

Revengeful Insanity: Love, from Disappointed: *Tarentula hispanica*

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Abstract: In choosing a constitutional remedy homeopaths mirror the true essence of what every psychotherapist from Freud to Jung has ever looked for; the 'delusion.' The 'delusion' in homeopathy is the combination of the emotional motivation within the illusion that the person presents to the world; as well as the inner perversion or 'delusion' of the instinctual reactions of the patient, to what we call the 'Never Well Since symptom.' It is this instinctual reaction to a perceived trauma that reveals the remedy and the 'kingdom.' This is the presenting 'causation' of the case. *Tarentula hispanica* is noted for their plotting and cunning revenge; the motivation behind that revenge is the 'causation' of the case. The core delusional causation of *Tarentula hispanica* is manifested in the Rubric in which *Tarentula hispanica* is the only remedy listed: Insanity: love; from disappointed. In this essay the author explores the character of Iago in the William Shakespeare play Othello, a tale of love, jealousy and revengeful hate.

Keywords: *Tarentula hispanica*, causation; *Tarentula hispanica*, unrequited love

When Othello, the Moor, overlooks Iago for the role of Lieutenant; instead giving the position to Cassio, the enraged Iago sets out on a calculated course of murderous revenge. Fueled by "hate" at his perceived insult, "I know my price," Iago sets out to right his insult by destroying the Moor and his love Desdemona. Iago, through cunning and opportunistic means, convinces Othello that his sweet wife Desdemona is deceiving him with Cassio; hence entrapping Cassio and causing the deepest of injury to Othello, who is passionately in love with Desdemona. Desdemona's own father provides the fuel and the wick for his plan when he venomously warns "Look to her, Moor, if thou hast eyes to see: she has deceived her father, and may thee." Iago plants the seeds of Desdemona's unfaithfulness, and "poisons" the Moor's passionate sulfuric nature so that he "Burn like the mines of Sulphur" with sexual jealousy. The nature of the Moor "is of a free and open nature," but his "black" blood is of the most sulfuric inflammable

kind; and once poisoned by "jealousy...the green-eyed monster," is blinded with his need to "loathe her." Tragically Othello kills Desdemona before he finds out that he was beguiled by the cunning Iago.

The interesting aspect of this essay is what constitution has the slow and calculative resolve of Iago to cunningly and methodically carry out the revenge and destruction because of their perceived insult and hurt at being overlooked for a promotion. The revenge of Iago is impressive in his unrelenting resolve to cause pain to Othello; he sets his plan of action and he never falters from his attack.



"Othello and Desdemona in Venice"
by Théodore Chassériau (1819-1856)

Iago; Act I Scene i

"I know my price, I am worth no worse a place:
But he; as loving his own pride and purposes,
Evades them, with a bombast circumstance "

• Rubric: Delusion: insulted, he is

Iago; Act I Scene iii
"I hate the Moor."

- Rubric: Cynical:
- Rubric: Hatred: revengeful; hatred and

Through a series of the most cunning methods of deception, Iago plots his plan of action. Iago waits at the entrance of his burrow, waiting patiently to strike when his victims present themselves.

Iago; Act I, Scene iii

*"The Moor is of a free and open nature,
 That thinks men honest that but seem to be so,
 And will as tenderly be led by the nose."*

Iago; Act II, Scene i

[Aside] *"He takes her by the palm: ay, well said,
 whisper: with as little a web as this will I
 ensnare as great a fly as Cassio.
 The Moor already changes with my poison:
 Dangerous conceits are, in their natures, poisons,
 Which at the first are scarce found to distaste,
 But with a little act upon the blood."*

Iago cleverly manipulates each member of the play as an animal would its prey. All the language he uses reflects the remedy sitting in the animal 'kingdom'. The 'themes' of entrapment - "*led by the nose*," "*ensnare*," "*fools are caught*," and "*changes with my poison*," are 'themes' of attack, aggressor, of 'him versus me'. Iago's presiding stimulus of being overlooked - "*I know my price, I am worth no worse a place*" - contains the main 'theme' of the animal kingdom's need to maintain hierarchy and supremacy within the group.

