

# **THE CHRISTIAN ALCHEMIST INTERPRETATION OF THE HOLY TRINITY**

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Alchemy is an ancient and universal philosophy. Its origin is a subject of debate but what is very clear is the presence of its fragments in many and if not all religions and philosophies. In this short article I want to concentrate on the influence of alchemy on esoteric Christianity interpretation of the Holy trinity.

Rosicrucianism is rooted in esoteric Christianity. Ancient Rosicrucian alchemists were influenced by inner Christian theology. Alchemy as one of the streams of Rosicrucianism is not practiced in isolation from other streams. All the streams must converge together to form the river of knowledge. To understand the philosophy of Alchemy, an initiate would always make references to Cabala, hermeticism, Pythagoreanism, Gnosticism and magic etc.

There is really one thing that is essential to Christian Alchemy, it is spiritual Alchemy. This form of Alchemy is one of the foundations of philosophy that carves out the way we must follow to regain the knowledge of the divine kingdom. Here in lies the fundamentals of the great work which we must follow in order to discover the philosopher's stone. Material or laboratory Alchemy has attracted the mundane worldly interest in Alchemy but Christ himself said in John 18:36 "my kingdom is not of this world...". Alchemical knowledge was never meant for the acquisition of worldly riches like gold. It was meant for inner transformation. Spiritual or inner Alchemy must precede material Alchemy for we have to acquire the gold within us first before we can manifest it without. For no one can rightly give what he doesn't have.

The aim of Alchemy was to transmute base metals like lead or tin into gold. This transmutation was not done on the metals directly but on the materia prima. The material prima of alchemist is composed of Sulphur, Salt and Mercury combined in precise proportion. According to Alchemist the materia prima is rare and one of the most guarded secrets of the alchemist. It is everywhere but it is still very difficult to find. The only one who can find it is the initiate whose spiritual eye has been trained to do so. I want the reader to pay attention to the alchemical elements that constitute the materia prima in perfect proportion. Sulphur, Salt and mercury are what the Christian alchemists associated with the holy trinity. Sulphur as God the father, Salt as the God the Son and Mercury as God the Holy spirit. They went further to associate the holy trinity to the supernal triangle on the tree of life. Keter God the Father, Chokmah God the son and Binah God the Holy spirit. The supernal triangle is the divine world of perfect being Adam Kadmon. It was our abode before our "fall" to earth - Malkuth the kingdom where the material prima of the alchemist is buried and hidden. As above so below, As in Keter so in Malkuth and as in heaven so on earth. The divine holy trinity of sulphur, salt and mercury of the Christian alchemist buried

matter lost to worldly eyes and revealed only to initiates who have completed the process of inner transformation. The same St. John said in John 1:5 about the word: “And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” It is the lost word which we can only recover the substitute through initiation.

To transmute the materia prima, the alchemist has to apply fire and go through the seven stages of transmutation in order to arrive at the final goal – marriage with the divine holy trinity. What this fire does is to essentially separate the gross matter from the three subtle divine elements or bring death to the gross matter and resurrect the divine elements it trapped. An operation referred to by Hermes Trismegistus in emerald tablet as .....”separate thou earth from fire. The subtle from the gross with great industry. It ascends from the earth to the heaven and again it descends to earth and receives the force of things superior and inferior”. In psychology it is the total deconstruction of the psyche. Getting rid of the unwanted elements and reconstructing it with that which is pure and divine in order to confect the philosopher’s Stone. The stone of the wise which Jesus himself referred to in Mathew 7:24-27 and Peter in 1 Peter 2:5

The symbolic fire of the Christian Alchemist is the Holy letter Shin which is the symbol of fire in Cabala. The Holy letter shin when place in the middle of the Hebrew name of God Jehovah becomes Yehoshuah which translate to English as Jesus – the savior or the fire of God. Shin is called a holy letter in Cabala because its numerical value 300 is the same with Ruach Elohim which means the spirit of God. It has three Yods or three tongues of flame regarded by Christian Alchemists as the symbol of the holy trinity in Christ and represents the three elements of Alchemy – Sulphur, Salt and Mercury. This Alchemical fire also represents the INRI – Igne Natura Renovatur Integra. The acronym place on top of the crucifix . The sacred fire that redeems and renews all nature. The operation of this fire is in seven stages and these seven stages refer to the seven chakras or energy centers in man. The fire rising from the base of the spine ( Malkut the kingdom) ascends and purify, regenerate and illuminate all the seven energy centers on the way to the head where it is re-absolved in Keter – the God head of the divine holy trinity. The alchemical operation of fire is associated with the baptism of fire from the words of John Baptist in Matthew 3:11. To the Christian Alchemist Adam Kadmon the perfect man represents Jesus Christ as the Archetype and model to be followed in the alchemical operation of redemption while Adam the imperfect man represents the materia prima on whom to apply the operation. Let us bring this article home to ourselves. The alchemist is the material prima or Adam. We are the children of Adam chased away from the garden of Eden into this world to find our way and return back to our original home in the divine kingdom and be re-absolved by the holy trinity. The Christian Alchemist believes that Jesus Christ is the way as expressed by John in John 3:16 and Jesus himself in John 14:16.

