

### THE STORY OF HEALTH 3

The Story of Health series is the most important of our handouts because it begins to pull together all the other hundreds of handouts and resources we have produced. As unashamed, holistic integrationists we believe the vast and complex subject of the human condition can be quite easily understood when we stop worshipping at only one altar of knowledge. There are so many self-proclaimed 'Holy Grails' offering the answer to our 'prayers'. They claim to provide us with the 'missing link' that will complete our chain of misunderstanding and enable us to understand what has so far been beyond our grasp. Rarely is that true. The many systems of knowledge offering us countless explanations have, in the main, helped to serve up more confusion than clarity! There is too much ego and posturing as each one stands steadfast in its perspective, each failing to see the bigger picture. The truth is only really found when we bring about a dialogue between the different bodies of knowledge and their many insights. It's not in the alleged differences that the jigsaw puzzle of life is understood, it is at the points of merger, the points where the information actually fits together.

When you take the competition out of the pursuit for clarity and truth and replace it with co-operation, a different picture emerges – one that begins to make sense! Go back to The Story of Health and really study and reflect on its contents and you will find it answers so many of those unanswered questions. It explains why we keep stumbling in our pursuit for wellbeing and happiness. Probably most of all it explains the inter-connectedness of our lives, which is why if we are to worship at any altar let it be where knowledge does not compete, but where it co-operates. Let us explore this interconnectedness and need for co-operation further with a few examples.

Did you know that a 2% reduction in your water consumption can lead to up to a 50% reduction in your concentration and performance? So, the impact on the body directly affects the mind. This reduction in concentration and performance also changes the way you feel about yourself, therefore impacting on the spirit. So, body, mind and spirit are all affected by your water intake!

Did you know that one of the biggest causes of stress, anxiety and depression is a life without meaning and purpose? When this spiritual need is not met it cuts us off from a sense of being part of something, a sense of belonging. The consequences on the mind and body are staggering. When we live in a place of such stress a cascade of chemical messengers (neuropeptides, hormones and neurotransmitters) floods the blood stream via the pituitary gland. These messengers in turn carry the negative message body-wide, impacting on literally every cell, system and organ. This toxic flooding of the body not only undermines our physical health, but it spoils and corrupts our thinking. So once again spirit, body and mind impact on one another.

Did you know that when the organs of detoxification, the colon, liver, lungs, skin, lymph glands, kidneys etc., are 'bunged up' with waste, they are unable to keep the pathways for health clear, and endotoxicity (poisoning of the system) ensues? Endotoxicity contaminates the blood and once this has taken place in the body, nothing escapes. As the blood passes through the brain (the seat of consciousness) all our mental faculties are affected, especially perception, memory, self-esteem, concentration, and feelings. This distortion in consciousness leads to doubts, fear and paranoia and the spirit again loses its way.

Did you know that there is more pollution to be found in your home than in the environment at large? There are literally countless offenders – dust mites, bed bugs, xenoestrogens (chemicals that act on our bodies like oestrogen – found in carpets, paints, plastics etc.), innumerable pathogens (bacteria, parasites, fungi, viruses etc.) The list goes on. These substances can ravage our bodies, compromising our health and sense of wellbeing. If our immune systems are not strong and vigilant, then we simply become victims of an invisible, undermining force, which in turn robs us ultimately of peace and contentment. Again, we lose on all fronts.

Hopefully by now the pattern is clear, anything affecting one part of the organism affects everything else. This is why our answers can only really be found in synergy. It is a synergistic answer that will offer us a solution that we can sustain. Just think how it is for the person who properly hydrates daily, who has developed a life of meaning and purpose, who knows where he/she is going. One who drives the process of detoxification, ensuring all pathways to health are clear, who manages the pollution in their environment ensuring the threats to health are kept to a minimum, imagine how much better their reality must be compared to those who are pursuing only one or two of these activities. Could their moods, perception, concentration, confidence, general health etc. be the same?

As you study The Story of Health further you will find that everything listed under one category always has a bearing on the other aspects of the self. For example:

i) If you create a sanctuary (listed under environment), a place where you can be still, reflect and be positive, then your mind can become increasingly focused on those things that enhance your sense of value and worth. This in turn lifts your spirits and the body becomes a wonderful reservoir for all those healing hormones that create a bio-chemical high. Such a sanctuary draws you to itself time and time again, to further enjoy the gifts of silent, positive reflection.

ii) Without the 90 nutrients (60 minerals, 16 vitamins, 11 amino acids, 3 essential fatty acids – listed under body) we need every day, our bodies go into a place of panic and self-preservation. This means the perceived threat of malnourishment causes the body to work against the mind in its own self-interest. A battle ensues as the body cries out for the fuel to perform the countless tasks for which it is responsible. As is always the case, the spirit then pays the price.

iii) A life of benevolence and altruism (as listed under spirit) offers rich rewards, not because one seeks them but because to give without desire for the self is to receive. The person who gives in this way finds the mind is drenched in peace. That peace is like the oil that keeps the flame of contentment and wellbeing burning deep within. The body inhales this wonderful fragrance producing the joyous gift of health.

If one understands and then pursues the story of health, the gift of wisdom and with it the highest prize, peace and contentment, will be achieved. The brief illustrations contained in this handout are further pieces of the jigsaw. We hope they will help you to better understand the depth and significance of The Story of Health. We believe it is the key to your health and happiness. Why not embrace it and make it yours!