

# Sumit Goel

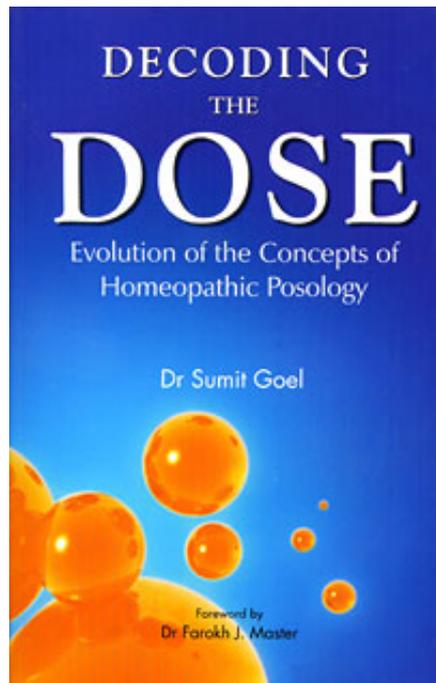
## Decoding the Dose

Reading excerpt

[Decoding the Dose](#)

of [Sumit Goel](#)

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## 2.2

# Posology and the Organon

Hahnemann's magnum opus, the result of years of hard work, experiments and observations was his Organon that underwent six modifications during his lifetime. The sixth edition was published 78 years after his death.

The six editions were the result of his continuous efforts to achieve the ideal of cure.

One of the major modifications in each edition of Organon was related to the issue of dose.

Hence, it is important to review the modifications in posology over these six editions.

### **The First Edition, 1810**

#### **Aphorism 244**

Hardly any dose of the homoeopathically selected remedy can be so small that it shall not be stronger than the natural disease, and that it shall not be able to overcome it.

#### **Aphorism 245**

In disease, the sensitiveness of the organism to medicines, especially those employed homoeopathically, is immensely increased.

**A subjoined note to Aphorism 281:**

... in ordinary practice, medicines are always given in combination with other strong drugs ... mixed up in this way each medicine can longer exercise its peculiar action ...

**Comment**

References to small doses, but no definite guidelines.

**The Second Edition, Leipzig, End of The Year 1818**

This contained a series of paragraphs on the question of doses (Aphorisms 300 - 308).

**Aphorism 300 stated:**

The suitability of a medicine for any given case of illness depends not only on a relevant homoeopathic selection, but just as much on the correct quantity necessary or rather the smallness of the dose.

He went on to suggest that dose determination required clear experiments, careful observation and accurate experience.

**Comment**

References to small doses again - but no definite guidelines.

Need for experimentation to calculate the dose.

**The Third Edition, Koethen, Easter, 1824**

The 5<sup>th</sup> (1819) and 6<sup>th</sup> (1821) editions of 'Materia Medica Pura' and the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Organon mark the completion of the first half of Hahnemann's career. In the year 1824, Hahnemann integrated his experiences of previous six years into the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Organon.

Hahnemann generally used the terms 'low' and 'lowest' when he talked of increased degrees of dilution or attenuation, but the corresponding potencies he calls 'high and highest'.

### Comment

Hahnemann advised against the use of the drop doses of homeopathic dilutions. He suggested instead that the proper amount was not a drop but the smallest part of a drop. For this purpose he suggested the medication of poppy seed sized globules with the potentized liquid of the remedy. The use of the pellets made it much easier for the homeopath to control the exact amount of the dosage to be given to the patient.

### The Fourth Edition, Koethen, January 1829

The 1<sup>st</sup> Chronic Diseases (1828) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Organon (1829) mark Hahnemann's middle years (1820s). These established homeopathy as a mature healing art. Hahnemann further reduced the size of the dose from drop doses to 1 or 2 small poppy seed sized pellets. This reduction of the dose was accompanied by raising the potency to 30C.

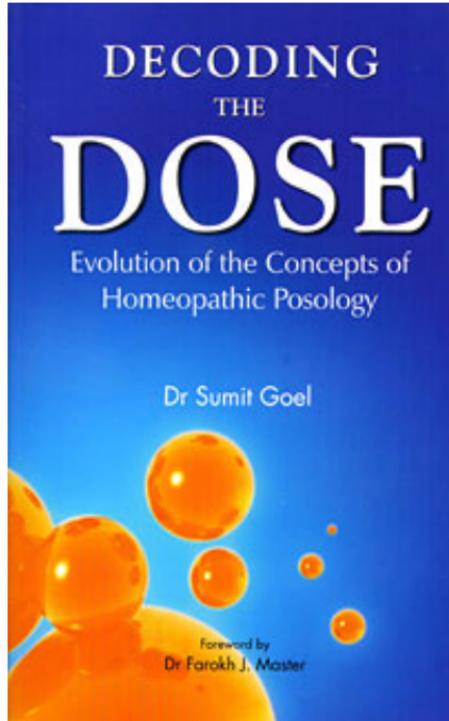
#### Aphorism 241

It is more necessary to bear this in mind because we do not know with certainty the *precise* limits of the duration of action of the healthy body of any medicine even when taken in large doses; still less in the small doses used in homoeopathy in such diverse diseases and in patients with such different constitutions.

From the most acute to the most chronic - because the duration of action of a homoeopathic dose of medicine conforms to the duration of action of the disease in every case; hence in the most acute it is exhausted in a few hours, whereas the very same dose will need several weeks to complete its action in the most chronic diseases.

#### Aphorism 242

As long as the progressive improvement continues from the medicine administered, so long we can take for granted that the duration of the



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