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A New Light Of Alchymy

**Sędziwój, Michał
Paracelsus**

London, 1674

The parable or philosophical riddle, added by way of conclusion and
superaddition

[urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-96299](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-96299)

THE
PARABLE,

OR

Philosophical Riddle,

Added by way of Conclusion,
and Superaddition.

IT fell out upon a time, when I had sailed almost all my life from the Arctick Pole, to the Antartick, that by the singular Providence of God I was cast upon the shore of a certain great Sea, and although I well knew and understood the passages and properties of the Sea of that Coast, yet I knew not whether in those Coasts was bred that little Fish, which was called *Remora*, which so many men of great and small Fortunes have hitherto so studiously sought after. But whilst I was beholding the sweet singing Mermaids swimming up and down with the Nymphs, and being weary with my foregoing labours, and oppressed with divers thoughts, I was with the noise of Waters overtaken with sleep; and whilst I was in a sweet sleep, there appear'd to me in my sleep a wonderful Vision, which is this. I saw *Neptune* a man of an honorable

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rable old age, going forth out of our Sea with his
 three toothed Instrument, called *Tridens*, who af-
 ter a friendly salute led me into a most pleasant
 Island. This goodly Island was situated towards
 the South, being replenished with all things respec-
 ting the necessity and delight of man: *Virgils E-
 lisan* Field might scarce compare with it. All
 the Banks were round about beset with green
 Mirtles, Cypress Trees and Rosemary. The
 green Meadows were covered all over with
 Flowers of all sorts, both fair and sweet. The
 Hills were set forth with Vines, Olive trees, and
 Cedar trees in a most wonderful manner. The
 Woods were filled with Orange and Lemmon-
 trees. The high ways were planted on both sides
 with Bay-trees and Pomegranate-trees, woven
 most artificially one within the other, and affor-
 ding a most pleasant shadow to Travellers. And
 to be short, whatsoever is in the whole world was
 seen there. As I was walking, there was shewed
 to me by the aforefaid *Neptune* two Mines of that
 Island lying under a certain Rock, the one was of
 Gold, the other of Chalybs, or Steel. Not far
 from thence I was brought to a Meadow in which
 was a peculiar Orchard with divers sorts of Trees
 most goodly to behold, and amongst the rest, be-
 ing very many, he shewed to me seven Trees mar-
 ked out by special Names; and amongst these I
 observed two as chiefest, more eminent than the
 rest, one of which did bear Fruit like the Sun most
 bright, and shining, and the Leaves thereof were
 like Gold. The other brought forth Fruit that
 was most white, yea, whiter than the Lillies, and
 the Leaves thereof were as fine Silver: Now these

Trees were called by *Neptune*, the one the Tree of the Sun, the other the Tree of the Moon. And although in this Island all things were at ones pleasure and command, and but one wanting: there was no Water to be had, but with great difficulty. There were indeed many that partly endeavoured to bring it thither by Pipes, and partly drew it out of divers things: but their endeavours were in vain; because in those places it could not be had by means or medium: and if it were at any time had, yet it was unprofitable and poisonous, unless they fetched it (as few could do) from the Beam of the Sun and Moon; and he which was fortunate in so doing could never get above ten parts, and that Water was most wonderful: and believe me, for I saw it with mine eyes, and felt it, that that Water was as white as the Snow; and while I was contemplating upon the Water, I was in great wonder. Wherefore *Neptune* being in the mean while wearied vanished away from before mine eyes, and there appeared to me a great man upon whose forehead was written the name of *Saturn*. This man taking the Vessel drew ten parts of Water, and took presently of the Tree of the Sun, and put it in; and I saw the Fruit of the Tree consumed, and resolved like Ice in warm Water. I demanded of him; Sir, I see a wonderful thing, Water to be as it were of nothing; I see the Fruit of the Tree consumed in it with a most sweet and kindly heat, and wherefore is all this? But he answered me most lovingly. My Son, it is true this is a thing to be wondred at; but do not thou wonder at it, for so it must be. For this Water is the Water of Life, having power

