“For a Charm of Powerful Trouble”

In the poisoned entrailes throw.
Toad, that under cold stone,
Days and nights, has thirty-one
Sweltered venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i’ th’ charmèd pot.

Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake.
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder’s fork and blindworm’s sting,
Lizard’s leg and owlet’s wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

Scale of dragon, tooth of Wolf,
Witch’s mummy, maw and gulf
of the ravined salt-sea shark,
Root of hemlock digged i’ th’ dark,
Liver of blaspheming Jew,
Gall of goat and slips of yew
Slivered in the moon’s eclipse,
Nose of Turk and Tartar’s lips,
Finger of birth-strangled babe
Ditch-delivered by a drab,
Make the gruel thick and slab.
Adde thereto a tiger’s chaudron
For th’ ingredience of our cauldron.

Cool it with a baboon’s blood.
Then the charm is firm and good.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564–1616)
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