
 His total charge, and yet he shall have store  
 Enough while he doth live, though he should use  
 As much as any Monarch in the world,  
 Since it encreast may be so manifold.

74 Yet he who prizeth knowledge natural,  
 Cannot so barren be of science true

As not to know some secret wherewithall  
 A fire for to employ, nor are there few  
 Whom curiosity invites to try,  
 A many pleasant knacks in Chemistry.

75 Such may their furnace so contrived have,  
 That with one fire they may both putrifie,  
 Digest, ferment, distill, and so may save  
 The toyl of many Furnaces, for why?  
 So meny heats thou maist from hence obtain,  
 And yet thy secret work no whit refrain.

76 But what if twenty peeces were the cost?  
 Of which the half may serve if order'd right,  
 And though sometimes the work hap to be lost,  
 Yet can the losse be no waies great, nor might  
 The hazard with the profit once compare,  
 Though he who it attains is very rare.

(thing,

77 For though one glasse, one furnace, and one  
 One rule, one fire, the whole work do compleat,  
 Yet may one many glasses with ease bring,  
 With one fire to perfection, since the seat  
 Or nest, which doth one egge contain, with Art  
 May so be made to more heat to impart.

78 And it sufficeth in one glasse to put  
 So much of Composition as may cost  
 The price of half an ounce of gold, which shut  
 With *Hermes Seal*, no fear it should be lost.

Except



Except some error be committed, which  
How to avoid I faithfully shall teach.

79 Also because our matter which we take  
Into our hands for this our secret Art  
Is Gold and Mercury, which we do bake  
Till neither of them from the other part,  
The principles their form do keep untill  
The fire by putrefaction doth them kill.

80 Which whomsoever God so far doth grace  
To see, he cannot but by uncouth hap  
His work destroy before it run its race;  
Since then to erre there scarce is left a gap,  
At least unto an operator wise,  
Who will not carelessly lose such a prize?

81 And if his work proceed not in due course,  
His time he only loseth and his fire,  
Which will not prove to him a pinching losse,  
Since soon he may his work at his desire  
Renew, the gold is as it was before,  
And so the good nor lesse nor more.

82 Thus have I brought you so far on your way,  
And farther yet I shall you friendly leade,  
Proceed discreetly, marking what I say,  
For I shall shew the true way how to speed.  
Of God desire with me that he would guide  
Both you and me that neither step aside.

*The End of the third Book.*

## THE FOURTH BOOK.

1 **O**F Alchemy our Muse hath sounded forth,  
 The praise, and worthy may the subject seem  
 So noble 'tis and of such matchlesse worth,  
 That rightly many it divine esteem,  
 But now the only thing to be explain'd,  
 Is how and by what means it is attain'd.

2 For many who most painfully have sought,  
 With vast expence of money and of time,  
 Save beggery they have attained nought,  
 For they could never to this Science climb,  
 Since then that fatal prov'd to many one,  
 Most men it deem a feigned Art or none.

3 Who hath not heard the sad complaints of many  
 Who by this search reduc'd to penury  
 Have liv'd forlorn? but who hath heard of any,  
 That by this skill his wealth did multiply?  
 Therefore say some the thing is but a fable :  
 Which to maintain the Artists are not able.

4 I shall not now the task of handling all,  
 The Schemes of errors undertake, because  
 From thence the Reader would reap profit small  
 Who rather farre would study Natures Laws  
 Then undergo the trouble to review  
 The Sophistries of all the erring crew.



5 Yet here and there the errors I shall tax,  
 Of Artists deviant from the true way,  
 Who nature mold like to a lump of wax  
 To rare *Chimeras*, which when they assay,  
 By proof they finde they labour out of kind,  
 And wander like a feather in the winde.

6 The matter first which for our work we take  
 Is only gold and with it Mercury,  
 Which we decoct till neither will forsake  
 The other, in which work they both do die  
 And rot by putrefaction, after that  
 Both are in glory then regenerate,

7 Nor do we mean as fools our words expound  
 By gold I know not what of substance vile,  
 For with such notions many do confound  
 Themselves, not recollecting all the while,  
 That what in Art they for one gold do take,  
 A silver paiement would to no man make.

