

THE EMERALD TABLET

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Based on the writings of Dennis Hauck
And his Book: The Emerald Tablet
With permissions.

OPENING

EXT, EARLY MORNING, A MEDIEVAL STREET, 1535 AD

A young man is walking along the street, heading to his Master's home for the first day of learning. It is the path his mother takes every day in service to the Master and his family. She cleans and cooks for a small wage and a portion of the food to take home with her every afternoon.

The young man approaches his master's home.

EXT to INT

MIKELI pushes the latch of a 15th century wood timber door, enters the room beyond the door and closes it. Mikeli sees an elderly man sitting across the room to his left. His elbows are propped atop a sloped top desk and his head cradled in his hands.

PARACELSUS, a well known alchemist, is the older man with his elbows propped on the desk. He is deep in thought and visualization.

CUT TO:

A close up on Paracelsus' face.

(Camera continues closer

and we enter his mind)

(Bright red)

(A heartbeat is heard)

CUT TO:

(A sperm swims toward and
enters an egg)

(DNA molecules dance)

(Pan and circle around the
egg as it grows)

(A figure, dressed in a
long cloak with white
stars covering it
appears)

Mikeli jumps back as a blinding flash of light apparently sweeps him off his feet.

MIKELI

Master! What was that? Master, did
I wake you?

PARACELSUS

I think not, but I know not for sure. I was deep in thought and if that became sleep I know not for sure. Come closer my Mikeli so that I may see you better. And what we'll read through this first day is right here.

Mikeli walks slowly across the room and then glances to his right. A long bench against the wall is lit with a few candles. All types and shapes of glassware is atop this bench.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

Ah my Mikeli, we are about to begin on a journey, a journey which will take place in our minds.

Paracelsus pauses a moment.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

Mikeli, I know your mother wants you to be here, now I'd like to know what you think about that. I'm sure you're a little frightened and maybe a little anxious.

MIKELI

Well sir, maybe a little afraid. My mother has spoken a lot about you and how important it would be for me to get some education. Sir, I would really like to learn anything you might be able to teach me.

PARACELSUS

Excellent. Much easier to teach an eager mind. How about any education? Any reading? Can you read?

MIKELI

Yes sir, I can read a little. My father taught me a bit.

PARACELSUS

Good. Come closer and we'll begin reading from the Emerald Tablet.

MIKELI

Sir, I've never heard of that. Is that from Medicine?

PARACELSUS

No. Well, it might be. I mean medicine was brought about by the study of the Emerald Tablet and what it represented to others over the years. This will be a good test of your perception and analytic skills. You'll be exposed to perhaps a test of your grasping or a least wrestling with lofty concepts.

MIKELI

A test?

PARACELSUS

Not so much as a test, we'll call it an exercise.

Mikeli looks at his master with a puzzled expression.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

Mikeli, I know your mother and others have told you that I'm a medical doctor, astronomer, alchemist and I have many other pursuits. With this Emerald Tablet, we're going to open your mind to greater ideals and perhaps make you think harder than ever before. Which will in turn help you with all the other studies I have for you.

MIKELI

I understand Master, school every day.

PARACELSUS

Yes. But I promise you there will be some exciting work. Good, Now, let's get started. Come a bit closer and stand at the edge of the desk so you can see the parchment I have set out on this table top.

Mikeli draws closer and can now see the scroll that is stretched out on the table top. An ink well anchors one corner and the others with some stones of various color. The sunlight shining through the window continues to grow brighter as the morning ages.

Paracelsus pauses a few moments and poises himself in deep concentration.

POV

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)
Yes, my Mikeli, I'll speak a little first concerning some ancient history. Have you heard of Egypt?

MIKELI
It was only mentioned a time or two in my readings, but not much about it.

PARACELSUS
I've never been there. It's only through my readings I know about it. We're going to go much earlier when it was called Khem. A time called Zep Tepi, when Gods or Giants roamed the Earth. It was then when Thoth the Atlantean appears. In some writings he is the one who introduced the Emerald Tablet.

ZOOM OUT

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)
Now that you know a little about the person credited with the creation of the Emerald Tablet, I'll begin with the reading. But before I do, I want you to understand that we're not going into a lot of history right now. We'll cover much of this later.

Paracelsus pauses to poise himself again.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)
The words seem simple, but don't at first seem to make sense. To understand the depth and breadth of the meaning, one would have to read through the words many times and think long upon them after each reading.

