

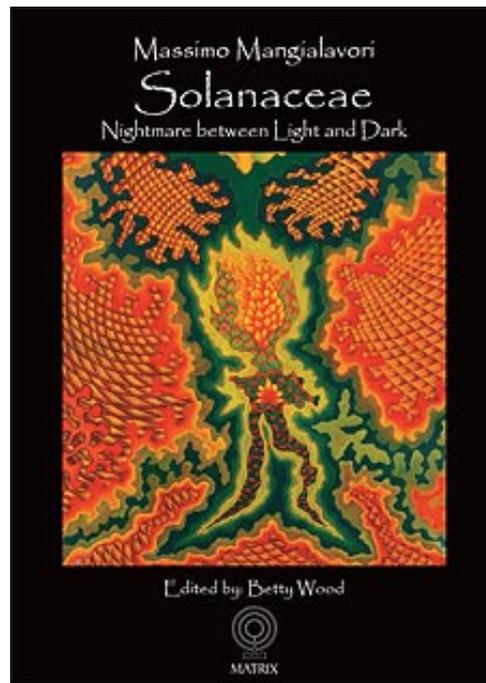
Massimo Mangialavori Solanaceae

Reading excerpt

[Solanaceae](#)

of [Massimo Mangialavori](#)

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Narayana Verlag GmbH, Blumenplatz 2, D-79400 Kandern, Germany

Tel. +49 7626 9749 700

Email info@narayana-verlag.com

<http://www.narayana-verlag.com>



TWO

BELLADONNA

Case 1

Giovanni is 32 years old and he is a chiseller. He appears to be a rather timid young man and is very reserved and shy, speaking with a low voice. He is almost too respectful, too obsequious in terms of his manners. He tried to hide his pathology by walking properly, but it was evident that his hip was in a tremendous amount of pain. Before I saw Giovanni I found out a lot about him from his girlfriend who is a patient of mine and whom I know rather well. He is very very shy and does not trust doctors or medication. He has a painful history and comes from a very difficult family.

He is very shy and very calm, but some of his friends assure me that my impression of him is limited; he is not like this at home where he expresses his anger and can be extremely violent especially with his language. He can really injure others through his verbal expressions. His friends consider him to be one of the most stubborn people they have ever met. He can appear attentive and courteous in terms of listening to his friends' advice and needs, but if he does not like what the rest of the group has planned, he will leave on his own.

Giovanni's woman friend tried everything to get him to come to me. This is not the first homeopathic experience for this patient and he has been very disappointed with his previous treatments and has been reluctant to try again. I get the impression that he does not like doctors and does not like to follow their advice. He showed me a large quantity and variety of diagnoses and prescriptions from other doctors. If their prescription did not work, after a few days he will, on his own, change his prescribed treatment. Of course this did not help his severe pathology and this makes me suspect a hypochondriac condition of which he has not spoken.

He walks and stops due to a stiffness in his right hip and even his dorsal posture is quite stiff. It is very difficult for me to establish a dialogue with him and I have to continuously stimulate him to talk.

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He spontaneously reports:

§ They diagnosed me with a blockage in my right hip, which developed over three years.

He has synovial chondromatosis. This is a severe degenerative disease of the cartilage of the femoral head; the cartilage is almost completely gone and what is there is excessively inflamed. He is unable to move the joint not only because of the pain, but because the joint is now locked.

§ I am under auricular therapy and acupuncture. I have had other homeopathic experiences even from primary care doctors, but the last time I had to take Calcarea carbonica for almost an entire year without having received any benefit and in the end I got tired of being fooled.

§ In the beginning I could not put my leg on the ground because I felt an inguinal pain that would radiate distally. I am not able to rotate or lift my leg. After sitting for hours everything gets blocked and my back stiffens up. I cannot engage in any form of physical activity because I feel pain. The last time I tried to run it felt as if my femur was coming through.

The Impression was that he could not run because every time his feet struck the ground, it felt like his femur entered his abdomen. His pain was not limited to his hip but transmitted to the abdomen and the entire lower part of his body.

The Italian expressions he used were very technical, precise and impersonal; words one would hear from a physician and not usual for a patient. I invited him to continue to talk and to be more personal about what he was feeling.

§ Three years ago I had pityriasis rosea. I had blotches everywhere, over a period of forty days with allergic reactions and then I got sensitized to food as well. I took Nizoral and I broke out. Following that they gave me antimycotic agents and also some antibiotics. I had bowel movements every night and I could not assimilate anything; I lost about sixteen pounds.

During that same time I had an edema of the epiglottis after drinking a tisane of couch grass, which my homeopath at the time prescribed for me. She said

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that I needed to detoxify myself. I had special vaccinations when I was thirteen years because I was allergic to grass and ultimately I was also allergic to other plants. Four years ago they made me take another vaccine and ever since my leg problem started, followed by intestinal problems. For a year I had to go to the bathroom all the time and I would loose energy continuously.

