Chapter Seven
Aurum Metallicum

IDEA  It is very important that I fulfill all my responsibilities, duties, ambitions and goals to feel absolved of my guilt, shame, grief and loss. I feel under great pressure to do this.

KEYNOTES

- Industriousness, workaholic.
- Seriousness, heaviness. Censorious.
- Morality, religiousness.
- Loss of money, property, value.
- Guilt, shame, mortification, remorse.
- Grief, loss.
- Nighttime agg.
- Forsaken, all alone.
- Depression, sadness, despair, suicidal anguish.
- Anger, rage, explosions. Contradiction agg.
- Torment, suicidal with pains.
- Congestion, blood, high blood pressure, hypertension.
- Heart issues: congestive heart disease.
- Testes, ovaries.
- Eyes, iritis, syphilitic conditions.
- Bone pains.

Intrinsic State

Duty, responsibility.
Idealism. Spiritual values or materialistic ideals.
Serious.
Sympathetic, concerned.
Intensity, driven. Fanatacism. Ardent
Rigidity, conforming to order.


Compensated State

Heaviness, burdened.
Brooding, sulky.
General sadness.
Fear of high places.
Censorious, dictatorial, aversion to being criticized.
Feeling under much pressure – headaches, high blood pressure.
Testicular and ovarian problems.

COMPARE Argentum metallicum and nitricum, Aurum - muriaticum, - muriaticum natronatum, - sulphuricum, Causticum, Gems, Ferrum metallicum, Germanium, Naja, Nux vomica, Palladium, Platina, Sulphur, Thuja (conifers).

Decompensated State

Depressed, sad, despair.
Great overwhelming grief.
Forsaken, all alone in their anguish.
Anger, rage, violent thoughts.
Suicidal thoughts, impulses, especially from high places.
Heart problems.
Bone pains. Caries of bones in face, ears, nose.
< night.

COMPARE Actinides, Arsenicum album, Aurum arsenicosum, Asafoetida, Bismuth, Crataegus, Dioxin, Guajacum, Iridium, Kali bromatum, Kalmia, Lanthanides, Mercurius, Natrum sulphuricum, Nitric acid, Phytolacca, Stillingia, Syphilinum, Thallium, Xray.

PROGRESSION

Intrinsically there is often the presentation of seriousness and responsibility with the feeling as if a weight is being carried around in life. However when still in the intrinsic phase, it is not all heavy. Things can still be fun, even though there is often an intensity and risk taking quality. There is a capacity to keep it all together for a long time, but as the pressure builds up, there is initially more compensation, with intolerance to being contradicted and increasing anger. The need to maintain high standards and to fulfill duties and responsibilities (keeping it all together) is crucial and taken very seriously, even from a
young age. As the emotional pressure builds there can be a tendency to high blood pressure and other
heart symptoms. Any unforeseen circumstances like financial loss or other loss, grief, or spiritual/religi-
ous burden which challenges one’s position and purpose in life can be a shattering event leading to a
breakdown on both intellectual and emotional levels. It leads to depression, grief, guilt, suicidal ten-
cencies, violent impulses and thoughts, and great anguish, and on the physical level to heart symptoms and
bone and joint destructiveness.

**Seriousness, Duty, Spirituality**

As with many syphilitic remedies, the intrinsic state is very mixed in with the compensated and decomp-
pensated states. One cannot separate them so much as there is little psoric influence in these remedies.
However, when one sees an *Aurum* patient, the qualities that often prevail are a person who is serious,
dutiful and industrious, who feels the weight of responsibility and carries that weight heavily. They often
have strong ideas of what is right and wrong, similar to the *Kali* family. They may be attempting to live
up to a standard imposed on them by parents or colleagues and initially they simply strive to do their
best. In children this remedy can be found when the child is too serious, beyond their years, bound down
by some need to do their best at all times, often at the expense of play and child-like qualities. It can be as
a result of being given too much responsibility too young, perhaps due to death or divorce of one parent
which forces responsibility early onto them, or it could even be grief and loss experienced in their parents
or grandparents which they take on. The feeling is one of being burdened and being too responsible. It
can sometimes be that the *Aurum* patient is attracted to positions of great responsibility. They take this
on themselves, as if they have to prove something to themselves and others.

The grief of *Aurum* is one of the strongest aspects of the remedy. It is tied strongly to the other qualities
of the remedy, the strong sense of responsibility, duty, morality and the guilt, depression and ultimately
suicidal depression of the remedy. Grief is often the strongest symptom the *Aurum* person presents with.
The grief may be due to an actual event, such as a death or a disappointed love, or as an accumulation of
events in life as the weight of responsibility wears the person down.