POV

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)
In truth without deceit, certain and most veritable.
(MORE)

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

That which is below corresponds to that which is Above, and that which is Above corresponds to that which is Below, to accomplish the miracles of the One Thing. And just as all things have come from this One Thing, through meditation of One Mind, so do all created things originate from this One Thing, through transformation.

Mikeli and his master's eyes meet. Paracelsus sees the puzzled look on his apprentice's face.

ZOOM OUT

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

Yes my young apprentice, your confusion and frustration are apparent. Don't think I would lure you out onto a fragile branch and leave you there. Let's stop a few moments and discuss a bit of the second paragraph of the tablet that we've just read.

Paracelsus pauses again, now thinking how to make a simple explanation of these abstract thoughts.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

God, or the Gods, have created all things so all things are a part of the Gods because they were created by them. Within each thing we can see, touch and feel, we partake in and are all a part of immanent divinity.

MIKELI

But we eat?

PARACELSUS

Therein lies a grey area. We must eat to survive and that is the manner of things as set out by divinity.

MIKELI

But Sir.

Mikeli was cut short by his master.

PARACELSUS

Sorry Mikeli, but we should continue to cover a bit more material today, then we will discuss this. Mikeli, the idea of immanent divinity, I want you to think of it like this. Think of the rain as it wets everything it touches. It soaks through everything. This is like the powers of the Gods and the universe. Every part and every piece of everything that has been touched by the Gods forever contains a bit of that power and has been affected by that power. All things seek transmutation to higher states of perfection, or as the words say: Transformation. Tell me what you're thinking now, Mikeli.

MIKELI

Sir, I understand all things have God in them, because they were created by him. What is meant by all things seeking perfection?

PARACELSUS

The metal lead longs to be silver and silver longs to be gold. Children long to be adults and when they are adults, they wish they were children again.

Paracelsus focuses on the scroll on the desk.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

I'll continue reading and then we'll stop and discuss what we've just read. Its father is the Sun, its mother the Moon. The wind carries it in its belly; its nurse is the Earth. It is the origin of All, the consecration of the Universe; its inherit Strength is perfected, if it is turned into Earth.

ZOOM OUT

Paracelsus pauses again and then smiles.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

Ah, my Mikeli, here we have a definite clue, a hint, but a very loud hint concerning the Philosopher's Stone. This also defines the basis for Alchemical operations, such as calcination. I know my young apprentice you will become very confused, but don't lose heart. This will only last for a short time as you are exposed to these new words and meanings. Soon you will gain an understanding of the operations of the Universe. Let's go through the one page of text and then we'll pause at the end for a lot of explanation.

POV

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

Separate the Earth from the Fire, the subtle from the Gross, gently with great ingenuity. It rises from Earth to heaven and descends again to the Earth, thereby combining within itself the powers of both the above and below. Thus you will gain the Glory of the Whole Universe. All obscurity will be clear to you. This is the greatest Force of all powers, because it overcomes every Subtle thing and penetrates every Solid thing. In this way was the Universe created. From this comes many wondrous applications, because this is the Pattern. Therefore I am called Thrice Greatest Hermes, having all three parts of the wisdom of the Whole Universe, Herein have I completely explained the Operation of the Sun.

A pause. Paracelsus looks at Mikeli. Mikeli's expression is blank and distant.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

Mikeli, let's take a break. Would you go find your mother and ask her to make tea and biscuits for us?

MIKELI

Yes, Sir.

PARACELSUS

Mikeli, I'll make sure you can go through the University at Vienna two years from now. I'll make all the arrangements for you. In this time before you go, I'll make sure you are properly prepared and do well there.

MIKELI

Master, you're too kind.

PARACELSUS

No. My hope is that you will continue with my work. There's much more research to do, more than either of us can do in our lives, but it should continue.

Mikeli walks across the room. As he touches the door pull, he looks back at his master. He then turns and exits through a large door.

Paracelsus thinks about what has just happened. He briefly glances at the glassware sitting on the bench on the opposite wall as he scans the room.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

(Mumbles under his breath)

Will I lose my apprentice? When he comes back I will need to understand exactly what his thoughts are. This was the way I was taught. Flooded with information, then mass confusion, then questions come about, then an understanding appears. Although I was taught in this manner, maybe it's not right for this boy.

WE FOLLOW MIKELI
INTO THE KITCHEN

MIKELI

Mom, Master Paracelsus asked me to ask you to make some biscuits and tea.

ANNA

A few moments.

Anna completes her wipe down of the counter and tucks the cloth between the apron string and her hip.

MIKELI
Mom, I'm not sure if this is the
right thing for me.

