



Mensionization Complementation

The Mathematics of Hermetic Alchemy

What is the Aether of the Hermetic Alchemists?

Microsoft's Artificial Intelligence Answer is Shown Below

In *Hermetic Alchemy*, *Aether* (can be spelled *Æther* or *Ether*), also known as the *Fifth* element or *Quintessence* is understood as a fundamental, *invisible*, and *transcendent* substance.

Here's what it represents:

The *Unifying* Principle: *Aether* is considered the spirit or life force that binds and animates the other *Four* classical *Elements*: *Fire*, *Earth*, *Air*, and *Water*.

- **A Bridge between Realms:** It acts as a medium of transmission between the physical and non-physical realms, connecting the material world to the divine and spiritual.
- **Pure and Untainted:** Unlike the terrestrial elements which are seen as corruptible, *Aether* is viewed as pure, eternal, and unchanging, associated with the celestial spheres and divine essence.
- **Source of Ideas and Inspiration:** In some interpretations, *Aether* is described as a "quantum field of potential," a "unity consciousness" from which ideas and inspiration emerge.
- **Associated with Space and the Void:** *Aether* can also represent infinite space, the void, or emptiness from which everything unfolds.
- **The Medium for Mystical Experience:** The concept of *Aether* aligns with the idea of a medium through which phenomena like magic, or as described by *Tesla*, "*free energy*," can occur.
- **Link to the Philosophers' Stone:** The pursuit of the Philosophers' Stone, a legendary substance that could transmute base metals into gold and grant immortality, was often associated with isolating or embodying the *quintessence*, a term often used synonymously with *Aether* in medieval alchemy.

In summary, the *Aether* of *Hermetic Alchemy* is more than just a physical element. It's a profound metaphysical concept representing the unifying, animating, and spiritual essence of the cosmos, connecting the physical and the divine.

Aether and the Tria Prima

In some alchemical traditions, *Aether* is considered the fundamental substance or "*first matter*" (also known as the *Prima Materia*) from which the *Tria Prima* originates.

Here's how they are connected:

- ***Aether as the Source:*** *Aether* is viewed as the ultimate source of life and the foundation upon which the *Tria Prima* (*Salt*, *Sulphur*, and *Mercury*) is built.
- ***Tria Prima Stemming from Aether:*** The *Tria Prima*, representing basic principles of matter (*Salt* for *solidity*, *Sulphur* for *combustibility*, and *Mercury* for *volatility*), are seen as arising from or stemming from *Aether*.
- ***Connecting to the Physical World:*** The *Tria Prima* is believed to have connections to the physical world, and those who can manipulate them can influence the physical realm. This implies a connection between the originating principle (*Aether*) and the fundamental elements that constitute the physical world (*Tria Prima* and classical *Four Elements*).

In essence, *Aether* represents the primordial, *undifferentiated* substance, while the *Tria Prima* is the fundamental principles that emerge from *Aether* and provide the *structure* for all material things.

In the context of *Alchemy* and its related philosophical systems, *Aether* (also known as the *Fifth element* or *Quintessence*) is often seen as a foundational element, the source of life and the primal base from which all things, including the *Tria Prima*, arise.

Here's a breakdown of how *Aether* relates to the *Tria Prima* (*Salt*, *Sulphur*, and *Mercury*):

- ***Aether as the Prima Materia:*** *Aether* can be understood as the equivalent of the *Prima Materia* (first matter) in alchemy, the raw, *undifferentiated* potential from which all matter and existence are derived.

- **Source of Life and Foundation:** *Aether* is viewed as the "*breath of life*," or the pure heavens, the source of all things supernatural or divine. This connects it to the idea of a life-giving force from which the *Tria Prima*, representing the *Soul*, *Spirit*, and *Body*, ultimately stem.
- **The *Tria Prima* represents the manifested aspects of this primordial force.** In alchemical and spagyric traditions, *Sulphur* (*soul/consciousness*), *Mercury* (*spirit/intelligence*), and *Salt* (*body/physical form*) are seen as the three philosophical principles that form the basis of all life.
- **Classical Elements stem from *Aether*:** Some systems also suggest that the classical elements (*Fire*, *Earth*, *Air*, & *Water*), which can be combined to form the *Tria Prima*, also originate from *Aether*.