The words morality, duty and religious affections are qualities often used to describe *Aurum*. This gives
the impression of the person's being quite conservative and perhaps traditional in the work they do and
life they lead. However, this is not always the case. The basic qualities of feeling burdened by the pressure
of taking on too much can express itself in many different types of people. Not all people needing *Aurum*
have religious affections. In previous eras, the feeling of burden and aloneness was often expressed in
religious terms; the person feeling he has lost his connection to God. Today, that is not how the person
may express himself. He may just say he feels unable to live up to his own and others expectations and
if pushed may reveal that this makes him feel hopeless etc. In the old days, the feeling of being forsaken
was often expressed in religious terminology whereas today it is different. However, religious or spiritual
interests may be found.

*Aurum* is a good remedy to understand from the perspective of levels of expression, whether intrinsic,
compensated or decompensated. Not all people needing *Aurum* are suicidal. Many are little, if at all,
depressed. Most however, feel a weight, a heaviness or burden around them, and as mentioned are
industrious and responsible, even if only holding up their own ideals. But one can see a more wild and less responsible quality in Aurum, where the expression in life may be intense and extreme - for example alcohol consumption or great risk taking but where one doesn’t see the moral, responsible aspect. In the compensated stage they often feel burdened and feel more resistance, producing anger and difficulty in controlling emotions. But they are still holding it together. It is in the latter stage that one sees the classic broken down despairing picture of the remedy. However, at any stage, look for intensity in expressions and behavior.

The most commonly compared remedy is *Natrum sulphuricum*. Both can present as serious and closed, and become extremely depressed and suicidal. As often stated in materia medica, *Natrum sulphuricum* is suicidal but won’t do it, whereas *Aurum* is more likely to do it. *Aurum* may not mention how depressed they are, but then may commit suicide, to the surprise of people. However, in the clinic, this distinction may not be clear. The differences may have to be seen in the physical symptoms, generalities, personal and medical history. Any history of head injury in the past can help indicate *Natrum sulphuricum*. This question may have to be asked directly.

One other aspect of *Aurum* that at times can distinguish it from other remedies is the anger and lack of emotional control that *Aurum* shows. It is found in the rubric *Mind, anger at contradiction*, and when this presents itself, it is a very intense, explosive anger. It indicates a stage in the *Aurum* pathology where they are feeling intense pressure, and resent the fact that their high standards or simply their efforts are being challenged. Normally, they can control their frustration and anger. This level of anger is not seen characteristically in *Natrum sulphuricum* or some other remedies being compared with *Aurum*.

**Responsibility, Disappointment, Loss, Grief, Mortification**

The grief and mortification in *Aurum* is often seen in relationship to a feeling of lost responsibility and profound disappointment. This may be in relation to the internal high standards they hold for themselves, which they feel they are unable to sustain or to similar qualities they impose on others, include loved ones or children. They can feel deeply let down by others, a feeling of emotional betrayal after everything they have given. They reproach both themselves and others (*Mind, reproaches, himself; others*).

*Natrum muriaticum* is also another remedy commonly compared with *Aurum*. This will happen in an earlier stage in the pathology of *Aurum*, before serious depression is a factor. The common ground is the sensitivity to feelings of grief, along with a serious, responsible, over-industrious quality. Both are serious about their work and show a sensitive and sympathetic nature. In children that are over serious, these remedies will need to be compared. Both remedies can feel guilty and can dwell on matters, although *Natrum muriaticum* is more likely to be unable to forget things that have upset them (*Mind, dwells on past disagreeable events*). *Natrum muriaticum* may show a greater emotional sensitivity than *Aurum* and may have more of a tendency to weep involuntarily or be unable to weep when wanting to do so. *Aurum* weeps when in a state of despair, whereas with *Natrum muriaticum* and also *Natrum sulphuricum*, it may occur from general sadness and suppressed grief. Also, with *Natrum muriaticum*, it can happen for no reason, or for the least sentimental reason, reflecting the lack of emotional integration and the emotional awkwardness often seen in the remedy. (*Mind, weeping involuntarily; Mind, laughing, serious
matters, at). Although Aurum is listed in the involuntary weeping, it is more often seen in Natrum muriaticum, and at times for no apparent reason, whereas for Aurum, it is when there is grief and loss.

Causticum is another remedy to be compared with Aurum. This occurs when Causticum is in a broken down state, leading to a state of despair and anguish. The history of a serious, sympathetic nature is common in both. It is not uncommon to mistake Aurum for Causticum in a person who shows a sympathetic sensitivity to injustice. Aurum may be indicated in such situations when people become depressed as a result. Natrum muriaticum and other natrums may also be considered in such situations. However, with Causticum, in the intrinsic stage, there is usually much less industriousness and more basic sympathy and openness. They do not have the fundamental weight of duty and responsibility that Aurum feels. They are more sensitive in the intrinsic stage and although both can be idealistic Causticum shows more vulnerability on an emotional level. The grief and loss they feel is that of a wound, a rawness that they experience. See Causticum chapter. Aurum do not feel this sensitivity in the earlier more intrinsic stages. On the physical level, Causticum and Aurum may also be compared when degeneration in the joints is seen. Causticum tends to have a much greater sensitivity to cold and damp than Aurum or Natrum muriaticum. Both Aurum and Natrum tend to be more aggravated by heat.