Anna looks up. Her eyes catch Mikeli's.

ANNA
Has he been rude?

MIKELI
No. He's been very kind.

ANNA
You know my son, I hadn't discussed
this with you, but there's been
talk.

MIKELI
What kind of talk?

ANNA
Many say that he's a pompous ass.
An aristocratic, pompous ass. But
I've only seen that here, within
this house, a couple of times. He
came from humble beginnings, just
like us. Oh, but I've seen that
pompous attitude only a few times
when he's had some select guests.

Anna pulls a sack of flour from the safe and finds a large
bowl.

MIKELI
Mom, no, he's only been kind. But
today, what's he's trying to teach
is so hard. I don't think I'm cut
out to be a student, especially to
someone so smart.

Anna pushes herself away from the counter and spins around.
She places her hands, one on each hip.

ANNA
Mikeli...

She pauses, trying to hold her temper in check.

ANNA (CONT'D)
It's not going to be easy, but once
you get past these first few days
it'll be better. It will get
easier once you learned some of the
basics.

MIKELI

He did say something about training me for abstract concepts. In fact, what he read today didn't make much sense at all. He said he would make arrangements for me to go to the University.

Anna's eyes glaze over.

ANNA

I knew once he met you, he would take you under his wing. This will be the best opportunity you'll ever have. I'm sure there's a plan. He's a brilliant man. We won't discuss this again. We'll wait for a month and see what you think of it then.

Anna turns away with a smile on her face as she continues to prepare food and drink as her Master had asked.

FADE TO: ANCIENT EGYPT, THE ADEPTS, EARLY MORNING, 1900 BCE
 A teacher clad in long flowing clothing stands upon a raised, podium-like stage formed from a stacked mound of flat but circular stones and lectures his adepts. This is the inner court of ancient Egypt as described by the Greek philosophers and called the Theoreticum. PEDIBASTET is Master of the Adepts. This is a semi-circular room with an arched ceiling and the walls are hewn stone. Fifteen adepts, all clad in white toga-like apparel. They are seated upon a long semi-circular stone bench.

ZOOM IN: Pedibastet as he stands, head bowed in contemplation

CLOSE UP: the camera zooms to Pedibastet's face

(FADE TO RED)

(We Morph into his thoughts)

(We hear his heartbeat)

SWITCH TO:

The Ibis-headed THOTH appears carrying a caduceus and ankh. Pedibastet bows low and then raises himself and stands before Thoth. With a gesture from Thoth, an altar appears and a pair of scales are atop.

The wind blasts sharply and rapidly subsides. A white feather appears and drifts onto a scale pan. Thoth approaches the scales and a human heart appears on the pan opposite the feather.

ABSOLUTE SILENCE

Pedibastet watches as the scales balance. His heart is in tune, in balance with the Universe,

A radiant sun appears, and then a bright and blinding shaft of light immerses Pedibastet. A shaft of bright white light bridges the gap between Pedibastet and Thoth, from heart to heart.

Thoth speaks to Him:

THOTH

New Keeper of the Secret of Secrets. You are my chosen one to represent me before all you see and speak to. Your choice to replace you is excellent as we have spoken on several occasions. Now return and we'll speak again on the new day.

Pedibastet shrugs his shoulder and takes a deep breath. The numbness faded. He slowly opens his eyes. And all the Adepts are staring at him.

PEDIBASTET

All my adepts of the inner court, great concepts abound and we discuss them soon. First I must announce that the Keeper of the Secret of Secrets will soon step down due to poor health.

A din of conversation erupts among the adepts.

PEDIBASTET (CONT'D)

Quiet! Silence!

One of the adepts stands.

PEDIBASTET (CONT'D)

MAITI, do you have something to say?

MAITI

Yes, my High priest. Who will become the new the keeper of the Secret of Secrets?

Pedibastet pauses, looks around at his adepts who are focused on him with eyes and facial expressions that portray extreme anticipation. He knows he will be the one to replace the grand master. But he has taught these boys for years now and his heart is torn. To be the grand master will remove him permanently from daily interaction and teaching of the adepts.

PEDIBASTET

No decision yet.

Maiti sits.

Pedibastet forces himself to refocus.

PEDIBASTET (CONT'D)

Now my adepts, let's try to regain our focus for today's lesson. Many times we have spoken about the teachings of Thoth and by now many of you are versed on the words themselves. Now I'm going to propose some theoretical questions.

(MORE)

PEDIBASTET (CONT'D)

I'd like to hear your interpretations and explanations, as you understand it, in your own words.

