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The secret of the four waters of perfection

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THE SECRET OF THE
FOUR WATERS OF PERFECTION.

VITRIOL 3 lb., alum (purified)
2 lb., saltpetre 1 lb. From
these you obtain, with aqua
fortis, the simple water of the first de-
gree. For the second water of perfec-
tion take 1 lb. of the first water, and
dissolve in it 4 oz. of salt armoniac;
this water then assumes another colour,
it dissolves the Sun, and constitutes the
second water of perfection. For the
third water take 20 oz. of the aforesaid
water, with 8 oz. of sublimed, well
pounded Mercury; mix, seal up, plunge
in hot ashes; when the Mercury is
dissolved, it is the third water of per-
fection, and when it is poured on a
plate of copper, the same receives the
colour of silver. This water burns with
a white and fetid flame, against which
you must be on your guard. For the

fourth water, take of this water and sublimed Mercury, plunge in sealed vessel, in horsedung, for a fortnight, and it will assume an imperfect blue and a yellowish colour; distil living water, through ashes, over a gentle fire, and you have the virgin's milk. The first water dissolves the Moon, calcines Mercury, blackens the skin, and is of the first degree. The second water dissolves gold and Mercury, sublimes sulphur, stains the skin orange, and is of the second degree. The third water changes copper into the colour of silver, and reduces all metals to their first matter. The fourth water reduces all calcined, pulverised bodies to the first matter, and is called the clear and living water; it is also heavy, and is called the virgin's milk; it is sharp, strong, and bitter; if one drop falls on copper it perforates it, and it forms white crystals when it is distilled like other waters. This water in distillation and putrefaction is free from all the corrosiveness of sulphur, and dissolves metals into

their first matter instead of corroding them; it is cleansed from all sediment, and impurity, and hardness of iron, of which all metals, even copper, retain a trace, and which is blue in colour. Take any calcined metallic filings, mix with salt pounded small, wash with hot salt water, dry, cover this powder to the height of two inches with oil of tartar, seal up, plunge in horsedung for eight days so that it may putrefy. Take it out of the vessel, pour off the oil, dry the powder slowly in warm ashes, put into living water (our fourth water), let the vessel be subjected to heat, and you will see how the powder melts into Mercury. Carefully empty the water into another vessel, and there will remain the new Mercury, which is corporeal, and not volatile like other Mercury; wash with hot water and common salt, and dry. Strain through a cloth; if any amalgam remains on the cloth, put it once more into the living water, till it becomes quick Mercury; repeat this till all the Mercury has

passed through the cloth. This is our magisterial, corporeal Mercury of signal perfection, and not the common kind. Its signs are these: that in its running it is not like simple Mercury; that when placed on a body which is not fixed in the fire, so far as it spreads over that body it fixes it. Thus it fixes all bodies which were not fixed before, and in the above way you can get as much corporeal Mercury as you like. If you have made 20 oz. of this Mercury, take $5\frac{1}{3}$ oz. of filings, pound small, add $10\frac{2}{3}$ oz. of corporeal Mercury, form an amalgam by pounding (making a soft paste). Divide amalgam into three parts, put into vessel, take one part of calcined body, and three parts of corporeal Mercury, mix well, add to other two parts of amalgam, mix well, let it stand in the vessel in hot ashes till the whole substance is changed into Mercury, and thus you can multiply this Mercury infinitely, so long as you have metal filings of any kind.