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er to better the Fruit of this Tree, so that after-
 ward neither by planting or grafting, but only by
 its own odour it may convert the other six Trees
 into its own likeness. Moreover this Water is to
 this Fruit as it were a Woman, the Fruit of this
 Tree can be putrified in nothing but in this Wa-
 ter, and although the Fruit of it be of it self most
 wonderful, and a thing of great price; yet if it
 be putrified in this Water it begets by this putre-
 faction a *Salamander* abiding in the Fire, whose
 Blood is more precious than any kind of Treasure
 or Riches in the world, being able to make those
 six Trees, which here thou seest, fruitful, and to
 bring forth their fruit sweeter than the Honey. But
 I asked, Sir, How is that done? I told thee (said
 he) that the Fruit of that Tree is living, and sweet;
 but whereas one is now sufficed with it, when it
 is boyled in this Water, a thousand may then be
 satisfied with it. I demanded moreover, Sir, is
 it boiled with a strong fire, and how long is it in
 boiling? But, said he, that Water hath an intrin-
 secal Fire, and if it be helped with a continual
 Heat, it burns three parts of its body with this bo-
 dy of the Fruit, and there will remain but a ve-
 ry small part, which is scarce imaginable, but of
 wonderful virtue; it is boiled by the skilful Wit
 of the Artificer, first seven mon hs, then ten, but
 in the mean time there appeared divers things, and
 always in the fiftieth day, or thereabouts. I de-
 manded again, Sir, cannot this Fruit be boiled in
 other waters, or something be put to it? He
 answered, there is but this one Water that is use-
 ful in this Country, or Island; and there is no o-
 ther water can penetrate the pores of this Apple,

but this : and know also that the Tree of the Sun hath its original from this Water, which is extracted out of the Beams of the Sun and Moon by a magnetick virtue : Besides they have a great correspondency betwixt themselves, but if any strange thing be added to it, it cannot perform that which it can do of it self. It must therefore be left by it self, and nothing added to it but this Apple : This Fruit after boiling becomes to be immortal, having Life and Blood, which Blood makes all the Trees bring forth Fruit of the same Nature with the Apple. I asked him further, Sir, is this Water drawn any other way, or to be had every where? And he said, it is in every place, and no man can live without it; it is drawn divers ways, but that is the best which is extracted by virtue of our Chalybs, which is found in the Belly of *Aries*. I said, to what use is it? He answered, before its due boiling it is the greatest Poison, but after a convenient boiling it is the greatest Medicine, and yields nine and twenty Grains of Blood; and every Grain will yield to thee the Fruit of the Tree of the Sun in 864 fold. I asked, Can it not be made yet better? The Philosophical Scripture being witness (saith he) it may be exalted first to ten, then to a hundred, then to a thousand, and ten thousand. I required again of him, Sir, Do many know that Water, and hath it any proper Name? He cryed out, saying, Few know it but all have seen it, and do see it, and love it : it hath many and various Names, but its proper Name is the Water of our Sea, the Water of Life notwithstanding the hands. I asked yet farther, Do any use it to any other things? Every Creature (saith he)

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he) doth use it, but invisibly. Then I asked, Doth any thing grow in it? but he said, Of it are made all things in the world, and in it they live, but in it nothing properly is, but it is that thing which mixeth it self to every thing. I asked again, Is it useful for any thing without the Fruit of this Tree? To this he said, Not in this work; because it is not bettered, but in the Fruit of the Tree of the Sun alone. I began to intreat him, Sir, I pray, name it to me by such a manifest Name, that I may have no further doubt about it. But he cryed with a loud voice, so as that he awakened me from sleep: Therefore I could ask him no further, neither would he tell me any more, neither can I tell any more. Be satisfied with these, and believe me, that it is not possible to speak more clearly. For if thou dost not understand these things, thou wilt never be able to comprehend the Books of other Philosophers. After *Saturn's* unexpected and sudden departure a new sleep came upon me, and then appeared to me *Neptune* in a visible shape: He congratulated my present happiness in the Gardens of the *Hesperides*, shewing to me; a Looking-glass, in which I saw all Nature discovered. After the changing of divers words betwixt us, I gave him thanks for his courtesies shewed to me; because I not only entred into this Garden, but also came into *Saturn's* most desired Discourse. But because by reason of *Saturn's* unexpected departure some difficulties did yet remain to be inquired after, and searched into, I earnestly besought him, that by means of this happy opportunity he would resolve me my doubts. Now I importuned him with these words, Sir, I have

