



The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present

Theodore Ziolkowski

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present

Theodore Ziolkowski

The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present Theodore Ziolkowski

Unlike most other studies of alchemy and literature, which focus on alchemical imagery in poetry of specific periods or writers, this book traces the figure of the alchemist in Western literature from its first appearance in the Eighth Circle of Dante's *Inferno* down to the present. From the beginning alchemy has had two aspects: exoteric or operative (the transmutation of baser metals into gold) and esoteric or speculative (the spiritual transformation of the alchemist himself). From Dante to Ben Jonson, during the centuries when the belief in exoteric alchemy was still strong and exploited by many charlatans to deceive the gullible, writers in major works of many literatures treated alchemists with ridicule in an effort to expose their tricks. From the Renaissance to the Enlightenment, as that belief weakened, the figure of the alchemist disappeared, even though Protestant poets in England and Germany were still fond of alchemical images. But when eighteenth-century science almost wholly undermined alchemy, the figure of the alchemist began to emerge again in literature—now as a humanitarian hero or as a spirit striving for sublimation. Following these esoteric romanticizations, as scholarly interest in alchemy intensified, writers were attracted to the figure of the alchemist and his quest for power. The fin-de-siècle saw a further transformation as poets saw in the alchemist a symbol for the poet per se and others, influenced by the prevailing spiritism, as a manifestation of the religious spirit. During the interwar years, as writers sought surrogates for the widespread loss of religious faith, esoteric alchemy underwent a pronounced revival, and many writers turned to the figure of the alchemist as a spiritual model or, in the case of Paracelsus in Germany, as a national figurehead. This tendency, theorized by C. G. Jung in several major studies, inspired after World War II a vast popularization of the figure in novels—historical, set in the present, or juxtaposing past and present—in England, France, Germany, Italy, Brazil, and the United States. The inevitable result of this popularization was the trivialization of the figure in advertisements for healing and cooking or in articles about scientists and economists. In sum: the figure of the alchemist in literature provides a seismograph for major shifts in intellectual and cultural history.

 [Download The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Pre ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the P ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present Theodore Ziolkowski

From reader reviews:

Thomas Britton:

The book *The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present* can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. So why must we leave a very important thing like a book *The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present*? A few of you have a different opinion about book. But one aim that will book can give many data for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you could give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book *The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present* has simple shape but you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can look the enormous world by wide open and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

Matthew Blackburn:

Here thing why this kind of *The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present* are different and dependable to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content than it which is the content is as delightful as food or not. *The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present* giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no e-book that similar with *The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present*. It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your means home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of *The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present* in e-book can be your alternative.

Carolyn Bailey:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want really feel happy read one with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. *The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present* is kind of publication which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Charles Shrader:

Many people spending their period by playing outside together with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by studying a book. Ugh, you think reading a book can really hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It okay you can have the e-book, taking everywhere you want in your Smart phone. Like *The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present* which is keeping the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's view.

Download and Read Online The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present Theodore Ziolkowski #5O7DU3VMQ8C

Read The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present by Theodore Ziolkowski for online ebook

The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present by Theodore Ziolkowski Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present by Theodore Ziolkowski books to read online.

Online The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present by Theodore Ziolkowski ebook PDF download

The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present by Theodore Ziolkowski Doc

The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present by Theodore Ziolkowski Mobipocket

The Alchemist in Literature: From Dante to the Present by Theodore Ziolkowski EPub