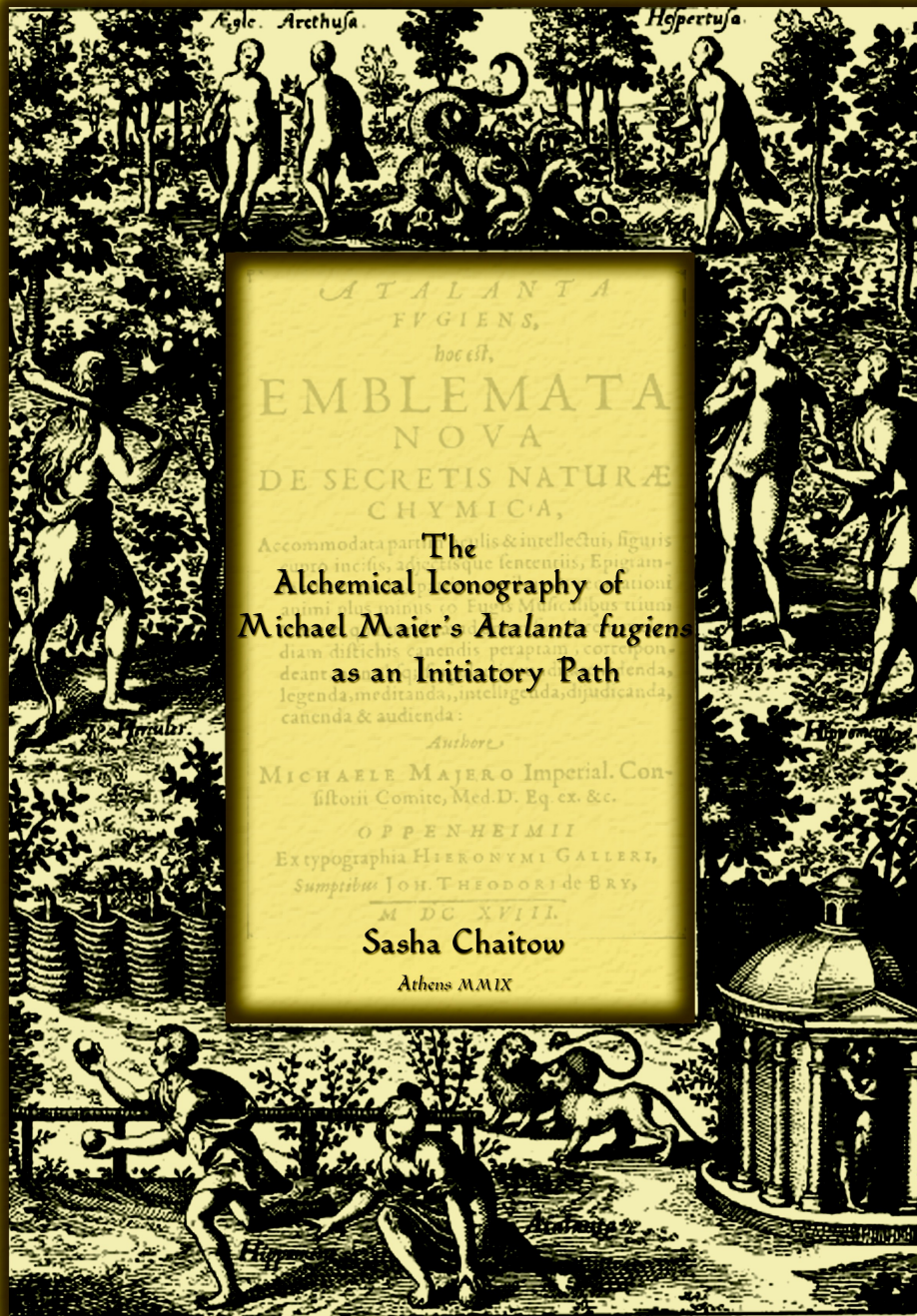


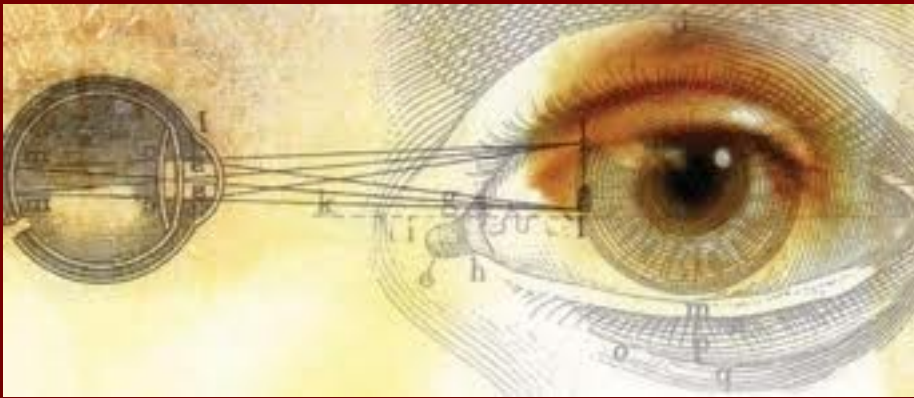
*Hieroglyphs of Nature
In the Alchemical Iconography
of Count Michael Maier*



Sasha Chaitow
www.phoenixrising.org.gr
www.peladan.org



The imagination permits the use of intermediaries - symbols and images, to develop Gnosis, to penetrate the hieroglyphs of Nature and actively apply the theory of correspondences and to uncover, to see, and to know the mediating entities between Nature and