

A Woman at Odds with her Husband
A case of Lac leoni

A woman consulted with me in early August 2005 in a state of extreme nervous prostration. Her distress was palpable and it was one of those cases where I had to say but little as it all came tumbling out.

DOB: 9/4/55

Intake: August 3, 2005

How can I help you?

“I don’t quite know. I hope you can. I don’t even know who I am or where I’m going or where I belong. This is my second marriage and it’s a disappointment to me especially since my first marriage of thirteen years was horrible and just didn’t work. That husband was useless. He did nothing and it was all on me to do everything. This second husband is a worker, I’ll give him that, but he’s neurotic. He’s a bank manager; life is stressful!

I really like it here in Australia. Life is much better than it was in South Africa but my husband doesn’t care for my children (from my first marriage) and this causes me enormous stress and he’s walked away from co-responsibility for the business we bought in order to get residency.

I’m dizzy, nauseous and have ringing in my ears. I’m crying all the time and feel pathetic and childish. Perhaps it’s hormones? I was on the OCP but had my tubes tied and haven’t gone for HRT. I’m so angry I want to hit something!

We emigrated five years ago not long after we married. My only recognised qualification in South Africa is as a blood technician and when we married he made it clear from the start that he’d not support my children as he had his own from his first marriage to support. So I took on a haberdashery business to try and support my kids. But I had no training and no idea of how to run a business and it ran dry because I used it to run my household. He’s never given me any house-keeping money and we never discuss money.

I walked out of my first marriage with nothing and met my new husband soon after. We went on a holiday to the US together and we had great fun. Because both of us had been deeply hurt by broken marriages it was a healing time and I saw a caring and responsible person and I thought that he’d be able to look after me.”

Does he look after you?

“Yes; up to a point because it’s at a price and he berates me constantly over money. He reckons that and all he does is shell out dollars and that I never contribute. He’s manipulative over money and confuses it with love. Because I fell behind with my car payments and re-possession was looming, he stepped in and paid it off without so much as a by-your-leave. Then for the next five years, every time we had a blow-up over money he’d throw it in my face. When we came to Australia we rented a large house together and he’s always threatened to pull out and leave me with the lease. It’s always been a fight to get money from him to support my kids.

As it was I left my older child in South Africa when we came as he was just finishing his final year at school. Leaving him behind and moving to a totally unknown situation nearly un-hinged me and I nearly lost it on the plane coming over. He was strong and gave me good moral and emotional support during the flight and my thought, at the time was...yes; he's my man and he'll look after me. But it's turned out that he's a wimp and that I'm the strong one.

Since coming here I discovered he has a drinking problem. He drinks a bottle of whiskey a night and picks at me every night. He even accuses me of stealing because the business we bought is not doing well. We should have gone into food but we bought a hairdressing supplies franchise and I thought we'd get back-up from head office but none has been forthcoming and it was apparent soon after taking the business over that the books were cooked. The lady who had the franchise had two stores. One was in the city and the other one that we bought, was in the suburbs in a lower socio-economic area (not that I knew that at the time). She used ours to offset her city profits.

After we were here for three months, he told me he no longer loved me and that he wanted my kids gone. We were supposed to be in business together making a go of it so that we could get residency but he won't come near it. It's all been left up to me. He hates everything. He's withdrawn, bitter. Because my first marriage failed it's really important to me that I succeed in this one. I'm married but lonely and starved of love.

Well, I've always been starved of love. I was a sickly child and my father was the headmaster at the school I went to so I had no friends. He even caned me once because I went out with a guy he didn't approve of.

I grew up resentful. He wanted me to be a teacher like him or a nurse and I wanted to be a hairdresser. His view was that only bad girls go into beauty therapy. I did it my way and fell in love in my late teens with a guy (teacher) who cheated on me and then dumped me so I married on the rebound and had my first baby at 22. Three days later my husband was retrenched. He was a sales rep. It was a very stressful time. I waited for ten years to have my second child.

That husband was worse than useless so I had to leave or go mad and it seems as if this marriage is not much better but I know it could be and I'm determined not to have a second failed marriage. I want to be successful and know I can be if I get the support but he won't give it. He's a banker and won't do the books and then turns around and tells me that the failure of the business is all my fault and he'll be ruined and will lose his job at the bank and we'll lose our house. It's a nightmare.

