



Excerpts from:

Sea Salt's Hidden Powers

by Jacques de Langre, Ph.D.

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P.67 Alchemy and Salt

Salt is the sublimation of the oceans. Since human beginnings it has been the symbol for spiritual excellence, pristine purity, esteem, devotion and even immortality. Today, the powers of salt are still concealed from many, but to the serious contemporary alchemists, it is revealing certain of its vital secrets.

Alchemy was ushered into human consciousness by the need to discover the relationship of humans to the cosmos, but also to explore all of the ways this kinship could benefit humanity. It naturally pointed to the ocean as the strongest manifestation of astral influence on earth. Alchemy, since its inception, dealt with humanity's relationship to terrestrial nature and the phenomena of this planet's elements and oceans -- and its sublimation into crystals of salt by the sun, or by fire in the alchemist's workshop. Salt was the pivotal mineral complex substance that warranted deep study and was considered as the primary of all transmutation elements. One of the most enlightened alchemists of our time, the late Professor C. Louis Kervran,¹ discovered transmutation at low energy, and in his experiments he succeeded in transforming one chemical element into another. His scientific research and formulas have been hailed by the scientific establishment and he was a candidate for the Nobel Prize. Having discovered and elucidated this extraordinary transformational property of matter, Professor Kervran' brought alchemy to grudging recognition by modern physicists.

In the search for the Elixir of Immortality, the alchemists of ancient times studied the ageless sea and its awesome energy. When they solved the enigma, the secret was kept from the prying eyes of the common mortals. In a very tangible way, the rediscovery by Professor Kervran links us to the secret of immortality and reveals its prime source.

In the Western World, the objective of alchemy, which is called The Art, seems to have evolved from gold making to elixirs of immortality to simply superior medicine. Neither the first nor the last of these objectives appear ever to have been important in China. Chinese alchemy was consistent in its quest and there was no controversy among its practitioners; the elixir of life was their sole goal, and it varied only in the formulation of its prescription or perhaps only in the name used. While Europe witnessed conflicts between advocates of herbal and chemical (i.e., mineral) pharmacy, China wholly accepted trace minerals from seawater as remedies; the latter physicians also added fermentations of briny salt pickles, salted sour plums,² and other salty fermentations as powerful and effective medicines.

In Europe, conflicts arose between alchemists who favored the gold-making objectives and those who thought medicine should be their sole occupation. The Chinese always pursued the prolongation of life and the enhancement of its quality. Both alchemies, Oriental as well as Old World, have spent centuries studying how the use of morning dew creates "the gold of the thousandth dawn." The similarity between this and the aerosolization of ocean spray and of mother liquor shows that their search centered on recreating the noble essence of the ocean.

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The secret of physical immortality or the Endless Prolongation of Life was the subject of serious study in ancient times. The successful experiments of many modern-day alchemists prove that it is not an unattainable goal: to wit, the late French scientist Dr. Alexis Carrel kept a chicken heart alive for over 37 years by having the pulsating heart in a solution of sea salt. Dr. Carrel voluntarily ended the experiment after a third of a century, having proven that living cells can have physical immortality.² It is sea water's sublimation, the true light grey sea salt, which I is the perfect symbiotic culture medium for living human cells. With a saltiness that is compatible with all body fluids, amniotic water as well as plasma, it could be the fluid substance that all alchemists sought as the regenerator of life or the philosopher's stone.

Jabi ibn Hayyan, a Muslim Sufi alchemist who lived from 720 to 800 A.D., in his *Summa Perfectionis Magisterii* mentions not only Regal Water but makes allusions to Lustral Water (or Lustrum: water for the rites of purification) as well. Both are forms of ocean water that shimmer and fluoresce due to the electromagnetically-charged particles and all of the precious chemical elements of life that it contains.

The Belgian historian Henri Pirenne observed that during the High Middle Ages, the entire coast of the Atlantic was deserted and the entire continent was thrown into a Dark Age of human underdevelopment. Historians tell us that it was caused to a great extent by the lack of salt in the human diet, the flooding of all salt flats having disabled every salt farm along the coastlines of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. The whole of Europe, therefore, suffered from a salt famine that was to last almost 500 years. The daily average ration fell to less than 2 grams per person and caused many to die from dehydration and madness. The extent of the salt famine reported by Henri Pirenne caused human flesh to be sold on the open-air markets and created an epidemic of crazed people who, to replenish their salt, drank blood from the neck artery of the person they had just slain. Quick to exploit this desperate situation for their own gain, the rulers of Europe grabbed the remnants of the salt stock and exacted exorbitant salt taxes. Heavily burdened by tariffs and gabelles, common salt became a luxury but also caused mass population shifts and exodus, lured invaders and caused wars. Mined salt from the depths of the earth was substituted, but the lack of live and balanced trace elements in rock salt lowered the mental equilibrium and intellect level almost as much as the sheer absence of salt.

