

Phosphorus

Of Fire and Lightning



Delusion: Researching in a dictionary or thesaurus, we would find that delusion is akin to a hallucination, a figment of the imagination, or to an allusion, to delirium – to an “unreal” state of mind, an altered mental state, or to mental instability. In the practice of homeopathy, we know this not to be precisely the case. *Delusion* simply means the state one believes one is in, and it has everything to do with the patient’s frame of reference and how he or she feels about the situation in which they find themselves – this is the patient’s state of feelings. It is quite important to recognize that a patient’s “delusions” are of great significance in helping to lead to selection of a correct remedy. So a patient’s delusions are in fact his truth, his perspective, and are reflective of his or her feelings (fears, phobias, desires, likes and dislikes, and so forth), regardless of facts – these are feelings the patient has that may seem out of proportion to what is being experienced, or to what the “facts” are; but these make the patient’s state unique (Sankaran describes disease as *the inability of a person to react appropriately to his situation.*). Thus, a patient with the flu who “feels like she will die” must be treated differently than a patient with the flu who “feels angry enough to kill.” The homeopath who knows to ask, “Yes I know it hurts, but how do you feel?” understands this philosophy.

The healthy Phosphorous type can be irresistible; just as we experience an attraction to fireflies, campfires, glowing embers in a campfire, even an attraction to speeding fire trucks and burning buildings – so we are drawn to the Phosphorous type who is at once funny, creative, attentive to us, and sympathetic with us. These are the great performers on the stage of life, virtually dancing their way through life with a liveliness and appealing inner fire, and they compel us with their empathetic approach – they know how we feel. Of Phosphorous, Catherine Coulter says, “He may possess quiet charm or a brighter luminescence, but will always evince that special [and quite genuine] sympathy and responsiveness that ranks compassion before justice and generosity before truth.” The eyes of Phosphorous are striking and compelling, and

there is usually a soft luminosity or a captivating twinkle that “draws another closer.” There is sometimes a mischievous, humorous glint in the eyes, and they will be quite animated people.

The Phosphorous child will be sensitive, very open and affectionate, and quite precocious; Morrison says this child will make contact with anyone (and the parents will sometimes express fear for the trusting nature of their child); he is very trusting, openly curious and unable to contain his curiosity, and is very sensitive to all of his surroundings. Sankaran describes the main feeling in Phosphorous as one of “being unloved and uncared for.” Perhaps this child did not get the attention needed at home, and will therefore put his effort into being “affectionate, friendly, and sympathetic in the hopes that this will be reciprocated.” There is a sense initially that this person must be sensitive to the feelings of others and the needs of others to win their affection, so all the effort is put into the direction of caring for others and of being sympathetic to others. The child will make friends and seek attention outside the home, and will have many ‘best friends.’ These children may have a history of having grown very fast and of growing pains, and during puberty may begin to suffer in school (becomes overwhelmed).

The Rubrics “*Delusion, On a Distant Island*” and “*Delusion, Criminal, that he is a*” describe well the isolated feelings of being unloved or uncared for in the Phosphorous type. There is a need to make contact, to keep contact, and a desire to have company and attention – a need to be needed, as it were. This feeling of isolation (on an island) and of being a criminal (unlovable, unwanted, not liked) is what drives all of the Phosphorous energy in order that they make create an environment that fills this need in themselves – that they are loved and adored by their friends, their fans, their family. There is also “*Delusion, thinks he is noble*” and “*Accuses herself of obscene actions of which she had not been guilty*” which further emphasizes the remedy’s tendency to isolation (self-love) and feeling that he is unlovable (self-hatred).

Vermeulen writes that Phosphorous does not occur naturally (it cannot sustain itself in natural form – it is self-combustive). It occurs only in the oxidized forms of phosphates, and is

found in white, yellow, red, and black. The red and white-yellow have opposite properties.

Black is similar to the properties of Graphite, and there is actually a violet that comes from white catalyzed with Mercury. Of white and red, he writes:

White (yellow) is waxy, soft, brittle when frozen; extremely poisonous; burns on contact of skin; ignites spontaneously at 30degC in moist air; should be kept under water; Soluble in carbon disulphide and fatty oils; melts at 44.15degC; emits a greenish light in the dark; reacts violently and is a dangerous explosion hazard; can be converted more easily to red than the reverse; used in the manufacture of rat poison, for smoke screens, gas analysis.