Ignatia is another remedy that can look like Aurum, although one is likely to see much more emotional sensitivity in Ignatia. As mentioned, Aurum does lose emotional control, with anger, anguish and despair, but the feelings of Ignatia are more on the surface. With Aurum, one feels a heaviness, weight and burden. What is similar is the idealism, disappointment, grief and ultimately suicidal thoughts. Ignatia is likely to only think about it and the grief is most likely to be due to disappointed love whereas in Aurum it may also be due to the grief from guilt and personal disappointment. Both remedies may have the anger and volatility though and also express a brooding, sulky quality.

Naja is one other remedy to consider with Aurum. The feelings of depression, along with a sensitive, brooding nature and perhaps grief may create confusion. Oncorrhus tschawytscha also has much grief and loss, feeling alone and lost and looking for a direction to find love and meaning.

High standards, Ambition, Haughtiness

Platina is also to be considered with Aurum. Both have high standards, may be ambitious and found in positions of responsibility and authority. Platina is however, much more concerned with their personal image. They are concerned about how they are seen and have more vanity around this. They may have issues around sexuality (Mind, lascivious, amorous, amativeness), although Aurum can have a high sexual expression as well. Both remedies though have an affinity for the ovaries, uterus and testes. Also, both remedies may present as being haughty, critical and also may feel forsaken. Platina tends to express more haughtiness, often felt as contempt. The haughtiness of Aurum is often more around competency and intolerance of those unable to perform, whereas in Platina it is often more sexually expressed, the ice queen syndrome and there is more hysteria in Platina.

Mercurius can also be confused with Aurum. Both are heavy metals and can be serious, introverted, ambitious and suspicious. When at a deeper state, both can become suicidal. Mercurius is more likely to express
a suicidal tendency through impulsive thoughts, especially on the sight of a knife and less with the feeling of despair and loneliness. Both remedies are strongly syphilitic and can have bone pains at night, along with the anguish of the syphilitic miasm. Both can have ulcerations and destructive tissue changes. As we are comparing similar metal remedies in the same line in the periodic table, then Hafnium, Tungsten and Iridium can also be thought of.

In any case where ambition is a very strong theme, Aurum has to be considered (Mind, ambition increased; competitive, fame for), and will mostly be compared with other heavy metal remedies and also gem remedies, although Nux vomica and Veratrum album are strongly indicated. Gem remedies also have the despair and hopelessness similar to Aurum and are described below. The nature of extremely strong ambition can be an expression of the syphilitic miasm, the need to be someone and to find oneself as a compensation for an underlying despair about life. The underlying feeling may not even be conscious but the intense or fanatic obsession on imposing one’s will on life mostly comes from the sycotic and syphilitic miasm. In the sycotic miasm, the desire to be seen and appreciated is important, whereas in the syphilitic miasm, it is the need to either be the best or simply take things as far as one can go, especially as the alternative state is a hopeless one. Platina expresses a more syco-syphilitic aspect of ambition, driven both to be seen to be great and to be the best above others. Aurum is guided more by the need to do their best to quell the underlying (and at times unconscious) despair and futility of life.

**Industrious, Anger, Contradiction**

One other remedy that often should be thought of with Aurum is Nux vomica. Both show an industrious nature and can be very critical and intolerant. However, Aurum has more concern for others and responsibility based on a sense of moral imperative. Nux vomica is generally concerned with his own immediate concerns and efficiency and is more volatile and reactive, especially in the intrinsic stage. Both have anger and are averse to being criticized. Nux vomica and Aurum can both show extreme anger and if associated with depression and a tendency to being industrious, it can be difficult to distinguish. Both have suicidal tendencies, from pain and from sadness, although Nux vomica is more likely to just have suicidal thoughts. Nux vomica is black type in the rubric, Mind, suicidal, thoughts, but lacks courage. Both also can be sensitive, sympathetic types that are burdened by responsibility. Both find it difficult to say no to demands, and can get overwrought and burnt out from them (Mind, sympathetic). Nux vomica just feels they can’t say no and responds impulsively to situations whereas Aurum feels personally responsible. Physically though, there are many differences between the two. Temperature modalities are usually opposite. Nux vomica shows more characteristic stomach, mucous membrane and nerve affections. It does not go so deep into physical pathology as Aurum, which tends to affect the joints, bones, heart and genitalia. Nux vomica also tends to be more sensitive to external things such as food, drink, drugs and the environment. Also, as mentioned, in the early stages Aurum will mostly present as being much more controlled emotionally and less volatile, impatient and on edge. They will not tend to have as many addictive qualities as Nux vomica although a tendency toward alcoholism can be seen in both remedies.

