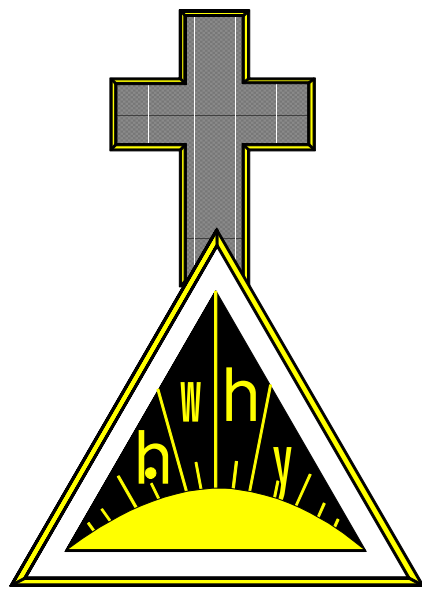


The Hermetic Order Of The
GOLDEN DAWN^{Intl.}

**BASIC ALCHEMICAL
DEFINITIONS**



PRACTICUS 3=8

In this grade we will share some basic alchemical definitions that may be necessary for the further study and development of alchemical knowledge in higher grades. The Practicus should have read the "Introduction to Alchemy" prior to the study of these definitions.

Matter - In each alchemical process, there is a specific matter that must be transmuted. This can be looked at as both outer alchemy as well as inner alchemy. For example, in the aging process that has been referred to in many old alchemical writings of turning lead into gold, the original matter would be lead.

Alchemist - This is the occultist, who using the science and art of alchemy, is responsible for controlling the process of turning a gross matter into a refined substance, a precious metal, a precious stone, or a glittering powder. This stone, metal or powder, will have a magical virtue in accordance with its nature.

Alembic or Curcubite - An Alembic or Curcubite is an alchemical container. Usually the heated matter is placed into an alembic or Curcubite where it begins its transformational process. One other definition of an Alembic or Curcubite is as the Philosophic Egg. When the matter is placed in a Curcubite, it is often referred to as a Philosophic Egg because it is here that it will begin its transformation process, much in the same way that we as human beings begin our growth and transmutation process into the physical from the mother's womb.

Residuum - This is the remaining material which is left after distillation, which takes place in the Alembic or Curcubite.

Mortar and Pestle - This is an ancient alchemical tool also used in medicine for grinding the powdery substance or for grinding a stone into a powdered substance, often referred to as a mortar. Many times the Residuum, after it has been heated in a process of distillation from the Philosophic Egg or Curcubite, is separated and grounded in a mortar in an alchemical process.

Hermetically Sealed - Many times in alchemical process, it is required that the egg process be hermetically sealed. This is the process of sealing it. In many cases, the process is not only physical, but it is a sealing process that involves various magical operations.

Balneum Mariae - This is a tool used by the alchemist in conjunction with the Curcubite. It is a vessel of hot water in which was placed the Curcubite of the Philosophic Egg which needs to be heated many times very slowly.

Raven, Crow, Lion, Eagle - All have various alchemical significance's. In general, Raven or Crow is initiation through blackness. Lion in heat is sulfurous action and Eagle is the process of sublimation.

Athanor - This is a philosophic furnace which is used to produce graduated heat.

Balneum Aranae - Often referred to as a sand bath. It is a vessel of sand in which is placed the vessel to receive a dry heat. This is contrary to the Balneum Mariae in which the vessel is receiving a moist heat.

Dead Head - It is the residuum that is taken out of the Curcubite and ground down or replaced.

Sol Philosophorum - The pure living alchemical spirit of gold. The refined essence of heat and fire.

Luna Philosophorum - The pure living alchemical spirit of silver. The refined essence of heat and moisture.

The Green Lion - The stem and root of the radical essence of metals.

The Black Dragon - Death, putrefaction, decay.

The King - Red - The Qabalistic Macroprosopus.

The King - Tiphareth - Analogous to Gold and the Sun.

The Queen - White - The Qabalistic Bride of the Microprosopus.

The Queen - Malkah - Analogous to Silver and the Moon.

(Dated from 1577, the following definitions comes from the Leaves of Hermes, the sacred tree.)

1) Solution - This is the act of passing from a gaseous or solid condition into one of liquidity.

2) Filtration - The mechanical separation of a liquid from the undissolved particles suspended within it.

3) Evaporation - The changing or converting from a liquid or solid state into a vaporous stage with the aid of heat.

4) Distillation - An operation of which a volatile liquid may be separated from substances which it holds in solution.

5) Separation - The operation of disuniting or decomposing substances.

- 6) Rectification** - The process of refining or purifying any substance by repeated distillation.
- 7) Calcination** - The conversion into powder or calx by the action of heat. Expulsion of the volatile substance from a matter.
- 8) Commixtion** - The blending of different ingredients into one compound or mass.
- 9) Purification** - (Through Putrefaction.) Disintegration by spontaneous decomposition. Decay by artificial means.
- 10) Inhibition** - The process of holding back or restraining.
- 11) Fermentation** - The conversion of organic substances into new compounds in the presence of ferment.
- 12) Fixation** - The act or process of ceasing to be fluid and becoming a firm state of being fixed.
- 13) Multiplication** - The act or process of multiplying or increasing a number. State of being multiplied.
- 14) Projection** - The process of transmuting the base metal into gold.

The Leaves of Hermes is from the year 1577 as stated earlier. It is not necessary to memorize these leaves. They are presented here for you as additional information in your quest for understanding alchemy.