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We Affirm

THE existence of One Infinite Intelligence, Omnific, Omniscient, and Omnipotent in its functions; from which we emanated as unconscious spirit substance, and to which we return as conscious, individualized entities.

The Incarnation of the Spirit in visible form or Matter, to be for the purpose of Experience.

That all Life is Continuous, without Beginning and without Ending; Evolutional, in a constantly ascending scale of Progression.

That the Mortal may attain to the Knowledge of the Spiritual, while yet Incarnate.

The Truth of Re-incarnation as a factor in the Soul's Evolutionary Progress, necessary as many times as may be required for the Assimilation of the Requisite Experience.





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Edited by KHEI, X°, 32°, and Publishd Monthly Except in July and August
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Thrill Hunters

KHEI, X°, 32°.

Acts xvii, 21. (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)



WHEN we were a small boy we watched with awe when, on Fourth of July at the Civic Fire-works display in the evening an active young sky-rocket went busily on its way with whir-r-r- and zip, somewhere into the starry firmament, and we were particularly imprest at the chorus of "oh-h-h-s," intended no doubt to convey the idea of pleasure and admiration, but equally indicative of some distinct thrills that prompted it.

In later years, after our personal anatomy had attained its present majestic elevation and pleasingly and maturely rotund facade, we noted the same chorus of oh-h-h-s, when, attending a semi-public seance for observation purposes, the ghost of some credulous believer's decadent parent floated up waveringly from the floor at the end of the medium's little extension rod, operated from behind the "cabinet." The extension rod, was of course invisible, due to skilful arrangement of lighting effects, and any slight noise that might have resulted from the fluttering gauze, was drowned in the peculiarly nasal hymn usually adopted on such occasions.

But the thing that imprest us most was the undeniable presence of the same thrills back of it all, showing that whether we gambol on the village green in youth, or gamble with the nation's green on the stock

market in later years, from public square to private sanctum, the same desire for thrills seems to be an integral part of human nature.

From plebian craps to high-brow billards, matching pennies or trading stocks, the crowned heads of Europe surreptitiously at Montmartre or the bald heads of New York in the front row at the "Follies," Madame at the bargain-counter, or Susie the poor working-girl on a Sunday frolic at Coney Island,—back of it all is the search for the thrill that seems to be the tabasco sauce which keeps humanity at the fever-heat of constant unrest.

And after twenty years of active work in occult studies, the same phenomenon is noted, until we wonder if, after all, a regrettable percentage of those who take up the study of the occult sciences do not seek consciously or unconsciously, some new variety of thrill.

Today, like the Athenians of old, there seems to be a tremendous proportion of the population who have little else to do but either to tell of or listen to, some new thing. In fact we are called upon to listen to so many new things all at one time in order to be "up-to-date," whatever that means, that it is difficult to preserve our mental equilibrium.

The "vood-vee" of occultism allures the thrill-hunter. Sex manias, pornographic philosophies, Tantrick antics, dark seance development circles, trumpet seances, kaballistic jargon, mysterious "teachers," "guides" and "Masters," and nearly every thing under the sun down to perfectly innocent tea grounds and including actual black-mail, are called into play to make things interesting for the thrill hunter.

Its all wrong Pershing, its all wrong.

All this sort of stuff amounts, as our Frater Eucleo used to say, to "a cipher with the rim erased," and he who expects to make any real progress along such lines, is, to say the least, supercredulous.

The late Max Heindel used to emphasize three good rules for spiritual progress, Right Thinking, Right Living, and Right Feeling, and to these we would like to add by way of emphasis, the word "CLEAN." Clean Thinking, Clean Living and Clean Feeling, will do more for real spiritual development than all the books, courses and memberships one can accumulate in a life time.

No teacher, guide, guru or matatma, can advance you one jot farther than you are entitled to go by your own effort and anyone who claims to be able to do so is a self confest imposter, as you will find to your sorrow and financial depletion.

A teacher *can* help, by pointing the way, **IF THE TEACHER CAN SHOW THAT HE HAS ALREADY PASSED THAT WAY HIMSELF, KNOWS THE PATH AND CAN PROVE IT BY HIS CONTACT WITH THE INNER SIDE OF LIFE.** *Demand proof* before you commit yourself to any sort of guidance.

Shun the teacher or school who extends to you the alluring bait of implied thrills. Occult study means **HARD WORK AND PLENTY**

OF IT, but all things worth while call for the same expenditure of hard work and study. Truth is stranger than fiction and the study of Nature's Mysteries has plenty of REAL THRILLS for him whose heart gains a single beat in excited wonder at the beauty and amazing grandeur of the revelations of the cosmic universe.

