



INNER
GARDEN

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2023

Libocedrus plumosa

PREFACE



THE PROTO SCIENCE OF ALCHEMY and present-day science have both endeavoured to capture reality in a coherent body of knowledge. Senior alchemists have traditionally spoken about a decline of know-how since antediluvian times. However, according to the current epistemological view of science, we are in a period of knowledge expansion and progress. This progress moves from disjointed impressions and ideas towards an ever-expanding set of verisimilitudes. By applying the *scientific method*, assumptions are verified based on their correlation with our living matrix. This involves a hypothesis and a prediction following a creative process with **imagination** at its subjective origin.

Normative science is not originaive. It yields data and interpretations based on assumed and often unstated preferences towards certain outcomes. This bias may be motivated by financial gain or political objectives. Playing politics with science is tricky, though, particularly when an honest inquiry into emerging truths is silenced. *Science begins by asking questions*. Following Mertonian norms, one could say scientific objectivity is nothing more than a shared subjectivity lacking better, more universal explanations.

Recent years have featured a global divide between those claiming to follow the science and those offering alternative perspectives. Science suddenly appeared to be bound to national borders; it supported continuing mandates in one country and simultaneous vaccine bans in others — despite pertaining to the same demographic groups and the same brands. Rather than this unequivocal, veracious force, normative science was unmasked as something in the eye of the beholder. And so, at the close of the Information Age, the **Age of Consciousness** is heralded by a less naïve view on what's what amidst the rabble of fact checkers.

In 1984, the engineer Jean-François Doucet nicely illustrated the practical limits of the omniscient pedestal on which we put modern science:

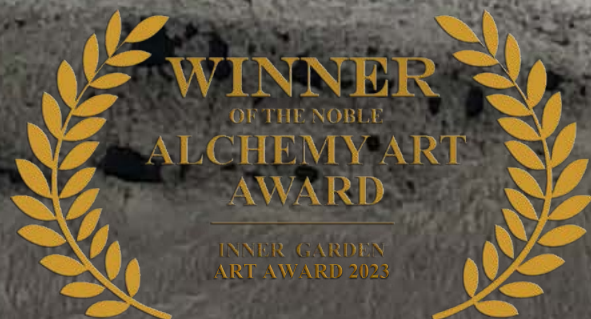
‘Truths are discovered like statues unveiled at an inaugural ceremony, only to be covered up once again with a fabric of new explanations. Science develops as if the Imagination were holding a screen between the reality which it contains and the reality which, on the other side, still remains somewhat obscure. As the beauty, cruelty and harshness of reality are unendurable, reality must be veiled by a theoretical approach. Truth, on the other hand, is blinding in its clarity. As a result, no one can really grasp the truth and explain it. It is an ultimate condition, like death. Without ever really attaining truth, science endeavours to explain it. Truth, like death, is thus a belief — incomplete and unknown — which continually needs to be demonstrated by constant testing.’

According to Alchemists, new life can emerge from the death of the old. Rather than associating truth with *death*, one could thus also speak of *truth and life*. The cover of our previous Annual Report featured a tree known to produce good wood for coffins. This year’s cover features the bark of the Kawaka, known as the Tree of Life by early settlers of Aotearoa, the Land of Abiding Day. The tree earned the name **Arbor Vitae** by virtue of its medicinal properties. This pyramidal shaped Thuja is quite rare and tends to thrive as individual rather than forming large forested areas. For this solitary, monoecious and non-sentient being, one might wonder to what extent the saying, ‘we die alone, and we face the Divine alone’ applies. Yet all life is interconnected and is bound to bridge the internal-external nexus as it gradually evolves towards higher states of vibration. By ingestion of the tree’s medicinal essence, its unique imprint may endure in those it nourished, much like how we internalise and pass on the kindness shown to us.

Alchemy is a highly cultivated Art to facilitate this *raising of vibrations*. It serves to develop the human qualities of consciousness and imagination in both an exoteric search for the Stone — the physical marriage and ennoblement of the forces of nature — and in esoteric endeavours aimed at achieving the panacea for immortality and redemption. As such, the proto-science and **para-science** of Alchemy continues to speak to the imagination.

A relatively recent perspective on the advancement of science, known as the *noetic account*, aligns more closely with the values of our Royal Art. This approach places a greater emphasis on increased understanding and ability to explain and predict. While Inner Garden may have a negligibly small role in this domain in the greater scheme of things, what matters ultimately is staying true to our highest aspirations as inspired by our noble Art and upholding the kindness that is sacred in human-kind.

