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# NEXUS

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JUNE – JULY 2007

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**Power of the placebo**

**Forged origins of  
the New Testament**

**PMCs: a privatised  
military conspiracy?**

**Health authorities hide  
bad vaccine reactions**

**Mystery of the ice ages**

**Bode's law and our  
missing planets**

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# NEXUS

NEW TIMES MAGAZINE

Volume 14, Number 4

JUNE – JULY 2007

UK/Europe edition

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# NEXUS MAGAZINE

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**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

NEXUS recognises that humanity is undergoing a massive transformation. With this in mind, NEXUS seeks to provide 'hard-to-get' information so as to assist people through these changes. NEXUS is not linked to any religious, philosophical or political ideology or organisation.

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While reproduction and dissemination of the information in NEXUS is actively encouraged, anyone caught making a buck out of it, without our express permission, will be in trouble when we catch them!

## Editorial

Welcome to another information-packed edition of NEXUS Magazine. For those who like to keep track of milestones, NEXUS has now been publishing for over 20 years!

First up is an article on the growing role of private military contractors. Private armies are on the rise, and one is growing bigger than the rest. But how accountable are they to democratic governments, and how accountable are they to the families of their employees? Heck, who knows what they are doing, or where!

A few weeks ago, I got an email from the local head of the sceptics movement. (I really don't know why they even call themselves sceptics: I am far more sceptical than they are about things in society.) He told me that most sceptics agree with a lot of things that I put in NEXUS (I'm sceptical about that claim as well!), but that all sceptics hate me for my stance in opposing vaccinations. They still live in the dark ages where it is safe to believe that vaccines are safe and effective. Just for the record: vaccines are *not* safe, have *never* been proven to be safe anywhere or at any time, and *don't work*. They are a huge con, with so much momentum that even when insiders uncover the horrible truth they can do nothing. Read our article about yet another insider who tried to blow the whistle on just a small (but important) aspect of the chickenpox vaccine.

Interestingly, many sceptics blithely cite the placebo effect as being the reason why alternative medicines appear to work. It is a pity that sceptics don't bother to investigate properly, because this sword cuts both ways, as you will see in our article about the placebo effect. It could well be that the reason any modern pharmaceuticals work is also due to the placebo effect. The mystery deepens.

And while I am dishing it out to so-called sceptics, you will definitely want to read about how the sceptics lie and distort information, which they then regurgitate *ad nauseam* as fact. Yes, that famous *Project Alpha* that sceptics still use as evidence that psychic research is bunk, actually shows that sceptics are *more* prone to lying and distorting the facts than even the neocons surrounding George W. Bush!

One has to wonder why sceptics persist in harassing astrologers, psychics and anti-vaccination experts when there are so many bigger fish to fry. I mean, what about that global cult that believes in a virgin birth, psychic healing, talking to God, raising the dead, etc.; that knowingly falsifies its own historical records; that is responsible for the wholesale slaughter of hundreds of millions of innocent people (whose only crime was to not want to join this cult); that has thousands of paedophile cases currently under various stages of investigation around the world; etc., etc.? Do the sceptics go after Christianity at all? Nope! Maybe they should look up the words "hypocrite" and "coward".

Some time last year I received an email with a portion of a manuscript. When I finally got to reading it, I was stunned. I circulated it to a few other researchers, and no one had heard of it or seen any of its contents. Given that it was written in 1980, it is an amazing document about: human technical discoveries before WWII; contact with friendly humanoid aliens; geopolitical scrambles regarding UFO technology around WWII and after; exploration of the solar system; expeditions into a hollow Earth cavity via both poles; etc., etc. It has so much detail of names, dates, times and places. Anyway, I have put an extract from the introduction and one chapter into the Twilight Zone section of this issue—but you *must* go and get the full document from the website that's listed. If anyone can shed more light on this amazing manuscript, I want to know about it.

I am pleased to announce that there *will* be a NEXUS Conference this year. It will be held in Australia (at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort, Sunshine Coast, Queensland) on Saturday 20, Sunday 21 and Monday 22 October. We have some fantastic speakers with mind-blowing information already confirmed. The venue is right beside the beach, and the weather should be warm. Seriously, if you have been waiting for the right moment to visit Australia, this is it! Check out more information at our (soon to be revamped) website. Till next time,

Duncan

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# Letters to the Editor ...

## **Mycoplasma Detection**

Dear Sir: I have read with much interest the article "Mycoplasma: The Linking Pathogen in Neurosystemic Diseases" by Donald Scott, MA, MSc, published in NEXUS [vol. 8, no. 5, 2001]. I am a holistic veterinary practitioner and researcher in California, USA, who studied and trained in Germany with Reinhold Voll in his EAV [Electro-acupuncture by Voll] technique using a sophisticated electronic machine, the Dermatron, to evaluate the health of a human patient via its energetic value registered from specific organ acupuncture points. In this same circuitry, Dr Voll was able to test specific disease causative agents made into homeopathic form (Voll coined the word "nosodes" for these) to see what normalised the abnormal reading. This then told him two things: what was causing the disease in his human patient; and what he had to give (the detox nosode) to make his patient well.

To make a long story short, I pioneered its use in animal medicine in my private clinical practice, published my two years of research in EAV in animal medicine and for five years taught other veterinarians how to use the technique. Over these 31 years, I have been able to utilise this and other holistic therapies and vibrational medical diagnoses to produce true miracles of recovery in cases that were determined "untreatable" by orthodox medicine.

In 2002 I read the above-referenced article in Dr Mercola's medical newsletter, to which I subscribe. I was horrified that our government and military would use unsuspecting human beings in the US and Canada as guinea pigs for their "Frankenstein" patented product, and that they had genetically engineered "crystalline mycoplasma" to see what health effects this militarised weapon would have on people.

I contacted England's primary homeopathic nosode pharmacopoeia, the Malcolm Rae people in England, who knew about this already and had made a nosode from it. I immediately began testing many sick animals, my family, myself (I suffer from chronic fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome) and my own animals in 2002 and discovered we all tested positive.

Were you aware that this infective crystalline mycoplasma is still circling planet Earth and still infecting people and animals today in 2007? It is!

I am looking for *proof of current information* on the American government or any other country's government that is continuing this covert, nightmarish program of infection. Are there any animal researchers anywhere in the world who are investigating and corroborating what I have found? I wish to gather as much documentation as possible to enter into a class action lawsuit against the American government and military.

Sincerely,

Gloria Dodd, DVM, Holistic Veterinary Medicine, PO Box 1242, Gualala CA 95445, USA, email [everglo@mcn.org](mailto:everglo@mcn.org), website <http://www.holisticvetpetcare.net>

## **NEXUS Articles as PDF Files**

Dear Duncan: May I add my plea for your project of making all NEXUS articles available as pdf files? Thank you for taking this on.

I, for one, would love to have all the past issues available (my copies only go back to vol. 4, no. 6). There's so much that I often wish to re-read/refer to that I often spend hours sifting through my past copies (cursing when I find I must have lent one out and it's now gone—I don't do that any more!) for info. A computerised search would be a boon. Thanks again for all that you and your team do.

Kind regards,  
Ian

[Dear Ian: We hope to make all our past articles and issues available as text-searchable PDF files, both on DVD and from our newly revamped website at <http://www.nexusmagazine.com>. Ed.]

## **EM Weapons and No Rights**

Dear Duncan: Wonderful article on "Electromagnetic Weapons and Human Rights" [NEXUS, vol. 14, no. 3], except for one very important but very-little-known fact of life: nobody on planet Earth has any rights!

That is to say, until each and every citizen of the world has corrected the deliberate and entrapping mistakes on their birth certificates, there is no comeback with any laws, no rights can ever be claimed, and certainly no speaking out on any subject matter to do with any government official or office or, for that matter, any military unit anywhere on this planet, can be allowed without some form of reprisal taking place.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the US Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution and also the Australian Constitution are exactly as George Bush described: "Just a goddamn piece of paper".

When George Bush witnessed the dismissal of Bill Clinton's impeachment trial and subsequent congressional hearing, he actually acquired the knowledge to implement the same procedures to save himself from any future misappropriations or misdemeanours, but what was worse for the people of the world was that this knowledge also allowed him to bring forth any executive order or law, entirely at his own discretion and without the acceptance of Congress, *forever!*

To cut a very-drawn-out story short, *all* languages on planet Earth have been modified and bastardised to the point that they actually say nothing, and with that knowledge anybody can do anything to anybody. If your body or group owns the printing

presses, the militaries, the lawyers, the judges and not forgetting the electromagnetic weapons, clubs and guns, you can do anything you like to anybody you like, whenever and wherever you like...and if you think for one minute that the media or judiciary will step in and prevail, then I suggest we *all* start believing in the tooth fairy again.

I will gladly debate with anyone on this planet the issues concerning language and the writing of laws, contracts, constitutions, treaties, trusts and, most importantly, declarations.

Bluey Morgan, PO Box 419W, Westcourt Qld 4870, Australia, [bluey@musician.org](mailto:bluey@musician.org)

## **Hope against Type 2 Diabetes**

Dear Editor: I have type 2 diabetes, and your article, "Our Deadly Diabetes Deception" [NEXUS, vol. 11, no 4, 2004], is the first one I have read on this disease that has given me any hope. For too many years, I have been on a steady diet of Glynase™ and metformin, without a hint that there was any way to effect a cure, and just happened to migrate to your web address while attempting to obtain some data re Dr Linus Pauling. And a very fortuitous web migration it turned out to be.

My compliments to you and to the writer of the article, Mr Thomas Smith.

James D., Kawaguchi, Japan

## **Urine, Your Perfect Medicine!**

Hi Duncan: How are you these days? Long time no see! Good to see you're still putting it "out there". I see your publication everywhere.

The oppression of New Zealand's natural health industry is well underway. This nefarious takeover treaty by Australian and New Zealand government officials amounts to criminality against all New Zealanders who believed that they lived in a democracy. The day, not far away, that compulsory

# ... more Letters to the Editor

**NB: Please keep letters to approx. 150 to 250 words in length. Ed.**

vaccinations fall upon the population may be the day when Mr and Mrs "everything's okay" wake up to what's really going on. But I won't hold my breath, as New Zealanders continue to allow water fluoridation, accept mercury as a dental filling and allow ongoing wholesale destruction of our beautiful natural forests, waterways and seacoasts.

The good news is that there remains one medicine that no governmental agency can touch and no one can take away from you or your loved ones; a perfect medicine specially made to suit your body. You don't have to go see your doctor for a prescription, nor does it cost you a cent. It's a medicine you carry within your own body: your urine! It is the perfect, customised, natural medicine and universal cure prepared especially by you.

With over 3,000 natural health-promoting ingredients, it is wasteful to flush it all away. The healing principles of urine are recorded in over 5,000 years of human culture, but most especially Indian and Germanic cultures. Few people realise that they spread human urine on their face every time they apply certain cosmetics containing the common ingredient urea, which is obtained from human female urine.

For home use, take 10 to 20 drops of midstream, first-morning pee and hold it under the tongue until it naturally trickles down the throat. Using an eyedropper and placing under the tongue as said, there is no taste because the tastebuds are on top of the tongue. Just a few seconds is all it takes to ingest it.

Urine therapy gives back to the body lost trace elements, minerals, vitamins, enzymes and hormones conducive to cellular health. Urine contains antibodies specific to one's needs in sickness and good health. Provided diet is healthful, one's own urine is a homoeopathic remedy containing over 3,000 ingredients necessary to your

healthiness. Imagine having to buy all those things!

Urine is your own to do with it what you like. You can rub it into troubled skin where it will not smell on account of massage-induced absorption. You can gargle, douche, poultice, make homoeopathic drops of and bathe in your own urine to your heart's content, knowing fully well that you are using the most ancient and therapeutic medicine God has ever provided for the well-being of mankind.

Kind regards,

Malcolm K. Harker, MHD,  
Harker & Ryan Herbal Products Ltd, 31 The Centre, Waipu 0510, Northland, New Zealand,  
admin@malcolmharker.co.nz

## Nuclear Power Push

Dear Duncan: As both a reader of NEXUS and a listener to Radio NEXUS, I follow the course of events closely. Until now, I have been at a loss to explain the insane but sudden rush back to nuclear power.

Simply covering the development costs, as you suggested on Radio NEXUS 36, does not seem strong enough, but today I think I found another piece of the puzzle. It comes from the *Radio Times*, the UK's original TV listings magazine. It's produced by the BBC and these days is not known for the intellectual ability of its contributors. So there is still a query in my mind, as I will explain. However, the relevant text from the listing "*Horizon*, BBC2, Tuesday 10 April" reads:

"Yes, Moon science is big again. Not only is NASA planning more missions, but China, Russia, Japan, India and Europe all have lunar programmes. So why the scramble? The answer lies in a substance called helium-3, which is as common as muck on the Moon and could fuel nuclear fission—the fancy kind of nuclear power reaction that scientists are struggling to make viable. Hence helium-3 might just be the wonder fuel of the

future, and whoever colonises the Moon could control it—one of the worrying notions in a film that features several former astronauts and a man who used to be an undercover cop for NASA."

Is this guy (it's signed "David Butcher") confusing fission with fusion? However, it does answer a lot of interesting questions about why there's the push to reintroduce nuclear power and create panic about global warming.

Best wishes,  
Beth F.

## Product Placement Concerns

Dear Duncan: As a long-time reader and recent subscriber, I was horrified to read a couple of this month's letters to the editor [vol. 13, no. 3].

I would first like to acknowledge the good that NEXUS has done over the years; however, I believe that you may have just gone off the rails slightly. I was compelled to write this letter after reading letters headed "Persecuted by Health Alliance" and "Far-Infrared Sauna Success". Both of these letters in my opinion were blatant testimonials for products advertised in your magazine, prefaced with good arguments about the state of the established health industry.

Not just any advertisements, but ads that featured on the most expensive ad positions, being the inside front cover and outside back cover.

You have severely underestimated your readership if you think you can introduce "product placement" and not have it blow up in your face. For a magazine such as NEXUS, which I personally hold in very high regard and is one which often questions journalistic integrity (read the bottom of the NEXUS home page), I fear that your integrity has been morally compromised. I do not believe in coincidence, and without a sufficient rebuttal to the above allegations you have lost a long-

time reader and supporter.

Extremely disillusioned,  
Dean V.

*[Hi, Dean: I suspect your letter reflects the views of more than one reader, and I can certainly see and appreciate your point of view. It seems one happy Elanra customer's letter to us triggered off others. These ads have nothing to do with the product placement you cite. We have been running those ads in those positions for quite a few years now. There was no financial inducement; the ads would have run with or without the letters. If people get good results from things advertised in NEXUS, then I am going to continue telling readers about it for the short time we will be able to do so. Testimonials for ANY health product or service will soon be banned from appearing in anything, under new regulations coming soon. Ed.]*

## Help for Arachnoiditis Sufferers

Dear Duncan: I have read with interest Gil May's article on arachnoiditis [NEXUS, vol. 13, no. 5], and am so pleased that this article on the subject that no one in the medical profession likes to speak of was actually published.

I have also read comments by Peter Groves of the Queensland Association and then the follow-up by Derek Morrison.

I would just like to mention that there is also an association for sufferers of arachnoiditis in New South Wales.

Some of our members have decided to go through with litigation and others just want the comfort of knowing they are not alone with their pain and there is always someone they can call and talk to.

Members have made friends with each other at our meetings and swap information when the meeting is over and stay behind to chat.

Maureen McLean, JP,  
President/Secretary, AASANSW Inc., <http://www.aasansw.org.au>

## MONSANTO'S GM SOYBEAN PATENT NIXED

The European Patent Office today put the brakes on Monsanto's over-the-top corporate greed by revoking its species-wide patent on all genetically modified (GM) soybeans (EP0301749)—a patent unprecedented in its broad scope.

ETC Group, an international civil society organisation based in Canada, won its 13-year legal challenge against Monsanto's species-wide soybean patent when an EPO appeal board ruled that the patent was not new or sufficient (i.e., the invention claimed was not sufficiently described for a skilled person to repeat it).

The patent was vigorously and formally opposed by Monsanto itself until the company purchased the original patent assignee (Agracetus) in 1996. The technology related to the now-revoked patent has been used, along with other patents in the company's portfolio, to corner 90 per cent of the world's GM soybean market.

"It's shameful that it took the European Patent office 13 years to kill Monsanto's immoral patent, which was ultimately revoked on technical grounds. Though we're relieved that the species-wide patent on all genetically modified soybeans—both seeds and plants—was not allowed to stand, the delay of more than a decade



demonstrates just how broken the patent system is. The patent had barely a year to go before expiring!" said Hope Shand, who represented ETC Group in Munich.

"It was particularly satisfying," said Shand, "that Monsanto's own blistering 1994 arguments against the patent were ultimately key in defeating it."

One of Monsanto's top scientists testified in 1994 that the genetic engineering process described in the patent was insufficient to allow a skilled scientist to replicate the procedure—a necessary criterion for patentability.

(Source: ETC Group news release, 3 May 2007, <http://www.etcgroup.org>)

## ARE MOBILE PHONES WIPING OUT OUR BEES?

Scientists are putting forward the theory that radiation given off by mobile phones and other high-tech gadgets is a possible answer to one of the more bizarre mysteries ever to happen in the natural world: the abrupt disappearance of bees.

In mid-April, some bee-keepers in Britain reported that the phenomenon—which started in the USA, then spread to continental Europe—was hitting them as well.

The theory is that radiation from mobile phones interferes with bees' navigation systems, preventing the bees from finding their way back to their hives.

Improbable as it may seem, there

is now evidence to back this up.

What is referred to as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) occurs when a hive's inhabitants suddenly disappear, leaving only the queen, eggs and a few immature workers. The vanished bees are never found. Parasites, wildlife and other bees, which normally raid the honey and pollen left behind when a colony dies, refuse to go anywhere near the abandoned hives.

The alarm was first sounded in the USA last autumn, and CCD has now hit half of all American states. The West Coast is thought to have lost 60 per cent of its commercial bee population, with 70 per cent missing on the East Coast. CCD has since spread to Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece.

The implications of the spread are alarming. Most of the world's crops depend on pollination by bees. Albert Einstein once said that if the bees disappeared, "man would have only four years of life left".

No one knows why it is happening. Theories involving mites, pesticides, global warming and GM crops have been proposed, but all have drawbacks.

German research has long shown that bees' behaviour changes near power lines. Now a limited study at Landau University has found that bees refuse to return to their hive when mobile phones are placed nearby. Dr Jochen Kuhn, who carried it out, said this could provide a "hint" to a possible cause.

(Source: The Independent, UK, 15 April 2007, <http://www.independent.co.uk>)



# ... GLOBAL NEWS ...

## DO OCEAN CURRENTS CAUSE GLOBAL WARMING?

Hurricane forecaster William Gray claims that global ocean currents, not human-produced carbon dioxide emissions, are responsible for global warming, and that the Earth may begin to cool on its own in five to 10 years' time.