the divine world... It is an organ of the soul, thanks to which humanity can know and visualise the mesocosm.



What the eye is in corporeal things [...] that very thing is the mind in the realm of the spirit.

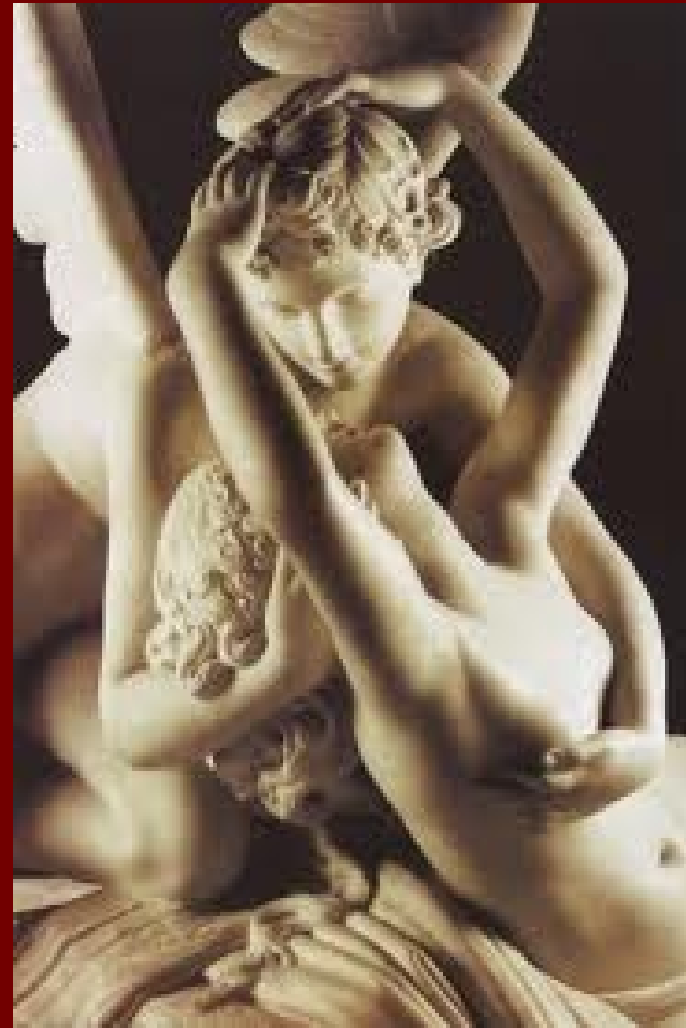
*Girolamo Pico della Mirandola
Heptaplus*

...there must exist a grammar of thought independent of language,' key to understanding 'the Renaissance Eros, the Art of Memory, theoretical magic, alchemy, and practical magic...

