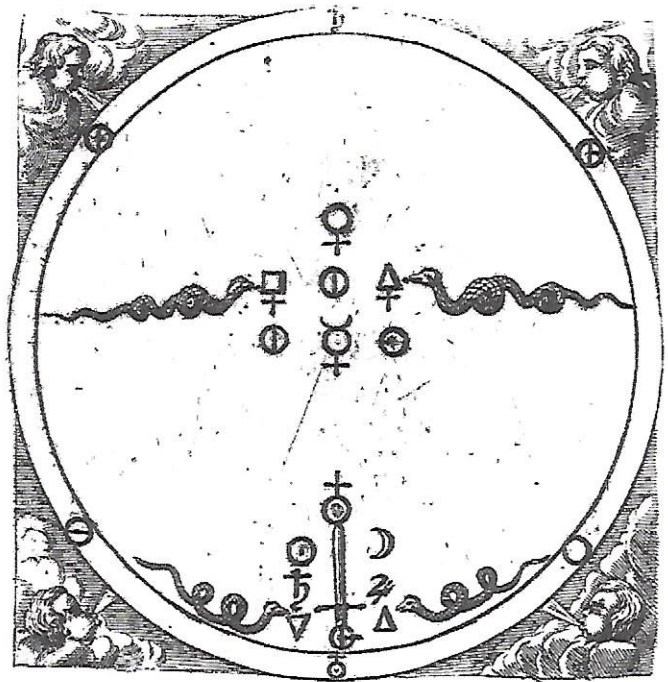




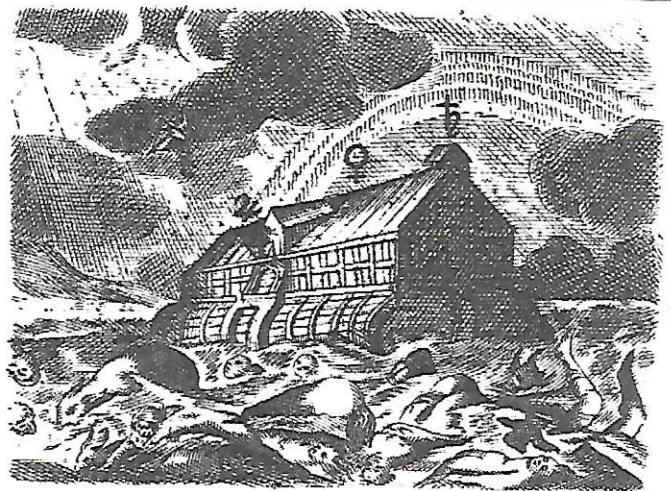
434 Hercules as a child throttled the snakes sent by Juno to kill him. In alchemical symbolism Hercules is the Artist; the killing of the Snakes is Fixation of the Volatile; and the flight of the Birds is Volatilization. The Four Elements are represented by Dolphin, Dragon, Bird and Salamander. As all the Philosophers maintain, he who can convert Earth into Water, the same Water into Air, the same Air into Fire, and the same Fire into Earth, shall know the entire process of the Philosopher's Stone.

*Goossen Van Vreeswijk, The Golden Lion
or the Vinegar of the Wise, 1676*

*Stanislas Klossowski de Rola, The
Golden Game. Alchemical Engravings
of the Seventeenth Century,
Thames & Hudson, 1988, p. 254*



435 Opened by the martial sword, our Subject yields the Vitriol of the Wise. (For design reasons the publisher has here rearranged the images from *De goude Leeuw*. The original order is 435-36, 447, 437, 445, 446, 448-50, 438-44.)



436 Under the action of the external Fire upon the Secret Fire, the whole compost liquefies; this is that 'Sea' agitated by fermentation which ancient authors called the Flood. A film appears on the waters: this is Noah's Ark, the equivalent of the floating island of Delos where Latona takes refuge to give birth to the Hermetick Twins, Diana and Apollo. The end of the saturnine Night is heralded by the colours of the Rainbow, followed by the rule of Jupiter.

*The symbolism of the Ark and Flood
in alchemy.*