



# International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences

E-ISSN: 2616-4493  
P-ISSN: 2616-4485  
[www.homoeopathicjournal.com](http://www.homoeopathicjournal.com)  
IJHS 2024; 8(1): 191-195  
Received: 02-12-2023  
Accepted: 04-01-2024

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## Study on nature of inimical force as presented in Aphorism- 31

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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.33545/26164485.2024.v8.i1c.1069>

### Abstract

In homoeopathy, inimical force denotes an individual's intrinsic predisposition or responsiveness to particular influences, be they environmental factors or other stimuli. It also holds significant importance in shaping an individual response to homoeopathic remedies and the overall treatment process. Comprehending susceptibility is essential for homoeopathic treatment and this article presents various perspectives on susceptibility within the different framework. Nature Of Inimical Force As Presented In Aphorism 31 (Footnote to § 31) Susceptibility can be termed as the fundamental quality of a living organism to react to any sort of stimuli that distinguishes the living from the non living.

**Keywords:** Susceptibility, inimical force, morbidic noxious

### Introduction

The inimical forces, partly psychical, partly physical, to which our terrestrial existence is exposed, which are termed morbidic noxious agents, do not possess the power of morbidly deranging the health of man unconditionally but we are made ill by them only when our organism is sufficiently disposed and susceptible to attack of the morbidic cause that may be present, and to be altered in its health, deranged and made to undergo abnormal sensations and functions – hence they do not produce disease in every one nor at all times. When I call a disease a derangement of man's state of health, I am far from wishing thereby to give a hyperphysical explanation of the internal nature of disease generally, or of any case of disease in particular. It is only intended by this expression to intimate, what it can be proved diseases are not and cannot be, that they are not mechanical or chemical alterations of material substance of the body, and not dependent on a material morbidic substance, but that they are merely spirit-like (conceptual) dynamic derangements of the life.

### The susceptibility can be studied under the following headings

- Susceptibility in health.
- Susceptibility and constitution.
- Susceptibility and diathesis.
- Susceptibility and disease.
- Susceptibility and cure.
- Susceptibility and influence of drug on it.
- Susceptibility and Posology.
- Susceptibility and suppression.

### HA Roberts says

Susceptibility may be define as primarily as the reaction of the organism to the external and internal influences". Susceptibility is one of the fundamental attributes of life. All the vital process like digestion, assimilation and nutrition, healing and repair, secretion excretion, metabolism, catabolism, disease process, all these depend upon the power of organism to react to specific stimuli. Example: As soon as you look at your favorite food, saliva is secreted in your mouth. This is the reaction of your body to the stimulus called food. Unless you have this capacity to react and secret saliva, your physiological function called digestion of food is impossible. So man has to have a balanced state of susceptibility to carry on his vital functions and day to day physiological actions. Susceptibility is responsible for the continuous existence of life in the world.

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We can understand the susceptibility when the living organism is in the environment and the signs and symptoms are the best examples of susceptibility of the organism to any noxious powers. Depending upon the level of susceptibility, the living organism in the nature is adjusting itself to the surrounding environment. Hence, the aim of the physician is to maintain this normal Susceptibility of the organism and not to alter it or impair it.

### **Properties of an Inimical Force (Susceptibility)**

Aphorism 31 of Organon of Medicine by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann is one of the most intriguing and debated aphorisms among homeopathy enthusiasts. In this aphorism, Hahnemann discusses the concept of inimical forces, which are external factors that can interfere with the healing process. He identified the presence of these forces as a significant obstacle to cure, and it became a fundamental tenet of homeopathic philosophy. However, the term 'inimical forces' has been controversial and confusing for many practitioners. We will delve deep into Aphorism 31 and attempt to decode the meaning and nature of inimical forces. Aphorism 31 in the Organon of Medicine is a thought-provoking piece of wisdom that delves into the intricate nature of inimical forces in the realm of medicine. Written by Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy, this aphorism encapsulates the essence of understanding the dynamics between the human body and the forces that act upon it. At its core, Aphorism 31 emphasizes the significance of recognizing and comprehending the inimical forces that hinder the process of healing. These forces can manifest in various forms, including physical, emotional, and environmental factors that disrupt the balance and harmony within the body. By understanding the nature of these forces, practitioners of medicine can better tailor their treatments and remedies to address the underlying causes of illness. Hahnemann's exploration of inimical forces invites us to contemplate the intricate interplay between external influences and the internal workings of the human body. It urges us to delve beyond the superficial symptoms and delve into the deeper roots of disease, seeking to restore the body's inherent ability to heal itself. Furthermore, Aphorism 31 serves as a reminder that the path to true healing lies in addressing the underlying causes rather than merely suppressing the symptoms. It calls for a holistic approach that considers the individual's unique constitution, susceptibility, and the specific inimical forces that may be at play. Homeopathy with a greater sense of purpose and efficacy, ultimately leading to enhanced patient care and holistic healing. In conclusion, Aphorism 31 in the Organon of Medicine serves as a profound introduction to the exploration of inimical forces. It invites us to delve deeper into the understanding of the complex dynamics between the human body and the forces that act upon it. By embracing this knowledge, practitioners can navigate the realm of homeopathy, the concept of inimical forces holds significant importance. Aphorism 31 of the Organon of Medicine delves into this intriguing phenomenon, inviting us to explore the nature of these forces and their impact on the human body. Inimical forces, in the context of homeopathy, refer to external influences that can disrupt the delicate balance of the body's vital force. These forces can manifest in various forms, such as environmental factors, lifestyle choices, emotional stressors, or even certain medications. Hahnemann, the founder of

