Plant Communication

Understanding the Doctrine of Signatures
By: April Rameé
Purpose of Today’s Course

- Learn the basics of Doctrine of Signatures
- Learn how to implement
History

- Herbalism originated during a time when the world was understood as living in nature.

- Many cultures would put plant mythology into stories to discuss their virtues such as the Lotus Flower.

- As above so below. Concept of Ancient Egypt, Toth, and Hermes – The Messengers

- Never judge a plant unless you have walked 1,000 steps in its moccasins (to paraphrase a Native American Saying)

- “Many ancient people have had reverence for the plant kingdom. It is not a superstitious awe, nor a mere sensitivity to beauty, but a reception of the power plants bring to us. The force is not received simply though ingesting the plant, but in our total communion with it.” –FRAWLEY
Doctrine of Signatures

What is the Doctrine of Signatures?

A characteristic that can be detected by one of the senses – eyes, ears, nose, tongue/taste, tactile sensation, in concert with the mind giving it meaning. ~Graves

The doctrine of correspondence is the ancient understanding that an archetypal idea is expressed in many different forms in the phenomenal world, grouping metals, minerals, body parts, planets, animals, and so on as having corresponding essences
Applying the Doctrine of Signatures
Color

- Color of the flowers can be interpreted through universal meanings.
- Colors can be associated with chakra system
- Combinations of colors
- Color can correspond between body and plant tissue
Colors & Meanings

- Blue – Cool, calm, clear, clean, water, sky, expansiveness
- Red – heat, fire, warmth, intensity, anger, rage, passion
- Yellow – Joyful, sunny, radiant, luminous, light, young
- Purple – spirituality, refinement, brooding
- Orange – Upbeat, energetic, warm, radiant
- Green – Calm, calming, cool, nature, vitality
- Pink – vulnerability, tenderness, loveliness, love
- Magenta – basic life force
- White – clean, light, purity, neutral
Color & Body Tissue

- Red – Points to blood, inflammation & heat in tissue
- Blue – Coldness
- Yellow – liver and bile as well as the solar plexus
- Purple – Stagnation and toxicity
- Orange – live and bile and sexual fire
- Yellow-black – Stagnant bile
- White – Bone, teeth, and nerves
- Black – tissue death
- Blue-Grey – complexion calls for sage, leaves are blue grey
Shapes of the Whole Plant
Upward Pointing

- Energy moves upwards
- Yang signature
Wide Fanning

- Energy moves upwards
- Energy moves outwards
Roots

- Single Deep Roots – energy is moving directly down
- Large Tubers or roots – energy is grounding or consolidating
- Wide dispersive roots – energy is fanning down and out
Wispy Vines & Creeping Plants

- Energy is curious, airy and expansive
Shapes of the Flower
- Star Shape – Open energy radiates to all sides
- Cup Shape – Form a receptacle and contain energy
- Trumpet Shape (outward facing) – Expressing or releasing energy to the outside (downward facing) – expressing or releasing energy downward
- Composite flowers – Brings happiness from the center
Shapes of the Leaves
Upright Standing – Yang Downward Point – Yin

Lush and Abundant – Healthy Vital Force

Heart shaped leaves – a signature of heart and love
Heavy, Large – Predominance of earth element
Round broad, succulent – Predominance of water element
Thin, Narrow, needle like – predominance of air/fire elements
Flame Shaped Leaves – Fire element
Senses of the Plant
Touch

- Sticky Plants – signature for sticky mucous, as in Rosemary which are for asthma and mucous
- Slippery Plants – Marshmallow healing to the mucosa and help the passage of things move through smoothly
- Plants that hold moisture – plants that help us to hold onto moisture ex: sage
- Rough leaved plants – Help filter things, like cleavers for the kidneys
- Hair plants – Soft and downy can be sensitive. Represent soft hairy parts of organs, or can be velvet or prickly to help adhere toxins and move them out of the body
- Spines or Spikes – Help drive poisons from the body. Ex: Echinacea or thistles
Smell

- Sweet – heart signature
- Dull or heavy – Sense dulling properties
- Fresh – quickens or sharpens the senses
- Lemony – brightens the mind and repels insects
- Pungent – warming and activates energy
- Sulfurous – heating and related to digestive fires (onions, garlic)
Taste

- Bitter – affinity for the liver.
- Sweet – increasing dampness. Strengthen the spleen and stomach energies.
- Astringent – Makes mouth dry and helps to contract tissues. When they are leaking
- Pungent – Warm the system and deeply penetrate the tissues.
- Sour – a signature of the stomach.
- Salty – signature for the kidneys as salt and water travel together
- Acrid – signature of bile. Spasmolydic
Sound & Sixth Sense

- One can listen to the way the wind goes through the plants.
- The sounds that surround the environment of the plants.
- A sense of knowing and understanding that is deeper.
Communication with the Plants
Parting Words

“The truth about nature is multidimensional and multifaceted. So whenever we find ourselves becoming dogmatic about it being only one way or another, we can be sure that we have fallen away from the ultimate truth about Mother Nature, who simply cannot be pigeon-holed.”

~ Julia Graves