

Pyriphlégéthon - The River of Fire

PART I

The Rivers of Hades

by Adrian Şinca

English translations by Victoria Sara Dazin



Prologue

"The Rivers of Hades were born out of necessity; the book is the result of the countless years that I spent in various psychiatric hospitals and clinics, the result of direct observation of the daily life and structure of the hospital, of the patients as well as of the treatment during hospitalization and post-hospitalization. The idea of crossing the rivers of Hades represents the break between the two worlds, the world in which we live and the separate world in which those who are affected by mental illnesses live.

Being a book based on reality, it was necessary to make some changes to protect the identity of patients and medical staff." Adrian Şinca

Noah and Noel

Noah had a twin brother, Noel. Since childhood, the two brothers were fascinated by fire. Their favorite fairy tale was the legend of Prometheus, who stole fire from the gods to give it to humans, the legend that they insisted their mother retell to them until exasperation.

Later, a nomadic circus with acrobats, animals, clowns, and... with a special act stopped in their town. The main attraction of the show was the female fakir who "swallowed" the fire. It was downright amazing and the act had a profound impact on him the twins seeing her swallow fire, especially since the woman was very beautiful, dressed in a glittering costume of "gold" and "silver".

Upon returning home, the brothers talked all night about the woman who "swallowed" the fire. The idea of "eating" fire, of "feeding" on flames sparked their imagination, like the horse of Handsome Prince's, which fed on embers.

When they grew up, the brothers began setting fire to various objects and sometimes burned insects and small animals.

It didn't take long until all the firefighters within the radius of three neighboring towns became very busy with the mysteriously started fires.

The twins had invented a game of "dragon play"... They filled their mouths with alcohol and then blew the alcohol strongly into a lit lighter. The result was a huge flame that shot out of their mouths. They played this game whenever they were bored, that is, constantly. Naturally, even with their mouths full of alcohol, the twins had developed an affinity for alcohol, which they consumed in massive quantities.

Some time passed when Noah and Noel left their parents' home, attracted by other possibilities. There they continued their escapades by setting some buildings on fire. In the end from their escapades, they had the misfortune of being caught red-handed, Noah having a metal can filled with turpentine with him. As a result, they were arrested, and pending trial, they were sent to my hospital for mental evaluation. That's how I woke up with them in the living room. The twins were forced, as part of the therapy, to participate in the rallies of the "alcoholics and drug addicts anonymous" groups that were organized three times a week in the basement of the building.

The "Doctor-Patient"

Two weeks ago, I was at home in front of the TV. The news shows a doctor who was also a minister, a kind of priest in the religion "born again Christians" ("Adventist"). It was said that he was arrested for drug trafficking (codeine, morphine, etc.). He was also arrested for prostitution. That would be enough, but...not even close. It was discovered that he had his driver's license revoked three times, being stopped by the police, who tested him for the presence of alcohol and drugs in his body, and he tested positive.

So, after two weeks, who enters the salon door, escorted by two policemen? The doctor!!!

I think that after the arrest he got the idea to stage an attack of hallucinations and enter the psychiatric hospital to get a diagnosis. That will help him at trial, in front of the judge. It's an old tactic but sometimes it works.

Now the doctor is adapting to life and routine in the psychiatric ward. Only...after three days, the doctor starts consulting the patients in the salon, making diagnoses, arguing with the nurses and the doctors, etc. Circus! Even I, with my sick imagination, could not invent such a thing.

The doctor gets angry and calls his lawyer to solve all his problems. The lawyer comes, and the two go into an office so they can talk without witnesses. Raised voices can be heard from the office, they were arguing. The rest of the patients crowd around to listen. The discussion ends and the lawyer prepares to leave the salon. The salon door was locked, of course. The lawyer docilely stops in front of the door, waiting for one of us to unlock the door.

At one point, one of the patients grabs a chair, heads towards the door... and angrily hits the lawyer on the head with the chair, saying:

"!Remember to upset our doctor"

Reacting so quickly, none of us could anticipate the attack

After this incident, the drug trafficker and prostitution doctor calmed down... He will stay in the hospital for another nine months, after which the judicial sentence was to begin.

The pop doctor is granted restricted privileges and is allowed to participate, escorted, in the meetings of the groups of "alcoholics and drug addicts anonymous" that were organized three times a week in the basement of the building.

I mentioned that after the incident with the lawyer, the "doctor-patient" had become the "de facto" boss of the patients he "diagnosed and treated".

For my readers, those experienced in the "arts of medicine", I will explain how the doctor managed to achieve this inconceivable goal.

