

The Alchemical Incubator

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The Alchemical Incubator

Here is a short dissertation on the modern homemade Alchemical incubator and its uses. This paper is geared toward practicing Alchemists currently involved in lab work and familiar with certain terms and Spagyric processes.

The modern homemade incubator used for lab work is usually a basic Styrofoam box or container such as an insulated cooler or any other insulated box that's used for warming and is considered a sacred space within the Alchemist's laboratory that helps maintain even temperatures to allow matter in a vessel to decompose and rot. Some have viewing windows installed and some use light bulbs as a heat source and still some use electric heating pads. It all depends on the Alchemist's tastes and purposes on which type he or she will construct and use but I'll focus on the heating pad method here. To use a heating pad properly you'll want to put a 2" to 3" layer of clean dry sand in the bottom of the incubator, place the heating pad on top of this layer then put a few more inches of sand on top of the heating pad to completely cover it. This helps in even heating of the vessel as resting your vessel directly on the pad will localize the heat and potentially scorch the herb material. You'll need to run the power cord out of the box so you may cut a small hole to do this but make sure that this area is sealed off from light coming in from the outside. Most work can be carried out at the temperature in which a hen exhibits to incubate her eggs (roughly 100 – 102 degrees Fahrenheit) so a heating pad is an excellent tool to use for this work as the temperature can be adjusted as conditions in the lab change (in my case I use a corner of my garage so conditions change often). Fermentation happens with the absence of oxygen therefore this is the reason a closed incubator is also a great place for darkness as light would allow the herb material to release oxygen and wrapping your vessel with aluminum foil or placing it in a dark sock or sack will help keep the vessel dark as well.

Regarding the section of the Emerald Tablet dealing with Fermentation; *1"*Separate thou the earth from the fire, the subtle from the gross sweetly with great industry*" and also; *2"*Humanely disunite the earth from fire, the subtle from the gross. It ascends from the Earth to the Above and descends back to the Earth which unites within itself the virtue of both the Above and the Below*". The words I want to focus on here are "*sweetly with great industry*" and "*Humanely*" and indicate the Fermentation process should be carried out with the proper Alchemical attitude within a secure Alchemical environment such as the sealed (from light and negative influence) incubator. Past Master Alchemists referred to the incubator as the Flask of the Philosophical Egg and to refer to it as such tells me they held their incubator in high esteem. Placing a vessel on top of a water heater or the back of the top of a refrigerator to utilize the heat given off these appliances is okay to use in a pinch but it would be difficult to shield your "child" from prying eyes and unsavory influences. To get the most out of the Fermentation process the vessel within the incubator and the incubator itself, should be kept well hidden from everyone other than the Alchemist performing the work and an ideal place in the lab to pull this off is in the Oratory or behind a curtain, etc. If anyone with ill will, deceit, disbelief or any other negative energies gazed upon the incubator while a process was taking place the Alchemist believed the entire experiment was ruined and therefore discarded the material within the vessel and started over. It's my belief that even photographing or taking a video of the incubator then having someone of negative influence lay eyes on the photo would equally ruin the experiment as if they were in the same room with it. (I'm currently researching this idea)

Now that we have the proper incubator in place I'll briefly touch on something that will help assist in the evolution of the herb being worked on.

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When I'm working on a Spagyric elixir I will put a piece of the corresponding planetary metal of the herb I'm working with inside the incubator, on the sand near the vessel of plant material to help draw down from Above the planetary energies during this Fermentation process. This was my intuition early on in my work and I've found the end product to be slightly more potent than preparing an elixir without the accompanying Planetary metal. For instance, the Sun-ruled plants I'll place a gold wedding ring on the sand next to the vessel, a silver coin for plants ruled by the Moon, a small sealed vile of "quicksilver" mercury for the Mercury-ruled plants, a bar of pure copper for Venus-ruled plants, a small strip of iron for Mars-ruled plants, a small strip of tin for Jupiter-ruled plants and a hunk of lead for the Saturn-ruled plants.

References

**1 Emerald Tablet translation by Sir Isaac Newton*

**2 Emerald Tablet translation by Vincent Norman Martin*