When these trace elements begin to disappear from the human diet, mental and muscular fatigue set in, followed by depression, epilepsy, stress, impotence, frigidity and even folly. The damages wreaked on humanity by the lack of salt for the five hundred years of the Dark Ages were considerable but today, in spite of an abundant consumption of pure

white refined salt, this marasmus has returned in another form. Since only 7% of the total production of refined salt is used for food, salt refiners have supplied that same emasculated refined white chemical salt because it is cheap to harvest, ignoring the danger that it lowers the human psyche, only to satisfy the demands of an ever-growing chemical industry. Gradually during the past five centuries, salt merchants have mercilessly refined edible salt in order to extract from it the precious trace minerals: magnesium for the light alloys and the explosives; boron for anti-knock compounds and chemical fertilizers are just two examples. The biological demands of the human body require that the salt concentration in the blood and the body fluids be maintained at a constant level. If the body does not get enough salt, or consumes only the wrong (refined) quality, a hormonal mechanism compensates by reducing the excretion of salt in the urine and from sweat glands. But it cannot retain the totality of all body salts. On a completely salt-less diet, the body steadily loses small amounts of salt via the kidneys and perspiration. It then attempts to adjust to this by accelerating its secretion of water as well, so that the blood's salt concentration can be maintained at the level vital for survival. The result is a gradual desiccation, dehydration, of the body and finally death, often preceded by a loss of rational thinking -- dementia or running amok. The organism literally dies of thirst.

In the case of lack of water to drink, the water is retained in order to maintain the salt concentration in the blood, but the hormonal control mechanism works in reverse. It tries to reduce the secretion of water and increase the salt secretion in order to maintain the correct salt level; nonetheless, the inevitable, irreducible water loss leads to death. In short, the body's normal craving for salt and for water strives toward the same vital need: a balanced and healthy saline internal fluid.

From the year 500 A.D. to the tenth century, making salt by any means became a necessity for survival and even the alchemists attempted to do it. However, compounding sea salt and duplicating the work of the great oceans of the world, which has taken billions of years, is, even for alchemists of old or medical blood lab workers of today, an impossible task. In the laboratories of the alchemists, the rarity and nobility of some of the micro substances created an even deeper respect for the mysterious natural ocean salt crystals.

The Emerald Tablet is no longer cryptic if the crystallization and subsequent sublimation of mother liquor from the sea salt crystals are studied and understood:

Separate the Earth from Fire, the subtle from the crude with much travail. It rises from the Earth toward the sky, and immediately comes back on Earth where it gathers the force of superior and inferior creations. You will then have all the glory of the world and that is why all darkness will leave you.

The drinkable sea water called "Plasma of Quinton," -- a name registered in 1907 by Rene Quinton, one of France's most renowned modern-day alchemists -- is such a life-giving fluid that it dispels the darkness and gloom of sickness. It is still made today by a secret natural process. Unlike the approximation of the Ringer solution, still currently used in hospitals today, Quinton's plasma wholly duplicates the exact saline balance and restores the proper composition of human body fluids. Quinton's Plasma continues to save lives as it has for the past 83 years. The biologist first successfully treated athrepsia with it and subsequently opened hundred of clinics throughout Europe, dispensed the precious plasma and won the battle for life over death in many other terminal ailments for thousand of patients.¹ Severe opposition from the ranks of modern medicine forced these clinics out of existence but today the serum is back and continues to quietly perpetuate the miraculous discovery of this latter-day alchemist.

The crisis that developed in all of Western Europe due to the flooding of the ancient salt flats by a phenomenon called "eustatic ebb and flow" saw the penetration of Arabic alchemy into Spain, then spreading to all of the Mediterranean world. Under Pope Sylvester II (who had read the Arabic alchemists' works), the newly imported alchemy established itself in its true realm: that of the technique of salvation, physical as well as moral. C. G. Jung, in his *Psychology and Alchemy*, sees alchemy as aiming to deliver the spark of eternal light from the abyss of the darkness of matter.

1. French physiologist Rene Quinton (1867-1925) is best known for his Celtic sea water plasma clinics throughout France and his monumental study of the healing properties of sea water. He belongs to the elite group of Claude Bernard, Bogomoletz, and Welter B. Cannon, who advanced that the wisdom of the body consists in maintaining the integrity of its internal fluids.