Ioan P. Couliano, Eros and Magic in the Renaissance

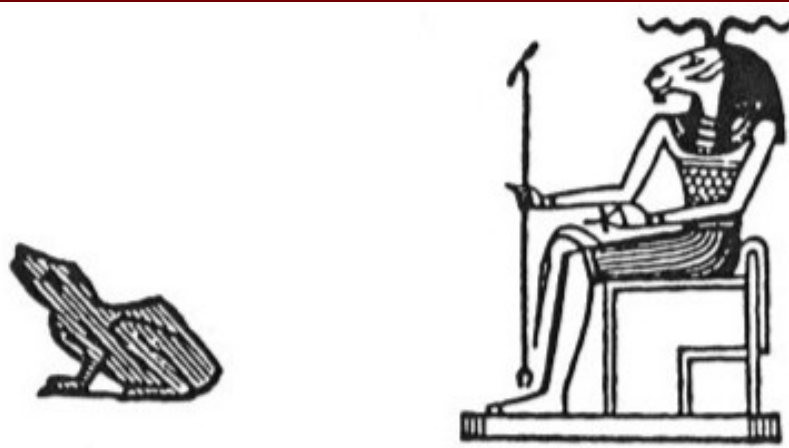
...Poetry is mute painting and painting is speaking poetry...

Charles du Fresnoy, De Arte Graphica (1667)

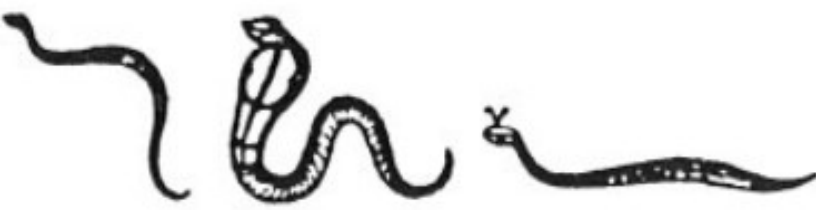


...true knowledge was a contemplation of ideas in visual form...

George Boas, *Horapollo's Hieroglyphica*



κέ. Πῶς ἄνθρωπον ἄπλαστον γράφουσιν.



β Πῶς κόσμον

...when the Egyptians desired to represent things through wisdom they did not use letters descriptive of words and sentences... but drew pictures...

Plotinus, *Enneads*, I:6, V8



1517 ~ Luther's 95 Theses -Reformation

1545 ~ Counter-Reformation

1568 ~ Maier born in Holstein

1587-1596 ~ Studied Philosophy & Medicine

1608 -1616 ~ Personal physician and advisor to Rudolf II of Prague and other European princes.

1612-1614 ~ Publication of the Rosicrucian Manifestos

1618 ~ Atalanta fugiens

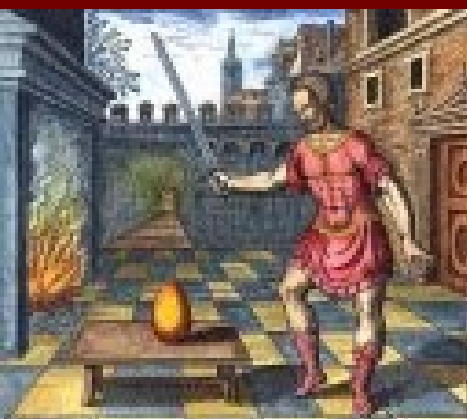
1622 ~ Dies aged 54, leaving a large number of unpublished works.