8 For all in word this truth will needs confesse  
 Because the Magi all have it decreed  
 To be the only matter, netherlesse  
 These subjects to explain do so proceed,  
 That they for gold thus to avoid expence  
 Will be content with a Sirreverence.

9 One doth his body order with such diet,  
 That what he eats and drinks is all by weight,

At set hours exerciseth, and is quiet  
 Precisely at his time, nor will abate  
 One hour from his wonted time of sleep,  
 And all his body wholesome for to keep.

10 Thus when his temper is most exquisite,  
 He doth his easement in a chosen place,  
 Which straight he closeth up, and this in spight  
 Of Nature must be gold, which he doth grace  
 So far as it to keep with monstrous care,  
 Still hoping thus to finde the stone most rare.

11 And lest his hope should seem on sandy ground  
 For to be built, he citeth *Merian*,  
 Thus speaking that our stone is only found  
 Upon a dunghil, and whoever can  
 It thence extract shall surely it finde,  
 But who so elsewhere seeks concludes him blinde.

12 This dunghil what doth it denote saith he  
 But humane ordure since the same doth say  
 To Calid, that if he would list to see  
 Within himself, he should without a nay  
 The true mine of our secret stone espy,  
 Nor need he elsewhere for the same to try.

13 To this another addeth Urine, this  
 (Saith he) is Mercury which wise men hide,  
 For want of which so many hap to mine  
 The mark, and very fondly slip aside,



This he with essence of the purest wine  
Doth mix by this to catch our store divine.

14 Some seek in Herbs, and some in simple water  
Such as from clouds is caught, and some in dew,  
Some choose thee juyce of Toads for their true  
With Arsnick it preparing, nor a few (matter,  
In flame attempt our hidden stone to finde,  
In Sunbeams eke to powder dry calcin'd.

15 The influence of the Moon some earnestly  
Desire, which with a glasse they hope to catch,  
Some also would the influx of the sky  
In some thing fix, and after it would hatch,  
Thus doting for to get our prized stone,  
Which thus they seek but never hit thereon.

16 Others Saltpeter do the matter judge,  
And for it doting hunt for dead mens bones,  
Their mouldred carkases they take, and drudge  
About this work to finde the choice of stones,  
Some do affirm and will not stick to swear,  
That in Marle is found, so fond they are.

17 Yet reason with them on their work, and they  
Will tell you of a monstrous uncouth Sperma  
*Panspermion* called, this without a nay  
Must be the Chaos for to use their term,  
Of this is made each thing that in the Earth,  
Is found, out of it all things are brought forth.

18 It hath no proper form, yet being hath  
 'Tis non-specified, therefore apt  
 All things to procreate, such is their faith  
 That as if they were in a vision wrapt,  
 They see in fancy such a thing as this,  
 And yet alas they know not where it is.

19 This is their living gold, their Mercury,  
 This is their *Limbus*, this their secret fire,  
 But yet grosse fots they cannot yet espie  
 The vanity of this which they desire,  
 For had they such a Devil as this is  
 Clos'd in a glasse, the stone they sure would miss,

20 For what in weight a metall equals not,  
 In flux will never enter it, how then  
 Hath Nature her strict Laws so much forgot,  
 To please the fancies of those doting men :  
 The poorest Metallurgist knoweth well,  
 Nought but metalline may with metals dwell.

21 This is the reason that the feces crude  
 In unripe metals, to their central part  
 Are not united, there is none so rude  
 In Alchemy but knows that if by Art  
 These feces may be severed, then 'tis sure,  
 That they distinct are from the substance pure.

22 What then ? 'tis thus, if that a sperm there be  
 From whence ingredred may be animals



And vegetables which were strange to see,  
 Yet could it not produce us minerals,  
 The Reason's plain, for it should penetrate  
It self ten times a metall to create.