One other remedy to be considered is Kali bromatum. Both remedies can show depression as a result of guilt from feeling too responsible. Kali arsenicosum may also be thought of when considering Aurum, with characteristic fear of heart disease, guilt and responsibility.
Bismuth can look very like Aurum metallicum. The mental picture can be virtually identical, the main difference being that Bismuth feels more insecure and becomes dependent on other people. Bismuth is looking for an authority figure, someone to support them through their problems. Aurum is much more likely to totally isolate himself. The rubric that this is found in Bismuth is Mind, holding, mother’s hand, child constantly holding. This is actually more of a general state of the remedy than merely a specific symptom of a child’s behavior. It may be seen more in the desire to have the support of one person in particular.

Because of the deeply syphilitic aspect of this remedy, the nosode Syphilinum has often to be compared with Aurum and also with all the nosodes may be used to complement the other remedies indicated. The despair, anguish, torment, which is much worse at night are key characteristics of both remedies, as are the intense bone pains, which make the person feel suicidal. Serious OCD type symptoms can also be found in both remedies, but more so in Syphilinum.

Aurum salts

Therefore, Aurum can express itself in many different ways and different remedies will be compared with it depending at what level of the remedy the person is expressing. The other Aurum salts are important to compare with Aurum metallicum as has been well described in Terje Wulfsberg’s book, “Three Pieces of Gold.” Common to all Aurum is the theme of seriousness, duty and pressure, although Aurum muriaticum natronatum is found in the rubric, Mind, laughing at serious matters, along with Natrum muriaticum. In more depressed states, other Aurum compounds like Aurum muriaticum, Aurum muriaticum natronatum, Aurum arsenicosum and Aurum sulphuricum are important. One considers these remedies when either the case has specific keynotes of one of the salts or when there is a more of a synthetic analysis, where distinct features of the salt are found along with the Aurum qualities. The metallic quality of a remedy has a more definitive and clear reflection of the element/metal, whereas with a salt, it can feel rather softer and not so defined an image. The distinction may be subtle but one to be aware of. In fact, Aurum muriaticum and Aurum muriaticum natronatum can be used nearly as much as Aurum metallicum.

Aurum arsenicosum has been suggested to be a significant remedy in the treatment of Lyme disease, especially in Germany. In his book called “The Homeopathic Treatment of Lyme Disease”, Peter Alex makes the case that a morphogenetic field of the German psyche resonates with this remedy and that Lyme disease is an expression of this susceptibility. Clinically he has found Aurum arsenicosum very commonly indicated for chronic Lyme disease symptoms, a type of genus epidemicus for the disease in its chronic expression. Lyme disease is spread through a spirochete bacteria, Borrelia burgdorferi, transmitted through ticks. Although ticks have been vectors for this disease for hundreds of years, it was only in the 1970’s that the disease exploded onto the world, first being found in acute inflammatory joint conditions in Old Lyme, Connecticut. Its initial acute phase continued but also more chronic, degenerative conditions began to be found and subsequently associated with the original infection. Significantly for homeopathy and for the use of a remedy like Aurum arsenicosum, there is a strong syphilitic component to the disease, with much destructive tendencies, both physically and psychologically.

One analysis is that as antibiotics have been used to treat syphilis effectively since the 1940’s, the “energy” of syphilis seeks another avenue for expression and diseases like Lyme disease and AIDS become channels...
Despair, Hopelessness, Isolation

One of the key aspects of Aurum is profound despair, hopelessness and depression. As such, it is often the first remedy to be considered when someone is expressing these emotions. However, as with many polycrests, it is too easy to prescribe based on a couple of general symptom states and not on a more nuanced analysis. In order to justify Aurum in states of deep depression and hopelessness, one has to understand the whole case and how the person got there. As mentioned, in Aurum it begins with duty, responsibility, seriousness, a heavy burden they are carrying and then feel they cannot continue. Grief may be the catalyst also for an Aurum state to emerge but one has to see the whole progression. Many remedies can express similar qualities and Aurum has been given far too often based on a superficial understanding. One other remedy that can be compared to Aurum is Germanium. Only proven in 1995 (See J. Sherr’s proving), Germanium has similar qualities, with feelings of powerlessness, failure, worthlessness, self-hatred and forsaken feelings. They can feel their lives are a pretense and although they can have perfectionist qualities (similar to Aurum), they are unable to come through and feel it is all a cover (Mind, delusions, wrong, he is doing something; has done). They can feel deeply isolated and alienated from others (it has been speculated to be good for refugees) and there can also be dreams of violence, especially of war situations. This all can look like Aurum but the specific dreams of war may be a keynote of Germanium, along with remedies such as Ferrum and Platinum. Physically, Germanium has an affinity for the joints, nervous system, with toxicological studies showing serious nerve damage, similar to multiple sclerosis and arthritic conditions, and also an affinity for the liver and kidneys. Mentally, it shows weakness in intellect in comprehension and making mistakes in spelling. They lack confidence and feel easily mocked and criticized and are very sensitive to the opinion of others. They feel easily isolated and alone and can feel as if they are a castaway (Mind, delusions, alone being, castaway is).

