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A New Light Of Alchymy

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Paracelsus**

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Of the element of earth

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OF THE
ELEMENT
OF THE
EARTH.

THe Earth is of great worth in its Quality and Dignity: in this Element the other three, especially the Fire rest. It is the most excellent Element to conceal and discover those things which are intrusted to it: it is gross and porous, heavy in respect of its smalness, but light in respect of its Nature; it is also the Center of the World, as also of the other Elements: through its Center passeth the Axeltree of the World, and of both Poles. It is porous, as we said, as a Sponge, and brings forth nothing of it self, but all things whatsoever the other three distil and project into it, it receives, keeps all things that are to be kept, brings to light all things that are to be brought to light. It brings forth (as we said before) nothing of it self, but it is the Receptacle of other things, and it is that in which every thing that

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that is brought forth doth abide, and by heat of Motion is purified in it, and is multiplied by the same, the pure being separated from the impure: That which is heavy in it is hid, and the Heat drives that which is light unto its superficies. It is the Nurse and Matrix of all Seed and Commixtion. It can indeed do nothing else than preserve the Seed, and what is made of it, till it be ripe. It is cold, dry, tempered with Water; visible without and fixed; but within invisible and volatile. It is a Virgin, and the *Caput Mortuum* left after the Creation of the World, which shall hereafter at Divine Pleasure be calcined, after Extraction of its Moisture, that of it a new Christalline Earth may be created. Also this Element is divided into a pure part and an impure. The Water makes use of the pure to bring forth things, but the impure remains in its Globe. This Element is the hiding place, and Mansion of all Treasure. In its Center is the Fire of Hell, preserving this Fabrick of the World in its Being; and this by the expression of Water into the Air. That Fire is caused and kindled by the *primum Mobile*, and the influences of the Stars: the Heat of the Sun, tempered with the Air, meets with this Heat for the ripening and drawing up of those things, which are already conceived in its Center. Moreover the Earth partakes of Fire, which is the intrinsecal part of it, neither is it purified but in the Fire: and so every Element is purified with its intrinsecal part. Now the Intrinsecal part, or inside of the Earth, or its Center is the highest Purity

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mixed with Fire, where nothing can rest: It is as it were an empty place, into which all the other Elements do project their Virtues, as hath been spoken in the Book of the Twelve Treatises. And thus much of the Element of Earth, which we have called a Spunge, and the Recepracle of other things, which servech for our purpose.

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