The number of perfectly fine people who today in all our large cities, are sitting at the feet of alleged teachers who have exploited an idea sufficiently unintelligible and absurd to be interesting, is amazing. Yet every one of these good people expects by such attendance, or the purchase of books or courses, to develop higher powers of some sort.

It cant be done.

The only way to develop your inner and higher powers is, first of all to depend UPON YOURSELF. Dont look for "Masters." If there are such, you'll not find them thru thrills, for Mastership means *mastery of SELF*,—not mastery *over* others or FOR others. And Masters make themselves known only to those who are also working along the legitimate pathway of sanity.

Buy GOOD books if you will, books worth while. Attend lectures and instructions worth while, but dont expect that merely buying or attending will advance you one iota. Your advance depends UPON THE INDIVIDUAL WORK YOU DO. Without individual effort along constructive, intelligent, sane, sensible, scientific lines, your time will be wasted.

Study the analysis of light thru the prism, and the next time you contemplate the glory and, indescribable splendor of a sunset never to be forgotten, a profound and REAL thrill of realization and conscious illumination will take you into the celestial studio of the Cosmic Artist, where color such as only those who can look into the vista of the Astral World have seen, will cause the senses to reel and the spirit to struggle for its freedom that it may soar to the mirage of the wondrous and heavenly kingdom before it.

Study geology, and your visit to the forest will tell to you a new story of ages past, and the rippling brook at your feet will sing to you of the time when, as a rushing torrent, it bored its way thru rocky barriers, carving out canyons and valleys, and now rests from its labors as it glides smoothly neath bending fronds of delicate green laces and velvet mosses.

Both these studies will show to you the age long journey of Man, from his origin in glowing light balls and his stormy career thru the Stone Age, to the comparative freedom of his present intellectual capacities. This kind of study makes for REAL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT. It is not simply theory, it is FACT, demonstrable and provable.

People who spend valuable time either telling or listening to some new thing, never learn very much worth while about any *one* thing,

and time wasted is the greatest sin we can commit. God did not create or give us money. Man invented that to his own sorrow; but an All-Wise Creator did give us a concept of Time and Time is Man's *Opportunity* in a given incarnation.

You may waste your money and yet regain it. YOU CAN NEVER REGAIN LOST TIME and the opportunity it means.

If YOU have put your foot upon the Path, keep it there, and follow it up quickly with the other one.

Too often we hear it said,—“I'm certainly interested in this sort of work, but I'm going to wait until I've accumulated enuf money to devote my whole time to it.”

That time never comes,—nor do they who backslide EVER COME BACK.

The OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN LOST for a whole incarnation.

Dont waste your time in seeking thrills, or the alluring hocus-pocus of great mysteries to be revealed by some sort of formula thru “degrees” or “initiations.” The real initiation is within. External ceremonial—valuable as it is—is merely an exoteric aid in our travels along the Path.

The TRUE Rosicrucian student will not make the mistake of becoming a seeker of mediumistic phenomena, parlor legerdemain, tricks of hypnotic or mental control or any thing of the sort, but in the end, he will be rewarded by the consciousness of an interior illumination and realization that words cannot describe, and justly so.

Be a TRUE worker and student—not a thrill-hunter and dont fool yourself for one moment that you can make ANY PROGRESS WHATSOEVER in spiritual science, without HARD, UNCOMPROMISING PERSONAL WORK FOR AND BY YOURSELF.

Get this fixt in mind and you'll find that you'll receive unexpected help from unexpected sources.

Dont chase the bubble of mystic thrills.

Astro-Chirology

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It is my purpose in this thesis, to show the correlation between the science of Astrology, and the sciences of Chiromy and Chiromancy as the latter are combined and practist in what is generally termed Palmistry.

Sepharial, in his “Phrenoscopy,” claims that Astrology and Phrenology provide the key to human character. I am going Sepharial one better. I hold to the theory that the entire organism, without and within, shows

the operation of planetary forces which condition and impel the Homo, and the person who possesses the ability to read all the signs depicted thereon and therein, and who at the same time possesses a knowledge of the language of Astrology, holds the TRUE KEY to Human Character.

I want it understood in the beginning that I do NOT possess the ability to read all the signs by which character may be determined as they are depicted without and within the human organism. Indeed, I have mastered but a small portion of those which are to be found on the hand. Such signs, however, I find to be a part of the tracings on the trestle-board of the individual, showing, for its own information, the forces which have worked to shape it to the thing it is, and informing it as to the method of procedure by which defects may be eliminated, imperfections corrected and improvement made by taking advantage of present opportunities for directing its forces in constructive channels. If Astrology and *Phrenology* have been found to furnish in part the Key to Character, is it not logical to assume that Astrology and *Palmistry* also furnish in PART the Key to Character, and one of far more practical value and advantage in use, so far as the individual practitioner is concerned, in as much as he or she may examine the individual hand more easily than the head?

