



LMHI 2022

75th World Congress of Homeopathy
7-10 September 2022, Istanbul / Turkey

Bridge between past and future



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ORAL PRESENTATIONS

01284 - IONIAN ROOTS OF HOMEOPATHY

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Since homeopathy may be designated as a branch of scientific drug therapy, its roots and genealogy may be traced back to the origins of scientific medicine at large, i.e. to the western coastal region of modern day Turkey around the 5th century BC.

Traditionally, Hippocrates of Kos is considered to be the founder of scientific medicine. Son of a family of Asclepiads, i.e. practitioners of theurgic medicine in sanctuaries of the healing god Asclepius, called asclepeions (which still can be visited e.g. in Kos, Knidos, or Pergamon), he became famous for his unprecedented empirical and naturalistic approach to the treatment of sick humans. After his death, two medical schools were competing in that area, the more empiricist of the two run by his disciples and successors on the island of Kos and the equally renowned more rationalistic one in Knidos (today Turkey's Datça-peninsula). In the 2nd century AD, Galen of Pergamon (Bergama), after studying in Smyrna (İzmir) and Alexandria, accomplished a systematic that would become the canon of scientific medicine for one and a half millenia, up to the time of Hahnemann.

Hahnemann revered Hippocrates' accurate observations and rejected Galen's abstract dogmatism, but nevertheless emphasized a rational approach toward therapeutics. The form of rationality, on which Hahnemanns as well as Hippocrates were drawing upon and still is predominant in nearly all civilizations around the globe, however, also had its origin on the Ionian coast (the modern day Turkish west coast). Philosophically as well as economically speaking, one of the most critical turning points in the history of humanity was the invention of coinage in Lydia (Asia Minor) by the end of the 7th century BC. The quick spread of monetisation in the commercial cities of the Ionian coast in the 6th century BC enabled the emergence of the idea of an autonomous inner self or subject, as well as new paradigms in philosophy, literature, and science. Just as coined money is an abstract entity which may be exchanged against any commodity whatsoever, Pre-Socratic philosophers, such as Thales or Anaximander of Miletus oder Heraclitus of Ephesus, now tried to establish one impersonal cosmological principle of origin (Greek: arché) by means of which any phenomenon of life may be explained. Concepts of monism, abstract thinking, scientific truth, rational logic, objectivity, individuality, freedom, democracy, etc.: all the basic paradigms on which Western civilizational achievements, including homeopathic medicine, rest, were being constituted by the then introduced unlimited circulation, conversion, and domination of all-pervasive money.

Although rationality, individuality, science, etc. are ancient powerful concepts of humankind and, at first glance, seem to be only beneficial, they may, however, also be misused and misapplied, yielding disastrous side effects, such as pollution of environment, anthropogenic climate change, adverse drug reactions, etc. Hence, it will be crucial to differentiate and explore which kind of rationality and scientific reasoning Hahnemann had suggested in order to avoid the flaws of crude reductionism in medicine and instead found a secure and curative art of healing.