

# Chinese Medicine and the Betrayal of Intimacy: The Theory and Treatment of Abuse, Incest, Rape and Divorce with Acupuncture and Herbs. Part II

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Abstract: The impact of the betrayal of intimacy, e.g., abuse, incest, rape and divorce, is examined from the perspective of Chinese medicine. Part I focused on the main types of betrayal as they differentially affect the functions of the various organ systems, with special emphasis on the Fire Officials. In Part II, the author continues this discussion and focuses on specific issues regarding diagnosis and treatment of betrayal. The use of visualization, imagery, herbal medicine, and acupuncture are presented as they relate to the treatment of betrayal. The issues of memory and abuse are elaborated in regard to ethical issues and its possible differentiation according to theories of Chinese traditional medicine.

FOR ANY given life event, each individual will interpret its meaning and significance in a unique manner. According to Chinese medicine, an event which initiates feelings of betrayal will be interpreted according to the dictates of one's constitutional type. However, the very nature of betrayal implies a strong effect on the function of the Fire Officials.(1,2) Often, one interprets what they have learned from the experience of betrayal as reflecting an underlying truth about the nature of life. Such an individual may begin to respond to issues regarding intimacy based on a misinterpretation of past experience rather than responding spontaneously to the unique merits of every new situation. From the perspective of the Inner Tradition, it is unlikely that one will ever experience true intimacy until the function of the Fire Officials have been restored and one's habitual patterns of dysfunction are resolved.

Part I of this article examined some of the hallmark patterns of dysfunction resulting from betrayal of intimacy as viewed from the perspective of Chinese medicine (see Tables 1 and 2). Part II will address specific diagnostic and therapeutic measures aimed at treating the effects of betrayal. These include visualizations, images, herbal formulas, and the inner nature of acupuncture points.

## Part II

- I. General Aspects of Healing
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of Betrayal Listed According to the  
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## I. General Aspects of Healing

According to the Inner Tradition, the treatment process always involves attempting to educate patients about their habitual patterns of dysfunction and assisting them in developing as much awareness of these patterns as possible. Patients may either not know they were abused, or be reluctant to discuss issues regarding incest, rape, and divorce. Often patients completely omit or de-emphasize the relevance of this information during an initial intake. However, there are significant clues that the practitioner may interpret as evidence of betrayal.

1) The interpretation given to an event of betrayal is dependent upon the patient's constitutional type. For instance, a Wood type will tend to respond to betrayal with anger or lack of anger, judgement against self and others, and resentment. All generated symptomatology will be a compensation for the failure of the Wood Element to respond energetically in a healthy balanced way to the event. Yet, the nature of betrayal is such that it must also affect the Fire Element and its function within the Wood Element or other constitutional type.

2) Note that the person who is constitutionally Fire is from the moment of conception prone to interpreting the events of life in terms of betrayal of intimacy. This places the burden on the practitioner to separate the patient's "story" from the "reality" that lies in their Heart uncolored by their mind's interpretation.

