







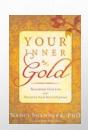




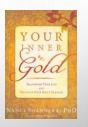
The first stage of alchemical transformation, Calcination, is a purification by fire, and a challenging and exacting process of realizing how the ego, through control, inflation, or overprotection, can hold us captive in a prison of limitation. Each alchemical stage is based upon an arcanum, which refers to things mysterious, secret, or esoteric. It is a sacred principle or law in alchemy that guides the alchemist in creating gold from lead. In spiritual alchemy, it refers to what the transformative aspect within the stage requires of us in working toward and discovering the gold within us. The arcanum for this stage tells us that Calcination is the process that reveals to us what has been hidden within like untended wounds. It tells us how, when ignored, the wounds and traumas of the past continue to bedevil our lives. The process of Calcination heals this by incinerating the ego's control over us. An alchemist would end up with a pile of ashes, which he would use in the next stage. We end up with the feeling that parts of us have been burned to ashes—a tough, sometimes backcing, but always freeing experience. The following imagery meditation will prepare you for what Calcination is and can do.

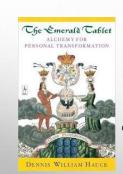


Each of the stages of alchemical transformation must be experienced more than once. Each time we go through a stage, we have grown to a certain point, but this doesn't mean we're done with it. As we grow, we wind around and around in a spiral of experience. As our spiral grows wider and higher with these experiences, each time we come to an issue we've worked on before, we go through it again, but this time from a more developed, matured, and transformed state of consciousness. And though I've presented the seven basic stages in order, it's not always typical to experience them in order. The most appropriate stage emerges at the right time in our lives for resolving it.



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## SOME CRITICAL HISTORY

MOST OF WHAT'S NEXT ABOUT CALCINATION IS FROM THIS BOOK.



THE FIRST STEP OF CALCINATION, IS A BURNING OFF OF PRETENSES AND UNWORKABLE BELIEF SYSTEMS THAT HINDER YOUR PROGRESS.

THE ANCIENTS BELIEVED THOUGHT WAS A LIVING SUBSTANCE MADE OF MOVING IMAGES THAT TURNED TO SALT WHEN IT ENTERED WO/MAN FROM THE ABOVE.

THUS, SALT REPRESENTED STIFLED OR LOWERED CONSCIOUSNESS, WHICH WHEN RAISED THROUGH THE OPERATIONS OF ALCHEMY, DISSOLVED AND RECRYSTALLIZED INTO A HIGHER FORM.

THIS BREAKDOWN IN CRYSTALLIZED
THOUGHT (OR ALTERING OF BELIEF
SYSTEMS) IS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF
THE FIRST TWO OPERATIONS OF ALCHEMY.







IN CHEMICAL CALCINATION, A SUBSTANCE IS HEATED OVER AN OPEN FLAME OR IN A CRUCIBLE UNTIL IT IS REDUCED TO ASHES.

IN PSYCHOLOGICAL TERMS, THIS IS KNOWN AS THE DEATH OF THE PROFANE. AN OPERATION WHICH RESULTS IN THE DISMANTLING ON TAMING OF THE EGO AND ALL ITS DEFENSE MECHANISMS. THESE MECHANISMS USUALLY TAKE THE FORM OF SELF-PERPETLATING DELUSIONS AND ATTACHMENTS TO APPEARANCES AND MATERIAL POSSESSIONS.



DECLINE OF SELF-ESTEEM, EMBARRASSMENT, FAILURE TO BE LOVED, LOSS OF MATERIAL POSSESSIONS, AND ALL THE OTHER HARSH REALITIES OF LIFE GRADUALLY CRUCIFY OUR PAMPERED EGOS. THE FIRES EXPERIENCED IN CALCINATION ARE BENEFICIAL BECAUSE THEY EXPOSE DEEPER LAYERS OF OUR ESSENCE WHILE RUBBING AWAY THE FALSE PERSON.

CALCINATION REPRESENTS THE BEGINNING OF A BLACK STAGE (OR DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL) IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE ARE REDUCED TO OUR MOST BASIC COMPONENTS, WHETHER WE ARE AWARE OF IT OR NOT.

## BURNING OFF THE DROSS



CALCINATION IS WORKING WITH FIRE TO BURN AWAY MENTAL CONSTRUCTS AND REVEAL A PERSON'S TRUE ESSENCE.



DURING THIS INITIAL STAGE OF PERSONAL ALCHEMY, THE EXTRAVAGANCES AND ILLUSIONS WE HAVE BUILT UP OVER THE COURSE OF OUR LIVES ARE ELIMINATED. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP A MYSTIC TAKES WHEN HE GIVES UP ALL HIS POSSESSIONS OR GOES TO A MOUNTAINTOP TO MEDIATE.

