

Lilium tigrinum

Mrs X, age 63.

First consultation March 1992.

Married three times, she has three daughters, one from each marriage. She lives on her own at the moment.

Mrs X is blonde with blue eyes, has a fair complexion with rosy cheeks and is attractive. She dresses well and looks after herself. She gives the impression of being very alert, jolly and full of life. She is a recently retired business woman who has experienced great stress in her work. She considers herself very spiritual and is involved in self-healing and practising Reiki. She says that apart from her presenting problems, she feels very strong and in good health. She narrates her symptoms without hesitation. She sits with crossed legs and her posture is very erect.

She gives the impression of being much younger than she is because of her liveliness and giggling. She is not tall and has a firm body which is femininely rounded. There is a tendency to become overweight if she is not careful.

Reflections on the theme of *Lilium tigrinum*

She swings between strong sexual needs and religious affections and these are highlighted in her humorous narratives. (Vithoukias speaks of the split between tiger and lily'.) After being told the name of her remedy, she appeared for her next interview in a safari outfit with a tiger's tooth dangling around her neck! On another occasion, when she visited a monastery, where she felt piety was required, she wore a black and white suit, special make-up which was hardly visible and she carried a black lace scarf for covering her head "just in case". She obviously enjoys these masquerades which one might interpret as an attempt to escape from a boring everyday life. (Phatak: erotic, MIND, Lascivious, lustful; Nymphomania; MIND, Religious affections; alternating with sexual excitement; MIND, Despair, religious of salvation; MIND, Delusions, divided into two parts; Confusion of mind identity, duality, sense of.)

The Tiger

Wildness, aggression, inflicting injury and a powerful animal instinct are themes associated with the tiger. The tiger controls the jungle. Without such control deterioration into chaos and anarchy might result – a state frightening to *Lilium tigrinum*. The tiger uses not only brutal force, but stalks his prey in a cunning, deceitful way (*Lilium tigrinum* is not in this rubric). As the mighty king of the jungle he fears little – the polar opposite to *Lilium tigrinum* who fears so many things.

Her need to hurry (MIND, Hurry) may be viewed as the polar opposite of her physical ailments, since the hernia and the prolapse are caused by relaxation of the ligaments. She herself cannot relax. Her hurried mind may be interpreted as running away from sexual urges, overcoming the desire by keeping herself busy and this soon becomes second nature. Her desire is to do several things at once. She rushes at high speed through the High Street, not stopping for a chat. She gives the impression that she does not want to be disturbed and complains about the people who try to hold her back. The

tiger, the loner, is pacing out his territory. The hurry is combined with impatience, which can be readily seen when someone tries to engage her in a conversation on the street. (MIND, Impatience; Spoken to averse to being; Irritability spoken to, when; – Hurry duties, as by imperative; Hurry occupation, in, desires to do several things at once; – Occupation diversion amel.)

She definitely does not like to be approached and being talked to. She can cut people short with a sharp remark. On one occasion someone rang her door bell at an inconvenient moment. He was turned away with the explanation that she was just 'cutting something out'. He himself was the object being cut out!

This behaviour also applies to the phone, when she is indisposed to talk. (MIND, Talk, indisposed to.) Again, because of her impatience, one has the feeling that one is taking her away from very important business. Friends know not to phone her after 8pm!

The tiger is in control. Everything she does expresses her desire for control. She likes to command. She runs her own life – the opposite of *Staphysagria*. When one partner becomes unsuitable, she leaves him, regaining her freedom, even at the cost of a heart condition.

One might find her deceitful in the way she keeps people apart. She does so to keep control over her different friends. This characteristic is not found in the rubrics. It might reflect the behaviour of the shadow side of the tiger, the loner: the fear of being forsaken. If she keeps people apart, there is less danger that she will be left out.

Another rubric is very tiger-like. There is the desire to strike. If this cannot be done physically, she does it verbally, at times with a poisonous tongue (the lily-way, as *Lilium tigrinum* has very poisonous anthers). Indeed, she can be very emotional and physical. At the end of one of her liaisons, jealous and fearing loss of control she flew into a rage and smashed a thousand pounds worth of antique crockery, unsuccessfully aimed at her partner. It must have relieved her, since her main complaint following this act, was that she had to clean it up herself, sobbing all the time, and even got a cut on her knee! She seems rather happy about adding this episode to her other colourful stories. (MIND, concentration difficult, crazy feeling on top of head? – Violent, deeds of violence, rage leading to; – Throws persons, at; – Weeping anger, after.)

