
THE ORIGINS OF ALCHEMY IN GRÆCO-ROMAN EGYPT

by
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To
Marie Delcourt-Curvers

*This solid flesh a circling smoke
in winds of bellying Time
haunts crevices of Space and seems
anchored here or there :
Men have thought the prospect strange
demonic scaring as they woke
from a ravishing crystalline dream
of abstract Eternities
to touch the edge of Change
where all Numbers twist and break :*

*yet Pattern lurks in the vanishing lair
of ragged particles. Alchemists
first kept the double vision and reckoned
as aspects of a single Stream
the Vortices of spinning mist
and the Structure of the unseizable second
when Life leaps upwards through the range
of fiery unstable Symmetries,
intricate dangerous Time.*

*Time
is the moving
image of Eternity
Plato remarked among the Stars.
Eternity
is the sudden
wholeness of Time
Apollo answers amid the Flowers.*

J.L.

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The First and Concluding Chapters