We should be there for each other. We got our residency simply because I did all the work towards it. There was a window when the books looked good and I borrowed heaps of expensive jewelry from my friends I had them valued and presented them as our assets with the story that jewelry was the easiest way to get assets out of South Africa and they were all family heirlooms. They bought it and we got our residency so now I want to sell the business but it's such a stress because there's no support from my husband or the franchise owners. There is a lady interested but I'll have to walk away with no profit just to save my sanity and my husband is furious with me over it."

What are you most scared of?

"Grasshoppers! They freak me the way they jump at you and their crunchiness. I'd rather a snake than a grasshopper any day."

Are there any creatures that you really like?

“I love the elephants because they’re great mothers and supportive of each other. They mourn and grieve together. But, I love the independence of the female lions more.

They too, are supportive of each other and they prepare their babies for the real world and do a great job of it with no support from their mates. Actually, come to think of it I may as well be talking about myself! I have a husband with no balls and I have to do it all myself. My kids are great kids and I’m pleased with how they’ve turned out and it’s no thanks to the men in my life.”

Food desires?

“I love salty food; biltong is my favourite snack. I can eat any amount of meat. I LOVE meat.”

Prescription: *Lac leoni* 200C one dose.

Rubrics chosen:

A/F indignation [2]

Anger, blamed, from being [1]

Anxiety, household matters about [2]

Confidence, want of self [2]

Delusion, criticised she is [2]

Delusion, hindered, he is, everyone by [2]

Delusion: put down, she is [2]

Fight, wants to [2]

Forsaken feeling [1; 2]

Impulse, morbid, violence, to do [2]

Quarrelsomeness, scolding [2]

Rage, fury [1; 2]

Resentment, husband, to [1]

Reproaches others [2]

Sensitive, oversensitive, reprimands, criticism, reproaches, to [2]

Generalities: meat desires [1]

salty food, desires [1]

The spread of rubrics in the hierarchy associated with anger; indignation; rage; fury; desire to fight (quarrelsome) go deep to the heart of the *lac-leoni* state. In the wild it is the lioness that does the brunt of the work in the pride and so the woman in this state is, invariably, at odds with her husband whom she perceives to be domineering. This is consistent with the situation that exists in the wild when leadership of the pride (through challenge) is successful, and the new dominant male kills all the offspring of the females in the pride and fathers his own cubs. Not only does the woman in the *lac-leoni* state feel that she carries the total burden for maintaining their lifestyle but she does it with no sense of autonomy or prestige or unconditional safety for her offspring.

Follow-up September 9, 2005

She had a bad flu following the dose and presented a month later still stressed because the sale of the business still hadn’t gone through.

“I’m a total bundle of nerves and wonder that I’m managing to keep it together. I’ve had little sleep and we’re not talking. Last night I asked him if he wanted me to leave and he said no. That surprised me as he doesn’t act as if he wants me to stay. I’m confused and bitter. It was difficult for me to marry a second time and it was a matter of trust. I can’t rely on him for support so how can I trust him with my feelings?”

Business has been really bad for several months because of work on the center and I've complained to Centre Management but they've done nothing about it. As a result I've not paid rent for two months. So there's no support there and still none from head office who are supposed to be facilitating this sale. I'm let down on all sides.

I don't know why I feel guilty about it. I was chucked in the deep end and I abided by the rules but no one else did.

I'm SO angry at him for being so unsupportive and useless that I physically want to hurt him and he knows it. I think he's scared of me and what I might do to him if I get mad enough."

Prescription: *Lac leoni* 1M one dose

January 13, 2006

Phone follow up. The business sold. She lost money but financially they're out of the woods. She's working as a massage therapist and loving it. The marriage is slowly mending and she feels positive that they'll be OK and she's looking forward to getting her Australian citizenship next week.

September 23, 2006

She presented again feeling exhausted from working long hours as a massage therapist.

"I'm tired of his attitude and the blame he puts on me for the failure of the business. I'm sick of his drinking. I'm totally exhausted from the sheer hard physical work of massaging. I'm working on one of the island resorts and it seems as if I'm living two lives. Although the work is physically draining it's almost a relief to get the barge on a Monday morning knowing that I won't have to deal with him again until the weekend.

