# Some Metaphors of the Body System

Feeling

**Emotion** 

Autonomic

Survival

Primal

Reasoning

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### **Body Metaphors – Thought Patterns**

Head – Direction; Primary Forehead – Goals; Mission; Ideals, Aspirations

Evebrow – Expression

Eye – Personal Vision; How I see the world

Ear – Presence - how I show up Nose – Intuition; Knowing

Mouth – Intake; Considering

Face – Appearance; Expression

Chin – Attitude; Influence,

Strength/Weakness

Neck – Flexibility; Alternatives

Shoulder – Shoulds;

Commitments;

Responsibilities

Chest – Connection; Affection;

Nurturing; Relationships

Upper Arm – Power; Strength

Lower Arm – Work; Doing

Wrist – Choices; Flexibility

Hand – Learned skills;

Grasping/holding

Abdomen – Processing; Resources; Secondary

Upper Back – Truth (core beliefs); Experience held as truth

Mid-Back – Uprightness; Character

Lower Back – Support; Flexibility

Hips/Buttocks – Last; Intersection of beliefs; Joining

Thigh – Movement; Beliefs in action

Knee – Needs; Respect

Shin - Ascending; Climbing; Upward mobility

Calf – Strength; Sacredness

Ankle – Supporting Beliefs

Foot – Understanding (soul); Foundational beliefs

Leg – Mobility; Tertiary

Skin – Outer layer; Surface; Shallow; Boundaries

Left Side – Feminine; Yin

Right Side – Masculine; Yang

## **Conditions Metaphors**

Aches - Suppressed; Invalidated; Wronged

Acute pain - Pay attention NOW!

Aneurisms - Distrust; Betrayal; Opening

Bleeding - Losing; Loss; Grief

Breaks/Fractures - Stop thinking this way!

Time for a change! Sudden and

irreversible change is occurring now

Bruises - Guilt; Withholding joy; Crushed,

Destroyed; Fighting

Cancers - Losing control; Feeling the victim; Rejection; Out of control

Chronic pain - Entertaining old, hurtful, beliefs

Cuts - Guilt; Opening (opportunity)

Dull pain - Time to pay attention; Time for a change

Fat - Stored excess emotional content

Fever – Heating up; Pay attention

Indigestion – Time to reconsider; Wrong or wronged; Afraid

Infection - Anger; Defensiveness; Invaded; Violated

Inflammation - Anger; Hostility; Turbulence

Injuries/Wounds - Separation; Hurt

Itch - Trying; Struggling; Confused

Nausea – Rejection; Terror

Out of joint - Angry; Frustrated

Pulled muscles - Overwhelm; Not good enough; Straining

Rash – Rejection; Sorry; Irritated

Sharp pain – Pay attention NOW!

Sprains - Twisted, distorted thinking;

Overwhelm

Stiffness - Fear of taking responsibility;

Stuck in a belief pattern

Tightness/Tenseness - Fear; Anxiety; Worry

Warts - Bothersome annoyances; Losing

control a little at a time; Offenses

### To use this chart -

- 1. Determine the condition(s) you are experiencing from the Conditions Metaphors list.
- 2. Look to see what the condition metaphor might mean for the condition you are experiencing.
- 3. Find in the Body Metaphors list the body part that has the condition to make a short "story".4. Then look into your life and see if that "story" is occurring in your life. If so, you may find that as you do something to make a change in your belief system, the condition will change, too.

#### Examples:

Headache (ache in the head) ~ Invalidating my direction. Maybe I'm headed in the wrong direction... Angina (sharp chest pain) ~ Pay attention to my relationships NOW! Time to re-connect...

*Note – This chart is for consideration only and not intended to replace competent medical assistance.*