

Chemist and Alchemist



Edited excerpts from Franz Hartmann, *With the Adepts, an adventure among the Rosicrucians*, 2nd ed., London: William Rider & Son, 1910; ch. 6, "The Alchemical Laboratory." Full text in our *Mystic Verse and Insights Series*. Frontispiece: *The Alchemist* by François-Marius Granet.

The universal process, by which all the processes of life take place, is the unfoldment of Life. He who can guide and control the Power of Life is an alchemist. He can create new forms and increase the substance of those forms.

Chemist **Alchemist**

The chemist creates nothing new; he merely forms new combinations of the substances in his possession;

The chemist deals with matter in which the principle of life is inactive, that is to say, in which it manifests itself merely as mechanical or chemical energy;

The chemist may transform sulphur into invisible gas and cause that gas to become sulphur again, and the sulphur obtained at the end of the experiment will be just as much in quantity as it was at the beginning;

The alchemist causes the substance to attract corresponding elements from the invisible storehouse in nature, and to increase.

The alchemist deals with the principle of life, and causes living forms to come into existence.

But the gardener who puts a seed in the ground, and prepares the conditions necessary for that seed to grow into a tree, is an alchemist because he calls something into existence which did not exist ready-made in the seed, and out of one seed he may thus obtain a thousand seeds of the same kind.

