

The alchemy of human evolution

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Review

Marius Cucu, *Teaching Assistant, PhD*
Department of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences
Faculty of History and Geography
“Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava

The book entitled *The Alchemy of human evolution* proposes a throughout and analytical incursion within the dimension of an extremely inciting topic, both for the large public and for acknowledged researchers in field of occult sciences, alchemy of evolution of mystic societies. In this way, the author Marius Dumitrescu, Prof. PhD at Al. I. Cuza University of Iași focuses the analytical effort not only over describing the social-historical evolution of the alchemy field, but in order to understand and perceive the alchemy as a way of assuming the mystical-philosophical feature of our lives. Within this frame, the alchemists have been reminded and presented by the author, as complex personalities, which emphasized at some point the history and the development of human civilization, in different fields of both human and scientific research. These spirits that underlined the history of humanity have kept more often as secret their passion and dedication for alchemy; such a hidden aspect was determined by the persecutions of social factors, but was also cultivated as a metaphysical screen that indicated alchemy as the discipline belonging to those being initiated. The author insisted, during his entire research, over the idea that alchemy was intended at its beginning to be *an ante-science of transmutations, its aim mainly consisting in elevating the degenerated natures*. The alchemist, in accordance to the author, regards even the metals as plants that can be raised, thus reducing the defects and increasing the qualities. Considering this point of view, the alchemist has opened the universe to some possibilities near to the magic and fairytale valences of the witchery. The alchemy has been classified in various sub-fields, such as the mineral, vegetal or social alchemy; still, the basic alchemy consists in the spiritual feature. Here, the

author insisted on the correspondence between the alchemic act and the human spirit. Nothing of what has been accomplished by the alchemist by his activities has manifested such profoundness, and has not neglected or avoided the dimension of human spirit. Contrariwise, from and towards this dimension, the alchemy act and exercise has directed the energy to efforts. The author has proposed a transition of the important steps, as regards the historical evolution of Alchemy, simultaneously with the evocation of personalities that determined and affirmed this complex and hidden evolution of the social vulgus. In this way, authors as Giordano Bruno, Descartes, Kant, and Hegel are mentioned and analyzed in their correspondence with the phenomenon of alchemy, as well as modern authors, as Freud, Jung or Emil Cioran. The modernity is not seen by the authors as a space where the alchemy cannot be found anymore. Contrariwise, the alchemic processes, together with the camouflage screening, the hiding and dissimulation of the sacredness have outlined the paradigm of modernity, the dimension with *transmutation of strengths*. In conclusion, the paper *The Alchemy of human evolution* represents not only an incursion into the fascinating and magic universe of the metaphysic and alchemic transcendent, but also an invitation to rediscover a field, which far away of exhausting the valences, has always indicated us new plans of the human being and of human spirit condition.