

The Asylum

Psychiatric Clinic
for Abused Cuddlytoys

To:

Subject: Referral of the patient Sly

Dear colleague,

after a prolonged stay at our clinic, the condition of the patient Sly has stabilised so far that we now feel able to take the responsibility for a transport via mail. We hope that during the process of referral, there will be no complications and would like to ask you to check Sly for possible transport syndromes or knots. As a basis for further therapy, we have summed up the patient's case history and diagnosis as follows:

Case history:

Because of the patient's enduring state of confusion, only fragments of his history are known. The stuffed snake Sly was found and brought to the hospital by the truck driver Hugo B. It was wrapped around a traffic light and was so fascinated by the colourful light that Mr. B. could only pry it from there with great effort. How the patient got to this unusual place for stuffed animals remains unknown. According to his own statement, Sly was banished from paradise after having tried the "colourful candy", thereby incurring the wrath of the almighty goddess Shiva. According to Mr. B., however, there was neither "colourful candy" nor a wrathful goddess to be found in the traffic light's immediate vicinity. The patient's quixotic ideas hint at a spiritual past heavily influenced by Hinduism.

Symptoms and preliminary diagnosis:

In part, the patient's loss of a sense of reality can be compared to intoxication. It occurs intermittently and mirrors the symptoms of a delirium. The hallucinatory loss of orientation can lead to painful physical knotting. Also, mistaking one's own rattle tail as a "foreign snake" seems to be a recurrent, periodically occurring delusion. In the patient, it elicits strong emotions which frequently lead to a rejection of its own, mistaken body part. The theme of Uroboros - the snake biting its own tail - has special meaning with regard to its archetypal meaning as well as psychiatric and medicinal aspects of self-intoxication. The patient's inner conflict - which had to be externalised and re-appears in dealing with the snake's own rear end - must be interpreted as a sign of an ambivalent relationships towards its own body. Combined with the fascination of an apparently much more potent-seeming substitute rattle, we suspect the manifestation of a deeply rooted rattle complex. Of course, the enclosed substitute rattle should not be in use on a permanent basis and should only serve as a transitional object. In addition, a strong rejection of blue light has been observed in Sly but has so far not been exhaustively accounted for by one single diagnostic concept. However, I am sure that you will be able to unknot these confusions during your own treatment and would like to extend my sincere thanks, also on behalf of the whole clinic, for your support.

Yours respectfully,



Dr. Kindermann
(Head physician of the Psychiatric Clinic for Abused Cuddlytoys)