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## **A New Light Of Alchymy**

**Sędziwój, Michał  
Paracelsus**

**London, 1674**

The fourth treatise. How metals are generated in the bowels of the earth

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or impure, but in one place more abundantly than in another, by the reason the Earth is more open and porous in one place than in another, having also an attractive Power. It comes forth into the light sometimes by it self, with some kind of Covering, especially in such places where there was nothing that it could well stick to; it is known thus, because every thing is compounded of three Principles; but in reference to the Matter of Metals is but one, without any conjunction to any thing, excepting to its Covering or Shadow, viz. Sulphur, &c.

### The fourth Treatise.

*How Metals are generated in the Bowels of the Earth.*

**M**etals are brought forth in this manner. After the four Elements have sent forth their Virtues into the Center of the Earth, the Archeus by way of Distillation sends them up unto the Superficies of the Earth, by vertue of the heat of its perpetual motion: for the Earth is porous, and this Wind by distilling through the Pores of the Earth, is resolved into Water, out of which all things are made. Therefore let the Sons of Wisdom know, that the Sperm of Metals doth not differ from the Sperm of all things, viz. the moist Vapour: therefore in vain do Artifts look after the reducing of Metals into their first Matter, which is only a Vapour. The Philosophers meant not such a first Matter, but only the second Matter, as *Bernardus Trevisanus* learnedly discusseth

it,



it though not so clearly, because he speaks of the four Elements, but yet he did say as much, but he spake only to the Sons of Art. But I, that I might the more clearly open the Theory, would have all be admonished here to take heed how they give way to so many Solutions, so many Circulations, so many Calcinations, and Reiterations of the same; for in vain is that sought for in a hard thing, when as the thing is soft of it self, and every where to be had. Let not the first, but the second Matter only be sought after, *viz.* that which as soon as it is conceived, cannot be changed into another form. But if thou inquirest how a Metal may be reduced into such a Matter, in that I keep close to the intention of the Philosopher: This thing only above all the rest I desire, that the Sons of Art would understand the Sense and not the Letter of Writings, and where Nature doth end, *viz.* in Metallick Bodies, which in our eyes seem to be perfect, there must Art begin. But to return to my purpose, (for my intention is not here to speak of the Stone only) let us now treat of the Matter of Metals. A little before I said, that all things were made of the liquid Air, or the Vapour, which the Elements by a perpetual motion distil into the Bowels of the Earth; and then the Archeus of Nature takes and sublimes it through the Pores, and according to its discretion distributes it to every place (as we have declared in the foregoing Treatises) so from the variety of places proceeds the variety of things. There be some, that suppose *Saturn* to have one kind of Seed, and *Gold* another, and so all the rest of the Metals. But these are foolish fancies;

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fancies; there is but one only Seed, the same is found in *Saturn* which is in Gold, the same in Silver which is in Iron; but the Place of the Earth is divers, if thou understandest me aright, although in Silver Nature sooner hath done its work than in Gold, and so of the rest. For when that Vapour is sublimed from the Center of the Earth, it passeth through places either cold or hot: If therefore it passeth through places that are hot and pure, where the fatness of Sulphur sticks to the Walls; I say, that Vapour which the Philosophers have called the Mercury of Philosophers applies it self to, and is joyned to that Fatness which then it sublimes with it self; and then becomes an Unctosity, and leaving the name of a Vapour, is called by the name of Fatness; which afterward coming by Sublimation unto other places which the foregoing Vapour hath cleansed, where the Earth is subtil, pure and moist, fills the Pores thereof, and is joyned to it, and so it is made Gold; but if that Fatness come to impure and cold places, it is made Lead; but if the Earth be cold and pure, and mixed with Sulphur, it is made Copper, &c. For by how much more a place is depurated, or cleansed, by so much the more excellent it makes the Metals: for we must know, that that Vapour goes out continually from the Center to the Superficies, and cleanseth those places through which it passeth. Thence it comes to pass, that now there may be found Mines in those places where a thousand years ago were none; for in its passage it always subtilizeth that which is crude and



and impure, carrying it by degrees with it: And this is the Reiteration, and Circuition of Nature; it is so long sublimed in producing new things, until the place be very well purified; and by how much the more it is purified, by so much the nobler things it brings forth. Now in the Winter when the Air is cold, binding fast the Earth, that unctuous Vapour is congealed, which afterward when the Spring returns is mixed together with Earth, and Water, and so becomes a Magnesia, drawing to it self the Mercury of Air like unto it self, and gives life to all things through the concurrence of the Beants of the Sun, Moon and Stars, and so it brings forth Grasse, Flowers, and such like things. For Nature is not one moment of time idle. Now Metals are thus made, the Earth by long Distillation is purified, then they are generated by the access, or coming thither of the Fartness: they are brought forth no other way, as is the foolish opinion of some that misinterpret the Writings of Philosophers.

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