Gray, a Colorado State University researcher best known for his annual forecasts of hurricanes along the US Atlantic coast, also said that increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere won't produce more or stronger hurricanes.

He said that during the past 40 years, the number of major hurricanes making landfall on the US Atlantic coast has declined compared with the previous 40 years, even though carbon dioxide levels have risen.

Gray complained that politics and research into global warming have created "almost an industry" that has unfairly frightened the public and overwhelmed dissenting voices.

He said research arguing that humans are causing global warming is based on unreliable computer models that cannot possibly take into account the hundreds of factors that influence the weather.

Gray said ocean circulation patterns are behind a decades-long warming cycle. He has argued previously that the strength of these patterns can affect how much cold water rises to the surface, which in turn affects how warm or cold the atmosphere is. (Source: by Dan Elliott, Associated Press, 28 April 2007)

## WHERE HAVE ALL THE TV VIEWERS GONE?

A startling number of Americans drifted away from television over the few two months. More than 2.5 million fewer people were watching ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox than at the same time last year, statistics show.

Everyone has a theory to explain the plummeting ratings: early daylight savings time, more re-runs, bad shows, more shows being recorded or downloaded or streamed.

The networks argue that viewership is changing, not necessarily declining.

The viewer plunge couldn't have come at a worse time for the networks: next week they will showcase their fall schedules to advertisers in the annual "up front" presentations.

(Source: AP, 9 May 2007)

## AUSTRALIA'S MEDIA UNITE ON FREE SPEECH

Australia's largest newspaper, television and radio companies have set aside their traditional rivalries to unite behind a new public campaign, "Australia's Right to Know", designed to protect free speech.

Fairfax Media (publisher of the *Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*), News Ltd (the *Australian*), FreeTV (representing free-to-air television networks, the ABC and SBS) and commercial radio broadcasters will argue that free speech is being eroded through more than 500 Federal and State laws and regulations.

The media organisations believe some restrictions interfere with journalists' abilities to report issues and events accurately.

A landmark Freedom of Information (FoI) case, brought to the High Court by the *Australian* newspaper, was lost in 2006, prompting calls for a significant overhaul of FoI laws to better protect the public interest.

Media outlets are concerned that whistleblowers and others prepared to reveal sensitive government material in the public interest are not adequately protected, nor are the journalists who report the material.

Legal academics have been critical of the FoI laws, and international studies have shown that Australia ranks poorly on press freedom compared with other developed countries.

(Source: The Age, Melbourne, 10 May 2007, <http://www.theage.com.au>)

## COURT ACQUITS PAN PHARMACEUTICALS BOSS

The Australian Democrats have called for the Howard government to apologise following the acquittal of Pan Pharmaceuticals boss Jim Selim in the New South Wales Supreme Court on 18 April. The company, Australia's largest natural health manufacturing base, was forced into administration in May 2003 following the largest pharmaceutical recall in Australia's history.

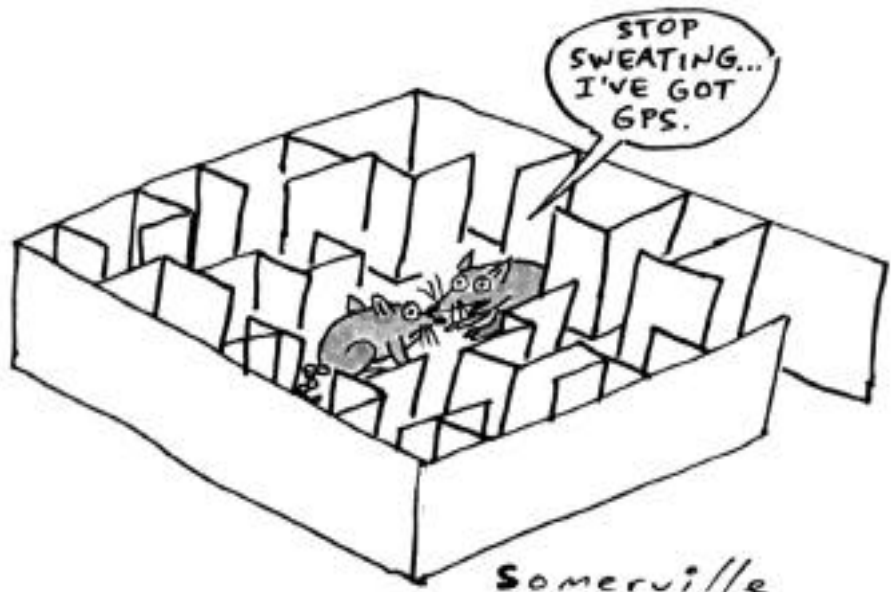
"It was a pointless exercise targeting complementary medicines and it sent hundreds of small businesses broke," said Democrats leader and health spokesperson Senator Lyn Allison. "The Howard government turned its back on the mess and just walked away."

Over 1,500 products were recalled, not because they caused adverse reactions but because of speculation about "inconsistent quality".

Mr Selim was accused of a litany of charges, including breaching his manufacturing licence. In the end, only two counts made it to court and these were thrown out.

"The unprecedented recall had a devastating effect on small businesses and shook public confidence in complementary health," Senator Allison said. "The very least those who have suffered deserve an apology."

(Source: Australian Democrats press release, 18 April 2007, <http://www.democrats.org.au>; Alliance for Health Freedom Australia, <http://www.ahf-au.org>)



## SPYCHIPS: COMBINING EAS TAGS WITH RFID

To Dr Katherine Albrecht, founder of CASPIAN Consumer Privacy and co-author of *Spychips*, our worst consumer privacy nightmare is for anti-theft tags (known in the industry as "EAS" tags) some day to be combined with individually trackable RFID chips and slipped into consumer products. Well, those tags are now here.

Checkpoint Systems has unveiled the Evolve product family of labels, which marries RFID technology with Checkpoint's electronic article surveillance (EAS) technology. Checkpoint developed the dual-purpose labels to offer its retail customers a means of leveraging RFID tools for in-store inventory visibility while continuing to use the EAS tags as a theft deterrent.

The Evolve labels contain a Checkpoint 8.2 MHz radio frequency (RF) EAS inlay, which does not contain a microprocessor or carry a unique ID. The inlay is designed to trigger an alarm if passed through an EAS reader stationed around store exits, unless first deactivated at the point of purchase. The labels also contain an 850–950 MHz EPC Gen 2 RFID inlay, to which an EPC can be encoded to identify and track individual products.

The initial Evolve tag design, the Evolve 410, involves the placement of an EAS antenna around the RFID inlay, containing an Impinj Monza chip on an adhesive paper substrate. The labels are slightly less than two inches (5.1 cm) square, enabling it to be attached to most hang-tags for apparel and footwear products.

Dr Albrecht says: "This will be a consumer privacy nightmare—and no one will even know it's happening. That's because industry lobbyists have prevented RFID labeling legislation from passing anywhere in the nation. There is no requirement that retailers or manufacturers tell us when they're hiding RFID tags in our clothes, shoes, books, or anything else."

(Source: CASPIAN news release, 29 April 2007, <http://www.spychips.com>; RFID Journal, 27 April 2007, <http://www.rfidjournal.com/article/articleview/3280/>)

## SOY MILK IS DANGEROUS FOR BABIES

The murder conviction in Atlanta, USA, of vegan parents whose six-week-old baby died of starvation underscores the dangers of vegan ideology to infants. To supplement the mother's inadequate supply of breastmilk, the parents had fed their son soy milk and apple juice. The baby was only 3.5 pounds when he died of starvation in April 2004.

"Soy milk should never be given to infants in place of formula," says Kaayla T. Daniel, PhD, author of *The Whole Soy Story: The Dark Side of America's Favorite Health Food*.

"In 1990, the FDA issued a warning about the use of soy milk for infants, stating that it is 'grossly lacking in the nutrients needed for infants', and asked all manufacturers to put warning labels on soy milks so that they would not be used as formula substitutes." Yet most makers of soy milk put warning labels on the package in very tiny print, if at all.

The Atlanta conviction follows two other cases of vegan parents found guilty of the deaths of their babies. Previously, a New York couple was convicted of murder and a Florida couple of manslaughter. Many more babies, however, have been malnourished on soy milk because of their parents' vegan ideology.

"The myth that soy is a health food has led many parents—particularly vegans, who use no animal products—to believe that soy milk is a complete and nourishing food not only for adults but for babies and children. It is not, and severe vitamin, mineral, fatty acid and amino acid deficiencies will occur. That's why supplements are required by law to be added to soy infant formula."

In 2003, the deaths of three Israeli infants from improperly manufactured soy formula led the Israeli Health Ministry to form a 13-member committee of paediatricians, oncologists, toxicologists and other health experts to investigate soy formula and soy foods.

In July 2005, the Ministry issued a health advisory in which it warned that babies should not receive soy formula (except as a last resort) and that children up to age 18 should not eat soy foods or drink soy milk more than once per day to a maximum of three times per week.

The Ministry was concerned about many health issues, including adverse effects on fertility and increased cancer risk. The governments of the UK, Switzerland and New Zealand have also warned that soy infant formula should only be used as a last resort.

And soy milk should never be used at all. (Source: Kaayla T. Daniel, 11 May 2007, <http://www.wholesoystory.com>)

## "BIG BROTHER" MICROPHONES MAY BE LINKED WITH CCTV

Hidden mini-cameras and microphones that can eavesdrop on conversations in the street are the next step in the march towards a "Big Brother" society, British MPs were warned on 1 May.

Richard Thomas, the UK Information Commissioner, said a debate had begun about whether listening devices should be set up alongside Britain's 4.5 million CCTV cameras. In evidence to the Commons Home Affairs Committee, he said he would be hostile to such an idea. He was also alarmed by the prospect of tiny cameras, hidden in lamp posts, replacing more obvious monitors.



Mr Thomas even considered that so-called "talking CCTV", which is to be trialled in 20 areas across the country, might be a "bridge too far". This system allows operators to bellow orders at those deemed to be behaving badly.

He said it was arguable that surveillance in Britain—which is greater than in any other democratic nation—may already have gone too far.

But MPs told Mr Thomas that their constituents were keen on CCTV, which they found reassuring.

(Source: Daily Telegraph, UK, 2 May 2007, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk>)

## NEXT-GENERATION VIDEO GAMES READ BRAIN WAVES

Engineers at NeuroSky Inc. have big plans for brain-wave-reading toys and video games, to make them more mentally stimulating and realistic. The technology could even enable players to control video game characters or avatars in virtual worlds with nothing but their thoughts.

Adding biofeedback to *Tiger Woods PGA Tour*, for instance, could mean that only those players who muster Zen-like concentration could nail a putt. In the popular first-person shooter *Grand Theft Auto*, players who become nervous or frightened will have worse aim than those who remain relaxed and focused.

NeuroSky's prototype measures a person's baseline brain-wave activity, including signals that relate to concentration, relaxation and anxiety.

The technology ranks performance in each category on a scale of one to 100, and the numbers change as a person thinks about relaxing images, focuses intently or gets kicked, interrupted or otherwise distracted.

The technology is similar to more sensitive, expensive equipment that athletes use to achieve peak performance. Koo Hyoung Lee, a NeuroSky co-founder from South Korea, used biofeedback to improve concentration and relaxation techniques for members of his country's Olympic archery team.

Toys with even the most basic brain-wave-reading technology—scheduled for debut later this year—could boost mental focus and help kids with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism and mood disorders.

(Source: Associated Press, 30 April 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/TECH/fun.games/04/30/mind.reading.toys.ap/index.html>)

## IMF AND WORLD BANK FACE DECLINING AUTHORITY AS VENEZUELA ANNOUNCES WITHDRAWAL

Venezuela's decision to pull out of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank will be seen in the United States as just another example of the ongoing feud between Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and the Bush Administration. But it is likely to be viewed differently in the rest of the world, and could have an impact on both institutions, whose power and legitimacy in developing countries have been waning steadily in recent years.

Other countries may follow. President Rafael Correa of Ecuador announced last week that it was kicking the World Bank's representative out of the country. It was an unprecedented action, which President Correa punctuated by stating that "we will not stand for extortion by this international bureaucracy". In 2005, the World Bank withheld a previously approved US\$100 million loan to Ecuador to try to force the government to use windfall oil revenues for debt repayment, rather than the government's choice of social spending.

This is the way these two institutions have operated for decades. With the IMF as leader and the US Treasury department holding veto power, they have run a "creditors' cartel" that has been able to exert enormous pressure on governments over a wide variety of economic issues. This pressure has not only generated widespread resentment, but has also often led to economic failure in the countries and regions where the IMF and World Bank have had the most influence. Over the last 25 years, Latin America has had its worst long-term economic growth performance in more than a century.

Venezuela also has specific grievances against the IMF, which are likely to generate sympathy in other developing countries with democratic, left-of-centre governments. On 12 April 2002, just hours after Venezuela's democratically elected government was overthrown in a military coup, the IMF stated publicly that it was "ready to assist the new administration [of Pedro Carmona] in whatever manner they find suitable".

This instantaneous show of financial support for a newly installed dictatorship—one which immediately dissolved the country's Constitution, General Assembly and Supreme Court—was unprecedented in the IMF's history. Typically the IMF does not react so quickly, even to an elected government. It is no wonder that this move was seen in Venezuela and elsewhere as an attempt by the IMF to support the coup itself. Washington, which dominates the Fund, had advance knowledge of the coup, supported it and funded some of its leaders, according to US government documents.

In addition, Venezuela has not been happy with the IMF's consistently under-projecting its economic growth in recent years, as the Fund has also done with Argentina. The IMF's forecasts are widely used and can therefore influence investors.

But the resentment against the IMF and the World Bank and demands for change are worldwide. The scandal over Paul Wolfowitz's leadership at the World Bank, which is about to topple the Bank's most unwanted president ever, is just the tip of the iceberg. Last month, the IMF's Independent Evaluation Office stated that since 1999 nearly three-quarters of aid money given to the poor countries of Sub-Saharan Africa is not being spent. Rather, at the IMF's request, it is being used to pay off debt and accumulate reserves. This is a terrible thing to do to some of the poorest countries in the world, which desperately need to spend this money on such pressing needs as the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Venezuela's decision is likely to strengthen the hand of developing nations within the IMF and the World Bank which are demanding serious reforms. Right now the United States, with less than five per cent of the world's population, has more votes in the IMF than countries representing the majority of the planet. The world's developing countries, which bear the brunt of these institutions' mistakes, have little or no voice in their decision-making. Venezuela's move—and any other countries that follow—will show the IMF and the World Bank that the option of quitting these institutions altogether is a real one.

Whether this will spur reform that can actually change the colonial relationship that these institutions maintain with their borrowers remains to be seen. More likely, they will simply continue to become less relevant to the developing world, as has happened drastically over the last decade.

(Source: by Mark Weisbrot, McClatchy Tribune Information Services, 1 May 2007, <http://ifiwatchnet.org/documents/item.shtml?x=64866>)



# THE BUSH GOVERNMENT'S SHADOW ARMY

***Private military contractors like Blackwater are now part of the Bush Administration's transformed "Total Force" in the USA and abroad, but are operating with virtually no oversight by the US Congress.***

**by Jeremy Scahill © 2007**

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[http://www.thenation.com/doc/20070402/scahill\\_vid](http://www.thenation.com/doc/20070402/scahill_vid)

On September 10, 2001, before most Americans had heard of Al-Qaeda or imagined the possibility of a "war on terror", Donald Rumsfeld stepped to the podium at the Pentagon to deliver one of his first major addresses as Defense Secretary under President George W. Bush. Standing before the former corporate executives he had tapped as his top deputies overseeing the high-stakes business of military contracting—many of them from firms like Enron, General Dynamics and The Aerospace Corporation—Rumsfeld issued a declaration of war.

"The topic today is an adversary that poses a threat, a serious threat, to the security of the United States of America..." Rumsfeld thundered. "It disrupts the defense of the United States and places the lives of men and women in uniform at risk." He told his new staff: "You may think I'm describing one of the last decrepit dictators of the world... The adversary's closer to home. It's the Pentagon bureaucracy." Rumsfeld called for a wholesale shift in the running of the Pentagon, supplanting the old DoD [Department of Defense] bureaucracy with a new model—one based on the private sector. Announcing this major overhaul, Rumsfeld told his audience: "I have no desire to attack the Pentagon; I want to liberate it. We need to save it from itself."

The next morning, the Pentagon would be attacked, literally, as a Boeing 757—American Airlines Flight 77—smashed into its western wall. Rumsfeld would famously assist rescue workers in pulling bodies from the rubble. But it didn't take long for Rumsfeld to seize the almost unthinkable opportunity presented by 9/11 to put his personal war—laid out just a day before—on the fast track. The new Pentagon policy would emphasise covert actions, sophisticated weapons systems and greater reliance on private contractors. It became known as the Rumsfeld Doctrine. "We must promote a more entrepreneurial approach—one that encourages people to be proactive, not reactive, and to behave less like bureaucrats and more like venture capitalists," Rumsfeld wrote in the summer of 2002 in an article for *Foreign Affairs* titled "Transforming the Military".

Although Rumsfeld was later thrown overboard by the Administration in an attempt to placate critics of the Iraq War, his military revolution was here to stay. Bidding farewell to Rumsfeld in November 2006, Bush credited him with overseeing "the most sweeping transformation of America's global defense posture" since the end of World War II. Indeed, Rumsfeld's trademark "small footprint" approach ushered in one of the most significant developments in modern warfare: the widespread use of private contractors in every aspect of war, including in combat.

The often overlooked subplot of the wars of the post-9/11 period is their unprecedented scale of outsourcing and privatisation. From the moment the US troop build-up began in advance of the invasion of Iraq, the Pentagon made private contractors an integral part of the operations. Even as the government gave the public appearance of attempting diplomacy, Halliburton was prepping for a massive operation. When US tanks rolled into Baghdad in March 2003, they brought with them the largest army of private contractors ever deployed in modern war. By the end of Rumsfeld's tenure in late 2006, there were an estimated 100,000 private contractors on the ground in Iraq—an almost one-to-one ratio with active-duty American soldiers.

To the great satisfaction of the war industry, before Rumsfeld resigned he took the extraordinary step of classifying private contractors as an official part of the US war machine. In the Pentagon's 2006 Quadrennial Defence Review report, Rumsfeld outlined what he called a "roadmap for change" at the DoD, which he said had begun to be implemented in 2001. It defined the "Department's Total Force" as "...its active and

reserve military components, its civil servants, and its contractors—constitut[ing] its warfighting capability and capacity. Members of the Total Force serve in thousands of locations around the world, performing a vast array of duties to accomplish critical missions." This formal designation represented a major triumph for war contractors—conferring on them a legitimacy they had never before enjoyed.

