

Editorial

THE POWER OF TWO: POLARITY AND PERCEPTION

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Amo, amas,
I love a lass.
As a cedar tall and slender;
Sweet cowslip's grace
Is her nominative case,
And she's of the feminine gender!

—*The Agreeable Surprise, act II, sc, ii, Song,*¹ John O'Keeffe, 1783.

Sex and beauty are inseparable, like life and consciousness. And the intelligence which goes with sex and beauty, and arises out of sex and beauty, is intuition.

—*Sex Versus Loveliness, D. H. Lawrence, 1930.*²

In this issue we are concerned with polarities of language, concept and gender, and of perception, in relation to subtle energies. Polarity has to do with separation and orientation, with possession and manifestation of opposing attributes or principles.³ Perception concerns both the process and the product of perceiving: the insight, intuition, or knowledge so gained.³

In considering polarities of gender, it has become politically fashionable (although not yet part of practical life) to proceed as though there were no differences between men and women. Yet esoteric literature, while recognizing

that each individual contains within some characteristics that are associated with both feminine and masculine “principles,” nonetheless preserves these distinctions. The feminine is usually seen as the attractive and receptive, while the masculine is the active and radiatory principle.

In “Towards a Process Theory of Healing: Energy, Activity and Global Form,” David Peat points to how verb-based language conditions us to think in terms of polarities rather than processes categorizing/channelizing our fundamental perceptions of experience and the world around us. Hidden linguistic assumptions operate unseen to guide our image of reality, becoming visible only when we are brought up short by data that challenge our theories—for example by revealing events, such as the fact of energetic healing—that remain unexplainable within current linguistic assumptive paradigms. From these conceptual considerations, Peat then leads us with language and formulae on a tour that journeys deep into experience of the world at the quantum level, and into speculative formulations of quantum events that may underlie the very origin of subtle energies and of the nature of healing.

In contrast, in “Intuitive Diagnosis,” Daniel Benor approaches perception empirically rather than theoretically: he presents a paradigm for studying intuitive perception in relation to energy fields, health and illness. By comparing similarities and differences in the perception of individuals who report being able to directly perceive subtle energies, the common and unique observations produced by these individuals can inform us and give us clues about the intuitive process itself, as well as about the nature of energetic reality.

Finally, also on an empirical track, Elmer Green and colleagues present previously unpublished observations in “Gender Differences in a Magnetic Field.” These findings serendipitously emerged during study of a reported Tibetan practice for teaching chelas certain skills while in the presence of a magnetic field. Since the Tibetan training is presumed to have been used only with males, the current finding of gender difference in response to the magnetic field, now confirmed in three double-blind randomized controlled studies, was probably unknown to the originators of this practice. Yet the current findings lend credence to the Tibetan concept derived intuitively, of magnetic field-effects on humans, and appear to validate the impact on humans of these naturally occurring subtle energies in our surrounding world in ways previously unknown to the world of science.

Male and female, north and south, verb-based and process language. Polarities and dualistic thinking structure much of our perception of the world. Yet behind these, and underlying dualities of all kinds, we are invited through direct experience to appreciate the essential oneness and interpenetration of the energetic reality within which we abide.

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REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. John O'Keefe, *The Agreeable Surprise, Act. II, Sc. ii, Song* (1783).
2. D. H. Lawrence, *Sex Versus Loveliness* (1930).
3. *The American Heritage Dictionary*, Microsoft Bookshelf, 1992.

Cover Art: Tree of Life

TREE OF LIFE

This is the Great Tree.
Male and Female it contains.
Opposites it contains.
Balance it contains.
All human experience it contains.

The Lion and the Lamb are at peace.

As the energies of Peace and Power synthesize,
The Flame of Passionate Creativity
Rises through the centers
of
Stability, Power, Love, Will, Mind, and Spirit,
To take flight in All-inclusive winged consciousness.

— Ann Nunley

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