Moreh



WINNER
OF THE NOBLE
ALCHEMY ART
AWARD

INNER GARDEN
ART AWARD 2023

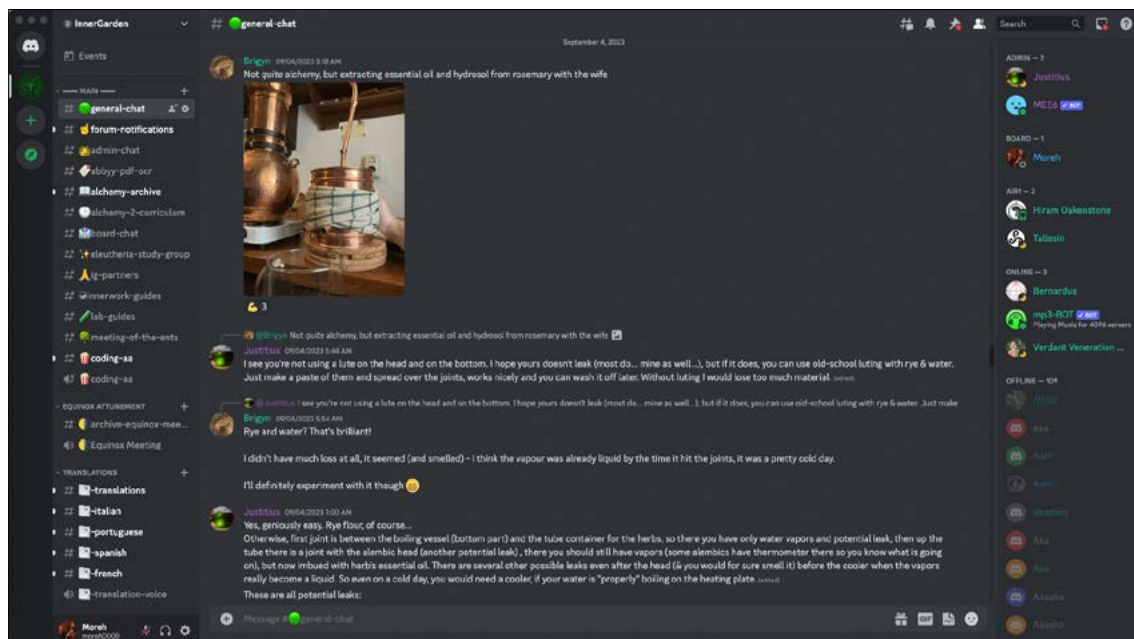


A Work On Graphite by Br. Similia shows the graphite as taken out of a living mine and cycled through different repetitions of purification, purged with fires until free from faeces. It continues to carry its first impression, the impression of its womb, resembling the veins in which it is found. This reminds us of our own imprint that we will eventually leave behind.

For some, this beautiful capture brought to mind the adagio *as above - so below* as the eye is drawn across the veined landscape. Others appreciated this fractal expression of life in the mineral realm primarily as an image of vegetative growth and fertility. Its skillful unfoldment and capture in a photo being a perfect example of our endeavour in the Art. For other Art visit: www.alchemyartaward.org.



In addition to Inner Garden's private forum, the Foundation's Discord server features a general channel which is accessible for outsiders. It features discussions varying from the specifics of herbal preparations, tips and tricks from the **LPN** era (The Philosopher of Nature), pro's and cons of modern and traditional labware, and book recommendations. With well over a hundred members, there is often someone willing to comment or assist with any questions. The channel can be accessed [here](#).



In the Partner section, the following notes were released:

Note	Subject	Author
E001	Entheogens & Oneirogens / Spanish Broom	Justitius
N039	Drying Ethanol	Similia

A noteworthy publicly available addition to the [articles section](#) covers an alternative process to achieve a **Plant Stone** developed by the Philosophers of Nature.



Another AIR 1 (Alchemical Inner Reconciliation) course was held, guided by Justitius, Horatius D'Omeros, Shruti and John Marius Linden. JML also hosted another AIR 2 course, assisted by HD'O and J. A few reactions from participants:

'I went deeply into myself and learnt how to understand aspects of myself that I avoided because I didn't have enough courage and I did not want to look into it. With the right resources and the guidance of our brothers Justitius, Horatius D'Omeros and JML, I was able to initiate this journey of self-knowing and who I really am.'

Taliesin

'AIR 1 has changed the way I see the world and the way the world sees me.'

Abadoro

Brn. Sanitatem Magum, Shruti and Taliesin have completed level 1 and Horatius D'Omeros a level 2 post-graduate diploma course in [Imaginative Movement Therapy \(IMT\)](#) which was presented under auspices of the [Space for Imaginative Therapies Education \(SITE\)](#).

