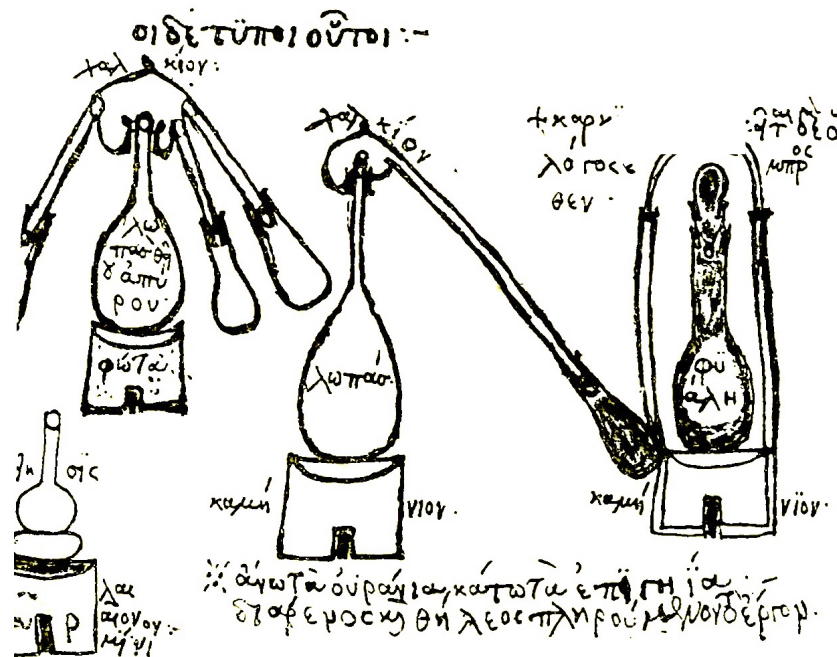


Ancient Chemists

Ancient civilisations across the world were able to work metal, dye cloth, and make glass. These people knew how to effect certain chemical transformations, but whether they had a framework for understanding existing and predicting new transformations is questionable.



One such person was Zosimos of Panopolis (ca. 300AD) an Egyptian alchemist who wrote some of the oldest known descriptions of equipment for distillation and filtration (above, left). Another was Democritus of Abdera (460-370BC - above, right) who developed the idea that the world was made up of indivisible entities called "atoms".