

A DISCUSSION ON DOWSING THEORY AND PRACTICE

John F. Caddy¹

Q: John, can you give us some information about your background?

I got my PhD at London University before emigrating to Canada in 1966 where I worked as a marine biologist. In 1979 I moved to FAO Rome, where I pursued my main professional objective, the conservation of marine resources.

Q: How did you become involved in dowsing?

My first experience with dowsing began in Sardinia through courses given by Mauro Aresu, a professional dowser.

Sardinia has a remarkable early history: many Stone Age constructions are still surviving, and dowsing is used for locating well sites.

Mauro Aresu, a dowser, became known as a practical archaeologist, since while dowsing for well sites, he often found ancient edifices that Stone Age people constructed over underground water.

Q: Can you describe the dowsing response and its potential?

My interest was in learning how to access energy phenomena using simple methodologies. A later book 'Hidden in the Words a Meaning Undetected' described my dowsing investigations into the psychic energy of written/spoken words.

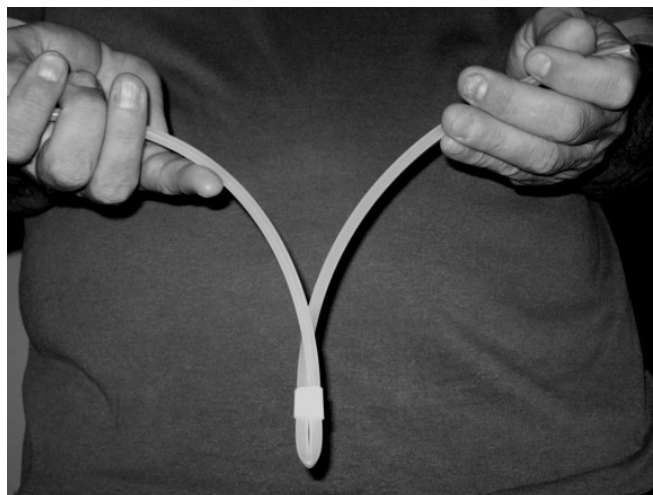
Dowsing doesn't depend on the magical capabilities of the dowsing fork. Its movements are governed by the subconscious response to questions asked by the conscious mind.

Dowsing provides answers in the physical and mental realms that often cannot be obtained otherwise, and 'Divination' (including dowsing), was widely-used in the distant past. My experience suggests that at least three principles are important for success:

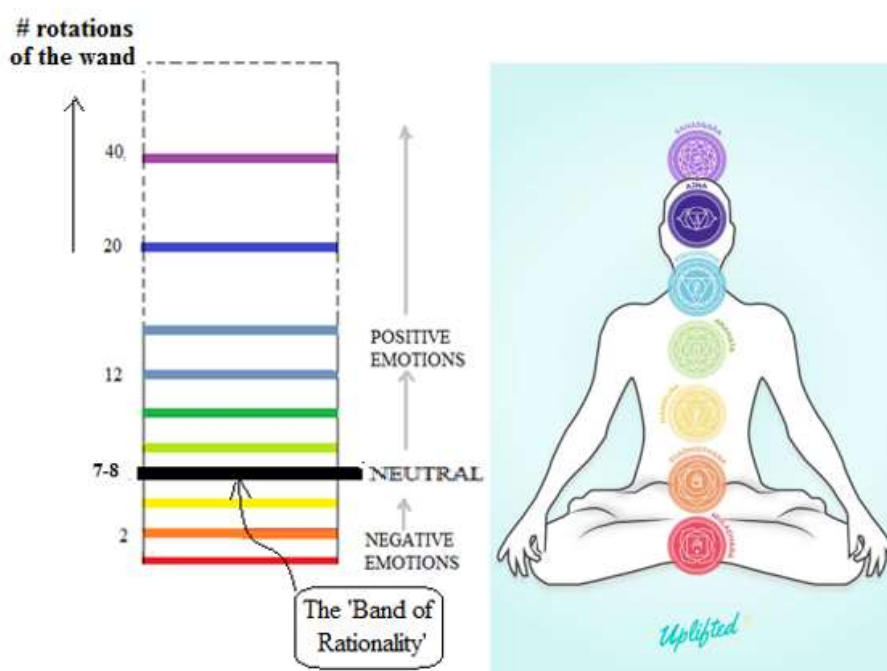
1. The mental state during dowsing resembles a light meditation;

¹ jfcaddy1@yahoo.co.uk

2. The dowser must be convinced that a solution exists to the problem raised, even if he/she doesn't know how to find it consciously;
3. The question should be asked with an empty mind: conscious thought during dowsing will block success.