It was useless to ask him anything directly. I remained silent and watched him. After a long pause he got irritated and said:

§ I have a herniation between L4 and L5.

/ remained silent, watching him and he continued because he got nervous.

§ A few years ago I started to have a few more problems while I was doing pretty well for a while.

After another long silence I invite him to tell me a little more about his private life:

§ I had many family problems: my father was a very rigid policeman and so was my brother. They always beat me up. I have a lot of anger and aggression inside, which I have had to suppress. And then as I grew up I was afraid of my reactions. I also have a history of drug addiction. I started when I was 17 and stopped all of a sudden when I was 23. I had a bad hepatitis and ended up in a coma. I used to have liver problems even when I was little.

When I was a little fellow I was ugly and mean; I could not stand my dad. Even now the less we see of each other the better it is. If we stay 600 kilometers apart it is not enough for me.

/ tried to learn something more about his father, but it was impossible. I decided to change my strategy and to change the topic and asked Giovanni If he has any leisure activities or hobbies:

§ I feel better when I am a little more active. Right now I feel the need to rest but I get up immediately because I am afraid of sleeping, because after I sleep I feel a little depressed. When I used to do drugs I used to have this same type of depression; I would wake up feeling like a wreck. I connect this present feeling to those old days.

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He wanted to say that this feeling of being so lethargic, so depressed and weak for him is a very awful feeling that he connects with his periods of drug abuse. Whenever he feels weak he is immediately alarmed because he is afraid his liver is failing.

I ask him to explain himself better and I note a large reluctance to do so. Giovanni blushes and says:

§ When I stopped doing drugs I had visions of very terrible scenes; they were images of deformed people and of violence. Around the time I was thirteen years old before I started doing drugs I experienced leaving my body while I was asleep. There were people who would talk to me during my sleep and they would tell me about things that would happen the next day. When I was little I was afraid of witches. I still imagine things that then take place.

He started injecting heroin at the age of 13.

I ask him what effect these dreams have on him:

§ Emotionally I feel loaded for a few days and they scare me.

I ask something about his early childhood:

§ I was a TEINOMANE when I was little and I would drink even during meals and I remember that I would cry when I would stop drinking. I stopped drinking coffee because I drank too much of it and it bothered my stomach; I even stopped eating chocolate. I have a problem in digesting fats and even eliminating milk I feel better.

TEINOMANE means one who is addicted to tea; he drank a huge amount of tea when he was a child, 2 to 3 liters per day.

After this it was impossible to gather further information. This was the most he could tell me in the moment. He was quite bothered and he showed an evident lack of trust or perhaps a difficulty in opening up. I was in doubt whether to prescribe a placebo that I tend to do in these situations, where I have the impression that I have missed a lot and do not want to spoil the case, or confuse my ideas with another remedy. It probably was a mistake NOT to give him a placebo. I considered his reluctance to see other doctors and I thought maybe

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if he had some improvement on a similar remedy it would be a little "hook" to keep him interested in coming back. I considered primarily the anger and distress Giovanni has and his hip Symptoms and prescribed Staphysagria 30CH. It did very little.

During the weeks that followed my first encounter with this patient he had a very strange reaction. As many of my reluctant and angry patients, he phoned me many times a week to ask my permission to try many other treatments such as herbs and nutrition. I asked him to wait, because if he takes these things then I cannot judge his reaction to the remedy. My perception was that this seemed like a weekly challenge to see if I could stand a relationship with him. After one more call I responded to him in a very bothered attitude suggesting to him he take a placebo, which will do absolutely nothing for him.

Two months later

As he walks in his gait is not in the least changed, and his mannerisms are still more tremulous. Even though he has to confess that he has not had great improvements, I feel as if he is seeking my sympathy and my support, which showed me that perhaps there were some improvements worth discussing. He looks much more aggressive but masked by his extreme obsequiousness. He still speaks almost in a whisper and he never looks me in the eyes during the entire consultation, but he was more open to talk and that is the only improvement that I could really perceive.

§ My ears did not bother me anymore and neither did the painful pimples around the eye.

The previous time he had forgotten to tell me about his recurrent sties and that he suffered with bilateral middle ear furuncles.

I ask if he has noticed anything else:

§ When I rest and when I swim my hip feels better; I even walk better but it always feels blocked. I have noticed that it really hurts when I drive.

I cut in again after a long pause:

§ My bowels are always rather liquid but I go regularly.

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I had to keep extracting words from him; he was completely blocked. §
My back always feels stiff, it is worse if I sit a lot.

I ask for clarification:

§ My lumbar region really hurts and the pain goes all the way down to the inguinal area and my hip.