Pedibastet smiles.

He has quizzed his students many times in this manner. There were many pleasant surprises. He was amazed at the depth of their understanding on numerous occasions. Maiti is his eldest student, and will be his choice to replace him as Master of the Adepts. He knows Maiti will be the first to rise to answer any question. Answers to questions with probably new and insightful explanation.

PEDIBASTET (CONT'D)

In all the things given to us by Thoth, what in your opinion is the most important advancement?

Several Adepts raise their hands. Maiti stands up.

PEDIBASTET (CONT'D)

Yes, Maiti.

MAITI

Yes, my High Priest. We all know that he gave us Architecture, Math, Writing and many other things we can do with our hands and minds, but in my mind, he gave us many hints how to connect with and perhaps become one with the Gods and Universe.

Maiti pauses a moment. He looked at his fellow adepts and most are looking at him to continue.

MAITI (CONT'D)

The Emerald Tablet.

A buzz breaks out among the adepts. Pedibastet steps forward.

PEDIBASTET

Quiet! I know many of you think these are the sacred words and not to be spoken. But some of you here practice architecture and others engineering and others alchemy. These words were given to us by Thoth.

(MORE)

PEDIBASTET (CONT'D)

Your old Master made the subject almost as something too sacred to speak of. But I say the Emerald Tablet is something to study, think upon and become adept with as he gave us the keys to unlock the Universe. He shared with us. If it is too sacred to speak of and ponder upon, then I'm sure he would have never given this to us. He blessed us with the sacred mysteries so that we may share in his divinity. Was Thoth a man that learned well the secret and became a God or a God that shared the secret? There's a good question for deep (*philosophical*) thought and historical research. Maiti, please continue.

Pedibastet takes a few steps back giving Maiti the foreground.

MAITI

Master, that was a good question you raised. I think, by the tone of the Tablet, that Thoth transformed from human to Godhood. The transformation was so glorious, how many words would one have to use to describe it in detail? It's ideas, hints, then concepts, then thought pattern formation and then seeing into a blinding light, and then an Earth shattering realization and a transformation, all in a few words. Why would a God make the description in this way? I think Hermes was Thoth reincarnated.

Maiti pauses for a moment, then turns and looks at his High Priest. Pedibastet motions with his hand for Maiti to continue.

MAITI (CONT'D)

The descriptions within the Emerald Tablet describe magical acts. By magic, I mean divine acts, acts that connect us to the Gods. I believe that Thoth and Hermes fully understood the functions and then described the methods in the best way possible.

Pedibastet smiled. He is assured once again that Maiti is his correct choice for the new Master of Adepts.

PEDIBASTET
Now my Adepts, is it obvious to you
who should replace me?

ANOTHER STUDENT arises.

STUDENT #1
But Master, if Maiti is replacing
you, where are you going?

PEDIBASTET
I will be the new Keeper of the
Secret of Secrets.

A roar of loud voices praises the new Keeper of the Secret of Secrets.

PEDIBASTET (CONT'D)
Maiti, please continue.

MAITI
The Emerald Tablet describes
transformation, and in more sense,
a transformation of one's self. A
purification, a meditation a
connection with the All.

Maiti turns and faces his Master.

MAITI (CONT'D)
Master, do you wish to add anything
at this moment?

PEDIBASTET
My Adepts, I will miss you.
Hopefully, since I'll be the one
making some of the rules, I can
visit on occasion if your Master
Adept has no objections.

MAITI
Master, you're always most welcome.

PEDIBASTET
Maiti, you must understand one
thing now. You are the one allowed
to consult with me when needed. I'm
certain we can have the most lively
discussions.

FADE TO AN ALCHEMIST/ALCHEMERGIST DAY EARLY EVENING IN 2013

ALANA looks over the texts on her desk. She remembers her earlier conversation with her mentor: MARLENE. Just so many things to consider. Alana looks up and carefully scans the counters encircling the room. Some glassware is tall with inner coils of glass tubing. Others are bulbous in shape. There is a wide variety of glassware of various shapes and sizes. The glassware is like a mysterious and perhaps a menacing train of lab-ware.

Today's discussion with Marlene brought about comments that the seven alchemical operations were derived from the Emerald Tablet. Alana has read through the Tablet, but has not gained any real understanding. In fact she hasn't even looked at the Tablet for months.

Alana picks up the phone and touches the redial button.

Marlene Answers.

MARLENE

Hello.

ALANA

Marlene you mentioned earlier today about the seven alchemical operations coming from the Emerald Tablet. It didn't strike me then, but in thinking on it, I really can't make the connection. You said it like you fully understand all of it and I was being left out.

