

# ***Reflections on the Relationship of Traditional Wisdom, Precision, and Clinical Efficacy in the Herbal Science of Chinese Medicine***

*Part Two*

*Two Parts, In English and Chinese*

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## ***Medication Testing as One Possible Way to Achieve Mastery of Herbal Details in Modern Times***

During my ongoing search for improving my degree of clinical certitude, I was introduced to a natural medicine diagnostic modality from Germany. My father was a Western medicine doctor with a great love for the natural healing arts. When I opened my own clinic in the United States, he gave me the precious gift of a piece of medical equipment he thought might be useful for a Chinese medicine clinic. It was one of a wide range of products in an emerging medical field called electro-dermal screening or bio-resonance diagnostics. At first, the thought of utilizing any type of “machine” in my practice seemed most untraditional to me. I was, after all, a literature major trained in Han dynasty literature and Tang dynasty poetry, and thought of myself as loving everything ancient and pure and traditional. However, the equipment was expensive, and I did not want to disappoint my father. As a new practitioner who needed help in the department of “certitude,” therefore, I began working with the equipment.

First, I discovered that the philosophy behind this relatively simple technology is 100% congruent with the principles of Chinese medicine. The difficulty of Chinese medicine and all other truly holistic types of medicine is to identify the invisible root of pathology--most often a change in the quality of physiological *qi* that cannot be detected by an ultrasound, an X-ray or a blood test. For this purpose, other than cultivating the clairvoyant human potential mastered by upper-level physicians, Chinese medicine employs the symbol science of *zang-xiang*: a system that describes the relationship of the hidden energy within to visible or palpable signs on the body's surface. The traditional reading of pulse patterns and the interpretation of