23 Since gold doth water sixteen times exceed  
 In weight, and water is the only food  
 That doth encrease the vegetable seed,  
 And Animals hence grow, nor is in wood  
 And flesh much difference in weight, and yet  
 One sperm will never either streight beget.

24 Though in the general there doth appear  
 In matter more remote affinity,  
 Hence may a carkasse cause a Tree to bear  
 Its fruit (if dung'd therewith) abundantly,  
 And fruit and corn do living creatures feed,  
 Which doth from some affinity proceed.

25 But gold, or gems, or Stones, or such like things  
 To man or beast so far remote from food  
 Appear, they nought assuage fierce hungers sting,  
 For nourishment they are in no wise good,  
 This is because the distance is so great  
 \*Twixt thing and thing, that they will never meet.

26 For 'twixt things which assimilated are  
 By transmutation, there must intercede  
 Precedent likenesse, else no mortal care  
 Can cause an Union, thus metals feed

Of their own moisture, and not out of kinde,  
Consider this and weigh it in thy minde.

27 True, Nature knows of water how to make  
A body metalline, when once the seed  
Of metals it inhabiting doth take  
Occasion to work, yet 'tis decreed,  
That Natures self throughout her total race,  
Shall be confin'd unto her proper place.

28 Thus humane seed in man alone resides,  
And so of beast the like is to be seen,  
Nay and moreover there's a Spirit guides  
Each thing according to its rule, so even  
That nothing in its course may step aside,  
This spirit eke a body grosse doth hide.

(strange  
29 Why seek you then blinde fools from subjects  
To reap our secret stone of gold, which may  
To weight and fixity crude metals change,  
Think you this vertue doth lie hid in clay,  
In Nitre, Urine, Ordure, or in dew?  
Cease timely, and learn operations true.

30 Gold then the subject of our Art alone,  
We must conclude, since gold by it we seek,  
There's not an Artist in this path hath gone  
But doth averre the same, and reason eke,  
Confirms their sentence, this the certain base  
Of all our secrets is, this is its place.



31 And now t'unfold the riddles of the wise,  
 Who on this subject very strangely write,  
 I shall not need since many did devise,  
 By all means for to hide (moved with spight)  
 The truth which yet they promise to unfold,  
 And some knew nothing, yet to write were bold.

32 Yet Morian a Noble Sonne of Art  
 I must confesse, yet darkly did expresse  
 The truth, but did not with deceitful heart  
 Delusions feign, yet in a hidden dresse.  
 His whole discourse which Calid he dispos'd,  
 Not minding all should therein be disclos'd.

33 Whereas the King he warn'd to descend  
 Into himself the matter for to finde  
 Of this our stone, he only did intend  
 This to point out how kinde begetteth kinde,  
 As then himself his likenesse did beget,  
So gold must gold, this Law's to nature set.

34 Yet God alone is only perfect, but  
 Of that perfection no part can spare  
 Without embasing, whatsoe're is put  
 To it in mixture can receive no share,  
 Only it doth debase it for a time,  
 Nor doth it ought above its basenesse clime.

35 One Reason is that which I gave before,  
 Another is its Corporal ty,

By reason of the same it can no more  
 But mix infusion confusedly,  
 Both still retaining their own qualities  
 Distinct, although conjoynd to the eyes.

ld. 36 Therefore he wisely addes, that sure unlesse  
 He in a dunghill finde our secret stone,  
 That is, gold must be brought to putrednesse,  
 Compared to a dunghil, else there's none  
 By any work may perfect his desire  
 Of fixing metals which do fly the fire.

27 The Allegories which the Magi use  
 By things well known hid secrets to declare,  
 He fondly doth their meaning much abuse  
 That them interprets literally, there are  
 No men but only fools who madly dote  
 Would hope to have a Horse and buy a Goat.

38 But others though on gold they ground their  
 And seek to have it rot and putrifie, (skill,  
 Yet to gold vulgar they can have no will,  
 But it reject, in words disdainfully,  
 For all (say they) do with one mouth conclude,  
 That he who vulgar gold doth take is rude.

