



## Alchemy

*Alchemy* you may know as the Medieval "art" of transmuting lead into gold. And indeed many alchemists of old were attracted to this noble endeavor. But there was a more spiritual aspect to this "Great Work". What alchemists are really up to is the transmutation of the lead of their own "animal nature" to the gold of the "Christ consciousness". The true purpose of alchemy is self-transmutation. Alchemists believe that the microcosm reflects the macrocosm. As is above, so tis below. As is inside, so tis outside. And so many alchemists no doubt believed that as their psychological transformation took place, so too the physical transmutation of lead into gold would also simultaneously occur. And in a way, it did. For the psychological transmutation is one that profoundly transforms one's outlook; the infinite preciousness of simple common experience is appreciated. Ordinary rocks can appear to an awakened one to be more beautiful and precious than diamonds.

The climate in Medieval times was not conducive to such spiritual practices. Anything that seemed to deviate from the official dogma put forth by the powers that be was highly suspect, and a most painful death could be the result of even casually mentioning such things to the wrong ear. Although the authorities of the time discouraged unorthodox spiritual practices, even they could see the benefit of turning lead into gold. And so alchemists, due to their subterfuge, were able to practice their art. Indeed, the preliminary practices were akin to long daily hours of meditation. Very repetitive chemical "experiments" were practiced for quite a few years. Only those who had actually attained some meditative success survived this initial probationary period. Only then could the whole point of the practice be explained to the fledgling alchemist.

Even the alchemists who never "got it" in a way succeeded. They managed to transmute alchemy into chemistry! Indeed, much of modern science arose from alchemy. Even the father of physics, Isaac Newton, was an avid alchemist. Newton's alchemical writings actually exceeded his scientific writings. Alchemists at root believed that the universe is understandable; its secrets can be realized. Modern science shares this bold assumption.

Interestingly, a form of yogic alchemy was developed in India by the Rasayana sect, that seems to mirror many aspects of Western (Hermetic) alchemy. Also the Taoists in China developed a very similar form of alchemy. The Indian and Chinese alchemies are so similar to the western one that one wonders if they truly could have evolved independently. And one aspect of alchemy that all three alchemical systems share is the prolonging of human life. They all realized that the amount of spiritual progress one could make was hampered by our short life spans. With a longer life span one could make greater progress. Why reincarnate when that involves so much forgetting, and starting over?

In India one hears stories of yogi saints who have lived for centuries, such as Paramahansa Yogananda's great-grand guru, Babaji. In the West a similar story is told of the alchemist, Comte de Saint-Germain, who seemed not to age over the course of centuries. What is claimed is that in deep meditation it is possible to reprogram one's own DNA. If that can be done, then extending one's life certainly could be possible. But that really is a paltry goal, compared with the transmutation of one's consciousness!

In addition to the transmutation of lead into gold, alchemists sought to create the *Universal Solvent*, which dissolves all form. Spiritually speaking, the Universal Solvent is deep meditation, wherein all conceptual patterns and all belief systems can be dissolved in the state of Samadhi (or at least one's attachment to them can be dissolved in this way). Another alchemical goal is the forging of the *Philosopher's Stone*, which is often thought to refer to a restructuring of the pineal gland in the brain. This gland is thought to be the "third eye" by yogis, and indeed is a vestigial third eye (through which certain reptiles like the tuatara can still perceive light). The pineal gland, despite its small size, seems to be connected to much of the rest of the brain. One of the many neurochemicals this gland produces is DMT (dimethyltryptamine), a powerful psychedelic. If the pineal output of DMT could be sufficiently increased, it would most certainly result in a profound change of consciousness.

### **Further reading on Alchemy**

[Wikipedia's entry on Alchemy](#)

[The Alchemy Website](#)

## **Alchemy Videos**

Documentary on Alchemy: Alchemy - Sacred Secrets Revealed

[Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#), [Part 4](#), [Part 5](#), [Part 6](#), [Part 7](#), [Part 8](#)

[CG Jung on Alchemy](#)

This NOVA documentary concerns Newton and Alchemy.

This is a bit cryptic, but is very interesting nonetheless! [Newton's Dark Secrets](#)