Spider Themes:

- Cunning, plotting, revenge
- Manipulative
- Persecution
- Jealousy
- Hate
- Hysteria, complaining
- Identity – asocial individuals, feel on outside
- Activity; restless, need to hurry
- Short sexual life

Iago; Act V, Scene i

"My medicine, work! Thus credulous fools are caught;"

- Rubric: Cunning
- Rubric: Deceitful (1)
- Rubric: Delirium, raging
- Rubric: Exhilaration
- Rubric: Industrious, mania for work

- Rubric: Laughing
- Rubric: Malicious
- Rubric: Mischievous

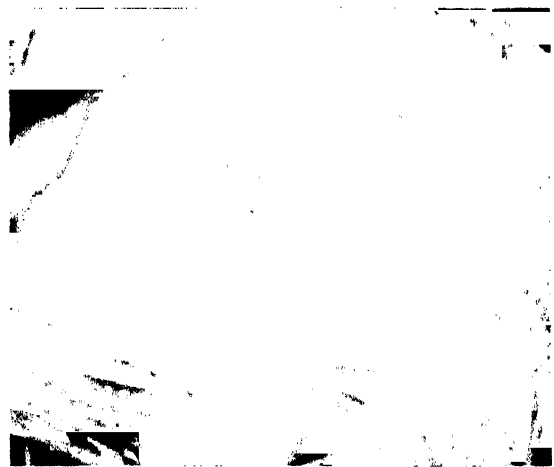
Iago; Act I, Scene iii.

"O, beware, my lord, of jealousy;(2)

*It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock
 The meat it feeds on; that cuckold lives in bliss."*

Iago presents the concept of jealousy to Othello, adding fuel to the fires of sulphur (3); even before Othello has conceived of the emotion within his own heart. Vermeulen quotes Tyler in *Prisma*: "Sudden violent, or sly destructive movements are absolutely characteristic, and unique to the drug." "Threatening, destructive, unexpected behaviour, but cunning." [Vermeulen]

Tarantula (*Lycosa tarantula*) spins no web as a snare but uses its web as a subterfuge to hide behind as it waits for prey to walk past its burrow. The Tarantula is renowned for its wolf-like hunting ability to suddenly pounce undetected on its prey from behind the hidden entrance of its burrow. It digs a deep burrow and covers the entrance with a layer of silk web. The first symptom reported after being bitten is a state of depression and lethargy which the sufferers will usually only come out of if they are roused by music and dance.



European tarantula
Lycosa tarantula

Southern Europe; body length 2-3 cm.

photo: Manuel J. Cabrero

Two *Tarentula hispanica* Cases

These two cases were chosen because the first case of *Tarentula hispanica* had not been spurned or rejected in love, was not revengeful, but was still

very cunning. The second case had been spurned in love and had been suffering several years from the mind-set of vengeful plotting and depression.

Case One

I recently started treating a 24 year-old man with *Tarentula hispanica*. He had Asperger's Syndrome. It was not until he was attacked on a train and the police assessed him as being 'simple' that his mother decided to seek treatment for him. What was unique to the case was that he was able to come out of himself when he went to a Baptist church that had a lot of loud devotional hymn singing and dancing as part of the church service. Since taking the remedy *Tarentula hispanica* 30 twice a week for two months, he was able to sit still in a chair, hold eye contact with me, and participate in an engaging conversation that included the correct expected emotional responses to information. [I did want him to take the remedy daily, but this could not be achieved.] His ability to hold eye contact and answer appropriately was a big emotional breakthrough for an Asperger's case in that such individuals are usually locked inside of themselves and have no concept of correct emotional responses unless they learn them. The 'theme' within *Tarentula hispanica* of hiding in their burrow is a particularly relevant image with this man. This man managed to go through the entire school system and evade assessment; even though he continually failed, he was able to talk his way out of tricky situations. When his mother brought him to see me, I suggested Asperger's, which was a shock to her. He has since been assessed by the Asperger's association and is eligible for a pension. The psychologist assessing him also commented on the fact that he was particularly mischievous and cunning in trying to avoid assessment. He had an amazingly advanced adult use of vocabulary with which he was able to deceive the listener into thinking he was able to comprehend situations to a degree emotionally proportionate to his age; however, in reality his emotional responses resembled more those of a ten year old. He was also delightful and had lots of friends that were younger than he because of his tendency to "play, joke, and do absurd things." [Vermeulen] His mother was an exceptional constitution - *Luna*; consequently, she spent all her time creating an incredibly safe environment for him. He had received all of her attention; consequently he did not possess the spurned hate normally perceived in *Tarentula hispanica*. His father left at an early age and had no contact with him. [This was the 'Never Well Since' causation.]

