

Assignment Submission from Gail Sprott (interested person, Steiner Kindergarten Teacher), ANAT part 1 Minerals

Hello Irmhild,

I have been working on 'Barium', at first because of the beautiful picture you showed us during the first evening session. I have gathered as much information as possible, beginning with what you gave us in the content. The thought that stood out to me from your notes was the stimulating of the structure in the lymphatic tissue and how *"This creates the basis for pneumatization enabling the soul and spiritual qualities to open to the external world."* and how it is phosphorescent under short wave UV light".

The one mention of it I found from Rudolf Steiner in the RS Archives (GA 351) Nine Lectures on Bees — Lecture III: *"Then one sees it. Then it lights up. Thus, according to this article, I must state that barium platino-cyanide is able to see with some kind of eyes because it shows activity. But very much the same thing happens if one experiment with ants. Suppose that instead of barium platino-cyanide I take ants; then I exclude the light. The ants run towards the sugar; in the same way, barium platino-cyanide lights up. I then say (according to this article) that the ants see the ultraviolet rays. But they need to see them just as little as the barium platino-cyanide needs to see in order to shine."*

Both of these ideas, I found interesting and uplifting.

Whereas mainstream scientific knowledge and its uses in medicine and industry was slightly off-putting. The fact that Barium is highly toxic and poisonous and is used in making glue whiteness for paper rubber etc... as well as its use in medicine for its ability to become ultraviolet and is used to see more clearly the oesophagus, i.e. barium swallow.

All this left me wondering wherein or without lies the signatureLibra?

When I saw my antipathy and sympathies enter into the process I had to work on suspending judgment. I have now realized the respect one needs to be able to walk this thin line of when and how a substance can be used in the best possible way is so important.

I continue to ponder and imagine into the qualities of 'Barium' taking it in to my sleep life and listening for what comes in the morning.

This morning I woke from sleep with a few images and phrases and this is what I have come up with from that process:

From on high
Spirit helpers abide!
To balance the Soul entrapt.
In cavities dark, an 'eye' opens.....
For the world to see.
That inner beauty can
Outward shine.