

Farokh J. Master

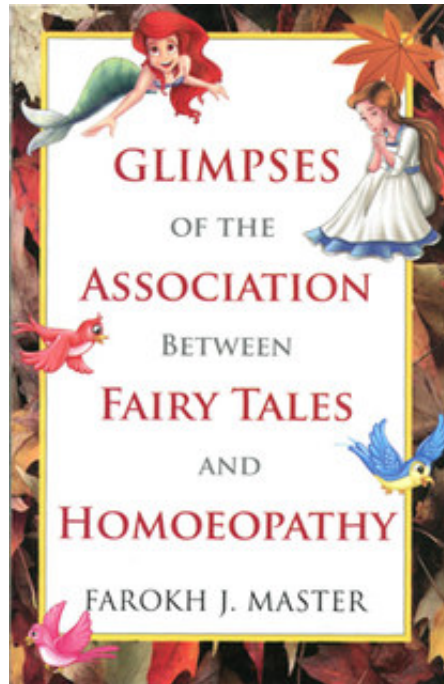
Glimpses of the Association Between Fairy Tales and Homoeopathy

Reading excerpt

[Glimpses of the Association Between Fairy Tales and Homoeopathy](#)

of [Farokh J. Master](#)

Publisher: B. Jain



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CHAPTER 16

Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs

There is no country in this world where the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs has not been a part of kindergarten curriculum, or there are very few people in this world who would not have heard of who Snow White was. This story was published sometime in the year 1634. In some older version of the story, Snow White was also known as Snowdrop (named after a European flower which is white in colour and it blooms in winter making the other flowers envious of her as the rest of them are withered or shrivelled). Also when Walt Disney production did an animation film on Snow White, they named the female actor, Snowdrop.

Below we narrate Grimm's fairy tale version, translated by Margaret Hunt, language modernized (a bit) by Leanne Guenther:

Once upon a time, long, long ago a King and Queen ruled over a distant land. The Queen was kind and lovely and all the people of the realm adored her. The only sadness in the Queen's life was that she wished for a child but did not have one. One winter day, the Queen was doing some needle work while gazing out her ebony window at the new fallen snow. A bird flew by the window startling the queen and she pricked her finger. A single drop of blood fell on the snow outside her window. As she looked at the blood on the snow she said to herself, "Oh, how I wish that I had a daughter that had skin as white as snow, lips as red as blood, and hair as black as ebony. "

Soon after that, the kind Queen got her wish when she gave birth to a baby girl who had skin as white as snow, lips as red as blood and hair as black as

ebony. They named the baby princess Snow White, but sadly, the Queen died soon after giving birth to Snow White.

Soon after, the King married a new woman who was beautiful, but also proud and cruel. She had studied dark magic and owned a magic mirror, to which she would daily ask, "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all? " The reply was always: "You are, your Majesty, " until the dreadful day when she heard it say, "Snow White is the loveliest in the land." The stepmother was furious and wild with jealousy. She began plotting to get rid of her rival.



Calling one of her trusted servants, she bribed him with a rich reward to take Snow White into the forest, far away from the Castle. Then, unseen, he was to put her to death. The greedy servant, attracted by the reward, agreed to do this deed, and he led the innocent little girl away. However, when they came to the fatal spot, the man's courage failed him and leaving Snow White sitting beside a tree, he mumbled an excuse and ran off. Snow White was all alone in the forest.

Night came, but the servant did not return. Snow White, alone in the dark forest, began to cry bitterly. She thought she could feel terrible eyes spying on her, and she heard strange sounds and rustlings that made her heart thump. At last, overcome by tiredness, she fell asleep curled under a tree.

Snow White slept fitfully, waking from time to time with a start and staring into the darkness round her. Several times, she thought she felt something, or somebody touch her as she slept.

though by magic, the Prince's kiss broke the spell. To everyone's astonishment, Snow White opened her eyes. She had amazingly come back to life. Now completely in love with her, the Prince asked Snow White to marry him, and the dwarfs reluctantly had to say good bye to Snow White.

From that day on, Snow White lived happily in a great castle. But from time to time, she was drawn back to visit the little cottage down in the forest.