39 For Authors all do with one mouth professe,  
 Our gold from common differs very much,  
 The one is dead, the other doth possesse,  
 A vital spirit, vulgar only such,



Do choose who erre from Natures trodden way  
They therefore in their work needs go astray.

40 But he who well considers Natures Law,  
Shall finde and gold is only one,  
No other substance which the Sun ere saw  
With it may be compar'd, this is our stone  
Which we digest into an essence pure,  
That may both tinge and teach fire to endure,

41 For what is gold but of the metals all  
The purest, fixedst, and of greatest weight,  
There is no metal ne yet mineral,  
That can be brought by any humane sleight  
The properties of gold to shew, but then  
'Tis real gold confest by learned men.

42 How then? Ev'n thus, Gold is the noble seed,  
Of this our Art which yet is streightly lockt,  
Thus is it dead, for it by Art doth need  
To be unloosed, else they shall be mockt  
Who work on gold which must to water go,  
Before its active vertue it can show.

43 Observe a grain of wheat in which doth lie  
An active and multiplicative might,  
Yet in the Earth it must be sown and die,  
And rotting pass through dark corruptions night,  
And can it not be truly called seed,  
But corn on which both man and beast may feed.

44 Should

44 Should a mad Husbandman his grain to fire  
Commit and hope, from thence to reap a crop,  
Would any wonder if his fond desire,  
Should fruitlesse prove, whose madness for to stop,  
A man may say and that without a lye,  
The grain is not that which doth multiply.

45 For why each thing unto its disposition  
Doth fitly answer with a sure effect,  
Thus operations change a things condition,  
To which an Artist should have due respect,  
Wheat ground to flower n<sup>r</sup>is seed, but of bread  
The matter, for its vital force is dead.

46 If malted it makes beer for bread unfit,  
Prepar'd for starch, to neither it doth serve,  
Fermented gives good wine, or else if it  
By fire calcined be, it then will swerve  
From all the other operations nam'd,  
Yeelding a fixed salt, thus may be fram'd,

47 A thousand things and more of that which is  
But one intire substance, whence tis clear,  
That whoso doth right disposition misse,  
Though on the subject right he work, yet nere  
The end he will attain which he propounds  
Because he seeks on inconsistent grounds.

48 Apply this to our purpose, and suppose  
A man take gold and vulgar Mercury,

And



And them Amalgam, this though fit for those  
 Who labour to guild superficially,  
 Yet 'tis not of our Art the matter true,  
 For we such disposition do eschew.

49 Or grant this mixture to digest be set  
 In circulating heat, I well admit  
 'Twill give precipitate, when all the sweat  
 Of Mercury shall be, but yet  
 This differs from our hidden secret stone,  
 To which this work was but a foolish one.

50 But when that gold with its humidity  
 Is temper'd and within a fit glasse closed,  
 And in due heat digested, by and by  
 It doth begin to act, for thus disposed  
 'Tis like to good seed into good ground cast,  
 Which will augment it self in kinde at last.

51 What should I adde? it is most evident  
 From Reason and from Testimonies eke,  
Our matter it is gold which must be blent  
 With our true water which so many seek,  
 Few finde, and then in vessell due dispos'd,  
 Which with all caution must be surely clos'd.

52 This then in a due nest must settled be,  
 And with due fire to motion inclin'd,  
 The fire immortal for to keep thou see,  
 Neither too great nor small, and then I binde

My

My faith, and eke the credit of my name,  
That the successe thy work shall never blame.

53 Gold then is gold, if stamp't it's coyn, if fram'd  
In its due form becomes a Ring, or if else  
Corroded with a water which is nam'd  
*Chrysolca*, which each vulgar Chemist sels,  
And then with Lye of *Tartar* made to fall  
To bottome, gives a powder which men call

54 Gold Sclopetant, which fires with a touch,  
And thunders with a monstrous fearful crack,  
Rending by downward force, its might is such  
As scarce may be beleev'd, this as a knack,  
Hath by the proof of many oft been found  
And divers other changes.

