

George Vithoulkas

The Esalen Conferences (Vol.1 and Vol.2)

Reading excerpt

[The Esalen Conferences \(Vol.1 and Vol.2\)](#)

of [George Vithoulkas](#)

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Narayana Verlag GmbH, Blumenplatz 2, D-79400 Kandern, Germany

Tel. +49 7626 9749 700

Email info@narayana-verlag.com

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CHAPTER 2

The Remedy: *Pulsatilla Pratensis (Puls.)*.

The Clinical Condition: *Kidney Infection (Pyelo-nephritis)*

I want to give you another case. This case is to justify my giving of Materia Medica in the way I am going to give it to you. *This is to prove the value of knowing the Materia Medica and knowing the essence of a person.*

A married woman, age 35, said that she had not been feeling well for the last few days. She was feeling tired and she was "in a bad psychological state". The day before she was seen, she had developed a fever and felt very tired. She had chills and had fever during the night which went up to 40 degrees C. - this was a very high fever. She had great pain in both kidney areas and this was very sensitive to percussion. She had urinary urgency. There were pains in the extremities, worse in the calves. There were cutting pains in the abdomen with grumbling.

What is your diagnosis?

Response: Pyelonephritis. Kidney infection.

George: She had no thirst, although she said she was usually thirsty. She had no aggravation by heat or cold. There were no more symptoms. Can you work with this symptomatology and find a remedy?

Question: You said that she was in a bad state psychologically?

George: She felt bad psychologically and for a few days she had a feeling of not being well. There was not a description of her psychological state at that moment - that came later on.

Question: What kind of person was she?

George: I shall give that to you later on. **You will see how difficult it is to get a remedy without symptomatology unless you have the essence of the person.** This essence was given to me by her husband.

Audience Member: *Puls.*

Another Member: I had a patient just like this. It worked with her. It was terrible.

Reviewing: Thirstlessness, pain in the calves, pain in the kidneys,

tiredness.

George: Nobody has found the remedy so far. Do you have any other suggestions?

Audience Member: Nobody would try to find a remedy with just this much information.

George: You do not have much most of the time. This is where you need to understand the person in order to be able to prescribe with this limited symptomatology. The failures which we have in homoeopathy are because of lack of symptomatology or because we do not know how to take it. I insisted on finding out the psychological state of the woman. / *wanted to know how she felt*. So the husband was brought into the picture and he said that on the previous night he had gone to the house and found the woman with a high fever. "She was much more sentimental than usual. She sort of cried and was a bit 'mellow". She told him that she needed tenderness especially that night. She had a feeling inside that was a bit melodramatic that this disease was going to be fatal. So what is the remedy?

George: The last phrase I said has confused you? Before the last phrase it was *Puls.*, But the last phrase, I know, has confused you.

What I prescribed was *Puls.* I was absolutely sure that this was right; therefore I prescribed 50M in one dose. This was a urinary tract infection and involvement higher up in the kidneys, which is going to last five to six days. I prescribed *Puls.* 50M in the evening and the next morning there was nothing. There was no fever. There was no pain. The urine was normal. The person got up and did some work. Of course, she was still tired the next day, but the following day this was gone. Now, why didn't I give *Aeon.*, in that case?

Response: The suddenness.

Response: It was not just an inflammatory state.

George: The husband described the case. She was melodramatic and she needed tenderness. She was frightened. All of this suggests the *Puls.*, type. Never mind the symptoms which we may find if we go to the repertory and we look up chronic urinary infection and see *Agn.*

Response: In talking about it, how strong were her symptoms?

George: You see, you will have to take it in the context. The husband said: "She was so (very, very) melodramatic and needed tenderness and she was crying". Take the whole scene and you will see a person who is very soft and tearful. We have the type in *Aeon.*, where there is agony, anxiety, restlessness, heat, which is much more. Then out of all this high fever and heat, she imagines that she is going to

die. This is a completely different set-up. The essence is completely different. This gives you the impression that something really bad is going on. She was soft. The symptoms may be strong, but the whole attitude was low. *The Aeon, demonstrates anxiety*. When it reaches that state which says, "I will die tomorrow at 12 o'clock", it is a different thing. *You cannot mix them if you know the essence of one from the other.* **This is where the kind of homoeopathy and the kind of materia medica that we are speaking about is of value. It is the little things.** *Here is a demonstration of how much sensitivity you need for receiving and processing the information through your mind in order to give out the right answer.* Of course, for the last state you need to know your materia medica. I know that all of you are very sensitive because you have come into the homoeopathy. This fact is a guarantee that you have sensitivity in dealing with another person, but you need to know this process and bring out the right information.

