

What is the Pentas[™] Principle

- a quest to improve the efficacy of our anthroposophical remedies –

Introduction-A Question

Harmonics make beauty. The individual components reinforce one another, make each other stronger or if combined inappropriately can cancel each other out completely. One can repeat a single tone over and over but how much more melodious, pleasing to the ear and, dare one say healing, a musical triad like c-e-g is. The same with colors, the same with trying to remember individual words: they just "stick" better if they are repeated in a rhythm or heard in context. This was the thought behind trying to arrange the potencies of a remedy in a combination where the individual potencies have a relationship to one another. Just like intuitively we know that in an organism a head of a certain size is going to "demand" a certain size of long bones in arms and legs. We also know that with all the creativity at its disposal nature has limits and boundaries that are stringently adhered to. In a similar manner potencies might "ask" for a precise next number in order to be in harmony with the next potency. If every plant places its buds in a precise turning order, if the seeds of the sun flower are mathematically distributed in a spiral- could it be that every living, etheric body has its laws and that these laws could be duplicated in the potencies of a substance in the same bottle? Could it be that the remedy would thus become more successfully healing?

The Golden Section

On of the most significant patterns occurring in the plant , mineral and animal world is the so called golden section from where the number $\Phi = 1.618...$, an irrational never ending number, is derived.

Briefly here, only less then the merest outlines can be presented.

The Golden Section results when a number is divided such into two numbers that the ration of the larger portion to the smaller is equal to the ration of the whole number to the larger portion.

If A=233 and B=144, then A/B=(A+B)/A=1.6180257.....

This number is irrational in as much as no two numbers can be found that will give a finite ratio. The Greeks were filled with awe at the existence of these numbers. R. Steiner gives the most astounding insight explaining that in all mathematically "open" spaces the spiritual world can work in freedom in the physical world.

The ratio appears surprisingly in the pentagram!

As seen below the side of the pentagram bisects the longer from the shorter arm in the Golden Ratio. The Pentagram is not only inscribed in a fundamental way in the plant world, with which man shares his etheric body, but it also represents, according to . Steiner Man as such, it is the symbol of Man. We can begin here to intuit that including this number anywhere in our calculations will allow very organic forces to be expressed in the mere physical mechanistic world.



Figure 1

Let's put this principle in motion. Starting with a Golden Rectangle (or a Golden Triangle), where the longer side is in a Golden Ration to the shorter one we can progressively create smaller Golden Rectangles by cutting off squares as seen in **Fig.2**. Into them we can then draw arches as shown and they will form slowly the *Spira Mirabilis*- the wonderful spiral- that can be found in infinite variety in nature: in the horns of the ram, the curve of the elephant tusks, sunflowers, seashells, whirlpools, the shape of giant galaxies, etc.

The characteristic of this spiral is that it does not alter its shape as its radius decreases or increases. We get a glimpse here of how a serial dilution -a potency -can get bigger or smaller and yet not change its intrinsic character!



Figure 2

We come now to a fundamental observation of the build up of organisms in general. When a "whole body" wants to arise it sets its consecutive growth nodes in such a way as to repeat in a lawful manner multiples or divisions or combinations of numbers that are in the Golden Ration to one another. Two examples are seen in fig.3.





Figure 3

Our Potencies

In order to create a harmonious mixture we have attempted to imitate the order of nature and have combined potencies in a remedy in such a way that we have asked the question if we would start with, let's say a D7, what would be the next number that this 7 would ask for, and then what would be the next, and the next, etc. Can we create such an "organism" that the one remedy addresses all the levels, all the levels as seen in the fig.3 in space. We cannot go here into the so called Fibonacci series, a sequence of numbers where all the numbers are the sum of the two preceding numbers and the division of one number by the one preceding it results in the Golden Number 1.618..., but suffices it to say that by starting with a number (which would be the starting potency) and multiplying that number by 1.618 we get the next umber- potency – that is harmoniously relate to the preceding one by the Golden Ratio. Below is a sample of such calculations.

