Peter Fraser
Insects - Escaping the Earth

Reading excerpt
Insects - Escaping the Earth
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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
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BLATTA ORIENTALIS -
INDIAN COCKROACH

The cockroach is said to have been introduced into the materia medica when a man's asthma miraculously improved and he later found a cockroach had fallen into his teapot. There was a proving in Mumbai in 1995 by Dr. Munjal Thakar.

The cockroach is a flightless insect that runs very fast. They are ancient insects virtually unchanged in millions of years and are extremely hardy. They can survive radiation doses 100 times those fatal to humans. They can live without food for a month and without water for a fortnight. If one's head is cut off it continues to live and only dies from a lack of water and food up to ten days later. They are pests causing damage and contamination to food as well as consuming it and they have a very disagreeable odour. Cockroaches contain similar allergens to shellfish and their body parts in the air can cause asthma.

The strongest feature of the cockroach remedy is a sense of indifference and a numbness that was felt throughout. Provers felt they were less likely to get angry or upset and there was a lack of feeling to friends and family members. They felt physically numb and there was also a lack of facial expression.

The provers did not want to talk or interact with other people and were extremely irritable, acting with irritation and anger to anyone who tried to interact with them. They are abrupt and curt but with a feeling of remorse.

The Blatta patient finds transformation and freedom through work and particularly through professional Status and respect. They want to excel in what they do and to be a good person, not so much for its own sake but for the respect and even the veneration that it will bring them. This will give them not only worth and Status but also identity. They are prevented from achieving this because they tend to use underhand or at least less than admirable methods to attain their ends and they feel
incredibly guilty and remorseful about this.

They feel bad and dirty and this is something that they cannot escape. The more they strive to achieve an honourable place the more they have to use dishonourable means.

Work and professional Status are very important. They want very much to be noticed, respected and honoured for their work. They want to wear fine clothes and look good so that they look Professional and are admired and respected. They desire to be adored and praised but especially in their professional capacity and they show a reciprocal respect and veneration to their teachers. They show a degree of professional jealousy and are prepared to be argumentative and underhand in order to be noticed. Part of this comes out of a feeling of lacking identity and there is a striving to find their identity, particularly professional identity.

There is a desire to be a good person and remorse that they are not. They use deception and the tricks of the trade in order to enhance their professional position, but they feel very badly about it.

Sexually they can be numb and indifferent. However, they can also be completely overwhelmed by sex and particularly by perverse dimensions of sex which are a feature of all the Insect remedies. There can be a sudden sexual excitement with a desire to talk in a vulgär way and a fear that he would lose control and do something terrible to his girlfriend in a sexual way. There was losing control of his sexual thoughts and saying things he had not meant to say. Along with this is a sense of being dirty or bad and great remorse and guilt. There is a very peculiar sexual symptom with sudden sexual desire and a feeling both emotional and physical of already having had sex and having ejaculated.

The feeling of being bad and dirty is widespread and applies both physically and emotionally. The tongue and skin can be described as dirty. And there is an overwhelming feeling of guilt.

It is important to them that things are done in a systematic
and organized way. They had to do things right away, could not put them off and could not rest and laze around until everything had been properly done.

The remedy is very sensitive to cold and there is an aggravation from damp and cold and particularly from the mouldy smells of autumn. Taking cold leads to deep bronchitis.

The oppression of the chest is severe and exhausting. The cough is hacking and unproductive and leads to complete exhaustion and profuse cold perspiration without being able to clear the lungs. The patient has to be propped up as lying down would lead to suffocation. They also feel suffocated by clothing, bed clothes and being indoors.

Although very sensitive to cold the patient is very hot and is said to radiate heat. They want to throw off bedclothes, be fanned, undressed, go outside and take a cold bath. Pains are generally burning in nature.

The patient, like the insect, is photophobic and needs to close the eyes in sunlight. They are also nocturnal: feeling sleepy during the day and alert at night.

**BLATTA OCCIDENTALIS - AMERICAN COCKROACH**

There is some information from a proving by Mure that indicates an affinity to the liver as well as to the lungs. Jaundice and dropsy are the main conditions found in Blatta occidentalis that are not as strongly represented in B. orientalis. There are prickling pains, violent pains in the temples and chest. The urine is very yellow and there is pain in the urethra on urinating. The lung symptoms are found in both and, on the whole, seem to be similar. It is perhaps indicated when there is dropsy and a strong liver involvement in an otherwise B. orientalis case.
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