I presume the majority of my readers are more or less acquainted with the language of both Astrology and Palmistry. There may be a few, however, who are ignorant of the terms employed and their meanings, and for that reason it will be necessary, before attempting a delineation to give a general review of the terminology of both sciences, and in doing so, I shall endeavor to correlate them.

According to data in hand, the twelve phalanges of the fingers correspond with the twelve signs of the Zodiac, as follows:

First, or Jupiter finger:	
First phalange, Aries,	Mars ruler.
Second phalange, Taurus,	Venus ruler.
Third phalange, Gemini,	Mercury ruler.
Third, or Apollo finger:	
First phalange, Cancer,	Luna ruler.
Second phalange, Leo,	Sun ruler.
Third phalange, Virgo,	Mercury ruler.
Fourth, or Mercury finger:	
First phalange, Libra,	Venus ruler.
Second phalange, Scorpio,	Mars ruler.
Third phalange, Sagittarius,	Jupiter ruler.
Second, or Saturn finger:	
First phalange, Capricorn,	Saturn ruler.
Second phalange, Aquarius,	Uranus-Saturn rulers.
Third phalange, Pisces,	Neptune-Jupiter rulers.

Note: Personally I consider Uranus and Neptune to be respectively the rulers of the signs Aquarius and Pisces.

It is deemed inadvisable in a thesis of this kind, to give in detail the natures and qualities of the Zodiacal signs, as it would require too much space. The student is referred to the Lessons in the Astrological Course now being given by the Societas Rosicruciana in America, or to any standard Astrological text book for such information.

I have not been able, thus far in my investigations, to correlate the qualities indicated by the several phalanges of the fingers with all the Zodiacal signs. Such as I have been able to correlate will be noted as we proceed.

According to data in hand, the ancient Astrologers based their calculations and delineations on the position and influence of *Seven* planets, i. e., Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. I do not think the Palmists of the Old Time arbitrarily affix the names of the planets to the mounts and fingers now bearing their names, but rather that they were so named because the Palmists, who in all probability belonged to the same School as did the Astrologers, realized that the qualities manifested by the mounts and fingers were established and fixed by Nature, and were an expression of the powers and potencies of the evolving God Within, which powers and potencies are Cosmic, and apportioned to the individual by the Planetary Spirits, according to its needs.

Later on, we will note something of the influence of the planet Uranus as indicated in the hand, and also that of Neptune. Although Neptune is said to be outside our Solar System, it appears to me his influence is decidedly marked in the lives of many people.

The mounts of the hand to which have been affixed the names of the planets are SEVEN in number, (See Plate I) and are located as follows:

The Mount of Jupiter at the base of the first finger; the Mount of Saturn at the base of the second finger; the Mount of Apollo or Sun, at the base of the third finger; the Mount of Mercury at the base of the fourth finger; the Mount of Venus at the base of the thumb; the Mount of Luna on the percussion opposite the Mount of Venus, and the Mount of Mars which is divided in two sections known respectively as Upper and Lower, are located as follows: Upper Mars is on the percussion between the Mounts of Luna and Mercury, and ordinarily between the ends of the head and heart lines. The Lower Mount of Mars lies between the base of the second phalange of the thumb and the Mount of Jupiter, the life line marking the boundary between the two Mounts. The percussion is the fleshy pad on the side of the hand reaching from the base of the palm to the base of the Mercury finger.

(Continued from page 22)

