

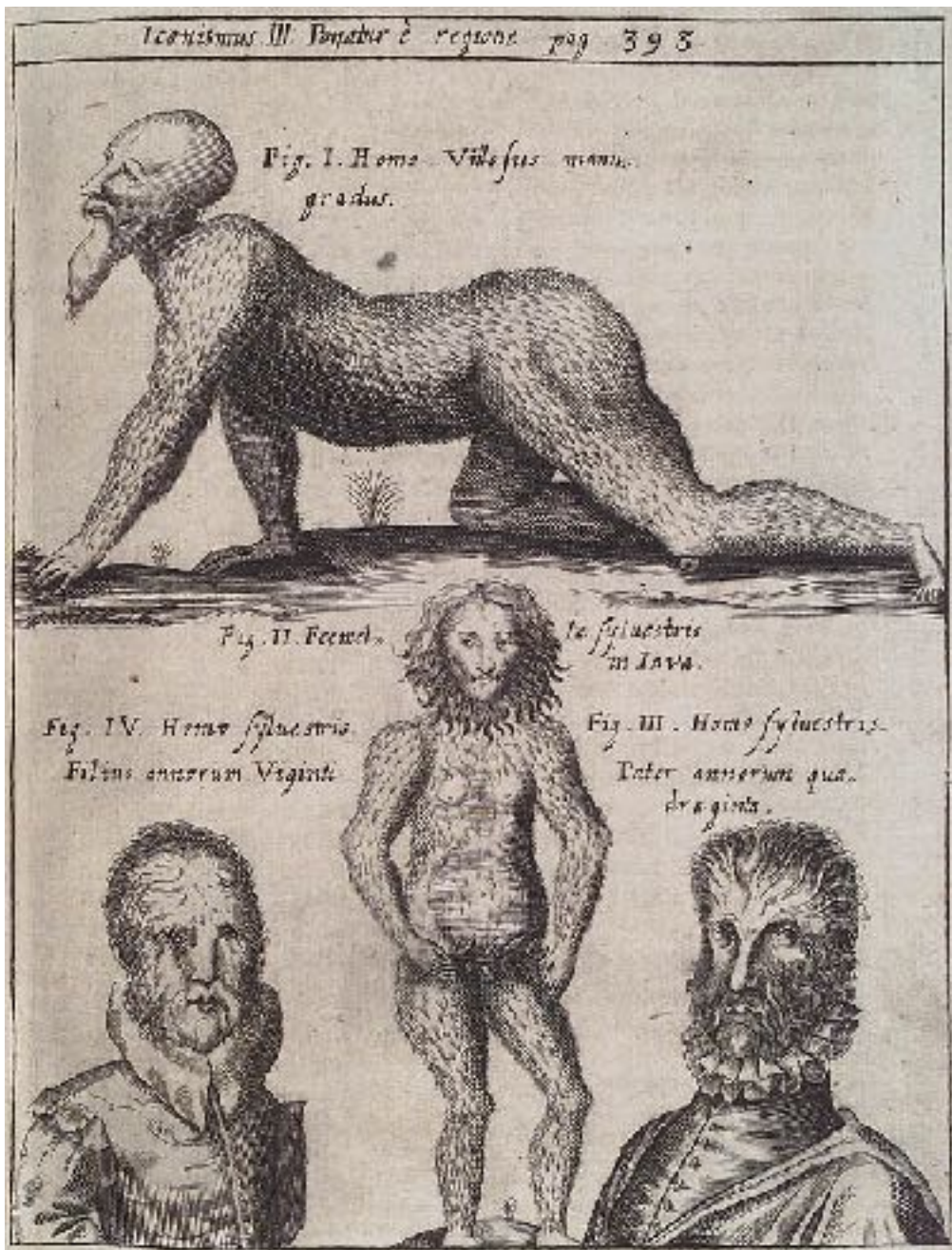
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# Metaphor Analysis

## Mars and Venue and a Horse Hair Rug

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## The Metaphor

*A man is lying on the floor wrapped tightly in a horse hair rug. To his left a statue of the god Mars. To his right a statue of the goddess Venus. The sun is above him. A door in front. Darkness behind.*