I ask him if he remembers a dream or two:

§ I dreamed that I was seeing people again with whom I had had problems and I was getting along with them and we were friends once again. They were important people to me when I used to smoke; things ended tragically with them.

I was not able to gain any more Information from this patient. His woman friend told me the next day that Giovanni lost most of his friends as a result of overdoses or AIDS. I am very unsatisfied with the results of the therapy. The only thing this patient could express was on the somatic level and I decided to consider what his soma was telling him in this moment.

DISCUSSION

Corporal Symptoms

It is important to consider what I mean when I talk about corporal Symptoms. From the point of view of the physical body you have objective Symptoms. In this case he had the chondromatosis of his hip with severe inflammation that can become a fibrosis. One level of reading our cases is the same as allopathic medicine where you consider the physical diagnosis that is *impersonally* reported by patients.

The Corpus and corporal Symptoms have to do with the unique manner with which patients express their diseases. It is an Interface between the so-called mind and the so-called physical body. This is different than "mind Symptoms." It is the specific personal, rather than trans-personal, way a patient expresses his suffering. The same disease may be expressed in terms of blockage by one patient and as burning by another patient. This level of description is extremely interesting, first to analyze the specific description and later to see if the idea of blockage can be

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seen in a more extended way. In this case it is not just the hip that is blocked. We can extend this concept to his inability to talk, about blockages in his life, in his ability to communicate. In this case "blockage" begins to gain much more weight as you see it expressed in different facets of the patient.

If the patient said he experienced burning somewhere and this burning is not recurrent in any other part of the patient's story, then it can be considered an *occasional* Symptom. It is not important.

But if this person says "I am blocked" and you can see blockages in other aspects, then the blockage has a more extended sense; very often it is as if this patient is talking through his hip. He is expressing this blockage as a blockage of the entire System and it is an extremely valuable Symptom in the case.

Blocked, congested

TC: The word "blocked" was significant; about his dreams he feels "loaded" for a few days and they scare him; your experience interpersonally is that he feels blocked. His hip wants to penetrate his abdomen. There is this blockage and this energy that wants to penetrate him and your efforts to penetrate him are fruitless. There is a sense that there is something in there that is vulnerable. He has these dreams that give him a sense of fear but are loaded, like something is going to come out if penetrated.

MM: Yes, this makes sense. According to your suggestions we should consider another issue that is characteristic of these remedies. In his description of the pain, in an unspecific way, the pain seems to impede something else that is even worse. You know how much I like to follow and to give a sense to the descriptions of my patients. If it is true that we can recognize an attitude to block, to close certain parts of themselves in order to defend something else that can be much more dangerous and much more self-destructive. It is interesting to consider that this blockage can prevent a kind of penetration, in a metaphorical way, such as a pain or sword that can enter deeply into this person in a more severe way.

KH: What seems interesting is when he sleeps he feels depressed, which is how he was when he was on drugs. The fact that he chooses a sleepy drug like heroin is interesting. But when he stops drugs then he has all these visions that

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frightened him. In the Solanaceae they forget their dreams. After his dreams he feels loaded and wrecked and depressed. The dreams, like the drugs he used, block his fear. In contrast, when he was young he was addicted to a stimulant, which does not make sense.

MM: This is a good observation. I am not sure how much he was actually addicted to tea as a child. My personal interpretation is that he wanted to point out that he was an addictive person. In my experience different kinds of addictions in those patients are pretty common; one of the most abused drugs are the different kinds of tranquilizers. The idea is that these patients need to do something to cool down, to block their emotions.

Suaden life passages

I would like to stress another point. When he talks about his drug addictions he stressed that he was able to stop heroin all of a sudden, by himself. This is not easy and very few are able to accomplish it. In a general sense, in the nightshade remedies, it is very common when they describe important passages in their life that it is "all of a sudden." It is as if they are not able to do something slowly and smoothly. It is as if they need to do something violent to break their pattern because this is the only way I can overcome this, even if it is a painful Situation. In a more extended way, whenever you talk with these people they express this side of their character in every aspect. They seem very determined. If something has to be done, they want to do it immediately and as ardently as possible.

TC: It was as a consequence of this dramatic illness that he stopped?

MM: No, when he stopped he got the hepatitis, according to what he said. My understanding was that it was such a difficult moment for him to decide to stop his drugs that in his mind his reaction was to become very ill. He had the hepatitis before abstaining, but his hepatitis exploded after he decided to stop. It is unusual to become comatose with hepatitis. It is one thing to evaluate his description from a medical point of view considering what could be the reality of his disease. It is another thing to consider his delusion, his description, because it makes sense as well.

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RUERICIS

Remaining on the somatic level I searched the repertory for suggestions that I would like to discuss.