Unless *Tarentula hispanica* is provoked by rejection in love, you will not always see the hatred. This young man has not had his first love relationship.

I have not told him yet that he is taking *Tarentula hispanica* because he has an overwhelming fear of spiders.

Case Two

This *Tarentula hispanica* patient came to me predominantly for counseling. I did not tell her until the second consultation that the remedy given was *Tarentula hispanica*. She suffered from horrendous fear of spiders, Tarantulas in particular.

Presenting issue: She had suffered from depression her whole life. She had previously tried several counselors, but they had not worked out; "they did not understand her, or the nature of her depression," and she had stopped going. She was extremely "lonely," and wanted a relationship. She had only experienced a relationship once and that was short-lived. "I have been depressed ever since he left me." She couldn't take any form of antidepressants as they made her "anxious," and "restless," more depressed than she was already, and "paranoid." Both of her parents suffered from depression. Her father was bipolar, and her mother suffered from clinical depression. She felt that "the world and everyone has been unfair to (her)." "There must be something wrong with me as I have never had anyone want to be in a relationship with me; this is what depresses me and what can you do about that?" The last statement was said forcefully, as a provocation.

Keywords noted:

- Lonely
- Anxious
- Restless
- Paranoid
- Unwanted / rejected

I asked, "What do you mean by paranoid?"

"I am different from other people; they are not honest. They do not like me at work; my new boss does not like me. For example, other people at work use their work mobile for private use; I do not do that. I notice people in the morning getting on the tram; they don't buy a ticket. I would never do that. I like to be left *alone* at work; that way I get things done. I am much *more efficient* that way. I do not want to be *noticed*. The new boss does not like me and *wants to get rid of my position*. No one notices me when I go to work parties; no one comes and talks to me, no one wants to have a relationship with me."

"You have had one relationship? What happened in that relationship?"

"He didn't want me after a *short amount of time*. I would not have a relationship with me; I would not have a relationship with someone who was fat. After twenty years of no one having a relationship

with me there must be something wrong with me. I do not like therapy. You are not very nice; it is not easy talking about things that upset me. You are very cruel. It is hard to come here and cry like this. I do not belong; I am not the same as everyone else. *No one wants me*; I am alone and no one is ever going to want to have a relationship with me." [The patient is now crying.]

"Do you have a memory of not belonging like this before?"

"When I was five, my mother took me to the library; she wanted to leave. I said I didn't want to go; I had just started to read a book. She did not talk to me for one week. I didn't know what I had done wrong." [The patient was still crying.]

"One week! How did this make you feel? Did she often do that?"

"All the time. She would often not speak to me for up to five days." [This was the 'Never Well Since' causation.]

She was very somber, dressed in black, very intense, the 'heaviest feeling' patient that I have ever seen; she displayed no 'social niceties' or seeming awareness as to how intense she was. She accepted her depression; felt intensely alone, and she thought she would always be like this. In the consultation she remembered several times in her life that proved she was not liked, and would never be liked. One of the strongest memories was of a nativity play in kindergarten when she was not chosen and was rejected by the teacher. Other memories were of her mother forcing her to wear a skirt and top that was knitted with wool to school, and having to face the resulting rejection and ridicule. I asked why she wore black as I was certain the remedy picture was a spider. She didn't like being exposed or noticed, and when she wore black, she felt she would not draw attention to herself. *Tarentula hispanica* is listed under the rubric "Colors: aversion black." In this case the black color of her clothing enhanced her ability to be able to hide, despite her large size. [This is an example of the need to always ask the reason behind something that strikes you as unusual.]

Keywords extended:

- Persecuted
- Attacked
- Alone
- Noticed
- Efficient
- Sexual life short

Physical symptoms

No appetite! "I do not eat anything." This shocked me considering her size. It was immediately obvious that I was shocked. She explained that she only

liked to eat one particular brand of potato chips. I asked what she liked about potato chips. She replied, "I feel very relaxed and calm when I hear the *crunch in my mouth.*"

Menstrual: Headaches, menstrual pain, and severe depression after ovulation until the onset of the menses.