1	1 60	2 6244	1 251520	6 007/75
I	1.02	2.0244	4.201020	0.00/4/5
2	3.24	5.2488	8.503056	13.77495
3	4.86	7.8732	12.75458	20.66243
4	6.48	10.4976	17.00611	27.5499
5	8.1	13.122	21.25764	34.43738
6	9.72	15.7464	25.50917	41.32485
7	11.34	18.3708	29.7607	48.21233
8	12.96	20.9952	34.01222	55.0998
9	14.58	23.6196	38.26375	61.98728
10	16.2	26.244	42.51528	68.87475
11	17.82	28.8684	46.76681	75.76223
12	19.44	31.4928	51.01834	82.6497
13	21.06	34.1172	55.26986	89.53718
14	22.68	36.7416	59.52139	96.42466

Ex: We start with potency 7. The next potency in the rationale above would be 7x1.618...=11.34, 11.34x1.618=18.3708, etc. Rounding of gives the following able

1	2	3	4	7
2	3	5	9	14
3	5	8	13	21
4	6	10	17	28
5	8	13	21	34
6	10	16	26	41
7	11	18	30	48
8	13	21	34	55
9	15	24	38	62
10	16	26	43	69
11	18	29	47	76
12	19	31	51	83
13	21	34	55	90
14	23	37	60	96
15	24	39	64	103
16	26	42	68	110
17	28	45	72	117
18	29	47	77	124
19	31	50	81	131
20	32	52	85	138

21	34	55	89	145
22	36	58	94	152
23	37	60	98	158
24	39	63	102	165
25	41	66	106	172
26	42	68	111	179
27	44	71	115	186
28	45	73	119	193
29	47	76	123	200
30	49	79	128	207

Highlighted are the potencies we are actually using in most of our products when we combine potencies : **7-11-18-30.**

R. Steiner groups the potencies in the first seven, corresponding to the physical and the etheric body; the next fourteen to the astral; and the higher to the Ego. His actual words are sal potencies, mercurial potencies and sulfur potencies. (Incidentally, could one take the 7-14 potencies as astral in-breathing and the ones from 15-21 as astral outbreathing?)

In the series 7-11-18-30 we have all the levels represented. It is astonishing also to see the number 30 finally appear somewhere in the natural series. It is always difficult otherwise to understand why he would pick hat number as the "highest" potency he goes to, when traditionally homeopathic potencies have considered 30 to be practically a low potency. Note also how in the fifth column the numbers progress in intervals of seven, a deep mystery !

Amount Relationships Between the Potencies

If the potencies represent the physical, etheric, astral, and Ego level then in what amounts should they be mixed so that a truthful picture results in the process. We can be helped here by a lecture that Dr. Steiner gives on the 20th of August 1911. He raises the question: how can we visualize the relationship between the strength of the forces of the physical body and the etheric body for example. He gives as a guide a construction based on the pentagram surrounded by a pentagon which in turn is inscribed in a circle- as seen in fig4.



Figure 4

According to R. Steiner the weights of the following figures compared to one another give the relationships of the bodies:

Pentagon FGHIJ – the Physical Body

The sum of the five triangles AFG, BGH, DIJ, and EFJ – the Etheric Body

The Pentagon ABCDE – the Astral body

The circle surrounding the large pentagon – the Ego

By calculation and experimentation the relationship is as

1 - 2 - 7 - 9

In other words, to have a situation where all the "bodies" are harmoniously represented we should have these 19 parts in their respective proportions.

The PentasTM Products

In our remedies where potencies are used and give the remedy the "Pentas" designation we will have the above listed potencies (7-11-18-30) in the proportion of 1-2-7-9.

As an example the True BotanicaTM company is offering the "Gentian Pentas". This herbal extract will have both the mother tincture, so that we have the physical body represented, and the potencies of the gentian root.

We hope to introduce thus a new idea into our anthroposophical remedies. Through our common therapeutic experiences we can then see if this a fruitful path or not.

R. Rentea MD