This fiancé had reinforced her need to be busy. He had talked her into being 'bionic woman' and she had done her best to comply and overextended herself until she completely ran out of steam. During this period she was running a shop, opening a country hotel, looking after the growing problems of her tenants and at the same time felt she had to join in the social life of her partner and be a fantastic lover as well. When she had finally had enough of it, she blew up.

Separating from another fiancé caused not the breaking of china, but that of her heart; resulting in her stroke, which came on with syphilitic destructive violence. This was not plant-like slow and withering but with tiger force.

Once she became very angry about a harmless remark made

by a neighbour: "Are the ladies going out and spending all the money?"

She snapped back immediately and sailed off, head held high, leaving the man open-mouthed. She felt much better after this as it was something she had wanted to do for a long time, but had always held back. ("He always makes these remarks".) This incident occurred under the influence of the remedy. Maybe it had to come out, since the desire to strike had been anxiously kept inside for too long. In this situation she was easily offended, especially as the offence had to do with money and so with her underlying fear of misfortune. (Vermeulen: Offended, easily, takes everything as criticism. Yet *Lilium tigrinum* is not found in this rubric, either in Kent or *The Synthetic*.)

The positive effect of her busy nature could be seen in how she looked forward to retirement. This was going to be a great time because of all the things she would be able to do. Indeed we can see the tiger moving about. After the flat above the shop and then a complete folly (unheatable in winter), came a flat on the sea front, from which she moved to a hill top. The last move was to Cornwall, and from here she keeps commuting to her Mediterranean island home (*Tuberculinum*).

The Lily

The lily carries the dual image of purity and lust'. It is also an emblem of fertility', which can be seen in the mass of bulbils and new little bulbs growing underground. Consequently, the patient is torn between these two poles. *Lilium tigrinum* has sexual excitement alternating with spiritual despair.

Because of constant travelling, a feeling of insecurity develops. She feels easily left out and ignored. This happens because she spends weeks abroad and therefore misses out on events at home. She feels that her role is to be a catalyst – providing other people with materials (ie spiritual books). Then she feels that she is left somewhere along the way, as people moved on.

Her need for security is very manifest on the material level. She has several properties and fears not so much poverty or starvation, but a fall down the social ladder. She has an exclusive taste and surrounds herself with antiques (Phatak: Desires finery). She ran a fine silver and antique shop until her recent retirement.

The wild lily flower illustrates this theme very well. The bulbils, still small and immature when they fall to the ground, develop very strong long roots which they drive into the soil. These then contract and pull the bulbils down to the right depth (bearing down feeling?) where nourishment can provide growth and where they are sheltered from frost. (*Lilium tigrinum* is a very robust plant, surviving even the harsh climate of the Himalayan foothills.) Considering how tall the lily grows, it needs a strong bulb and root system to provide nourishment and support. This earned the bulb the attribute 'geophilous' – earth loving, certainly a fitting theme for Mrs X too, as she loves to work hard in the garden. (Vermeulen: Desire for physical exertion.) *Lilium tigrinum* likes the fresh cold air, as well as the heat of summer (not of rooms). It is however made very vulnerable due to its height – six feet. A storm or a passing animal could easily fell such a plant, or at least, blow down the blossoms. Also, slugs quite enjoy *Lilium tigrinum* and can "eat through the stem in a few hours".

Fear of downward motion also comes out in her fear of taking train journeys on her own, when she might have to open train doors, which implies the fear of falling out and the general fear that something might happen. On her walks around the hills, she carries a walking stick, especially for use when making

her way downhill.

She likes her surrounding to be very orderly and clean, almost *Arsenicum*-like. (This also points to her sun sign, Virgo – the virgin!) Such order gives her a sense of security, like the strict routine she applies to many areas of her life – a cup of coffee around lunchtime, a brisk walk in the afternoon, a glass of whisky in the evening and a set time for going to bed, followed by a bit of reading. (Her sleeping hours might even reflect the rhythm of a plant – but certainly not that of a jungle beast prowling at night!)

Since the fear of falling and insecurity are central themes in this case, it does not come as a surprise that she feels better when she feels that others need her (or, as she had put it, > having done something useful). Being supportive to others makes her stronger. She visits her daughters, and tries to help out the youngest one financially (immense mother/daughter problems involved) and organises holidays for her grandchildren. However, these are brief episodes and she returns to her own business. Recently she bought her younger half-brother's house, which she was unable to sell. She felt morally obliged to come to the rescue. She also likes to see herself in the role of Agony Aunt: 'Tell Auntie X!', as this satisfies her curiosity and her need to talk to people. (MIND, Talk, desires to, to someone.)