I'm feeling empty, lost and angry. He's still not into sex and is never welcoming to me when I come home. All he can go on about is my kids and money. Don't think harshly of me but I've looked elsewhere for love. He's a rep 20 years younger than me. I know it's crazy but it's a release for me to be with him. I'm at a crossroads. I look around at all the happy couples and wonder if we can ever be like that. How can I help him so that we can be a happy couple? I have to hold out until mid next year when the lease on the house expires. Maybe we can go our separate ways then."

Any physical symptoms?

"There's a constant burning feeling in my solar plexus which I know is all about how badly I still feel about the failed business.

There are no dreams to tell you. My sleep is poor. I've got tinnitus and the only way I can get any sleep is to play the radio in my ear. I'm exhausted and poor sleep doesn't help.

(Sleep unrefreshing is a *lac-leoni* symptom. However tinnitus did not show up in the provings. Perhaps it needs to be added.)

I'm not really hungry. I force myself to have a muesli bar for breakfast and live on jelly babies and fruit throughout the day for quick energy-- that and lots of cups of sweet milky tea. I find that comforting. I do keep my water up (I like water) and have meat and veggies for dinner. I still like my meat.

My hands are playing up. They're aching from all the massaging. I think it's arthritis so I've been taking glucosamine.

I need to keep up my upper body strength in order to cope with all the massaging so I do a boxing session once a week. Anyway it also helps me to get rid of some of my frustration.”

Prescription: *Lac leoni* 1M one dose

Rubrics chosen

Anger, blamed, from being [1]

Anxiety, future about [1]

Delusion, criticised she is [2]

Forsaken feeling [2]

Resentment, husband, to [1]

Stomach: appetite wanting [2]

Extremities: stiffness, joints [1]

Female: sexual desire increased [1]

Sleep unrefreshing [1]

Generalities: fruit desires, juicy [1]

meat desires [1]

water desires [1]

weakness [2]

February 16, 2007 Follow-up phone consult

“I decided to give up the massage work. It was far too draining on me and my hands hurt too much. Besides that, it was boring spending my days being quiet and not able to chat. I much preferred it when I had the shop and could chat to customers. It suits my outgoing nature more. So, I’ve decided to use my original training as a blood technician and work as a medical rep.

I still have my love interest. It’s a release for me and makes up for the lack of affection in my marriage. I’m not in the least starry-eyed about it and it will eventually come to its natural conclusion when it no longer suits either of us. I’ll let it go then; no regrets.

However, I’m still hanging in there in the marriage. The lease on the house is up in a few months and I’d like us to buy a small town house together. I’ve been to see a psychologist for counselling and found that helpful but I can’t get him to come also. He needs to, as he speaks to me abominably. I don’t tolerate it anymore and give it back to him when he verbally abuses me. I’m still there because I believe in marriage but I’m more philosophical regarding what he can give me.

I have my own circle of girlfriends and don’t hesitate to spend time with them. I go out regularly. He hates it because he can’t be bothered making any friends and relies on me totally for building social networks. I do that but I have my own special girlie time out also.

I feel positive about the future. I have goals and am slowly working towards them. If he doesn’t want to buy the town house with me I’ll do it by myself and that’ll be the end of it. I’m feeling especially positive about the prospect of a new job. It’ll good to be back among people, in the corporate world, building business networks and a client base.”

That, for her, would be a form of hunting; and, ironically, working with blood products would be consistent with her essentially lioness nature.

December 2007 Follow up phone consult

She walked away from the marriage in June 2007 with the termination of their lease on the house as he seemed to have no inclination to change and her children were very keen to get away from him. She still has her casual “love interest” and is currently working in real estate but still trying to get a job as a medical rep as she’d enjoy that more and feels more suited to the work because of her earlier training.

In all she’s happy... “free” and feels positive about the future.

Bibliography:

[1] Herrick N: *Animal Mind, Human Voices*
Hahnemann Clinic Publishing; Nevada City, 1998

[2] Sankaran R: *Provings*
Homœopathic Medical Publishers; Mumbai, 1998

This article was published in *Simillimum* volume XXI Winter/Spring 2008 pp 35-43