The dowser holds a stiff plastic wand, turning it away from his/ her body, while holding in mind a question such as 'What is the energy reading for xxx?' The wand is repeatedly rotated away from the body, counting the turns, until it refuses to rotate, when the count gives the score.



The scale of qi energy detected by dowsing is given by the number of wand rotations and shown here as colored bands, which in Pranic Healing practice correspond to the dynamics of the 7 chakras. The black 'Band of Rationality' refers to the words used in the unemotional state typical of science investigations when the chakras remain inactivated.

Q: So, your thoughts on our ‘Sixth Senses’ and dowsing are linked to research on our prehistory? Did this lead to the conclusion that in the history of our species, there was a radical change from earlier beliefs and practices which were closely related to our sensibilities?

A radical change came about with the onset of abstract thought by the ancient Greek philosophers. Although history urges us to believe that our intellect evolved from simple to complex, the new dominance of logical thought in the Left-brain hemisphere blocks our senses and our intuition (12 rotations) located in the Right hemisphere. Could it also be that our earlier skills and sensibilities were eliminated during our ‘education’? And is there still a close link between our ‘sixth senses’ and our mental skills today?

The thinking process in the archetypal mind must have differed considerably from ours. A quote from Carlos Castaneda’s book *‘The Power of Silence’*, expresses this better than I can. His Don Juan commented that inside every human being was: “A gigantic, dark lake of silent knowledge which each of us could access” ...and Castaneda sensed that “Two separate parts are within my being. One is extremely old, at ease, indifferent. It is heavy, dark, and connected to everything else.... The other part is light, new, fluffy and agitated: alone on the surface, and vulnerable. This is the part with which I look at the world”.

Q: Are you implying that there is an information source or compendium available to us in the Universe?

Yes. Different philosophers have expressed the idea that a hidden reservoir of knowledge exists in the Universe, referred to by different names such as the Akashic Records - a massive cosmic library where everything is catalogued.

Anecdotes suggest that access to such an information storehouse was granted to famous scientists such as Albert Einstein and Nikola Tesla, and many others who originated new concepts.

Q: So, is such a ‘Celestial Memory Bank’ essential to your interpretation of the mechanism of dowsing?

I believe that to successfully dowse unknown information, as I am going to demonstrate, you must be linked to such a cosmic information source. This has important philosophical consequences. Rather than believing that Matter is dominant in the Universe, it is more reasonable to assume that the Universe is a composite of energies, or perhaps more fundamentally, that Information and a shared Consciousness are the basic building blocks.

If such a mental nexus has been recording the discoveries of all intelligent species in the 12 billion years since the Big Bang, many of our ‘so-called discoveries’ may have come from copying ideas stored there by earlier intelligences!

They often come by inspiration or in dreams! Thus, Nikola Tesla, was walking one evening with a friend while reciting a poem, when the design for an alternating current generator came into his mind, complete in all its details.

Q: So, is human intelligence compatible with this cosmic reality?

In 2013 I described features of the ancient Huna philosophy of Hawaii as explained by Max Freedom Long (1948). Their holy men described the human mind as made up of three separate components: The Subconscious, the Conscious mind, and a less frequently present Higher Mind.