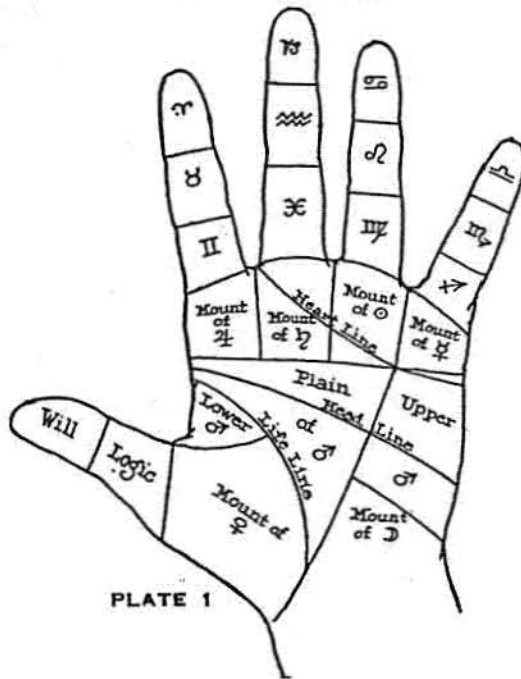


PLATE 1

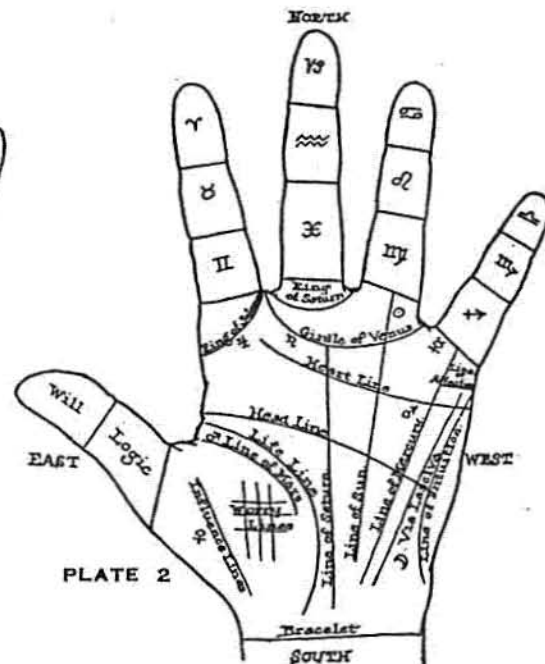


PLATE 2

(To be Continued)

Studies in Hermetic Philosophy

Junior Grade No. 10

By KHEI, X^o, 32^o.

"Putrefactio."



FIFTH in the series of doctrinal exegeses.

Putrefaction is defined as the act or process of putrefying; decomposition of animal or vegetable matter, accompanied by fetid odors; rotting; now regarded as a KIND OF FERMENTATION, or breaking up of a complex organic compound into simpler compounds produced by micro-organisms, called putrefactive ferments.

Alchemically, the process of putrefactio becomes of absorbing interest, for we must remember that by virtue of the very definitions of the words "alchemical" or "alchemy" we are dealing with essentially secret processes. Among other definitions already given we may cite the Arabic usage;—Al—the; Komia—Secret thing. Also another Egyptian and Chaldean,—Al or El—God, Cham-sun; In other words alchemy is the God influence exprest in Nature.

Applying this concept of the essential meaning of alchemy to the doctrine of putrefactio,—Hermetically, we find that there is embodied in the process an essential secret, which conceals the activity of the God or Solar influence.

Nature powers are always essentially positive. MAN has the *added* negative. MAN CAN WILFULLY SEPARATE A SEED FROM THE SOIL AND PREVENT ITS LATENT GENERATIVE POWERS AND GROWTH. NATURE—i. e. IN THIS SENSE GOD, CAN ONLY PRODUCE.

Note this fact carefully Fraters, God, great as we conceive Him to be, Omniscient, Omnipotent, and Omnific as He undoubtedly is, IS A CREATOR, NOT A DESTROYER. There is no provision in the attributes of Deity for Destruction. The ancient and olden concepts of God as an avenging God were simply that the older writers attributed to God personally, the responsibility for individual acts of Karma. Likewise the concept of God as a destroyer, in his desire for punishment and vengeance, was due solely to the inability of the earlier thinkers to understand that God is not to be judged by human standards, and acts that may appear to us as destructive on account of the forcible or other change of external form or Matter, may be in the Infinite Wisdom of the Divine Mind but the speediest form of constructive activity.

And as we note the wholesale slaughter of lower forms of life, organic and inorganic, by the higher forms, those higher forms in turn causing thru wars the transitions of hundreds of thousands of human souls almost in a moment of time, we may, in a sense become reconciled to such conditions when we know for certainty that of all the millions of deaths, for instance, in the recent great War, not a single human life could be destroyed. The form of its external vehicles may have been forcibly altered or removed, but the living Spirit was proof against the assaults of the enemy.

So it is, that God is solely a PRODUCER, A CREATOR, A CONSTRUCTOR, AND BUILDER. What seems to be destruction, is in His ineffable Wisdom but the best and quickest way to reconstruction, greater creative activity, evolution, and progress.

Having these concepts in mind, we shall realize that, gruesome as the word "Putrefaction" has come to be, thru the properties usually associated with it and the environment of its activities, it enshrines, ensouls and conceals perhaps the greatest and most sublime mystery of all the wondrous acts of an Omnipotent God, the mystery of the *resurrection of life*.

Let us before proceeding farther, consider carefully the words of St. Paul in his first Epistle to the Corinthians, the 15th chapter, beginning at the 35th. vs. These words have been read to countless thousands in churches, and have been used by nearly every known creed in Christendom at the Burial of the so-called Dead, yet among generations of those, who having ears hear not, for they have waxed gross and dull, these mystic words have fallen upon barren soil.