She was once hosting a spiritual event and started polishing her silver a week in advance. On the night in question dozens of candles were burning and she wore the 'right' outfit, complete with silver shaped star earrings. Her exquisite buffet dinner came close to outshining the guest speaker. She was obviously in her element, and delighted with the whole event. Borland, cf. Vermeulen: "They are most exacting; they want everything to centre around themselves, and if it does not they fly in to a rage". Once having been a guest somewhere, and not having been the centre of attention, she sent a thank you card to the hostess Joan the next day, thanking her "for the Joan-full evening".

The tall and beautiful flower does not easily suggest the rubric MIND, Confidence, want of self. In fact, *Lilium tigrinum* is not listed under this rubric in Barthel's *Synthetic Repertory*. *Lilium tigrinum* does have a good opinion of herself. The insecurity is focused on material and financial need and religious affections.

The remedy alternates between sexual and religious needs. The pure virgin aspect comes through clearly in the many attempts of Lily to reach a higher level of spirituality. Even here though one sees the theme of hurriedness. Without tiring or stopping, she embarks on one spiritual seminar after another, attending Reiki sharings, buying the most sophisticated technical equipment for dowsing from America, piling up uncounted books, unearthing unpublished authors and helping them to become published, organising group meetings at her flat and still hunting around to find yet another guru who might help her to find her lost inner balance. Her accounts of these odysseys sound very amusing, yet they do not seem to help her progress. (MIND, Delusions, doomed, being.)

The swing from religious despair (or venture) to sexual excitement can be very sudden. She narrates the story of her earnest intention to join the Quakers in her youth. She was expected to undergo an interview and, in order to be on time on the morning in question, she stayed in a hotel close by. She was all prepared, with her grey simple dress and her pious state of mind. Yet that evening she met a handsome young man in the hotel who succeeded in talking her out of the Quakers and into his bed. The next morning she did not attempt to go to the interview since the effect of her adventure was still visibly

written on her face. (GENITALS – FEMALE, Desire, violent.)

She is very aware of her sharp tongue (MIND, Striking; – desire to strike). At times she wants to talk, yet dreads saying anything (Phatak), for fear that she will say something wrong (MIND, Fear, say something wrong, lest he should). She had a dream about a bell: Once the sound has started, nobody can stop or retrieve it again. She knows that she must watch her tongue. At the same time she is bursting to tell her story and sits there giggling, with her hand over her mouth trying to find a way round her dilemma.

All her amusing stories have made her acquaintances question their reality. By being interesting, the lily stands out even more than the other flowers around. The stories may not be totally made up, but they may have become somewhat embellished, echoing the rubric MIND, Delusions everything become unreal.

She is generous with her money, spends it on other people and feels that it will come back. Yet she feels left out and forsaken, always being the catalyst for others. A recent event seems to have gone wrong. She had organised a workshop to be run by a spiritual author, whose book she had helped publish. As she had moved since, she returned for the event, not as the hostess, but as a 'normal' participant. *Lilium tigrinum* cannot be second in line (close to *Platina*). Kent does not list the remedy under MIND, Haughty, but it is in Barthel's *Synthetic Repertory* (regular type). The beautiful flower stands tall above other wild flowers. This workshop seemed to have turned her away for the moment from the religious path. Instead of mixing with the other participants to talk after the event, she vanished and went to a theatre. Everybody thought she looked strange that evening. When questioned later she declared: 'I am taking a sabbatical'. (MIND, Anger; – Discontented, displeased; – Ennui entertainment amel.)

Having got rid of her last partner several years ago, there does not seem to be another one on the horizon, and the swing to the sexual part of her might prove difficult, resulting in more hurriedness. She has always been very open about her sexuality and does not seem to have ever repressed it. This is perhaps the reason she has never suffered depression to date. Now, there is a chance that she might develop depression, unless she finds another partner. She definitely needs another dose of *Lilium tigrinum* to be able to balance her two sides.

Along with the Psoric miasm with its forsaken feeling, there is the syphilitic miasm. The self-destruction is found in such symptoms as her stroke and the cancer miasm of her mother, whom she had hated most of her life.

Presenting Problems

Stroke, three years ago, from which she recovered remarkably well. Her present heart condition is diagnosed as atrial fibrillation (arrhythmic heartbeat, fault in 'electrical mechanism').