Contractors have provided the Bush Administration with political cover, allowing the government to deploy private forces in a war zone free from public scrutiny, with the deaths, injuries and crimes of those forces shrouded in secrecy. The Administration and the Republican-controlled Congress in turn shielded the contractors from accountability, oversight and legal constraints. Despite the presence of more than 100,000 private contractors on the ground in Iraq, only one contractor has been indicted for crimes or violations. "We have over 200,000 troops in Iraq and half of them aren't being counted, and the danger is that there's zero accountability," said Democrat Dennis Kucinich, one of the leading congressional critics of war contracting.

While the past years of Republican monopoly on government have marked a golden era for the industry, those days appear to be ending. Just a month into the new congressional term, leading Democrats were announcing investigations of runaway war contractors. Representative John Murtha, chair of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense, after returning from a trip to Iraq in late January, said: "We're going to have extensive hearings to find out exactly what's going on with contractors. They don't have a clear mission and they're falling all over each other." Two days later, during confirmation hearings for Gen. George Casey as Army Chief of Staff, Senator Jim Webb declared: "This is a rent-an-army out ther." Webb asked Casey: "Wouldn't it be better for this country if those tasks, particularly the quasi-military gunfighting tasks, were being performed by active-duty military soldiers in terms of cost and accountability?"

Casey defended the contracting system but said armed contractors "are the ones that we have to watch very carefully". Senator Joe Biden, chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, has also indicated he will hold hearings on contractors. Parallel to the ongoing investigations, there are several bills gaining steam in Congress aimed at contractor oversight.

Occupying the hot seat through these deliberations is the shadowy mercenary company, Blackwater USA. Unbeknownst to many Americans and largely off the congressional radar,

Blackwater has secured a position of remarkable power and protection within the US war apparatus. This company's success represents the realisation of the life's work of the conservative officials who formed the core of the Bush Administration's war team, for whom radical privatisation has long been a cherished ideological mission. Blackwater has repeatedly cited Rumsfeld's statement that contractors are part of the "Total Force" as evidence that it is a legitimate part of the nation's "warfighting capability and capacity".

Invoking Rumsfeld's designation, the company has in effect declared its forces above the law—entitled to the immunity from civilian lawsuits enjoyed by the military, but also not bound by the military's court martial system. While the initial inquiries into Blackwater have focused on the complex labyrinth of secretive subcontracts under which it operates in Iraq, a thorough investigation into the company reveals a frightening picture of a politically connected private army that has become the Bush Administration's Praetorian Guard.

### Blackwater Rising

Blackwater was founded in 1996 by conservative Christian multimillionaire and ex-Navy SEAL Erik Prince, the scion of a wealthy Michigan family whose generous political donations helped fuel the rise of the religious right and the Republican revolution of 1994. At its founding, the company largely consisted of Prince's private fortune and a vast 5,000-acre plot of land located near the Great Dismal Swamp in Moyock, North Carolina. Its vision was "to fulfill the anticipated demand for government outsourcing of firearms and related security training". In the following years, Prince, his family and his political allies poured money into Republican campaign coffers, supporting the party's takeover of Congress and the ascension of George W. Bush to the presidency.

While Blackwater won government contracts during the Clinton era, which was friendly to privatisation, it was not until the "war on terror" that the company's glory moment arrived. Almost overnight, following September 11, 2001, the company became a central player in a global war. "I've been operating in the training business now for four years and was starting to get a little cynical on how seriously people took security," Prince told Fox News host Bill O'Reilly shortly after 9/11. "The phone is ringing off the hook now."

**Contractors allow a government to deploy private forces in a war zone free from public scrutiny, with the deaths, injuries and crimes of those forces shrouded in secrecy.**



Among those calls was one from the CIA, which contracted Blackwater to work in Afghanistan in the early stages of US operations there. In the ensuing years the company has become one of the greatest beneficiaries of the "war on terror", winning nearly US\$1 billion in noncovert government contracts, many of them no-bid arrangements. In just a decade Prince has expanded the Moyock headquarters to 7,000 acres, making it the world's largest private military base. Blackwater currently has 2,300 personnel deployed in nine countries, with 20,000 other contractors at the ready. It has a fleet of more than 20 aircraft, including helicopter gunships and a private intelligence division, and is manufacturing surveillance blimps and target systems.

In 2005 after hurricane Katrina, Blackwater deployed its forces in New Orleans, where it billed the federal government \$950 per man per day—at one point, raking in more than \$240,000 a day. At its peak, the company had about 600 contractors deployed from Texas to Mississippi. Since Katrina, it has aggressively pursued domestic contracting, opening a new domestic operations division. Blackwater is marketing its products and services to the Department of Homeland Security, and its representatives have met with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The company has applied for operating licences in all US coastal states. Blackwater is also expanding its physical presence inside US borders, opening facilities in Illinois and California.

Its largest obtainable government contract is with the State Department, for providing security to US diplomats and facilities in Iraq. That contract began in 2003 with the company's \$21 million no-bid deal to protect Iraq proconsul Paul Bremer. Blackwater has guarded the two subsequent US ambassadors, John Negroponte and Zalmay Khalilzad, as well as other diplomats and occupation offices. Its forces have protected more than 90 congressional delegations in Iraq, including that of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. According to the latest government contract records, since June 2004 Blackwater has been awarded \$750 million in State Department contracts alone. It is currently engaged in an intensive lobbying campaign to be sent into Darfur as a privatised peacekeeping force. Last October, President Bush lifted some sanctions on Christian southern Sudan, paving the way for a potential Blackwater training mission there. In January, the Washington, DC, representative for southern Sudan's regional government said he expected Blackwater to begin training the south's security forces soon.

Since 9/11, Blackwater has hired some well-connected officials close to the Bush Administration as senior executives. Among them are J. Cofer Black, former head of counterterrorism at the CIA and the man who led the hunt for Osama bin Laden after 9/11, and Joseph Schmitz, former Pentagon Inspector General, who was responsible for policing contractors like Blackwater during much of the "war on terror"—something he stood accused of not doing effectively. By the end of Schmitz's tenure, powerful Republican Senator Charles Grassley launched a congressional probe into whether Schmitz had "quashed or redirected two ongoing criminal investigations" of senior Bush Administration

officials. Under bipartisan fire, Schmitz resigned [in September 2005] and signed up with Blackwater.

Despite its central role, Blackwater had largely operated in the shadows until March 31, 2004, when four of its private soldiers in Iraq were ambushed and killed in Fallujah. A mob then burned the bodies and dragged them through the streets, stringing up two from a bridge over the Euphrates. In many ways, it was the moment the Iraq War turned. US forces laid siege to Fallujah days later, killing hundreds of people and displacing thousands, inflaming the fierce Iraqi resistance that haunts occupation forces to this day. For most Americans, it was the first they had heard of private soldiers. "People began to figure out this is quite a phenomenon," said Representative David Price, a North Carolina Democrat, who said he began monitoring the use of private contractors after Fallujah. "I'm probably like most Congress members in kind of coming to this awareness and developing an interest in it" after the incident.

What is not so well-known is that in Washington after the Fallujah incident, Blackwater executives kicked into high gear, capitalising on the company's newfound recognition. The day after the ambush, it hired the Alexander Strategy Group, a K Street lobbying firm run by former senior staffers of then majority leader Tom DeLay before the firm's meltdown in the wake of the Jack Abramoff scandal. A week to the day after the ambush, Erik Prince was sitting down with at least four senior members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, including its chair, John Warner. Senator

Rick Santorum arranged the meeting, which included Warner and two other key Republican senators—Appropriations Committee chair Ted Stevens of Alaska and George Allen of Virginia. This meeting followed an earlier series of face-to-faces Prince had had with powerful House Republicans who oversaw military contracts; among them: DeLay; Porter Goss, chair of the House Intelligence Committee (and future CIA director); Duncan Hunter, chair of the House Armed Services Committee; and Representative Bill Young, chair of the House

Appropriations Committee. What was discussed at these meetings remains a secret. But Blackwater was clearly positioning itself to make the most of its new fame. Indeed, two months later, Blackwater was handed one of the government's most valuable international security contracts, worth more than \$300 million.

The firm was also eager to stake out a role in crafting the rules that would govern mercenaries under US contract. "Because of the public events of March 31, [Blackwater's] visibility and need to communicate a consistent message has elevated here in Washington," said Blackwater's new lobbyist, Chris Bertelli. "There are now several federal regulations that apply to their activities, but they are generally broad in nature. One thing that's lacking is an industry standard. That's something we definitely want to be engaged in." By May, Blackwater was leading a lobbying effort by the private military industry to try to block congressional or Pentagon efforts to place their forces under the military court martial system.

**Blackwater, with 20,000 other contractors at the ready, has a fleet of more than 20 aircraft, including helicopter gunships and a private intelligence division, and is manufacturing surveillance blimps and target systems.**

## Blackwater Families Fight Back

But while Blackwater enjoyed its new status as a hero in the "war on terror" within the Administration and the Republican-controlled Congress, the families of the four men killed at Fallujah say they were being stonewalled by Blackwater as they attempted to understand the circumstances of how their loved ones were killed. After what they allege was months of effort to get straight answers from the company, the families filed a groundbreaking wrongful death lawsuit against Blackwater in January 2005, accusing the company of not providing the men with what they say were contractually guaranteed safeguards. Among the allegations: the company sent them on the Fallujah mission that day short by two men, with less powerful weapons than they should have had and in Pajero jeeps instead of armoured vehicles. This case could have far-reaching reverberations and is being monitored closely by the war-contractor industry. Former Halliburton subsidiary KBR [previously Kellogg, Brown and Root] has even filed an *amicus* [*amicus curiae*] brief supporting Blackwater. If the lawsuit is successful, it could pave the way for a tobacco litigation-type scenario, where war contractors find themselves besieged by legal claims of workers killed or injured in war zones.

As the case has made its way through the court system, Blackwater has enlisted powerhouse Republican lawyers to defend it: among them Fred Fielding, who was recently named by Bush as White House counsel, replacing Harriet Miers; and Kenneth Starr, former Whitewater prosecutor investigating President Clinton and the company's current counsel of record. Blackwater has not formally debated the specific allegations in the suit, but what has emerged in its court filings is a series of legal arguments intended to bolster Blackwater's contention that it is essentially above the law. Blackwater claims that if US courts allow the company to be sued for wrongful death, that could threaten the nation's war-fighting capacity: "Nothing could be more destructive of the all-volunteer, Total Force concept underlying US military manpower doctrine than to expose the private components to the tort liability systems of fifty states, transported overseas to foreign battlefields," the company argued in legal papers. In February [2007], Blackwater suffered a major defeat when the Supreme Court declined its appeal to hear the Fallujah case, paving the way for the state trial—where there would be no cap on damages that a jury could award—to proceed.

Congress is beginning to take an interest in this potentially groundbreaking case. On February 7, Representative Henry Waxman chaired hearings of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. While the hearings were billed as looking at US reliance on military contractors, they largely focused on Blackwater and the Fallujah incident. For the first time, Blackwater was forced to share a venue with the families of the men killed at Fallujah. "Private contractors like Blackwater work outside the scope of the military's chain of command and can literally do whatever they please without any liability or

accountability from the US government," Katy Helvenston, whose son Scott was one of the Blackwater contractors killed, told the committee. "Therefore, Blackwater can continue accepting hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer money from the government without having to answer a single question about its security operators."

Citing the pending litigation, Blackwater's general counsel, Andrew Howell, declined to respond to many of the charges levied against his company by the families and asked several times for the committee to go into closed session. "The men who went on the mission on March 31, each had their weapons and they had sufficient ammunition," Howell told the committee, adding that the men were in "appropriate" vehicles. That was sharply disputed by the men's families, who allege that in order to save \$1.5 million Blackwater did not provide the four with armoured vehicles. "Once the men signed on with Blackwater and were flown to the Middle East, Blackwater treated them as fungible commodities," Helvenston told lawmakers in her emotional testimony, delivered on behalf of all four families.

The issue that put this case on Waxman's radar was the labyrinth of subcontracts underpinning the Fallujah mission. Since November 2004, Waxman had been trying to pin down for whom the Blackwater men were ultimately working on the day of the ambush. "For over eighteen months, the Defense Department wouldn't even respond to my inquiry," said Waxman. "When it finally replied last July, it didn't even supply the breakdown I requested. In fact, it denied that private security contractors did any work at all under the [Pentagon's contracting program]. We now know that isn't true." Waxman's struggle to follow the money on this one contract involving powerful war contractors like KBR provides a graphic illustration of the secretive nature of the whole war contracting industry.

What is not in dispute regarding the Fallujah incident is that Blackwater was working with a Kuwaiti business called

Regency under a contract with the world's largest food services company, Eurest Support Services. ESS is a subcontractor for KBR and another giant war contractor, Fluor, in Iraq under the Pentagon's LOGCAP contracting program. One contract covering Blackwater's Fallujah mission indicated the mission was ultimately a subcontract with KBR. Last summer, KBR denied this. Then ESS wrote to Waxman to say the mission was conducted under Fluor's contract with ESS. Fluor denied that, and the Pentagon told Waxman it didn't know to which company the mission was ultimately linked. Waxman alleged that Blackwater and the other subcontractors were "adding significant markups" to their subcontracts for the same security services that Waxman believes were then charged to US taxpayers. "It's remarkable that the world of contractors and subcontractors is so murky that we can't even get to the bottom of this, let alone calculate how many millions of dollars taxpayers lose in each step of the subcontracting process," said Waxman.

While it appeared for much of the February 7 hearing that the contract's provenance would remain obscure, that changed when,

**"Private contractors like Blackwater work outside the scope of the military's chain of command and can literally do whatever they please without any liability or accountability from the US government."**

at the end of the hearing, the Pentagon revealed that the original contractor was, in fact, KBR. In violation of military policy against LOGCAP contractors' using private forces for security instead of US troops, KBR had entered into a subcontract with ESS that was protected by Blackwater; those costs were allegedly passed on to US taxpayers to the tune of \$19.6 million. Blackwater said it billed ESS \$2.3 million for its services, meaning a mark-up of more than \$17 million was ultimately passed on to the government. Three weeks after the hearing, KBR told shareholders it may be forced to repay up to \$400 million to the government as a result of an ongoing US Army investigation.

It took more than two years for Waxman to get an answer to a simple question: whom were US taxpayers paying for services? But, as the Fallujah lawsuit shows, it is not just money at issue. It is human life.

### **A Killing on Christmas Eve**

While much of the publicity Blackwater has received stems from Fallujah, another more recent incident is attracting new scrutiny. On Christmas Eve [2006] inside Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, an American Blackwater contractor allegedly shot and killed an Iraqi bodyguard protecting a senior Iraqi official. For weeks after the shooting, unconfirmed reports circulated around the Internet that alcohol may have been involved and that the Iraqi was shot 10 times in the chest. The story then went that the contractor was spirited out of Iraq before he could be prosecuted. Media inquiries got nowhere: the US Embassy refused to confirm that it was a Blackwater contractor, and the company refused to comment.

Then the incident came up at the February 7 congressional hearing. As the session was drawing to a close, Representative Kucinich raced back into the room with what he said was a final question. He entered a news report on the incident into the record and asked Blackwater counsel Howell if Blackwater had flown the contractor out of Iraq after the alleged shooting.

"That gentleman, on the day the incident occurred, he was off duty," Howell said, in what was the first official confirmation of the incident from Blackwater. "Blackwater did bring him back to the United States."

"Is he going to be extradited back to Iraq for murder, and, if not, why not?" Kucinich asked.

"Sir, I am not law enforcement. All I can say is that there's currently an investigation," Howell replied. "We are fully cooperating and supporting that investigation."

Kucinich then said: "I just want to point out that there's a question that could actually make [Blackwater's] corporate officers accessories here in helping to create a flight from justice for someone who's committed a murder."

### **The War on the Hill**

Several bills are now making their way through Congress aimed at oversight and transparency of the private forces that have emerged as major players in the wars of the post-9/11 period. In mid-February, Senators Byron Dorgan, Patrick Leahy and John Kerry introduced legislation aimed at cracking down on no-bid contracts and cronyism, providing for penalties of up to 20 years in prison and fines of up to \$1 million for what they called "war

profiteering". It is part of what Democrats describe as a multi-pronged approach. "I think there's a critical mass of us now who are working on it," said Congressman Price, who represents Blackwater's home state. In January, Price introduced legislation that would expand the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2000 (MEJA) to include all contractors in a war zone, not just those working for or alongside the armed forces. Most of Blackwater's work in Iraq, for instance, is contracted by the State Department. Price indicated that the alleged Christmas Eve shooting could be a test case of sorts under his legislation. "I will be following this and I'll be calling for a full investigation," he said.

But there's at least one reason to be wary of this approach: Price's office consulted with the private military lobby as it crafted the legislation, which has the industry's strong endorsement. Perhaps that's because MEJA has been for the most part unenforced. "Even in situations when US civilian law could potentially have been applied to contractor crimes, it wasn't,"

observed P. W. Singer, a leading scholar on contractors. American prosecutors are already strapped for resources in their home districts. How could they be expected to conduct complex investigations in Iraq? Who will protect the investigators and prosecutors? How will they interview Iraqi victims? How could they effectively oversee 100,000 individuals spread across a dangerous war zone? "It's a good question," concedes Price. "I'm not saying that it would be a simple matter." He argues his legislation is an attempt to "put the whole contracting enterprise on a new

**It took more than two years  
for Waxman to get an answer  
to a simple question:  
whom were US taxpayers  
paying for services?**

accountable footing".

This past fall [autumn], taking a different tack—much to the dismay of the industry—Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, an Air Force Reserve lawyer and former Reserve judge, quietly inserted language into the 2007 Defense Authorization, which Bush signed into law, that places contractors under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), commonly known as the court martial system. Graham implemented the change with no public debate and with almost no awareness among the broader Congress, but war contractors immediately questioned its constitutionality. Indeed, this could be a rare moment when mercenaries and civil libertarians are on the same side. Many contractors are not armed combatants; they work in food, laundry and other support services. While the argument could be made that armed contractors like those working for Blackwater should be placed under the UCMJ, Graham's change could result in a dishwasher from Nepal working for KBR being prosecuted like a US soldier. On top of all this, the military has enough trouble policing its own massive force and could scarcely be expected to monitor an additional 100,000 private personnel. Besides, many contractors in Iraq are there under the auspices of the State Department and other civilian agencies, not the military.

In an attempt to clarify these matters, Senator Barack Obama introduced comprehensive new legislation in February. It requires clear rules of engagement for armed contractors, expands MEJA and provides for the DoD to "arrest and detain" contractors suspected of crimes and then turn them over to civilian authorities for prosecution. It also requires the Justice Department to submit a comprehensive report on current investigations of contractor abuses, the number of complaints received about contractors and

criminal cases opened. In a statement to *The Nation*, Obama said contractors are "...operating with unclear lines of authority, out-of-control costs and virtually no oversight by Congress. This black hole of accountability increases the danger to our troops and American civilians serving as contractors." He said his legislation would "re-establish control over these companies" while "bringing contractors under the rule of law".