The sense of isolation often felt in Aurum can be extreme. This is especially when in a depressed state, where they can feel hopeless and as if they have neglected their duty, have let themselves and others down. In such states they feel profoundly alone and forsaken (Mind, forsaken) and feel they have even lost the affection of friends (Mind, delusion, friend, affection of, has lost the), along with Aurum muriaticum natronatum, Hura, Hydrogen, Thuja etc.

Gems

Other newer remedies to be compared with Aurum are Adamas (diamond) and Diamond immersion. These are two distinct remedies, with obviously similar overlapping symptom pictures. The Diamond immersion picture comes from Peter Tumminello of Australia and described in his book “Twelve Jewels” and Adamas from J. Sherr, P. Sankaran and others. The main qualities to consider and compare with Aurum are perfectionism, ambition and a sense of wanting to be the top and a subsequent fall from grace, leading to depression, despair etc. These remedies should be studied when Aurum is one consideration...
but perhaps does not totally cover the case. Given the nature of the substance, it is not too much to consider that themes of purity, clarity, hardness, seeing many sides, flawless, hardness and also brittleness can be themes and images to consider in a person needing *Adamas*. Anything that threatens that purity, that would compromise this pristine image would be too much and so a person needing this remedy would likely be sensitive to criticism and any obstacle or challenge. *See also the Graphites chapter – Burnt out Carbon* for more perspective and also the proving of P. Sankaran and J. Sherr.

*Diamond immersion* (the gem remedies Tunminello makes are immersed whole into water as opposed to triturated) is one of a number of gem remedies that have been studied by Peter Tunminello in his book. The other ones are *Amethyst, Black Opal, Emerald, Golden Topaz, Lapis lazuli, Morion, Pearl, Quartz crystal, Rhodonite, Ruby and Sapphire*. There have been other provings of some of these gems and stones, including *Amethyst (Seideneck), Lapis lazuli (Schadde), Ruby (Azar and Marlow-Fries) and Sapphire (Sherr)*. The proving of *Emerald* was interesting in that it compared a traditional proving with a meditation proving and also the use of *Emerald* as a Gem Therapy. A correspondence was seen with all three. According to Tunminello there are some common themes to these remedies as well as specific criteria for them. There can be a common presentation of depression, hopelessness and despair of the current situation, with at times a reactive anger, violence and feelings of betrayal. To quote Tunminello:

*I have found that the deepest energetic perception of the gems is a sense of imprisonment, which is often expressed as such, or ‘as if in a grave’, ‘shackled’, ‘trapped’, ‘hidden’ or ‘locked away’ with no hope of escape. This inner feeling or sensation has a direct correlation with the signature of the gems in that they have been locked away in the underworld since time immemorial with no seeming way to express the joyous glory of their color, power and presence. When released by nature or the hand of man all its expressions are exposed and illuminated. There is a clear correlation on the mental plane here with depression as an expression of a hopeless existence or situation.*

There is a powerful urge to reconcile the source of this angst, whether it be due to a specific history of physical and emotional abuse or entrapment, (*Morion, Emerald*), fear, panic and terror (*Pearl, Golden Topaz*), ego identification - positive and negative (*Quartz crystal*), emotional trauma leading to a hardening of the heart in love and relationships (*Sapphire*), the breaking down of family connections and family dysfunction (*Amethyst, Golden Topaz, Lapis lazuli, Black Opal and Ruby*) etc. He states that there is often a strong spiritual yearning in these remedies, at times a conflict between spiritual and material life, making one compare with *Platina*. The gems have a noble and precious quality to them and have powerful symbolic influence as well as a history of healing properties in their own right. Therefore, it makes sense to explore their homeopathic potential, especially if other remedies have not worked completely. Elementally, many are made from combinations of *Silicea* and *Alumina* and with *Silicea* especially, comparisons with gem remedies can be made. *Amethyst*, for example is made from Silicon dioxide and may present as a more angry looking *Silicea*, the anger coming from a deep disquiet and frustration with their inner spiritual path and meaning in life.

Tumminello identified the following themes to the gems: **Instinctual v. enlightened attitude; familial alignments; yin and yang polarities; crystalline belief systems; ego and exclusive rights; transformation and alchemy; abuse, betrayal, violence and protection; beauty; boundaries and light; faith; geometry, order and structure; heat, pressure and passion; imagery and symbolism; intellect and memory, focus and**
concentration; out of the body/grounded; elemental affinities; color (see Ulriche Welte’s book Color in Homeopathy). (These themes are summarized in the online journal Interhomeopathy, in February 2011).

As gems are made over many thousands of years and under great pressure and heat, and are mined from the earth’s interior, Tumminello feels they are suited to help the integration of the deepest levels of the human experience, the roots of the unconscious mind and the continuing struggle between instinctual and enlightened impulses. As with any of these remedies, one has to begin to recognize when a gem remedy is needed by a thematic analysis, one that looks beyond specific surface symptoms in order to see a larger totality with greater depth.

