

A Descriptive Exploration of the Emotional Volcano of Lachesis Personality in Homoeopathy

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ABSTRACT

Lachesis mutus prepared from the venom of the Brazilian bushmaster snake, is an important homoeopathic remedy belonging to the animal kingdom. Snake remedies are characterized by inner conflict, emotional intensity, competitiveness, and duality between instinctive and civilized behavior. Lachesis is especially indicated in individuals with mental hyperactivity, loquacity, jealousy, strong sexual drive, emotional repression, and intolerance to restriction. A key theme of the remedy is the coexistence of opposing emotions such as love and hate, humility and pride, and restraint and indulgence. Proved by Constantine Hering, Lachesis demonstrates significant mental, emotional, and physical symptoms, making it valuable in homoeopathic practice, particularly in psychosomatic conditions, menopausal complaints, and emotionally suppressed states.

KEYWORDS: Lachesis Mutus, Snake remedies, Homeopathy, Duality, Loquacity, Jealousy, Sexuality, Emotional repression, Vitality, Constitutional remedy.

INTRODUCTION

THEME OF ANIMAL GROUP

- Common to animal remedies is a “Conflict” which has its basis in a split within the self.
- There are two different sides to such personalities, the animal sides and human sides. The animal side is concerned with competition (which is key to survive in the animal world)
- They can also be deceitful, malicious and aggressive and all these qualities can be attributed to their animal side.
- The main problem for animal remedies from the conflict, they are usually affected by disappointment in love and performance from being looked down upon from being attacked.

PROPERTIES OF SNAKE VENOM

- It is an odorless and tasteless, viscid fluid of pale yellow colour.
- It contains peptides.
- It is acidic to litmus paper
- It also contains inorganic phosphorous and metallic ions like Na⁺, K⁺, Zn⁺, Ca⁺, Mg⁺⁺, Fe⁺⁺, and Co⁺⁺ etc

Types of snake venom

- Haemo-toxin: Viper venom contains haemolytic, haemorrhagic, necrotic substances which lead to necrosis

- These lesions are due to intravascular coagulation and damage to vascular endothelium
- Neuro-toxin: cobra and krait venom contain polypeptides, which cause neuromuscular block as they are highly neurotoxic and non-enzymatic components
- Mixed-toxin: sea snake venom is very much neurotoxic, myotoxic and nephrotoxic.

CLASSIFICATION OF SNAKE-DERIVED HOMOEOPATHIC REMEDIES

- LACHESIS TRIGONOCEPHALUS – Surukuku snake
- NAJA TRIPUDIANS – Cobra venom
- ELAPS CORRALLINUS – Coral snake
- CROTALUS HORRIDUS – Rattlesnake
- CROTALUS CASCAVELLA – Brazilian snake
- BUNGARUS FASCIATUS – Krait
- CENCHRIS CONTORTRIX –Copperhead snake
- BOTHROPS LANCIOLATUS – Yellow viper
- VIPERA BERUS – German viper
- VIPERA COMMUNIS – Common viper
- HYDROPHIS CYANOCINTUS – Sea snake
- TOXICOPHIS – Moccasin snake

PROVING OF LACHESIS

Constantine Hering, the "Father of American Homoeopathy," discovered the remedy in 1828.

The Swedish botanist Linnaeus, in his classification of the animal kingdom, had earlier named the snake [Trigonocephalus] Lachesis after one of the three Fates in Greek mythology who measures the thread of life.

The remedy is derived from the poison of the Brazilian bushmaster, or surukuku, one of the most poisonous and aggressive snakes found in the western Hemisphere (hence its dread name- "the master of the forest"). It possesses inch-long fangs and, when angered, will chase a man and attack him-as few other snakes will do. The venom inhibits nerve impulses in heart, destroys red blood cells, and interferes with clotting.

One bite directly into vein can cause almost instant death. Hering proved it on himself and his students, eliciting some 3,800 symptoms. The results were published in "Archiv" and in his monograph "Schlangengift". The symptoms given by him are both those of the bite and those produced by internal use.

There is an evident correspondence between the two varieties of symptoms, the latter presenting finer shades of subjective symptoms than could be observed under the severe effects of the bite.

