

# Philosophy.

## Clay: the pathway between the cosmic and terrestrial world.

Clay contains silica as one of its principal elements and like silica, has assisted human evolution continuously since the dawn of civilization, perhaps without us even realizing it. It is present within materials such as cement, construction resources, filters, as an addition to animal feed to aid digestion, terra cotta, medical compressions (poultice) and facades.

Clay has a high cation-exchange capacity, as it is rich in silica and alumina, and many other metals.

Mineralogy tells us that it was formed as a result of a combination of atmospheric and terrestrial elements, and found on the first formed stones known as feldspars.

In order to develop the characteristics we know today about clay, it had to essentially separate itself from its initial conditions and undergo a number of changes through metamorphosis and physical weathering processes.

From hard rock, a new substance was formed: soft and plastic clay. Clay however, unlike many other minerals, acts as a sort of intermediary stage between a liquid and a solid thanks to its internal heat.

When dug out of the ground, a process that raises its temperature as it comes into contact with sunlight, man and the universe, sun-exposed clay awakens from its deep sleep. The contact with heat and sunlight dissolving the forces that kept it underground, in the mineral world.

The way clay dries up in the sun, can in many ways be compared to the process of germination. Both a seed and clay are influenced by the cosmic (solar light and heat) and terrestrial (oxygen) forces around them, which awaken them from a sort of stupor, welcoming the entire universe.

Within clay both a cosmic and terrestrial pole exists. The cosmic pole is represented by silica, while the terrestrial pole is represented by limestone; clay harmonizes these opposing forces.

Thanks to its individual nature and composition, clay is a bearer of rhythmic forces. It is for this reason that we associate the word clay with words such as, flow, movement, connection and transformation.

Silica, limestone and clay really do represent some of the most marked actions undertaken by nature on our planet.

Underground, limestone tightly holds on to the plant's roots, chaining it firmly to the ground.

Above the ground, silica assists the flower in its flourishing and its struggle to leave the confines of the earth to get closer to the sky.

Amid this we find the leaves, which like clay, harmonize and hold together these two conflicting tendencies.

Through limestone the so-called inner planets Moon, Mercury and Venus drive man and nature, while through silica we gain guidance from outer planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

Clay with its malleable nature lies somewhere in between, harmonizing the strength of limestone and silica, as the sun harmonizes the activity of the many planets.

When Rudolf Steiner developed the concept of biodynamic farming, he demonstrated how clay is instrumental in the way silica behaves and influences the formation of the root of the plant, along with the upper layers of the soil and also the external parts of the plant. The way silica behaves is important not only because it affects structure and energy levels, but also as it is the foundation of the processes for substance exchange, growth and pigmentation.

It's possible to encourage plants or other changing elements, such as grape, that later becomes wine (inside amphorae) by putting it in contact with clay.

