

The Hermetic androgyne; representing the stages of the alchemical Work in One. Watercolour painting.

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THE FIFTH PARABLE

"The Philosophers take for example an Egg, for in this the four elements are joined together. The first or the shell is Earth, and the White is Water, but the skin between the shell and the White is Air, and separates the Earth from Water; the Yolk is Fire, and it too is enveloped in a subtle skin, representing our subtle air, which is more warm and subtle, as it is nearer to the Fire, and separates the Fire from the Water. In the middle of the Yolk there is the FIFTH ELEMENT, out of which the young chicken bursts and grows.

Thus we see in an Egg all the elements combined with matter to form a source of perfect nature, just so as it is necessary in this noble art."