

'Antagonism with Herself' from Kent's Repertory

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ABSTRACT

"Antagonism with herself" means hate or extreme unfriendliness or active opposition to oneself. This is a subjective symptom seen in four different remedies found in Repertory of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica by Dr. J.T Kent, sixth American Edition corrected, revised and improved by Dr. Ramananlal P Patel. This article is to explain how the four different remedies (Anacardium, Aurum-Met, Kali-Carb & Lac-Can)¹ given in Kent's repertory under the rubric, Antagonism with herself can be comprehended in context to homoeopathic psychology with the help of examples from my clinical practice.

Keywords: Antagonism, Sadness, Pathogenesis

INTRODUCTION

Many a times we find rubrics in our homoeopathic repertories specially from mind section, that are extremely difficult to comprehend at first hand, but a deeper reflection along with co-relation of knowledge of psychology to homoeopathic materia medica and further integration of it with Rubrics from repertory finally yields clarity and then these rubrics become usable in our day-to-day clinical practice. These rubrics could also be understood from a miasmatic perspective but that requires strict individualisation.

Anacardium: It has not only weakness of mind, but weakness of all the senses (illusory unpleasant smells⁶), weakness of body, paretic weakness of rectum. Lack of power: mental and physical². Dull emotions, laughing at serious matters but maintains a serious demeanour over laughable things. This shows that sadness often hides behind such contradictory behaviour. Here is a split personality⁵ (feels and thought has two wills, one commanding to do what the other forbids; thinks is double; sense of duality) demonstrates exactly opposite behaviour unexpectedly, without any apparent reason, from acts of goodness to the most evil acts known to humankind. Want of moral sentiment "Moral Inferiority": Characterized by impiety, hardness of heart, cruelty. Malicious; seems bent on wickedness. Easily of-

fended and he is overcome by sudden rage and panic, leading to having stabbed someone. Upon asking why they behaved this way, they answer: 'I can't help it, someone makes me do it', expressing the delusion of being possessed. These aspects reveal a lack of control and much confusion in the patient's behaviour as well as the fixation of being separated from the world because of the battle between two wills. This will lead to an obstructed personality, a lack of ego growth or what we call psychic arrest. Parental domination is one of the most common triggers of an Anacardium state⁵. Lack of confidence in himself and others³. Suspicious⁴. Circumstances giving rise to these mental states are when the parents of a young child divorce. Conflicts between parents in the presence of the child creates immense fright and confusion as the child loves both parents; the child now becomes a split personality, choosing one parent one moment, then the other the next. This break-up of his family creates not only confusion, but also creates guilt. Childhood crime has now created a dysfunctional adult (Swearing, obscene and lewd) violence and rage. They become a threat to others-Syphilitic symptoms.

Aurum Metallicum: An extremely conscientious and industrious person living idealistically by making personal sacrifices faces false allegations crushing his self-ego then he constantly dwells on suicide⁶ and desires death (Constantly loathing of life). Gold is an emotional remedy. What

to live for? Neither pain is remaining nor love. To live one needs a motive for example in order to take revenge or to live to achieve somebody's love. Aurum has lost the reason to live. Never well since: Retirement⁵ (may fall into great depression, not able to see himself in the mirror, he feels that he has lost affection of his friends, feels unfit, boredom, anxiety, irritability, succumbing to a heart attack, and even suicides are common consequences), disappointed love, loss of money, hearing bad news, sudden loss of employment, loss of longtime partner, being scorned, reserved displeasure³, violence. Thereafter he feels "I did not do enough, that's why I failed" (delusion, he has neglected his duty⁵). Self-condemnation⁴, self-criticism. Contradictory symptoms found are that generally Aurum-met symptoms are worse at night but eye symptoms are mysteriously better in moonlight. In liver and heart complaints of Aurum one finds despair and hopelessness², but Hopefulness is found with lung complaints is another unique feature of Aurum. Persistent thoughts about death (thinking of self-destruction, cutting their wrists with a knife, survival is difficult because he has fallen in his own eyes; Mental degeneration⁴ (Syphilitic destructiveness). Recently I came across a case of P.C.O.S a girl of 22 years who had to own responsibility of caring for her three younger siblings due to the sudden untimely death of her mother from post-partum haemorrhage. Her father remarried and separated from them. Now she is working to educate and feed the younger siblings out of great sense of duty but her younger siblings don't give her respect nor acknowledge her sacrifices, she has to cook, clean everything despite her work as a quarrelsome receptionist. She wants respect but as she doesn't get it out of frustration, she has attempted suicide four times already by cutting her wrist, but due to lack of courage and concern for her sibling's well-being she hesitates to die and didn't succeed. Her life oscillates between living for care giving towards siblings and tired of living due to no honour from her siblings and desiring death.

