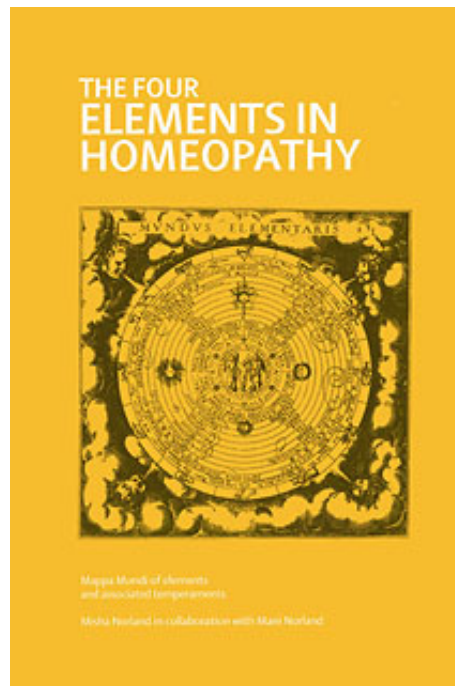


# Misha Norland

## The Four Elements in Homeopathy

Reading excerpt  
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## *Elements & Temperaments in Brief*

We can describe people in relation to elemental archetypes, by saying that one is 'ethereal', another is 'fiery, eruptive like a volcano'; or that another is 'watery, wishy-washy', or 'drowning in feelings'; another is 'up in the air, having his/her head in the clouds'; and yet others we may describe as being 'down to earth'.

The four psychological functions described by CG Jung, namely Intuition, Thinking, Feeling and Sensation, are said by him to correspond to Fire, Air, Water and Earth. John Damonte, paraphrasing Jung, described how these functions operate in the human psyche as follows:

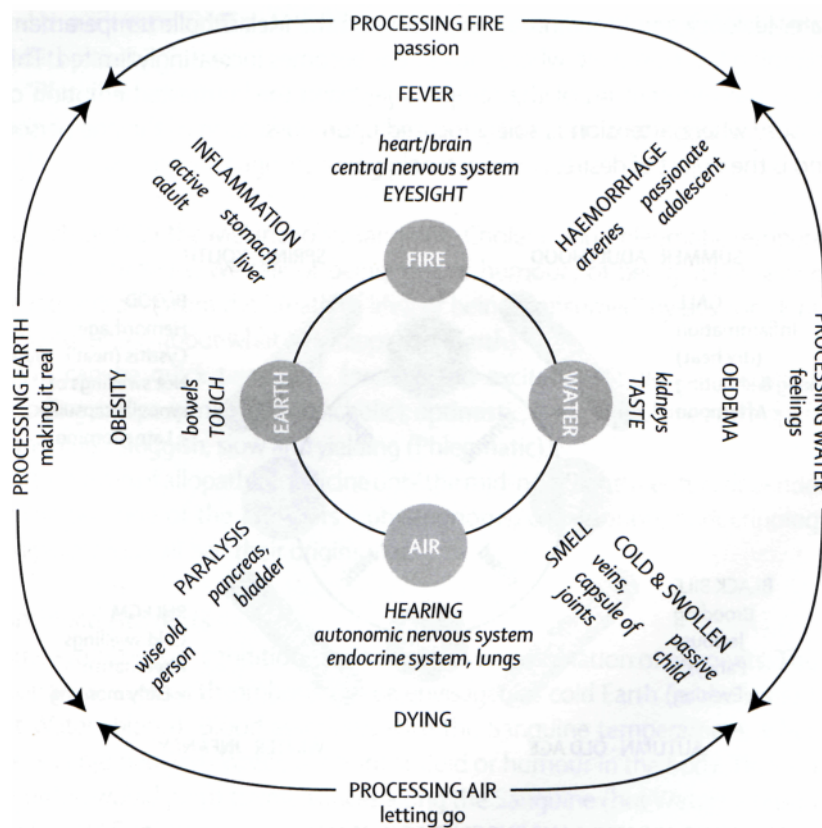
*"There can be seen to be four aspects of psychological orientation, beyond which nothing fundamental remains to be said. This is so because the fourfold aspect is the minimum required for a complete judgment. The idea of completeness is the circle or sphere, but its natural minimum division is a quaternity. In order to orient ourselves we must have:*

- *a function which ascertains that something is there (Earth/Sensation ie. deriving from one or more of the five senses)*
- *a second function which states whether it suits us or not, whether we wish to accept it or not (Water/Feeling)*
- *a third function which establishes what it is (Air/Thinking)*
- *a fourth function which indicates where it came from and where it is going (Fire/Intuition)."*

Our bodies process elemental energies: the heart and nervous system process elemental Fire; the digestive system, processes Earth; the kidneys and bladder, Water; the respiratory system, Air. All manner of diseases can be explained by Mappa Mundi. For instance, a patient suffering from fever has an excess of Fire;

Some symptoms can be best placed with regard to the temperament, e.g. cold, swollen glands are associated with the Phlegmatic temperament, paralysis with the Sanguine/Choleric. A homeopath might discover that all the symptoms a patient has, the language they use, the way in which they approach life, can be fitted into a synthetic whole, and a picture will be revealed showing the principal imbalance of the patient - that is, which direction he or she is moving in towards death and away from health.

Through the use of Mappa Mundi, symptoms cease to be viewed as if they were isolated phenomena, becoming instead the interrelated symbols of a unity in distress. This is appropriate to homeopathic practice where the prescriber seeks the most fitting remedy, the similimum.



MIND AND BODY CORRELATIONS

### A metaphor for diseases and *their cure*

A Darwinian metaphor follows as an illustration of how diseases and their curative similima have evolved.

A sick individual, a 'unity in distress', is best understood by appreciating its function in terms of its internal energetics (described by Mappa Mundi) as well as by recognising its outer form. This is because the form is created around the function, as a container for its purpose, rather as a well designed house is created around the purpose of its inhabitant. In respect of the homeopath's search, healing is most rapidly achieved through finding the closest matching remedy to the patient and their disease. This remedy may also be described in terms of its form, usually loosely referred to as its signature, because this is what it is, being the result (the house) of all the complexities of primary and secondary functioning, active, passive and compensatory: the lock, stock and barrel of the internal forces, the energetic functions which play themselves out on the battle-field of the patient beleaguered by the disease, or in the case of a remedy, the 'battle-field' of the survival of the fittest leading to the evolution of a species.

According to this Darwinian model, we identify a species adapting to an environmental niche, perfecting its outer form in response to the prevailing conditions. This represents an ideal solution, a perfected outcome and an enduring and stable form, in response to a given situation and its inherent balance of energies.

In terms of homeopathic prescribing, a well selected remedy will act curatively because it is similar enough to the disturbance in the patient - it is the glove which fits the hand.

In summary, a similimum may be discerned both in terms of function, of which Mappa Mundi is a generalised map, and in terms of form, of which signature is a specific key, sometimes easily perceptible. The Mappa Mundi plots out the energies or functions of the case and is helpful when choices need to be made regarding which symptoms are truly representative of an individual's disease.

# THE FOUR ELEMENTS IN HOMEOPATHY



Misha Norland

## [The Four Elements in Homeopathy](#)

Mappa Mundi of elements and associated temperaments.

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