Therefore, it is accurate to say that *Aether* is viewed as a fundamental source of life and a foundational concept in alchemy, from which the *Tria Prima* can be seen as originating.



Spagyric

Spagyric (*Spuh-Jeer-ic*) *defined*, derived from the Greek words for "separate" and "combine," refers to a method of preparing medicinal & plant extracts that involves separating, purifying, and recombining the plant's components. This ancient alchemical practice, popularized by *Paracelsus*, aims to create more potent and holistic remedies by extracting and reintegrating the plant's *Sulphur*, *Mercury*, and *Salt* (the *Tria Prima*).

Spagyrics is a method of medicine developed by Paracelsus that involves separating a substance into its *Tria Prima*, purifying each component, and then recombining them. The goal is to create a more potent and effective medicine by working with these fundamental principles. By separating the *Sulphur*, *Mercury*, and *Salt*, purifying them individually, and then reassembling them, spagyric practitioners aim to create a medicine that is more aligned with the true nature of the substance and more effective in treating disease.

In Spagyrics, the *Tria Prima* (Latin for "*Three Primes*") is three fundamental principles or elements believed to constitute all material substances: *Sulphur*, *Mercury*, and *Salt*. These are not the same as the common elements we know today, but rather represent alchemical principles with symbolic

and metaphorical meanings. *Paracelsus*, a 16th-century physician and alchemist, popularized the concept of *Tria Prima*.

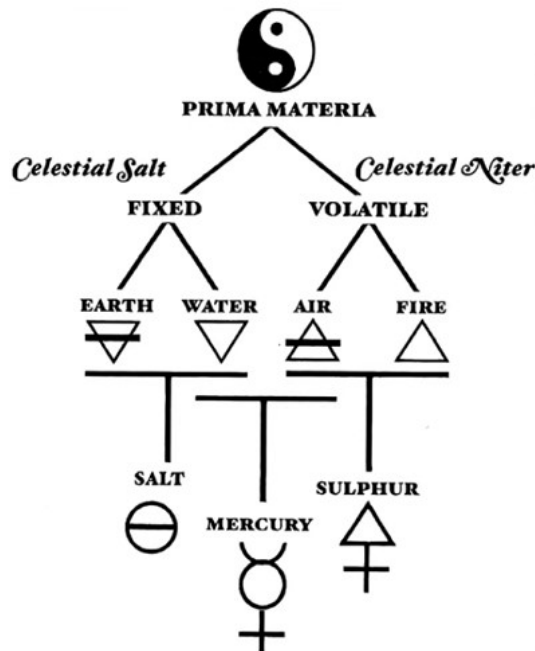
The *Three Primes* and their Properties:

Sulphur: Represents the principle of combustibility, the soul, or the essence of a substance. It's associated with fire and the ability of a substance to burn or transform.

Mercury: Represents the principle of fluidity, volatility, and spirit. It's associated with air and the capacity of a substance to change form and move freely.

Salt: Represents the principle of fixity, earth, and the body. It's associated with water and the solid, permanent aspect of a substance.

Hermetic Alchemy Hierarchy



In *Alchemy*, *Celestial Salt*, along with *Celestial Niter*, are considered the primordial, dualistic origins from which all of creation, including the four elements (*Fire*, *Earth*, *Air*, *Water*), emerged. It's also associated with the *Tria Prima* (*Sulphur*, *Mercury*, and *Salt*) in Paracelsus alchemical system.

Celestial Salt, in particular, represents the principle of the body or the material aspect of existence.

- **Dualistic Origin:** *Alchemists* believed that the universe began from a single, undifferentiated source called the *Prima Materia*. From this, two fundamental principles arose: *Celestial Niter* (representing light or spirit) and *Celestial Salt* (representing darkness or matter).
- **Tria Prima Connection:** These two principles above then gave rise to the *Tria Prima*: *Sulphur*, *Mercury*, and *Salt*.
- **Salt's Role:** In this framework, *Salt* is associated with the earthly, material, and fixed aspects of existence, while *Mercury* represents the spirit and *Sulphur* the soul.
- **Cosmological Significance:** *Salt's alchemical* symbolism is rich and complex, representing both purity and impurity, eros and enmity, and fertility and sterility. It acts as a link between fire and water, sun and sea, embodying opposing forces.
- **Ambiguity of Salt:** *Alchemists* recognized the inherent ambiguity of salt, acknowledging its ability to both purify and contaminate.
- **Relationship to the Four Elements:** *Salt*, along with *Sulphur* and *Mercury*, is linked to the four elements, with *salt* often associated with earth and water.

