

## ***Blood Faith III.V***

My dear Porfirio,

Your question about the unusual effect of garlic on our otherwise generally quiescent sensitivities is the subject of some disagreement among our ranks. However the school that seems to be gaining the most ground considers the sulfurous element to be the point of offense. Rather than go into greater detail, I am including a treatise on the subject recently published in *Philosophical Transactions of the Arcane Society of London*. The author does not suggest why brimstone would offend us so, but I personally suspect it is because it is a favoured tool of the Opposition and thus is contrary to our natures.

Affectionately,

HÆMMING

encl.

# PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS.

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I. *Observations on the Repulsive Effects of Garlic and Other Pungent Materials.* By Ufiris Pancras Rathbone, M. D. Communicated by Ewart Clovis Hoskiffon, M. D. F. A. S.

Read January 8, 1694.

I HAVE long entertained more than a passing Interest in the Ætiology of the apotropaic Nature of the common Garlick (*Allium sativum* L.) against *Homo immortalis*. This is due in large Part to the Fact that I, unlike my Peers, exhibit an unusual Immunity to the Effects of this noxious Bulb. I have searched in vain for another Sport such as Myself.

In order to investigate the Matter more fully, I availed myself of a *Protégé* who had only recently undergone the *Shedding*. His Mind, freshly escaped from the Cocoon of Mortality, promised to be relatively unblemished by the Lore of the more seasoned Members of our Fraternity. I exposed this *Tabula Rasa* to a variety of odorous Compounds in order to observe his Reactions. That his Responses be unbiafed by his Ability to vifually identify the Substances, I was obliged both to bind him and to temporarily blind him by means of a Head-Binding. Constitutional, behavioural, and digestive Effects were recorded for each Compound. The Subject infifted that he no longer required any Form of Suftenance other than Hæmatophagia. But that the Science might be complete, he was prevailed upon to ingeft a fufficient Amount of each Compound that an Observation could be made. The Array of test Compounds was defigned to include all known Repellents and feveral other Foodftuffs and Herbs known to be particularly odorous.

After the Testing had gone on for some Weeks I organized my Samples into three Categories: (1.) thofe that had a ftrong Effect, *viz.*, that produced a violent Reaction from my Subject including Corroftion of the Skin, hylterical Thrashing, and Foaming at the Mouth; (2.) thofe that had a weak Effect, producing numerous prurient but non-necrotic Efflorefcences, and fometimes Diarrhœa and Vomiting; and (3.) thofe that had no difcernible Effect at all. It fhould be noted that in the Cafes of Samples that produced a ftrong Effect, the Matter of Ingeftion was not tested becaufe pronounced Refults were fufficiently produced by the mere *Proximity* of the Substance.

Upon Completion of the Testing, I organized the Data in the following Manner :

*Strong*

<i>Strong Effect</i>	<i>Mild Effect</i>	<i>No Effect</i>
Substance	Substance	Substance
<i>Andouillette</i> *	Broccoli	Chamomile
Afaœetida	Brussels Sprout	Chilli**
Chyve	Cabbage†	Commin
Dorean‡	Cinnamon	Coriander (Leaves)
Egg (rotten)	Cophee	Fœnugreek
Fitchew	Collyflower	Hasheesh
Garlick	Horfe-Raddish	Juniper
Holleke	Mustard	Limon
Leek	Pawpaw	Minth
Onyon	Sour-Crou†	Puliol-Royal
Scallyon	Sparrowgrafs	Pepper
Shalot	Spinage	Sour Wine
<i>Surstrœmming</i> §		Tanzy
		Vervein
		Vaynilla
		Wolf's-bane
		Wyrmwode

I fubfequently fubjected thefe Data to the *Baconian* Method. The Refults of my Study caft new Light on feveral prevailing Theories, which I fhall difcufs below.

The Opinions advanced in an Article previously published by the eftemed Chyrurgeon, Dr. *Criſpin van Leuwenhock*<sup>¶</sup> muſt perforce be reëxamined. The good Doctor has obſerved that it is common for a *Homo mortalis* Woman in the early Stages of Pregnancy to be repelled—to the point of *Emefis Gravidarum*—by the Odours of Garlick or Onyon. Thus it is his Opinion that the Effect of thefe Vegetables on our Race is a Sequela of being

\* A fermented Pudding popularly confumed in *France*.

\*\* A pungent Fruit popularly confumed in *New Spain*.

† Though Sour-Crou† is prepared from the Cabbage, they are fo different in their Odour that they merited feperate Evaluations.

‡ An unfual, odorous Fruit obtained by the *Portugueſe* in the *East Indies*.

§ A fermented Herring popularly confumed in the *Nordic* countries.

|| Thefe common Poifons are not known for their Pungency but were included bafed on the mediæval Notion that they can be uſed to injure our Kind.

¶ See Philoſ. Tranſact. N<sup>o</sup>. 260.

reborn through the *Shedding*. If such were the Case, however, then the Herbs Chamomile, Juniper, Puliol-Royal, and Tanzy, which induce Abortion in the *Homo mortalis* Female, would likewise be expected to produce a violent or even mortal Reaction in our Kind. Instead None of these Herbs had any Effect whatsoever on my Subject. Upon further Reflection it is apparent that there is a grave Flaw in Dr. *van Leuwenhock's* Simile: We are like the gasping Infant, not the travailing Woman, and the Infant is not known to react to Garlick or Onyon the way his Mother does.