The Alchemists have said that the materia prima essentially contains the three alchemical elements of alchemy which their Christian brothers understood to be the hidden mystery of the holy trinity. All cosmic laws both above and below manifest through the law of Triangle. Number three is the body that carries number one. Number one through number three radiates seven rays that sustain the universe and number Four gives form to numbers three. Was this not

explained in the Tetractys and equilateral Triangle of Pythagoras? Material scientists work with it but they do not understand its inner meaning but the Christian alchemist has long understood that to formulate his philosopher's stone He needs to unite with it and at least understand some aspects of its mystery. This is the only way he can receive the baptism of the holy spirit. Master Jesus took his disciples on this path of preparation and alchemical purification and when they were ripe and ready he gave them the baptism of the holy spirit during the Pentecost.

The question we have to ask is where is the holy trinity or the alchemical elements of Sulphur, salt and mercury within us. The best way to approach the unknown is to start from the known. Let's us begin this alchemical work with ourselves – the creation of God and God's temple . Let us rend the veils of alchemy, let us remove the blinds and bogus analogies used by ancients alchemists. They did this to fool the worldly and to protect the alchemical art from charlatans. There is nothing that is outside man. Everything is within man. We are complete beings.

Our THOUGHT represents God the father (sulphur) our WORD God the Son (Salt) and our ACTION God the Holy spirit (mercury). Our thought leads to our word, our Word leads to our Action, our Action leads to our Habit, our Habit leads to our Character and our Character leads to our Destiny. Our Destiny is the fruit of all the seeds we have sown from our thought down to our character. Our destiny is our own creation. What you sow is what you reap (Galatians 6:7-9). I am trying to make a case that we do not have to look for the secrets of alchemy outside ourselves The Magnum Opus - the great work is literally revealed in ourselves. We can start from our own psychological transformation by watching our thoughts down to our action by making sure they are always constructive. Was it not said in Proverbs 23:7 “as a man thinketh in his heart, so he is”? Inner transformation is imperative for spiritual progress. Apply the Alchemical fire which is the symbol of your will power on yourself. Separate your virtues from your vices. Get rid of your vices and use your virtues to reconstruct your new man. We must work to acquire the seven cardinal virtues and eliminate our seven cardinal vices. We must work on these three levels of our being which is literally our own trinity and make them holy. Make our beings a perfect temple of God. This is the only way we can be ready and fit to receive the gift of the revelation of our philosopher's stone or our baptism of the holy spirit.

The goal of this work is to liberate not to restrict. We can find this same universal analogy in Fama Fraternitatis where s story of the discovery of the vault of our founding father Christian Rosens Cruz (C.R.C) was told. The vault where all the wisdom of our order is summarized. Brother N.N discovered the vault while he was making some repairs in his building. The repair he was making in his building was the same inner alchemical process I stated above. His building was his himself. We have to repair these three aspects of our being – Our thought, speech and action. This is the trinity of our being which we must make holy in order for us to discover the secrets of the philosophers stone and attain divine marriage with the three aspects of being. As we repair our beings we are also repairing the world. Discovering of the vault of C.R.C is the reward of the repair work. In the room of the vault, Brother N.N saw a circular altar with inscription “Jesu mihi omnia” meaning literally “Jesus is all things to me”. I wanted to briefly emphasize on this very vital key because I think it very important to know that we cannot do this

alone by ourselves. We have a helper in our redeemer who is the archetype and the model we must follow and who we have to ask for the assistance of his holy "fire" that is His will to come into our being and fortify our own will and make us stronger so that we can withstand the trials, tribulations and tests which come with this process. With his fire in us, we shall conquer our lower self and liberate it from the illusions of the material world. The father and the son are one and the divinity and power of the son is the holy spirit. Let us ask our blessed Immanuel our great redeemer and initiator, the one on whose banner our names are enlisted to give us the gift of his alchemical fire and bless us with revelation of the mystery of the holy trinity.