

CULTIVATION OF HERBS

**ACCORDING TO THE
HOMEODYNAMIC METHOD**



by

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THE CULTIVATION OF HERBS

FOLLOWING THE HOMEODYNAMIC METHOD

- PART ONE -

A) THE BEING OF THE HERB

1) INTRODUCTION

The world of herbs is very rich in types and species. In this paper we treat mainly of the “queen of them”, that is the essence, meaning those herbs that produce essential oils.

We deal to a lesser extent with the dyeing (the plants from which we extract color), the aromatic (particularly rich in aromas, namely perfumes) and medicinal plants (the herbs richest in therapeutic active ingredients) with their younger sisters represented by the culinary herbs. Of course, these categories are not “exclusive”, as for example Rosemary can be grown both for culinary purposes and essential oils. Depending on the main use that we will have for our herb, we can choose a different way to cultivate it in order to stimulate the quality that we want. We will thus enter into this particular world of the vegetable Kingdom starting from the essential oil plant and try to understand the intimate and profound essence.

2) HERBS AND THE COSMOS

In the herbs, because these plants are used for their oil content, color and active principles, they must be raised up to the quality pole. The plains, as an environment, has the characteristic of increasing the quantity pole, then an herb cultivated in the plains will have very large leaves and will be very rich in water, but will have a faint odor and a low oil content. The mountain is the ideal environment, but of course does not make large-scale production possible.

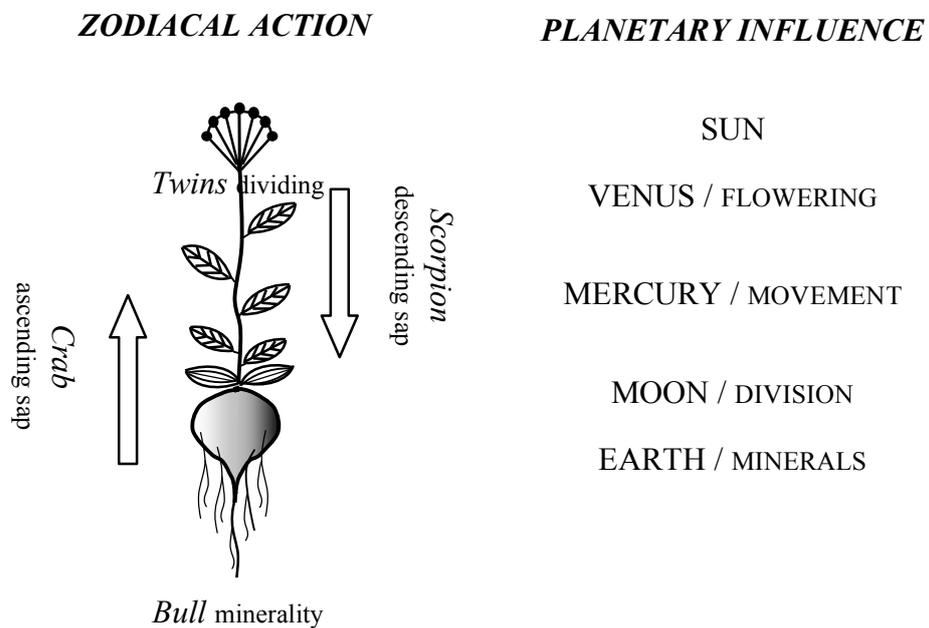
*the qualitative
pole and
the mountain*

*water and
the etheric body*

Each plant is composed of about 90% water, while the remaining 10% is the dry matter. Water is the basis of life, and therefore the etheric body, and the etheric body is the “subtle” body that constructs the plant. Water is found in particular its expression in the sap of the plant, which is divided into ascending and descending. Throughout the world there are ascending and descending streams, both in animals and humans and in nature: in a very broad perspective we can find these two gestures in the opposition between rainwater and spring water. This is thus one general law, and the general laws, because they covers all the Kingdoms, proceed from the Zodiac.

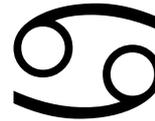
*Water and
the Zodiac*

The 12 constellations of the Zodiac are divided into four groups, each covering one of the four elements. The three constellations that traditionally are of the water element are the Crab, the Scorpion and the Fishes. Each of them governs the forces of Water, but with distinct variations.



The zodiacal and planetary forces in the plants.

The forces arising from the constellation of the Crab, for example, has the characteristic of *putting into motion* and hence we find the action particularly in the ascending sap.