Democratic Representative Jan Schakowsky, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, has been a leading critic of the war contracting system. Her Iraq and Afghanistan Contractor Sunshine Act, introduced in February, which bolsters Obama's, boils down to what Schakowsky sees as a long overdue fact-finding mission through the secretive contracting bureaucracy. Among other provisions, it requires the government to determine and make public: the number of contractors and subcontractors (at any tier) who are employed in Iraq and Afghanistan; any host country's, international or US laws that have been broken by contractors; disciplinary actions taken against contractors; and the total number of dead and wounded contractors. Schakowsky said she has tried repeatedly over the past several years to get this information and has been stonewalled or ignored. "We're talking about billions and billions of dollars—some have estimated forty cents of every dollar [spent on the occupation] goes to these contractors, and we couldn't get any information on casualties, on deaths," said Schakowsky. "It has been virtually impossible to shine the light on this aspect of the war and so when we discuss the war, its scope, its costs, its risks, they have not been part of this whatsoever. This whole shadow force that's been operating in Iraq, we know almost nothing about. I think it keeps at arm's length from the American people what this war is all about."

While not by any means a comprehensive total of the number of contractor casualties, 770 contractor deaths and 7,761 injured in Iraq as of December 31, 2006, were confirmed by the Labor Department. But that only counts those contractors whose families applied for benefits under the government's Defense Base Act insurance. Independent analysts say the number is likely much higher. Blackwater alone has lost at least 27 men in Iraq. And then there's the financial cost: almost \$4 billion in taxpayer funds have been paid for private security forces in Iraq, according to Waxman. Yet even with all these additional forces, the military is struggling to meet the demands of a White House bent on military adventurism.

A week after Donald Rumsfeld's rule at the Pentagon ended, US forces had been stretched so thin by the "war on terror" that former Secretary of State Colin Powell declared "the active Army is about broken". Rather than rethinking its foreign policies, the Administration forged ahead with plans for a troop "surge" in Iraq, and Bush floated a plan to supplement the military with a Civilian Reserve Corps in his January State of the Union address. "Such a corps would function much like our military Reserve. It would ease the burden on the armed forces by allowing us to hire civilians with critical skills to serve on missions abroad when America needs them," Bush said. The President, it seemed, was just giving a fancy new title to something the Administration has already done with its "revolution" in military affairs and unprecedented reliance on contractors. Yet while Bush's proposed

surge has sparked a fierce debate in Congress and among the public, the Administration's increasing reliance on private military contractors has gone largely undebated and underreported.

"The increasing use of contractors, private forces or as some would say 'mercenaries' makes wars easier to begin and to fight—it just takes money and not the citizenry," said Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, which has sued contractors for alleged abuses in Iraq. "To the extent a population is called upon to go to war, there is resistance, a necessary resistance to prevent wars of self-aggrandizement, foolish wars and, in the case of the United States, hegemonic imperialist wars. Private forces are almost a necessity for a United States bent on retaining its declining empire."

With talk of a Civilian Reserve Corps and Blackwater promoting the idea of a privatised "contractor brigade" to work with the military, war critics in Congress are homing in on what they see as a sustained, undeclared escalation through the use of private forces. "Surge" implies a bump that has a beginning and an end," said

Schakowsky. "Having a third or a quarter of [the forces] present on the ground not even part of the debate is a very dangerous thing in our democracy, because war is the most critical thing that we do."

Indeed, contractor deaths are not counted in the total US death count, and their crimes and violations go undocumented and unpunished, further masking the true costs of the war. "When you're bringing in contractors whom the law doesn't apply to, the Geneva Conventions, common notions of morality, everything's thrown out

the window," said Kucinich. "And what it means is that these private contractors are really an arm of the Administration and its policies."

Kucinich said he plans to investigate the potential involvement of private forces in so-called "black bag", "false flag" or covert operations in Iraq. "What's the difference between covert activities and so-called overt activities which you have no information about? There's no difference," he says. Kucinich also says the problems with contractors are not simply limited to oversight and transparency. "It's the privatization of war," he said. The Administration is "...linking private war contractor profits with warmaking. So we're giving incentives for the contractors to lobby the Administration and the Congress to create more opportunities for profits, and those opportunities are more war. And that's why the role of private contractors should be sharply limited by Congress." ∞

#### **About the Author:**

Jeremy Scahill is a Polk Award-winning investigative journalist. He is a frequent contributor to *The Nation* magazine and a correspondent for the national radio show *Democracy Now!* He has reported extensively from Iraq, the former Yugoslavia and Nigeria. He is currently a Puffin Foundation Writing Fellow at The Nation Institute. Scahill lives in Brooklyn, New York, USA. His article, published as "Bush's Shadow Army" in *The Nation* on 2 April 2007, is adapted from his new book, *Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army* (Nation Books, 2007). For more information on the book, visit <http://www.blackwaterbook.com>.

**"Private forces are almost a necessity for a United States bent on retaining its declining empire."**





# THE CHICKENPOX VACCINE

## PROMOTING A CONTINUAL CYCLE OF TREATMENT AND DISEASE

***Chickenpox  
vaccinations in the  
USA have lowered  
the incidence of the  
disease, but may  
shift chickenpox  
outbreaks to older  
age groups and  
increase the risk of  
shingles.***

**by Gary S. Goldman, PhD**  
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### **INTRODUCTION: First Do No Harm—to Pharmaceutical Industry Profits?**

**P**rior to the acceptance of the chickenpox vaccine by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on March 17, 1995, chickenpox was considered a rather mild disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 12,000 of four million (or 0.3 per cent of) cases of chickenpox in the United States each year resulted in hospitalisation (mainly due to infected lesions), and approximately 50 cases among children (0.0013 per cent) and another 50 out of 200,000 cases among adults (0.025 per cent) resulted in death. In other words, the risk of a child contracting and dying from chickenpox was less than the risk of being struck and killed by lightning (about 89 cases per year in the United States).

Chickenpox (or varicella) and shingles (also known as herpes zoster) are related diseases: both are caused by the varicella-zoster virus (VZV). Once a child contracts chickenpox, the virus goes dormant or inactive for a period (usually decades) and can reactivate later as shingles. Unlike chickenpox where the rash appears in different stages of development over many parts of the body, the shingles rash is often localised and occurs on one side of the body. The rash seems to arise in one or two adjacent regions of the skin (called dermatomes) along nerve routes. Shingles pain often begins with an area of the skin becoming sensitive to the touch or to clothing prior to the eruption of the rash. The pain from shingles can be excruciating and the nerve damage (known as post-herpetic neuralgia or PHN) can last long after the rash has disappeared. Shingles in children is generally more mild than in adults.

When a child becomes infected with chickenpox, the immune system is activated and cell-mediated immunity (CMI) is boosted. This boost to the immune system helps protect against further episodes of chickenpox and helps suppress the reactivation as shingles. In fact, each time a child (or adult) with a previous history of chickenpox comes into contact with another child infected with chickenpox, this outside exposure—whose source is often unknown (and chickenpox is most contagious one to two days before the outbreak of the rash)—boosts the cell-mediated immunity to VZV, which in turn helps to suppress the onset of shingles.

The United States became the first country to adopt a Universal Varicella Vaccination Program, with the recommendation to vaccinate every healthy child 12 months or older who was susceptible to chickenpox. By promoting high varicella vaccination rates, including the states mandating varicella vaccination of school-age children, chickenpox cases in many communities had declined 50–80 per cent within five to 10 years of licensure of the vaccine in 1995. On the surface, this seemed good news. While the protective immunity derived from vaccination appeared to be long term and was touted as lasting 20 or more years, this statistic was based primarily on the experience of varicella vaccination in Japan where only one in five (or 20 per cent of) children were vaccinated. Thus, vaccinees continued to be boosted for 20 years due to their periodic exposure to other unvaccinated children who continued to demonstrate a high incidence of natural chickenpox.

Since the effectiveness of the vaccine was increased when vaccinees were exposed to other children with natural chickenpox, as cases of natural chickenpox decreased it might also be expected that the protective effect of the vaccine might decline over a period of years, creating the need for a booster dose. Without such a booster dose, vaccinated children may in time become susceptible to varicella when they are older and subject to more adverse complications of chickenpox. If the chickenpox vaccine wears off in adulthood, women who contract natural chickenpox in their first or second trimester of pregnancy could also pass on their infection to the developing foetus,

potentially causing congenital varicella syndrome—currently a rare disorder in which the newborn has severely malformed limbs or other distinctive abnormalities. Also, a mother who has been vaccinated may not pass on sufficient maternal antibody protection to her newborn, leaving the child susceptible to acquiring chickenpox during the first months of life.

It should also be considered that 90–95 per cent of the adult population with a previous history of chickenpox presently no longer receives periodic exposures (boosts) through contact with children with chickenpox. Thus, their cell-mediated immunity gradually wanes (declines), increasing their risk of shingles.

Merck Inc., the manufacturer of the varicella vaccine, has developed a "shingles vaccine" (at US\$150 per dose) to substitute for the immunologic boost that occurred naturally in the community, especially during annual outbreaks of chickenpox. The vaccine, Zostavax®, was approved in 2006 for use in adults 60 years and older. If we ignore the medical costs in treating adverse reactions associated with Zostavax and consider only the cost of the vaccine itself, the cost of preventing one case of shingles is US\$8,850 and the cost of preventing one case of moderate to severe PHN is \$150,000.

Have important research data concerning deleterious effects of the varicella vaccine been selectively omitted or suppressed from published research and reports? Has the effectiveness of the varicella vaccine decreased as cases of natural chickenpox have become rare? Have adults experienced an increased risk of shingles disease? As an "insider" who served as a research analyst and studied varicella for eight years and herpes zoster for almost three years, I address these important questions.

### **PART I: Seemingly Good Results from First Five Years of Study**

It was January 2000 and I was very much enjoying a sixth year as research analyst for the Varicella Active Surveillance Project (VASP), based at High Desert Hospital in Lancaster, California. This project was one of three in the nation that had been funded by the CDC (Atlanta, Georgia) to study varicella—commonly known as chickenpox. The CDC was interested in our collecting data from over 300 reporting sites (including public and private schools, daycare centres, physicians, medical centres and hospitals in the region) to determine the effect that the recently introduced varicella vaccination program had on the 300,000 inhabitants of Antelope Valley, a geographically distinct high-desert community consisting of two main cities (Lancaster and Palmdale) and other scattered cities, located approximately 60 miles north of Los Angeles, California.

The other two sites selected by the CDC were located in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Travis County, Texas. These sites collected chickenpox cases from just a *sample* of the many schools and healthcare facilities in their respective regions, whereas the Antelope Valley site collected reports from virtually all the available schools and healthcare locations in its region. Thus, the Antelope Valley project was more suited for uncovering

developing trends and disease patterns from reports of chickenpox cases submitted to the project every two weeks, 26 times during each study year.

With great enthusiasm and optimism, we documented in our project how varicella disease decreased by 72 per cent in Antelope Valley, from 2,934 verified and reported cases in 1995 to just 836 cases in 2000. My superiors from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (LACDHS) encouraged me to submit these data and to develop other analyses for publication. In cooperating with that directive, I received credit as a co-author for the project data supplied to the CDC, which were summarised along with data from the other two sites and subsequently published in the February 6, 2002 edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.<sup>1</sup>

I continued to investigate various trends in the reported data

and desired to explain the reason why the number of varicella cases had a seasonal variation: usually the highest number of cases occurred in the late spring or early winter. My model was able to predict the observed variation in cases by considering the outside air temperature and school enrolments (or population density). During the warm weather (e.g., summer months) and school breaks (e.g., holidays), varicella transmission was seen to be reduced. Using daily weather temperature data and daily average enrolments provided by the fully cooperating schools, I developed a computer simulation or model which estimated the number of cases of varicella expected to be reported each month. When compared to the actual historical figures, the estimated figures closely agreed. The CDC assigned one of their epidemiologists to refine this analysis further, a manuscript was written—crediting me as lead author—and the study was presented by the CDC epidemiologist internally at the CDC and later at a medical conference.<sup>2</sup>

### **Second Doses of Chickenpox**

Interestingly, other project data indicated that the number of varicella patients reporting a *second* case of chickenpox increased from about five per cent in 1995 to 12 per cent in 2001. One hypothesis accounting for the occurrence of a second case of chickenpox concerns the possibility that an individual was exposed to a second varicella strain that differed significantly from the strain associated with his/her first encounter (e.g., the two strains were heterologous). Those data and analyses were provided to the CDC, and again I received co-authorship credit for a manuscript on this subject, which was published in *Pediatrics* in June 2002.<sup>3</sup>

### **Breakthrough Chickenpox among Vaccinated Children**

When a child breaks out in a chickenpox rash 42 or more days following varicella vaccination, this is referred to as "breakthrough" chickenpox. Initially, the percentage of cases reported with natural chickenpox far outnumbered the breakthrough cases among vaccinees. As chickenpox vaccine became more widespread in the community, the situation reversed—with the majority of cases consisting of vaccinated children experiencing breakthrough disease.

**Have important research data concerning deleterious effects of the varicella vaccine been selectively omitted or suppressed from published research and reports?**

## VASP Collects and Publishes Valuable Data and Results

The VASP continued collecting valuable data, which have been published or presented at various conferences; I received co-authorship credit on some of these papers.<sup>4-8</sup> I considered it a privilege to be a part of the team, which included three others in our local office: a project director and two research assistants.

In January 2000, I was encouraged when my earlier suggestion to collect cases of shingles (herpes zoster) was adopted and added to the chickenpox data collection. In retrospect, we should have been collecting shingles cases from the onset of the project in order to have a consistent methodology for determining baseline incidence rates that could be used in year-to-year comparisons. Numerous studies dating from as early as 1965 had alluded to a potential link between the two diseases: that a decrease in chickenpox incidence could give rise to an increase in shingles (see summary of references in Appendix 1 of my complete paper at <http://www.MedicalVeritas.com/FULLNEXUS.pdf>).

## PART II: Vaccine Causes a Rash of Controversy: CDC Requests a Special Study be Conducted

Up to this point, everything seemed to be going well. I was receiving positive feedback, and a letter from the LACDHS commended all of our efforts. However, things began to change when the CDC asked our project to conduct an additional study among middle-school (7th–8th grade) students to determine the percentage who had not had chickenpox—in other words, those who were considered still susceptible to the disease. Surveys were provided to each school, asking the relevant questions in order to allow computation of the percentage of susceptible students by age and race. With the approval of the project director, an additional question was added to the survey, inquiring if the student had ever had shingles and, if so, the age at which the outbreak occurred. This was intended to provide some baseline data on shingles incidence among children and adolescents in the Antelope Valley region.

After analysing several thousand questionnaires, I wrote a manuscript that addressed varicella susceptibility as well as the incidence of shingles. To my surprise the CDC claimed that the study was not designed to determine shingles incidence, and neither the LACDHS nor the CDC expressed interest in publishing or discussing the results pertaining to shingles. The manuscript discussing varicella susceptibility was published word for word as I had written it, with only minor changes to a few sentences.<sup>9</sup> The remainder of the manuscript on shingles was simply discarded.

## No Follow-up Allowed on Recurring Shingles Cases

While preparing another annual report, I had identified 10 cases where individuals reported a *second* case of shingles. I computed the incidence of recurrent shingles in the same manner as had been done in another peer-reviewed article and requested permission from my superiors to conduct a telephone interview with each of these 10 cases to assess whether or not they had some pre-existing or underlying condition that might have suppressed their immune system. Despite our calling 10,000 parents/caregivers of children with chickenpox, no permission was granted to contact these 10 individuals. Further, this analysis was also deleted from the annual report without explanation.

## Suppression of Reports Leads to Resignation

At the beginning of 2001 and again in 2002, after one and two years of shingles data collection, I submitted manuscripts for review by my superiors and subsequent approval for publication by the CDC. These manuscripts discussed preliminary data describing potential deleterious effects of the Universal Varicella Vaccination Program. (The biological mechanism supporting these observations had already been explained in the scientific and medical journal literature; see references in Appendix 4 of my complete paper at <http://www.MedicalVeritas.com/FULLNEXUS.pdf>.) Unlike previous analyses of the positive aspects of vaccination, these manuscripts were treated very differently. By October 2002, I felt that I could no longer conduct research objectively; and with the submitted manuscripts still pending formal review, I resigned from the VASP, citing my ethical compromise.

In my letter of resignation, I stated: "Whenever research data and information concerning potential adverse effects associated with a vaccine used in human populations are suppressed and/or misrepresented by health authorities, not only is this most disturbing, it goes against all accepted scientific norms and dangerously compromises professional ethics."

**My manuscripts discussed preliminary data describing potential deleterious effects of the Universal Varicella Vaccination Program.**

## Notice to "Cease and Desist" from Publication

Following my resignation, I submitted final versions of four manuscripts that had been awaiting review for the past one to two years during my employment to both the LACDHS and the CDC, notifying them of pending publication and making

inquiry as to whether other individuals desired authorship credit. When there was no response, I submitted the manuscripts for publication. All four manuscripts were peer reviewed and published in *Vaccine*, a medical journal based in the UK and known throughout Europe.<sup>10-13</sup>

Following the acceptance of the first three manuscripts,<sup>10-12</sup> I received a letter from the Los Angeles County legal department on behalf of the LACDHS, requesting that I "cease and desist" publication in a medical journal. My attorney filed a response citing the possibility of litigating based on state and federal False Claims Acts and calling upon Dr Philip R. Krause, lead research investigator at the FDA's Center for Biologic Evaluation and Research, to testify as an expert witness in support of my findings. The "cease and desist" issue appeared to have ended with no further response forthcoming from the LA County legal department.

## CDC Intervenes and Slurs Author's Reputation

However, prior to publication of the fourth manuscript and after I had received a letter of acceptance from the editor of *Vaccine*, the CDC attempted to block publication of this manuscript by calling the Life Sciences editor of Elsevier, which oversees publication of *Vaccine*. Again my attorney intervened, asking the CDC if it served on the editorial board of *Vaccine*. After a year's delay, the manuscript was finally released for print publication in May 2005. The basic analysis for this manuscript had been outlined in 2001 while I was serving as research analyst.<sup>13</sup>

The CDC next attempted to slur my reputation by stating that I was merely a "data manager having no input into the studies". In reality, I was responsible for submitting the background material

suggesting that herpes zoster be included in active surveillance beginning with the new project cycle starting in January 2000.

