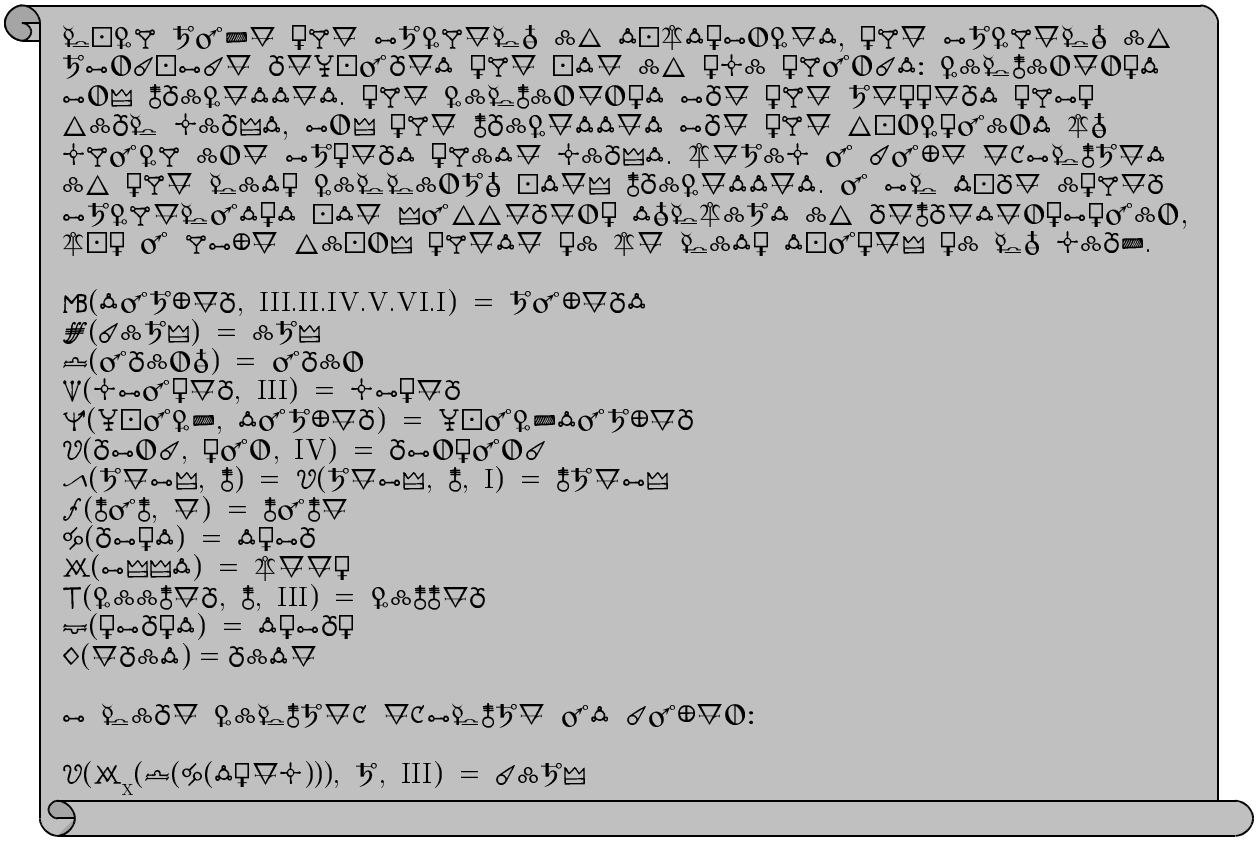
Puzzle #10: The Philosophers' Egg

The Philosophers' Egg was the first component created by alchemists in their quest for the mythical Philosophers' Stone (a substance that would supposedly transmute lead to gold as well as grant eternal life). A Philosophers' Egg was composed of three substances: salt, sulfur, and mercury; but how it was to be used to progress toward the Stone is a bit of a mystery. Much of this obscurity comes from the fact that alchemists were a very secretive lot and often wrote all of their formulae enciphered. This was done to protect their original work from rival alchemists as well as powers-that-be that frowned upon their “Black Arts”.

