

The Doctor as Gardener

The human being is a microcosm of nature, a smaller universe...

When people are like gardens then doctors are like gardeners.

The role of the [doctor of Chinese Medicine] is to cultivate life...



The gardener does not make the garden grow. Nature does. The gardener is an ally who prepares the soil, sows the seeds, waters, and removes the weeds, placing plants in the proper relation to each other and the sun.

If the gardener did not tend the garden, it would lose its unique identity and grow wild, merging completely with the surroundings to mesh with the larger environment. The gardener protects the integrity of the garden by promoting growth in some areas, restricting it in others, adding compost to keep the soil fertile. He observes and nurtures the interaction between the garden and environment.

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Between Heaven and Earth: A Guide to Chinese Medicine