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Wormwood- Sweet Anni

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In this past Sunday's USA Weekend magazine there was an article called- 8 Reasons for New Year Optimism- amazing advances in fields from surgery to astrophysics, are about to change our lives for the better, by Reed Karaim. Number 7 of the 8 discoveries was: ANCIENT REMEDIES, NEW HOPE, and had to do with a new treatment for cancer using ancient Chinese folk medicine, and "Wormwood". What can you tell us about Wormwood?

For those of you who missed this article, it told of two professors from the University of Washington, who conducted research with a compound 'derived' from Wormwood. Their research showed that the 'substance' killed breast cancer cells within 16 hours without killing healthy cells. The article goes on to say that the 'compound' (here we can assume that they mean the whole

plant) was originally used medicinally over 200 years ago in China to treat malaria, and is being used now days to fight malaria in Asia and Africa.

WORMWOOD- Sweet ANni (*Artemisia annua*)- There are many species of *Artemisia*, whose name is derived from *Artemis* the Greek Goddess associated with the moon. The first mention of Wormwood is in the Ebers papyrus, a medical document dating to 1550 B.C. The Egyptians used it as a vermifuge - the name *Wormwood* refers to its property of ridding the body of worms (parasites). I have chosen to write about *Artemisia annua* (commonly known as 'Sweet Anni), because it's the Wormwood that I am familiar with as being used by the World Health Organization (WHO) to treat malaria in Africa, as mentioned in the USA Weekend article.

Sweet anni is an annual herb, growing up to six feet tall. It has soft, filmy branches of much-divided green foliage, and numerous tiny golden flowers. The plant is wide at its base, and tapered to a point at the top. It has a warm, citrus, camphor, new-mown hay aroma that is unmistakable. Sweet anni needs room to spread, and is best when planted at the back of a garden or against a fence. It will re-seed itself, or you can collect the seeds in late summer for next year's crop. The branches are best known for their beauty and scent in wreath making. But, this is one herb that has been largely over-looked for its medicinal qualities.

Sweet anni is an anti-fungal, anti-bacterial herb as well as being anti-parasite. I use it in my Golden Ginture Healing Salve, because of its ability to destroy both bacterial and fungal infections. Prior to the USA Weekend article, I was unaware that it also had anticancer properties too (We live and learn). This would explain why an old friend, who was diagnosed with skin cancer, was able to eliminate it by using the salve. At the time I knew the salve would heal most any skin irritation, but I was surprised at these results with her skin cancer. As far as its ability to cure malaria, this is because malaria is caused by the parasite, Plasmodium, a protozoon introduced into the body by infected mosquitoes.

So while the professors from the University of Washington have done experiments with a "compound derived" from Wormwood as a cure for breast cancer, you can rest assured that they have once again isolated the phytochemical (s), which they believe to be the active component for their trials, from the whole plant. It is when they disrupt nature in this way, to perfect a drug for a particular disease, that they are able to patent a medicine for huge profits. Disrupting nature in this way would be like severing your arm from your body, and expecting it to function as an arm.

Natural healing works when the whole plant is used, when all of the plants components are able to work synergistically to heal our body. The side-effects, which are caused by most pharmaceutical drugs, are due to the isolation of one or more of these phytochemicals from the whole plant. They weren't made (by Nature) to work that way.