Max Retschlag, a German alchemist who died in the 1930s, sums it up this way:

"Our knowledge on the constitution of the human body, the structure of the cells and that of the smallest living entities leads us to rightfully believe that a certain remedy can be found, made up of a latent and concentrated energy, that will act as a universal remedy for all illnesses. Since the vital energy is a non-electromotive force, this specific remedy must be composed of matter capable of liberating a concentrated electric charge, after that matter has dissolved in the body fluids, just as it occurs in galvanic batteries where certain salts whose dissolution produces a more or less constant current between the poles."

From the large number of allusions made by the classic hermetic masters, it would appear that it is those same salts that enter as base material in the preparation of the elixir of life.

According to the broadest meaning of these alchemists, salt is defined as anything that crystallizes. Quoting these ancient masters, "Salt is the very first being since all matter can be reduced to the saline form. It is the Word of God turned into matter."

In pure salt, created out of the divine solar fire, this matter of celestial origin unites to passive earth in order to yield a saline incarnation. Chemically or alchemically speaking, this salt is made up of a mercurial humidity and of a sulphurous fat, and these two essences, antagonistic yet complementary to one another, form the original trinity of life as: alkali, acid and salt. Salt remains forever true to its form. Its crystalline living soul constantly gives birth to the same configuration; only the location and the circumstances of its origin change. Alchemic medicine thus avoids any remedy acting only materially; that is, the mere physical action of a remedy on the organism. It much prefers to effect the cure "from above," i.e. by a subtle healing action obtained from the heavenly forces. Whatever the various realms that alchemical medicine covers, the preferred method of the magisters is through the use of pure cosmic energy, the power of light and of vibration.

Alexander von Bernus (1880- -1972) gives another quote, this time from an anonymous author from the end of the eighteenth century, the hermetic work entitled *The Secret of Salt; The most noble Creation produced by the great Goodness of God in the entire Realm of Nature*: "The salt is derived from the ashes of a great power... and there are virtues hidden therein."

To say that salt is "the Word of God" is not simply an allegorical allusion. It is no coincidence that the amniotic fluid that bathes the human embryo is salty and grey like the ocean from which all life on this planet has issued forth. Nor is it a coincidence that the most healing salt today is a "total" salt, with over 70 trace minerals, obtainable only by sun-drying and not by kiln or flash pan-drying as modern refined salt is. It is also remarkable that alchemists accept only drying by the sun, since only that process would sublimate all of the noble minerals of the cosmos into the sea salt such as calcium, sulfur, phosphorus, potassium, and magnesium and all of the trace elements as well: copper, bromine, tin, rubidium, manganese, iodine, boron, cobalt, lithium, valine, nickel, fluor, chromium, silver, zinc and gold included. These macro-nutrients and trace elements are totally removed when modern refined table salt is kiln-dried and flash-crystallized. The alchemist magisters of old knew the difference somehow and that is why they spelled out: "Total" salt, obtained by the drying action of the sun and obtained from the sea, not from mines.

In the alchemic Art, sulfur and mercury stand for the two antagonistic properties of matter that are found everywhere in the cosmos. In the trilogy of sulfur, mercury and salt, salt represents the means of uniting these two first principles. However, we must bear in mind that sulfur and mercury are not describing the chemical element known to us by that name but define only certain qualities and properties of it. The salt that results from the fusion of mercury and sulfur can be compared to that vital spiritual force that permits the union of body and soul, the true anima that enables all creatures to become or stay alive, like Dr. Carrel's chicken heart. Because that knowledge has been passed to us in the form of symbolic images, sulfur was represented by king robed in red and mercury by a queen in a white gown. Salt, which unites them, was always shown as a priest celebrating their marriage.

The philosopher's stone, as described by Paracelsus (1493 -1541), was to "present a dazzling red color, that of rubies, and be sparkling and heavy. It heals the human body of all weaknesses and restores its health." I have seen such a substance in the form of traditional salt on a Pacific island, red as rubies and sparkling. Outside of the fairly sophisticated Celtic salt farms, it stands as one of the last sea salts hand-harvested by natives on this planet. It is never

sold but is valued on a par with gold and the foreign visitors who overlook the experiencing of this true elixir are missing both the culinary experience as well as the energetic boost that this sublime element brings. The brilliant color of the aboriginal salt is obtained by the admixing of a special clay that the natives carefully measure into the salt brine as it crystallizes under the blazing tropical sun. They firmly believe this salt to be the human body's panacea for maintaining health as well as the integrity of their race. It may just be folklore, but it has been faithfully preserved in the course of their island-hopping migration from the Orient.

A formula given by the Belgian alchemist Van Helmont, who worked in Vilvorde, and by Amauld de Villeneuve describes the power of this salty philosopher's stone as: "Having the property to create the form and perfect it infinitely since the improved form will improve the next and so forth till infinity."