Homoeopathic Interpretation

Snow White

Now let us examine in the repertory the rubrics of Snow White:

MIND - CONSCIENTIOUS about trifles
MIND - DELUSIONS - injury - about to receive injury; is
MIND - ELEGANCE
MIND - FORSAKEN feeling
MIND - IMPRESSIONABLE
MIND - INDUSTRIOUS - household affairs; in
MIND - INSECURITY; mental
MIND - MILDNESS
MIND - NAIVE
MIND - PRETTY
MIND - SENSITIVE
MIND - TIMIDITY
MIND - YIELDING disposition
SKIN - DISCOLORATION - white
GENERALS - COMPLEXION - fair, blond, light
GENERALS - DELICATE CONSTITUTION

I think that Snow Whites constitutional type is *Silicea terra*. It is a remedy with emotional refinement, elegance and beauty, fit for a princess. They have light brown or black hair with delicate and pale facial features.

Silicea terra with the above qualities frequently becomes a victim of jealousy, as can be seen in the case of Snow White who was driven out by her stepmother and was abandoned in the forest.

The fastidious nature of *Silicea terra* is expressed in the story when Snow White tries out all the seven beds, changing them one after another finding one bed too long, another too short, another too hard and another too soft, until finally she falls asleep on the seventh bed.

In this story, Snow White never panics or gets terrorised even when she was left all alone in the wilderness. Her psyche was balanced and stable. *Silicea terra* patients I have seen are always even tempered and sober, as also Snow White who in spite of being so very beautiful never once was proud of her beauty. This is true for *Silicea terra*, as they are never boastful, and will never exert their will too strongly on others.

Snow White enjoys taking good care of the dwarf's in their cottage,- for example, cooking, making their beds and washing utensils. She does this very willingly and dutifully, which indicates the conscientious and industrious nature of Snow White.

Self-effacement and imperturbability are the two self- protective mechanisms used by *Silicea terra* patients to overcome their sensitive nature, which cannot easily forget the pain; though it is remembered at the physical level, as the wounds are slow to heal. The common areas of *Silicea terra's* hurt are peer pressure, family disputes, a clash of egos at their work place, etc. This frequently leads to a forsaken feeling.

An almost similar situation is seen in the story of Snow White. Till the time she is with the dwarfs and away from the evil queen and the sinister world, she is very innocent and simple. It is as if 'Delusion, she is born in the new world' or 'Delusion, transferred to another world' or 'Delusion, lives in the world of fantasy with his friend.' Suddenly the Stepmother (queen) comes to know about her existence and then cunningly sets up a plan to kill her by disguising as an



old woman and tempting innocent Snow White not once but thrice to eat the poisonous apple and finally when Snow White cannot resist her temptation she becomes a victim of her impressionable nature. This makes the reader learn a lesson that, however tempting it is to run away in search of an ideal, undisturbed existence or trouble-free life, one cannot free oneself from the impact of one's parents and all the feelings around them.

Bettelheim says that, "The readiness with which Snow White repeatedly permits herself to be tempted by the stepmother, despite the warnings of the dwarfs, suggests how close the stepmother's temptations are to Snow White's inner desires. ' Snow White, we can now see, is a well-developed adolescent, and in line with times past, interested in laces or stays, and having lovely hair. The apple, her final temptation, symbolizes the end of her innocence (as with Eve in the Garden of Eden).

When Snow White lies in her glass coffin, in this world and yet not part of it, she epitomizes the split that *Silicea terra* typically displays: the conflict between the inner and outer life. According to Vermeulen, "The conflict can be between inner life and outer life, again underlining the fact that the *Silicea terra* type lacks the ability to enter fully into life; they are too refined and may themselves to be too special, or too dignified and refined."

In the end, of course, Snow White is rescued by the charming Prince; which indicates that she is now ready for marriage. This further implies that all the stress, conflicts (inner as well as outer) have been resolved and a new personality has emerged. The evil and destructive aspect of our personality (the Stepmother), must then be tamed and brought under our control, which is achieved by the death of the Queen residing in our mind.

Silicea terra may appear serious, sensible and refined and at the same time like Snow White they are friendly, cheerful and simple. In comparison to this, *Silicea Arsenicum* is also serious but full of anxiety and *Phosphorus* which resembles

Silicea terra very closely is also reserved and dignified but at the same time very fearful and anxious and often lack the intellectual abilities of *Silicea terra*.

Bailey has said of *Silicea terra*, and which I think Snow White epitomizes: "She is neither an escapist nor an opportunist, but once she has dealt with any pressing problem, she will enjoy living with a quiet relish. . . Most *Silicea terra*'s delight equally in solitary or meditative pursuits such as art, reading and gentle walks, and in more social activities." *Silicea terra* can allow herself to be herself in company once she feels safe, and then she can be both chatty and playful.