1618-1648 ~ Thirty years War

Count Michael Maier 1568-1622

Royal Physician to Rudolf II
Alchemist, Diplomat, Author



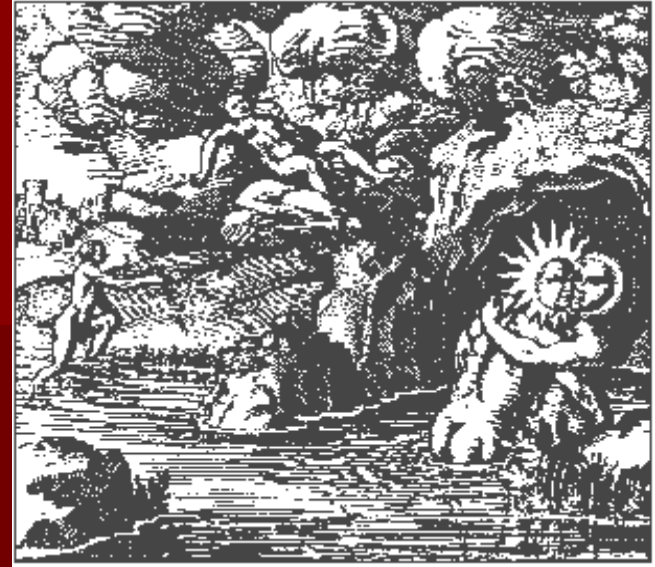


*Coloured emblems from Atalanta fugiens : Adam McLean
www.alchemywebsite.com*



All the ancients hid the
alchemical art behind
their multiplicity of
discourses

Olympiodorus, 5th c. AD



The hieroglyphs and myths of ancient Egypt and Greece are interpreted as representations of universal alchemical processes, and comprise the virgin tongue that we receive directly from the Creator.

Michael Maier, Arcana Arcanissima - Hereward Tilton, Quest for the Phoenix, pp. 80-1



Whoever interprets
myths literally, is quite
simply, a fool.

*Michael Maier, Atalanta
Fugiens*





ATALANTA
FFGIENS,
hinc illi,
EMBLEMATA
NOVA
DE SECRETIS NATURÆ
CHYMICA,

Accommodatæ partim oculis & intellectui, figuris
eupro iactis, adjectisque sententiis. Epigram-
matis & notis, partim ambibus & recreationi
animi plus minus 40. Fugis Musicalibus nunc
Vocum quarum dæx ad unam simplicem melo-
diam distinctis canendis peraptas, correspon-
deant, non absq; singulari profunditate videnda,
legenda, meditando, intellegenda, iudicanda,
canenda & audienda:

Amburg,
MICHAEL MAJERO Imperial. Con-
siliarii Comitis, Med. D. Eq. et. &c.

OPPENHEIMI
Ex typographia HIERONYMI GALLERI,
Successoris IOHANNIS THEODORI de BRU,
M DC XVIII.

Let these emblems manifest
themselves to your ears
and to your eyes,
But after that let your
reason examine the secret
meaning of them;
I have brought these things
to the attention of your
senses,
That your mind may take
from these decoy-birds,
What treasures are hidden in
them.

The Alchemical Process

Anywhere between 4 & 14 stages of the work are mentioned in various manuscripts. Most frequently 7 or 12 stages, corresponding to the 7 planets or 12 signs of the zodiac.

Main stages

Prima materia	1. THESIS
Solutio	2. ANTITHESIS
<u>Nigredo - (Blackening/putrefaction)</u>	
Coniunctio - Hieros Gamos - Unification of opposites	3. SYNTHESIS
<u>Albedo - Whitening</u>	
Stabilisation of volatile matter	
<u>Xanthosis - Cauda Pavonis</u>	
Rebis - Hermaphrodite	
<u>Rubedo - Reddening</u>	4. NEW THESIS
Philosophers' Stone	

The process is repeated, adding or skipping stages, until perfection is reached.

Emblem I:

"The wind carried him in his belly"



Emblem II:

"His nurse is the Earth..."