The CDC then wrote a letter for publication to *Vaccine*, additionally expressing dissatisfaction with the first three manuscripts but providing criticisms with respect to only one of those manuscripts.<sup>11</sup> I happened to be perusing the publicly available online list of manuscripts to be published in *Vaccine* when I located the CDC's letter and wrote to the editor of *Vaccine*, stating that it was customary to allow the author an opportunity to provide a related rebuttal. The editor agreed that this was ethical procedure and within several days I submitted a point-by-point rebuttal to each of the specious arguments that the CDC had presented in its letter. My attorney communicated with the CDC legal department, which agreed that my characterisation as a "data manager with no input into the studies" was untrue; and so a correction was made prior to publication of the CDC letter, which appeared with my rebuttal immediately following.<sup>14</sup>

The historical fact was that in addition to developing the entire project's database and overseeing data entry, I implemented numerous statistical programs (including capture-recapture with 95 per cent goodness-of-fit-based confidence intervals, or CIs, as described by Dr E. B. Hook and Dr R. R. Regal), analysed and summarised household contact information, studied breakthrough

from those currently presented in the CDC article that I was compelled to publish a fifth manuscript in the peer-reviewed *International Journal of Toxicology* (July–August 2005).<sup>16</sup> This manuscript demonstrated how important trends in the data had been masked in the CDC's article and other presentations concerning the incidence of herpes zoster.

### PART III: What the Public Was Not Supposed to Know: Chickenpox Vaccine Effectiveness Declines

The CDC's contagiousness article states: "...finding no trend, we conducted subsequent analyses for the 5-year period [1997–2001]". Yet, interesting trends became apparent when using the exact same database; the vaccine effectiveness was stratified or computed by each year.

With reference to Table 1, notice that the vaccine efficacy increased to a high of 95.7 per cent in 1999, and then decreased to 73.9 per cent and 58.4 per cent in 2001 and 2002 respectively. The initial increase in vaccine effectiveness or efficacy demonstrates the "honeymoon" effect, whereby there is a relatively brief period following the introduction of the chickenpox vaccine during which time vaccinated children receive additional immune boosting by virtue of their contact with children having natural chickenpox. During 1999 and thereafter, the number of children reported as having natural chickenpox dramatically declined (along with the boosting effect), and this contributed to the statistically significant downward trend in vaccine effectiveness.

There is a legitimate concern that vaccinated children will be left unprotected and may prove to be susceptible to chickenpox as adults, when chickenpox can be a more serious illness if contracted then.

### VASP/CDC Reports are Misleading

Civen et al.<sup>17</sup> report an incidence of shingles of 40 per 100,000 among children in Antelope Valley, where vaccine coverage exceeds 80 per cent. These authors also report incidence of shingles of 45 per 100,000 among individuals

aged 10 to 19 years, a group which is largely unvaccinated but has had a previous experience of natural chickenpox. Notice there is hardly a difference in incidence rates between these groups despite differences in their vaccination status.

There are two fundamental problems with the manner in which these figures were derived. First, Civen et al. assume that 100 per cent of shingles cases are voluntarily reported to VASP. This assumption is rarely true in any study. Because there were two reporting sources (schools and healthcare providers), a statistical technique known as "capture-recapture" can be used to quantify the percentage of underreporting, which was estimated to be about 50 per cent. Without adjusting for underreporting, incidence rates reported by the VASP merely reflect the case ascertainment and cannot be compared to other studies.

Second, Civen et al. present what is called an average (or mean) of a bimodal incidence rate. To illustrate why this is statistically invalid, consider that when the same data are stratified by vaccination status, this yields an estimated rate of 22 cases of shingles per 100,000 among vaccinees and 223 per 100,000 among children with a previous history of natural chickenpox. Combined, the weighted average of these two very different incidence rates is 52 per 100,000; however, this rate is not representative of the rate in either of the two diverse groups.

**Table 1:** Vaccine efficiency (efficacy) by year, 1997 to 2002, in households with contacts less than 20 years old and verified cases of chickenpox reported in 5–18 year olds, Antelope Valley, California.

| Year  | Vaccine Efficacy<br>(95% confidence interval) | Verified Cases<br>of Chickenpox |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1995  | —                                             | 1,290                           |
| 1996  | —                                             | 1,201                           |
| 1997  | 86.7 (75.0–92.9)                              | 1,095                           |
| 1998  | 93.7 (83.2–97.7)                              | 92                              |
| 1999  | 95.7 (82.7–98.9)                              | 330                             |
| 2000  | 85.5 (73.9–92.0)                              | 485                             |
| 2001  | 73.9 (57.9–83.8)                              | 442                             |
| 2002* | 58.4 (13.7–79.9)                              | Figure n/a                      |

\* Efficacy based on verified cases reported January through June (half-year) only.

varicella, lesion severity, vaccine efficacy, seasonal incidence patterns, outbreaks among schools, and much more. I also participated in project presentations and on-site seminars at the CDC, and provided suggestions regarding methodology. I wrote the preliminary justification for adding herpes zoster to the active surveillance and contributed much more than act as a "data manager with no input into the studies".

I considered I had certainly fulfilled all my ethical obligations and responsibilities. But then the CDC published a new article on contagiousness of varicella in household settings.<sup>15</sup> This research article stated that the vaccine was highly effective and that the efficacy (effectiveness) of the varicella vaccine did not significantly change over the period 1997 to 2001.

I recalled having collected these data and transmitted them to the CDC to permit independent analysis. Early in 2002, I had performed a data analysis of vaccine efficacy and placed my report in a notebook containing other manuscripts awaiting review.

Just like the other manuscripts discussing shingles, this manuscript was not reviewed and the summary of vaccine efficacy by year was also deleted from the annual report without explanation. The results and trends that I had previously derived and confirmed with a CDC data manager were so very different

Reporting the single figure masks the high trend in shingles incidence among unvaccinated children with a previous history of natural chickenpox—which could have major implications for adults, 90–95 per cent of whom have had previous histories of chickenpox. Also masked is the positive statistic that shingles among vaccinees is currently 1/10th (22/223) the risk in children with a previous history of natural chickenpox based on the above figures.

Interestingly, the CDC reports 2.6 cases of shingles per 100,000 doses using the VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) database.<sup>18</sup> This database is notorious for reflecting only 5–10 per cent of the actual adverse events, since reporting to VAERS is voluntary and not enforceable.

### **CDC's Criticisms Unfounded**

My manuscripts were initially criticised for presenting preliminary shingles data and analyses based on the collection of two years of data among a population of 318,000, of which 118,685 were individuals under the age of twenty. Yet, when the data supported its agenda, the CDC utilised a very small study (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, BRFSS) that consisted of only 4,916 and 3,123 respondents aged one to 19 years in 1999 and 2000 respectively. The sample size was too small in this study for any valid conclusions to be drawn. Any statistician would agree that there was insufficient statistical power to state "No increase in shingles has occurred". Yet, this is precisely what the CDC related to other research and media sources. Unlike the situation involving the role that temperature and school enrolment played on the seasonality of chickenpox, suddenly the CDC epidemiologist assigned to assist on that study became unavailable to assist with investigations concerning shingles.

### **Increased Shingles Risk Among Adults**

In Antelope Valley, shingles cases among adults 20 years and older increased 17.7 per cent from 237 cases reported in 2000 to 279 in 2001. The 370 shingles cases reported in 2002 represented an increase of 32.6 per cent over those reported in 2001 and 56.1 per cent over those reported in 2000. In 2005, the CDC presented corroborating data from a large population study that demonstrated a 90 per cent increase in adult shingles during a period of increasing vaccination coverage (1998–2003).<sup>19</sup>

### **Breakthrough Cases Not Easily Recognised**

While chickenpox outbreaks may appear to be greatly reduced, very light breakthrough cases are no longer easily recognised as chickenpox and appear as "insect bites" or other localised rashes. Children are becoming infected with the wild-type or natural chickenpox virus when exposed to either a child with natural chickenpox or an adult with shingles. When this occurs, the vaccinated child is subject to the higher incidence of shingles that is associated with the natural chickenpox virus which then dominates the attenuated vaccine (or Oka) strain.

### **Varicella Hospitalisations and Deaths have Decreased**

While hospitalisations and deaths due to chickenpox have decreased after the introduction of the varicella vaccine program, the impact on shingles has not yet been considered. It is estimated that there are three times as many hospitalisations and four to five times as many deaths from shingles as from chickenpox.<sup>20</sup> Therefore, a small increase in the number of shingles cases could offset the cost-benefit of eliminating four million cases of chickenpox—at least until the entire adult generation dies out and has been replaced by vaccinees. Since those children receiving only one vaccine may be susceptible as adults, hospitalisations and associated costs could increase in the future since there is 20 times more risk of complications in chickenpox cases among adults compared to children.

### **Adverse Events Mitigate against Discovery of the True Costs and Benefits of Varicella Vaccination**

Varicella vaccination is generally considered safe<sup>21</sup> but there are usually no pre-screening tests to determine whether an adverse reaction is likely to occur.<sup>22</sup> The literature contains a surprising number of adverse reactions following varicella vaccination,<sup>23–34</sup> including vaccine-strain herpes zoster (HZ) in children and adults.<sup>35–36</sup>

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) states: "Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) data are limited by underreporting and unknown sensitivity of the reporting system, making it difficult to compare adverse event rates following vaccination reported to VAERS with those from complications following natural disease. Nevertheless, the magnitude of these differences makes it likely that serious adverse events following vaccination occur at a substantially lower rate than following natural disease."<sup>37</sup>

Since follow-up is not conducted, it may be argued that some reports may not be attributed to or associated with vaccination, and therefore the true rate of adverse events is essentially unknown. Nevertheless, adverse reactions reported in VAERS have typically been shown to

be only five per cent or 10 per cent of the true rates. The lot number associated with each vaccine is recorded in the VAERS database. However, the CDC and FDA have never required the vaccine manufacturers to divulge publicly the number of vaccines contained in a given lot. This prevents researchers from determining "hot lots", since calculation of the number of adverse reactions per lot is not possible.

Table 2 presents a comparison of the number of adverse reactions reported to VAERS for the varicella vaccine with four other different vaccines. The high mean of 2,980 reports per year is attributed to the hepatitis B vaccine, followed next by a mean of 2,350 reports per year attributed to varicella vaccine. The first report of an adverse reaction following varicella vaccination was filed with VAERS (ID 74221) on May 26, 1995. This three-and-a-half-year-old boy from Georgia, who had no pre-existing conditions, received a dose of varicella vaccine on May 12, 1995. He developed convulsions the following day, was hospitalised and reportedly recovered.

**When this occurs,  
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virus ...**

Many physicians consider vaccination extremely safe, and parents or patients are not provided with information regarding potential adverse outcomes. Since varicella disease is relatively benign, only a few serious adverse reactions might offset the intended benefits.

A post-marketing evaluation by Black et al. concluded that the varicella vaccine is safe based on VAERS reports.<sup>38</sup> Admittedly, the spontaneous reporting in general and VAERS in particular are unreliable. Thus it is illogical for the FDA and the CDC to acknowledge these limitations, yet state that VAERS serves "to reassure the general public concerning the safety of a new vaccine"<sup>39</sup>—basing assessment of the safety of the varicella vaccine only on an analysis of VAERS.<sup>40</sup>

Clinical descriptions of five different serious adverse effects that followed varicella vaccination, as well as scientific literature concerning other adverse reactions and vaccine-related complications, are provided in the appendices of my complete paper (see <http://www.MedicalVeritas.com/FULLNEXUS.pdf>).

**Table 2:** VAERS reports associated with varicella, DTaP, hepatitis B, Hib and MMR vaccines through December 2003.

| Vaccine type       | No. of reports | Date of first report | Duration (years) | Mean cases/year |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Varicella          | 20,004         | 12 May 1995          | 8.5              | 2,350           |
| DTaP <sup>a</sup>  | 23,886         | 2 Apr 1992           | 11.4             | 2,080           |
| Hep B <sup>b</sup> | 41,708         | 25 Jan 1990          | 14.0             | 2,980           |
| Hib <sup>c</sup>   | 25,060         | 2 Jan 1990           | 14.0             | 1,790           |
| MMR <sup>d</sup>   | 31,132         | 17 Nov 1989          | 14.0             | 2,220           |

a. Diphtheria and tetanus toxoid and acellular pertussis

b. Hepatitis B

c. *Haemophilus influenzae* type b

d. Measles–Mumps–Rubella

Source information from US Government VAERS database, 1990–2003, <http://www.medalarts.org/vaersdb>

#### PART IV: Conclusions

Prior to the universal chickenpox vaccination program, 95 per cent of adults experienced natural chickenpox (usually as school-age children), which was usually benign and which resulted in long-term immunity.

This high percentage of long-term immunity has been compromised by mass vaccination of children, which provides at best 70–90 per cent immunity that is temporary and of unknown duration—shifting chickenpox to a more vulnerable adult population, where it carries 20 times more risk of death and 15 times more risk of hospitalisation compared to children.

Add to this the adverse effects of both the chickenpox and shingles vaccines as well as the potential for increased risk of shingles for an estimated 30 to 50 years among adults.

The Universal Varicella (chickenpox) Vaccination Program now requires booster vaccines that are less effective than the natural immunity that existed in communities prior to licensure of the varicella vaccine. Routine vaccination against chickenpox has produced continual cycles of treatment and disease.

Rather than information being presented so that the parent or public is truly informed, only selective information from studies is typically chosen for publication.

Data, analyses, results and conclusions that are supportive of a vaccine are desired by the sponsoring agency to promote vaccination; while deleterious aspects are often rarely investigated and, in the few instances where they are objectively pursued by conscientious scientists and researchers, the results are often

suppressed because these are seen as having a potentially negative impact on vaccination uptake rates.

Rather than depicting a true cost-benefit scenario, public health officials in increasing numbers appear to be unduly influenced by conflicts of interests with the pharmaceutical industry itself and the pursuit of profits regardless of the negative impact and adverse consequences to public health. These considerations are not limited solely to the Universal Varicella Vaccination Program, but to other vaccination and drug programs as well. What has been previously outlined represents merely the tip of the iceberg.

Cost-benefit analyses of varicella vaccination appear optimistic, but they fail to factor in the resulting deleterious effects. Analyses of the Universal Varicella Vaccination Program in the US have also failed to consider the potential effect on the closely related shingles disease.

Outside exposures to children with natural chickenpox previously contributed a significant immunologic boosting effect that helped suppress or postpone the reactivation of VZV as shingles among adults. In the US where vaccination coverage is increasing, and since natural chickenpox has been dramatically reduced in many communities, immunologic boosting via periodic exposures to children with natural chickenpox is becoming rare, causing a need for booster chickenpox vaccinations in children (recommended at four to six years) and shingles vaccinations among adults.

There was a time not so long ago when parents could place their implicit trust in their healthcare provider to make the best informed choices with respect to recommended interventions and procedures. With conflicts of interest plaguing the current healthcare system, studies often report flawed conclusions that are biased

toward promoting pharmaceutical products. Public health policies based on study outcomes that are not objectively obtained and which have been manipulated toward promoting vaccination based on flawed underlying assumptions of vaccine policies are surfacing with greater frequency—demonstrating the need for parents to exercise caution, do careful research and take a more prominent role when it comes to making healthcare decisions for themselves and their loved ones.

A key that a problem exists is seen in the statistic from the US Department of Education, indicating that the number of cases of autism among individuals aged six to 21 in US schools increased from 12,222 in 1992–1993 to 118,602 in 2002–2003, an overall increase of 870 per cent.

Furthermore, despite its spending the most income per capita on healthcare, the US is ranked lower than many industrialised nations in infant mortality, at 6.63 deaths per 1,000 live births, and is even ranked lower than some countries that are relatively poor, including Cuba at 6.45 per 1,000, according to a 2005 estimate.<sup>38</sup> Public health officials claim the causes are largely unknown.

The journal *Medical Veritas* (where *veritas* is Latin for "truth") was started in April 2004 to assist in the goal of providing research that is free from conflicts of interest with the pharmaceutical firms and fostering the belief that a better-informed public will help to ensure better medical practice.

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Continued on page 77





# THE PLACEBO EFFECT

## THE TRIUMPH OF MIND OVER BODY

***A growing body of research reveals not just psychological and perceptual components to the placebo effect but also a biochemical substrate to the mechanism.***

**by Peter Arguriou © 2007**

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### **A neglected phenomenon**

One of the most commonly used terms in medical language is the word *placebo*. The *placebo effect* is used as a scale for evaluating the effectiveness of new drugs. But what exactly is the placebo effect and what are its consequences in the deterministic structure of Western medicine?

The placebo effect has been frequently abused by health professionals to denote and stigmatise a fraud or fallacy. Alternative therapies have often been characterised as merely placebos. But the placebo effect is not a fraudulent, useless or malevolent phenomenon. It occurs independently of the intentions of charlatans or health professionals. It is a spontaneous, authentic and very factual phenomenon that refers to well-observed but uninterpreted and contingent therapies or health improvements that occur in the absence of an active chemical/pharmacological substance. Make-believe drugs—drugs that carry no active chemical substances—often act as the real drugs and provoke therapeutic effects when administered to patients.

In many drug trials, the manufacturers of the drug sadly discover that their product is in no way superior to the effect of a placebo. But that does not mean that a placebo equates to a null response of the human organism. On the contrary, a placebo denotes non-chemical stimuli that strongly motivate the organism towards a therapeutic course. That is, the placebo effect is dependent not on the drug's effectiveness but solely on therapeutic intention and expectation.

### **Effects of positive and negative thinking**

The placebo effect has been often misunderstood as a solely psychological and highly subjective phenomenon. The patient, convinced of the therapy's effectiveness, ignores his symptoms or perceives them faintly without any substantial improvement of his health; that is, the patient *feels* better but is not healthier. But can the subjective psychological aspect of the placebo effect account for all of its therapeutic properties? The answer is definite: the placebo effect refers to an alternative curative mechanism that is inherent in the human entity, is motivated by therapeutic intention or belief in the therapeutic potential of a treatment, and implies biochemical responses and reactions to the stimulus of therapeutic intention or belief.

But placebos are not always beneficial: they can also have adverse effects. For example, administering a pharmacologically inactive substance to some patients can sometimes bring about unexpected health deteriorations. A review of 109 double-blind studies estimated that 19 per cent of placebo recipients manifested the *nocebo* effect: unexpected deteriorations of health.<sup>1</sup> In a related experiment, researchers falsely declared to the volunteers that a weak electrical current would pass through their head; although there was no electrical current, 70 per cent of the volunteers (who were medical students) complained of a headache after the experiment.<sup>2</sup>

In a group of patients suffering from carotid atherosclerosis, prognosis and progression of the disease were burdened when their psychological health was bad (i.e., they were affected by hopelessness or depression). In another group of carotid atherosclerosis patients, prognosis and progression were burdened not only by hopelessness but also by hostility.<sup>3</sup> In patients with coronary heart disease, hopelessness was a determinative risk factor.<sup>4</sup> Social isolation, work stress and hostility comprised additional risk factors.<sup>5</sup>

Positive or negative thinking seems to be a decisive risk factor for every treatment, perhaps even more important than medical intervention.

