

Journey towards a Simillimum

... and how to spot a wolf along the way.

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There is a certain sense of irony in the choice of conference title, as the name Odysseus (believed to be derived from the Greek οδυσσομαι [odyssomai] "to hate") is synonymous in some texts with hatred and cunning; two words aptly applicable to our profession. We have always been the subject of derision and have had to keep our wits about us in order to survive; much like the wolf, really! And the association with the wolf doesn't stop there as "odyssey" has come to mean "journey" in our modern lexicon and *Lac Lupinum* is one of a very small number of remedies to be found in the rubric: **Dreams**: hiking; mountains. Another link to the Odyssean theme lies in the **Delusion**: roaming.

As an archetype (i.e. a fragment of the Eternal Self that has an organising influence on images and ideas), the wolf, which symbolises evil as well as spiritual aspects, is a noble, instinctive creature that holds a powerful place in Humanity's collective unconscious. It can be seen as a symbol for individuation; that is, a commitment to inner growth and development, where the unique voice of the wildish, instinctive Self triumphs over the Collective norms of society.

It also represents the union of opposites. In mythology and story-telling from all parts of the world, the wolf has carried a sense of contradiction; a wild and fearful animal that can represent the Shadow, death and Satan [red and black], but at the same time, a companion to the goddess Artemis and Scandinavian god, Odin. The association of "from Heaven" is also found in Asian cultures as well where the wolf has traditionally been venerated as the guardian of the heavenly palace.

The sense of unifying contradictory aspects of Nature is also depicted in the traditions where the wolf is portrayed as the warrior/protector as well as the nurturer. And the image portrayed in the Bible of the wolf lying down with the lamb particularly symbolises the union of these two facets.

Themes which encapsulate these archetypal aspects were borne out in both provings and include (Assilem):

- **Longing for the Wild/Yearning for Nature**
- **Intolerance towards being tamed/Independence**
- **Hunger for Life**
- **Heightened or finely tuned senses**
- **Displaced...Society and the World are the "wrong shape for them"**

And, from Herrick:

- **Mortality/Immortality**
- **Circles/Spirals**
- **Protection of children in danger**
- **Outsider/Intruder**

So, what I have to share with you today is the story of a man with the surname of Blackburn

Themes: Black/White; Fire

Generalities: burns; burning sensation internally
heated; becoming

Delusion: burn; desire to

who was brought to me by his new partner (a patient of mine) to try and help him through a period of extreme stress.

Generalities: internal tension

I had observed him pacing my verge having a last minute cigarette before coming up to the clinic and he arrived late in a state of extreme agitation. He appeared tense with furtive darting eyes of a steel grey colour, behind smart red metallic frames.

Mind: alert

suspicious; mistrustful
strategy; concern about

Of small, wiry stature he appeared very fit in his singlet and shorts which easily displayed a tanned, muscular physique. I was not surprised, later in the interview, to learn that he'd been a schoolboy champion runner and had played professional football in his late teens.

Generalities: movement, amel; activity, desires
walking outdoors, amel

Mind: run everywhere at a lope; desires to

Delusion: roaming

I settled him down with small talk about the magnificent dark grey tattoo he had covering his right shoulder and upper arm and then asked the usual: How can I help you?

"I'm stressed and anxious and keep waking up at night."

Sleep: tossing about; sleep, in

"I'm irritable and have terrible mood swings. One minute I can be loving, out-going and caring

Mind: company; desire for

talks; expresses emotions
cheerful; gaiety; happiness; company, in
excitement; desire for fun
love; openness towards friends; sociable

and the next (especially when asked a question...unless I'm in the mood, I HATE questions!!) I snap and then play no-talkies."

Mind: excessive head chatter; mind whirling; thoughts rush; hurried
taciturn; silent; indisposed to talk
company; aversion to

"When I'm in a no-talkies mood, I love to jet ski. I love power and speed. I can go from 0-100 kph in 4 seconds in my car (once got it up to 320K on the Highway); but the jetski can reach 100 kph in 2.5 seconds. I find it a good way to get rid of the aggressive feelings and it leaves me feeling relaxed. I'd much rather jet ski than read a book. After the exercise, I love nothing more

than to chill out watching TV; a good doco on animals will do, particularly if it's about snakes or sharks.

They scare the shit out of me but I really admire the way they catch their prey. They calculate before they make a decision. They are ruthless hunters and I can really relate to that. That's why I've been so successful in business.

Three months ago I hit a reef 5 Ks offshore and the jetski sunk. I was in the water for over two hours before I was rescued; packing it for fear that I'd drown or a shark would get me!"

Mind: danger, desires

excitement; desire for fun

Dreams: water; danger in

the sea; drowning; suction; trapped under water

"The best decision I made was to buy my own shop at the age of 25. It was hard work for sure and I had no social or home life but I was successful because I trusted no one after I caught several managers pilfering. I sacked two of them and gave two others a second chance and the space to pay me back by working off the debt. After that I became more watchful and I was totally in charge of the till. No one else was allowed near it.