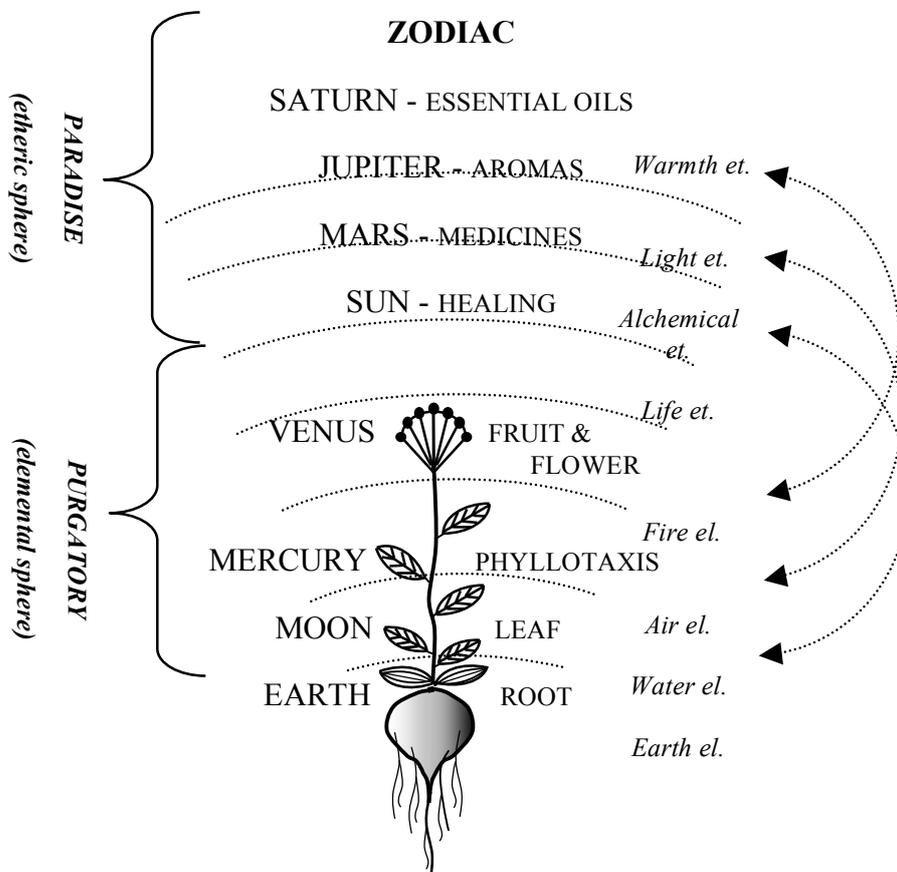


The Crab is the force that pushes the sap to rise up to the cell of every plant. The very symbol of the Crab is formed by two opposing spirals, and the chaos generated by the two spirals, is a vortex, the beginning of movement.

In us the Crab corresponds to the thoracic cavity, the seat of the rhythmic system (lungs-heart system). The sap that comes from mineral soil, from the Bull - the Earth constellation - is then caught by the force of Gemini (the essence of which is the dividing) the division of “etheric” type, of the two. The part of the lymph that is richer in minerals (and thus is a major carrier of the Individual Principal of the Species or Group I, which is linked to the presence of mineral salts and therefore to the minerality of the soil) is then pushed upward by the force the Crab and then captured by the Twins.

the force of the Crab

action of the Twins



The connection of the plant with the higher planetary sphere.

This “ascent” corresponds to the traversing of the planetary sphere by the Moon, Mercury and Venus, and therefore to a *purification*. At the apex of the

descending sap and the Scorpion

plant, once united in resonance with the sphere of the Sun, the sap undergoes a transformation, a reversal, before returning downwards to the base and bringing in it a new quality: abandoned by the forces of life it brings down, with the force of the Scorpion, a new impulse. The descending sap is no longer rich in minerals but sugars. We recall that the life force of the Sun is expressed in attracting towards itself, towards the top, every living being and this attraction is through the etheric body of the organism.

force of the Sun

Not all plants possess the strength to climb up to the Sun, some did not make it past the inner planets, and these are most of the plants that we normally cultivate. Then there are plants that have the strength to overcome the solar sphere and make it up to the outer planets, and these are the herbs. If the inner planets correspond to the experience of Purgatory, the outer planets correspond to lower *Devachan*, that is, to Paradise, and it is at this level that the water inside transforms into oil. We recall that the Healing forces are available beyond the solar sphere, the sphere of etheric forces and life. After the Sun the first planet that we encounter is Mars. Mars is the planet associated to the Alchemical ether¹, and indirectly to the Water element. In the plant the part most linked to the Water element is the leaf. The plants that climb up to the sphere of Mars are the culinary and medicinal plants that are rich in active ingredients that stimulate transformation, that is the internal Alchemy. After Mars we encounter Jupiter, which is linked to the ether of Light² and the Air element. The herbs that connect with this sphere are linked to the external Light, and are tinting plants, which can synthesize colors, and the aromatic plants, where the Air becomes intense perfume.