The nocebo effect appears to have a specific biological substrate. A group of 15 men whose wives suffered from terminal cancer participated in a small perspective study. After their wives' deaths, the men experienced severe grief that caused immunodepression. The spouses' lymphocytes for a period of time after their wives' deaths responded poorly to mitogenes. Grief had assaulted their immune system. The study proposed that grief and grief-induced immunodepression resulted in high-level mortality of the specific group.<sup>6</sup>

### A short history of a small miracle

The term *placebo* (meaning "I shall please") was used in mediaeval prayer in the context of the phrase *Placebo Domino* ("I shall please the Lord") and originated from a biblical translation of the fifth century AD.<sup>7</sup> During the 18th century, the term was adopted by medicine and was used to imply preparations of no therapeutic value that were administered to patients as "decoy drugs". The term began to transform in 1920 (Graves<sup>8</sup>), and through various intermediate stages (Evans and Hoyle, 1933<sup>9</sup>; Gold, Kwit and Otto, 1937<sup>10</sup>; Jellinek, 1946<sup>11</sup>) was fully transformed in 1955 when it finally claimed an important portion of the therapeutic effect in general. Henry K. Beecher, in his 1955 paper "The Powerful Placebo", attributed a rough percentage of 30 per cent of the overall therapeutic benefit to the placebo effect.<sup>12</sup>

In certain later studies, the placebo effect was estimated at even higher, at 60 per cent of the overall therapeutic outcome. In a recent review of 39 studies regarding the effectiveness of antidepressant drugs, psychologist Guy Sapirstein concluded that 50 per cent of the therapeutic benefits came from the placebo effect, with a poor percentage of 27 per cent attributed to drug intervention (fluoxetine, sertraline and paroxetine). Three years later Sapirstein, along with a fellow psychologist Irving Kirsch, processed the data from 19 double-blind studies regarding depression and reached an even higher percentage of therapeutic results attributed to the placebo effect: 75 per cent of depression therapies or ameliorations were placebo induced!<sup>13</sup>

Hróbjartsson and Gøtzsche (2001<sup>14</sup>, 2004<sup>15</sup>) doubted the effectiveness of the placebo phenomenon, attributing it solely to the subjective factors of human psychology. And indeed, there is a major aspect of the placebo effect related to psychology. In two studies where placebos were exclusively administered, the placebo effect seemed to be effected from the subject's perception of the applied therapy, i.e., two placebo pills were better than one, bigger pills were better than smaller, and injections were even better.<sup>16</sup>

The placebo induced a reaction not only to the therapy but also to its form, suggesting that the placebo phenomenon is shaped according to the personal symbolic universe of the patient. Before the placebo response occurs, human perception has already interpreted the applied therapy and has prepared a certain response to it. It would appear that not only chemical but also non-chemical stimuli participate in the motivation of the human organism towards therapy.

But is the placebo reaction solely a psychological phenomenon or does it have additional tangible somatic effects?

One of the more dramatic events regarding placebo therapy was

reported in 1957 when a new wonder drug, Krebiozen, held promise as the final solution to the cancer problem. A patient with metastatic tumours and with fluid collection in his lungs, who demanded the daily intake of oxygen and the use of an oxygen mask, heard of Krebiozen. His doctor was participating in Krebiozen research and the patient begged him to be given the revolutionary drug. Bent by the patient's hopelessness, the doctor did so and witnessed a miraculous recovery of the patient. His tumours melted and he returned to an almost normal lifestyle. The recovery didn't last long. The patient read articles about Krebiozen's *not* delivering what it promised in cancer therapy. The patient then had a relapse; his tumours were back. His doctor, deeply affected by the aggravation, resorted to a desperate trick. He told his patient that he had in his possession a new, improved version of Krebiozen. It was simply distilled water. The patient fully recovered after the placebo treatment and remained functional for two months. The final verdict on Krebiozen, published in the press, proved the drug to be totally ineffective. That was the *coup de grâce* for the patient, who died a few days later.<sup>17</sup>

**Positive or negative thinking seems to be a decisive risk factor for every treatment, perhaps even more important than medical intervention.**

In spite of the melodrama of the Krebiozen case, there is no single case or personal testimony that can denote or prove a therapy to be effective. Statistical studies, not personal testimonies, can verify a proposed therapy's effectiveness, and well-planned studies are able to concur that the placebo phenomenon has somatic properties.

One such study was implemented in 1997. The two study groups consisted of patients with benign prostatic hypertrophy. One group took actual medication while the control group received placebo treatment. The

placebo recipients reported relief from their symptoms and even amelioration of their urinary function.<sup>18</sup> A placebo has also been reported to act as a bronchodilator in asthmatic patients, or to have the exact opposite action—respiratory depression—depending on the description of the pharmacological effect the researchers gave to the patients and therefore the effect the patients anticipated.<sup>19</sup>

A placebo proved highly efficient against food allergies and, subsequently, impressively effective in the sinking of biotechnologies on the stockmarket. How could that be? Peptide Therapeutics Group, a biotech company, was preparing to launch on the market a novel vaccine for food allergies. The first reports were encouraging. When the experimental vaccine reached the clinical trials stage, the company's spokesperson boasted that the vaccine proved effective in 75 per cent of the cases—a percentage that usually suffices to prove a drug's effectiveness. But the good news didn't last long. The control group, given a placebo, did almost as well: seven out of 10 patients reported getting rid of their food allergies. The stock value of the company plunged by 33 per cent. The placebo effect on food allergies created a nocebo effect on the stockmarket!<sup>20</sup> In another case, a genetically designed heart drug that raised high hopes for Genentech was clobbered by a placebo.<sup>21</sup>

As aptly put by science historian Anne Harrington, placebos are "ghosts that haunt our house of biomedical objectivity and expose the paradoxes and fissures in our own self-created definitions of the real and active factors in treatment".<sup>22</sup>

The placebo's pharmacomimetic behaviour can even imitate a drug's side effects. In a 1997 study of patients with benign prostate hypertrophy, some patients on a placebo complained of various side effects ranging from impotence and reduced sexual activity to nausea, diarrhoea and constipation. Another study reported placebo side effects as including headaches, vomiting, nausea and a variety of other symptoms.<sup>23</sup>

### The placebo effect in surgery

But how deep can the placebo effect trespass into the well-defined area of medicine? Surely it can't joust with medicine's strike force; it cannot challenge surgery. Or can it?

In 1939, an Italian surgeon named Davide Fieschi invented a new technique for treating angina pectoris (chest pain due to ischaemia or lack of blood/oxygen getting to the heart muscle, usually due to obstruction of the coronary arteries).<sup>24</sup> Reasoning that increased blood flow to the heart would reduce his patients' pain, he performed tiny incisions in their chests and tied knots on the two internal mammary arteries. Three quarters of the patients showed improvement; one quarter of them was cured. The surgical intervention became standard procedure for the treatment of angina for the next 20 years. But in 1959, a young cardiologist, Leonard Cobb, put the Fieschi procedure to the test. He operated on 17 patients: on eight of them he followed the standard procedure; on the other nine he performed only the tiny incisions, letting the patients believe that they'd had the real thing. The result was a real upset: those who'd had the sham surgery did as well as those who'd had the Fieschi technique.<sup>25</sup> That was the end of the Fieschi technique and the beginning of the documented surgical placebo effect.

In 1994, surgeon J. Bruce Moseley experimented with the surgical placebo. He split a small group of patients suffering from osteoarthritis of the knee into two equal groups. Both groups were told that they would undergo arthroscopic surgery, but only the first group got the real thing. The other group was left virtually untreated, with the doctor performing only tiny incisions to make the arthroscopic scenario credible. Similar results were reported in both groups.<sup>26</sup>

Moseley, stunned by the outcome, decided to perform the trial with a larger statistical sample in order to reach safer conclusions. The results were replicated: arthroscopic surgery was equal therapeutically to the placebo effect.<sup>27</sup> The placebo had found its way into surgical rooms.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of surgical placebo arose in a groundbreaking 2004 study. In the innovative field of stem-cell research, a new approach was taken with Parkinson's disease. Human embryonic dopamine neurons were implanted through tiny holes in the patients' brains. Once again, the results were encouraging. And once again, the procedure failed to do better than a placebo. In this case, the placebo involved tiny holes incised in the skull without implantation of stem cells. As the researchers confessed, "The placebo effect was very strong in this study".<sup>28</sup>

But how can it be that the therapeutic expectancy alone often produces results equal to those from actual surgery? It appears that the mind is exerting control over somatic processes, including

diseases. The biochemical traces of this influence are only beginning to be outlined. Modern research indicates a biological, tangible substrate to the placebo effect.

### Somatic pathways

In the mid-1990s, researcher Fabrizio Benedetti conducted a novel experiment whereby he induced ischaemic pain and soothed it by administering morphine. When morphine was replaced by a saline solution, the placebo presented analgesic properties. However, when naloxone (an opiate antagonist) was added to the saline solution, the analgesic properties of the water were blocked. Benedetti reached the conclusion that the placebo's analgesic properties were a result of specific biochemical paths. Naloxone blocked not only morphine but also endogenous opioids—the physical pain-relievers.<sup>29</sup>

The endogenous opioids, endorphins, were discovered in 1974 and act as pain antagonists. Benedetti's suggestion of a placebo-induced release of endorphins was supported by findings produced with MRI and PET scans.<sup>30</sup> Placebo-induced endorphin release also affects heart rate and respiratory activity.<sup>31</sup> As researcher Jon-Kar Zubieta described, "...this [finding] deals another serious blow to the idea that the placebo effect is a purely psychological, not physical, phenomenon".<sup>32</sup>

Further findings support the notion that the placebo effect presents a biochemical substrate in both depression and Parkinson's disease. Analysing the results of PET scans, researchers estimated the glucose metabolism in the brains of patients with depression. Glucose metabolism under placebo presented differentiations that were similar to those caused by antidepressants such as fluoxetine.<sup>33</sup> In patients suffering from Parkinson's disease, a placebo injection promoted dopamine secretion in a similar way to that caused by amphetamine administration.<sup>34</sup> Benedetti demonstrated that the placebo effect provoked decreased activity in single neurons of the subthalamic nucleus in patients with Parkinson's disease.<sup>35</sup>

From numerous research findings, it is logical and rather safe to conclude that there is a biochemical substrate to the placebo effect. But what is more intriguing to it is its relation to perception. It would appear that perception and the codes and symbols that the animate computer, the brain, utilises in order to process internal and external information strongly determine the potency and form of placebo response.

In a recent study, patients were purposely misinformed that they had been infected by hazardous bacilli and they subsequently underwent treatment. However, there were no bacilli and the treatment administered was a placebo. Guess what? Some of the study subjects developed infection-like conditions that were not treatable by the placebo medication.<sup>36</sup> The mind interpreted the fictional bacilli as hazardous and instructed the body to respond to them as if they were real.

Despite the placebo's potency and its importance for a new perception of health where body and mind heavily interact, large numbers of scientists continue to regard the placebo as an insignificant systematic error, a troublesome nought. According to cancer researcher Gershon Zajicek: "There is nothing in the pharmacokinetic theory which accounts for the placebo effect. In

**From numerous research findings, it is logical and rather safe to conclude that there is a biochemical substrate to the placebo effect.**

order to keep the theory consistent, the placebo effect is regarded as random error or noise which can be ignored."<sup>37</sup>

One of the most perceptive placebo researchers was Stewart Wolf, "the father of psychosomatic medicine", who as early as 1949 had given it a thorough description. Wolf not only defended the placebo as a non-fictional and very "real" phenomenon but also described the placebo's pharmacomimetic behaviour. He was perhaps the first researcher to correlate the placebo effect not only with psychology and predisposition but also with perception. More than half a century ago, he stated that "the mechanisms of the body are capable of reacting not only to direct physical and chemical stimulation but also to symbolic stimuli, words and events which have somehow acquired special meaning for the individual".<sup>38</sup>

In this context, a pill is not merely an active substance but also a therapeutic symbol and thus the organism is able to respond not only to its chemical content but also to its symbolic content. Likewise a bacillus, beyond its physical properties, acquires symbolic properties that can cause an organism's reaction even in the absence of the bacillus.

The presence and extent of the nocebo effect should also be studied in regard to drug resistance. Perhaps drug resistance is a multifactorial phenomenon involving not only microbial evolutionary aptness but also human psyche mechanics. Placebo and nocebo phenomena might prove fundamental not only on the personal level but also in the public health arena.

They might even provide the foundation stone for a new model of health, a new medicine that was envisioned by Wolf in the 1950s: "...in the future, drugs will be assessed not only with reference to their pharmacologic action but also to the other forces at play and to the circumstances surrounding their administration".<sup>39</sup>

Five centuries ago, Swiss alchemist and physician Paracelsus (1493–1541) wrote: "You must know that the will is a powerful adjuvant of medicine." It seems that our scientific arrogance has blinded us to the teachings of the past. ∞

### About the Author:

Peter Arguriou was born in Greece in the summer of 1973. He studied medicine at the University of Athens Medical School, but left disappointed by the mechanistic perceptions governing medicine. Later, he briefly studied classical homoeopathy at the Aegean University under Alternative Nobel Prize winner George Vithoulkas. He writes for the Greek press and is the author of eight books (fiction, science fiction, poetry—most of them still unpublished). He is a member of the Hellenic MENSA and currently is working on a book regarding novel epidemics, bad science, the gene promise, the media travesty in coverage of science news, orchestrated propaganda and the corruption of the scientific establishment by big business and political agendas. He can be contacted by email at petrosarguriou@hotmail.com.

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# SEXUAL ENERGY IN HEALTH AND SPIRITUALITY

*Ancient spiritual traditions and new ways of relating sexually with our partners offer solutions for overcoming health problems and improving our vitality and longevity.*

**Part 2 of 2**

**by Walter Last © 2007**

Website:  
<http://www.health-science-spirit.com>

## SEX AND HEALTH

According to psychological studies and statistics, in the longer term the vast majority of sexual relationships cause more distress and unhappiness than happiness. It is obvious, at least to me, that stress due to failing relationships also has a major impact on our health, emotionally and biologically. Even medical thinking now regards stress as an underlying problem that aggravates all other diseases.

Sexual factors that may contribute to health problems are nutrient deficiencies, hormonal and bio-energetic imbalances, and emotional distress. Several of these may be involved in any one case, and they cannot always be identified.

Nutrient deficiencies relate mainly to loss of ejaculate. The seminal fluid is high in zinc and requires much vitamin B6 and omega-3 fatty acids, which are found in fish oil and linseed oil. Deficiencies of these are widespread, especially in teenage boys with frequent loss of seminal fluid. The same deficiencies are common in schizophrenia, which starts most frequently in teenage boys. I believe that this may be a contributing factor in cases of existing deficiencies. Zinc deficiency also leads to underdeveloped male sexual organs and later in life to enlargement of the prostate gland. By pointing out these connections, I do not want to create guilt about masturbation but, instead, improve awareness about nutrition. Also, orgasm and schizophrenia are both associated with a high and unstable level of dopamine, while depression is associated with a low dopamine level.

Another observation is that arthritis tends to get worse with frequent ejaculatory sex. An ancient proverb says that "[Excessive] love-making, wine-drinking and laziness create arthritis". Arthritis specialist Bernard Aschner, MD, observed that arthritis tends to get worse with frequent ejaculations, especially with elderly men, whom he advised to abstain from sex for a few months until cured.<sup>7</sup>

Hormonal imbalances, especially dopamine excess or deficiency, seem to be the greatest contributors to addictive behaviours such as drug abuse, compulsive behaviour and gambling as well as aggression, violence and attention deficit disorder. Oxytocin, on the other hand, has a beneficial influence on these problems. For a referenced discussion of this subject, see [http://www.reuniting.info/science/sex\\_and\\_addiction](http://www.reuniting.info/science/sex_and_addiction).

The main factor in raising our stress level is probably the inability to discharge bio-energetic static. One common example is watching exciting movies that fire us up, and then going to bed without releasing the induced tension. It is likewise with conventional sex. Initially the body may get charged with skin stimulation and anticipation, but then there is little release, especially for women, if the union lasts for less than 30 minutes. No wonder that some women develop emotional problems and gynaecological or nervous complaints, or just switch off and abstain from sex. Men, being less emotionally aware, may just develop physical symptoms instead, such as hypertension, heart disease, prostate problems or impotence.

Dr Rudolf von Urban's solution for relieving single or otherwise frustrated women of sexual and bio-energetic tension is a warm douche at bedtime on alternate nights. The duration is from 10 to 20 minutes while lying in a bathtub. The water is supplied by fitting some rubber tubing over the tap. This practice is very relaxing and not meant to induce an orgasm, but will help to provide a peaceful sleep.

Most diseases and health problems of the sexual organs are likely to be linked to unhealthy sexual practices. These health problems include not only cancers and

infections of the sexual organs but also diseases in other parts of the body. Even tumour growth and metastasis are stimulated by stress hormones.

Oxytocin counteracts the effects of stress hormones, and less stress means increased immunity and faster recovery. Oxytocin receptors have also been discovered in tumours. Therefore, oxytocin has a growth-inhibiting effect on cancer, especially prostate and breast cancers: the more oxytocin, the less tumour growth can be expected.

At <http://www.reuniting.info/science/research> you can find scientific references showing that oxytocin is increased by hugging, massaging, touching, kissing and psychological support. It improves stress levels, immune functions, wound healing, detoxification, impotence, autism, memory, caring attitude, female receptivity, and reduces addictions, anxiety, aggression, allergies, pain, breast and prostate cancer. At the same website is an equally impressive collection of research references showing the health disadvantages of orgasmic sex.

### Hypertension and Stress

As an example of the benefits of healthy sex, von Urban mentions that at a neuropsychiatric conference he presented a difficult case cured of high blood pressure, stomach ulcers and inability to work within eight weeks with his Perfect Sex method. A leading expert doubted that a change in sexual practices could normalise high blood pressure, so von Urban asked him to send his most difficult and hopeless case. Ten days after the patient was counselled by von Urban, his blood pressure was almost normal.

In contrast, it should be noted that Wilhelm Reich, who advocated orgasmic sex for release of excess bio-energy, died of heart attack probably associated with high blood pressure, and his wife suffered from severe hypertension.

Von Urban also presents the case of a young woman who was diagnosed as schizophrenic, temporarily institutionalised and treated with electric shock therapy. A few weeks after changing sexual habits, she became completely "normal" and remained so.

Considering the vast amount of hypertension, mental disorders and other stress-related conditions in our society, and that von Urban demonstrated the effectiveness of his method only 60 years ago, I do not expect the method will be discussed in medical journals or the mass media any time soon.

I do not want to imply that sexual energy is the only factor causing or curing the discussed diseases. However, if sex is changed from being a severe stress to becoming a healing factor then this can be sufficient to overcome the health problem.

Furthermore, most of those with a chronic disease, especially cancer, are emotionally rather fragile and they benefit greatly from a close-bonding, loving relationship to elevate oxytocin. This is also beneficial with heart disease and mental/emotional conditions such as depression and addictions.

