

# Alchemical Byproducts

“I’ll be honest: I wasn’t *expecting* to find the Philosopher’s Stone,” the businessman told me. “I thought that concept was a Renaissance way to describe the chemical reactions *really* going on. I was just looking for an easier method to separate metals out of lead.”

“Can’t we do that now?”

“Sure. It’s a solved industrial problem. But what if somebody in the 15th Century had come up with a small-scale way that wasn’t as energy intensive? Those guys weren’t dumb; they just never wrote enough stuff down.”

He sighed. “It was worth a shot. Instead, I rediscovered alchemy. Yay, me.”

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