Stepmother

The chief characteristics of the Stepmother are jealousy and resentment, because Snow White is beautiful, pleasing, pretty, fair, fine and enticing. This quality of hers makes the Stepmother jealous every day. The Stepmother's narcissism is demonstrated by her seeking reassurance about her beauty from the magic mirror.

Let me examine now the rubrics of the Stepmother:

MIND - AILMENTS FROM - jealousy
MIND - CRUELTY
MIND - EGOTISM
MIND - ENVY
MIND - HAUGHTY
MIND - JEALOUSY
MIND - JEALOUSY - appreciate anything; desires that others shall not
MIND - JEALOUSY - attention; others getting all
MIND - JEALOUSY - crime; to a
MIND - JEALOUSY - kill; driving to
MIND - JEALOUSY - people around; of



Case 2

This is the case of a 10 year old child who had a recurrent tendency to develop fever due to viral infections. The child was completely investigated and all the investigations were normal. The parents were worried as to what was the cause of these recurrent infections. Finally, the child was diagnosed to have a poor immune system.

When the child was 4 months old he had developed high fever with convulsions and these convulsions repeated 2 to 3 times within the first year of the child's life. The parents took the child to a neurologist and the neurologist said that this child will most likely develop epilepsy when he grows old. This came as a big shock to his parents and since then the child was never taken to a neurologist but started homoeopathic treatment from different doctors. After homoeopathic treatment was started, the child started developing fever which kept on increasing and couldn't be brought under control with homoeopathic medicines and hence in this condition he was brought to me.

During fever, he complained of dull headaches. Usually the fever comes on during late afternoons and persists till about 7pm in the evening. There was no fixed time for fever but this was the time aggravation which his mother had observed. The child requires a lot of covering during the fever even though there are no chills. His temperature doesn't go too high, the maximum being 99°F to 100°F. Very rarely the fever comes on when the child is fast asleep.

The child is extremely sensitive to antibiotics and cough syrups. Whenever the mother gives him antibiotics, the reaction on the skin is terrible,- the child develops severe rashes. He also has a habit of waking up in the middle of the night, shrieking or talking loudly.

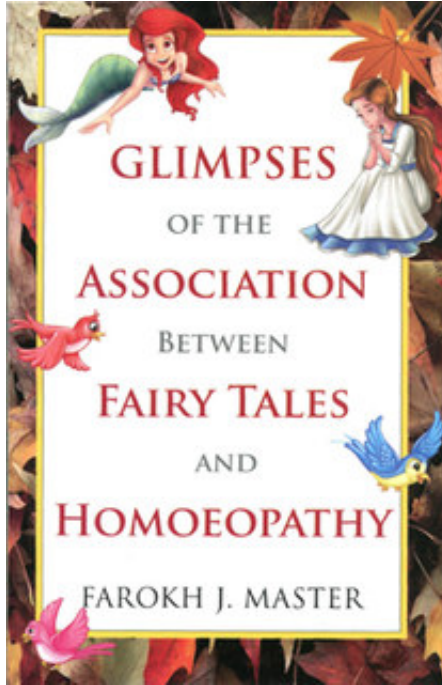
When I examined his nails, they were quite brittle and rough. Mother said that the child loves eggs, cold food, cold drinks and ice cream, and has a strong aversion to milk. Every few months the child gets painless diarrhoea. His tonsils



were also mildly inflamed. The tongue was coated white. The child had a slightly large head with profuse sweating over the scalp.

I performed toy therapy and the toy that fascinated the child the most was Snow White. On further enquiry, he explained how the story of Snow White correlated with the story of his life. He identified his mother as Snow White because she personified qualities like beauty, innocence, being industrious, etc. He also identified himself with Snow White because of her fastidious nature. He said he would keep his cupboard, his bed, his school bag, his books, etc. very neatly and he would keep his room extremely clean just like Snow White would. He also said that Snow White was a very calm and cool person, who would never develop unnecessary fears and he said this is exactly what he wanted to be when he grew up. He also said that he enjoyed taking care of his younger brother the way Snow White took care of the seven dwarfs.

Based on this, I prescribed Silicea terra 1 M in very frequent doses for a period of three months. The fever improved gradually,- the child started gaining weight and his appetite improved. I have been observing this child for more than three years now and the fever has never come back again.



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184 pages,
publication 2013



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