- For several decades thereafter, most of the Lachesis in the entire world was made from Hering's single milking of this one snake until in 1868 the homoeopathic pharmacists in America decided that they could not go on diluting the substance ad infinitum and ordered a second bushmaster to be shipped up from Brazil.
- When the animal arrived, it caused a sensation in the homoeopathic world: "Lachesis II arrives in America!" was the headline in the homoeopathic journals. Photographs of the snake from different angles were displayed, and its habits and physical dimensions were described as lovingly as if it was a film star!

PERSONALITY

Physical appearance

Physically, Lachesis resembles Phosphorus and Sepia in being slim and lithe. There seem to be two main variants of the Lachesis physique-the tall and the short. Both are usually slim or even bony

The women often have large chests. Most sensitive, refined people, the fingers tend to be long and thin. The facial features are generally sharp, or even hawkish (like Arsenicum), rather than rounded.

The lips tend to be thin, the mouth wide, not the clipped, but rather refined lips like a long bow, stretched out, but still classical in their shape. The hair is usually red, or brown with a reddish tint, but is sometimes black.

The skin is pale and usually freckled. Curiously, the upper eyelids often droop slightly, giving a characteristic 'snake-lid' appearance.

WOMEN WHO “HAVE NEVER BEEN WELL SINCE THE CHANGE OF LIFE”.

Those most responsive to this remedy tend to be ambitious, creative, perceptive, talkative people who live life to the full.

If they believe in an ideology they have a tendency to follow it dogmatically.

Main idea is overstimulation, which is constantly seeking an outlet for relief, like a pot that is boiling all the time, needs an outlet or will break down.

LOQUACIOUS TENDENCIES IN LACHESIS PERSONALITY

- Loquacity simply means talking a lot. Almost any constitutional type can have it. It is the way in which Lachesis talks a lot that is so characteristic. An unending flow of words is the classic sign of an emotionally unfulfilled or creatively thwarted personality
- Mental hyperactivity compensates for the “heavily repressed emotions”, and inhibitions are released in an “unusual desire to be communicative”.
- The repressed or tense Lachesis individual is often easy to spot on account of the speed with which she speaks.
- Lachesis frequently expresses her thoughts in a rush of words, as if hurrying to catch up with them before they slip away. Once started, she cannot control her pace; she cannot slow down.
- “Hasty speech”: Boenninghausen; "much rapid talking": Hering.
- The patient may talk so fast that the physician will ask her to decelerate, since the tongue moves quicker than the ear can catch-certainly than the hand can write.
- As the tension increases further, it becomes impossible for the Lachesis individual to maintain orderly thought processes. The thinking becomes so accelerated that it gets jumbled, and this is reflected in speech, which becomes increasingly erratic.
- Kent: 'Loquacious-changes subjects quickly'
- “Most extraordinary loquacity, making speeches in very select phrases but jumping off to most heterogeneous subjects.”
- “One word often leads into the midst of another story.”
- Another characteristic of the loquacity of tense Lachesis individuals is the tendency for speech to gather momentum. Speech may start reasonably slowly, and get faster and faster until it is unintelligible in some cases. The Lachesis mind sometimes works so fast ("rapid thoughts": Kent), with the tongue, following so closely behind.

- The remedy, as Hering notes, has helped many cases of stammering, stuttering, inability to enunciate certain consonants, or inability to move the tongue easily in the mouth. It gets caught on the teeth, for instance, or trembles when, the patient tries to protrude it for examination

THE LOQUACITY OF THE MALE IS USUALLY LOWER-KEYED.

- Lachesis has another state - has great ideas; frustrated in earlier years; Will not follow through on this ambition to do great things.
- This Lachesis is introverted, sensitive, does not want to hurt anybody, will never let out their emotions. You get these people who will not talk. Must understand that this type of silent person is also a Lachesis.

SEXUAL DRIVE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TENSION

- The sexual drive is usually strong in both the male and female.
- “Amorousness, amativeness, great excitement of sexual desire”: (Hering), with “many voluptuous thoughts” (Allen). But if this high sexuality is not satisfied, deep depression may set in. This constitutional type is also high in various sexual disorders or irregularities, including homosexuality.
- “Aversion of men to women”, “falls in love with a member of her own sex” – Kent.
- Abnormally strong attraction of older men to preadolescent or early adolescent girls, or of older women to men who could be their sons. Sex is not only very enjoyable for Lachesis; it also relieves tension. It is when the sexual energy is repressed, when it cannot find an outlet, that Lachesis develops physical and psychological tension.