Severe daily hangover: She also drank an excessive amount of alcohol every night, which would explain the weight issue. I asked her why she drank so much. She did not want to stop drinking; she needed it to deal with the pain and hurt at work, when people upset her. She said, "I think a lot about what to do the next day and how I am going to get them back; so they will notice me."

Muscular pains: Knees, neck, and back.

Daily headaches.

Weekly migraines.

Constipation.

Remedy: First consult: *Tarentula hispanica* 30, once a day for one month.

Second consult, one month later: *Tarentula hispanica* 200C, one dose.

Third consult, one month later: *Tarentula hispanica* 1M, one dose.

She has since stayed on a dose of 30C, once a day, for the last two years.

She is now far less depressed. She no longer cries with the same disturbing sadness. Her crying now is a cathartic hysterical release from the depression. This process also mirrors what people have reported if bitten. She is still coming for consultations with me which is the longest period of time she has ever trusted anyone. She is not as depressed from rejection at work, imagined or real. Her constipation is gone. Migraines are less frequent now, only monthly as opposed to three times a week. She is drinking less but still drinking daily. *Tarentula hispanica* patients love the effects of alcohol, in my experience. She still has headaches, especially after drinking a lot on a weekend. The most important aspect of this case for me is that she is happy not to have a relationship; in fact, she says that if she did meet someone, she would still want to live alone. The reason for coming to see me initially - ill effects from unreciprocated love - is now not the dominant cause of her depression. She has just started to look for a new work position, which is also a big move for her because *Tarentula hispanica* patients, in my experience, do not come out of their 'burrows;' that is, what they know to be safe whether it be a physical work place or an emotional state of depression. She recently wore a light pink top under her black

jacket to her interview with me. As a consequence of her coming out of her burrow it is also now possible to see her cunning manipulation of her work dynamics, but this Iago aspect of the case has just started to come to light. She has recently decided to lose weight to make "herself more attractive so she can wear bright clothes," and stop drinking. This case continues.

Iago has no time for his wife Emilia; he constantly attacks and belittles her; except for when she has a part to play in his plot by stealing Desdemona's scarf so Iago can use it to incriminate Cassio. In my experience of *Tarentula hispanica* patients, this is a true reflection of their relationship patterning: they want a relationship, but it must be at arm's length so they can stay alone. Love and relationships appear to irritate and annoy them and interfere with their routine. "Annoying, intruding, interfering." [Vermeulen] I was not surprised when I read the courting habits of Tarantula in Vermeulen's *Prisma*. The fact the male needs to leave immediately after mating and that the courtship is potentially life threatening for him reflects the relationship history of my *Tarentula hispanica* patients. *Tarentula hispanica* will attack in response to all sexual or emotional advances; it is part of their emotional foreplay. In the above case the patient could only be released from her depression by first attacking me, her counselor; then she would go into an almost hysterical explosion of emotion that would then end in exhilaration and release from the depression. The key aspect of *Tarentula hispanica* is that they do not like to be unnoticed in love.

Conclusion

Iago cunningly feeds the concept of jealousy; slowly manipulating the Moor's insecurities to his personal advantage. No one more than Iago, the *Tarentula hispanica*, has the Achilles heel of feeling overlooked. It is always interesting to sit back from a consultation when a patient is 'venting their spleen,' and just make a note of all keywords that come forth. It is a gross generalization of 'New-Age psycho-babble' to assume that everything hated in someone else is a reflection of the patient themselves; however, there is an interesting element of truth in that assumption in a homeopathic consultation. Rajan Sankaran reported in a conference I attended that he had made a similar observation of wives complaining about their mothers-in-law in India. Often he commented that what they accused the mothers-in-law of was a reflection of a keyword within the case.

Iago knows how to fuel the fire of jealousy in the burning sulfuric Othello because he identifies with the jealousy he has towards Cassio for receiving

what was his due. Iago's hate is only matched by the intensity of the love he had for Othello. Iago's jealousy of Desdemona does not come from his own love of Desdemona or jealousy of the 'black' Moor with a fair Desdemona, as has been suggested by literature critics, but from his own spurned, unreciprocated love of Othello. In the rubric "Insanity; Love; from disappointed" *Tarentula hispanica* is the only remedy listed.