Red is powdery and crystalline; less dangerous but emits toxic fumes when heated; ignites in air when heated to about 260degC; is stable in air; insoluble; cannot be molten at normal pressure; does not emit light in the dark; not an explosive hazard at room temp in air; used in pyrotechnics; safety matches; fertilizers; pesticides; incendiary shells, smoke bombs; and tracer bullets; in organic synthesis, considered GRAS (generally accepted as safe) by the Food and Drug Administration for additives (as phosphates) in numerous cooked and processed foods. Also present in antifreeze, automatic dish detergent, bath beads, laundry detergent, and latex paints.

Interestingly, Phosphorous is a component in phospholipids (which make up the layers of a cell's plasma membranes), helping to maintain fluidity and permeability (allowing nutrients and waste to pass in and out of cells as needed.). As an element in the human body, it is in greatest quantity second only to Calcium and is required for the proper formation of teeth and bones; it is absolutely essential (one of 5 elements) for the make up of DNA. In the form of ATP, Phosphorous deploys energy throughout all living cells and is responsible for the metabolism of proteins, fats, and carbohydrates. Cellular growth and repair is dependant on phosphates.

“Greeted with great acclaim, yet damned from the moment it was born,” Vermeulen explains the discovery of Phosphorous by a German man (whose name, Brand, translates to “Fire” in German) in 1669, in Hamburg, Germany, and ironically describes how that city was virtually destroyed, during WWII, by incendiary munitions made possible only through the discovery of this element. He describes Phosphorous as an element even “nature finds difficult to control – being assigned to the role of limiting life on earth.” It has been “used as medicine in hope of cure and as poison to destroy” and is “life-giving or “death-dealing” (self-love and self-hatred?), and raises the question whether Phosphorous could be a factor in spontaneous human combustion.

Brand named the newly discovered, glowing element Phos (Greek, meaning fire) and Phoros (bringing or bearing). It is likened to fire and to lightning, symbols of intuitive and spiritual enlightenment, sudden flashes of inspiration. Lightning has long been associated with rain (celestial semen), and in many indigenous faiths is thought to be the component of “love” between Father Sky and Mother Earth that renews and re-energizes the Earth through electrifying love-making (phosphorous types may also be quite energized in their sexuality).

This type runs the risk of burning himself out by focusing so much attention on others to have his need for love fulfilled, and may ultimately produce a “picture of destructive metabolism.” Since Phosphorous *feels* what others feel – feels the anxiety of others, is sensitive “to all external impressions,” and is clairvoyant (sensing in others, as though a vibration is there), this type exhibits a genuine sympathy for the situations of others, which can ultimately overwhelm. The patient has no strong boundaries between the self and others (Morrison) and is not well grounded or centered (too much passes through the membrane!). Impressionable and eager to have the affections of others, this person may start many things, be involved in many things, but may not finish or accomplish much only because these pursuits

are in the interest of others, and may not be a reflection of what the Phosphorous type truly desires (because this type loses sight of himself, he may no longer know what he desires).

The first stage of pathology is generally anxiety usually about health issues that may be cropping up; this then develops into “free-floating anxiety” about everything (Phosphorous appears in many ANXIETY rubrics, and in many FEAR rubrics). At first this type is easily reassured; but then fears *nearly everything*. Later, the patient will become so sensitive to others and to outside influences that he or she does not want contact anymore. This person may suffer stormy inter-personal relationships, suffer the affects of self-love and self-centeredness, and may be over-concerned about gaining the approval of others (In fact, loss of love is one of the greatest fears and tends to be a common “exciter” for Phosphorous illness (Scholten)). The patient in deep pathology will become introverted and ‘flat’ (as in a loss of carbonation, or “bubbly” effervescence), suffering helplessness, dependency, lack of ideas, and indifference.

On the physical level, there may be many problems with the eyes, mucous and serous membranes, loss of memory, tired feeling in the brain, destruction of bone tissue (lower jaw and tibia), fatty degeneration of blood tissues, disorganization of the blood leading to hemorrhages, and inflammation of the spinal cord and nerves, along with other physical complaints. The patient may express that they feel worse on the left, or for lying on the left side, and better on the right. They are worse for touch, and for physical or mental exertion, also for warm food or drink (particularly after imbibing). They do not fair well with weather changes. They may also be better for coldness, open air, iced drinks, and in the dark (although there may also be a fear of the dark for the sense of ghosts).

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