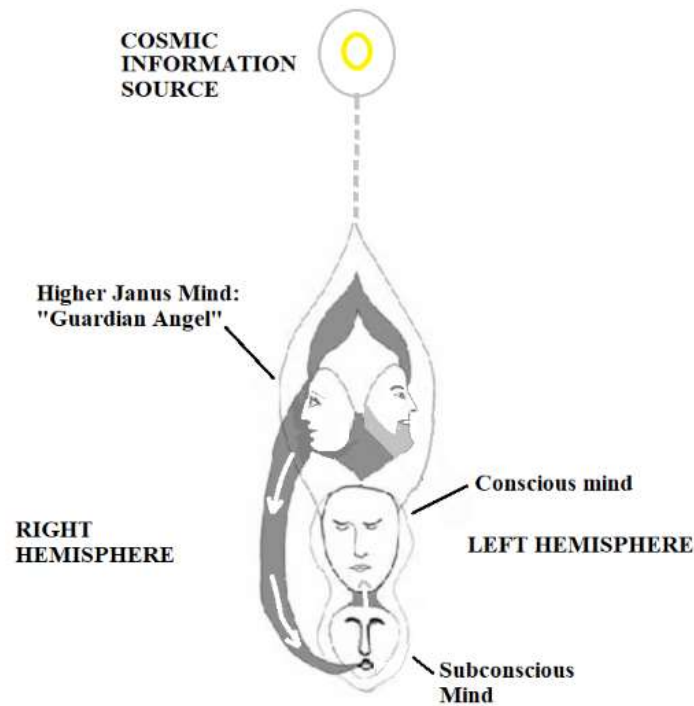
This superior being, who could also be called our Guardian Angel, can interrogate the Cosmic Mind, and pass the information on to our subconscious during his occasional visits. Here it may be accessed by the conscious mind in dreams and visions.

This idea on the different roles of the 2 brain hemispheres, offers a useful vision of brain functioning during dowsing.

A new methodology related to dowsing is referred to as ‘Remote Viewing’ and is a practical application of our paranormal senses. With training, this allows you to focus attention on events at distant space-time locations. This skill was (re)discovered during the Cold War, allowing trained mental observers (spies??) to access events distant in time and space.

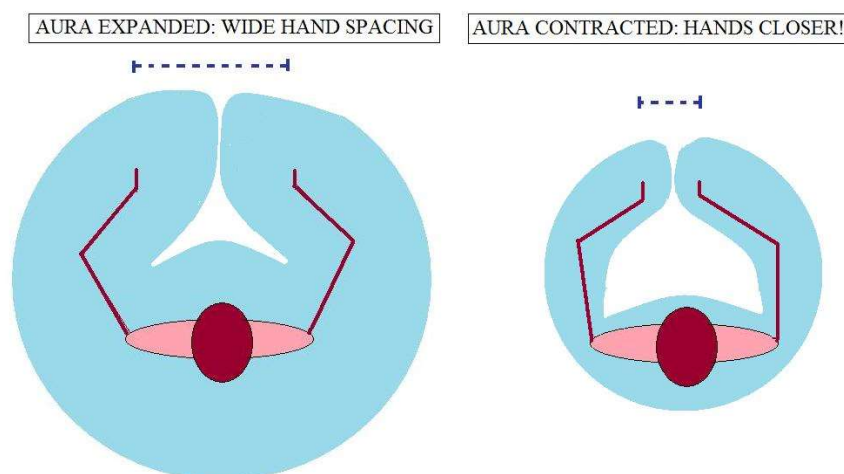
James Lovelock’s proposal is that there is an overall planetary intelligence, Gaia, of which all living things form a part. Gaia is an energetic entity wrapped around this planet, and she seems to fit in with my experience that there is a constant mental continuum supporting effective dowsing.

The tribal shamans of our distant ancestors probably had their version of Remote Viewing that they used to help survive the Ice Age, by locating remotely herds of game. Could their animal paintings on cave walls have helped them when Remote Viewing to find their prey?



The Huna vision of Long (1948) is that the mind exists as three largely independent entities. The subconscious (the lower face) accesses past memories coming from the environment, and from the higher mind. (This is envisaged as a benevolent Janus-faced entity with access to cosmic information sources). It passes information on to the subconscious, and the conscious mind may access it in dreams or meditations. The essential role of the right hemisphere in dowsing is implied in this diagram.

One equipment-free method of dowsing doing this more explicitly is used in Pranic Healing where hand spacing reflects the inherent energy of concepts:



Thus, dowsing provides quantitative data on qi or prana and reflects the expansion of the dowser's aura in response to the energy of what is being dowsed.

Q: Can you tell us something about Pre-Christian Europe and shamanism?

Sardinia has few lakes and streams, so finding water was always a priority. Underground water temples were constructed millennia ago, and a tradition of dowsing was developed to locate underground water. Before the classical age the skills of geomancy were linked to Earth Mother belief systems, but the high ground energy of some Christian churches may come because they were built on older sacred sites. These sites may reflect geological faults or underground water, reinforced by the psychic energy of past repetitive ceremonies.

