

## **Burn Salve: Recipe**

This medical remedy appears in a late sixteenth-century manuscript of artisanal recipes compiled by an anonymous author-practitioner working in Toulouse, France. See Making and Knowing Project, Pamela H. Smith, Naomi Rosenkranz, Tianna Helena Uchacz, Tillmann Taape, Clément Godbarge, Sophie Pitman, Jenny Boulboulé, Joel Klein, Donna Bilak, Marc Smith, and Terry Catapano, eds., *Secrets of Craft and Nature in Renaissance France. A Digital Critical Edition and English Translation of BnF Ms. Fr. 640* (New York: Making and Knowing Project, 2020), <https://edition640.makingandknowing.org/#/folios/103r/tc/103r/tl>.

### **Contre bruslure excellent**

Chaufe de lhuile de lin a foie doux sans quil bouille & fremisse Mays co{mm}e il sera chault mecs y le quart dicelle de la plus noeuve cire que tu pourras Estants fondus laisses les refroidir & co{mm}e ilz commanceront a se cailler remue tousjours avecq une spatule de bois noeu f tant que tu mettras a dire ~~un~~ 9 *pater noster* Et co{mm}e tu les diras lave ceste composition avecq de leau beniste tousjours remuant Ayant dict le <sup>s</sup> premier <sup>9</sup> *pater noster* verse la premiere eau & y en remects de nouvelle & lave & remue la composition lespace que tu diras 8 *pater noster* A la 3 lespace de 7 & ainsy consequem{ment} ~~jusques~~ tu adjoindras nouvelle eau faisant co{mm}e dessus jusques au dernier & seul *pater noster* de noeu Lors tu auras un onguent blanc & doux duquel tu oingdras la brusleure lespace de 9 jours Mays ny en mecs pas davantage Car il te faeroit surcroistre la chair Tu ~~pte~~ penseras deulx foys le jour & a chasque foys tu te laveras le visaige avecq eau & vin mesles ensemble un peu tiedes Sans froter Mays co{mm}e le pressant avecq un linge mouille Et tu lessuyeras de mesme ~~aff~~ avecq un linge deslie & apres mecs lunguent Sur lequel tu pourras mecre des foilles de lierre Cecy faitc renaistre le poil & ne laisse pointc cicatrice Un pouldrier qui se estoit presque tout brusle ~~ma~~ & qui navoict aulcune aparence de brusleure me la enseigne

### **Against burns, excellent**

Heat linseed oil on a gentle fire without letting it boil & simmer, but once it is hot, put in a quarter as much of the newest wax you can. Once melted, let it cool, & once they begin to curdle, stir continuously with a new wooden spatula ~~f~~ for as long as it takes you to say ~~one~~ 9 paternoster, and as you say them, wash this composition with holy water, stirring all the while. Having said the first <sup>9</sup> paternoster, pour out the first water & put in new one, & wash & stir the composition for the time it takes you to say 8 paternoster, and the 3rd time for as long as 7, & thus you will consecutively ~~until~~ add new water, doing the same as above, until the last & single paternoster of nine. Then you shall have a soft & white ointment, with which you shall anoint the burn for the space of 9 days. But do not apply it any longer than this, for it would cause ~~a~~ your flesh to grow excessively. You ~~b~~ shall bandage yourself twice a day, & each time you shall wash your face with water & wine mixed together, a little tepid, not rubbing, but as if pressing with a wet linen cloth, and you shall wipe it similarly ~~aff~~ with a fine linen cloth, & next put the ointment, over which you can put ivy leaves. This causes hair to regrow & leaves no scar. A gunpowder maker who had almost completely burnt himself ~~ma~~ & showed no sign of the burn, taught me this.

## Burn Salve: Reconstruction Protocol

<p>Ingredients<sup>1</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 100 ml linseed oil</li><li>● beeswax, to equal ~25 ml when melted<sup>2</sup></li><li>● 450 ml (holy) water, divided, approx. 9 x 50 ml</li></ul>	<p>Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 500 ml tempered glass beaker or ≥500 ml pot with handle</li><li>● hot plate</li><li>● thermometer</li><li>● wooden chopsticks</li><li>● ≥250 ml container</li><li>● spatula</li><li>● glass pint jar with lid</li></ul>
<p>Procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Add the linseed oil to the 500 ml beaker (or to a small pot) and place on the hotplate</li><li>● Gently heat the oil to 85°C and add the solid beeswax</li><li>● When the wax is fully melted, turn off the hot plate and remove the pot from heat</li><li>● Wait until the mixture begins to congeal slightly and turns slightly opaque (approx. 3–5 minutes)</li><li>● Add 50 ml water, stirring mixture with a chopstick while reciting 9 paternosters.<sup>3</sup> Pour out any remaining water into container</li><li>● Add 50 ml water, stirring with a chopstick while reciting 8 paternosters. Pour out any remaining water</li><li>● Repeat the process of “washing” with fresh water for the duration of 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, then 1, paternosters</li><li>● Use a spatula to transfer the salve to a lidded jar for storage</li></ul>	

<sup>1</sup> The ingredients in this recipe do not need to be measured with great precision; amounts are approximate.

<sup>2</sup> Beeswax can be purchased in a variety of formats. If working with small, pea-sized pellets, a small beaker filled to the 50 ml line will yield approximately 30 ml of molten wax.

<sup>3</sup> Reciting the paternoster (“the Lord’s prayer” of Christianity, in Latin) was a common way of keeping time:

*Pater noster qui es in caelis  
sanctificetur nomen tuum  
adveniat regnum tuum  
fiat voluntas tua sicut in caelo et in terra  
Panem nostrum cotidianum da nobis hodie  
et dimitte nobis debita nostra  
sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris  
et ne nos inducas in tentationem  
sed libera nos a malo*