



My Car, Myself Introduction

By Michael J. Lincoln, Ph.D.

This is a strange little enterprise born of noticing certain oddball correspondences over the years. The correspondences had to do with what was happening in people's lives and what was happening with their cars at the time.

It seemed that when something went wrong with the person's car, it somehow dovetailed very well with what was going on with the person. And this held, whether the car difficulty was caused by a breakdown, an accident/wreck, or a loss.

Upon closer examination, the correspondences seemed to operate in one or more of four general ways. First, there was what could be called a direct correlation type of thing, in which, if you consider the car to be the person on their hands and feet in what is known as the "triangle pose" in yoga. (Body bent over face down, hands flat on the floor, and feet on the floor, creating an arch or triangle.)

In this correspondence, the face is the front end of the car, and the rear end is the butt area. The hands are the front wheels and the feet are the rear wheels. The grill is the mouth, the headlights are the eyes, the hood is the forehead, the engine is the brain, the passenger compartment is the torso, and so on.

The second correspondence could be described as physiological/functional, in the sense that the function served by the car part would correspond to the function of one or more of the individual's organs or body parts, paralleling the meanings of the organ failures. For instance, the gas tank would be the stomach, the carburetor/fuel-injector the heart, and the electrical system the central nervous system.

And the third correspondence is direct psychological, in that the function served by the car part corresponds directly to psychological processes in the individual's functioning. In this situation, the nature of the function served by the car part is found to correspond well to comparable psychological functions in the individual's process of living. For instance, the cooling system would correspond to the emotional system - especially with regard to grief and anger.

Finally, we have the nature and history of the manufacturing company from which the car comes. This profoundly affects both the car's aura and its consciousness emanation.

Similarly, the nature and history of the individual comes into play in the interaction between the consciousness involved in the individual and in the car's consciousness. There can be everything from a remarkable fit between the individual and the car, all the way to a gross misfit between them.

The way this works, apparently, is that there are essentially two ways in which things go into the car's deterioration, breakdown, destruction, or loss. One is the mechanical wear-down or trauma process that we are so familiar with. The other process is not so familiar to us.

It consists of what could be called a “consciousness laser” or a “projected auric influence field” that emanates from our state of being and the consciousness behind it towards the functionally, archetypically, or symbolically linked consciousness and aura of the car component. A detrimental correspondence emanation influence produces the debilitation of the car component via “resonation” instead of via causation.

Incidentally, with regard to the “correspondence theory,” the rather strange “matches” between automobile malfunctions and our situations also extends to things like, who the other driver is in an accident, what part of their car was damaged. It also extends to the relationship between who the other driver was and what part of your car was damaged.

For instance, it matters whether you are hit in the rear from a man, from the side by an older woman, head-on by a teenaged boy, side-swiped by a teenaged girl, hit by a person of color (and which culture they come from), a blue collar or a professional, a hit-and-run, an in-your-absence parking lot or parking place damage, and the like.

The correspondence here is what these different demographics and circumstances mean to and about you psychologically. Also involved is the personality, appearance, behavior, and other personal characteristics of the other driver.

Finally, all these same considerations work the other way, in that who you hit, where, how, with what effects on them, and their car, and who they are, and who you are to them plays an important part in the meaning of the event and its impact/import for them.

Still another way in which the “correspondences” work is in our relationship with our car, in our way of driving, in our relationship with the system of traffic safety, and in such things as the events that happen to us while we are either driving or parked. For instance, habitually driving while talking on a cell phone or while in an altered state of consciousness will have a profound effect on the condition of our car and of us.

Examples of things that happen when we are driving or parked would be events such as “parking lot traffic on the freeway,” being cut in front of, not being able to procure a parking place, not being able to find our parked car, driving with the parking brake on, having our car hit while we are away, or getting out of a still-moving car. All of these reflect what is happening within, for, and to us as well.

The mechanisms by which all this works are unclear. However, it can be said that the car has an integrated auric field and identity of its own that reflects the consciousness of the car. (With regard to this concept, all physical objects have a consciousness field associated with them.)

This consciousness field shows up in the auras of the physical objects, including your car. The car’s aura then interacts with our aura, due to the intense closeness of the relationship that develops between our car and us. This means, that our consciousness and that of the car interact as well.

As a result, what happens to our aura/aura/consciousness affects the car’s aura/consciousness, and the corresponding parts of its systems are then affected. Indeed, what seems to be involved here is a “fusion” or “identification” of the two auras, such that the car’s aura and consciousness takes on ours, and what happens to us directly affects the condition of the car in the correspondence manner being discussed here.

This process operates as a kind of early warning system, in that the car’s aura and consciousness are highly sensitive to the state of our aura and consciousness, and the car then “sounds the alarm” about what is happening in your aura and consciousness very early in the

process. As such, the car can be utilized as a “tuned in” indicator of what is happening within, to, and around you via its difficulties.

As one individual put it, you could theoretically actually run your car through one of those car diagnostic systems, and then read this book to get a “read out” on what’s going on for you from this book.

You would then interpret the indications about what is happening for you by the severity and imminence of breakdown that the diagnostic system indicates for each of the car’s systems and parts. This would be a really early warning for you.

A special case of this correspondence and aura/consciousness interaction process is the “sequential breakdown” in which your car becomes “one long repair bill.” What seems to be happening here is that your consciousness and aura change as you change, and that, in turn, puts you “out of synch” with your car’s consciousness and aura.