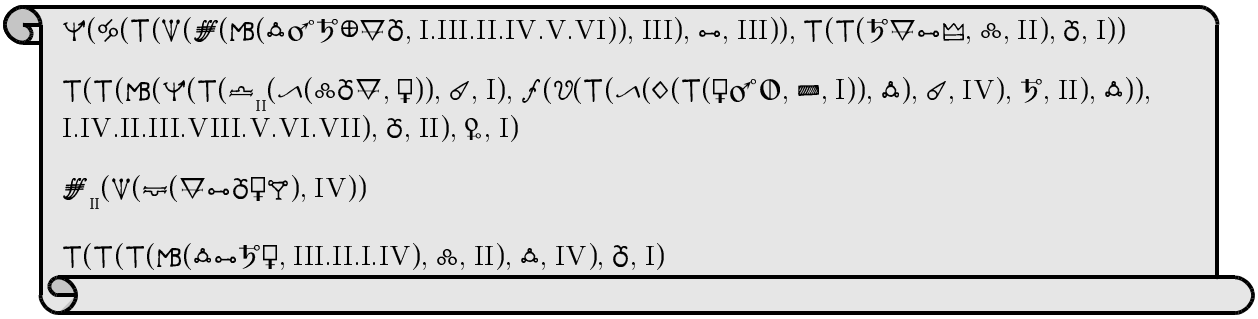
Included here are excerpts from an even stranger alchemist. He was not only obsessed with the transmutation of substances, but also transmutation of words (what we, today, would call “wordplay”). See if you can decipher his notes. If you can, the formulae at the bottom of the page will lead you to this puzzle's Clutch of Eggs (none of which, I'm sorry to say, is a Philosophers' Egg).



Ⲙ(ⲁⲟⲣⲫⲩⲇ, III.II.IV.V.VI.I) = ⲣⲟⲫⲩⲇⲁ
ⲝ(ⲅⲃⲣⲙ) = ⲃⲣⲙ
ⲗ(ⲟⲟⲇⲃⲑⲁ) = ⲟⲟⲇⲃⲑ
Ⲩ(ⲧⲟⲟⲣⲩⲇ, III) = ⲧⲟⲩⲇ
Ⲩ(ⲩⲓⲟⲟⲣ, ⲁⲟⲣⲫⲩⲇ) = ⲩⲓⲟⲟⲣⲁⲟⲣⲫⲩⲇ
Ⲩ(ⲇⲟⲟⲣⲑⲩⲇ, ⲩⲟⲟⲑ, IV) = ⲇⲟⲩⲩⲟⲟⲑⲅ
ⲛ(ⲣⲩⲟⲙ, ⲥ) = Ⲩ(ⲣⲩⲟⲙ, ⲥ, I) = ⲥⲣⲩⲟⲙ
ⲧ(ⲥⲟⲟⲥ, ⲩ) = ⲥⲟⲟⲥⲩ
ⲫ(ⲇⲟⲩⲁ) = ⲁⲩⲟⲇ
ⲭ(ⲟⲙⲙⲁ) = ⲡⲩⲩⲩ
Ⲧ(ⲣⲟⲟⲟⲥⲩⲇ, ⲥ, III) = ⲣⲟⲟⲥⲩⲇ
ⲯ(ⲩⲟⲇⲩⲁ) = ⲁⲩⲟⲇⲩ
ⲟ(ⲩⲇⲟⲁ) = ⲇⲟⲁⲩ

ⲟ ⲓⲟⲟⲇⲩ ⲣⲟⲟⲥⲣⲩⲇ ⲩⲇⲟⲙⲣⲩ ⲟⲣ:

Ⲩ(ⲭ$_{X}$(ⲯ(ⲁⲩⲩⲟ))), ⲣ, III) = ⲅⲟⲣⲙ



Ⲩ(ⲫ(Ⲧ(Ⲩ(ⲝ(Ⲙ(ⲁⲟⲣⲫⲩⲇ, I.III.II.IV.V.VI)), III), ⲟ, III)), Ⲧ(Ⲧ(ⲣⲩⲟⲙ, ⲟ, II), ⲇ, I))

Ⲧ(Ⲧ(Ⲙ(Ⲩ(Ⲧ(ⲗ$_{II}$(ⲟⲟⲇⲩ, ⲩ)), ⲅ, I), ⲫ(Ⲩ(Ⲧ(ⲛ(ⲟ(Ⲧ(ⲩⲟⲟⲑ, ⲓ)), ⲁ), ⲅ, IV), ⲣ, II), ⲁ)), I.IV.II.III.VIII.V.VI.VII), ⲇ, II), ⲣ, I)

ⲝ$_{II}$(Ⲩ(ⲛ(ⲩⲟⲟⲇⲩ), IV))

Ⲧ(Ⲧ(Ⲧ(Ⲙ(ⲁⲟⲣⲩ, III.II.I.IV), ⲟ, II), ⲁ, IV), ⲇ, I)