

A Tribute to Robin Murphy

August 1950- November 2021



On November 17th, news slowly filtered through the Homeopathic community that Robin Murphy had passed away in hospital. This was met by shock & disbelief, followed by the inevitable grief and a profound sense of loss. Our community was reeling as we had just lost a beloved teacher, author and friend, he was our guiding light particularly now through the darkness of the Covid pandemic. Murphy had recently taught many of us his Covid seminars, generously sharing his vast knowledge & giving us hope. For this generation of homeopaths, he was a reassuring, constant presence through his seminars and books; we had forgotten that he was human, but who was he really?

Murphy, the Man

Born in 1950's America in Grand Rapids, Michigan, it was not an easy time for a child of mixed race. As a young man, he found a way to channel his energy, this was in the form of Martial Arts. He became adept at Tai Chi and Chi Kung, passions which never left him. This opened his eyes into the mind-body connection and energy dynamics. He carried out his undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, there he discovered Homeopathy and this was a seamless Segway into studying Naturopathic medicine. In 1976 he entered the National College of Naturopathic Medicine (NCNM), on a Hahnemann Scholarship. Whilst at the college he studied with Dr. Ravi Sahni and Dr. John Bastyr and directed the homeopathy program at NCNM from 1980-1984.; he also taught at Bastyr University. Homeopathy became his new passion, to which he devoted his life & applied his brilliant mind in the pursuit of mastering this discipline.

Quote: When asked what his profession was-

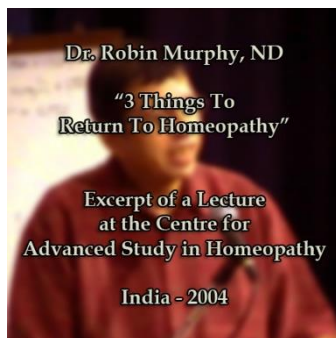
'I'm an Artist, a Martial Artist & a Healing Artist'

Over the years of practising & expanding his knowledge, Murphy realised that he had a natural ability for research as this suited his enquiring mind and temperament. He had a 'geeky' quality as well as the self-discipline to spend days researching in order to master a topic. Much later, as technology progressed, Murphy took to computers in the manner that a duck takes to water. He was particularly fond of Apple products, especially his beloved MacBook Pro computer on which he had written his books, he would wax lyrically about this with great enthusiasm, I would joke about this & told him that Apple should be paying him dividends! He lived in Blacksburg, Virginia, surrounded by nature, this gave him the space and tranquillity to conduct his research and to write his books. He said that deer would come and watch him whilst he was doing his Chi Kung in his lounge.

Another great passion was Spirituality, Murphy was a devotee of Rajinder Singh who is the head of the international non-profit organization called the Science of Spirituality, known in India as the Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission. His meditations on the inner light and sound had a great influence on Robin and all his books are dedicated to Rajinder Singh's teacher, Sant Kirpal Singh. Murphy was a vegetarian & developed a love of Indian philosophy, this led him to study the ancient Indian medical traditions, in particular Yoga Medicine which he embraced whole heartedly.

Quote

'Homeopathy is not a complete system of medicine like Chinese Medicine & Ayurveda, we are borrowing from other systems – Medical A&P, herbal medicine, nutrition etc. I believe that Homeopathy was part of & has become fragmented from Yoga Medicine'



His Legacy- The body of Work

The legacy that Murphy left behind is his vast body of work, since Hahnemann, no other homeopath has produced such a proliferation of material. Murphy's books which include philosophy, Materia Medica & Repertory works have shaped and influenced the current and future generations of homeopaths. In the UK, most colleges teach via his books and many College Principals were taught by him. Murphy's skill was in taking complex abstract information and making the information clear, accessible and applicable to clinical practice; he made Homeopathy simple and easy.

Murphy had an eclectic wholistic viewpoint which was combined with a practical approach, he had a deep respect for what worked in the past, in particular, the old systems of medicine. He would master them, revive them and make them relevant to the modern practitioner. His teachings ranged from classical homeopathy and clinical practice to Medical Astrology and Gemstone essences.

The International Teacher

Robin Murphy had his own unique brand of teaching; he was popular wherever he went and filled large venues. This was mainly due to his relaxed, informal style which was understandable even if English wasn't the first language. He was very approachable and generous with sharing his encyclopaedic knowledge and open to questions; it was like having 'Google' for homeopathy.

I remember his 2-day seminar series in Bath, the first day would be devoted to teaching us Chi-Kung which he said was essential for our well being and learning. It was so funny to see the most stiff and formal amongst us writhing around trying to remain dignified whilst doing impossible Chi-kung postures. Only Robin Murphy could make us do that!

The Author

He formed the Lotus Health Institute from which he started to publish his work, in 1993 he published his first edition of the Homeopathic Medical Repertory. This was revolutionary as he completely changed the layout and style of the previous Repertories, this was followed by the Lotus Materia Medica in 1996. His extensive collection of work ranges from books, seminar audio CD's, handbooks and more recently online webinars His books are in hardback as well as the spiral bound workbooks, they've been translated into a variety of language, covering a wide range of topics and have been taught by him internationally.

Titles include the following

Homeopathic Medical Repertory: Various editions

MetaRepertory: 4 editions

Nature's Materia Medica:

The Remedy Guide

Keynote Materia Medica

Student Handbooks

Homeopathy Study Course

Homeopathic Prescribing

Case Analysis & Prescribing
Epidemics & Homeopathy
Environmental Remedies
Case Analysis & philosophy
The Organon Philosophy Workbook
Vaccination Disorders
Homeopathic Remedies for Breast Cancer
First Aid Remedies
Kalachakra Astrology
Homeopathy & Cancer Research
Rasa Gemstone Essences
Superfood Wellness Guide
Herbal Wellness Guide

Adapting to the recent lockdowns, Murphy taught several webinars & his last 2 were parts I & II of his series on the Coronavirus, this was welcomed practical information for an isolated society; he served humanity during our darkest time.

With the passing of Robin Murphy, Homeopathy has lost one of its guiding lights. For all of us who have been personally taught by him, we have been very lucky; for the rest of us, we have his vast body of work which will continue to guide and inspire us

As the saying goes 'Homeopaths don't die, instead they increase their potency'. Robin Murphy is one of the most potent contributors to Homeopathy in the 21st Century, thanks to his devotion, generosity, and service.

May he rest in peace.

Myriam Shivadikar