Once that happens, the car starts feeling stressed, and the weakest link in the system goes first. Then, the next weakest link, and so on, in a never-ending story. The interesting thing about this is that if you release your car for a replacement, often as not, the next owner (who, after all, chose the car) will be back in “sync” with the car, and the sequential breakdown process stops.

This kind of sequential breakdown is usually discernible by checking in this book to see what the dynamics of the situations that are associated with the various breakdowns are. This tells you what is going on for you and what the implications of that are.

If the breakdowns all point to more or less the same thing, you are likely to have a “back in synch” outcome because the breakdowns are all related to the issue you are wrestling with at that time, and as you heal or handle the problem, your consciousness and aura straighten out - and so does your car.

The other outcome of this “item check” process on the sequential breakdown thing that can happen is where all the various breakdowns point to different issues, dynamics, and processes going on for you. This outcome is reflective of the “permanent drift-apart” difference between the car’s aura/consciousness and yours. This is when you need to find another car whose aura/consciousness is compatible with your new state of being, and then you need to turn the car over to someone whose aura is compatible with its aura/aura/consciousness.

If this sequential breakdown thing starts to happen with your car, the best move is usually to turn it in on another car as soon as it makes sense. However, occasionally, the car’s aura/consciousness and yours do get back in sync, and the process spontaneously stops.

So, give it a little time to see if that is going to happen. After that checkout period, it is best to release the car as soon as possible. Remember, the car is in misery when your aura/consciousness are out of synch.

An important sub-category of this “sequential breakdown” phenomenon is the so-called “lemon” -- the situation where your car is “one long repair bill” from the moment you get it.

What is happening here is that the car’s aura/consciousness is “out of synch” with yours from the “git-go.” Again, the only real solution is to let it go and get another. And, once again, the next owner is likely to get a real deal out of the situation, due to a better aura/consciousness match.

One proviso in this whole undertaking is when you are dealing with an old, much used, run down, or abused car. In this situation, what you have is that the multiple difficulties of the car’s deteriorating physical system, and the meanings of particular breakdowns may not hold under these circumstances, especially since there are so many of them.

Nevertheless, it might be useful to look up the most maddening and/or significant ones to you, or to even run down the whole list of infirmities to see what the overall trend of the breakdowns is for its information value to you regarding your situation.

Another aspect of this “old and tired” situation that can happen is that the condition of the car is a direct indication, that as far as you are concerned, at the deep emotional level, your “identity” has to be of such a deteriorated/deteriorating nature that you would have to have such a run-down car.

This may then well reflect an underlying subconscious conviction that you “deserve no better” and/or a situation in which this deteriorated/deteriorating state of affairs is the condition of your own aura/consciousness and self-concept, due to abusive formative processes. If so, it would behoove you to work on that issue before it manifests in life situational processes and phenomena, including bodily deterioration.

Another way our relationship with our car works is when the car operates as an “ally,” who utilizes the sensitivity of its aura/consciousness as a means to change your experience or as a message to you.

For instance, it may refuse to start when you need to be less in a hurry, or it will break down the radio in order to result in your listening to yourself more and to outside inputs less for a while. Now remember, this takes place on the Cosmic consciousness level, not in the form of the car’s having a “personality” like we do, though it is a being, but of a different type.

Finally, the scenario can be where your automobile serves as a “surrogate” to take on your “stuff” or “tribulations” for you. In this situation, the car seems to function as a “stand in” that takes on the physical, psychological, and/or situational difficulties and their effects, in the form of breakdowns that, in effect, “do them for you,” so you don’t have to. As was indicated, there does indeed develop a very close relationship between your car’s aura/consciousness and yours.

Incidentally, in regards to the issue of trying to repair your car so you don’t have to heal yourself, what will happen there is that the repair won’t work - the same breakdown will occur again and again, and again and again, if necessary.

There are two aspects of this. One is that you can’t “make” your car “take your stuff for you.” And the other is that when a repair fails to solve the problem, you really need to look at your emotional stuff in order to clear it. If for no other reason than to have your car working.

Another message embedded in this aspect of the situation is that when a repair DOES work, either it means that the issue is not so pressing that the car has to keep putting it in your face, or it means that you have taken the message to heart or in some other way handled the emotional issue well enough so that your aura no longer perturbs your car’s aura in that manner.

Still another aspect of the significance of a breakdown is with regard to the circumstances under which it occurs. If it is a new car that is not undergoing a sequential breakdown process, a problem in the car is a strong indication of the importance and potency of the problem being highlighted.

If, on the other hand, it occurs when the part(s) in question are already going down, the timing of the actual breakdown is determined by what is happening with you. And, then again, there is the possibility that Freud talked about when he said, “Sometimes, gentlemen, a cigar is only a cigar.”

Another circumstance that needs to be addressed here is when you have an accident when you are driving someone else's car. In that case, the damage involved reflects what is happening to the owner of the car. The circumstances under which it happens are reflective of your issues.

One final comment. The correspondences noted here apply most frequently to the more unconscious aspects of your functioning. The conscious aspects are usually noticed and dealt with before they generate enough energy to create a disturbance in your aura that is sufficient to cause one of these breakdowns because we are aware of them, and we are, therefore, working on them with significant amelioration of the state of our aura as a result. It's the subtle and subconscious ones that go all the way to affecting our car.