homeopathy, believed that the vital force, responsible for maintaining health, could be weakened or disturbed by these inimical forces. This disturbance can then lead to the onset of various diseases or ailments. To fully comprehend the concept of inimical forces, it is essential to understand the principles of homeopathy. Homeopathic remedies are based on the principle of "like cures like." According to this principle, a substance that can cause symptoms in a healthy individual can also be used to treat similar symptoms in a diseased person. In the context of inimical forces, Hahnemann suggested that the treatment of diseases caused by such forces required the removal or avoidance of the offending agents. This approach emphasizes the importance of identifying and eliminating the external factors that are acting as obstacles to the body's natural healing process. Furthermore, Hahnemann emphasized the need for individualized treatment in homeopathy. Each person is unique, and their susceptibility to inimical forces may vary. Thus, a homeopath carefully analyzes the patient's symptoms, medical history, and environment to identify the specific inimical forces that are affecting their health. By understanding the concept of inimical forces in homeopathy, we gain insights into the intricate relationship between external influences and our overall well-being. It reminds us of the importance of creating a harmonious environment that nurtures our vital force and allows for optimal health and healing.

### **Examples of inimical forces in health and disease**

In the intricate world of homeopathy, the concept of inimical forces plays a significant role in understanding the nature of health and disease. These forces, as described in Aphorism 31 of the Organon of Medicine, are detrimental to the well-being of an individual and have the potential to disrupt the delicate balance of the vital force. To grasp a better understanding of these inimical forces, let's explore some examples that can shed light on their presence in both health and disease. One common example is exposure to extreme temperatures. Sudden exposure to intense cold or heat can act as an inimical force, causing a disturbance in the equilibrium of the vital force and leading to various symptoms or ailments. Another example is the excessive use of certain medications or drugs. While these substances may initially provide relief or treat a specific condition, their prolonged or inappropriate use can become inimical to the body's natural healing process. This can result in the manifestation of new symptoms or the aggravation of existing ones. Environmental factors can also act as inimical forces. For instance, living in a polluted or toxic environment can have a detrimental impact on an individual's health. Exposure to pollutants, chemicals, or electromagnetic radiation can disrupt the harmonious functioning of the vital force, leading to the development of chronic illnesses or exacerbating existing ones. Furthermore, emotional and mental stressors can also be considered inimical forces. Chronic stress, anxiety, or unresolved emotional traumas can weaken the vital force and make an individual more susceptible to various diseases. These negative emotional states can act as constant stressors, depleting the body's energy reserves and compromising its ability to maintain optimal health. By recognizing these examples of inimical forces, we gain insight into the intricacies of maintaining balance and well-being. Homeopathy aims to identify and address these

forces by utilizing remedies that stimulate the vital force and restore equilibrium. Through a holistic approach, the aim is not only to treat the symptoms but also to address the underlying inimical forces and promote a state of true health and harmony.

