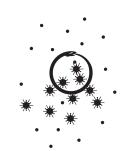


NOT FOR SALE



Brian Cotnoir





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The Tabula Smaragdina or the Emerald Tablet is a short alchemical text attributed to Hermes Trismegistus, the sage who brought arts, sciences, and the pursuit of wisdom to humanity. The Tabula Smaragdina is about the cyclic flow of creation – all creation, regardless of the scale or time of the composition. It attests to the truth of unity and the act of creation. This is its central point. All else flows from this vision.

I present here two translations of the same text. One is from an 8th century Arabic Emerald Tablet, the earliest surviving version, and is found in the Sirr al-Khalīqah, The Secret of Creation by Apollonius. The other is a 12th century Latin translation of this same Arabic text and is taken from Liber de secretis nature et occultis rerum causisquem, a Latin translation by Hugh of Santalla of the Sirr al-Khalīqah.

The Secret of Creation is a work that explains the spheres of creation, laying out what was then known about the cosmos. It is fitting that the Emerald Tablet, a very brief composition about creation and the creative process, is found at the end.

The Sirr al-Khalīqah is an apparent Arabic translation of an unknown Greek work. The source text of the Emerald Tablet has not yet been found, so it isn't known for sure that the Arabic version is a translation. There are, however, indications in the piece that it was translated from a Greek work. There is no definitive proof of this, but the text itself is of a piece with the hermetic, gnostic and alchemical context of Greco-Roman Alexandria in the first several centuries of our era.

There are small differences in the Latin compared to the Arabic and most of which can be attributed to mis-readings of the Arabic by Hugh of Santalla. These differences are explained in my book Alchemy: The Poetry of Matter. There in a chapter on the Emerald Tablet I present, along with the Arabic and Latin text, a more complete analysis, commentary, and practical experimentation. The original texts, translations and brief commentary also appear in my Emerald Tablet a limited edition in leather and silk available through KhepriPress.com.

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THE EMERALD TABLET

Tabula Smaragdina

Translations from the Arabic and Latin

Brian Cotnoir

A Truth without doubt, wholly sound, that the highest is from the lowest and the lowest is from the highest.

The working of wonders is from the one, just as all things came from the one, by a single governance.

Its father is the Sun and its mother is the Moon. The wind carries it in her belly. The earth nourishes it.

Father of talismans, treasure-house of wonders, perfection of powers.

Fire became Earth.
Separate the Earth from the Fire.
The subtler is nobler than the gross.

With skilled work and restraint it will ascend from the Earth to Heaven and descend to Earth from Heaven.

And within itself is the power of the highest and of the lowest, within it is the light of lights, therefore darkness flees from it.

Power of powers.

It can conquer every subtle thing,
and penetrate everything gross.

Following the creation of the Macrocosm, the Work is completed. This is my glory, and for that was Hermes named Thrice with Wisdom.

from Kitāb Sirr al-Khalīqah by pseudo-Apollonius of Tyana

...with this truth, entangled in words, inscribed...
The higher is from the lower.
The lower is from the higher.

The working of wonders comes from the one, as all things originate together from one and the same, by the same governance.

Whose father is the Sun, but whose mother, the Moon.
The wind lifts it up in its own body,
the earth becomes sweeter.

You therefore, sons of deceptions, workers of wonders, of perfect discretion,

if it should become earth, lead it out of fire which surpasses all grossness and what is ponderous, draw it forth expansively and prudently and by the hard work of wisdom.

From the earth, it will rise to the heaven, it will slip down from heaven to earth, containing the force and potential of the higher and lower things.

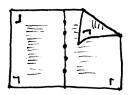
Therefore from out of the same thing all obscurity is illuminated. Namely, whose power transcends whatever is subtle and enters whole into gross matter.

This operation indeed, has its being according to the composition of the greater world. Hermes Philosopher calls this namely, three-fold wisdom, or, three-fold knowledge.

from Liber de secretis nature of Hugh of Santalla

EMERALD TABLET BOOKLET INSTRUCTIONS

Brian Cotnoir



- 1. Print cover and text double sided without scaling
 - ${\bf 2}.$ Cut the inside sheet using the guidemarks