The similarity between the division of living cells to form an embryo and the work of transmutation performed by the philosopher's stone does not end there. The analogy to atomic fission and chain reaction comes to mind and here also we see the deep wisdom that explains the alchemists' reluctance to divulge the Secret to the uninitiated, the same caution that prompted Dr. E. Orowan to state:

"The majority of earth's population considers that science and technology pose a growing deadly danger to their life. They feel powerless, at the mercy of the scientific minority, as if they laid on an operating table at the hands of, not healers, but of irresponsible playboys urged by curiosity or--what is worse--by a desire for notoriety or promotion."

When the first atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, the only true protection and the only substance that saved many (who were closer to the epicenter than others who died) was none other than salty miso, a fermentation of soy beans and sea salt having a definite property for replenishing human body fluids with salt's minerals. While this panacea might not have been what the magisters of the Dark Ages had in mind for saving the human race back then, their refusal to allow the disclosure of their hermetic science to anyone outside their secret lodge, including the likes of today's mad scientists, was very much on their mind. The revelation of certain atomic secrets to irresponsible scientists has definitely put humanity in the grave peril of total extinction.

Isaac Newton (1642 - -1727) was both an alchemist and a "magician." I use the latter term because he considered the universe as an enigma, a secret that can be understood only by the application of pure thought to interpret certain phenomena. Sir Newton also thought that the indications that led to the solution of these enigmas could be found in part in the energy of the sky and in the transmutation of the chemical elements of earth and ocean. Newton highly valued the occult traditions and maintained the secret code of the documents that have been transmitted without interruption since the first cryptic revelations of the Babylonians about 10,000 years ago. After Newton, the idea that knowledge of the Art implied danger was overlooked and the ten-millennium secrecy of alchemy was broken. When the Emerald Tablet concludes, "The operation of the sun is complete," its author seemed to know that the planets and the stars draw their energy from the transmutation of the elements. What Paracelsus calls "the operation of the sun" is the very basis of the atomic bomb's construction -- Fission - Fusion - Fission -- that threatens to destroy our world today. Wouldn't it have been better if the secret of the operation of the sun had remained in the hermetic knowledge? The legend that too often identified alchemy only with the pursuit of making gold is false. It appears that the true dedicated initiates had little or no interest in gold but found that iron was much more important because iron is the origin, the ever-balancing beam of the universe.

A German alchemist wrote: "Eisen tragt das Geheimnis des Magnetismus und das Geheimnis des Blutes. " Translated: "Iron carries the mystery of magnetism and the mystery of the blood. "

In 1616, in the "Noces Chymiques, " the formula with the atomic weight or iron isotope was revealed: A=1, 1=12, C=3, 11=8, 1=9, M=13, I=9, A=1, total=5

Iron with salt, with the latter capable of dissolving the first, are the essential constituents of blood, hemoglobin, and thus of life. Both of these elements are found, as a single pair or in combination, in human blood. The combination of salt (sodium chloride) with all of the macro- and trace elements present in natural sea salt plus iron make up the entire magnetic cosmos. In every corner of the globe there lived masters who retained fragments of the secret teachings and divulged them to non-initiates. Here and there, parcels of the Art were revealed to the non-immortals: Porcelain,

gunpowder, acids and gases. Electricity was known and jealously guarded in secrecy by the Baghdad alchemists in the second century, and Chinese alchemists produced aluminum in that same century by a process that leaked out only recently. And Sir Newton wrote in 1676: "There are further secrets besides the transmutation of metals and only the great magisters are to understand these. " No matter how improper or dangerous these leaks of part of the great Art were, we must now entertain the possibility that the new alchemy offers, to a cruel world where death roams for all and nuclear accidents lurk at every turn, the chance of recapturing the true source and harmony of life.

Alchemy's altruistic attitude is still an exemplary force. It can become a guide and lead all of humanity to hope again. The day will come when all people will arrive at the full knowledge of alchemy in its pure thought form. It will then no longer be a physical science but an ethic of living. Most likely before the end of this century humanity will have to take this giant step of transmutation predicted by Teilhard de Chardin when he speaks of the "Grand mutation of humanity toward salvation." The secret of "the flowers of the waves" has yet to be revealed to all of humanity since there is not one single grain of salt that is pure, sweet ocean water, sublimated by the sun, available to the modern populations of the U. S., China, or the USSR. With this threat to human sanity and peace, refined salt must not continue to spread aggression, madness, and loss of equilibrium. If alchemy is to be finally revealed, with a true grain of whole salt, it will have won its ultimate victory. The term sweet is used knowingly; in the plasma of Quinton, the bitterness of sea water has been naturally transmuted to the sweetness of saliva and other healthy and healing body fluids.