On medication: Diazoxide for the heart condition and high blood pressure. Preventive medication against embolism: Warfarin. She had been told that she would have to stay on this medication for the rest of her life. (RESPIRATION, Difficult; CHEST. Affections, Heart; Oppression – Palpitation; – Pain, Heart.)

Hernia, in lower left abdomen, protruding when standing; sinks in when she is lying down. She can live with it. She has a loose feeling inside after all her operations. (ABDOMEN, Distension; – Emptiness – Pain, burning, Hypogastrium – Inguinal Region; Pain, sore, bruised, tenderness.)

Prolapsus uteri. This is uncomfortable. To address this she had a ring implanted and this is due to be replaced. The

stitches from her hysterectomy have worn out (very lively sexual activity!). (GENITALS – FEMALE, Prolapsus, uterus – crossing legs amel.)

She had been advised to have an operation for the hernia and the prolapse at the same time, with careful withdrawal of Warfarin first. She dreads this major operation and rather wants to try homœopathy.

Side-effects of the medication: i.e. Slight drowsiness and nervous irritation of the left eye. (This is in the *Lilium tigrinum* drug picture', as: EYES, Pulsation in eyes: but is a new symptom for her.) I also noticed oedematous swelling of the ankles, a new symptom – Diazoxide lists water retention as a side-effect.

Childhood:

She was a skinny child (war years) until her first pregnancy at 22. She had chicken pox and measles. There were no vaccinations, except: 1936 diphtheria, 1947 smallpox, 1984 cholera and yellow fever. Since her stroke three years ago she has an annual flu injection, with no dramatic reactions, only slight headache.

She had jaundice as a child. Between age three and five she had regular bilious attacks, on Friday nights, when her parents were going out – emotional problems! (need to control!!! Bile is an angry, destructive secretion).

She vomited when the sirens went. Her mother was nervous.

She considers her childhood to have been unhappy, because of her mother. Felt rejected by her mother. Had a lack of confidence in her father. (MIND, Delusion deserted, forsaken; MIND, Fear, falling.) She is a loner, happiest while outside in the wilds. As a child she lived in the countryside, which she still prefers. She hated her mother and cut her off early in her teens. Before her mother died, they were reconciled.

Mother died of lung cancer four years ago. Maternal grandmother died of stroke in her seventies, maternal grandfather died of pneumonia in his fifties.

The hernia was caused by over-exertion, too much strain and heavy lifting.

She had an ovarian cyst with her first pregnancy, therefore a caesarean was performed. (GENITALS – FEMALE, Tumours, Uterus, fibroid.)

She had a hysterectomy over 20 years ago, because of a growth discovered while she was pregnant. The left ovary was taken out.

After this she had pulmonary thrombosis and pneumonia in 1963.

Signs before the stroke: easy breathlessness (once became almost unconscious while walking the dog). This occurred about 6 to 12 months prior to the stroke. She had a great deal of stress (business and love life) and was a heavy smoker. She was running on overdrive all the time. High adrenalin output! (GENERALS, Faintness, fainting – standing, while; – prolapse of uterus, from (only remedy); but NOT under – cardiopathy; – palpitation, during; walking, while.)

About 1970 she had an arthritic knee (left), from emotional stress. She said she could almost watch it become bigger. The joints in her fingers are arthritic, but painless, and she is able to bend them. She takes a mineral supplement, Dolomite, and I suggested to discontinue this, as from the homœopathic point of view I could see no benefit in the feeding of extra calcium.

She has healthy teeth and bones. She has had no fractures and the bones are straight, except for a slight deformation of the lower left rib cage, which is wider than the right.

Three months ago she had a bad fall. She struck her face and her jaw was fractured on the left side. "Another person would have been completely smashed" – but she healed in no time, as

she used *Rescue Remedy* and Reiki while a patient in a Mediterranean hospital.

All her symptoms are left sided, but she sleeps on her right side (this is opposite to the remedy picture), in foetal position, or on her back. Left would be uncomfortable.

She sleeps "like a log" from 8.30pm to 6am, with interruptions for urination at around 1am and 3am. Before the stroke she went to bed at 9 or 10pm, slept till 6 or 7am and was never sleepless. She thinks about the problems of her children, but does not worry.

She meditates. Now, being retired, she takes more leisure. She goes for a brisk walk every day and lives part of the year on a Mediterranean island. She is very adaptable and enjoys hard work in the open air, such as creating a new garden.