In the same Vein, the Notion of Sir *Ambrose Blackbourne*, Bart. \*, *viz.* that the Chosen are the Parasites of Mankind, is not supported by the current Data. The Opinion of Sir *Blackbourne* rests on his Observations that Garlick repels bloodsucking Creatures such as the Mosquito, the Tick, the Flea, the Loufe, and the Bedbug. However, in addition to their Use in producing Miscarriages, the Chamomile, the Puliol-Royal, and the Tanzy, as well as the Wyrmwode are also popularly used as strewing Herbs to ward off these noxious Vermin, yet they were not repellent or injurious in any Degree to my Subject.

Finally, the Theory of *Gladwyn Athanasus Fothergill*, Chymist, F. A. S.\*\* must be considered in Light of this new Information. Fothergill suggests that much as the *Homo immortalis* is sensitized to Light, so He is sensitized to Odour. Indeed, it was this very Theory which I initially set out to test. I have adequately demonstrated that there are many Odours, commonly considered to be potent, to which we are oblivious.

Now that I have addressed Each of the extant, competing Theories, I shall now endeavour to expound a new Theory which may adequately encompass the many Observations hitherto made, including those I report here. That we are only sensitive to certain Substances, but not others suggests a common Element to be found only in those Substances. To ascertain which Element might be responsible, I performed a variety of Extractions on the various Samples. The only Process which yielded a detectable Difference between apotropaic and non-apotropaic Compounds, was the Distillation-Extraction Method developed by the late *Homo mortalis*, Thane Rœbuck, for measuring Sulphur. The Sulphur Yields from the various Compounds were correlated well with their Effect upon my Subject.

As a final Test, I conducted my Subject to the sulphureous Springs in Epsom, Surrey to see what Effect the Odours of those Fountains might have upon him. As expected, he reacted in a Manner consistent with my previous Observations. Unfortunately, a Tragœdy occurred shortly thereafter. My Subject was so sorely vexed by the Fumes that he Fell into the Water. For a while he thrashed like a Lunatick and then the Waters began to flay him and dissolve his Flesh. I was forced to abandon him there.

Thus I propose that those Fœtors which offend us contain Sulphur and that that Element alone is sufficient. The Burning of Sulphur has long been a Means to fumigate a Household. This Fact resolves the Observations of Sir *Blackbourne* without lending Credence to his Interpretations thereof (for the Reasons already discussed, *viz.* that non-sulphureous Substances can also serve as Fumigants and yet have no Effect on our Kind). The mild Effect of the Substances listed in the second Column of the Table is simply a Consequence of possessing smaller Quantities of Sulphur than the Substances listed in the first Column. This diminished Quantity makes them both less malodorous and less potent.

In addition to the previously-noted Springs near Epsom, there exist several other Locations—stagnant Bogs, volcanic Craters, &c.—which are not frequented by our Kind

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\* See Philos. Transact. N<sup>o</sup>. 401.

\*\* See Philos. Transact. N<sup>o</sup>. 350.

and I surmise that this may be directly attributed to the presence of Sulphur. Likewise, no *Homo immortalis* of my Acquaintance will feed upon a Gong-Farmer, presumably for similar Reasons. However, these Proposals cannot be asserted with Certainty until the appropriate Tests have been conducted.

Unlike the Authors cited above, I will refrain from excessive Conjecture or Supposition. Why this Element, above all Others, should have such an Effect on our Kind cannot be inferred from my Data nor from the Data of any other natural Philosopher who has applied his Mind to this Question. For Now it must suffice that the causative Agent has been identified: Sulphur.

U. P. R.

*E R R A T A*. Numb. 126.

In the Table on Page 4, the Compound Cinnamon is erroneously listed in the second Column. In Reality, it has no Effect and belongs in the third Column.

II. *The Ability of sidereal Signs to predict future Events*. By Malcolm Chadwick, *Astr. F. A. S.*

Read January 15, 1694.

THE current *Vogue* among the *Homo mortalis* Scholars is to presume that the Motions of the Stars and Planets in the celestial Sphere have no Bearing on the Outcome of History. In Part they are correct. The Signs of the Zodiac, as they call certain Constellations, are mere Fancies and do not influence, in any Way, earthly Events. Nonetheless, I will argue that the Behaviours of certain æthereal Bodies have been incontrovertible Wonders which prefigured the Advent of several historically prominent Affairs. I will begin by discussing several different Types of portentous Phenomenons, including Comets, Meteors, Eclipses, Planets (especially Mars), *Stellæ Novæ*, &c. Furthermore, these Principles are more easily discerned by using the *Golden Numbers* of the *Enneadeceteris*.

First, then, let us consider the Comet, which was called by the Ancients a "hairy Star", "Bearded Star", or "Broom Star". The Roman Poet *Virgil* informs us that the *Sidus Iulium* appeared in the Heavens to proclaim the Death of *Julius Cæsar*.\* Much later a Comet appeared over our Island prefiguring the defeat of *Harold II* by *William the Bastard*. Centuries later the heathen *Motēzuma* witnessed a Comet heralding his Defeat at the Hands of *Hernan*

\* ecce Dionæi processit Cæsaris astrum, astrum quo segetes gauderent frugibus et quo duceret apricis in collibus uua colorem. (Ecl. 9.47-9)