MIND: AILMENTS FROM ANGER
PARALYTIC PAIN HIP
SUPPRESSED ANGER
VOICE LOW
VOICE LOST
HYPOCHONDRIA
HIP PAIN RIGHT
LUMBAR PAIN, LUMBAGO
LUMBAR PAIN, EXTENDING TO INGUINAL REGION
LUMBAR PAIN, EXTENDING TO HIP

Mind ailments from anger: This was my clear impression and this is what he said about his strong anger; it was the reason why I prescribed Staphysagria. It was a mistake in translating his Situation into a homeopathic remedy rather than a mistake in considering this huge amount of anger that was there.

Paralytic pain hip

The reason why I emphasize this symptom of blockage is because this is the corporal translation of his suffering. We have to be somewhat creative with our Interpretation but careful not to attribute something to the patient that he never said. When you use the repertory you cannot expect to always find the exact words of the patient. Very often a common result of the compensation of these patients has to do with something that paralyzes them or something that is perceived as a paralysis. The feeling is that I have to contain this thing, to avoid it from bursting out.

For every remedy we study, if we consider how our patients report their somatization, it is interesting to contemplate the characteristic pains that present during their compensated and decompensated states. For example, in the compensated state of the Solanaceae remedies it is common to encounter descriptions of something that is blocked. It is important to understand the concept of what it means to be

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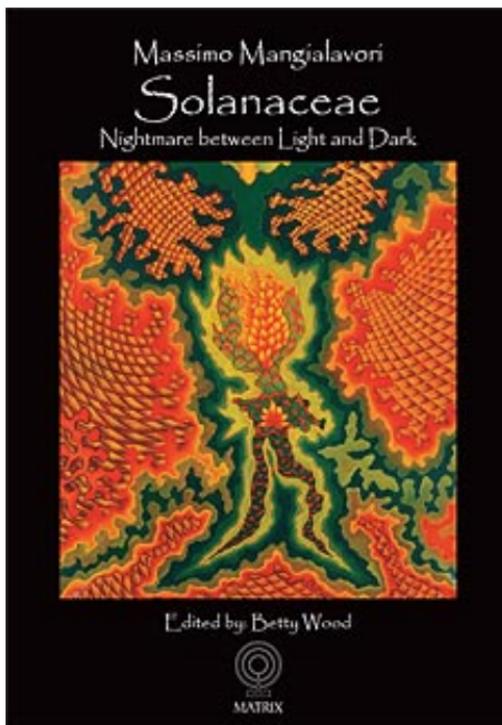
blocked and to be creative in the translation to an accurate synonym of the same Sensation. If you cannot do this you will get lost in your repertorization.

When they are decompensated, pains are described as bursting, exploding or being destroyed in little pieces. You can see that both of these feelings, blocking and exploding, belong to the same theme. In one case you have to make your system work as hard as possible to remain whole. When this strategy no longer works the perception of the inner self is that it is broken in pieces. Very often they express their Symptoms as exploding, or as a volcanic reaction.

You have to be aware of this, because the repertory is a very flat distribution of Symptoms. Yet, there is a specific way of growing sick and becoming decompensated for every remedy that is more accurately expressed in a fuller way. For some remedies the feeling of exploding could be a compensation as in Hepar sulphur or could be a decompensation as in the case of Belladonna. Penetrating Symptoms could be considered compensating in Spongia and decompensating in the case of Cactus. It is important to understand this because the somatic Symptoms are often a clear report of the main feeling of the System.

The reason I underline the paralytic pain so strongly is because he said he had a blocking pain. You can argue that he said many other things. This is a problem of analyzing our Symptoms. Which Symptoms are more relevant? Which Symptoms more fully describe the life of the patient and his Situation? This patient looks blocked in every sense. When he says his hip is blocked, this hip is expressing his general Situation. This person does not talk using his mouth; he talks using his hip. So this is a very important Symptom.

Total Rubrics Family	Bell.	Myos.	Stram.	Op.	Honi.	Mind.	Verac.	Uss.	Cham.	Cycl.	Nat-m.	Sulph.	Nabal.	Tarent.	Canoph.	Amyg-ani.	Spong.	Art-v.	Pyrog.	Calc-s.	Tub.	
DELUSIONS, imaginations; people; talks with; absent (17)																						
GENERALITIES, FOOD and drinks; lemons; desires (22)																						
RECTUM; INVOLUNTARY stool (130)																						
MOUTH, DISCOLORATION; redness; tongue; fiery-red (9)																						
MIND; SOMNAMBULISH (70)																						
RECTUM; PAIN; tenesmus (258)																						
MOUTH, DISCOLORATION; redness; tongue; fiery-red; tip (3)																						
MIND; DELIRIUM; fantastic (21)																						
MIND; ABSTRACTION of mind (72)																						
MIND; FEAR; water; of (38)																						



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