Kali-Carb: Has been raised with good initial family teachings all his childhood and that becomes a complete world for him. Later on, he simply follows those precepts. He continues his further life

on same path firmly like a sober Mummy's Boy, cannot be easily influenced by anyone (Friends, distractions) easily. He has tendency to follow the rules. Will live his life as per the foundation laid down by his parenting. Family value, concern for the family is of highest importance in kali-carb. But once in any point of time there is a contradiction with its family teaching, family values and its outside survival, Loss of dependency develops pathology centred on paralytic type weakness of backache² (Back is support of life to stand up in life). Complaints settle in throat (Kent). Subsequently the respiratory disturbance arises. Dreams of fighting with parents or close relative reflects the parental conflict. Hence, we find intolerance to solitude (need for support, being heard to) as well as aggravation from consolation (He already knows everything as he was raised idealistically and doesn't require advice, very irritable⁴, oversensitivity, touchiness, sensitive to every change in weather⁶). Any sort of crisis especially at psychic level, any sort of anxiety settles and reflects in the stomach. Bad news will give uneasiness, nausea and hollowness in stomach. Opposite symptoms found in kali-carb is that extreme chilliness is found everywhere but its haemorrhoids produce heat and burning pain relieved by cold application. Whereas all symptoms of Kali-carb are having aggravation from cold in general. Normally when man eats, he gets warmed up and energised but in Kali-carb we find lethargy, lost strength and going into sleep state while eating. One of kali-carb's principal aetiologies is from sexual excess, a part of her duty towards her family⁵ (Procreation program with tendency to obesity⁶). Its toothache aggravates while eating. Hahnemann calls Kali-carb as a medicine of great strength to treat the deepest level of psoric diseases³. A case of 57-year-old headmistress who is the sole bread earner of the family, suffering from panic attacks at night due to anxiety of pressures generated by the college management and her dream profession of being a master of ceremony and life coach which is not allowed as per norms of college managements. She cannot give up her job as family needs will be at stake hence, she has to force herself to work every day and hidingly carry out her mike compering sessions for people's weddings and celebrations. Her struggle is between means of survival where

she has to protect her energy and on the other end to focus on herself in pursuit of her own dream as an entertainer.

Lac-can: Thinks himself to be of little consequence “I am worthless” reflects a state of low self-esteem. This mental state develops when someone is treated badly by a ‘Wicked stepmother’ a case of deliberate neglect from early childhood. As this medicine is procured from milk of bitch so it faced lot of criticism from homoeopaths before its use. Poor social training and being excluded from social events leads to unnecessary defiance. Parental or spousal abuse are the causality but Lac-can’s anger and rage are directed at the self⁵. She feels insulted because she thinks she is looked down upon by everyone, she imagines being dirty; she imagines horrible mass of incurable disease⁴ and could not bear to look at any portion of the body as it intensifies her feeling of disgust and horror. This person who feels isolated in a threatening society in which there is no sense of love and belonging has to fight and struggle for her existence. A struggle to convince others of one’s own value and worth. Lac-can is stuck in her emotions, leading to irresolution: absent minded⁶; makes purchases and walks off without them. Extremely nervous and irritable, attacks of rage, cursing and swearing at slightest provocation³. Shows great sensitivity, shyness, inability to express direct aggression. This genuine sadness is intensified and expanded into self-hatred (Antagonism/ aversion to herself) and depression enacted in her psychotic world through voices and hallucinations. This person hovers around the danger line between neurosis and psychosis reflected as a delusion, out of body, she is hovering in the air like a spirit. This is called depersonalisation⁵. Later on, she questions herself if she has the right to exist, followed by suicidal ideation. Symptoms erratic, pains fly from one part to another². What forgetfulness is in the mental plane, likewise shifting pains is a type of forgetfulness at the physical level of location where pain had settled earlier. Forgetfulness is not due to carelessness of mind, rather it is a fixed and pathological state. Its forgetfulness is greater than anacardium and even greater than medorrhinum. Tubercular taint is seen in this remedy. Breast inflammation aggravated by least jar and must hold them firmly when going up and down

stairs³. Pain in the opposite breast while feeding. Oversensitive to touch; cannot bear one part of her body to touch another yet hard pressure ameliorates is also an antagonistic aspect. A case of a household maid, single mother with three children living in master’s house suffering from hypertension and forgetfulness (When it comes to totaling bills of purchases unable to recollect anything, forgets when food is placed on gas cooker- Absent minded) due to constant conflict created by other senior maids of owner’s house who envy her importance in the house, this generated anger inside her. She is split between too much responsibility of work as a maid with the politics around and responsibility of three children’s education and their careers.

CONCLUSION :

Antagonism with oneself is an inherent trait in these above-mentioned remedies as per Kent’s repertory, the underlying miasm and environmental stimulus help to maintain the disease and contribute to the pathogenesis. The psychological evolution of these remedies is what is my attempt through this article.

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