PHYSICAL POSSESSIONS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT THE REAL PROBLEM. RATHER, IT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE WE GIVE THEM AND OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORLD THAT IS IN ERROR. BY BURNING AWAY ALL THAT IS NOT RELEVANT, WE GET A BETTER PICTURE OF OUR TRUE SITUATION IN AN EXISTENTIAL SENSE.



The ego or tyrant king (the former ruling principle of the psyche) is sacrificed for the good of the whole personality.

How much control does the "tyrant king" have over your life?

The answer is in how much energy is spent defending him.

## ASK YOURSELF...

HOW EASILY EMBARRASSED ARE
YOU OR HOW MUCH EFFORT IS PUT
INTO COVERING UP OUR MISTAKES?
ARE OTHERS BLAMED WHEN
THINGS GO WRONG?
HOW UPSET DO YOU GET WHEN
THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY?
ALL ARE EGO REACTIONS.



DO PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OR MATERIAL POSSESSIONS ADD TO THE CHARACTER OF A PERSON?

THEY ARE MERELY PHYSICAL ACCOUTERMENTS THAT CAN DISAPPEAR OVERNIGHT.

OUR EGOS INTERFERE WITH THE EXPRESSION OF OUR TRUE SELVES BY FOCUSING OUR ATTENTION ON PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES AND MATERIAL POSSESSIONS.







HOW CAN WE HASTEN THE NATURAL PROCESS OF EGO TAMING AND MOVE ON TO A GENUINE LIFE? WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BURN US UP?

THE ANSWER IS VERY SIMPLE: WE MUST DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE INDIVIDUAL ESSENCE THAT EACH OF US HAS SUPPRESSED TO MAKE ROOM FOR EGO. IGNORE EGO AND PAY ATTENTION ONLY TO ESSENCE. THAT ESSENCE IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE THAT MUST GROW LIKE A FIRE AND CONSUME ALL TRACES OF EGO. OUT OF THOSE ASHES GROWS THE TRUE SELF.



ALCHEMISTS SOUGHT TO CONSUME THEMSELVES IN SPIRITUAL FLAMES SO THAT THEY MIGHT FIND SOMETHING ETERNAL BY REVEALING THEIR PUREST COMPONENTS.

ONLY BY TURNING UP THE HEAT CAN WE HOPE TO DIGEST OR BURN AWAY THE UNASSIMILATED BITS OF THOUGHT (HABITS, PHOBIAS, NEUROSES, COMPLEXES) THAT BLOCK THE FLOW OF PSYCHIC AND LIFE FORCE ENERGY WITHIN US—ENERGY THAT CAN BE MORE PRODUCTIVELY APPLIED TO FUEL OUR SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION.



WHEN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGICALLY, THE ELEMENT OF FIRE, OR HEIGHTENED CONSCIOUSNESS, IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL FORCES FOR TRANSFORMATION AT OUR DISPOSAL.

WHETHER EXPRESSED AS SHEER
WILLPOWER OR SOMATICALLY AS A
PURIFYING HEAT IN OUR BODIES, THIS
FIRE IS THE ULTIMATE AGENT OF CHANGE.

IN ORDER TO TURN UP THE HEAT IN OUR LIFE, WE HAVE TO FOCUS THE LIGHT OF CONSCIOUSNESS INWARD IN AN UNRELENTING AND COMPLETELY HONEST INSPECTION OF OUR PAST AND PRESENT BEHAVIOR.



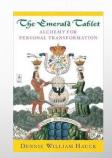


BEFORE UNDERGOING CALCINATION, PEOPLE ARE STUBBORN, SELF-CENTERED, MATERIALISTIC, FEARFUL, AND NEUROTIC. ABOUT THE ONLY POSITIVE QUALITY THAT CAN BE FOUND IN SUCH A PERSON IS A CERTAIN PRACTICALITY AND PRUDENCE THAT COMES FROM HAVING THEIR DREAMS REPEATEDLY SQUASHED.

CAN BE FUNCTIONING IN A PARTICULAR ASPECT OF LIFE—SAY IN RELATION TO MONEY—AS WELL AS OVER THE ENTIRE LIFE.

YOUR BUSINESS
YOUR MONEY
YOUR CREATIONS
YOUR FULFILLMENT

PRIMA MATTA
PURE IMAGINATION



Any hardened or unworkable beliefs about your business that need to be released?

Any places your ego is attached to how things go in your business?



Any hardened or unworkable beliefs about money that need to be released?

Ego attachments to how you interact with money?



Any hardened or unworkable beliefs about your creations that need to be released?

Any places your ego is attached to how things go with your creations?

How they come into form?





Any hardened or unworkable beliefs about your personal fulfillment that need to be released?

Any places your ego is attached to how your life is fulfilled?







