

comments about Transmutation

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Much absolute rubbish has been said and thought about this subject. Most students of alchemy probably give this idea very little thought, ever, happy with the simple notion that it is the means by which base metals are converted into gold.

The subject is far from being that simple, though, and far more important, in its understanding, to solving the enigmas of advanced practice than most would realise.

If you know what transmutation is, and how it is effected, then understanding what the Stone is and how it might be attained becomes much clearer.

What I am about to describe is not explained anywhere else, as I present it, in the entire realm of alchemical literature. Parts of this explanation appear in some of the key texts on hermetism (outside of alchemy specific texts), and parts in texts on alchemical philosophy. Generally the references are vague, and nowhere is a complete reference to these ideas given in one place.

Anyone who has bothered to read the 'hermetic' documents in the files section should recognise the following description is elaborated upon in more detail there.

Hermetic philosophy teaches that the Supreme Being created our universe with the intention that it should serve as a medium for Its desire to experience Itself.

Deity originally existed in a state which we might describe as complete Unity. In this state there are no oppositions, not distinctions and no comparisons. Everything is at-one.

It is said that in order for Deity to understand what It is, to understand Its potential, It had to separate Itself from Itself, and that from this a binary arose ... everything that is not (the unmanifest) and everything that is (the manifest), as well as all subsequent binary manifestations in nature

The details of the explanation of how all of this works, and how hermetists understand these abstract concepts, can be discovered in Jacob Boheme's writings. Boheme could reasonably be considered the author of 'the' definitive alchemical-hermetic philosophy - par excellence.

What happened when this binary was created was that at the same time a process was activated. This process alchemists refer to as the 'spagyric formula'. What the spagyric formula did was that it organised intelligence, energy and matter into a specific direction.

The manifestation of this direction I have been in the habit of referring to as evolution. What I mean here by evolution is not classic Darwinian evolution, although we might say that Darwin's theories of evolution are a crude description of part of the system I have called spagyric evolution.

Spagyric evolution does not just involve the members of the plant and animal kingdoms. It also involves minerals. We might say that (if we use the basic modern physics model of creation), as soon as the big bang happened matter, energy and intelligence started evolving. Simple physical substances arose, along with simple forms of energy and simple intelligence. These basic conditions developed and more complex materials evolved, more complex energies and more complex intelligences.

Eventually, after billions of years, vegetable life evolved out of mineral life and animal life from vegetable life.

I think this much most of us can picture and accept, even if we might not agree with the details. But the concept that needs to be realised here is that this orderly development of 'things' started in a seed-state where the spagyric mechanism lay dormant, then everything which grew out of this seed-state appeared and evolved according to an orderly plan, by means of a special mechanism.

This mechanism we call spagyrics. Spagyrics is the 'means' of evolution. A deeper understanding of the reason for evolution is something outside of the purpose of this group, and my present explanation.

In order for this evolutionary process to be animated it also requires both fuel and direction.

All of these concepts are the subject of alchemical study and research, whether the student realises it or not.

Now, spagyric evolution has both a macrocosmic aspect and a microcosmic one. That is, it happens on a universal scale .. mineral > vegetable > animal, etc.

But it also happens within species ... lead > tin > iron > etc to gold, for example. Or through bacteria > simple organic cell communities, worms, insects,

mammals, etc.

At a deeper level this evolutionary mechanism is seen in each individual entities' life ... conception > gestation, infancy, childhood, adulthood, etc.

The life cycle of an individual person (for example) is driven by the same energy, by the same mechanism and directed by the same intelligence for the same reasons that govern the evolution of the universe itself. There is no difference, essentially, between the evolution cycle of beetles as a species and the life cycle of a rat, for example.

So how does transmutation come in to all of this?

The act of transmuting a base metal into gold (for example), is 'exactly' the same mechanism that grows a universe or grows an orange tree.

All that metallic transmutation is, is the vastly speeded up life cycle of a metal.

Imagine if we could take a walnut (the seed of a walnut tree), and place it on the ground, then speed up time so that in 15 minutes we could see the walnut evolve from a seed into a full mature tree. What we would experience is the transmutation (excellerated evolution) of a seed into a tree.

This is an exact analogy of what happens with metallic transmutation. A base metal is unripe gold. The Philosopher's Stone is the same thing to a metal, that sunshine and weather are to an unripe orange.

Individuals in any species, or species themselves, evolve (or grow) at the speed that they do because 'in' matter there is a condition that muffles (dumbs down) the universal spagyric mechanism. Alchemists variously refer to this dumbing-down condition crudely as 'corruption', or 'the matter of corruption', or something similar.

Each species in nature responds to this dumbing-down of the growth mechanism (the evolutionary impulse, or natural spagyrics), differently, depending on the nature of their construction. For example, dogs 'age' 7 times faster than humans, and flies age many 100's of times faster than dogs. Minerals on the other hand have life spans that are many, many 1000s of times longer than humans.

So how does the Philosopher's Stone work? It should now be obvious. It is a substance that has had the dumbing-down factor removed, allowing it to conduct the force of evolution in an almost pure stream or

field.

One of the key secrets of alchemy is found in knowing what corruption is ... the 'khem' or 'black matter'. Knowing how it arises in matter, what condition it exists in, and how to remove it.

I have mentioned a number of times before that the Elixir of Life is often referred to simply as just a dilute liquor of the Philosopher's Stone. That is, a homeopathic dilution of the Stone, prepared for ingestion. It should be interesting to note, then, that ingestion of the Elixir Vitae, and its subsequent legendary effects, are simply another example of the symptoms of exposing something to raw evolutionary force. Rejuvenation, and its accompanying psychic awareness, are really just the result of the extreme acceleration of human evolution seen in one individual.

Rejuvenation is animal transmutation. It is the same thing that all the spiritual disciplines .. the yogas, meditations, rituals and devotions of various schools and cultures are also designed to achieve, but by much slower paths.

Gurdjieff once said that there are three common 'ways' to spiritual awakening.

He called these:

- (1) The first Way is the way of the fakir, demanding physical control and excruciating asceticism;
- (2) The second is the Way of the monk: the way of devotion, faith, the heart;
- (3) The third is the Way of the yogi: the path of knowledge, of mind.

Gurdjieff named a fourth way which he called "the way of the cunning man" - and alchemy, because of its possession of the secret of transmutation, comes under this title.

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~rubaphilos