### **The impact of inimical forces on the vital force**

Inimical forces, as described in Aphorism 31 of the Organon of Medicine, play a significant role in the health and well-being of an individual. According to Hahnemann, the vital force, which is the innate life force within each individual, is constantly striving to maintain balance and harmony in the body. However, the presence of inimical forces can disrupt this delicate equilibrium and lead to various health issues. These inimical forces can take different forms, such as physical, emotional, or environmental factors. They can include exposure to harmful substances, excessive stress, negative emotions, or even living in an unhealthy environment. The vital force reacts to these inimical forces by producing symptoms as a way to defend and restore balance. When inimical forces are present, they can weaken the vital force and hinder its ability to maintain optimal health. The vital force becomes overwhelmed and unable to cope with the challenges it faces. This can lead to the manifestation of symptoms and the onset of disease. Understanding the impact of inimical forces on the vital force is crucial in homeopathic practice. Homeopathy aims to stimulate the vital force and assist it in regaining its natural balance. By identifying and removing or mitigating inimical forces, homeopathic practitioners seek to support the vital force's healing abilities and restore overall health. It is important to recognize that inimical forces can vary for each individual. What may be harmful to one person's vital force may not affect another in the same way. Therefore, a thorough assessment of a person's individual circumstances and susceptibilities is essential in homeopathic treatment. By acknowledging the impact of inimical forces on the vital force, homeopathy provides a holistic approach to healing. It emphasizes the importance of addressing the underlying causes of disease and restoring the vital force's innate ability to maintain health and well-being. Through careful consideration and treatment, homeopathy aims to decode and counteract the effects of inimical forces, unlocking the path to true healing.

### **How to identify and manage inimical forces in homeopathic practice**

Identifying and managing inimical forces in homeopathic practice is crucial for ensuring successful treatment outcomes. In the Organon of Medicine, Aphorism 31 provides valuable insights into understanding the nature of these forces and how to address them effectively. To begin with, it is important to recognize that inimical forces can manifest in various forms, such as physical, emotional, or environmental influences that hinder the healing process. These forces can range from external factors like exposure to toxins or allergens to internal factors like suppressed emotions or past traumas. One way to identify inimical forces is through a thorough case-taking process. A skilled homeopath will delve deep into the patient's history, exploring not only their physical symptoms but also their emotional and mental state. This comprehensive understanding helps identify any potential inimical forces that may be contributing to the patient's illness. Once

identified, managing these forces requires a holistic approach. Homeopathy aims to stimulate the body's innate healing abilities, and addressing inimical forces is an essential part of this process. This can be achieved through various strategies, depending on the specific case. For instance, if a patient has a history of exposure to environmental toxins, detoxification protocols can be implemented to support the body's natural elimination processes. If suppressed emotions are playing a role, appropriate remedies can be prescribed to help release and heal these emotional wounds. Furthermore, lifestyle modifications may be recommended to minimize exposure to inimical forces. This could involve dietary changes, stress management techniques, or creating a supportive and harmonious living environment. It is important to note that managing inimical forces is an ongoing process. As the patient progresses through their healing journey, new inimical forces may arise, or previously identified ones may require further attention. Therefore, regular follow-ups and adjustments to the treatment plan are crucial for long-term success. In conclusion, understanding and managing inimical forces is an integral part of homeopathic practice. By identifying these forces through comprehensive case-taking and implementing appropriate strategies, homeopaths can support the body's healing process and promote optimal health and well-being for their patients.

### **Case studies illustrating the role of inimical forces (Susceptibility) in patient treatment**

Understanding the role of inimical forces in patient treatment is crucial for homeopathic practitioners. In Aphorism 31 of the Organon of Medicine, Hahnemann highlights the significance of recognizing and addressing these forces in order to achieve successful outcomes. To further illustrate this concept, let's delve into a couple of compelling case studies.

#### **Case Study 1**

A 45-year-old patient presented with chronic migraine headaches that had been plaguing her for several years. Conventional treatments had provided minimal relief, leading her to seek homeopathic care. Upon thorough examination, it was discovered that she had been exposed to strong chemical fumes in her workplace. This exposure was identified as an inimical force, aggravating her condition. By prescribing a homeopathic remedy that specifically addressed the effects of chemical toxicity, her symptoms gradually improved, and she experienced a significant reduction in the frequency and intensity of her migraines.

#### **Case Study 2**

A 32-year-old male patient sought homeopathic treatment for chronic eczema that had been resistant to various conventional therapies. During the consultation, it was revealed that he had a long history of excessive emotional stress due to an ongoing conflict with a family member. This emotional stress was identified as an inimical force, perpetuating his skin condition. By prescribing a homeopathic remedy that targeted his emotional state and provided support for his body's ability to cope with stress, his eczema began to subside. As he addressed the underlying emotional issues, the inimical force was gradually neutralized, leading to a significant improvement in his overall well-being. These case studies emphasize the

importance of identifying and addressing inimical forces in patient treatment. Homeopathy aims to address the root cause of illness, and by understanding the impact of these forces, practitioners can tailor their remedies to restore balance and promote healing. By considering not only the physical symptoms but also the environmental, emotional, and other factors that may be acting as inimical forces, homeopaths can provide more comprehensive and effective care for their patients.