The text above was *Microsoft's* (AI) answers About the *Aether's* Connection with *Hermetic Alchemy*, however we have a *Paradox*.

The Paradox

Aether in the modern era is generally assumed *not* to exist. It wasn't until 1905, when Albert Einstein published his *Special Theory of Relativity*, which did *not* include the *Aether*, physicists began to accept the hypothesis that *Aether* did not exist. The *negative* outcome of the Michelson–Morley experiment in 1887 suggested it also; however there are still many physicists that believe it exists and could be a possible explanation of *Dark Energy & Dark Matter*; however the consensus remains that it does *not* exist. A misconception in *Alchemy* occurs within the numerous uses and definitions of *Aether*. If *Aether* does not exist, it *removes* basic property that defines many principles in *Hermetic Alchemy*.

With this *paradox* in mind, I asked *Microsoft's Artificial Intelligence* (AI) Search Engine how this affected the *Tria Prima* and the *Alchemical Four Elements*. The following text is *Microsoft's* (AI) reply word for word.

Microsoft's (AI) Answer

Even with the rejection of the *Aether* as a physical substance, the *Tria Prima* (*Salt*, *Sulphur*, and

Mercury) can still be understood within the context of *alchemy*, albeit with a focus on their symbolic and philosophical meanings rather than literal physical properties. Here's how:

1. Symbolic Representation:

- **Salt:** represents the material, physical *body* or *form*, including the *fixed* and *stable* aspects of existence. It embodies the principle of *fixity*, *structure*, and *solidification*. Think of the physical world around us, the "*body*" of the universe and everything within it.
- **Sulphur:** Symbolizes the *soul* or *consciousness*, the *active*, *transformative*, and *energetic* principle. It represents the *drive*, *will*, and *emotional* aspects of existence. Imagine the "*fire*" of existence, the *spark* of *life* and *consciousness* that animates the physical form.
- **Mercury:** Represents the *spirit* or *life force*, the mediating principle that connects the *body* and *soul*. It signifies the *mind*, *intellect*, and the process of *communication* and *transformation*. Consider it the "*bridge*" between the *physical* and *spiritual* realms, the force that facilitates *change* and *growth*.

2. Principles of Transformation:

- **Separation:** *Alchemy* aims to understand the components of existence by separating the *Tria Prima* from their raw state. This can be seen metaphorically as dissecting and understanding the different aspects of ourselves and the world around us.
- **Purification:** The separated components are then purified, refining and removing impurities. This symbolizes self-improvement and the purification of both *material* and *spiritual* aspects.
- **Reunion:** Finally, the purified principles are *recombined* in a new, more perfect state. This represents *wholeness*, *integration*, and the achievement of higher states of *consciousness*.

3. Modern Analogies:

- **Mind-Body-Spirit:** The *Tria Prima* can be seen as representing the concept of *mind*, *body*, and *spirit* as aspects of human existence.
- **Quantum Physics:** Some modern interpretations see parallels between the *Tria Prima* and concepts in quantum physics, such as the "*law of three*," which can be analogized to force (*Sulphur*), form (*Salt*), and function (*Mercury*).
- **Biological Cycles:** The *Tria Prima* can be related to the fundamental processes of nature, such as the three patterns of universal energy: *combustion* (*Sulphur*), *conversion* (*Mercury*), and *photosynthesis* (*Salt*). They can also be linked to the *six* bio-geochemical cycles.

In summary, even *without* the notion of *Aether*, the *Tria Prima* remains a powerful symbolic framework for understanding the nature of reality and the process of transformation in *Alchemy*. It provides a means to explore the interplay between the *material*, *spiritual*, and *mental* aspects of existence, guiding *Alchemists* (both *past* and *present*) on their quest for knowledge and self-improvement.

