

Introduction

Simply defined, Practical Alchemy is the study of natural laws as observed in a controlled laboratory environment. It includes the search for, and concentration of, the first creative energy believed responsible for bringing life to our planet Earth. The alchemists call this the Prima Materia and it is believed to be a universal form of matter/energy. When we learn to focus, and concentrate this subtle energy into a purified substance, we are working with the Philosopher's Stone. Astrology is a tool of observation, and reliance, used to deduce the natural laws of alchemy.

As it's practiced today, Practical Alchemy is predominantly based on the written research records of Alchemists born in the last eighteen hundred years. A great volume of earlier information was lost when war brought destruction to the vast libraries of past civilizations. Alchemical studies currently available are once again nearing the grandeur of intelligence that was available in ancient times. This handbook is an example of the wisdom passed down from teacher to student, combined with my personal research, and the expertise of others devoted to alchemy and astrology.

The specific goal of this book is to help alchemists determine the best time to start a laboratory project by determining how many influences from the cosmos are dynamically focused on our planet. The general goal is to provide a tool to predict energies available for any important activity, or event. This knowledge is basic, and is written as a tool for contemplation. As you watch the world, and practice alchemical astrology, the single word descriptions will begin to provide insight to the kinds of Energy that can be directed at us. Observation of astronomical alignments as compared to earthquakes (USGS, 2010), volcanic eruptions (Smithsonian Institute, 2010), and severe weather conditions, can further delineate your understanding of the physically observed influences.

Experience has shown me that when astrological conditions are favorable my experiments proceed in an accelerated fashion. The resultant product is more potent, and laboratory accidents are unlikely. There may be occasions when you can't wait for the best astrological situation. Perhaps you need to prepare a remedy for someone who is too sick to suffer any postponement. Your alchemical preparation may not be as strong as it could be, but any neglect to act would be detrimental to the patient. In those situations it is important to know how and when a problem is likely to arise, so that it can be avoided or compensated. You can make the best of the most advantageous methods available, and choose a different strategy to complete the task at hand, when you consider the cosmic astrological influences.