- 35 But some man will say, How are the dead *raised* up? and with what *body* do they come?
- 36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die;
- 37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that SHALL be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat or some other grain.
- 38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed *His* own body.
- 39 All flesh is not the *same* flesh; but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.
- 40 There are also celestial bodies and bodies terrestrial; but the glory of the celestial is ONE, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.
- 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another in glory.
- 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in CORRUPTION (Putrefaction); it is raised in *IN*corruption.
- 43 It is sown in dishonor (renunciation of earthly glory, title, fame, and position) it is raised in glory (the freedom, opportunity and purgation of the newer life); it is sown in weakness (man's inability to withstand the power of Nature and the call to mortal change); it is raised in POWER, (the freedom and triumph of the Spirit over the Flesh and the Grave.)
- 44 It is sown a natural body (Incarnation of the Spirit in Matter); it is raised a spiritual body (emancipation of the spirit from Matter). There is a *natural* body, and there is a *spiritual body*. (There are both Matter and Spirit, manifest).
- 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a LIVING SOUL, (because into the first forms of human life entered the Reason of the Divine Mind). The last Adam was made a quickening spirit. (The threefold Spirit taking full and complete possession of its vehicles on all planes).
- 46 Howbeit, that was not first which is spiritual (in human evolution) but that which is natural, and afterward that which is spiritual. (Man had first to build his natural or physical vehicle before he became fully man, after which, the Ego could enter in and possess it.)
- 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven (First the completion of the physical vehicle, then the assumption of the Divine Spirit in Man).

- 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.
- 49 AND AS WE HAVE BORNE THE *IMAGE* of the earthly, WE SHALL ALSO BEAR THE IMAGE OF THE HEAVENLY.
- 50 Now this I say unto you brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. (Materia Proxima cannot enter into Materia Ultima) neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.
- 51 Behold I shew you a MYSTERY. WE SHALL NOT ALL SLEEP, BUT WE *SHALL* ALL BE *CHANGED*.
- 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed.

Through all the centuries of human that it is noteworthy that since the Fall of Man whereby his eyes were blinded to the truth by his captivity to the senses, his interest has been principally concerned with and his attention devoted to his external manifestation. Hence all thru this writing of Paul we find the vigorous adjuration against the concept that it was the physical or natural body that was to be raised.

Incarnation after incarnation, specie after specie, genus after genus, the body of a given expression of the life wave is the result of the previous vibrational manifestation, and when sown, it is but the seed of the body that shall serve as the vehicle of the next expression.

Now that which is sown is not quickened except it die. Herein is an apparent paradox. In other words, unless the seed dies it cannot live. Thus we see at a glance that the old initiates of whom Paul was an undoubted leader, *KNEW* that to die is not to cease living; that death is not cessation of anything except previous *FORM*, and that death is simply *CHANGE*, thru the process of Putrefaction, for in the process, decomposition of organic structure takes place, disintegration of compounds as stated in Instruction number Eight, wherein we saw that Sanctificatio was the process of breaking down these very compounds, a process of *breaking down* which is finished by that of Putrefactio in disintegrating and decomposing them, in order to liberate that body "that shall be."

And herein we find actively at work, the God influence or Solar Influence which is embodied and continuously manifest in all things.

Whence came the first impulse to independent life in the embryo in the womb of the human mother? Whence came the first impulse to independent life of the spirit thru the process of Putrefactio, of the newly born into the spirit world in the womb of Mother earth?

In both cases the answer is the same. From the God Influence or Solar Influence embodied, enshrined, and consciously constructive, con-

sciously active, and consciously creative in all things, organic and inorganic.

We find this equally true if we experiment with stone, fish, vegetable, or animal. If we isolate a piece of mineral from its parent body, in due time if we have patience we find it becomes so-called dead rock or "rotten stone" crumbling and disintegrating. Fish removed from its natural element soon succumbs and its decomposition and fetid odor are also immediate results. Vegetable and Animal matter also succumb to the decomposing and disintegrating activities of Putrefactio, and quickest of all, the human species. Yet in each case, only change takes place, but NO CESSATION OF LIFE ACTIVITIES.

The rotting stone becomes mould and is transformed into embryonic vegetal forms. The fish, and the carcasses and guano of birds and animals, also decaying vegetation become stimuli for newer growths and fertilizers in Nature's economy. Only the faecal refuse of human species is in our present state of knowledge unfit for further use, simply because it is a lower state of Matter that has been raised to such higher vibrations as to render it deadly to lower forms of organic growth.

Thus Putrefactio is the step to continuously higher states of expression in every department of life.

How do we know there is no death, but only change? Let us look again at the 38th verse of the chapter quoted: "But God hath given it a body as it hath pleased him, AND TO EVERY SEED HIS OWN BODY."

It is almost inconceivable in view of the illimitable millions of times this passage has been read, translated in hundreds of tongues, even to the most obscure, in churches, universities, theological cemeteries, or, as some call them, "seminaries," that the key has been ignored. Verily indeed have the generations of professing students for nearly 20 centuries been dull of eye and hard of hearing and understanding.