*Mars and
the medicines*

*Jupiter and
the tinting-
aromatic*

*Saturn and
essential oils*

There are finally herbs that rise up to the sphere of Saturn, linked to the Warmth ether³ and the Fire element: the essential oils. The oil is thus the end result of sublimation of the plant.

In the path of inner development the Alchemical ether symbolically represents the Purification, the Light of illumination and the Warmth of Initiation and the herbs from there are its representatives: in them it is as if the vegetable world themselves are on an initiatory journey.

¹ The Alchemical ether is the ether that has the characteristic of “maintaining order and separation in the relationship between the parties” and determines the motion.

² The Light ether radiates and generates grandeur and Space.

³ The Warmth ether allows the emergence of life and its manifestation is Time.

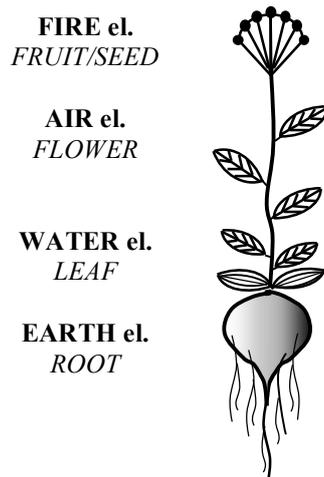
In the Zodiac there is of a third constellation of water: the Fishes. The Fishes are carriers of the forces of sacrifice, of sublimation, and in our case, the transformation of what has “fallen” (the descending sap - Scorpion) in oil.

3) HERBS AND THE ELEMENTS

It is interesting to further evaluate the relationship between essential oil plants and concept of the four elements.

If it is well known that there is a relationship in the plant between the root and the Earth element, the relation draws considerable support from the presence of the salts, fiber, and dry matter that we find in it. As well the relationship between the leaves and the Water element is highlighted in the “surface” and “movement” aspect of the leaves, and it is found in flower with its scents and aromas that are hovering like a cloud around the plant in relation with the Air element, and finally in the fruit - the seed, with its food quality the child of the warmth of ripening, the relationship with the Fire element.

*Relations
between:
Root/Earth,
Leaf/Water,,
Flower/Air and
Fruit/Fire*



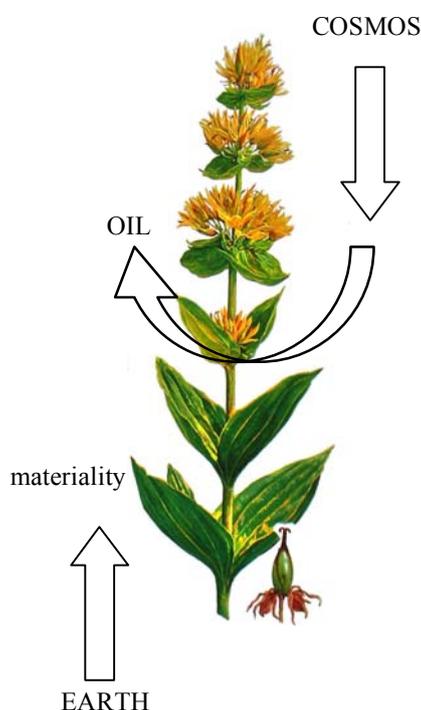
Relationships between the plant and the elements.

Among the herbs are found four families that distinctly represent the world of the four elements.

The **Gentianaceae** connect to the soil with powerful roots and thick rhizomes. The leaves get smaller in size as they ascend along the stem and embrace the clusters of flowers - bright yellow in color - that appear in its axils.

*Gentianaceae
and
the Earth element*

The characteristic of the flower inserted into the leaf axil is typical of highly astralized plants in which the cosmic principle descends penetrating the plant.



Gentian plant between the Earth and the Cosmos.

So we have a double stream: from the Earth to the Cosmos and the Cosmos to the Earth. The first brings earthliness or “materiality” and heaviness to the plant, the second the possibility that this earthly material - linked to the Earth element - can become the bearer of the cosmic principle of the oil.

*Ranunculaceae
and the
Water element*

The **Ranunculaceae** are characterized by their intense green, their rich and juicy foliage with rounded edges, from the turgidity of the tissues, the aspect of rich foliage and flowers that resemble simple leaves (Water element) with colors reunited at the summit.



Ranunculaceae plant

In it we find the greatest expression of the Water element until it unites with the Air element in the flower.

The **Umbelliferae** are mainly herbaceous plants, rarely seen as shrubs and never as trees. They thus have the ability to become bearers of the earth element, rather they are polar just like Air element is opposite to the Earth element. The impulse to the division brought by the leaves now reaches a veritable aerial explosion. The foliage is as volatilizes into extremely light leaves, takes away the gravity. At the height of this aerial division, the flower appears as a cloud of stars that supports the formation of a cup: a true mirror of the celestial time.

*Umbelliferae
and the
Air element*



Yarrow plant

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