

ECSTATICA



For the love of one
shall briefly disclose the matters of mine
which the Ancients do Alcamye call
or others, Alchemy.
Wherefore it is here, understand you shall,
this wonderful art and gift of the Almighty
which was never found by labour of man,
but it, by teaching or revelation began.

He, and more surely she, so as I find,
of noble mind, who
searched nature will find this art,
in manner of physik
and magic natural.

But
all these writings are very dark
despise all books and them defy
wherein is nothing but recipe and accipe.
Few learned men within this realm
can tell thee aright what I do mean;
I could never find man but one,
which could teach me the secret of Alcamye
and that was the old man on the close of Tirich,
the guardian of our castle.

This olde philosopher wise
by wey of kind in sundry wise
a daemon made prisoner
of the stone circle.

This devil, one of the worst, so as I finde,
through our craft only could be defeated
the nature of evil
both in substance and in figure.

But teacheth the great worke
a foule labour,
not fit for lesser men or women,
in which is found great travail
with many perils and many a faille.

Whomsoever thou art that presumest to dive
into the fountain of work and hopes to obtain
by ambitious enterprise,
the reward of our arte,
I tell thee by the eternal creator
for a truth, for all truth
being small is going far.

If thou keep thy secrets in store unto thy selve,
thou hast conquered the power
and all the devils thou holdyst at will,
maybe
for wise men done say store is no sore,
but women know more...