MARLENE

I did some digging and found a wonderful book on the subject. It's The Emerald Tablet, by Dennis Hauck. That might be why I mentioned it, I suppose it was fresh on my mind.

ALANA

Just curious enough about it now to make a research project. Certainly this has changed over the years, the interpretation.

MARLENE

Dramatic changes, but I'm not certain all the changes were good.
(MORE)

MARLENE (CONT'D)

Sometimes the more ancient minds had a better grip, well, perhaps a better understanding and connection with the divine. Now, if we study and get a good understanding, there's no reason why any one us can't have the same understanding and connection as the best ones in history. I'll be over in a little while and we can discuss this in more detail. I'll bring Dennis' book with me and you can read through it While I explain what I know.

ALANA

Marlene, why don't we just meet at Rearson park?

MARLENE

Sounds good.

ALANA

I'll be in the east side parking lot. You can't miss me.

FADE OUT.

FADE TO RETURN TO PARACELSUS' LAB.

Mikeli opens the door into Paracelsus' lab chamber and enters with a tray.

On the tray is a tea pot, 2 cups and wicker basket lined with cloth and a cloth covering it's contents.

PARACELSUS
Mikeli, its good to see you return.

Mikeli sets the tray on the desktop near his Master.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)
So quiet, Is everything good with you?

MIKELI
Sir, I'm not sure if I'm the right one to be your student.

PARACELSUS
Mikeli, I now know that I went a little too fast for you. In a few minutes I'll go into an explanation about everything we've read today. It'll all become clearer to you.

MIKELI
But Sir...

Paracelsus cuts him short.

PARACELSUS
I won't let you give up so easily. That's no option now. I gave your mother my word and I intend to keep it. I promise you now, we'll take it a bit slower and I'll try to offer more explanation. I'll make it easier for you but I refuse to make too easy. I'm certain you're up to the challenge.

MIKELI
There's just so much I don't understand, Sir.

PARACELSUS

I envy you that. I'll see the amazement in your eyes once you've become aware of the Secrets of the Universe. Once we've reached several of these stages, you'll apologize to me for wanting to quit. Let's pour our tea and have our biscuits and relax a minute.

(Mikeli walks closer to Paracelsus)

(Paracelsus uncovers the biscuits)

(Tea is poured in the 2 cups.)

Paracelsus gets up and walks over to the table where the Emerald Table is. He picks up the Tablet scroll and returns to his chair.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

We described the first several sentences. I described as Immanent Divinity. You remember that?

MIKELI

Yes, Master.

PARACELSUS

You know Mikeli, almost 1100 years ago, every one of the books written by Apollonius of Tyana and nearly 700,000 scrolls that were kept in the Alexandrian libraries were destroyed by burning. It was done by the Christians, Romans and Muslims. Can you imagine how much knowledge was lost?

MIKELI

I can't even imagine anything as large as 700,000.

PARACELSUS

Mikeli, let me begin. Now, remember to let me know when I should stop and give a clear explanation to you. Alchemy is a philosophy system, it attempts a penetration, an understanding into the life and true nature of inanimate matter and is the beginning of some real science.

(MORE)

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)
(Paracelsus pauses and
resettles himself)

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)
That which is Below corresponds to
that which is Above and that which
is Above corresponds to that which
is Below, to accomplish the
miracles of the One Thing. And just
as all things have come from this
One Thing, through the meditation
of One Mind, so do all created
things originate from this One
Thing, through Transformation.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)
Above and Below the same, as Gods
created the Earth, all planets, the
Sun, in fact the entire Universe.
(Mikeli interrupts)

MIKELI
Master, what do you mean by
Universe and why do you keep saying
Gods? Don't you believe in the one
God?

PARACELSUS
The Universe, all that we can see
in the day and all of the stars we
can see at night. Then when looking
at the stars at night, much farther
out than you can imagine. God and
Gods, let's not talk about
religion. I mention Gods because
we are dealing with information of
the ancients also. The Tablet next
mentions the One Thing. You've
seen large spider webs?

MIKELI
Yes, Master. In empty buildings.

PARACELSUS
Imagine a spider web large enough
that it connects every person and
everything, everywhere. And it
even connects with the divine. All
is connected to this web.
(Paracelsus pauses)

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

As the Tablet says: all things have come from this One Thing, through the meditation of One Mind, so all created things originate from this One Thing, through Transformation.