The idea of many gems as remedies has to therefore encompass themes of needing to present themselves under a lot of pressure, the need to organize and structure their life so that they will be able to perform and present themselves in a positive light. Underlying issues of insecurity may be seen or be unconscious motives, with feeling of not getting enough support, appreciation and acknowledgement. Given the powerful symbols that gems have for humans as adornments of beauty, status and wealth, the dynamics of their use as homeopathic remedies may well encompass some of these themes. Ideally this should be confirmed with some keynotes of some of the provings of gems, the most important ones to study perhaps being Adamas, Amethyst, Emerald, Lapis lazuli, Ruby and Sapphire. It is worth cross referencing some of the symptoms of provings to see if there are common themes to be found. It may be that the colors people identify with may help in distinguishing between gems but that also is fraught with subjective interpretation. This is one of the challenges of incorporating these remedies in the materia medica.

Polarities, Power, Despair, Death, Decay: Lanthanides and Actinides

A similar challenge exists in looking at remedies from the Lanthanides and Actinides group. The Lanthanides have been explored mostly by Jan Scholten and are a group of elements that are a sub-group of “Stage 3 of the Gold Series” of the periodic table. They have not been proven. The Lanthanides are more common elements than initially thought, but are not obvious as they are chemically bound with other elements or salts and don’t occur purely by themselves. Also, chemically, it is very hard to distinguish them, but their electrical patterns are very different.

The themes of these elements, according to the ideas of Scholten are to do with trying, searching, experimenting, focusing inward to investigate and discover what power means to them. The common themes presented as Lanthanides qualities are to do with Autonomy, Power and the Shadow. They are less motivated by conventional success and power but work in more subtle ways. Inner work may be more important for them and they may choose to live outside the mainstream culture or in alternative communities or lifestyles. There is a need for independence and there may be issues with conventional authority. There may be ego issues, similar to other remedies in the gold and silver series. They may seek recognition but can feel criticized and are not recognized for what they do. They seek recognition but not in a conventional way. There is an understanding that true recognition has to come from a deeper understanding and recognition of the inner processes of human consciousness (the shadow) and they make a choice to do this in a more autonomous and independent way. However, they are aware of the
dynamics of power and influence, which they may seek to engage in, but for the more common good, the larger perspective. One other theme expressed is the ability to see the big picture, to be self-observant and self-aware of their process and their own motivations and not to get stuck in the same egotistical behavior that they see happening in the mainstream world.

On a physical level, it has been suggested that these remedies are useful in autoimmune conditions, relating to a confusion of real meaning and spiritual integration, which is a challenge in these remedies. Certain diseases including arthritis, colitis and Crohn's disease and even AIDS cases may indicate these remedies. Also, for those people who are very sensitive to electro-magnetic fields, such as cell phones and computers, a Lanthanide may be indicated. One of the challenges is not only in deciding which Lanthanide may be indicated for a particular condition but which salt to attach to the Lanthanide.

These remedies may express qualities seen in other remedies in the silver and gold series: serious, responsible, disciplined, theoretical, ambitious, thoughtful, sympathetic, independent, religious/spiritual/philosophical interests, censorious, averse to criticism, sensitive, mortified, indignant, desire to be alone, averse to consolation, self-doubt, egotistical, seeking appreciation, neglected, isolated etc. In this regard, other remedies such as Argentum, Barium, Palladium and Platina would be considered, as well as bird remedies, gems and Actinides. For a more in-depth study of these substances, the work of Jan Scholten should be studied.

The challenge is to be able to identify one of these remedies by a broader, more generalized and thematic picture, as much a “situational understanding” as it is a specific individual analysis with conventional keynotes and psychological individuation. This is not easy and requires a shift in perceptive understanding. Scholten feels that many homeopaths need a remedy from the Lanthanides family, given the dynamics of attraction and life circumstances that often are experienced by homeopaths working within a society that does not truly recognize the profundity and subtlety of homeopathy. Whether that is the case remains to be seen.