"The question is, who is it that the Winds carry? And I reply:

Chemically it is Sulfur that is carried by Mercury (=Soul > Spirit)

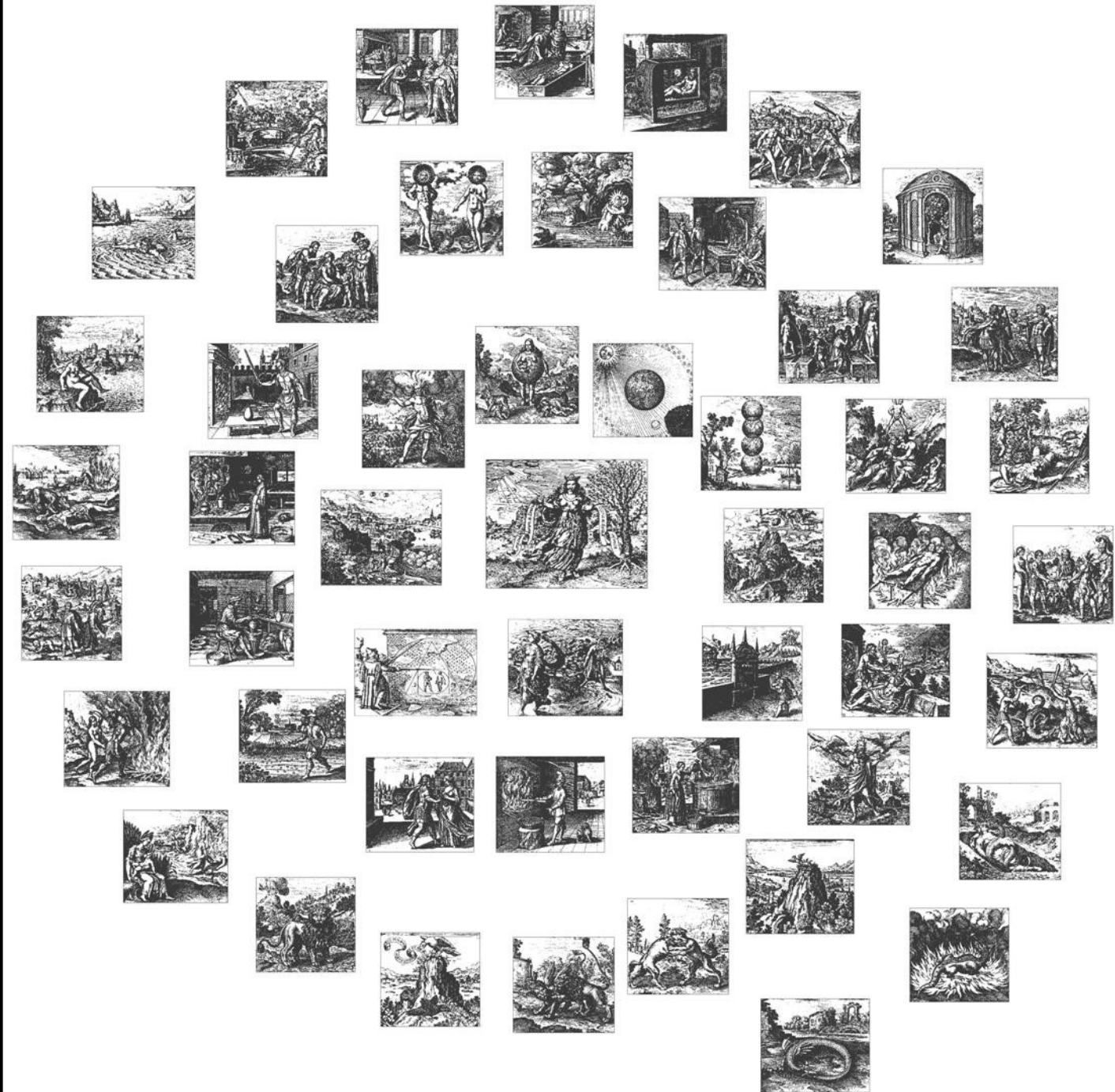
Physically it is the embryo that will soon be born into the light (=potentiality of perfection)

Arithmetically it is the root of the Cube (= Square)