Paracelsus pauses, looks at Mikeli.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

There was a beginning. The Divine created the Universe by a single thought. We are a piece of that thought. The rocks, trees, plants, birds, planets, stars and sun are a part of that thought. So, all created things originated from the One Thing, through Transformation. Chemical reactions; Earth, Air, Fire and Water: explosions, volatile reactions. All created through Transformation. I'm going to speak in some chemical terms that might not be known to you at this time. Violent chemical reactions, in great quantities, took place, creating water (I can just begin to imagine the great amount of heat, the combination of these two elements would be a great fire), salt and all other elements and compounds within and upon the Earth and the Universe.

MIKELI

Master, I don't know much about anything you are calling chemical reactions.

PARACELSUS

Mikeli, it will be part of your training. As you can see, there are many things for you to learn. It'll take time, but once you start you'll see how fast you soak all this up in your mind. The more you learn, the more quickly you will pick up on new and deeper understandings.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

Let's continue with the next paragraph and a simple explanation of its meaning.

Paracelsus picks up the page.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

Its father is the Sun; its mother the Moon. The Wind carries it in its belly; its nurse is the Earth, It is the origin of All, the consecration of the Universe; Its inherent Strength is perfected, if it is turned into Earth.

Mikeli's stare at the page is intent.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

Here we are talking about divine power again. We are also talking about a few of the alchemical operations.

Mikeli interrupts.

MIKELI

Master, you mentioned several alchemical operations. What are they?

PARACELSUS

Excellent question. We'll discuss them a few moments. Let me know when you've had enough for the day. I don't want to expose you to too much in a single day. Here we go; 1) Calcination, a heating of a substance in a container over an open flame until it becomes ash; 2) Dissolution, placing the ash in water; 3) Separation, filtering the ash and water mix and saving the solids we'll call slurry, you might think of this as mud; 4) Conjunction, the reuse of the slurry or mud; 5) Fermentation, making a new life of the slurry; 6) Distillation, is the boiling of the fermented solution to remove fluids and increase its strength, and; 7) Coagulation is the precipitation of the material in the last step. You've seen muddy footprints on the streets?

MIKELI

Yes, Sir.

PARACELSUS

At first a muddy footprint has all the soil mixed and you can't see the bottom of the print. If it sits for several hours, then the water clears and there is a fine silty sediment at the bottom of the print.

MIKELI

Yes, Sir.

PARACELSUS

One way to understand this for now, is that the seven steps are an emulation, no a repetition of the way the Emerald Tablet describes how Universe was created. To perform the seven steps in the lab is to copy the divine creation and to obtain and concentrate the divine essence from the material processed in the lab. We get the essence and signature of plant materials when they are used.

MIKELI

Master, is it wrong to think we can copy the work of the Divine? What do you mean by signatures?

Paracelsus pauses a moment. He tries to think of a simple explanation.

PARACELSUS

Think of the seven steps as a personal journey, a purification, a system given us by the Divine. The Divine created all the plants, herbs, minerals. Since they created them, and gave us intelligence to utilize them wisely for healing and other uses, would we not be remiss not to accept and use their gifts to us? I think so. I feel certain in nature there are herbs and minerals to heal many of the human maladies. Signatures of the plants, are associations with the planets and association with the organs of the human body.

(MORE)

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

Mikeli, we already discussed too much today, it's time to stop for the day and we can continue tomorrow. After you think about all we discussed today, I'm certain you'll have many questions tomorrow. Please come back tomorrow, about an hour after sunrise.

Mikeli stands up at his chair and pauses a moment.

MIKELI

Thank you Master, I will be back tomorrow.

Mikeli and Paracelsus exchange smiles.

Mikeli crosses the room and exits the building.

Anna enters the room to gather the tray.

ANNA

Well Master, how did it go today?

PARACELSUS

Excellent.

Anna and Paracelsus have planned this first day of lessons for weeks. Although Anna was a servant, Paracelsus could see many traits of his own mother and he could sense her intense desire for her son to do well.

PARACELSUS (CONT'D)

He'll do well. He'll go far. Of that, I'm most certain. Tomorrow will be a full day. Plan on the three of us for midday meal and supper.

Anna holds back welling tears as she gasps for breath.

ANNA

Yes Master, I will.

FADE OUT

FADE TO, ADEPTS IN EGYPT

PEDIBASTET

Maiti, come with me.

Pedibastet motions to Maiti to follow him. Both walk across the room. They pause near the entryway into the area where the "Secret of Secrets" is housed.

MAITI

Master, you know all the others are going to ask me what we are talking about now.