Alcoholics and Drug Addicts Anonymous Group

Seeing the new patients, the "doctor-patient" begins to observe Noa and Noel, to diagnose them. Anticipating new possibilities of drug treatment, the doctor" immediately collects them".

During the rallies of the "alcoholics and drug addicts anonymous" groups, the doctor, Laura, and the twins sat next to each other, in a secluded corner, discussing intensely in whispers, about God knows what subject. From time to time an assistant forced them to break up the group, moving them to other seats. The process was totally useless, they were waiting for a favorable moment to regroup.

As I said, in a psychiatric hospital, time has other meanings. Time does not run out, seconds do not drip, time and seconds remain suspended, and they freeze somewhere in the ether for a period, only to find the inertia to be consumed between day and night. There are no important events that delimit the time slices. That would be routine. Days passed, nights passed, I don't know how many for the simple reason that absolutely no one bothered to keep track of them.

The doctor, Laura, and the twins, who in the meantime had also received an "honor card" and together with her obtained the privilege of leaving the salon and the hospital, had become "model" patients, they took their medicines, did not create problems, cooperated even more than necessary. They all participated in therapy groups, Alcoholics, and Narcotics Anonymous groups.

It's true that an "expert" eye would have noticed that the four were constantly together it should have required much more careful observation. It should have been, but between the established routine, between the "emergencies" and the shortage of workers, nurses, etc., we were happy to have a day without incidents and we didn't start looking with the candle for reasons to make our work more difficult.

Looking back, I remember a question that each of the four patients repeated periodically:

"?So, ALL buildings are organized the same way"

When I asked them to explain why they wanted to know, the answer I received was invariable:

"I'm curious" or "I'm thinking of requesting a transfer to another building"

NOW I realize that the twins were slowing down as they walked down to the basement, particularly as they passed the room where the oxygen tubes and other materials were stored. This would not have been a cause for concern, given the fact that the door was locked with two keys.

ABC News Live

Long Island legislator and doctor arrested in sex-for-drugs sting

Spencer is a physician and legislator and serves on an opioid task force.

By Aaron Katersky

21 October 2020, 22:43

Legislator and doctor arrested in sex-for-drugs sting

Dr. William Spencer was arrested while attempting to exchange oxycodone for sex, according to L...[Read More](#)

Catch up on the developing stories making headlines.

A Long Island, New York, doctor who is also a legislator and minister, was arrested while allegedly attempting to exchange oxycodone for sex, according to law enforcement officials.

Dr. William "Doc" Spencer, 53, was taken into custody in a parking lot in Elwood. He appeared for his arraignment on Wednesday at the Central Islip courthouse via video conference, his hands cuffed behind his back and leaning forward while wearing a blue short-sleeved prison shirt and mask.

He was released without bail on his own recognizance. In agreement for release, Spencer was ordered to surrender his passport, his pistol license -- he has a pistol permit but not a licence to carry, according to authorities -- as well as any other firearms he may have by Thursday.

Spencer is being charged with criminal possession and sale in the third degree, according to Assistant District Attorney Kevin Ward.

He is due back in court on Feb. 26. If convicted of the top count, Spencer faces a maximum sentence of up to nine years in prison.

According to Ward, Spencer made "oral admissions" to officers that there is also an ongoing investigation into his past conduct which will involve additional search warrants and evidence recovered from his cellphone.

"Dr. Spencer has dedicated his life to his community, family and his patients," said Spencer's attorney.

"The message here is that the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office will continue to work in partnership with all of the law enforcement agencies operating here on Long Island, including the DEA and members of the Long Island Heroin Task Force, to hold criminal's accountable no matter who they are or what their walk of life is," Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy D. Sini said, in a statement. "This investigation is very much ongoing, and justice will be served in this case.

WABC, FILE

Dr. William Spencer Suffolk County, New York, doctor and legislator has been arrested for allege...Read More

Dr. William Spencer Suffolk County, New York, doctor and legislator has been arrested for allegedly attempting to exchange oxycodone for sex.

Spencer, of Centerport, was allegedly under the presumption he would be meeting a prostitute in a parking lot to trade the oxycodone pills for sex -- but it was a sting operation.

He was in an official Suffolk County vehicle at the time of the arrest.

Spencer is a well-known doctor who has been a legislator in Suffolk County's 18th District since 2011 and serves on an opioid task force. A pediatric surgeon, he was reported as the first doctor to serve on the Suffolk County Legislature in its 50-year history, according to *Smithtown Matters*. He is the chief of otolaryngology at Huntington Hospital and an associate clinical professor at Stony Brook University Hospital, according to his biography on the Suffolk County Legislature's website [Long Island legislator and doctor arrested in sex-for-drugs sting](#)

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