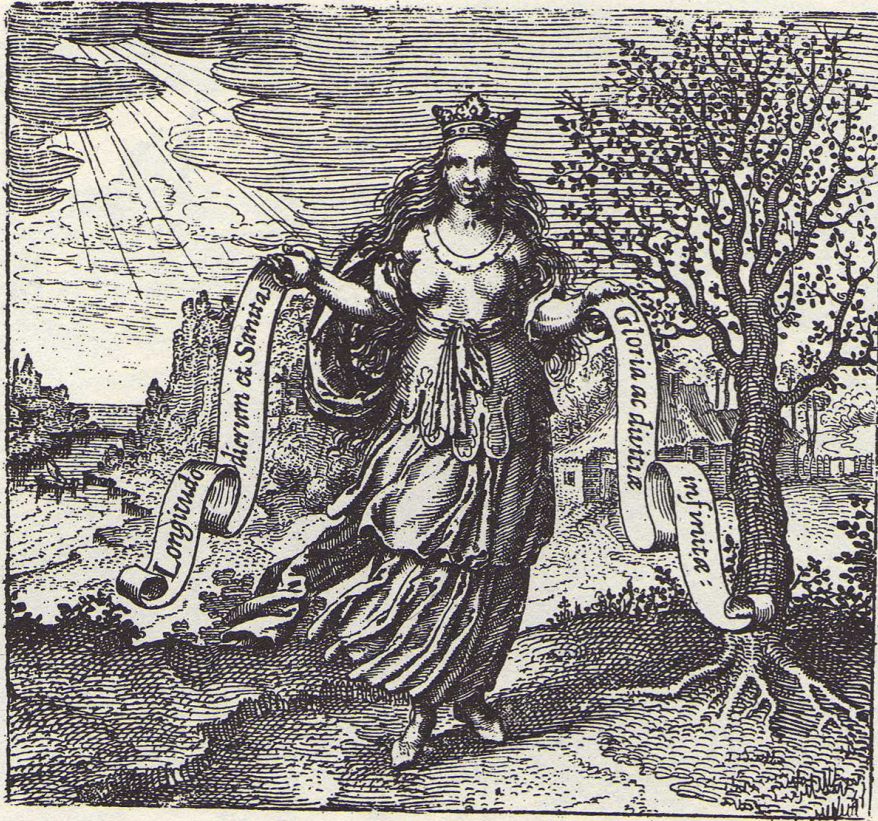
Musically it is the disdiapason (= Pythagorean harmonic based on the Tetractys)

Geometrically it is the point, the beginning of a continuing line.

Astronomically it is the Central point between Saturn, Jupiter, and Ares (= Pisces)



EMBLEMA XXVI. *De secretis Naturæ.*
Sapientiæ humanæ fructus Lignum vitæ est.



EPIGRAMMA XXVI.

MAjor in humanis non est sapientia rebus,
Quàm quâ divitiæ vitæque sana venit.
Dextra salubre tenet spaciosi temporis ævum,
Illius at cumulos læva recondit opum.
Si quis ad hanc ratione manūque accesserit, illi
Vitæ fructus in hac arboris instar erit.

Emblem XXVI

The Tree of Life is the Fruit of human
Wisdom.

(paraphrasing Proverbs 3:16)

In human matters there is no greater
wisdom
Than that offering wealth and health
In her right hand she holds a long life
in good health
But her left holds wondrous treasures.
When one approached her with head
and hand
For him it will have the same value as
the fruit of the Tree of Life