A high level of testosterone is a negative factor with prostate cancer, as is high oestrogen with most breast cancers. But when

we are in love (or create a feeling of love with increased oxytocin), the sex hormones in both genders become more like each other. Males become less aggressive, gentler and more spiritual, while females produce more testosterone to make them bolder and balance excessive oestrogen levels.

### For the Lack of a Cuddle

Anorexia nervosa develops mainly in teenage girls. This immediately suggests a connection to sexuality. I was intrigued to read that one of the more successful methods recommends, in addition to other measures, using a cosy vest to provide a feeling of being warm and protected.

That reminds me of an experiment with monkeys.<sup>8</sup> Immediately after birth, the babies were separated from their mothers and raised with two substitute "mothers". One was a wire structure containing a food bottle with a nipple, and the other was a terry-towelling cloth wrapped over the wire, heated by an electric bulb inside. The young monkeys adopted the cloth-covered structure as their mother substitute and were distressed when it was temporarily removed. The bottle structure was just a feeding machine to them. All these monkeys became disturbed emotionally as well as in their behaviour when growing up, and they were unable to perform the sexual act successfully on maturity. Touch was emotionally more important to them than food. That is exactly what happens with anorexia nervosa.

It was often worse for human infants who were raised in church or government institutions without even a cloth mother substitute. One of the worst aspects for a baby is the feeling of not being wanted, and especially if it experiences hostility from one or both parents. A difficult birth with forceps, surgery and glaring lights is traumatic, as is a negative attitude by anyone present at the birth.

Even worse is the prolonged removal of the baby from the mother in most hospitals. All of these aspects generate stress hormones when babies need, more than anything else, persistent contact with the mother (or a suitable human substitute) to generate soothing and bonding oxytocin.

Presently there is a rapidly rising incidence of self-harm reportedly affecting up to 20 per cent of teenagers, with a high incidence among teenage girls. While teenage boys tend to release their internal tensions through outward aggression and harming others, girls tend to harm themselves. Princess Diana admitted to self-harm. This phenomenon is not new and was reported in former centuries and even millennia ago. In the 19th century, many girls were known to stick needles into their skin and were called "needle girls" by medical professionals. At present, cutting with razor blades is more fashionable.

The reported reason for doing this is unbearable emotional tension. It provides essential stress relief, and some girls say it keeps them alive so that they don't need to commit suicide. This tension starts with puberty and abates towards the end of teenage years. Self-harm is also related to eating disorders and

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is prevalent in detention facilities and nunneries. In adults, such behaviour now gets the psychiatric label "borderline personality disorder" (BPD).

We can now understand this behaviour according to von Urban's model of a stress-based, bio-energetically charged skin. When someone is in pain, bio-energy is released together with feeling energy, and it is this pain-induced release of bio-energy that keeps these self-harming teenage girls sane. Furthermore, pain due to various known or unknown causes can be relieved by appropriate skin contact. From this, it is easy to see that the most curative method for these teenagers, as well as for others with emotional problems, would be prolonged skin contact in a safe environment to raise oxytocin levels, and especially non-sexual, affectionate contact with someone of the opposite sex. Cuddles from either parent, as well as other offerings of affection, are beneficial for the emotional well-being of all children regardless of gender and greatly reduce children's stress levels. (Note, too, that with larger families in the past, there was more contact between children.)

However, in addition, it is beneficial to reduce the strong build-up of sexual energy which causes stress at the bio-energetic level, especially in adolescents. In Western society in previous times, there was a custom of boys and girls holding hands or dancing on Saturday evenings for a long time with body and hand contact. Now, couples tend to have little contact during dancing, and the music and lighting, instead of being relaxing, are designed to produce a stress-induced dopamine hype.

The hands are strong radiators of bio-energy, and the most effective equalisation is between the male right hand and the female left hand. Also, a foot massage facilitates energy exchange and is relaxing. A parent can easily massage the bare shoulders, neck and back of a child or teenager of the opposite sex, and then get a massage in return; this would be relaxing for both. However, it is important for the same-sex parent to participate as well so that there is no emotional separation. A special time of the week may be selected where the whole family joins in gently massaging each other. Also, having a professional massage from a therapist of the opposite sex is an option, or cuddling in a health or social club.

### Reducing Stress and Tension

Bio-energetic static and emotional energetic blockages are probably major factors not only with hypertension, mental problems and other stress-related conditions, but also in the present epidemic of hip, knee and lower back problems, leg cramps as well as gynaecological and other disorders in the pelvic area, including impotence and frigidity. Persistent bio-energetic static and its associated emotional blockages tend to cause muscle tension with permanently reduced blood, lymph and nerve supply to these areas, making them susceptible to infections, arthritis and other health deterioration.

According to the findings of von Urban and the experiences of couples practising Karezza, the easiest way of reducing such persistent tensions is prolonged, quiet skin and possibly sexual contact with a partner of the opposite sex, basically as a long

period of relaxation or meditation. While superficial tensions may be eliminated in one session, deeper muscle tensions are caused by a lifetime of sexual frustration and may require many repetitions of lying together while using guided imagery and pleasurable feelings to melt the corresponding emotional blockages.

Emotionally deprived children grow into adults with antisocial or asocial tendencies. On one side of the scale this manifests as violent, criminal and destructive behaviour, and on the other as shyness, lack of confidence, self-destructive behaviour and depression. Often our sexual problems start right after birth if we are bottle-fed instead of breast-fed or, worse, if we are separated from our mother for a prolonged period. This separation tends to make it difficult later to bond with a partner. Even with relatively good parenting, our evolving sexuality causes enormous tensions and stresses while we grow up in our society, and most adults will experience emotional and health problems due to general ignorance in regard to balancing sexual energy.

Compare our Western upbringing to the way von Urban describes how children were raised in some more advanced native societies. He writes: "The Melanesians are certain that children whose sex impulses are not correctly developed can never become experts in love." Sexual training is considered to be most important for the future happiness in the love life of their children. They encourage children to pay attention to their sexual feelings. There is a lot of touching, caressing and skin contact

between adults and children in native societies.

According to von Urban, anthropologist Professor Bronislaw Malinowski reported that the chief of an African tribe expressed his astonishment to an early explorer that Westerners do not provide sexual training to their children. He believed this to be more important than any other kind of training, as healthy sexual development not only provides bliss for the individual but also harmonious family and tribal life. He also said that "In some tribes of Central Africa, masturbation is taught by an elder of the opposite sex", and to abate sexual tension "old women quietly lay their hands on the testicles of little boys, and old men on the vulvas of little girls, holding them thus for some time". Malinowski noted that such practices were more satisfactory than masturbation. Why? Because masturbation, while providing local relaxation, increases overall bodily tension, while skin contact with the opposite sex reduces it. Therefore, prolonged non-sexual skin contact between a boy and a girl, or a child and parent of the opposite sex, would probably be a good way to alleviate hyperactivity, attention deficit disorder, shyness, autism, violence, self-harm and related problems.

There seems to be a complete absence of sexual and stress-related conditions in native societies described by Malinowski. In our society, children's sexuality is so misdirected that sexual violence, rape and many forms of sexual inhibition, frustration and abuse, emotional problems, mental diseases and other stress-related conditions are a frequent outcome in adult life. This shows that we could learn much from native practices. As these native people could observe all varieties of loving sexual

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activity, sex held no unhealthy fascination or obsession for them, as it has for most people in our society. Consequently, abuse of children, rape or other forms of violence were unknown to them. Sexual activity to them was as natural and open as eating is to us. According to Malinowski, such open native sexual education does not necessarily result in early pregnancies. Properly taught Karezza would not only lead to a healthier society at all levels, but would also curb the unsustainable overpopulation of our planet.

What many singles and especially women miss even more than sex is touching and hugging. Some try to satisfy this need with regular massage therapy. However, there may be a simple solution: just form a local "hug club". Discreetly spread the word and you may be surprised by the amount of interest in hugging that's "out there". You may also form or join a healing group where hugging may be practised together with other self-healing techniques.

## SEX AND REJUVENATION

There are many hints of rejuvenation and increased longevity achieved as a result of sacred sexual practices. Some of these, such as increased longevity in harmonious relationships and longer lives of caregiving parents could just be due to persistently raised oxytocin levels. However, there are also ancient practices, especially based on Tao, that deliberately use sexual energy to rejuvenate and increase longevity. Also, according to information channelled by Edgar Cayce, we can achieve complete regeneration (perfect operation of the endocrine system) if we cleanse and purify the reproductive centre.

In the 1930s, Peter Kelder wrote the now famous *Eye of Revelation* with the "Five Rites of Rejuvenation" or the "Five Tibetans". Thousands and possibly millions faithfully did these exercises every day without doing the one that really mattered to draw sexual energy up the spine. That was probably because Kelder's instructions for the sixth rite were somewhat vague. The rite is only practised when one is sexually excited. One is to stand and bend over with the hands on the knees and push all the air out of the lungs. Then straighten up and with the hands on the hips push up the shoulders. Pull the stomach in and up and hold this position for as long as possible. Then forcefully inhale through the nose and exhale immediately through the mouth. The arms may now hang to the sides while you take further deep breaths through the nose or the mouth. If one is still sexually excited, the same procedure may be repeated as often as necessary. However, Kelder did not write about how to cause the sexual excitement that generates the sexual energy to be drawn up and distributed through the body. A more detailed and substantial set of instructions is now available thanks to the work of Mantak Chia in collaboration with Michael Winn in their series of *Healing Tao* books. Some of the relevant books are *Taoist Secrets of Love: Cultivating Male Sexual Energy* (1984), *Healing Love: Cultivating Female Sexual Energy* (1986), *Awaken Healing Light of the Tao* (1993), *The Multi-Orgasmic Man* (1996) and *The Multi-Orgasmic Couple* (2000), published by Healing Tao Books, Huntington, New York. In addition, there is a global network of certified Tao teachers; see <http://www.universal-tao.com>.

## Circulating Sexual Energy

Mantak Chia, born in Thailand of Chinese parents, studied with various Taoist (or Daoist) masters before moving to New York 30 years ago and setting up his Healing Tao centre. He seems to be the first modern Tao master who openly teaches previously secret Taoist methods of using sexual energy for rejuvenation, longevity and spiritual development. This system uses sexual energy as the primary fuel to be refined by spiritual practice. Instead of sexual energy being released in the form of an orgasm, it is channelled up the spine and then down the front in the "microcosmic orbit". In this way, it remains available to heal and rejuvenate the body, while any surplus is stored in the area behind the navel. It appears that the microcosmic orbit was developed 2,000 years ago by Taoists as a sexual practice to rejuvenate the brain, and it later evolved to become a spiritual practice.

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First, you practise to learn the two basic skills of avoiding an orgasm and circulating energy in the microcosmic orbit. It is advisable initially to practise alone with self-pleasuring. This is called "single cultivation". You stop shortly before the orgasm and, with breath control and imagination, draw the energy upwards. Chia calls this the "big draw" for men and the "orgasmic upward draw" for women. When you are able to do this, it is preferable to use "dual cultivation" with a partner of the opposite sex as the technique involves exchanging

male and female sexual energies. When you are sufficiently advanced, you can derive pleasure from repeated "valley orgasms" during long periods of love-making and with repeated upward draws of energy. It is possible to continue practising alone or with a same-sex partner, but then one may need to use additional methods of attracting the missing opposite-sex energies.

In addition to using activated sexual energy, you may practise the orbit by accumulating energy during meditation, imagining energy entering through the crown centre at the top of the head or by condensing breath energy. To learn to circulate energy, you need to have a basic understanding of the chakra system. These are the seven major and numerous minor etheric vortices that distribute bio-energy within the body. When you have a good feeling sensation of the energy either from breathing into the abdomen or from activating sexual energy, you imagine this sensation flowing towards the perineum and the base of the spine.

Now, imagine a valve opening at the tailbone and with each inhalation you lift the energy higher up the spine, while holding it during exhalations. Imagine that your spine is a straight hollow tube through which the energy flows and continue to lift it all the way to the top of the head. Reinforce it with energy entering the top of the head and then lead it down in steps to the centre of the forehead, the throat, the middle of the breastbone, the stomach and, finally, store it behind the navel as a ball of energy. When leading the energy down, it helps if you touch the roof of the mouth with the tip of the tongue.

When needed, this energy may be reactivated with your intention and used for healing yourself or others by directing with your mind where you want it to go. It may also be used

for tasks with high-energy requirement and is the same energy that masters of the martial arts aim to cultivate and use.

When you can readily feel the circulating energy and the various centres on its path, you may also use a short form to energise and centre yourself quickly. Imagine the energy entering the top of the head and rapidly jumping down from one centre to the next to the base of the spine. Then with one inhalation lift the energy to the top of the head, and with the next exhalation drop it again down to the base. In all this energy work, imagine and feel the energy moving below the surface of the skin.

Instead of doing the big draw when close to orgasm, you may constantly draw up sexual energy in a "slow draw", especially during prolonged love-making as in Karezza. You do this by keeping part of your mind focused on your third eye area between the eyebrows, best done by turning your closed eyes up and inwards as if looking at this point. Then with each slow inhalation you imagine sexual energy moving up the spine to the top, while during the slow exhalation you let the energy fall down the front and back to the sexual organs, not forgetting to keep the tongue against the roof of the mouth.

If this sounds too formidable, just start out by keeping your focus on the third eye and feel love radiating from the heart. The slow draw is also suitable in a meditative state with or without gentle self-pleasuring or early morning erections or other states of gentle arousal. For more details, see <http://www.health-science-spirit.com/bioenergies.html>.

### Strengthening Sexual Energy

The strength of our sexual energy is a function of our overall vitality or vital energy. If our overall vitality is low, then we do not have much sexual energy available to circulate in the microcosmic orbit. Furthermore, by frequently drawing the energy up, it may initially deplete our available sexual energy. Apart from conserving energy through non-orgasmic intercourse, there are many techniques to strengthen these energies.

One such method is the "inner smile". In its simplest form we may just smile at people we meet, at a tree, a flower, a cloud or the sky or landscape. As a more deliberate exercise we may close the eyes, focus on the third eye point between the eyebrows and smile in succession at every major organ and gland in our body.

Another important method is concentrating breath energy. This may be done with any organ in need of healing, but for this purpose we may breathe into the sex organs. Inhale deeply into the abdomen, and during a slow exhalation imagine the bio-energy in the inhaled air being compressed into the testicles or ovaries.

Due to decades of sexual tensions, most of us have permanently tense and weak muscles between the top of the pelvis and the knees. This is like an old battery that cannot hold much charge. Use massage, vibrating, shaking, relaxation exercise and guided imagery to soften their contracted core.

Also, do pelvic floor exercises. In addition to rhythmically contracting and relaxing the whole pelvic floor, selectively push forward to contract only the front part.

In men, this gives an impulse to the penis, while woman may also rhythmically contract the vaginal opening. This forward pressure is used to prevent loss of energy when near orgasm, while selective contraction around the anus and tailbone helps to lead the energy up the spine.

Other common techniques are *tai chi* and *chi gong*. In these practices, we imagine and feel energy being drawn into our body from our environment. Walking barefoot on grass or moist soil or swimming in the sea enhances and cleanses our aura.

The north-pointing pole of a magnet, like the right palm, has an energy that is similar to the *yang* or male sexual energy, while the energy of the south-pointing pole or the left palm is similar to the *yin* or female sexual energy. In Taoist philosophy, the heavenly or spiritual energies entering through the top of the head are male or *yang*, while the earth energies are female or *yin*. Generally, female energies are soothing and relaxing, and male energies are stimulating and activating.

### Food for Sexual Energy

We cannot have strong sexual energy if we are malnourished. Our life force, from which we generate sexual energy, is similar to the bio-energy in raw food. Therefore, raw food has a much stronger vitalising effect than cooked food.

High-quality proteins are part of the seminal fluid, and a high-protein diet is sexually stimulating. In our culture meat is preferred, while in the Orient chickpeas are used to improve sexual performance. However, the food with the highest reputation is the raw yolk of a free-range, fertilised egg; it supplies sulphur compounds that are also high in the semen. However, even more effective than egg yolk is raw minced

meat.

The seminal fluid is also high in zinc and requires much vitamin B6 and omega-3 fatty acids, which are found in fish oils and linseed oil. Deficiency of these is widespread, especially with frequent loss of seminal fluid. Fish oils are also required for natural vaginal lubrication.

The body forms nitric oxide from the amino acid arginine as a signal for the blood vessels of the penis to relax. This is necessary so that the penis can fill with blood and have an erection. Also, magnesium supplements help with relaxation. Stress, on the other hand, or being emotionally uptight, prevents this necessary relaxation and, with this, an erection.

Various herbs and alkaloids have traditionally been used to improve sexual functions. Commonly used for improving and balancing the endocrine system in general and sexual hormones in particular is maca (*Lepidium meyenii*). It appears to be more effective than wild yam and is especially helpful with age-related sexual problems. Also *Tribulus terrestris* (puncture vine) is frequently used to improve sexual functions.

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## SEX AND SPIRITUALITY

Sexuality is closely related to spirituality in several ways. In its negative aspects of lust, sexual excess, degradation and rape, it appears as the antithesis of spirituality, and in this light it has been seen in the Christian tradition. However, in its positive aspects our sexuality can open our heart to love and enable us to have experiences similar to meditative states and mystical bliss during or instead of an orgasm and its afterglow. In a less obvious way, sexual energies can be channelled upward to develop our energy centres or chakra system and higher energy bodies. According to esoteric and yogic teachings, this is all part of our spiritual evolution.

The idea of celibacy for priests, nuns and monks is to spiritualise sexual energy through meditation, rituals and other devotional practices. While this generally involves conscious exercises, as in yoga, Christian mystics commonly transformed their energies without conscious awareness through intense devotion. If religious celibates fight to suppress their sexuality, they misunderstand the deeper reason for the practice of celibacy and block their spiritual evolution on that level. If devotional practices do not lead to the transmutation of sexual energies, then it is much better to find a natural outlet. Suppression always leads to problems.

There are hundreds of different tantric, Taoist, yogic and meditational techniques to transform sexual energy into kundalini or spiritual energy. Sexual energy is a denser part of our general life-force energy, which can be liberated as kundalini energy and led upwards. Its ultimate purpose is to facilitate spiritual growth by developing our chakra system and higher energy bodies.

### What is Spirituality?

In this context, "spirituality" means to me an effort to speed up the evolution of our consciousness, which then becomes manifest in the functions of our energy bodies and the formation of higher energy bodies. I see the next stage in the spiritual evolution of humanity as forming a society based on co-operation, love and compassion. In some way, this is a high ideal of all religions but is especially expressed in Buddhism and Christianity. Love and compassion are the expressions of an opened heart centre. Therefore, the practice of Karezza is especially relevant at this time.