PEDIBASTET

I'm certain of that. And you'll know what you should speak of and what you should keep quiet. I'm speaking to you now just as the Keeper did with me several years ago. You are not expected to walk into the position of the master adept without a good knowledge of what it is all about. Over the next several months and years, I am going to give you lessons. All you need to tell the Adepts is that I am giving you instruction. As the Master of the Adepts you must continue your education.

MAITI

Yes Master, I understand.

PEDIBASTET

I had a meet, no an appearance, from Thoth.

Maiti eyes open wide.

MAITI

Me, too! What does it mean?

PEDIBASTET

I over-heard the old Masters speaking about this several years ago. This is not an uncommon experience. But they never spoke about many meetings with Him.

(MORE)

PEDIBASTET (CONT'D)

I really look forward to what He will tell us. Will you share with me your conversation with him?

MAITI

Yes Master, unless if He forbids it.

PEDIBASTET

I think he will soon be telling us many things wonderful. It may very well be things that we should share with the world.

MAITI

How will we know when the time is right to meet with Him?

PEDIBASTET

He will let us know one way or the other and there will not be any mistake about knowing. Good, then we do have a great deal to talk about. Come back tomorrow, and I will begin this training with you. Now, return to your Adepts. You know what to say.

Pedibastet turns and walks away with an exhilarated smile on his face.

FADE OUT.

FADE TO AN ALCHEMIST/ALCHEMERGIST 2013
EXT. City Park

Alana and Marlene meet at a small covered pavilion near the lake. They sit.

MARLENE
This was a good idea. The weather
is beautiful.

Marlene spoke loudly as she neared where Alana sat.

ALANA
I thought you might like this. The
temperature is a perfect 60 degrees
and very comfortable. How are we
for time today?

MARLENE
We're good. It'll be four hours
before I have to be anywhere else.

ALANA
Ok, girl. Good. How about we walk
and talk?

Both stand and begin a walk along the edge of the lake.

MARLENE
The Emerald Tablet shows us the way
to coagulation of spirit in a new
body, step-by-step. We've
discussed this before, but it won't
hurt to run through the steps one
time again as a starting point for
the discussion today.

Marlene pulls some paperwork from her purse. She also pulls
the book out: The Emerald Tablet.

MARLENE (CONT'D)
As you have read and we discussed
before, the seven operations are
Calcination, Dissolution,
Separation, Conjunction,
fermentation, Distillation and
Coagulation. Now, we will read
from this.

Marlene gestures to the book.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

Would you please read through the first two lines from the third Rubric?

Alana holds the book and quickly finds the correct page.

ALANA

Its Father is the Sun, its mother the Moon. The Wind carries it in its belly; its nurse is the Earth.

Alana pauses and looks to Marlene.

MARLENE

Its Father is the Sun: this describes the first operation: Calcination. And this includes the heating of a substance until it becomes ash, but psychologically, this is the destruction of our ego and any materialistic attachments we may have. Calcination is a process we face everyday, if we think about it and as we deal with all the troubles and problems we have each day. In utilizing calcination in this first step we learn to banish our ego. When we were children our ego was not a problem. Only by growing into adults do we have this built up and galvanized ego and to a point where it is a real road-block on our true path. The influence of calcination, in the positive aspects, are our gaining in drive and determination.

Marlene purposely pauses.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

Calcination is not an easy process and many people will find it very difficult; those without much commitment will say it's impossible. It's not something for many to easily attain. This requires a daily, focused practice.

ALANA

I understand.

They continue their slow walk along the edge of the pond.

MARLENE

Let's talk a moment now about
Dissolution. This deals with the
darkness within.

Alana looks at Marlene.

ALANA

Darkness?

MARLENE

No, well, maybe we could be talking
about something evil. It depends
on where your emotions are on a
scale of 1 to 10 from good to
extreme monstrosity. Dissolution
is a cleansing of the emotions.
Have you ever hated anyone? Ever
really mad at anyone? Any
prejudices? Here we break habits,
wash away petty concerns, do away
with the "woe is me", or the "kick
me" attitudes and all of the self
pity. Pay close attention to your
dreams, this will not only be a
conscious change, but will also be
making impacts upon the
subconscious. Well, anything that
is self degrading. Next?

Marlene motions to Alana.

ALANA

"The Wind carries it in its belly"

MARLENE

Since we were successful with the
first 2 operations...

Marlene looks at Alana and they share a smile.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

Our falseness and other impurities
I mentioned a few moments ago were
removed from our minds and soul and
truer essences are rising within
us. Alchemists in the past have
seen this step as bringing the
essences back to life by exposing
them to air. Air, one of the four
elements, associated with spirit
and intelligence, seen as an
important ingredient in the Work.