The physicist Tiller reported that experiments in chemistry or physics while meditators are focused on them give different results. He proposed that while we live in 4 dimensions, the universe contains 7 other hidden dimensions. Like a person in a virtual reality suit, we may have access to these other realms when dowsing.

Q: So, are you proposing that perceiving energy flows in Nature was influential in some early human cultures?

Yes, and the potential of mental voyaging is also illustrated where spirals are encountered in rock art. Such 'ground chakras' suggest that spirit voyaging was common in early cultures.

Ancient philosophies in China, India and the Incas, included a belief in the importance of psychic energy. The 'Gaia theory' of Lovelock for example, is based on widely coordinated planetary processes compatible with such a planetary energy field.

Recent observations showed that global 'anomalies' in random number generators coincided in time with shocking events such as the Twin Towers disaster, and this raised the idea that Gaia was the mediating influence.

Q: Do you see a close connection between energy fields in nature, and those in the human body?

The spiraling chakras in our bodies underlie our relationship to vital energy. Only a few chakras are active in people who are obsessed with material pursuits.

In fact, a key word for 'sensitives' in 2007 was 'Embedded'. We are all embedded in the 'Aura of Gaia': a stratum of heavy energy lying over the earth, which holds memories of past emotional events at a given locality. This Gaian field is co-extensive with our personal aura; hence we can be potentially aware of psychic phenomena. However, after Materialism became dominant, 'Nature' has become a 'Natural Resource'. – and extensive damage is evident whenever 'Nature' is considered simply a Natural Resource!

Q: Can you provide us with some ideas on the energy embedded in the language we use?

Methodologies such as the Semantic Differential (SD) were developed to measure people's conscious reactions to stimulus words and concepts on a bipolar scale as shown below. This scale attempts to display valence (emotion) quantitatively, as developed by conscious judgement:

Good Bad
3 2 1 0 1 2 3

Methodologies such as the Semantic Differential (SD) measure people's conscious reactions to stimulus words and concepts in terms of ratings on bipolar or SD scales. An example of an SD scale provided by Heise (1970) is shown above:

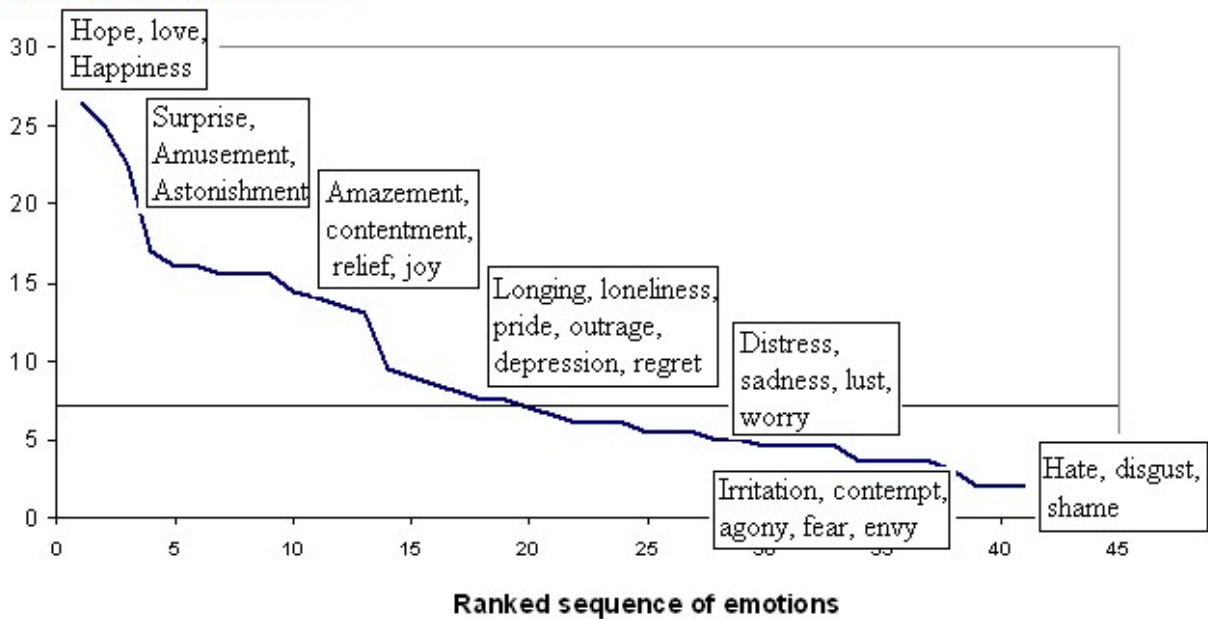
| | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| love | joy | surprise | anger | sadness | fear |
| adoration | amusement | amazement | irritation | agony | anxiety |
| compassion | happiness | astonishment | frustration | hurt | horror |
| lust | ecstasy | | outrage | depression | worry |
| longing | contentment | | bitterness | disappointment | distress |
| | pride | | hate | guilt | |
| | relief | | disgust | shame | |
| | hope | | contempt | regret | |
| | | | envy | embarrassment | |
| | | | jealousy | loneliness | |

