



Mendeleev's Dream

By Paul Strathern

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What is the world made of? The ancient Greeks speculated about earth, air, fire, and water; today we turn to the periodic table for more reliable information. The story of how we got from there to here is full of fascinating people, and in this elegant, entertaining book, Paul Strathern introduces us to ancient philosophers, medieval alchemists, and the earliest chemists-and to Dimitri Mendeleev, the card-playing nineteenth-century Russian who claimed that the answers came to him in a dream.

"Chemistry has been a neglected area of science writing, and Mendeleev, the king of chemistry, is a largely forgotten genius. [This book] goes a long way toward correcting this injustice." (Simon Singh, author of *Fermat's Last Theorem*, in the *Sunday Telegraph*)

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Paul Strathern was born in London in 1940 and studied physics, chemistry and math at Trinity College, Dublin, before switching to philosophy. He has authored several novels and nonfiction books and lectures in philosophy and science at Kingston University.

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