

## Bartholomei de Ripa Romea Contracta thesauraria ex philosophic secretis elicita

*Prefatio*

1. Habete, celi, silentium et ingratitude immense **scelus** attendite, sed elementa cessent inuicem habere compaginem resumantque quod elementato sunt hactenus elargita.

Isaias 1.2 & 4: “Audite, celi, et auribus percipe, terra ... Ue genti peccatrici, populo graui iniquitate, semini nequam, filiis **sceleratis!**”

2. O utinam primi naturantis ex hoc non indignetur clementia sed solito more suo plasmati rorem impluat sue reinfluentie successiue. 3. Miraris hoccine que causa doloris? 4. Miraris, O liber, aculeum tue ingratitude que compellit? 5. Quid etenim euolare niteris? 6. Quo progredieris, O rebellis, O fugax et inquiete? 7. **Manibus Hermetis in antro** quo tumulatus olim fuerat? 8. Eius archana reperta sunt.

*Liber dabessi (Liber Hermetis):* “Hic [Galenus] enim dixit: ‘In libri mei tractatibus, sicut scriptura que inter **Hermetis** adinuenta est **manus in antro** obscuro continebat, rei tocius radicem explanando exposui ... Cum ingredirer **in antrum**, accepi tabulam zaradi que fuit scripta inter **manus Hermetis**, in qua inueni scriptum ...”<sup>1</sup>

9. Tu uiuentis refugis principatum? 10. Aurei gramatis ornatum forte desideras et purpureo tegmine, per ampla consistoria deduci manibus relatiuis? 11. At ubi clauis omnino respuis et propalari desideras. 12. Animaduerte, queso, quod te non absque studio curiose indaginis ex tot philosophic secretis eduxerim, et ut expians ingratitude piaculare flagitium quasi gratis incedas, hiis saltem preceptis obtempera. 13. Siquidem considerationis acie rimans te, cuius de mundi cardinibus dignum regimine censeam, quoddam centrum reperio cuius discretionis linee se protendunt equaliter ad circumferentias horizontis ...

*Liber primus: De coloribus et uirtutibus lapidum**Prologus*

1. Substantie mi liber gemine, mellifluis arride coloribus et mira uirtutum gratia copiosus existe.  
2. Iungantur riuuli, procedat fluuius, ut **irrigatus hortus** flamine diuini spiritus animatus agnoscat gratiam **qua fertilem** se retribuatur animanti.

*Cantica* 6,1: “SPONSA. Dilectus meus descendit in hortum suum ad areolam aromatum ...”

*Glossa ordinaria:* “DESCENDIT, **irrigans** fonte baptismi || Cum dixisset DESCENDIT IN HORTUM, addit qualiter sit idem **hortus** constitutus, **qua fruge fecundus** cum dicit AD AREOLAM AROMATUM.”

<sup>1</sup> Steele, R., and D.W. Singer, “The Emerald Table,” *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine, Section on the History of Medicine* 21 (1928): 491-92.

The Collected Treasures of Bartholomaeus de Ripa Romea,  
 Drawn from the Secrets of Philosophy<sup>2</sup>

*Preface*

1. Hold your silence, O heavens, and heed the immense crime of ingratitude, but let the elements cease in turn to hold their bonds; let them take back what they have hitherto bestowed freely by their mixture.

Isaias 1.2 & 4: “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth ... Woe to the sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a wicked seed, ungracious children!”<sup>3</sup>

2. O would that the mercy of the first creative <intelligence> not turn to anger on account of this offense, but, in its accustomed manner, rain down upon creation the dew of its successive rejuvenation. 3. Do you still wonder what is the cause of your sorrow? 4. Do you wonder, O book, at the sting that your ingratitude incurs? 5. Why do you struggle to fly away? 6. Where are you going, O rebel, O swift and reckless one? 7. Into the **hands of Hermes in his cave** where once he had been buried? 8. His secrets have been found.

*Liber dabessi (Book of Hermes)*: “For [Galen] said: ‘In my commentary, I have exposed the root of the entire matter, just as it was contained in the text that was found between the **hands of Hermes in his dark cave**

...When I entered into the **cave**, I received from between the **hands of Hermes** the inscribed Emerald Tablet.’”

9. Do you flee back to the kingdom of the living? 10. Perhaps you desire to be adorned with gold leaf and covered in purple, to be passed from hand to hand through crowded royal courts? 11. So, just when you reject the keys altogether, you also desire to divulge them. 12. Consider well, I beg you, that not without devotion to careful study did I lead you out from so many secrets of philosophy; and, so that, expiating the sin of ingratitude, which demands atonement, you may approach as one beloved, obey these commandments at all events. 13. For under the honed edge of my critical gaze, I lay you open, whose worth I assess by the guidance of the world’s poles, and I find a certain center whose lines of division extend equally to the circumference of the horizon ...

[continued on next page]

<sup>2</sup> All translations are my own unless otherwise noted.

<sup>3</sup> *The Vulgate Bible, Volume IV: The Major Prophetic Books*, ed. A. Kinney (Cambridge, MA, 2011); this is a slightly revised version of the 1899 Douay-Rheims translation.

*Book One: On the Colors and Properties of Stones*

*Prologue*

1. My book of double substance, smile upon the honeyed colors and abound with the marvelous grace of the virtues. 2. Let the rivulets be gathered; let the river go forth, so that the **irrigated garden**, animated by the flame of the Holy Spirit, may come to know the grace **by which it makes itself fertile** again for the one who gives life.

*Song of Songs* 6,1: “BRIDE. My beloved has descended into his garden, to the bed (*areola*) of aromatical spices.”

*Glossa ordinaria*: “*HAS DESCENDED*, **irrigating** by the baptismal fountain || After she has said *HAS DESCENDED INTO HIS GARDEN*, she adds how the same **garden** is arranged and **by what fruit it is made fertile** when she says *TO THE BED (AREOLA) OF AROMATIC SPICES.*”