They continue their slow walk.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

During our personal separation, we reclaim that "visionary gold" that slowly eroded away from us due the socialized and rationalization mind we formed and strengthened into our adulthood. We lost that purity, that connection of a child-like mind. Ok, girl, what's next?

ALANA

"It's nurse is the Earth."

MARLENE

This is the turning point in alchemy, the marriage of the Sun and Moon, the union of the spirit and the soul. Conjunction is the formation of an entirely new personality from the new, well old, essences we buried and are now bringing back to life, back to the forefront. It takes a great deal of passion and courage to progress to this point. The ancients called these first steps the "Lesser Mysteries" of initiation. In the words of the alchemists, they called the reaching of this point and points before the "Lesser Stone". What they mean by this is the remainder of the Work, creating the Higher Stone, is within the spiritual realm.

Alana is intrigued.

ALANA

The Lesser Stone and the Higher Stone. That's fascinating. I've never heard it explained like that. Now you've really got me interested. So what is involved with the next steps?

MARLENE

You will die to this world and be reborn into the next.

ALANA

What?

Marlene smiles sheepishly.

MARLENE

A death to all we mentioned before. All the impure and trash of our personality. It was symbolism as used by the alchemists when they described death and rebirth as Fermentation. And just like natural fermentation, it is a two staged process. It begins with Putrefaction, and is when matter is killed and allowed to decompose and rot.

ALANA

That sounds gross.

MARLENE

Well, think of it as wine making. The grapes are crushed and the juice is saved into casks where it changes, it brings on a new life of its own as wine. The essence of the grape in the accompaniment of alcohol. Both together as a new substance. Putrefaction is psychologically our darkest of nights, like a fright night, when so much of our old self is destroyed. A major change can be very frightening. We seemed to really have believed ourself as being solid as a rock, and all that false pretense, torn away, is like having our feet swept out from under us. Oh, but that dark night must not endure, push forward, now into the light of Fermentation.

ALANA

Gosh, girl. You're really on a roll. You have been studying quite a bit.

The women pause. They have returned to the pavilion and each takes a place on the bench.

MARLENE

Something just came to mind. It's something a professor told us several years ago. Here's how it goes. A young girl asked her mother why she cut about 1/3 of the roast off and put it back in the freezer. I don't know, she answered. It's the way my mother taught me. Let's ask your grandmother. She called her mother and the same answer came from her, it was the way her mother taught her. The young girl's mother called the rest home and was able to get in touch with her grandmother. Her answer, well the pot I had was a little small so I always had to cut off about a 1/3 so I could put the lid on the pot. What a strange question to ask!

MARLENE (CONT'D)

Fermentation is a living and loving inspiration from outside of us, something from totally Above and from the realm of pure mind. The Tablet says: "Separate the Earth from the Fire, the subtle from the Gross." When we kill off the false persona, a new presence takes its place. Suddenly we begin to wonder why all the BS was so important to us.

ALANA

I like that little story about the roast. So a lot of the useless and senseless things we do, really no purpose at all.

MARLENE

And many we learn from our parents. I'll continue, just a few more to go.

Marlene gathers her thoughts.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

Distillation is the next to last step in our transformation. It is learning to work with transpersonal powers.

(MORE)

MARLENE (CONT'D)

In the laboratory Distillation is a boiling and a condensing of the fermented solution, and it is increasing in strength. Watching the operation you can see the churning within container from bottom to up and then curling back down to the bottom. "It rises from the Earth to Heaven and descends again to Earth." Distillation is the purification of the unborn self. This is when there is a feeling of working with real universal forces. It is selfless action in service to a higher source.

ALANA

One more stage?

MARLENE

What does the Tablet say?

ALANA

(Reading)

"Thus you will obtain the Glory of the Whole Universe; all Obscurity will be clear to you."

MARLENE

Coagulation is the creation of a Second Body, a body of golden light, a permanent creation of consciousness. It is first sensed as a new confidence that is beyond anything you have known or ever could have imagined before. It releases the Ultima Materia of the soul, which alchemists referred to as the Greater or the Philosopher's Stone. The Stone heals all ills and wounds on all levels. It heals all diseases. Even touted to prolong life.

ALANA

How do we get to this final step?

Marlene picks up her case and the book. She places her arm around Alana's neck.

MARLENE

Step by step. Perfect each step before going to the next.

FADE OUT.