Rajan Sankaran in *The Soul of Remedies* says, "Characteristic of *Tarentula* is the feeling of unreciprocated love or affection. The person has the feeling he is not attractive enough and therefore does not get the attention he craves for. So in *Tarentula* you have many features that have to do with attractiveness . . . Also mischievousness, cunning, hysterical behaviour, lasciviousness, shamelessness, exposing himself and even threatening – all with the intention to attract attention." *Tarentula hispanica* want **all** the love and attention within **all** relationships; it is this aspect that often is played out in the violent precociousness of *Tarentula hispanica* children when they are obsessively craving attention. Iago hated Desdemona because it was she who took his master Othello away from noticing *him*. Iago also hated Cassio because it was he who took his master Othello away from noticing *him*. This is why *Tarentula hispanica* is the only remedy listed in the rubric "Insanity; Love; from disappointed." This is the causation of *Tarentula hispanica*, and it is something that is often missed when we just concentrate on the vengefulness of the remedy. Iago loved Othello before he hated him. This is the causation of *Tarentula hispanica*, unrequited love.

References

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Footnotes:

1) Iago cleverly uses the handkerchief dropped by Desdemona and swears she gave it to Cassio. The fact that Desdemona could not produce the handkerchief when he demanded it also fuels his jealousy and the superstition around the prophecy of lost love and deceit.

Othello Act III, Scene iv.

That handkerchief

*Did an Egyptian to my mother give;
 She was a charmer, and could almost read
 The thoughts of people: she told her, while
 she kept it,
 'Twould make her amiable and subdue my father
 Entirely to her love, but if she lost it
 Or made gift of it, my father's eye
 Should hold her loathed and his spirits should hunt
 After new fancies: she, dying, gave it me;
 And bid me, when my fate would have me wive,
 To give it her. I did so: and take heed on't;
 Make it a darling like your precious eye;
 To lose't or give't away were such perdition
 As nothing else could match.*

2) Iago Act I, Scene iii.

*The Moor already changes with my poison:
 Dangerous conceits are, in their natures, poisons.
 Which at the first are scarce found to distaste,
 But with a little act upon the blood.
 Burn like the mines of Sulphur, I did say so:*

- Rubric: Jealousy: brutal from jealousy; gentle husband becoming: Sulphur is the only remedy listed.
- Rubric: Jealousy: strike his wife; driving to:

3) Othello Act I, Scene iii.

*She's gone. I am abused; and my relief
 Must be to loathe her. O curse of marriage,*

Rubrics

- Ailments; Embarrassment
- Ailments; scorned, being
- Delusion; great person, is a
- Egotism.

All the above have the remedy *Sulphur*.

It has to be noted that even in the throes of jealousy Othello saw himself as worthy enough to be able to make an altruistic decision that is motivated by his Sulfuric noble need to influence the world. When Othello loses his reputation in Act V, Scene II, Lodovico likens his behavior to "the practice of a damned slave that wert once so good," when he was so much more. Othello replies, "An honourable murderer, if you will; For nought did I in hate, but all in honour." A tragic victim, Othello allowed his "free and open nature" and misguided trust in Iago to ignite his black sulfuric blood to destroy all that he had. Othello in true honourable and noble fashion altruistically justifies his stance in Act V, Scene II, just before he kills Desdemona; "yet she must die, else she'll betray more men."

About the author: Liz Lalor is the author of "A Homoeopathic Guide to Partnership and Compatibility" (published by North Atlantic Books). Aside from working as a homeopath. Ms. Lalor also uses constitutional homeopathy within a conventional counseling practice to help her patients understand more about themselves as a particular 'homoeopathic constitutional type.' Lalor is able to draw upon her experience of counseling the more 'unusual' constitutional remedy pictures and she has written several articles on the remedy pictures she has encountered. Lalor practices homeopathy in Melbourne, Australia. She holds a Diploma of Homœopathy from Melbourne College of Natural Medicine and is registered with the Australian Homœopathic Association and the Australian Register of Homœopaths.

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