Ordinarily this passage is interpreted as meaning that God gives to each specie its appropriate body or vehicle, for its needs, ignoring the processes of Nature and Evolution that provide for all such requirements without the special interposition of Deity. BUT MOST OF ALL, THEY IGNORE THE VERY KEY, WHICH IS THE WORD "HIS."

Is it not obvious that if the Apostolic writer meant that God gave to every seed an appropriate Body he would have written in the proper gender, "ITS." But we are distinctly taut that God gives to *every* seed HIS—God's Own—Body.

Therefore, regardless of genus, specie, or race, every living thing HAS and IS A part of THE BODY OF GOD, and in the Body of God there can be NO DEATH, otherwise there could be no God.

And by being IN and OF the Body of God, we are permeated and actuated by the BREATH and LIFE of God.

But we are not specially concerned with the seed of the human body or its reproduction, incarnation after incarnation. The process of Putrefaction, illustrations of which in one instance serve as infallible guides in all other instances, applies Hermetically to the decomposition and disintegration of the greatest of all seeds, the PRIMORDIAL SEED within us, which each incarnation permits the process of Putrefactio to develop still further.

A piece of meat or vegetable substance exposed to sun and air soon begins the process of putrefactio before our very eyes. Almost as we look, it begins to teem with myriads of embryonic life organisms, bacterial growths, tiny messengers and agents of the Divine command to continue the life process until the change of immediate form is complete. Whence comes this embryonic life? Biology has many answers with which we need not concern ourselves at this point. The basic motive power of them all is the life energy, the God Influence or Solar Influence inherent in and directed upon them.

The seed with which we are concerned is the Seed of Gold, which is ultimately to transmute us into the higher spiritual beings it is the individual destiny of each homo, to become.

The Solar or Deific life principle which will Putrefy this Seed so that it may come forth that body which *shall* be, is the Divine Essence (the Corpuscle of Primordial Substance) which emanated from the Sun, permeates all Matter, pierces rocks and soil alike and vitalizes the Seed of Gold that slumbers in all forms of life, organic and inorganic. So it penetrates each of us, gradually Putrefying the Golden Seed within us, until in due time we rise from death unto life, having first nourisht the seed within us which was sown in the corruption of the human flesh, sown in the dishonor of mortal life with its human frailties.

This is the active agent in all metallic transformations, whether it take place thruout countless ages in the bosom of Mother Earth, or more quickly thru the inherent powers of the chemist and the alchemist.

And the very human body in which the seed is sown is that Adam or red earth which was formerly esteemed of so little value. Like the red earth Litharge, formerly held to be of no account, and now known to possess the highest chemical values, the human body was formerly condemned, maltreated, mutilated, and mortified by pious theologians and laity alike, who sought spirituality by defiling and wounding the very Temple of its earthly habitat.

But now we see more clearly, and know this very body to be the treasure chest of the greatest of all treasures, the Golden Seed, as exprest in the immortal Charge of Sandivogius—O Man, KNOW THYSELF: *IN THEE IS HID THE TREASURE OF TREASURES*. Well may our Masonic friends promise to KEEP AND CONCEAL AND NEVER REVEAL, that which is committed unto them, altho in their modern

exoteric organization they may not have the faintest concept of what it is they are concealing.

The chemist performs most of his operations by the aid of *FIRE*. The Alchemist operates principally by the aid of *WATER*. Philalethes says: The Seed of all things has been placed by God in Water, i. e. the feminine principle or matrix. So in Rosicrucian ritual we are taut, that "as from water came forth all forms of life upon our planet," etc.

Seed is vastly more than the mere illustration furnished us by the product of the vegetable kingdom. Sandivogius says: "Seed is nothing but congealed AIR (Hydrogen) or a vaporous humour enclosed in a body; and unless it be dissolved by a warm vapour, it cannot work." This is true seed. The invisible (*AIRY*) substance of Deity or Divinity, inherent in every homo, which incarnated in the maternal matrix of Mother Earth or an Earthly Mother is warmed by the Warm moist vapor until it dissolves and then WORKS.

Putrefactio is then in reality, dissolution and dissolving. But everything that is, comes from seed. Some "exhibit their seed openly as in flowers and vegetables, some keep it in their kidneys like certain animals, others conceal it in the depths of their being like minerals and metals. But in each, the seed sown in the corruption of Matter is stirred by the Putrefying activities of a certain Divine celestial influence (the Solar Energy) coagulating into material water, and passes thru a series of fermentive processes, (fermentation being the principle of all transmutation) until it has produced that for which it was specially suited.