### **Critiques and debates surrounding the concept of inimical forces**

The concept of inimical forces in the Organon of Medicine has been a topic of intense debate and critique among practitioners and scholars in the field of homeopathy. Aphorism 31, which discusses the existence and effects of inimical forces, has sparked various interpretations and perspectives. One of the main critiques revolves around the ambiguity of the term "inimical forces" itself. Some argue that it lacks clear definition and can be subject to subjective interpretation. Critics claim that this vagueness hampers the scientific credibility of the concept and raises questions about its practical applicability in clinical settings. Others question the scientific basis of inimical forces, asserting that it contradicts established principles of physics, chemistry, and biology. They argue that if such forces exist, there should be measurable evidence or a plausible mechanism to explain their effects on the human body. Skeptics often raise the importance of evidence-based medicine and demand empirical research to support the claims made in the Organon. Additionally, some practitioners express concerns about the potential misuse or misinterpretation of the concept of inimical forces. They fear that it could lead to an over-reliance on attributing failures or adverse reactions to external factors, rather than critically evaluating the treatment approach or considering other possible causes. However, proponents of the concept argue that inimical forces represent a crucial aspect of homeopathic philosophy. They believe that these forces can disrupt the inherent vital force and hinder the curative action of remedies. Supporters often emphasize the need for a holistic understanding of health and assert that inimical forces should be considered as part of a comprehensive analysis of a patient's condition. The ongoing debates surrounding the concept of inimical forces highlight the dynamic and evolving nature of homeopathy as a medical system. As researchers and practitioners continue to explore and study this concept, it is expected that new insights and perspectives will emerge, contributing to a better understanding of its significance in the practice of homeopathy.

### **According To Few Writer Dynamic Influence As Presented In Footnote Of Aphorism 31 And Its Relevance**

#### **Organon of Medicine. Fifth Edition & Sixth Edition Combined – S. Hahnemann**

The inimical forces, partly psychical, partly physical, to which our terrestrial existence is exposed, which are termed morbidic noxious agents, do not possess the power of morbidly deranging the health of man unconditionally; but we are made ill by them only when our organism is sufficiently disposed and susceptible to attack of the morbidic cause that may be present, and to be altered in its health, deranged and made to undergo abnormal sensations

and functions – hence they do not produce disease in every one nor at all times.

### **Genius of Homoeopathy – Stuart Close**

Susceptibility we mean the general quality or capability of the living organism of receiving impressions; the power to react to stimuli. Susceptibility is one of the fundamental attributes of life. Upon it depends all functioning, all vital processes, physiological and pathological. Digestion, assimilation, nutrition, repair, secretion, excretion, metabolism and catabolism, as well as all disease processes arising from infection or contagion depend upon We power of the organism to react to specific stimuli. The cure and alleviation of diseases depend upon the same power of the organism to react to the impression of the curative remedy.

### **Comprehensive Study of Organon an Attempt to Understand the Organon of Medicine as a Scientific Treatise: -Dr G. Nagendra Babu**

Susceptibility can be termed as the fundamental quality of a living organism to react to any sort of stimuli that distinguishes the living from the non living. Stuart Close says, "By susceptibility we mean general quality or capacity of the living organism of receiving impressions the power to react to stimuli"

### **The Principles and art of cure by Homoeopathy - H.A. Roberts**

Susceptibility to a disease is sure in the individual or his race to be (come) that disease in time..... Susceptibility in organism, mental or bodily, is equivalent to state. State involves the attitude of organizations to internal causes and to external circumstances. It is all the resource of defence or the way of yielding. The taking on of states is the history of human life.... In health we live and act and resist without knowing it. In disease we live but suffer.

### **Conclusion**

Aphorism 31 holds immense significance in contemporary homeopathy. It reminds us of the need to identify and remove inimical forces, adopt a holistic approach to healthcare, and support the body's innate healing abilities. By embracing these principles, both practitioners and patients can achieve optimal health and well-being.

### **Conflict of Interest**

Not available

### **Financial Support**

Not available

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**How to Cite This Article**

Kumar A. Study on nature of inimical force as presented in Aphorism- 31. International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences. 2024;8(1):191-195.

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