

## GLIMPSES ON THE LIFE OF CHRISTIAN FREDRICK SAMUEL HAHNEMANN

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"Lives of great men all remind us to make our lives sublime". "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and greatness is thrust upon some", this is an well-known adage. Although some called him a 'double headed prodigy'; he succeeded in his achievements only by dint of hard labour and his own efforts against all odds.

Instead of thrusting greatness upon him, the so-called great men even refuse to admit or recognise his greatness.

Not only the Homœopaths, but the humanity at large should be thankful, grateful and indebted to him for what he gave us in the shape of the law of similar, single medicine selected on the totality of symptoms, minute dose of highly diluted and potentised medicine, the correct definition of 'cure', the recognition of the curative process, the underlying causes of acute and their radical annihilation.

It is the sacred, moral and bounden duty of all practitioners and beneficiaries of Homœopathy to read his biography every now and then, at least every year, and pay our homage to the saint scientist, on his birth-day the 10th April. Those who cannot read his voluminous biography by Haehl or Bradford may at least read and make others read the short biography by Rosa Waugh Hobhouse, published by M/s. C. W. Daniel Company Ltd., Ashingdon, Rocford, Essex, England.

In my humble efforts to pay my humble homage to our master, I give below a few salient features of his life and character, so that the common readers may have a remembrance and a glimpse on his solemn life.

The most important point of his character is that he was capable of thinking for himself and seeing things for himself.

Although his father was a poor painter of potteries and was financially not capable of giving him any material endowment worth-mentioning; the most valuable and important gift

that he gave was the training to exercise his own brain and to think for himself in solving any problem. But for this he could never be and achieve what he was and did.

Most people are like dumb driven cattle, carried away by the thoughts and opinions of others or the crowd.

He never wanted even his followers to have blind faith, but asked them in unequivocal terms to put his discovery of the scientific law of nature to trials and tests and to publish the failures (if any) to the world.

But the common crowd do not even have the courage and calibre to put his teachings to the tests and trials.

However, those who cared to try his teachings could not see any failures of his laws and practice and were inevitably felt bound down to follow his teachings.

Those who have not read the dramatic episodes of his life may be interested to learn that:—

1. He was a medical graduate of his days from the Erlangen University.
2. He was a great chemist and introduced the method of making mercury soluble.
3. He introduced many a reforms in the care and treatment and nursing of the sick and especially the insane.
4. He was first to introduce the prevention of epidemic diseases such as scarlet fever, cholera etc.; and chronic diseases.
5. He was a linguist, a master reader, observer and writer, so that while compiling his monumental works—"The Chronic Diseases, the Peculiar Nature and their Homœopathic Cure", he quoted in the foot-notes numerous reference of the then accepted authorities and showed people how two and two makes four; from the stray observations of the said authors how the 'Psoric' and other miasmatic elements in the human system often proved and proves fatal and a nursery of chronic diseases; which escaped the observation of his predecessors.

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very flexible balance and polarity of endogenous and exogenous disease-origin, complementing each other, seems more adequately encompassed in the idea and Homœopathic description of the miasms than by the narrower one of infection, which really does justice only to the gross invasion of the external bacteria and completely overlooks the endogenous origin of illness.

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I need not mention the dramatic episodes of his physical life to show how, he had to struggle for existence until at the age of 80 years in 1835 after he shifted to Paris with his second wife.

The last eight years of his old age were only the rewards of his hard life long struggle, when his skill and merits were recognised by a huge busy practice amongst patients many of whom were rich occupying high positions.

Let his spirit and teachings guide us in the darkness and the crooked ways of the modern age.

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