A similar challenge exists in looking at the remedies in the Actinides group. The most well-known substance in this group is Plutonium nitricum, which has had a homeopathic proving, as well as Uranium nitricum and Radium bromatum. On a thematic level, the Actinides may show similar qualities to the Lanthanides, yet the stakes are higher, the issues more intense, the threat of destruction and decay more imminent. The use of these substances as homeopathic remedies makes all the more sense since the use of nuclear weapons fifty years ago and the increase in radioactivity on the planet, used both destructively and for medical diagnosis and treatment. We have unleashed the plutonic forces, a profoundly symbolic act, and one that has affected the consciousness of humanity. Therefore, it makes sense to consider the homeopathic use of these substances. The themes of the Actinides are to do with the extreme polarities of life, including the awareness of imminent death, of the shadow side and the dark forces within the human condition. People needing Actinides may feel they are grappling with situations that have nothing to do with them but which are part of the collective story of ancestors, culture, nations and the unspoken legacy of the human condition and suffering. It is the unleashing of deeply suppressed psychic/spiritual phenomena. Interestingly, the use of the remedy X-ray has to do with the deep suppression of physical conditions leading to the breakdown of the body, including cancer. It has been suggested that X-ray is a remedy for any condition that has
been suppressed for a long time, especially any skin condition. The mental picture of X-ray also shows a strong violent theme, with a desire to kill with great rage. There may be a deep misanthropy and hatred of people. It is a remedy for wounds that refuse to heal (similar to radiation burns). As a metaphor of the remedy, the feeling is of a person who never forgets and then seeks revenge, a dark state of mind. Radium bromatum also has a great affinity for the skin and the joints. Any skin condition that occurs as a result of X-rays should be a consideration for Radium bromatum. It is also a remedy to consider for chronic and intense acne, or consequences of the suppression of bad acne. It is also indicated for moles, nevi and forms of cancer, especially as a result of X-rays. Mentally there can be depression with a desire for company, and a fear of being alone in the dark, which is different to the Aurum mental state. There is a restlessness, a feeling of their being too much energy running through them. There can be a weary sense of despair, a feeling as if they are dying with severe achiness in the body. They can have electric shocks throughout the body, including during sleep, similar to Argentum metallicum. There is great tension in the body, leading to the electric shock feelings (Generalities, shock, electric like).

Physically the Actinides will affect areas similar to the Lanthanides and gold series remedies – the bones, nerves, mind, with destructive conditions, such as cancer, auto-immune conditions and mentally with profound despair, isolation, suicidal ideation, rage, violence etc. Radium bromatum also has a dry burning heat, as if on fire, leading to a craving for open air.

In the picture of Plutonium nitricum, we can see a person who feels as if they are living under a huge pressure, forcing them to live a certain way, which is suppressing their deepest nature. There is a sense of profound conflict with very powerful pent up feelings, threatening to be unleashed, leading to chaos and destruction. Hence there is a strong impulse to try and keep everything in order and in control, to keep a tight lid on things. Alternatively we can see a person feeling extreme responsibility and duty and/or feeling they have to be very powerful in what they do in order to achieve things. Either way, they feel under great pressure. There can often be a feeling of great threat, but often it is not known what it is, just a threat of something bad or terrible and there can also be a great deal of aggressive, violent impulses. There can be great seriousness in all things, concerned or obsessed with the violence or trauma in the world, or with spiritual and existential issues. There is a very heavy demeanor and the person can even feel as if their body feels very heavy. It can feel so heavy that the back collapses, forcing the person to walk double or on all fours. The feeling is as if the body is decaying or growing old much too fast.

This image makes one consider Aurum and other heavy metals but the feeling is even heavier and more intense, with more suppression and pressure and the threat of greater destruction, violence and breakdown. The syphilitic qualities are clear to see. Granitum (made from Granite stone from Ireland) has similar symptoms, including the back issues and on a mental level, the ability to be blunt and rude without any remorse or aggressive feelings. It also has a tendency to introversion and a kind of misanthropy, losing interest to connect to others. There is an indifference and suspiciousness of other’s motives. There can be a great weakness and heaviness, both physically and mentally, along with a passive type of hopelessness. Other remedies to compare would be Carcinosin with the suppression of the self and intense need for control and order and Syphilinum because of the overall syphilitic nature.
The threat of some kind of violence will often be seen in most Actinides, even if it is in a person attracted to violent situations, who thrives on living on the edge and who may seem motivated by some form of unconscious impulse to bear witness for personal or collective conscience. As is seen with the syphilitic miasm, there is a movement away from social norms, to become more anti-social in all regards. As this impulse becomes pathological, we see the extraordinary violence of the world through warfare, nuclear bombs, genocide, terrorism etc. This expression of the human condition is something people needing Actinides may be affected by, concerned or even fascinated with. Therefore there is often a heaviness attached to a person needing an Actinide remedy. This is not a person concerned about the simple, mundane things in life and petty emotions. They may be highly motivated and again look like Aurum, Bismuth, Plumbum, Thallium and similar remedies and share the angst, isolation and despair of these remedies. Intense isolation is a key symptom of the syphilitic miasm and seen clearly in Aurum as well as in Plutonium nitricum. However, one contrast is that in Plutonium and other Actinides they may not be so attached to how they are seen in the world and their position. They may be living somewhat beyond that level of concern, and be only concerned with grappling with the darker, more destructive elements that they find they are attracted to or simply dealing with in their own mind and body. As mentioned, the realm of death and other dimensions may feel close to them, which could include having clairvoyant powers and interests.