FROM: U. Schimback and S.L. Crites (Jan 2004 MS). The origins and structure of Affect. (*Affective Experiences*, 1), 52p.

Current attempts to measure valence quantitatively often depend on conscious judgements.

My classification by dowsing of the relative energy of my emotions

rotations of the wand



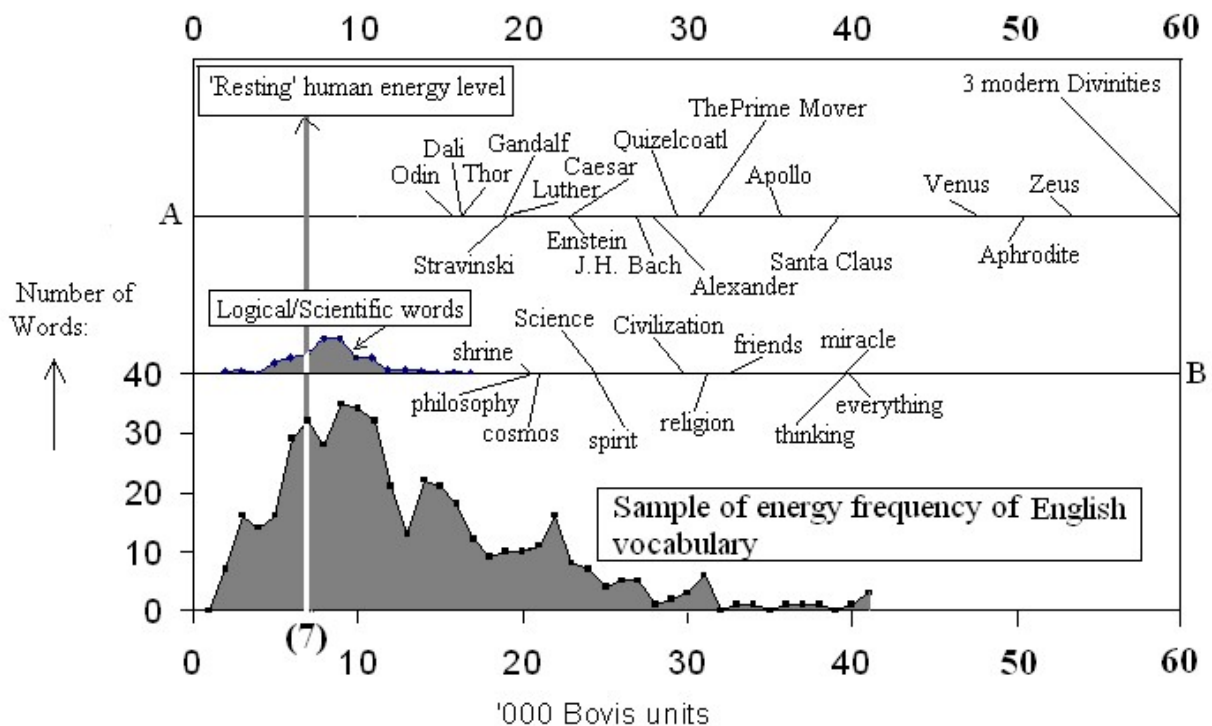
Ranked scores from dowsing the emotions

The first action of a dowser is to self-calibrate: - to ask the subconscious for a score in the absence of emotions. 7-8 rotations are the usual response in emotionally neutral environments. This range is referred to as ‘the Band of Rationality’, since logical judgements are more accessible in an emotionally neutral environment when the chakras are inactive.

