

HEALING AS A SKILL AND AS A FORM OF ART

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Rembrandt van Rijn: "Heilkunde" and "Heilkunst" united

The Dutch painter and personal student of Christian Rosenkreutz **Rembrandt van Rijn** (1606-1669) changed his style of painting dramatically after he met with Christian Rosenkreutz in Amsterdam, the Netherlands (a Republic for centuries with no Head of State). From painting traditionally still lives and landscapes, he now paints as we know him: a confrontation of Light and Darkness with Man in

the middle; exposed to both light and darkness. And when one stands in front of one of his paintings and one asks oneself: “where does the light come from?” One cannot really tell. In this painting, Rembrandt wanted to express that healing comes about when a skilled doctor has developed intuition, and receives blessings from another world; here portrait by an angel (Archangel Raphael?).

The concept of healing of Rembrandt van Rijn goes far beyond “Evidence Based” medicine, as is it is fashionable nowadays.

In all Northern European languages there are two words used for what a medical doctor practices: “Geneeskunde” and “Geneeskunst.” (German: “Heilkunde” and “Heilkunst”). One wants his doctor to be skilled: that a surgeon knows exactly how to cut or an internist how to apply an infusion (*Heilkunde*). But one wants his doctor also to have mastered the *art* of healing (*Heilkunst*). To master medicine as an art comes with the years and wisdom is included in Heilkunst.

As a doctor, to master the Art of Healing, the doctor must go a path of inner development. And which doctor nowadays wants to go beyond “evidence based” medicine. In statistically manipulated “evidence based” medicine there is no place for the art of healing as this can only be based on an individual approach to the needs of the patient.

Which severely ill patient wants to be treated by a doctor who trust manipulated statistics only versus a doctor who knows all “evidence based” medicine but incorporates additionally his clinical experience and compassion towards the needy and the patients?

Each practicing doctor should have been critically ill once himself before he is put to practice and feel the desperation when another doctor, who has

mastered the required skills and follows the licensing directions of “evidence-based” medicine, tells him: “there is nothing we can do for you anymore!”



Rembrandt van Rijn (1609-1669)

Doctors who practice Anthroposophical Medicine try to combine “Heilkunst” with “Heilkunde” by choosing to go a path of inner development as indicated by Rudolf Steiner.