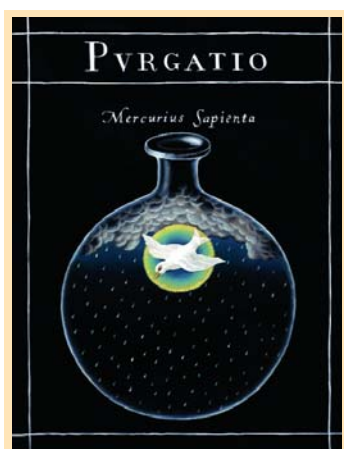
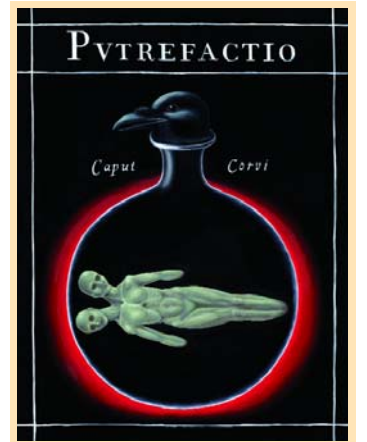


*White-skinned lady; lovingly joined to her ruddy-limbed husband,  
 Wrapped in each other's arms in the bliss of connubial union,  
 Merge and dissolve as they come to the goal of perfection:  
 They that were two are made one, as though of one body.*

The arcanum of the art of gold is made from male and female, because the female receiving the force of the male rejoices, in that the female is strengthened by the male. So, my son, by the faith of the aith of the glorious God the complexion is from the complexion between two luminaries, male and emale. Then they embrace and have intercourse, and the modern light is born of them, to which no light is similar in the whole world.



The alchemical work is an *opus contra naturam* in which libido is pulled back to the germinating earth for the purpose of letting it putrefy there in a cruel spring. The philosophers' stone is produced along the course of nature when she bursts into leaf. Hali, the Philosopher, says about this: This stone arises from the growing things when they turn green. When therefore the green is reduced to its former nature, whereby things sprout and come forth in ordained time, it must be putrefied and decocted in the way of our secret art. At the peak of the opus alchymicum the glory of the *coniunctio* suddenly fades into darkness and despair. This development signifies the onset of a new stage of the work termed by the adepts *nigredo*, *tenebrositas*, or *mortificatio*.

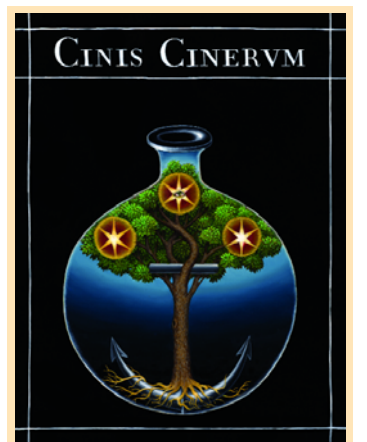


*Coniunctio solis et lunae*, the filial, solar eagle is devoured by the paternal, solar lion, both being parts of the lunar, serpentine body. In alchemy, the king's reunion with his son is achieved by means of the physiological analogue of the psychological process of introjection, that is, by eating. Through his swallowing of the *filius regius*, the old king assimilates his heir in a total, but horrible act of primary identification (cannibalism). The winged guide, the dove, and the Holy Ghost are further symbols of the *spiritus* of introjection or primary identification.

*The father took him to his heart  
 And swallowed him out of joy,  
 And that with his own mouth.*

The dual state of light and darkness, life and death, inside the Hermetic vessel is explained by the fact that the perfect conjunction of alchemy occurs in the zodiacal sign of Scales where the opposites are fused in a supreme way, that is, at the balancing point of *equilibrium*. This symmetrical arrangement of Libra is reflected not only in the balanced white and black stars but also in the *oculus coelestinus*.

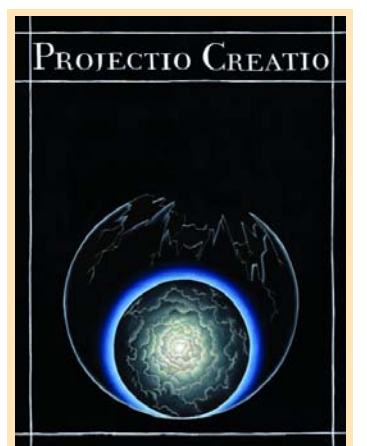
*Stella perfectionis* or, the Crowne of Nature: The growing symbiosis of the homunculus and his maternal substance, expressed in the philosophical tree, culminates in the production of the *rebis* or hermaphrodite, the human expression of equilibrium and the much-coveted goal of the opus alchymicum.



The lunar body is fertilized by the mercurial serpent who, coiling as the uroboros, or tail-eater; impregnates, begets, devours and slays himself, and himself lifts himself on high: *sublimatur per se*.

*The dragon is dead without fighting,  
 It swells and grows, emitting a sulphurous vapour, and,  
 Like a sponge, it produces sap; its  
 Meat has the power of silver and gold.*

The last operation refers to the *proiectio*, the final work of the opus alchymicum. The *proiectio* represents the original act which starts the wondrous *multiplicatio*. Project on any body as much of it as you please, since its tincture shall be multiplied twofold and from hence on ad *infinitum*. In tracing back the multiplication to its source, the adept gradually forces his way through multiplicity to oneness; ascending the pyramid of the multiplying stone, he finally happens upon the splitting of the One when 'projecting' itself. The *proiectio* thus becomes the instrument by which the alchemist recovers the primordial stone, the goal of his work. Solve et Coagula, et habebis magisterium.



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MUSIC FOR SOLVE ET COAGULA