



THE LANGUAGE OF WAR MEDICINE

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While Western medicine can be credited with many technological advances in the treatment of trauma care and crisis care this type of interventive and aggressive medicine also has a very dark side. As many people might benefit in a crisis situation many more might be jeopardized by the side-effects that are produced. This happens because Western medicine is nothing more than the medicine of war. There is no story more telling to describe this tactic than to listen to the language that is used as part of the Western medical model.

For instance, the symbolic head of the American Western medical institution is called “The Surgeon General”, as if he were in charge of his army of devoted followers. The prime strategy of this model is to “attack” and “kill” the “invaders”. Killing is the main component of Western medicine. There is little emphasis on nurturing the body so that it may self-heal. The primary tactic is to “destroy” something in the body.

The structure of the Western medical model is set up just like a military establishment. There is the “head surgeon” or “chief of staff” who barks commands to his subordinates below him. A doctor often acts like a military commander as he “writes an order” that the patient is expected to follow without question. This is usually called a “prescription.”

The Western model of medicine creates a victim consciousness. The body is seen to be “invaded” by pathogens, as if a sneak attack has occurred by total surprise. We are assumed to be helpless to these ferocious invaders that take us over. We are reassured that our medical team will be by our side to “bombard” these enemies called germs with “lethal force”. This may include a solid dose of antibiotics. Antibiotics mean “anti-life” or “death”.

The tactics employed by Western medicine derive from war. For instance, to treat cancer the main strategies are radiation and chemotherapy. Radiation originated from the nuclear bomb era of World War II. Scientists believed that if nuclear radiation could be used to kill in war then the same weapon could be harnessed to kill parts of our own body. Radiation has a similar history. During World War I mustard gas was used to kill soldiers on the battlefield. Medical scientists discovered that they too could use toxic substances to kill parts of the human body. Thus, the treatment of radiation was born.

Surgery too has its history in war. Surgeons used to line battlefields to pick up the dead carcasses of soldiers so they could cut them open before they were buried. It was generally not allowed to cut open a body because of social and religious taboos. By hanging out at battles surgeons could have free reign to explore the realm of human tissue.

When someone’s heart is said to seize up it is called a “heart attack”. What has this person done to make his own heart “attack” him? When a part of the body is not functioning properly it is like a piece of military equipment that has failed. If no replacement part is eminent then the battle could soon be lost, as in Congestive Heart Failure.

Western medicine looks at everything as a “war”. They have declared War on Drugs, War on Cancer, War on Heart Disease, War on Diabetes, War on Addictions, etc. A problem can only be bettered by attacking it and killing it, according to the Western medical ideology.

When does the war end and the healing begin?