Word or phrase scores that exceed 7-8 rotations imply a higher level of energy, or if they fall below it, imply a depressed mental state.

One interesting discovery is that words yielding scores around neutral values are characteristic of scientific texts (e.g., rational, logical, data...etc.). The practical implication of this observation is that Science avoids vocabularies with high energy scores that might alter judgements due to emotional or spiritual overtones.

This is curious, since using high-scoring words such as ‘inspiration’ may call into question existing axioms and lead to new perspectives!



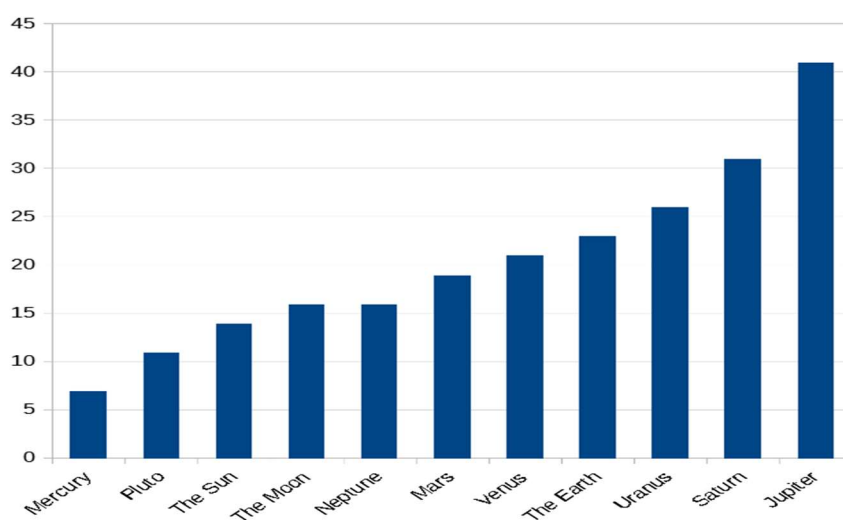
In this figure, the lower graph is the energy distribution in ordinary conversation or literature.

Single words on the second line are higher value terms often used in literature, but the small histogram contains words sampled from science texts

The top line illustrates scores for divinities or famous persons

Q: Have you attempted to characterize situations in the physical world such as by water dowsing?

I can detect underground water, but a more interesting experiment I'll illustrate, was when I dowsed the 'pranic energy' of the names of the planets and moons in the solar system. A data base in Wikipedia lists "Solar System objects by size" and provides their distances from the sun in Astronomical units, and the diameters of planetary and lunar bodies. This provided a test of my dowsing ability in asking for the levels of pranic energy of these bodies, then expressing them as a function of their size and distance from the sun. Before each dowsing I asked for the level of prana energy associated with the name of each body.



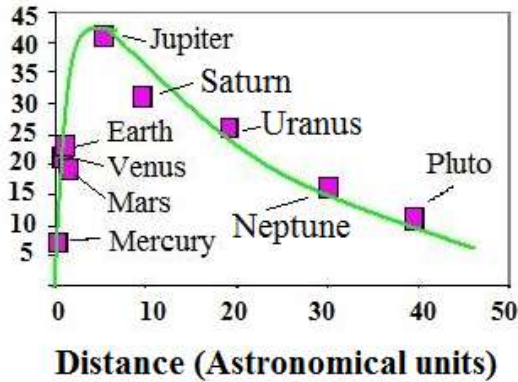
The analysis consisted of ranking the planetary bodies by size, and hand-fitting a curved line as a possible relationship. The dowsings were done with an attitude of indifference to the results; testing one name after the other with a brief pause between them.

What emerged from this exercise is a general rise in energy reading with increasing planetary or moon diameter. Scores also increased with distance from the sun, and the distant large gaseous planets (Jupiter, Uranus, Saturn and Neptune) are the highest scoring. The Earth, Venus and Mars showed similar intermediate values. The sun, and its closest planet Mercury, and the furthest planet Pluto, are the lowest-scoring bodies for prana. A low score for the sun and Mercury may reflect the ancient idea that 'subtle energy' does not coexist with high levels of conventional energy.

