

Michal Yakir: **Wondrous Order – Systematic Table of Homeopathic Plant Remedies.**

Book One: Flowering Plants, (transl. from Hebrew), Narayana Publ., Kanderl 2017, ISBN: 978-3-95582-109-8, hardback, 850 pages, 124.- Euro

Among the many homeopathic publications there are but a few that become landmarks for the future development of our art. Michal Yakir's book "Wondrous Order" is one of them and turns out to be as influential as Jan Scholten's book on the minerals or Rajan Sankaran's on sensation. What makes her book on plants so special?

Being not only a homeopathic doctor but also a botanist Yakir is the first to explore the plant kingdom from a botanical point of view, studying the healing properties of plants with a plant understanding. She is not imposing an external system onto the plant families but tries to find the wondrous order within the plant kingdom itself and thus giving order to our homeopathic plant remedies as well.

It is an interesting fact that usually we can't perceive the order and structure within the plant kingdom. Most people would have difficulties to notice the great difference in evolution between say a tree fern and a similar looking palm tree, which is as large as between a starfish and a cat, where we can see it directly. In plants we see herbs, shrubs and trees and distinguish between trees with needles and those with leaves, but we don't perceive development or evolution, which was a subject only for botanical specialists until recently, but not for homeopaths. Apart from being crucial to gain a deeper understanding of our remedies, this new perspective provides us with rich knowledge about nature as we experience it every day.

To be able to connect materia medica and plant evolution in a meaningful way, Yakir uses the morphological approach to taxonomy instead of the more modern genetical one. She argues that as homeopaths we are using a phenomenological point of view ourselves and treat persons instead of laboratory results. So it makes sense to study plants as complete beings and not as mere objects of genetical analysis. The way we approach botany should have similarity to the way we approach medicine.

So the relational table of plants according to the American taxonomist Cronquist is her model to structure the flowering plants. The first chapters of her book are therefore dedicated to botany and give us some basic knowledge of this science. In the next chapters Yakir explains the psychological background that she is administering to map onto the plant families. Basing on the understanding that everything in this cosmos is related in a way and every structure is in a way an image of every other structure, Michal Yakir connects human and plant evolution, so that each subclass of the Mono- and Dicots marks a step in the journey of human consciousness from wholeness to individuality.

The psychological background narrative she is building upon, is the Jungian one. The advantage of the Jungian approach lies in its deep understanding of the spiritual journey not only of the individual but of the whole of mankind. C.G.Jung called this individuation and marked several steps human consciousness has to master in order to mature. The human ego has to separate from unity to start with (1. subclass), it has to build up borders (2. subclass) to experience a sense of Ego (3. subclass), which then has to be nurtured and to grow (4. subclass), while it learns to also share and be part of a larger community (5. subclass) and to defend itself in a world of too much isolation (6. subclass). Each of these phases of individuation carries certain pitfalls and potential problems, which are expressed by psychological or physical disturbances or illnesses, we have to treat homeopathically in this context.

For several years now Yakir's tables have been around displaying this connection in a simplified way and with few explanations which have sometimes led to misunderstandings. So publishing the book which opens up the full system is an important step and a great help for the practitioner who looks for advice regarding his or her prescriptions. This comprehensive work not only explains structure and evolution, but it is also a large Materia medica of plant remedies, down to the very small ones that you may have never heard of. Even cases are given of many such remedies that enable the reader to make very practical use of the descriptions. For some of these cases one would wish more detail though to permit a better understanding of the rationale of prescribing. Besides botany, materia medica and cases we also find some completely new material in form of provings and trituration results of hitherto unknown plants, like the Acacia or Loranthus, a parasitical plant from the Santalales family.

To make this huge amount of information easily accessible, the book uses coloured pages, many pictures and a clear structure so that it becomes an important handbook for any practitioner whether they want to use the evolutionary table or not. And beautiful it becomes as well. Of course the book also contains revised and updated versions of the well-known tables.

Michal Yakir is already working on the sequel on non-flowering plants, the conifers, ferns, mosses etc., which we have even less homeopathic knowledge of apart from Thuja and Lycopodium. And we are looking forward to that.

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