**Syphilitic Pains, Bones, Joints, Head, Heart**

Physically, the Aurum pathology focuses on the joints, the bones and the heart. The pains of Aurum are of the syphilitic type – intense, tormenting pain, all worse at night. It is indicated in severe arthritic conditions in which there is great pain with the inflammation. Joint pain may alternate with heart symptoms. In these cases one has to be very careful, as there may well be heart pathology involved. Rheumatoid arthritis is seen in this remedy, with wandering pains and again worse at night, and worse from heat. Psoriatic arthritis is also seen. Inflammation of the sternum bone can be found in Aurum. In cases of rheumatoid arthritis, with characteristic intensity of the pains, Aurum will be most compared with other syphilitic remedies such as Asafoetida, Calcarea fluorica, Causticum, Guajacum, Mercurius (and its salts), Phytolacca, Stilligia, Syphilinum and Thallium. Differentiation will mainly be in the overall picture and to feel confident, one would want some of the generals and mentals of Aurum. If all one sees is the severity of physical symptoms with characteristic intense violent pains, especially worse at night, then some of the “smaller” remedies should be considered.

Aurum has very strong head pains, with both bone type pains and from congestion of blood to the head, often along with hypertension. If the pain feels in the bones and is worse at night, then Aurum is strongly indicated, along with Hepar sulph, Mercurius, Nitric acid and Syphilinum, although many other remedies are in the rubric Head, pain, bones. It is also in the rubric, Head, pain, rheumatic, along with Head, pain syphilitic, indicating also remedies such as Kali iodatum, Mercurius, Nitric acid, Phytolacca, Stilligia and Thuja. Aurum also has strong congestion to the head, with pulsations and pressure, a feeling as if the head would explode. This is often connected to high blood pressure but also can be a result of emotional upset, especially anger. The face may be red and hot. If head pains are coming specifically from emotional upset, then Aurum should be compared with Argentum metallicum and nitricum, Ferrum metallicum (and salts), Lachesis, Natrum muriaticum and Nux vomica (Head, pain, excitement, emotions of).
Given its syphilitic nature, one sees this remedy needed when there are caries of the bones, whether it’s in the mouth and upper palate (Mouth, caries, palate), the nose, (Nose, caries), or other bones (Extremities, caries). The aforementioned syphilitic remedies should be compared, along with Fluoric acid, Hecla lava, Lachesis, Mezereum, Phosphorus, Phosphoric acid and Silicea. Caries and curvature of the spine also reveals many of the same remedies, (Back, caries, curvature). Caries of the ear and mastoid is another key area of Aurum pathology (Ear, caries, threatened; mastoid).

**Heart**

Along with its tendency to congestion of blood, the heart is a major area of symptomatology in Aurum, with all kinds of heart pains, palpitations, arteriosclerosis of the heart and heart valvular problems. This is one of the main remedies indicated in serious heart pathology and prescribing in such cases should be very careful. A clear diagnosis should be made in any heart pathology case, especially if Aurum seems to be indicated. Aurum cases can tend to suffer from sudden severe heart attacks, through a combination of syphilitic, destructive tendencies influencing the case and suppression of intense emotions (Chest, palpitations, excitement, after; exertion after). The two features go together. The remedy justification will mainly be based on the whole case, not just the heart symptoms, but the main symptoms are all forms of palpitation, which are worse for emotions and a feeling as if the heart has stopped (Heart, ceases, as if heart had ceased), followed by tumultuous heart beat.

It is also one of the first remedies to consider in any forms of angina pectoris, especially when there are violent intense pains that are often worse at night. Aurum here will have to be compared with more specific heart remedies, such as Adonis vernalis, Cactus, Crataegus, Digitalis, Kalmia, Latrodectus mactans, Lycopus virginicus, Naja, Oxalic acid, Spigelia and Tarentula. Obviously there are many more remedies also to be considered. Aurum is also indicated in all inflammatory conditions of the heart including endocarditis, pericarditis and rheumatic conditions (Heart, inflammation, endocardium, rheumatic; pericardium). In more acute endocarditis, with pain and great anxiety, Aurum will be compared with Aconite, Arsenicum, Cactus, Convallaria, Digitalis, Kalmia, Lachesis, Naja, Spigelia, Spongia and Tabacum etc. Kalmia in particular is a remedy to compare with Aurum in all sorts of heart conditions, especially associated with rheumatic affections and Crataegus can have a similar mental state, being irritable, cross, melancholic and despairing, along with many heart symptoms. In the symptom, Chest, tobacco heart, Cactus, Convallaria and Kalmia are listed, along with Apocynum, Caladium, Sarothamnus scoparius, Scopolia and Scutellaria. Sarothamnus is also a kidney remedy.

**Genitalia**

One other area of affinity for Aurum is the genitalia. It is a common remedy to consider for orchitis (Male, inflammation, testes), both in children and adults. Pathology may be found in either testis and the affected testis is often very hard. It is also indicated in epididymitis (Male, inflammation, testes, epididymis). It may also affect the prostate gland. In females, there can be ovarian tumors, and indurations or ulceration of the cervix or uterus. Aurum muriaticum natronatum is one of the keynote remedies for tumors in the uterus (Female, tumors, uterus).