Audience Member: Presentiment of death is *Puls.*

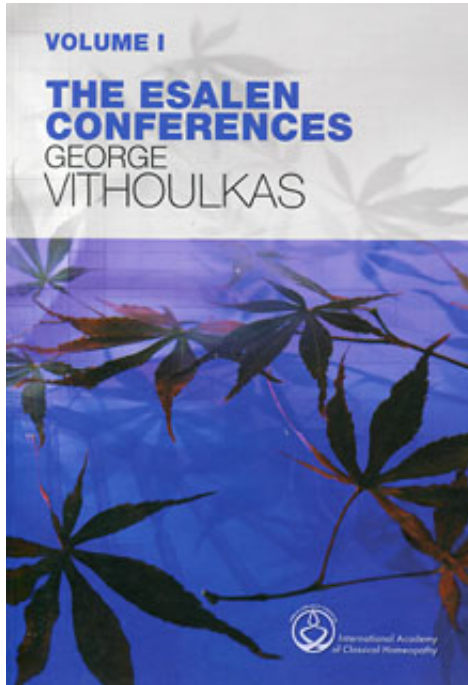
George: But it is another thing. It is not predicting the time of death. *Puls.*, gets into that mellow state. She has a fibroma, right? She has been to the gynaecologist and he said, "You have a fibroid tumor the size of an orange". Now it is a peculiar state in *Puls.*, where she will go outside and pity herself-in a nice way. How can I describe this? She will say "O, poor me !" but it is not hard. It is something soft. "Ah, I am going to die", and that brings tears. "The doctor is not right, this is cancer". It is not a fear. "I am going to die and this is nice because there will be crying people and all that". This is the type of person. She may be quite educated.

She may be quite intelligent. But we are talking about pathology now. It has nothing to do with that state where the education of the person or the understanding and the awareness of the person comes into play. *It comes from a pathological state.* She is not like that. You give her the remedy and forget about the dying and the philosophy and the processes and the flowers that will be brought, how much they will cry, and she remembers all the nice things that she has done with her husband. Now she is going to die. It is not in the context of fear or agony. In that context, I am not going to give a remedy which will help the psychological make-up.

Audience Member: Wouldn't you even consider *Aeon.*, when there are no chest, heart, respiratory symptoms? *Aeon.*, to me has a kind of center of gravity in this region-chest.

George: I'll tell you a case which will give you the perspective of

what we are saying. It is not always so. In the next case I am going to give you the whole perspective. Because I may be misleading you by telling you that there is always underneath a kind of essence which you have to find out. This is not always so. You may need *Aeon.*, when you go into your car from Esalen and go a distance of four miles to your house. You have been perspiring and you open your windows. A draft comes in and before you have gone the four miles you have stiffness and there is pain in the cervical region. *So sudden! But you do not have the psychology of Aeon.* You take *Aeon.*, and within 3/4 of an hour your head will return to normal. But there again we have once trace of *Aeon.* - **the intensity of what has happened in so little time.** There is an element of the essence passing through, but *not* involving the mental state. You do not need the mental state and *you cannot have the mental state always.* **You have to prescribe on the tendencies of the remedy. *Aeon,* has sudden ailments. The suddenness becomes the essence of the physical level.** This is used for routine prescribing when you get stiffness from exposure. But the essence is there in our case. *If the suddenness is not there Aeon., is not going to help.* You need *Caust.*, for stiffness; you will need *Calc-p.*; you will need *Cimic.* When the cervical region and the margins of the trapezius muscles are painful and consistent, there are different remedies indicated. You can analyse the case and give accordingly, but that case which I have described to you in going from here to your house, which is only four miles, and you come out suddenly stiff, this is *Aeon.* **You don't need to have the element of fear of death and you cannot develop this so suddenly.**



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