It may be that,

- She has a partner who is not interested in sex, or
- She has been without a partner for a long time, or
- She grew up with a moral teaching that prohibited sex before marriage, and hence has remained a virgin.
- In these cases all will be well if an activity can be found which channels sufficient passionate energy to discharge the tension within. But if this does not happen, anxiety, restlessness and irritability will develop. Lachesis' powerful sexual drive is tempered by a refined, sensitive nature.
- Less sensitive types like Nux and Sulphur may pursue their sexual appetites in a rather crude, unfeeling manner, but for many Lachesis individuals (especially the women) sex is usually reserved for romantic partnership, and is all the more passionate because it an expression of their love.
- When a Lachesis woman is in love her sexuality is heightened, and she will become very emotional if she is not able to make love frequently with her partner.

If his libido cannot keep up with hers,

- She is liable to feel that he does not love her. Her frustration and hurt will provoke both tears and anger. A sexually frustrated Lachesis woman is rather like a spurned Ignatia; touchy and highly emotional. After she has made love she is calm again.
- This theme of tension requiring discharge can be seen to run throughout the features of Lachesis, both mentally and physically.
- On the physical level discharges will ameliorate symptoms, particularly sexual discharges, and the discharge of menstruation.

- On the psychological level talking is used as a means of discharging tension, hence the famous loquacity of Lachesis.

THE MORE SEXUALLY REPRESSED – MORE LOQUACIOUS.

DUALISTIC PERSONALITY TRAITS OF LACHESIS

- Herings description of the mental symptoms from the first grasped the essential intensity of a nature struggling against itself.
- Perfect happiness and cheerfulness, followed by fading spirituality; feels as if she was clear animal right through, whilst all mental power was dormant; voluptuous, irritated state which she fights.
- “Nothing stands out more boldly than the self-consciousness, the self-conceit, the envy, hatred, the revenge and the cruelty of the man. These things, of course, are ... an improper love of self. Confusion of the mind to insanity. All sorts of insanity ...” – Kent.
- “The individual who is eager to express his instinctual urges even while laboring under strong repression; the blocked natural energies then find vicarious outlets in some mental overstimulation or physical hyperactivity” – Whitmont.
- Building on the foundations laid by these three masters, we will choose the nature's inherent dualism as the theme of our Lachesis portrait. That is, its propensity to embrace opposed behavioral tendencies or impulses and conflicting emotions, and the impact of this struggle on the organism.
- In **Sulphur** the remedy's polarities are usually distributed among different individuals, who are either the "selfish" or the "benevolent" type.
- In **Phosphorus** the polarity may be exhibited in the same person but at different times – the opposite emerging with age, hardship, or deteriorating health.
- In Lachesis the polarity can be manifested in the same person almost simultaneously.
- Within the individual two forces are constantly at war : indulgence vs. restraint, arrogance vs. humility, love vs. hate, faith vs. cynicism each seeking to overcome the other.

“FEELS AS IF HE HAS TWO WILLS” – KENT.

- As Whitmont points out, Lachesis primary conflict is between his lower Instincts and his higher Ego.
- The strong animal urges seek expression, but, the individual constantly suppresses them for the sake of civilized behavior and/or spiritual growth.
- “My outward life is not me. My Inner life-what I think and feel does not, want to be me. I don't know which of my two selves is really me- the proper one I live or the lascivious one I repress?” a patient says.
- Reminiscent of Oscar Wilde’s aphorism: “One’s real life is often the life one does not lead”

SLEEP

- One symptom suggesting repression is the dominant Lachesis modality: aggravation from sleep. Sleep is when the unconscious takes over, and emotions which Lachesis, would rather not acknowledge, instincts which usually be quiescent, and dreams he cannot control – all rise to the surface.
- These individuals may require remarkably little sleep. After just a few hours sleep, they are full of energy the following day and give no sign of fatigue.

INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL ON THE LACHESIS CONSTITUTION

- Alcohol, like sleep, brings the dormant instincts and the subconscious mind to the fore.
- Thus Lachesis is often sensitive to strong drink being affected adversely even by very small amounts.
- Lachesis has been efficacious in “delirium tremens” (Hering) and especially hi persons struggling against alcoholism.
- Coffee is well-tolerated by Lachesis because it stimulates the intellectual and conscious side of the individual, rather than arousing the subconscious

PROPHETIC PERCEPTION

- Lachesis can be a highly Intellectual type, displaying a fine incisive mind. The male, for instance, is often as strongly intellectual as Sulphur but, rather than spinning webs of philosophical abstraction, gives concrete and more dramatic expression to his profound understanding. In both sexes the strong mind is imaginative and agile, and possesses an almost “prophetic perception” (Hering) or “clairvoyance” (Kent).
- He judges correctly how others will act and react, consequently the steps to be taken to achieve a desired end. In the time taken by sulphur to belabor some obvious point or someone big idea Lachesis will have seized all the ramifications of a situation, developed a fertile plan of action, and come up with a variety of possible solutions.
- “Quick, rapid perceptivity” – Boenninghausen.

JEALOUS, ANGER AND EGOTISM

- Lachesis ranks with Hyoscyamus as being the most prone to intense feelings of jealousy of all the constitutional types.
- The more intense a person's desire, the more liable they are to feel jealous of others who have what the desirer wants. Thus we can understand Lachesis' jealousy as a natural consequence of his strong desire. Sexual jealousy is the commonest form seen in Lachesis people, since sexual desire is usually their most intense attachment.
- In some cases this jealousy can be totally unrealistic, and can dominate the relationship to the point where it threatens its very existence.

ANGER

- Not surprisingly, intense jealousy can lead to intense anger, and this is not uncommon in Lachesis people of either sex. Lachesis' anger is sudden and intense in most cases, an eruption that is short-lived but powerful (Kent: 'Rage'). Jealousy is particularly liable to be the cause of Lachesis' anger, but it is not the only one.
The connection between sexuality and anger is seen more clearly in Lachesis women, for two reasons.
- Firstly, they are more likely to be sexually repressed.
- Secondly, a woman's sexual feelings tend to vary with her hormonal status, and this is especially true of Lachesis women.
- Many Lachesis women report that their libido is much stronger either at ovulation or premenstrually. At these times they are also more likely to be irritable, and to lose their temper. Lachesis women are

prone to premenstrual tension, in the form of anger, oversensitivity to rejection, and weepiness. Since tension in Lachesis is generally caused by sexual repression, this anger is ultimately a release of sexual tension.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF EGOTISM IN LACHESIS

- A minority of Lachesis people are distinctly egotistical
- Kent: 'Haughty', 'Egotism'.
- They are usually the more extroverted type, and most are male.

SUSPICION

- Unwarranted jealousy and suspicion. Many times this medicine has cured suspicion in girls, when they were simply suspicious of their girl friends. She never sees a whispered conversation going on but they are talking about her, to her detriment.
- Suspects that they are contriving to injure her, and she will resort to any scheme to see if they were not talking of her to her detriment. A woman imagines that her friends, husband, and children are trying to damage her; that her friends are going to put her in an insane asylum.

DEVELOPMENT OF PARANOID FEATURES IN LACHESIS

- As with jealousy and loquaciousness, this characteristic may be absent or very subtle in the more healthy Lachesis individual, and becomes more and more apparent as pathology deepens.
- The first sign of approaching paranoia may be a certain degree of suspicion. Most Lachesis people manage to keep their unreasonable fears pretty much to themselves. In some cases, however, paranoia becomes overwhelming, and the patient loses all perspective of reality. Kent – 'Delusions of being pursued', 'Fear of being poisoned'.
- Assailants and plotters are seen in every direction, and the patient spends much of his time in terror, avoiding contact with others in an attempt to protect himself. This extreme form of paranoia can also be seen in Hyoscyamus. This can be very hard to distinguish from Lachesis, since it also has loquaciousness, jealousy and increased sexuality.
- In such cases the pre-morbid personality is usually more 'normal' in Lachesis than in Hyoscyamus, and during the paranoid phase Hyoscyamus is more likely to express extremely bizarre thoughts than Lachesis, and to display sexual exhibitionism.

