

# TOPICS IN MODERN HOMEOPATHY

## HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

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### HOMEOPATHIC MORALITY

Throughout medicine there exists a lingering puritanical paradigm that human disease finds its origin in a lack of moral order, living one's life in an immoral or amoral fashion. Few are surprised, and even fewer feel pity when a homicidal terrorist suffers a debilitating stroke, or a child molester contracts a lethal disease.

Peter Morrell suggests that many holistic therapies recognize a 'hidden message' implicit in illness, an explicitly expressed commentary on the life of the patient, even providence. There is an undeniable link between thoughts, lifestyle and illness, perhaps even a divine symmetry or punishment, but one need only consider the innocence of a young child stricken with cancer to know that this is not always the case.

But what of the healer?

I contend that the healer has an obligation to live an exemplary life, morally upright in his personal and business dealings. The noted American homeopathy James Tyler Kent (1849-1916) was convinced that living according to strong religious convictions was not only admirable, it was a prerequisite for practicing as a homeopath.

*"A man who cannot believe in God  
cannot become a homeopath."*

*- J.T. Kent, Lectures and Aphorisms p. 671*

Granted, morality is not the exclusive domain of religion, but a consistent code of culturally admirable conduct must be at the core of a respectable practice. Any definition of morality must at least include honesty, fairness, courage and caring for your fellow man; the opposites of which are deceit, bias, cowardice and self-absorption. Expand on these as you will, which camp do you fall into?

Confidence in the healer has always been an essential part of the healing equation. Moral blemishes undermine the partnership between doctor and client and create obstructions to cure. If the patient loses trust in his doctor, his or her power to heal is all but vanquished. Indiscretions have a way of being uncovered. Once trust and credibility are lost, there is little hope of restoring it. Medicine is no longer paternalistic, patients participate in their treatment and healing, and that bond of trust is irreparably fractured when the client observes a breach of morality in their teacher.

The success of a practice depends on the successful execution of ethical guidelines, our conduct is the message that we preach to the

**Diseases correspond to man's affections, and the diseases upon the human race today are but the outward expression of man's interiors . . . represented in man's diseases"**

**- James Tyler Kent**

world and a reflection of our efficacy, but what about the homeopathic industry as a whole? We work outside the boundaries of conventional science and medicine, and moral requisites are even more relevant because we are under the microscope. Everything that we do is scrutinized.

JAMA (the Journal of the American Medical Association) estimates that, in the US, Western medicine legally kills 230,000 people every year, most of which are conveniently swept under the rug of malpractice insurance. Yet let one client die who may have seen a homeopath in the last year, and medical and legal barracudas swarm, launching attacks that make the Taliban look like Mr. Rogers Neighborhood. We must be held to higher standards, more rigorous 'rightness' if we are to ever be respected as a valued part of the healthcare system of this country. We have something to offer, but if our industry is marred by questionable ethics, infighting, backstabbing and 2-faced morality, we can never hope to achieve the recognition that we deserve.

This is an open appeal to all healers to walk a morally pure path. Know your limits. Know when to refer. Resist short cuts. Your reputation is more important than the extra dollar that may be earned. Integrity is consistency throughout, the strength to do the right thing because it's the right thing. We are all a part of something bigger, a movement toward integration of all healing disciplines. In the words of Yoda, "...once you start down the dark path, forever will it rule your life." Keep everything in the light, for your practice and for our industry.