### First, some idioms to articulate the experience...

He isn't going anywhere  
He's trapped  
He's all wrapped up in the situation  
He cannot/is not standing up for himself  
There's a darkness in his background  
There's a way out/way in for him  
He's probably itching to get out  
He's unable to flog a dead horse (*tenuous*)

### Possible identities...

He's a liar/layer  
He's a low roller (*google it*)

### The core idiom...

*The gods are on his side.*

This gives us the central pseudo-religious theme of the metaphor. But we need to pay attention to a few details that might be easily missed. For a greater understanding on this I urge you to study the works of Gregory Bateson.

They are not the gods themselves. They are *representations of the gods*.

The statues represent the gods, but they do not represent what the god's represent. Therefore, the attributes of Mars (masculinity, war etc) are not implied to be left, and the attributes of venue (femininity, sensuality, etc) are not right. What has been left are not behaviours, they are identity. What is right is not behavioural, it is identity.

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## Metaphoric Taxonomies

The most obvious is of course the container that the rugs has become. This is an important and easily overlooked aspect.

Rugs are a form of support. Most importantly, rugs form a comfort and aesthetic barrier between the ground (the base support) and the person which it supports. Rugs are supposed to be *support enhancements*.

But this one forms a container - *inherited status, family*.

Family are supposed to makes things better, provide support and so on. The nature of this container tells us a lot about how the person experiences their family, which may or may not be reflected by actual reality.

Instead of offering support and making things better, they are:

- irritating
- restricting
- suffocating

There is a way out ahead for him, a door. Or is this a way in?

What kind of door is it?

We don't know.

Why don't we know?

Because the speaker neglected to tell us the context of the door. A door is unlikely to exist in isolation, it is usually complete with a wall or barrier of some kind. When unlocked, doors permit a way through the barrier.

But the speaker does not mention this barrier.

Barriers are obstructions. Obstructions are rules. More specifically, primary negative injunctives. Rules with consequence.

But he doesn't mention any of this.

These are the unspoken rules. Unspoken rules are part of the environment we take for granted, assume everyone knows this, they are just the way things are. Accepted, unspoken, assumed.

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Much like the absence of information about the supports. A statue is left and right, but what type of ground are they on, what is the nature of this environment? Again the speaker neglects to tell us; *it's just the way things are. Accepted, unspoken, assumed.*

What's under the rug? The speaker neglects to tell us; *it's just the way things are. Accepted, unspoken, assumed.*

## ***This is an issue about boundaries.***

*There is no boundary between the speaker's experience and your experience other than the one placed there by the family.*

### **Questions for you:**

1. *What sort of behaviours should we expect from this man today?*
2. *What sort of child was he?*

### **Days of The Week**

I'm indebted to Paul Hughes-Barlow for this aspect of the work (see: <https://paulhughesbarlow.com/>)

To the left we have a representation of Mars. Tuesday represents Mars Day, to the right we have Venus. Friday represents Venus Day (see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Names\\_of\\_the\\_days\\_of\\_the\\_week](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Names_of_the_days_of_the_week) for a full explanation of why this is)

The Sun is above. Darkness behind. Sunday is *not* above. That is the actual sun, not Helios or the other sun gods! Now, if it were a statue of Helios/Ra etc above, then this would be a very different situation.

Now, simply going in a clockwise direction (*and you know why we use clockwise, right? Sundials, the shadow when in that direction because of the perception of the movement of the sun*) this leaves Wednesday and Thursday in front.

So with this information, here are the things to be considering:

- what does the door represent?
- what day of the week does he look forward to?
- how does he experience Wednesday?
- what does Thursday offer?
- what day of the week is behind him?

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## Time Predication

Is time moving or still? With this in mind, pay attention to the active and passive principles within the metaphor. Is the darkness active or passive?

What does this tell you about the characteristics of the man? Is he active/passive/proactive/reactive.

If he were active, how does this affect his experience?

If he were passive, how does this affect his experience?

If he were reactive, how does this affect his experience?

If he were pro-active, how does this affect his experience?

What does the container tell us about his experience and behaviours?