

Todd Rowe

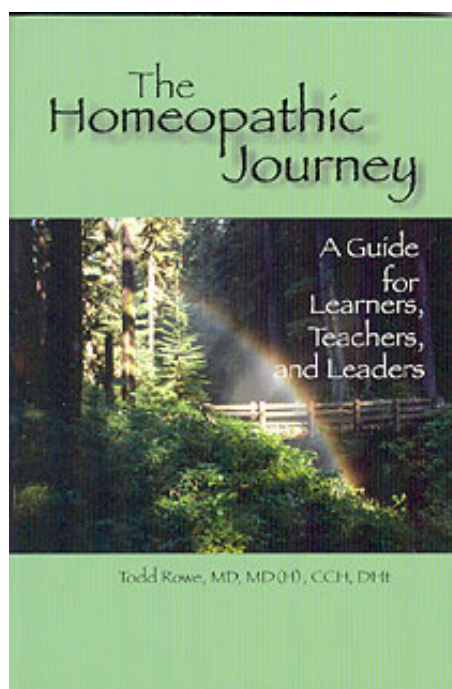
The Homeopathic Journey

Extrait du livre

[The Homeopathic Journey](#)

de [Todd Rowe](#)

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Tel. +33 9 7044 6488

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Purchasing the Tools

*People who are greedy have extraordinary capacities for waste—
they must, they take in too much. —Norman Mailer*

Beginning students struggle with "homeopathic gluttony." They're tempted to purchase every homeopathic book, tape and software program on the market and to try to cram it all in. They also feel an urge to sign up for every homeopathic conference, even those who are quite advanced. Mostly, this stems from impatience (see Chapter Two).

Generally, it is best to wait. There will be plenty of time later in training to purchase materials and attend conferences. Beginning students who attend advanced-level conferences often feel confused and frustrated by information they are not yet prepared to process. When embarking on the journey, it is best to stick with the basics until one has solid footing on the path. A recent study of homeopathic students revealed that 80 percent had purchased materials (extraneous to those required in their curriculum) in their first year that they later regretted purchasing. Some students especially regret purchasing computer software prematurely. Many homeopathy schools encourage students to wait about a year before purchasing homeopathic computer software.

The Importance of Homeopathic Treatment

Healer, heal thyself.
—Anonymous

Students who have been in homeopathic treatment or who engage in homeopathic treatment during their training make better homeopaths. They have more compassion for their patients. They have a better understanding and appreciation of the homeopathic process. Homeopathic treatment improves the mental health and helps to clear the perceptions of students. This thereby improves the quality of their work. Some leaders in homeopathy feel that this should be a required part of training, while others contend that requiring it would make it less valuable.

Learning Is Hard

*/ must admit that homeopathy has never let me down; I
have failed when I did not have sufficient facts.
Homeopathy is a life-long study, it requires
the burning of the midnight oil, but it is
worthwhile. —Dorothy Shepherd*

Learning homeopathy is difficult. It is a complex field, every bit as difficult to master as conventional medicine or acupuncture. It fully engages one's being, rather than simply the intellect.

Learning is a verb. It is active, hard work. Effective learning does not come from passive absorption, but from wrestling with everything one is exposed to. It requires the focusing of attention and active listening. New learning must be integrated with what one already knows. Only in this way is knowledge given "roots." Learning also means opening oneself to new ideas, to one's patients and to the world.

It is helpful to realize that true learning is often more about remembering than about learning something new (Bennis, 1989). As learners, we unearth and uncover that which we already know. Galileo said, "You cannot teach people anything. You can only help them discover it themselves."

Planting Seeds

*Life is lived forward, but it is understood backward. —
Soren Kierkegaard*

Teachers plant the seeds of learning in their students. Learners often do not understand or appreciate this at the time. These seeds may take years to bear fruit or to flower. It is only in retrospect that students recognize the greatness of some of their teachers. Students often feel frustrated that they are unable to learn more or to integrate their knowledge completely during their training. Yet they often have learned much more than they realized.

What students need and what they want are often very different. Ultimately, teachers must focus not on what students want, but on what they need to help them to grow. Good teachers are able to help students appreciate that their needs must take priority over their wants.

Many teachers teach best at a certain level. Their skills might be most suited to beginning students, advanced students or students in clinical

training. Students sometimes find that teachers they did not learn well from early in their training become some of their best teachers at later stages.

You Are Never Alone on the Journey

Furthermore, we have not even to risk the adventure alone, for the heroes of all time have gone before us. The labyrinth is thoroughly known. We have only to follow the thread of the hero path, and where we had thought to find an abomination we shall find a god. And where we had thought to slay another, we shall slay ourselves. Where we had thought to travel outward, we will come to the center of our own existence. And where we had thought to be alone, we will be with all the world.

—Joseph Campbell

Learning homeopathy can be a lonely and isolating process. Yet, students are never alone on their homeopathic journey. All the great homeopaths of all time are with them in their work, lending support and encouragement. Knowing this can help students persevere through the difficult moments in their training.

Gratitude

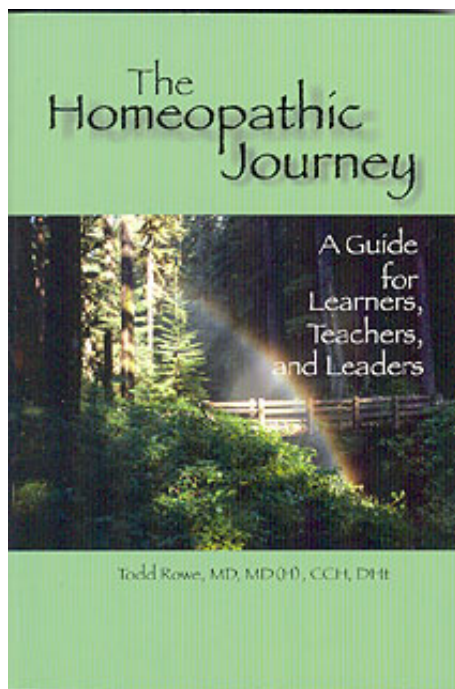
Once I was young, but now I am old. Take this third edition as the old man's testament to his many students and younger colleagues, for your success rejuvenates your old teachers. —
Lilienthal's introduction to the third edition of *Homeopathic Therapeutics*

It is important to give thanks to our teachers, both those in the present and those who came before. Gratitude is a way of renewing our spirit as students. It both validates our teachers and administrators and helps them cope in one of the most difficult of professions. Even a small degree of positive feedback can considerably brighten the life of an educator. Gratitude can be given through indirect methods, such as evaluations, or through direct feedback. It is difficult for students to find the time to fill out evaluation forms, and yet even a little commentary can provide tremendous service. Giving one's teacher an apple is another way to show one's gratitude.

The apple signifies not only the words of the teacher bearing fruit, but also the potential of the apple seeds to sprout, grow and nurture others.

In Albert Camus' autobiography *The Last Man*, he writes to his teacher, Germain, when he receives the Nobel Prize:

When I learned the news of my award, my first thought, after my mother, was for you. Without you, without the loving hand you extended to the poor little child that I was, without your teaching and your example, nothing of this would have happened. I do not make much of this sort of honor. But it at least presents an occasion to tell you what you have been and always are to me, and to assure you that your efforts, your work, and the generous heart that you offered me are always alive within one of your little schoolboys who despite his age, has not ceased being your grateful student. I embrace you with all my strength.



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A Guide for Learners, Teachers and Leaders

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