Emblems XLII & XXI



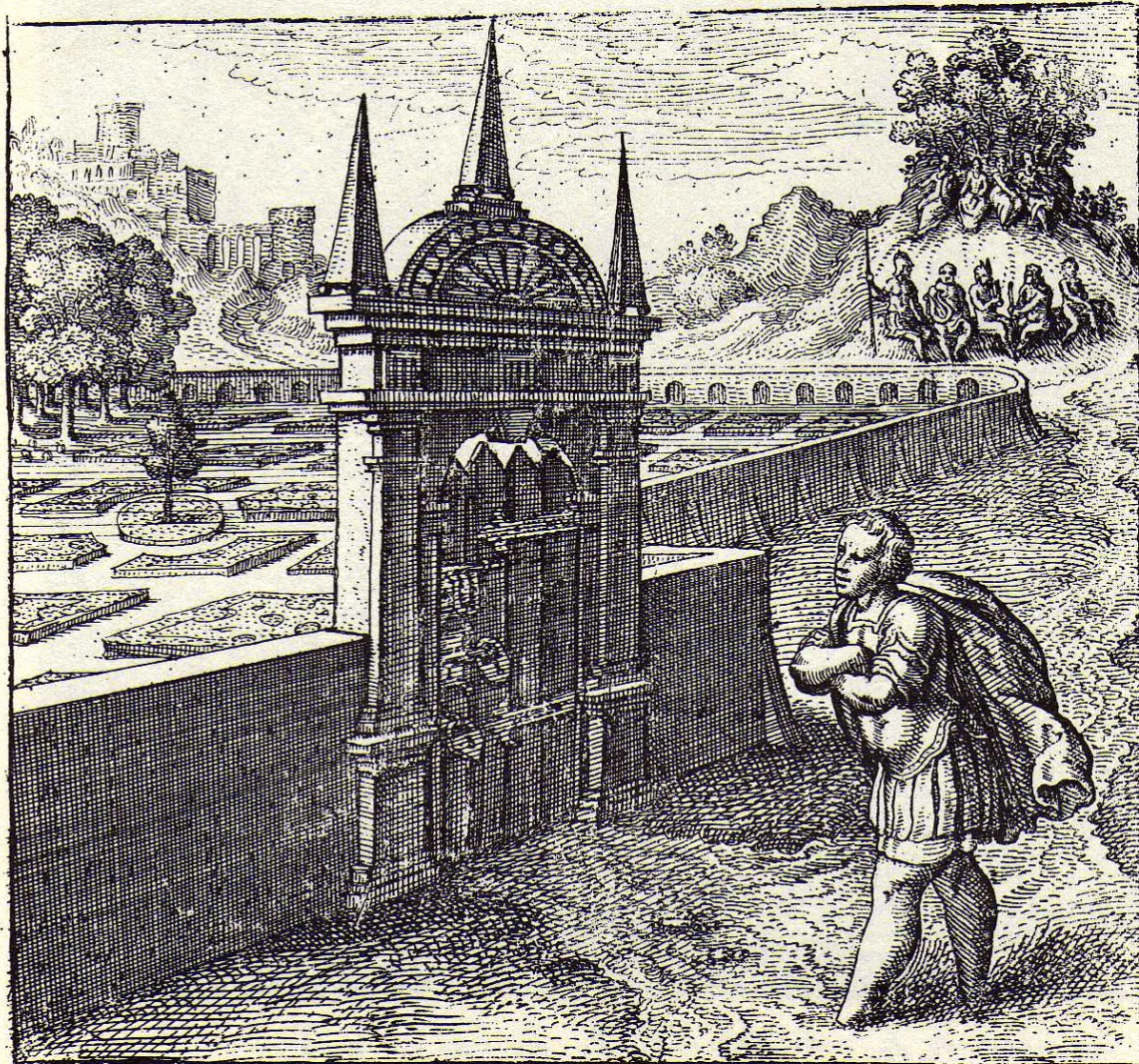
Nature, Reason, Experience and Reading must be the Guide, Staff, Spectacles and Lamp to him that is employed in Chemical Affairs.



Make of the man and woman a Circle, of that a Quadrangle, of this a Triangle, of the same a Circle and you will have the Stone of the Philosophers.

EMBLEMA XXVII. *De secretis Naturæ.*

Qui Rosarium intrare conatur Philosophicum
absque clave, assimilatur homini ambulare vo-
lenti absque pedibus.



EPIGRAMMA XXVII.

Emblem 27

He that endeavours to
enter into the
Philosophers' Rosarye
without a key, is like
him who would walk
without feet.

EMBLEMA XI. *De secretis Naturae.*
Dealbate Latonam & rumpite libros.



Emblem 11

Make Latona white
and tear up the
books...

...without delay, tear
up the unclear books
that confuse you...



Sasha Chaitow

www.phoenixrising.org.gr

www.peladan.org