I'm highly-strung and anal. I *hate* mess and I *hate* lack of initiative!"

Mind: alert

suspicious; mistrustful

strategy; concern about

"I also love anything to do with cars and will watch any sort of car show on the TV when I'm chilling out. Your car really makes a statement about who you are and I love my car; especially the black leather interior which goes so perfectly with the red exterior. My jet ski is also red and black. I love those colours!"

(At this stage I make a mental note of his apparel: smart black knee-length tailored shorts and black leather loafers and a steel-grey singlet top. They match well with his smart red glasses.)

Themes: Red; Fire; Black

"My life is complicated still by the women from my past and I've moved on! My ex-wife cleaned me out and that wrecked me. After the divorce when I had to sell my seven butcher shops (we had three children who needed providing for), I felt suicidal. There was nothing to go for any more."

Themes: Wallet; Purse; Lost things

Mind: delusion; living; no strength to continue

delusion; *dying, he is*

delusion; bankruptcy; business is going to fail

"I felt used and used up and all I wanted to do was get a job where I had no responsibilities but the woman I'd hooked up with stopped taking the Pill without my knowledge and now we have a little girl; a connection forever and she uses me as her rescuer!

Don't get me wrong; I love my kids and will do anything for them. In fact I love all kids and everyone in my family knows that. My dad's been on my case for months now trying to get me involved in the Rainbow Lollipops programme at the kid's hospital. He's an ambo there and reckons I'd be a natural."

Theme: Protection of children in danger

Mind: Help others less fortunate, wants to

Tell me about your childhood

“I was the second born of three boys and one girl. Apparently I was born bottom-first. Mum never breastfed any of us and I was, apparently, VERY hyperactive. They reckon that it used to take three people to hold me down to change nappies!

I loved to run! When I came home from school I’d spend the next several hours until it was dark running around and around the local greyhound track (1600 metres).

I was really wired; a full-on kid and it was definitely worse if I had sugar. The only thing I excelled in at school was footy and track, so I left after grade 10. I was the state champion sprinter from 14 to 16 and played professional football from 16 until 19.”

Generalities: movement, amel; activity, desires
walking outdoors, amel

Mind: run everywhere at a lope; desires to

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After school; your working life?

“At 15 I ran away from home and lived rough in squats; teamed up with a couple of street kids. I couldn’t stand how mum was soooo strict. I guess she couldn’t help it because she used to be a nun so was into “rules”!

My older brother got me into butchering. I really know my way around a carcass and he talked it up that I’d been apprenticed and they believed him. I’m a quick, efficient worker and can multi-task really well so excelled in shop management and was given my first shop to run at 21.

I married my first girlfriend at 22 (we met at 17) and we had three kids. The next 16 years were hard; STRESS +++ with me up every morning at 3 am to go to work and a wife and three littlies at home to interact with.

The wheels fell off in the relationship by the time I turned 30. It wasn’t a family life; all I wanted was sex and there wasn’t enough of it.

I met my next woman at a strip club. She was 18 and a virgin so I feel really responsible for her now that we have a child; even though it wasn’t what I wanted. She sees me as her rescuer and I hate that especially since I’m now in a new relationship and happy. I want to move on.”

Physical generals

Smokes 8-10 cigarettes a day since 14; social drinker only.

Not thirsty! He can go all day on one coffee and no food. He rarely drinks water. He has an occasional coke or lime and soda with dinner (if he eats). He says that he can go days without eating but then has a big meal. He loves meat; especially roasts and dishes with garlic; salt/pepper.

Stomach: appetite diminished
thirstlessness
thirstless; day, during
Desires: meat; spices; condiments; piquant

Hx of warts on the knee; burnt off in childhood. He describes himself as “secretive”.

Any fears?

“I’m afraid of death; especially in a situation where I’d be trapped. Tunnels give me the creeps. It’s not easy to get out of a tunnel quickly!

Mind: Alert

Escape; attempts, to; strategy; concern, about
Claustrophobic
Fear; buried alive, of being

What angers you?

“Mess and people talking about me behind my back!”

Mind: offended easily; *sensitive to criticism*

Rx: 29/8/2007 *Lac lupinum* 200C stat

What happened next?

His sleep improved immediately and, subsequently, he was prescribed *Med* 200C and then *Rhus tox* 200C for a back injury from an accident on his jetski. This caused a return of old symptoms; namely shingles which extended from the navel towards his left hip.

He did not present in clinic again after the shingles settled with a lower potency of *Rhus tox* and I find it common in *lac-lup* males that they don't hang around. Moving on is how they like it! He and his partner moved interstate to live.