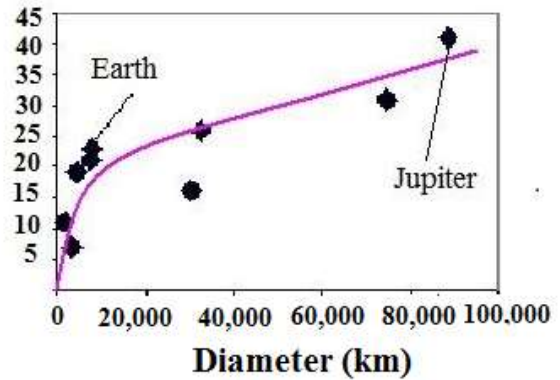
Distance from sun (AU) and score from dowsing

Diameter of planets and score from dowsing

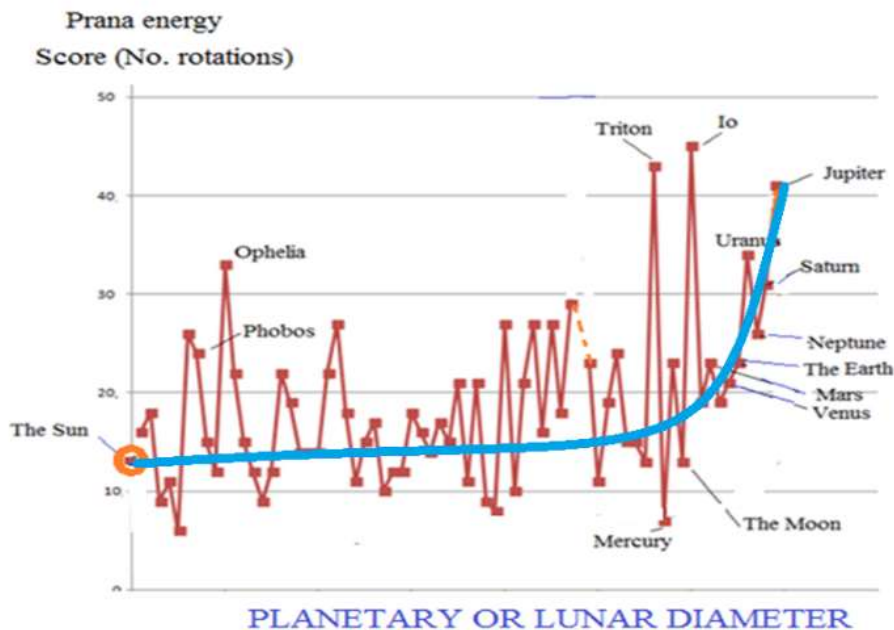
No. rotations of wand



No. rotations of wand



Plots of readings from dowsing of the level of prana in individual planets against planetary distances and diameter, and below the prana level plotted against diameters of the solar system moons and planets.



Q Can you provide a tentative interpretation of the distribution of prana energy in the Solar System?

The prana dowsing exercise gives high scores for prana on those moons rotating around the gas giants. This seem quite logical given the strong gravitational energy involved. Perkins (2020) believed that some moons had liquid oceans under their icy surfaces. A high fluid content of a planet or moon in such a strong gravitational field would surely

contribute to mass movement within it, and hence to the generation of prana energy. The high scores for prana given by the gas giants also confirm this.

Two subsets of moons have particular characteristics that should be associated with high prana scores, and this proved correct, with scores that varied from 2x to 5x the neutral levels:

A/ Moons speculated to have oceans below their surface (Perkins 2020).

| MOON | PRANA SCORE | PLANET & MOON SEQU. |
|-----------|-------------|---------------------|
| TRITON | 43 | Neptune I |
| CALLISTO | 23 | Jupiter IV |
| EUROPA | 23 | Jupiter II |
| TITAN | 19 | Saturn VI |
| ENCELADUS | 16 | Saturn III |
| GANYMEDE | 13 | Jupiter III |

One might hope that these high scores are due to the presence of life, but more probably they are a result of tidal flexing (enhanced movement of liquids below the moon's surface due to the strong gravitational interaction with their huge mother planet).

Gravitational stresses cause internal flexing and hence heating of the moon, and this is the basic cause for sub-surface oceans, and in some cases, volcanic eruptions.

