

SYMBOLS, MYTH & REALITY

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Symbols are oracular forms—mysterious patterns creating vortices in the substances of the invisible world. They are centers of a mighty force, figures pregnant with an awful power which, when properly fashioned, loose fiery whirlwinds upon the earth . . . and he who can read them is lifted up and transported into this sphere of reality. . . . Science, the necromancy of the 20th century, will yet accomplish by physical means that which the ancient hierophants performed by their rational knowledge of the inner construction of the universe.¹

Symbols have always captured the imagination of people all over the world. Be it the cryptic paintings and hieroglyphics of the Indians of the South West of United States, the religious motifs of many ancient civilizations, the mathematics of the Egyptians and (East) Indians, symbols always capture the inner reality of the artist and the scientist. The Greeks tried to capture symbols in their stories and historical documents; however, the modern world tries to associate all these attempts with myth and fabrication of the human mind.

An example relevant to us may be in place: is the acupuncture meridian system a symbol or mythical representation of energy flow, or is it a system representing a reality we are not familiar with? Similarly, are concepts of prana, chakras, meridians and other ancient representations real or are they simply a vague premonition of energy interactions in the body? The question is of course difficult to answer. Modern science needs proof of energy activity and the search is on to determine the exact nature of the forces involved in the symbols. When a storm is represented as a colorful circular motion on a computer screen, it does not (usually) tear the screen apart. If on the other hand, a doll is made in the likeness of a person and the doll's limb is a twisted, does the limb of the person get affected?

This question is no longer trivial. What kind of energy is involved in prayer that gives a person enhancement in health? If a positive response is possible for a positive force field, could a negative response also likely for a negative field? Can thinking make it so?² We know now that some healers work with a representation of the patient to be healed such as a photograph, nail or hair remnant, clothing and such other contact substances in lieu of the patient. No scientific study has been reported regarding the efficacy of using a symbol in place of a real patient; it would be interesting if such work is forthcoming.

If science is the outer aspect of reality, then perhaps symbols are the inner aspect of the same reality. As a philosopher voiced: "Some say that by controlling the internal nature we control everything; others that by controlling external nature we control everything. Carried to the extreme, both are right, because in nature there is no such division as internal or external. These are fictitious limitations that never existed."³

While symbols and myths may be discussed in some logical fashion, reality is a more tenacious point to comprehend. Many questions arise as to the nature of reality: if it is whole and encompasses and permeates everything, can a limited mind understand it? How then do we understand reality without using the mind? Is mind a blessing or a hindrance in our interaction with the world? Such questions border on the physical and the metaphysical. Some of these questions are brought to our attention in this issue of the Journal.

In the first paper titled *The Unity of Consciousness Experience and Current Physical Theory*, Elizabeth Rauscher has brought into focus concepts of reality as espoused by modern science and by many spiritual traditions. Modern science is now looking into the area of observer interaction in the process of observing a scientific phenomenon. The observer has become an integral unit in the scientific study. Even if we are not aware of the nature of consciousness, its role in observation is found to be important in the laboratory. Rauscher proposes states of consciousness having "levels of awareness" to "resolve the disagreement about the criterion of internal vs. external validation." The scientific method, which is rigid and linear, has provided many paradoxes at the quantum level; these can be resolved only by dropping the criteria of objectivity that seems to be the hallmark of modern science. Elizabeth expresses poignantly: "We need input from a meta philosopher of parapsysics." It is the

opinion of this editor the word objective could only be applied in the case of Newtonian physics; in the areas of quantum physics and in holistic modeling, only subjectivity provides insight into the nature of reality.

In the second paper, Jean Metzker and Geoffrey Leigh present *A Short-Term Longitudinal Study of Energy Fields in Infants and Young Children*. This investigation reports the observations of human energy fields in the above groups. It is interesting to note that infants have less dense energy fields compared to older children and infants seem to have patterns that attach themselves to caregivers' field. The author raises an interesting point that this could be a way of nonverbal communication in the infants. We know very little about the methods of learning in infants and this investigation could be a harbinger for this type of knowledge to be investigated. How do infants with handicaps learn and how do they express themselves? Is there a way we can learn to interact with infants through observation of these fields? These and other questions solicit a response.

In the third paper *Influence of Subtle Energetic Change in Water on the Human Energy State* by Krizhanovsky and Choong, the authors discuss the nature of energy manifestation in water obtained from different sources. Three types of water are compared, namely, water from municipal source, mineral water and mineral water that is acquired from an energetic deposit and understood to be 'subtle energy enhanced.' While the physical and chemical structure of the three water types seem to be equivalent, the last type of water seems to possess some energetic properties that could only be measured through a subtle energy device. The device used here is known as Gas Discharge Visualization (GDV) which has undergone extensive testing in the subtle energy monitoring area. The results presented in the paper are interesting though should be qualified as preliminary.

The last paper is the concluding part of Salutogenesis, a term coined earlier by Aaron Antonovsky. He prefers to see health as a continuum, with health-promoting salutogenesis taking precedence over a pathogenesis of disease process. The primary concern is to improve immunity as is done in many holistic health clinics. Titled *Salutogenesis II: Aether Derived Energy in Medicine, Health and Healing* the author of this paper, Dale Sumbureru, has introduced the concepts in salutogenesis as well as provided a model for deriving

energy from aether, the elusive ‘fundamental particle’ that has appeared and disappeared in many scientific models over the last century. The author introduces Cellular Cosmic Energy which may be measured in the laboratory as biophotons. It is possible this connection is established in which case, as the author claims “the Cellular Cosmic Signature will some day be used to measure a compromised homeostasis long before the Detectable Pre-Clinical Phase of disease is even suspect.” While this yearning is a commendable one, there is much work between the model and a clinical reality.

The cover art is titled “Birth of the Self” by the well known artist Carol K. Walsh. Out of the protective cosmic bubble the Self emerges with the hope for its own unique experience. The artist has balanced the colors delicately to bring out the primordial emergence into visible focus. We thank the artist for sharing this insightful piece with our readers.

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REFERENCES & NOTES

1. Manley P. Hall, *Lectures on Ancient Philosophy* (Philosophical Research Society, L.A., 1947), pp 357-358.
2. Gordon Pask, Can Thinking Make It So? In *The Scientist Speculates* (I. J. Good, Ed., Capricorn Books, NY, 1965), p. 173. This book contains myriads of ideas and state-of-art speculations regarding physics, ESP, evolution and related topics by eminent scientists.
3. Swam Vivekananda Raja *Yoga or Conquering the Internal Nature* (Advaita Ashram, Calcutta, India, 1962), p. 14.

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