55 So then as gold is used it is made  
Matter for one or for another end,  
But ours it is not, until by retrograde  
Motion to resolution it intend,

Then is it our Sunne and our Marchasite  
Joyn'd with our Moon, our Crystal Fountain  
(bright.

56 As then each earth for each seed is not fit,  
So each metalline water for our Art  
Is not to be desired, they who hit  
On our true water have the hidden part  
Of our rare stone, which if they can espouse  
And with the Sun digest, in its due house

57 With



57 With a due fire, I may be bold to say,  
That they may go to the Hesperian tree,  
And pluck its apples, these are such as may  
Advance gold corporal to such degree,  
That it all metals which imperfect are,  
May enter, tinge, and fix to gold most rare.

58 But of this Mercury if you desire  
The secret for to learn, attend to me,  
For this a water is which yet is fire,  
Which bodies conquers from their fixt degree,  
And makes them fly much like a spirit pure,  
This after fixing all flame to endure.

59 This water it doth flow from fourfold Spring,  
Which is but shree, which two, and which but one,  
This is the only bath to bathe our King,  
This is our Maydew, this our flying stone,  
Our Bird of *Hermes* in the mountains flying,  
And without voice or note is alwaies crying.

60 'Tis *Saturnus* off-spring who a well doth keep,  
In which cause *Mars* for to be drowned, then  
Let *Saturn* in this Well behold his face,  
Which will seem fresh, and yong, and tender, when  
The souls of both are thus together blended  
For each by other need to be amended;

61 Then lo, a Star into this Well shall fall,  
And with its lustrous raies the earth will shine,

Let

Let *Venus* adde her influence withall,  
 For she is Nurse of this our stone divine,  
 The bond of all CrySTALLINE Mercury,  
 This is the Spring in which our Sun must die.

L O S  
 a Time of day  
 mix.

62 This is our Lunar juyce, this is our Moon,  
 This is th' Hesperian garden, happy they  
 Who know it to prepare, for they eftssoon  
 May climbe the Mountain tops whereever day  
 Darknesse doth banish and obscurity,  
 Of which the Art you shall hear by and by.

63 Take thou that substance which is *Saturns* childe  
 This is the Serpent which shall see devour  
*Cadmus* with his companions, though defil'd  
 It be, yet thou shalt with a gentle showr  
 Wash off its blacknesse till the Moon appear,  
 Shining most bright, know then the day is near.

64 A carkasse thou shalt see anatomized,  
 Which is our Toad in muddy places feeding,  
 Most venomous, of us yet highly prized,  
 This cause to lose its venome, which by bleeding  
 May be attain'd, the bloud preserve with care,  
 I have disclosed all that here I dare.

65 Let seven Eagles carry this aloft,  
 For air with air will easily ascend,  
 And to the Earth let it descend as oft,  
 For Earth to it its influence must lend;

Remove



Remove the feces with a gentle fire,  
And lo the substance we so much desire,

66 This is a water shining very bright,  
Mix this with *Sol* in due proportion, next  
To learn the due heat fail not, then thy fight  
Shall teach the rest the Lion being vext  
Shall with the Eagles make a bloody fight,  
And all shall end in a most dismall night.

67 But oh beware impatience do not cause  
Thee, though an itch of minde for to be bold,  
In this thy work to transgresse Natures Laws,  
For no man sooner erres through heat or cold,  
Then he who through impatience of minde,  
Cannot expect its time which he would finde.

68 Move not thy glasse ne open, else thou wilt  
Endamage nay destroy thy work, beside  
Encrease not fire rashly, lest that spilt  
Thy work thou see, there's nothing all the Tide  
That this thy work doth stand, so much of fear,  
As too much fire one hour will cost thee dear.

69 The practise part (if this accepted prove,  
And finde its welcome as it doth deserve,)  
Shall follow in three Books, which I for love,  
And for desire the Studios to serve  
Shall after publish: This for present take,  
Reade and accept it for the givers sake.

*Sic Explicit pars prima Theorica.*

en 20

52

feers 57.

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