If we want to investigate whether a high prana score is specifically due to tidal flexing, we should look at the scores for the moons closest to their home planet where the gravitational pull is most extreme. Some examples are given in the second Table:

B/ Moons closest to their mother planet, ranked by their prana score.

| MOON | PRANA SCORE | PLANET |
|----------|-------------|-----------|
| IO | 45 | Jupiter |
| TRITON | 43 | Neptune |
| CHARON | 23 | Pluto |
| PHOBOS | 24 | Mars |
| THE MOON | 13 | The Earth |

I'm not assuming here that the scores are evidence for life forms present – data on this question are not available. Prana scores here can be adequately explained where a high prana reading leads to dynamic behavior of matter under a gravitational influence.

An overall conclusion from this short experiment is that dowsing accesses distant objects in time and space in a manner analogous to Distant Viewing, and this is a case where dowsing makes use of a cosmic information source.

Q. What can you tell about the earlier methods of investigation in the mystical schools

The inability of Science to explain many features of the Universe, such as the nature of 'Dark Matter', the Origin of Life, the evolution of DNA, and the existence of intelligent extraterrestrials, suggests that a means of investigation compatible with higher energy levels should be used?

The philosopher Popper concluded that progress in Science depends on the ability to refute a proposition; i.e., to apply skepticism, (a low scoring word - 5 rotations), and discard concepts disagreeing with existing theory. Thus, skepticism may suppress inspired thought (12 rotations), based on new axioms.

Thus, problems involving high-scoring spiritual terms are close to impossible to solve for Science as we know it, since they require us to work within a higher energy framework.

'Subjective Science' involves studying qi, prana or orgone: the variables missing from the scientific vocabulary! and has been used to investigate the too-real placebo effect in medicine, healing by prayer, and telepathy, while ensuring these investigations are still based on quantitative data with adequate controls.

The best clues in this subject area are found in the human genome. One of its discoverers, Francis Crick, claimed that the high complexity of DNA means that it had not time to evolve on Earth by chance alone before the earliest fossils began to be laid down.

The recent discovery of artificial metal micro-spheres above the stratosphere suggested that 'seeding' new planetary ecosystems from space by 'directed panspermia' has occurred - i.e., guided by early extraterrestrials!

This radically changes the game of origins and is a probable mechanism for how life forms emerged on our planet. As Sitchin (1976) discovered from Sumerian writings, supplementary interventions by advanced extraterrestrials encouraged the development of human intelligence (see e.g., Caddy 2020. 'Did Extraterrestrials bring us to intelligence on our planet?').

Q: How can a return to a study of 'Mother Nature' help us reconcile science and spirituality?

Our original belief system, Animism, saw Nature as 'The Great Spirit' and the landscape as her expression. The modern equivalent of this ancient view is found in James Lovelock's revival of Gaia; our planetary 'super-organism'. This spiritual entity kept the world fit for life over millions of years before we came along, but now has to struggle against our massive interventions.

In particular, the cause of climate change is mainly due to us favouring the carbon-based industries which control our economy. Maintaining our dependence on burning carbon products has led to the extinction of many species and environments. I see that our failure to conserve the biosphere stems mainly from modern society's lack of a spiritual awareness of 'Mother Nature' or Gaia.

According to McKenna (1991) the practices of 'primitive man', including dowsing, provide clues to our potential psychic capabilities. But if our nervous system evolved in the hunter-gatherer phase before literacy and logic, is this why there such neural complexity in the human brain?

Language and social organization are usually considered responsible, but perhaps before these arose, 'primitive man' fed our nervous system with much wider sensory inputs? Rather than seeking something new then, revisiting old ways of knowing could be profitable, which is why the shamanic revival and dowsing, are so interesting.

Q. Do you have some personal conclusions on vital 'energy' and dowsing?

In our search for a theory of science that also incorporates the natural world, the following axioms emerged from our discussion:

- We are embedded in Gaia's energy field which varies geographically;
- The boundaries of our memory are uncertain; our minds are not confined by the skull, since through the chakras we have access to other realms;
- There are mental fields on this planet (Gaia) and in the Universe, which store outputs from all its intelligent inhabitants;
- The cosmic field is an information storage media that can be accessed by the higher mind through meditation, distant voyaging, or by dowsing;
- Gaia's field links us to each other and to other living forms, in a geographically-differentiated information source;
- Through this information source we may become acquainted with concepts unrelated to our previous experience;
- Thank you for your attention.

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