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A New Light Of Alchymy

**Sędziwój, Michał
Paracelsus**

London, 1674

The fourth book

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

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OF THE
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THINGS.

The fourth Book.

Of the life of Natural Things.

NO man can deny that Air gives life to all Things, bodies and substances, that are produced, and generated of the Earth. Now you must know what, and what manner of thing the life of every thing in particular is; and it is nothing else then a spiritual essence, a thing that is invisible, impalpable, a spirit, and spiritual. Wherefore there is no corporeal thing, which hath not a spirit lying hid in it, as also a life, which, as I said before, is nothing but a spiritual thing. For not only that hath life which moves, and stirs, as Men, Animals, Vermine of the Earth, Birds in the

What use the Air is for, as to the life of Things.

What the life of things is.
What things have life.

the Air, Fish in the Sea, but also all corporeal, and substantial things. For here we must know that God in the beginning of the Creation of all things, created no body at all without its spirit, which it secretly contains in it.

What is the difference betwixt the Spirit and the Body.

For what is the body without a spirit? Nothing at all. Wherefore the spirit contains in it secretly the vertue, and power of the thing, and not the body. For in the body there is death, and the body is the subject of death, neither is any else to be sought for in the body, but death.

The Spirit never dies.

For that may several ways be destroyed, and corrupted, but the spirit cannot. For the living spirit remains for ever, and also is the subject of life, and preserves the body alive; but in the ruine of the body it is separated from it, and leaves behind it a dead body, and returns to its place from whence it came, viz. into the Chaos, and the Air of the upper and lower Firmament. Hence it appears that there are divers spirits, as well as divers bodies.

The division of the Spirit according to the variety of bodies.

The Spirit is the life of Corporeal things.

For there are spirits Celestial, Infernal, Humans, Metalline, Mineral, of Salts, of Gems, of Marcasites, of Arsenicks, of Potable things, of Roots, of Juices, of Flesh, of Blood, of Bones, &c. Wherefore also know that the spirit is most truly the life and balsome of all Corporeal things. But now we will proceed to the species, and briefly describe to you in this place the life of every natural thing in particular.

What the life of man is.

The life therefore of all men is nothing else but an Astral balsome, a Balsamick impression, and a celestrial invisible Fire, an included Air, and a tinging spirit of Salt. I cannot name it more plainly,

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ly, although it be set out by many names. And seeing we have declared the best, and chiefest, we shall be silent in these which are less material.

The life of Metals is a secret fatness, which they have received from Sulphur, which is manifest by their flowing, for every thing that flows in the fire, flows by reason of that secret fatness that is in it: unless that were in it, no Metal could flow, as we see in Iron, and Steel, which have less Sulphur, and Fatness, than all the other Metals, wherefore they are of a dryer Nature than all the rest.

What the life of Metals is.

The Life of Mercury is nothing else but the internal heat, and external coldness, *i. e.* it makes the internal part of its Body hot, and the outward part cold, and therefore might well be compared to a Garment made of Skins, which doth even as Mercury make hot and cold. For if a man wears such a Garment it makes him warm, and keeps him from the cold: but if the smooth part of those Skins be put upon his naked Body, it makes him cold, and is good against too much heat; wherefore it was a custom in ancient time, and still is in some places, to wear Skins as well in Summer as in Winter, as against Cold in the one, so against Heat in the other: in Summer they turn the smooth side inward, and the hairy side outward; and in the Winter the hairy side inward, and the smooth side outward. As therefore you have heard of the Garment of Skins, so also it may be said of Mercury.

What the life of Mercury is. Mercury is like to a garment of skins.

The life of Sulphur is a combustible, stinking fatness, for whilst it burns, and stinks, it may be said to be alive.

What the life of Sulphur is.

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What the
life of Salts
is.

Now the life of all Salts is nothing else but the spirit of *Aqua fortis*: for that water being drawn from them, that which remains in the bottom, is called dead Earth.

What the
life of Gems
and Corals
is.

The life of Gems, and Corals is only their colour, which with spirit of Wine may be taken from them.

What the
life of
Pearls is.
What the
life of the
Loadstone is

The life of Pearls is nothing else but their splendor, which they loose in calcination.

The life of the Loadstone is the spirit of Iron, which may be extracted, and taken away with spirit of Wine.

The life of
Flints what.

The life of Flints is a mucilaginous Matter.

The life of
Marcasites
what.

The life of Marcasites, Cachymia, Talcum, Cobaltum, Zimri, Granata, Wismat, and of Antimony is a tinging Metalline spirit.

The life of
Arsenicks.

The life of Arsenicks, Auripigment, Operment, Realgar, and such like matters; is a Mineral, and coagulated poison.

The life of
Excrements.

The life of Excrements, *i. e.* of mans dung, or beasts dung is their stinking smell, for this being lost they are dead.

The life of
Aromatical
Things.

The life of Aromatical Things, *viz.* of Musk, Amber-Gryse, Civet, and whatsoever yeilds a strong, good, and sweet smell, is nothing else but that grateful odour: for if they loose this they are dead and of no use.

The life of
sweet
Things.

The life of sweet Things, as of Sugar, Honey, Manna, Cassia, and such like is in their tinging, and subtile sweetness, for if that sweetness be taken from them by distilling, or subliming they are dead, unprofitable and nothing worth.

The life of all Rozzens, as Amber, Turpentine, Gummi,

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Gumm, is the maciliginous shining fatness, which gives that excellent Vernish to them all: for when they will yield no more Vernish, and lose their shining, they are dead:

The life of
Rozen.

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may be taken

The Life of Herbs, Roots, Apples, and other such like Fruit, is nothing else but the Liquor of the Earth, which they lose of their own accord, if they do but want Water and Earth.

The life of
Plants.

ut their splen-

The life of Wood is a certain Rozen, for any Wood if it want Rozen can live no longer.

The life of
Wood.

Spirit of Iron,
en away with

The Life of Bones is the Liquor of Mummie.

The life of
Bones.

iginous Mat-

The Life of Flesh and Blood is nothing else but the Spirit of Salt, which preserves them from stinking and putrefaction, and is of it self as water separated from them.

The life of
Flesh.

Talcum, Co-
nd of Antimo-

Now concerning the Life of Elements, you must know that the Life of Water is its running. For when by the coldness of the Firmament it is congealed into Ice, it is dead, and its mischievousness is taken from it, that no body can be drowned in it.

The life of
every Ele-
ment.

nt, Operment,
Mineral, and

The Life of Fire is Air, for Air makes Fire burn with greater vehemency and heat: Also there cometh forth from all Fire a kind of Air, which will blow out a Candle, and drive up a Feather, as you may daily see before your eyes. Wherefore the Flame of Fire is choaked if it be so stopp'd up, that it can neither receive in Air, nor let out its own Air.

What the
life of
Fire is.

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The Air lives by and of it self, and gives life to all other things.

What the
life of Air is

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The Earth of it self is dead, but the Element of it is an invisible and secret life.

What the
life of Earth
is.

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