Through the medium of Water, in which all Seed of Men and Metals is hidden, the celestial influence is enabled to penetrate the rock, its natural matrix and to develop the seed into various minerals and metallic forms, all destined to one ultimate unfoldment. So it is also in Man. The seed in the one instance to all appearances transforms even the rock itself into a higher and more perfect substance as the general development progresses. So in man, as the seed unfolds thru its gradual putrefaction it transforms the boy into the man, and the ignorance of youth into the wisdom of maturity. Ultimately it transforms the natural body into the Spiritual body.

The development of seed placed in the soil and the seed placed in the human body appears at first consideration to be something vastly different, yet they are essentially the same thing. Nature alone determines the ultimate destiny of each.

Let us examine the cases and phenomena of spontaneous generation. This heading will include the fungi. One of Nature's wonders is the growth under actual sight, of the mushroom and toadstool. What is its seed? Whence comes it? How was it first planted? What is the Cause of its phenomenal growth? It may be answered that fundamentally it is analogous to the activity of Yeast. What is yeast. The answer is, a species of fungi. Seen under the microscope we find it to consist of

strings or successions of living protoplasmic cells. IT IS A DIRECT RESULT OF FERMENTATION AND PUTREFACTION. It is an essential food nourishment and element, and by its action alcohol is liberated and eliminated from wine. THUS FROM THIS EXAMPLE WE SEE THAT PUTREFACTIO IS AN AGENT TO MORE RAPID GROWTH AND THE LIBERATION OF ESSENTIAL SPIRIT AS WELL AS BEING THE PROVIDER OF NOURISHMENT.

Fermentation means definite chemical change in constituency and is closely associated with Putrefactio, the two being inseparable. Fermentation means Putrefaction, decomposition, and therefore death—which is NOT death but LIFE—MORE ABUNDANTLY.

No change of vital conditions and no resurrection can be effected without this form of death. This is what St. Paul means when he wrote, "that which thou sowest is NOT QUICKENED, EXCEPT IT DIE."

The process of life in man is maintained by the two activities of *Breathing* and *Eating*. Living flesh must receive its vitality from food and air.

Every particle that enters the stomach MUST immediately undergo a process of Putrefaction and decomposition. Why? Because it is necessary to "Break Up" the atomic and molecular cohesion, and by thus freeing the Vital Seed, perfect and enable it to WORK and vitalize. This Putrefaction is Nature's way of shucking the food kernel to get at the innermost vital seed in each particle of food substance received into the body. In this way the life force is continuously replenished.

So the human body is made up of countless "tiny seeds which, coming from the food, have germinated and grown into cell structure exactly as the mushroom grew, only much slower. Organically, this is all there is to man's physical vehicle, a vast network of protoplasmic cells,—a great yeast plant. The digestive system is called by Astrologers, "Virgo," the Virgin or Maiden of the World who forever conceives and forever brings forth."

These vital seeds that enter and develop in the human body are virtually mineral seeds. Man is himself, no other than an animated, organized STONE, as stated in Rosicrucian rituals. His birth into the World is a striking analogy to the birth of the so-called PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

In the beginning, the substance or composition of the embryo is practically shapeless. It remains in the Vase, Urn, or Womb for nearly forty weeks. Then there comes forth the product of the Putrefaction of the Seed which is not quickened except it die,—the result of the subtle, creative potency of Spirit,—Infant MAN.

"The new being is nursed and fed until it attains strength to stand alone in its environment. It becomes in due time,—MAN, the marvelous

transmuting spiritual agent, a vehicle for the expression of the Consciousness of the Divine ONE."

In this transmutation, Man is thus the epitome or Philosophical STONE, inasmuch as he is the synthesis of all the metals and substances that compose STONE in the aggregation of the millions of tiny seeds that make up his being and will enable him to regenerate and transmit to futurity the same God-producing STONE itself.

Humanity in the total is the feminine recipient, womb, or matrix of the higher Spiritual Seed of LIGHT. Man and Womb-man are but the correlated parts, individually considered, of the one highest vehicle of life expression and projection. It is due to this fact that the wonderful bi-une being, Man, contains within ITself the requisite seed for perpetuating itself.

Putrefaction is the principal KEY to the process of Transmutation, as it is in the phenomena of generation. Death is but the story of Cadmus who slew the Dragon and sowed the Teeth, from which sprang up the army of soldiers. Nothing can be killed or permanently destroyed. Only form may be changed.

All that death means is the freeing of the atoms of an organized structure by the process of dissolving, dissolution—Putrefaction. Death is the initial step always to the newer and higher life expression, for no atom can remain for more than an instant alone. It must immediately recombine. This it does in obedience to the laws of Chemical Affinity, with mathematical precision. As we have seen by some illustrations of suspended animation and hibernation among lower animal forms, death may mean as in the case of the seed gathered in the barn, or located in the frozen earth, a more or less protracted sleep, but the heat and moisture and the warm vapors of Nature's alchemical processes will dissolve it, and growth will take place normally out of the decomposing mass.