She is very thirsty (STOMACH, Thirst, extreme) and gets very hungry, especially when dieting (STOMACH, Appetite, increased – ravenous, canine, excessive). She puts on weight easily and could gain one stone very easily if she were not careful. She eats lots of fruit and vegetables and very little meat. She feels much better and less hungry on a herbal diet. (She just started Chinese herbal supplements as her latest innovation.) She likes whisky. She craves sweets (not often), coffee and green leafy vegetables (vitamin K! Warfarin connection, as vitamin K is needed for blood clotting and so has an antidotal effect on Warfarin. So this latter craving might be a symptom which has become prominent since she began taking the medication).

She gets panicky in stressful situations, especially since she began taking the anti-coagulant (side-effects?).

She has a fear of falling, and feels fright and anticipation in the solar plexus. She is also fearful when she is watching others near heights. She is especially fearful when there is a drop and when she is also looking up a height. She doesn't use lifts, especially going down. Going downstairs, she has to hold on to the banister. She has tried several times to cross the Bristol Suspension Bridge but always has to walk back, even when she has made it to the middle, because of anticipating the return journey. She tries hard to overcome her fears – she bought a flat in a high building, but had to sell it again. MIND, Fear, falling, – room, agg, in; downward motion, of: Fear, disaster, of; – happen, something will.

She is "God-based" since 1964 and tries to keep a "healthy mental level".

She is warm-blooded and does not feel the cold. She is slightly long-sighted. Her hearing in the left ear is slightly less than normal. The tongue has no coating and is of a brownish-red colour.

Aggravation: < standing, stress, damp cold, insecurity, especially financial insecurity, full moon.

Amelioration: > clean fresh air, like the clean dry air of the altitude of her island home; > heat, > being out of doors; > doing something useful.

Her stiff joints have become better since regular aromatherapy treatment. She is still keeping her left arm close to the body (to protect her heart). (EXTREMITIES, Stiffness, joints, Upper Limbs.)

The hurriedness, the fear of falling, together with the need for security, and > crossing legs are very marked in this case.

Prescription

March 92 *Calcarea carbonica* 200 in regard of the physical symptoms. The hernia became more comfortable. But then the case was taken again with more regard for the mental symptoms.

July 92 *Lilium tigrinum* 200. She feels better and notes that she is great all the time. She is not going ahead with the

operation. The prolapse does not bother her so much any more.

July 93 repetition of the same *Lilium tigrinum* 200. Report a month later: the hernia is getting smaller and smaller. She is much better with heights and could tackle the Suspension Bridge now (if she had the time!). She gradually stopped the heart medication and reduced the Warfarin considerably. She can live with the prolapse; still has a ring.

Early 94. According to reports from other people, she is 'not herself'. In anger, she has withdrawn completely from her spiritual path. This is certainly a swing back to the Tiger theme and she is in need of another dose of the remedy.

A Male *Lilium Tigrinum*

As I was writing this, a male *Lilium tigrinum* character came to mind: We can consider the young Goethe, a contemporary of Hahnemann, as being in a *Lilium tigrinum* state. As a young man he was plagued by fear of falling. With a similar and very striking tenacity to Mrs X, he tried time and time again to climb the Strasbourg Munster, attempting more steps each time. His sexual urges are well known, still wooing a young woman in his old age. The difficulties which hindered the fulfilment of his desires were the morals of the time and his position in society – a ministry post at the court of Weimar – a fall from which would have been as lethal as one from the Strasbourg Munster. His journey to Rome might well be seen as an attempt to escape (MIND, Escape, attempts to). The opposite, the pure lily-like state, lives in Goethe as the author of great inspired works. His choice to marry the uneducated Christine Vulpius expresses the urges of his sexual instincts. By then he knew himself to be high enough on the social ladder to be exempt from falling into public disgrace by making a wrong choice. From *Lilium tigrinum* he had developed to a *Platinum* state.

Annotations

- 1 This sounds like Kent's description, p 641.
- 2 Vithoulkas points out the personality split between tiger and lily. See also M Norland: *Study Notes*.
- 3 Control to counter the fear that something might happen: see Blackie, cf. Norland, *Study Notes*. It does not stem from the want of self-confidence.
- 4 See also Norland, *Study Notes*.
- 5 Cooper, *Symbols*.
- 6 Jefferson-Brown, *The Lily*.
- 7 Kent, p 640: twitching of the lids.

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