A 432-page compendium of AIR 1 lessons for Guides was released. JML provided the foundation of and additions to this monumental work. Transcriptions and editing were done by Justitius and Shruti added questions at the end of the discussion documents. The following documents were released:

Note	Subject	Author
AIR1	Lesson Compendium v2	JML
	IG IMT Intake Form	Moreh
	IG IMT Evaluation Form	Moreh
	IG IMT Reference for Guides	Moreh

Artifact

Stainless Steel Retort

Size (assembled): 346 x 320 x 195 mm, weight: 10.2 kg.

The sides of this stainless steel reaction vessel read:

5.500 OD. X .250 WALL

316 WELDED

ASTM-A-269

TRENTWELDED HT.6566

The retort shaped alembic has a 1.5' x .25' flat flange that can be secured to the bottom vessel with M10 bolts, with a heat resistant gasket as seal. The alembic was cast from a 500 ml glass retort, allegedly in a rotocast facility of an aerospace company that made turbine blades. This unique piece was commissioned in the 1980s by a member of the Philosophers of Nature.





ELEUTHERIANS

The alchemical tradition covers a vast field of study and its practitioners hence often loom large in a variety of subjects, be it gardening, biology, medicine, philosophy, astrology or mathematics, to name a few. One exceptional polymath who exemplified this wide-ranging expertise was Jung. Alchemy held a central and pivotal position in Jung's studies and writings. Jung's recognition in previous annual reports stems from the profound connections between his technique of **Active Imagination** and the traditional alchemical methods of establishing communication with the subconscious mind. This inner journey towards the Self invariably features a dynamic interplay between the personal and collective unconscious. And as Jung pointed out, it is only by understanding our unconscious inner nature that we gain self-knowledge — antithetical to ideological zealotry. This introspective voyage cultivates an understanding of what is quintessentially human and sharpens our sensitivity of that which heralds a departure from humanism. It reminds us that our **Art** of separating the pure from the impure is as relevant in our daily lives as it is in the lab.

Last year, against the backdrop of a global entry into 1984 Orwell territory, the Eleutheria Study Group was established. One of the posts shared in this group featured a returning plight of civilisation:

‘Under the influence of scientific assumptions, not only the psyche but the individual man and, indeed, all individual events whatsoever suffer a levelling down and a process of blurring that distorts the picture of reality into a conceptual average. We ought not to underestimate the psychological effect of the statistical world picture: it displaces the individual in favour of anonymous units that pile up into mass formations. Science supplies us with, instead of the concrete individual, the names of organizations and, at the highest point, the abstract idea of the State as the principle of political reality.

The individual is increasingly deprived of the moral decision as to how he should live his own life, and instead is ruled, fed, clothed and educated as a social unit, accommodated in the appropriate housing unit, and amused in accordance with the standards that give pleasure and satisfaction to the masses. The rulers, in their turn, are just as much social units as the ruled and are distinguished only by the fact that they are specialised mouthpieces of the State doctrine. They do not need to be personalities capable of judgment, but thoroughgoing specialists who are unusable outside their line of business. State policy decides what shall be taught and studied.

The seemingly omnipotent State doctrine is for its part manipulated in the name of State policy by those occupying the highest positions in the government, where all the power is concentrated. Whoever, by election or caprice, gets into one of these positions is no longer subservient to authority, for he is the State policy itself and within the limits of the situation can proceed at his own discretion.'

Source: *The Undiscovered Self*, C.G. Jung, 1957.

Not wanting to settle for 'names of organisations and, [...] mouthpieces of the State doctrine,' seeing through the 'white hat' bias to distort or ignore data according to assumed righteous ends, being far less susceptible to the Gell-Mann Amnesia Effect, Eleutherians have gradually shifted away from mainstream sources towards independent, evidence based endeavours and Media by the People. As alchemists, we have learned to be particularly thorough in our studies. The medieval alchemist's motto of *lege, lege, lege, labore, ora, et relege*, is as relevant in the current spirit of the times as it was in the past.

In recognizing that this *Art, Philosophy and Science* as defined in our [AoA](#) comprises a field of **overlapping magisteria**, we continue our *itinerarium intus* — our inward journey — seeking that which is nearest yet which has been partly lost in nature and mankind.

Man and his Symbols, Jung's final work written before his passing, states the following about pioneering Artists: 'What artists now have at heart is a conscious reunion of their own inward reality with the reality of the world or of nature; or, in the last resort, a new union of body and soul, matter and spirit. That is their way to the reconquest of their value as human beings.'