PRIDE

- Pride is usually accompanied by a tendency to become angry when criticised, and Lachesis is no exception.
- The proud, extroverted Lachesis is pleasant as long as he is the centre of attention, but will become bored when he has to take a passive role, and resentful if his own high opinion of himself is threatened.
- Pride, particularly in a man, is very closely connected to sexuality, as is aggression. This is confirmed to some extent by the fact that most of the more proud constitutional types are also those with the strongest sex drive.
- Platina is an extreme example, being the most highly sexed, and also the most proud type of all.

INTOLERANCE TO RESTRICTION

- On the psychological level Lachesis is just as intolerant of restriction.
- He may be able to form a committed and intimate relationship providing that he is given plenty of space when he needs it, and is not told what to do by his partner.
- Many Lachesis people do remain single, either out of fear and shyness, or out of a refusal to have their freedom limited.
- Kent: 'Idea of marriage unendurable'.
- Lachesis becomes prickly when ordered about, and will soon express his anger at being restricted. Similarly, many Lachesis individuals find it difficult to adapt to the confines of a nine-to-five office routine.
- Not only do they need lots of fresh air; they also need the stimulation of doing something creative, and are more likely to work well on their own at home than in the confines of a highly structured environment. On the physical level the patient cannot tolerate tight clothing, particularly around the neck.
- Like many Tuberculinum individuals, some Lachesis people are so addicted both to stimulants and to 'freedom' that they would rather die than be restricted. This intolerance of restriction may explain the characteristic Lachesis aversion to being touched. This is often present in cases of physical pathology, where pain is greatly exacerbated by the slightest touch, but it can also occur on the mental level.
- Kent: 'Aversion to being touched'.

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL TENDENCIES IN LACHESIS

- Lachesis is intrinsically a religious nature and requires some strong faith or spiritual commitment as a convenient outlet for his superabundant emotional energy. She is full of religious insanity. She thinks she is under superhuman control. She is compelled to do things by spirits. She hears a command, partly in her dream, that she must carry out.
- Sometimes it takes the form of voices in which she is commanded to steal, to murder, or to confess things she never did, and she has no peace of mind until she makes a confession of something she has never done.

POWER DYNAMICS IN THE LACHESIS CONSTITUTION

- At the root of many Lachesis self-torturing relationships lies a wounded and oversensitive "pride" (Hering).
- The "arrogant" (Kent) or vain individual wants to be recognized for some extraordinary achievement in life. If he cannot make his mark in a positive manner, he may in frustration make it negatively.
- Thus the theme of revenge often crops up in his conversation, and candid patients will say, "I'm going to manipulate him into a corner just as he's manipulated me," or "I've got her in my power, and she'll be sorry for what she did. I'll get back at her if it's the last thing I do."
- He can be a formidable opponent when feeling threatened or seeking to assert himself.
"MALICIOUS, VINDICTIVE" – KENT.
- The appearance of "humility" in a powerful, prominent, or influential person frequently conceals Inordinate pride kept hidden or under control in a predominantly Lachesis or Arsenicum personality
- Sulphur and Lycodium openly parade their power.

- Once satisfied, this individual's dominant power-hunger turned into its opposite and brought out his dormant magnanimity.
- Lachesis in a position of power (whether in the world at large or only inside his family) frequently demonstrates the reverse: restraint, integrity, and humility vis-a-vis those whom he is leading or supervising. When not in a position of power Lachesis can be rebellious, arrogantly intent on doing what he pleases, scornful of authority, and prepared to defy the rules and regulations.
- As befits the person who likes power, Lachesis may exhibit a concurrent fascination with money, the symbol of power.

EXPRESSION OF VITALITY IN LACHESIS PERSONALITY

- Lachesis individuals exhibit such unquenchable vitality that others instinctively describe them as 'intense', 'hyper-excited' 'addiction-prone', 'over stimulated', 'obsessive', or 'passionate'.
- Not solely in the sexual sense, but also for knowledge, experience, understanding, passion for a cause or a faith passion for life itself!

CONCLUSION

Lachesis mutus is an important constitutional remedy in homoeopathy characterized by emotional intensity, duality, mental hyperactivity, jealousy, strong passions, and intolerance to restriction. The constitutional personality often shows an inner conflict between instinctive desires and emotional control, with a strong need for emotional or physical release. Understanding the characteristic personality traits of Lachesis helps in accurate constitutional prescribing and emphasizes the importance of treating the individual as a whole rather than isolated symptoms.

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