In the case of humans, this can only take place in those who are spiritually dead, and who thus require much time in awakening and responding to the consciousness of their new environment.

But for those who anticipate their future estate, who look forward joyously to a brighter life of usefulness, free from earthly inhibitions and obstacles, Putrefactio becomes the process of liberation of the imprisoned spirit to a glorious resurrection of greater, brighter life, liberty, happiness, and usefulness, in the presence of the Father in whose body they have always existed, and in whose body and life, there is no Death.

Special Healing Dates 1922.

February—1, 2, 3; 9, 10; 15, 16; 21, 22, 23.

March—1, 2; 8, 9; 14, 15; 20, 21, 22; 28, 29.

April—4, 5; 10, 11; 17, 18; 24, 25, 26.

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Notice is given to members of Metropolitan College, that the Degrees of the Grades will be conferred *upon the basis of attendance at Stated Convocations*, as well as upon the passing of the requisite examinations. Degrees will not be conferred upon non-attendants. We hope to confer the Degrees of the entire First Order before June.

The Editor of Mercury takes pleasure in recommending to the attention of Masonic readers, the excellent and valuable Masonic publication, "THE BUILDER" published at Anamosa, Iowa. This is, perhaps, the best Masonic paper published in America, and is devoted solely to Masonic Research, wasting no time or space on personalities or the Masonic glad-hand politicians. It is worth every penny of its subscription price.

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Suns in Orion

BY CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES.

In February at the hour of 9 P. M. about halfway from southwestern horizon to zenith, we behold the famous constellation Orion, distinguished by two bright stars, Betelgeuse and Rigel, with three less noticeable suns in a row, Mintaka, Alnilam and Alnitah, which slant downwards towards the very brilliant sun Sirius, in the constellation Canis Major. Reddish Betelgeuse, near the top of Orion, is remarkable because it is the second largest *known* sun of night in the Universe. Brilliant bluish-white Rigel, at the bottom of Orion, is the 7th brightest sun visible in the starry sky. Mintaka, the highest sun in Orion's Belt, is really two stars, instead of one star, and Alnitah, the lowest sun, is really three stars. Alnilam, the Belt's middle sun, is the brightest of these three stars, and, like Betelgeuse, Rigel, Mintaka and Alnitah, it is trillions of miles distant.

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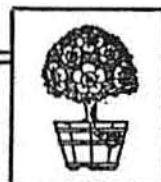
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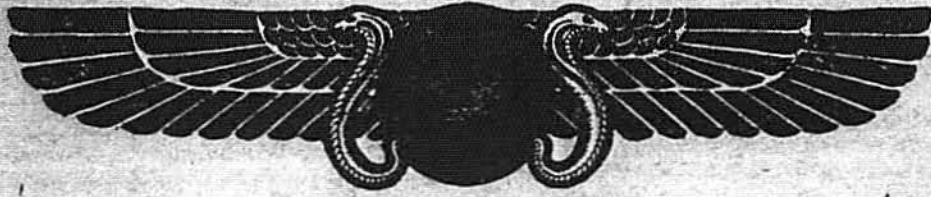
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T.:T.:G.:O.:T.:S.:M.:O.:T.:U.:

“THE GOSPEL”



ALL IS ONE, AND THAT ONE IS ALL SINCE ALL THINGS WERE IN THE CREATOR BEFORE THE CREATION, AND WE CAN CALL HIM ALL SINCE ALL THINGS ARE HIS MEMBERS. WHEREFORE, REMEMBER THRU-
OUT ALL THIS DISCOURSE, TO BEAR IN MIND HIM WHO IS ONE AND ALL, THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS. EVERYTHING DESCENDS FROM HEAVEN UPON THE EARTH, INTO THE WATER, INTO THE AIR: ONLY FIRE IS VIVIFYING. THAT WHICH DESCENDS FROM ABOVE IS GENERATIVE: THAT WHICH EMANATES AND RISES IS NUTRITIVE. THE EARTH, ALONE SELF-SUPPORTED, IS THE RECEPTACLE OF ALL THINGS, AND RECONSTRUCTS THE TYPES WHICH SHE RECEIVES. THE WHOLE IS ONE AND EVERYTHING PROCEEDS FROM UNITY. NOW THIS UNITY, WHICH CONSTITUTES THE WORLD, IS FORMED OF FOUR ELEMENTS: FIRE, WATER, EARTH AND AIR:— ONE SINGLE WORLD, ONE SINGLE SOUL, ONE SINGLE GOD. AS ABOVE, SO BELOW: IN ALL THINGS—UNITY.

—HERMES MERCURIUS TRISMEGISTUS