This journey inevitably leads towards the light, to a raising of vibrations, a cycle of alchemical death and rebirth and reconciliation of the antinomies of the microcosm and the macrocosmic world. And so, to coclude this year's morsels from preface to Eleutheria in a well-rounded way — by the standard of the anachronistic researcher of Alchemy — I lead the reader backwards in time, from Jung's posthumously published book to his first mandala, the **Systema Munditotius**:





We have been working on the digital portal for the Alchemy Archive for seven years. When the project was initiated, we looked at several archiving solutions. Some were open-source but poorly maintained, and others were too expensive. We settled on programming a portal ourselves in PHP. However, PHP changed substantially throughout the project, necessitating changes for security reasons, while our code evolved.

The final rewrite began last year and incorporated some much-needed security for the web pages by implementing a strict Content Security Policy (CSP) which also necessitated re-architecting the client-side JavaScript to take full advantage of the CSP. Currently the portal is open for Librarians. Permission granulation is being finalized and thereafter Librarians will begin inputting test data and working on mock-up views of how they would like that data displayed. There is still a lot of work to do, but the bulk of the hard stuff has been done. Currently, 474 files make up the application of the Archive.

109 separate files control the View, 35 files make up the Controller, 330 files make up the Model. Approximately 75,000 to 125,000 lines of bespoke code currently make up the archive application. A release of the Archive (tier 1) to the general public is expected in 2025.

The archiving process continued in parallel. Main entries were submitted by Similia who shared about 50 books on the history of chemistry and of medicine. The compilation of entries involved a careful selection based on historical significance and practical utility, catering to the discerning Lovers of the Art. Ranging from the first *Herb Annals*, with their ancient wisdom, to the monumental masterpiece by Gildemeister unravelling the world of essential oils, the catalogue encompasses a rich tapestry of knowledge. It spans the realms of *Materia Medica*, the history of Alchemy and Pharmacy and the Art of extracting wood products and their derivatives, to name just a few, providing a comprehensive resource for those embarking on a journey into practical work. Br. AaH shared a number of unique documents from the Philosophers of Nature and Br. Abadoro shared contributions from the Filiation Solazaref.

Indexes are painstakingly recorded to facilitate easy access to desired words and terms. The intention is to empower enthusiasts and seekers, providing them with very specific sources that could potentially be all-encompassing for their aspirations in the fascinating domain of practical applications. Whether one seeks to deepen the understanding of traditional herbs or to delve into the intricate science of essential oils and their chemical properties, this curated collection of entries serves as a beacon, illuminating the path towards an enriching and fulfilling quest. Each entry is a testament to the dedication of the cataloguer, aiming to create a repository that not only preserves knowledge but also propels the Art into the future, fostering a community of enthusiastic learners and practitioners alike.

To promote the inclusion of searchable data in the AA, the Foundation financed lifetime licenses of ABBYY Finereader for Justitius, Similia, Horatius D'Omeros and Moreh.

Br. Similia initiated research on coupling a **Contained AI** to the AA and the programming involved.



Eleven Candidate Partners joined the Foundation. Welcome goes out to Magus, Georg, Iohannis, Yatri, Bernardus, Vitriolvm, Wilar Bergon, Phosphotonio, Benedictus, Elisha Bentzi, and Mezahab.



A copy of our Balance Sheet is available upon request for benefactors of the Foundation. Special thanks go out to Justitius and Horatius D'Omeros, Shruti and John Marius Linden for leading another series of well-received AIR classes, to [SITE](#) once more, for coaching Shruti and Taliesin further into the amazing realm of the Waking Dream and for certifying HD'O at level 2 Imaginative Movement Therapy ([IMT](#)), to Shruti, Similia, Diamond Spirit and HD'O for their donations, to J and HD'O for their work on the AIR Compendium, to Similia and HD'O for their many valuable entries into the Alchemy Archive, to AaH for providing unique documents to the Alchemy Archive that are not to be found elsewhere, to Justitius for arranging two equinox meetings, to Hathor for her guidance as our in-house astrologist, to our lab guides Ibn Hamda, Guilielmus, Similia, Justitius and Sanitatem Magum for their efforts in guiding Gardeners through Alchemy 1 and, in the domain of lab alchemy as well once again, Frater UFA, Ouroboros and Alden.

Translation of our website has been completed for a number of languages and gratitude goes out to the following Gardeners:

- Italian: Br. Similia, Sr. Hathor, Sr. Akasha, Sr. Gallus Phoenix;
- Slovenian: Br. Justitius;
- Romanian: Br. Abadoro;
- Spanish: Horatius D'Omeros, and Br. Salah;
- Portuguese: Br. Taliesin, Br. Hiram Oakenstone, Br. Talau, Br. Obelison, Br. Perseverantia, Br. Oz;
- French: Br. Cinis, Br. Hezekiel, Sr. Gallus Phoenix.