Tantric and yogic methods aim instead for a fast road to enlightenment, while Taoists ultimately want to develop an immortal energy body, which may correspond to the light-body of New Age philosophy. However, apart from achieving various temporary states of bliss and psychic happenings, few seem to be really successful in this way, and also so-called brain or spiritual orgasms may still be related to addictive dopamine activity.

### Tantric and Kundalini Yoga

Tantric and kundalini yoga originate from the Hindu tradition. Both methods aim to lead sexual energy upwards: tantra in ritualised male-female interaction, and kundalini yoga

in strict individual practice; both methods entail semen retention. As a reward, there may be a brain orgasm and various states of blissful conditions. Traditionally, tantra was seen and used as a method to enable men to achieve enlightenment while women were only used as tools, even if they were ritually worshipped as goddesses. This has changed in modern Western practices where women are now the complete equals of men.

I see the main problem with these methods as being a one-way street of energy flow from the base of the spine to the top. This tends to lead to unbalanced development by overstimulating the head centres at the expense of the heart centre. Furthermore, drawing up too much sexual energy may in time deplete overall vitality. Also, I am not impressed with the abilities of practitioners of these systems to rejuvenate. There is probably no problem with these methods for beginners, but various reports indicate problems may result from continued

overstimulation of the brain. This seems to be increasingly acknowledged by modern tantra and kundalini practitioners who now have added the microcosmic orbit to their practices. For an interesting overview of the modern tantra, kundalini and Tao scene, see *The Quest for Spiritual Orgasm* by Michael Winn or visit the website <http://www.healingtaobritain.com>.

### "Enlightenment is in the Vagina"

You may think I'm trying to be cheeky or provocative with the statement "Enlightenment is in the vagina", but this is one of the authenticated sayings of the Buddha. The actual phrase in Sanskrit is *Buddhatvam yosityoniamasritam*. This leaves us with the problem of how to understand or interpret this saying. It seems to turn our usual understanding of enlightenment on its head. This same view is expressed in various sacred tantric texts. There appears to be much hidden sexual activity involving female consorts in some Tibetan Buddhist sects. Western Buddhists, on the other hand, apparently do not know what to make

of this saying and therefore tend to ignore it, although I know of one Western Buddhist in Thailand who took this to mean that lots of intoxicating orgasmic sex is the road to enlightenment. But there is also another Buddhist saying that refers to orgasms as killing the inner Buddha.

My understanding of the first saying is that it refers to female sexual energy which is required for a male monk to become androgynic, meaning that male and female energies become balanced in an individual. This may be achieved by dual cultivation as with tantra or having a female consort, or by single cultivation as with energy meditation. This is really the same process that we also see in Taoist practices and in the Gnostic Gospels. It has nothing to do with surgical or hormonal gender changes. The second saying simply means that by wasting our sexual energy with orgasms, we do not have enough left over for enlightenment.

In the eighth century, a female Buddha, Lady Yeshe Tsogyel, achieved enlightenment through mutual tantric practice.

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She explains that women must control their sexual energies just like men need to control their ejaculation if they would cultivate spiritual enlightenment: "If there is leakage of *bodhichitta* [sexual energy], the Buddha Unchanging Light is slain..."

Therefore, with the power of retraction, drawing up 'love' with the base energy of life-force, I held it in the pot of my belly, and maintaining the recollection of pleasure uncontaminated by lust, divesting myself of mind-created *samadhi*, yet not slipping into an instant of torpor, I experienced the ascent of Awareness."<sup>9</sup>

This passage explains in beautiful simplicity the process of Taoist internal alchemy: produce a feeling of sexual pleasure, draw this feeling from the sexual organs into the abdomen, continue to increase it with mindfulness, and at the same time lead the feeling of meditative bliss from the head into the abdomen. Energy flow then follows the feelings. In the abdomen, the heavenly or male energy from the head centres interacts or copulates with the female earth energy of the sexual and base centres.

The ultimate goal of Taoist energy cultivation is the formation of an immortal body.

This is not a physical body but a higher energy body, a light-body. In the same way as in esoteric Buddhist practice, this is achieved by combining male and female sexual energies so that the practitioner becomes androgynic.

This takes place initially in the area behind the navel where the converted sex energy has been accumulated by practising the microcosmic orbit or an equivalent method.

Our major male-female poles are at the top and the bottom of the spine. This is like an energy axis between two spinning vortices with a secondary male-female split between the right and left side of our body. The internal alchemy or inner copulation of these poles then creates the "divine child" or immortal light-body. To be successful, we need not only a strong sexual pole but also a strong crown or heavenly pole formed by regular meditation and a spiritual attitude.

Lao Tzu explained the immortal light-body thus: "It is self-aware yet without ego, capable of inhabiting a biological body yet not attached to it, and guided by wisdom rather than emotion. Whole and virtuous, it can never die."<sup>10</sup>

However, Edgar Cayce warned that if you raise the kundalini before you can control your sexual energy, it simply inflames your sexual desire and causes problems on your spiritual path. As general advice, this means practise Karezza or the microcosmic orbit until you can use your sexual energy without being confronted by uncontrollable desires.

### The Sacrament of the Bridal Chamber

A similar picture emerges from the Gnostic Gospels. Apparently these Gospels, ascribed to the disciples of Jesus, have been rejected by the official Christian Churches because they imply that Jesus had secret teachings for his disciples.

Western Christianity is based on the doctrines of Paul who did not know Jesus personally and therefore did not receive

these teachings. Most great spiritual teachers reserved advanced teachings for those who could understand them.

So we read in the Gospel of Thomas (22): "When you make the two into one, and when you make the inner like the outer and the outer like the inner, and the upper like the lower, and when you make male and female into a single one, so that the male will not be male nor the female be female ... then you will enter [the kingdom]." This basically says that we must become androgynic to enter the kingdom of heaven. There is no chance that the general public would have understood this.

Also consider the following (114): "Simon Peter said to him, 'Let Mary leave us, for women are not worthy of [eternal] life.' Jesus said, 'I myself shall lead her in order to make her male, so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every woman who will make herself male will enter the kingdom of heaven.'" This, too, refers to androgyny. The means to achieve this is the Sacrament of the Bridal Chamber. It is alluded to in various Gnostic Gospels. Jesus taught several sacraments, and the Gospel of Philip states that these were the holy baptism, the holier atonement and the "holy of the holies", the sacrament of the bridal chamber, in which participants "put

on the Light" or "Chrism" and return to Oneness. Androgyny is also a central part of other religions, where deities in Taoist, Hindu and Buddhist art are often shown as part male and part female.

There are no direct descriptions of the sacrament of the bridal chamber, but it is clothed in sexual symbology and seems to have been practised as a sacred male-female union without orgasm, also described as pure embrace or undefiled intercourse. Possibly both methods were used as in Tao and tantra kundalini practices. Dual cultivation appears to be by far

easier for equalising male and female energies. However, there is also the following description of it which may indicate single cultivation:

Epiphanius mentions a Gnostic writing called "The Great Questions of Mary", where Jesus gave Mary Magdalene a revelation on a mountain. According to this, Jesus produced forth a woman from his side, akin to the generation of Eve in the Garden of Eden in Genesis. Jesus had sex with her, and then consumed his own semen (see <http://www.novusordoseclorum-oai.org/documents/magdalene.htm>). This description is interesting as not only the mythical Eve was created in this way from the androgenous Adam and together they populated the world, but also in Hindu mythology Shiva produced his consort in the same way and they then copulated to produce the world. All of these describe a male-female split of the divine androgyne, and the sexual union of both parts then produced an immortal light-body, the human race or the world.

It is clear that descriptions of secret teachings such as the above are disguised so that only the initiated understand the true meaning. From what we know now, we may assume that Jesus demonstrated to Mary how to focus sexual energy into a male and female energy pole, and then unite these polarised energies to create a higher energy body.

**It is clear that descriptions of secret teachings such as the above are disguised so that only the initiated understand the true meaning.**

**Continued on page 79**



# MELTING THE MYSTERY OF THE GREAT ICE AGE

***Research into  
glaciation began in  
the mid-19th  
century, but  
scientists are still  
uncertain about  
why ice ages occur  
or when the next  
glaciation period  
will emerge.***

**by Edward F. Malkowski  
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## **Walls of Snow and Ice**

**T**hose of us who live in the Midwest United States seem to have the worst of both worlds: hot, humid summers where the temperature often reaches 95 degrees Fahrenheit, and cold winters where the mercury can plummet to zero. Despite these seemingly unbearable extremes, we live in a land of plenty because of the most fertile soil in the world—courtesy of the Great Ice Age.

According to scientists, over the course of the last two million years at least four (possibly six) periods of glaciation ploughed out an assortment of rock from Canada, moved it south in a 100-foot-high floe of ice and snow, pulverised it against bedrock and deposited it on the Midwest plain. The ice sheet produced large quantities of gravel, sand and silt. A mixture of these materials, called *till*, forms much of the soil in the Ohio and Upper Mississippi river valleys. Remnants of these vast sheets of ice can still be seen today in the form of numerous lakes that pepper the northern regions of the Midwest. Retreating glaciers left large depressions in the Earth's crust which filled with melt-water, the most magnificent of which are the Great Lakes. Other larger lakes, such as Winnipeg, Reindeer, Athabasca, Great Slave and Great Bear in Canada, existed at one time but have since drained off and disappeared.<sup>1</sup>

Glaciers reached as far south as the current locations of the Ohio and Missouri rivers, although the Wisconsin ice sheet, the most recent glacier, stopped midway across the extent of Illinois about 18,000 years ago and began to retreat some time between then and 16,000 years ago. Local legend has it that the glacier stopped 20 miles north of Springfield, the state capital. There is a grand mound there named Elkhart Hill, more than a mile in circumference. According to *History of Logan County, Illinois*, Elkhart Hill is "the most conspicuous physical feature that adorns the landscape of Logan County ... with virgin timber on its summit and every side, it entrances the vision of the passerby as it towers above" the surrounding landscape.<sup>2</sup>

Glacial advances and retreats also had dramatic effects upon areas south of the glaciers. An advance in the ice sheet in the northern hemisphere 30,000 years ago caused sea levels to fall approximately 425 feet. With so much water diverted from the natural cycle to form the ice, the flat continental shelves were exposed as dry land. This caused the same effect as raising the land, which caused rivers to erode deeply into the valleys—in the Lower Mississippi, Tombigbee-Alabama and Red river systems, for example. As the Wisconsin ice sheet began to melt, these valleys were filled with sediment carried by melt-water in swollen rivers. Most of the water south of the glaciers flowed into the Upper Mississippi, Ohio and Missouri river basins. Sediment-loaded water spilled into the Lower Mississippi River, forming a huge flood plain that stretched over 500 miles long and 200 miles wide.

At the leading edge of the glaciers, ice cliffs were up to 200 feet high, with cold dry winds sweeping down from their frozen crowns. The harshest of climatic conditions occurred in this zone next to the ice. Cold temperatures and strong winds created an Arctic-like desert, a wasteland littered with rock debris and fine sediment. Strong winds gathered this sediment from the glaciers and deposited it in sometimes thick, extensive layers called *loess*. These deposits cover much of the Midwest and extend south into Louisiana and Mississippi. Loess deposits form many of the present-day bluffs along the Lower Mississippi River and are the source of the Midwest's rich farmland that we enjoy today.

As the ice sheet slowly spread south over the North American continent, it pushed the sub-Arctic and temperate zones further south. Adjacent to the ice was a land of tundra, followed by a zone of shrub tundra, and then there were scrub birch forests, boreal forests (coniferous trees such as spruce, fir and pine) and finally, further south, deciduous forests.

Eighteen thousand years ago, when the last glaciers were at their maximum southern extent in North America, the Gulf Coast was also colder and drier. Annual rainfall in southern Louisiana and Mississippi was as much as 40 inches lower than it is today. Boreal forests extended as far south as northern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Sparse forests of northern pine likely covered the north central Gulf Coast. Oak and hickory forests grew in the river bottoms. Florida was drier and its average annual temperature was as much as 10°F cooler and was covered with sparse, scrubby vegetation, sand dunes and open grasslands. Tall grass prairie, with pine and aspen growing in the river bottoms, adorned central Texas. West Texas was likely a prairie covered with short grass.

It is a geologic fact that ice has had a great impact on North America, besides the geological evidence of moraines (mounds of glacial debris), kettle lakes, gouged bedrock and erratically placed boulders. Greenland and Antarctic ice core samples have demonstrated that levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) have fluctuated over millions of years. Lower levels of CO<sub>2</sub> depict cooler periods in the Earth's history, but it is unclear whether these lower levels were the cause or the effect.

A great amount of scientific research has been applied to the study of ice and ice ages and much knowledge has been gained, but why the ice ages occurred is just as much a mystery now as it was when Joseph Adhémar published the first detailed ice age theory in his 1842 book *Révolutions de la mer: déluges périodiques* ("Revolutions of the sea: periodic floods").

### Discovering the Great Ice Age

As early as 1787, Bernard Kuhn believed that erratically positioned boulders in the Swiss Jura were the result of ancient glaciation. After Scottish geologist James Hutton visited the Jura seven years later, he arrived at the same conclusion. However, until the first half of the 19th century, the prevailing model to explain the observable geologic evidence was that it was a result of the biblical Great Flood. German-born geologist Jean de Charpentier was captivated by these boulders and moraines, and during the 1830s he formed

the first theory of glaciation. In 1841, his theory was published as *Essai sur les glaciers* ("Test on the glaciers"); it was the first detailed, scientific case for glaciation.

Louis Agassiz, who was also converted to the glacier explanation for these geologic curiosities, forged ahead and integrated all these geologic facts to formulate a theory that a Great Ice Age had once gripped the Earth. It was published in his 1840 book *Études sur les glaciers* ("Studies on the glaciers"). In *Système glaciaire* ("Glacial system"), published in 1847, he presented further evidence gathered from all over Europe that supported his theory. In 1846, Agassiz travelled to America, where he discovered even more evidence of glaciation. In 1848, he accepted a position at Harvard.

By 1870, the theory that there were ancient periods of extensive ice was generally accepted by the scientific community.

### The Earth's Orbit and Wobble

With a scientific consensus that the Great Ice Age existed, the quest was on to find what caused it. The first theory, introduced by Joseph Adhémar, was based on the Earth's axis tilting back and forth over a 22,000-year period, commonly referred to as the precession of the equinoxes (25,800 years is considered the most accurate number today).

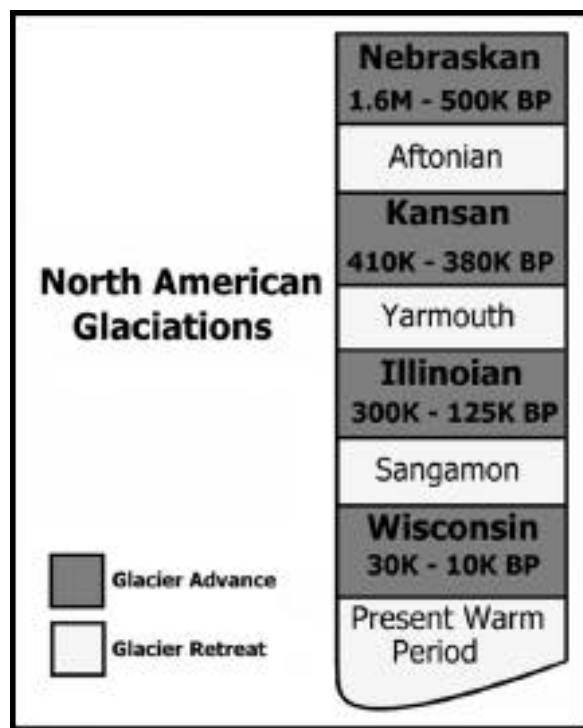
As time passes, the constellations slowly change on a specific date (typically measured at the vernal equinox), moving backwards through the zodiac. Today, the Sun rises in the constellation of Pisces at the spring equinox. For 2,000 years before that, it rose in Aries. For the next two thousand years, beginning around 2070, it will rise in Aquarius.

This tilt of the Earth's axis is called the *plane of obliquity* and it extends outward to form a great circle in the celestial plane, known as the *ecliptic*. This angle is called the *obliquity of the ecliptic* and the present inclination is at 23.5 degrees to the vertical, but it varies from 24.5 to 22.1 degrees. As we know, this angle of the Earth's axis defines the seasons in temperate climates. According to Adhémar's theory, whichever hemisphere had a

longer winter would experience an ice age. Thus, every 11,000 years an ice age would occur alternately in one hemisphere and then in the other.

James Croll, a self-taught scholar and one-time janitor at the Andersonian College and Museum in Scotland, objected to Adhémar's theory. He concluded that the most plausible driving force behind climate change were variations in solar radiation striking the Earth, called *insolation*, as a result of

**James Croll concluded that the most plausible driving force behind climate change were variations in solar radiation striking the Earth.**



the Earth's path of orbit, which is elliptical and can vary up to five per cent over time. This eccentricity affects the amount of solar radiation that strikes the Earth's surface at aphelion (our farthest point from the Sun) and at perihelion (our nearest point to the Sun).

According to Croll's theory, a decrease in the amount of solar radiation during the winter favours the accumulation of snow, but this will result in additional loss of heat by the reflection of sunlight back into space.

If winter occurs when the Earth is close to the Sun, temperatures will be naturally warmer than usual; but if winter occurs when the Sun is further away, temperatures will be colder than usual. Therefore, if the polar area of a hemisphere becomes colder, trade winds will be stronger in that hemisphere and warm equatorial ocean currents will shift towards the opposite hemisphere, further augmenting the heat loss. If the Earth's orbit were circular, the slow wobble would have no effect at all on climate. Each season would occur at the same distance from the Sun. However, since insolation in the northern hemisphere is out of phase with that of the southern hemisphere, Croll believed that the ice ages would alternate from the northern to the southern hemisphere.

Although the alternating ice ages theory was proved to be wrong, Croll's ideas laid the foundation for ice age causality. He was the first to recognise the importance of ocean currents, solar radiation and the eccentricity of the Earth's orbit in building an explanatory model. In 1876, Croll was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of London.

Early in the 20th century Milutin Milankovitch, a professor of physics, mathematics and astronomy at the University of Belgrade, revived Croll's insolation theory and set out on the task of detailing insolation based on Ludwig Pilgrim's latest calculations of the Earth's orbit.

He showed that the insolation was dominated by a 23,000-year cycle and concluded that ice ages would be most intense when the solar radiation dropped below a certain threshold. Since the insolation curve has an approximate 100,000-year cycle, he believed that such a cycle might be seen in the ice ages. He also had the insight to put forward the idea that the northern hemisphere would dominate because it contained two-thirds of the Earth's land mass. Driven by the amount of solar radiation in the north, the ice ages in both the hemispheres would be synchronised.

Milankovitch's insolation theory was abandoned when age estimates, made possible by radiocarbon dating, showed that the timing of his ice ages calculations was incorrect. However, isotope studies in sea-floor sediments during the 1960s and 1970s, which focused on changes in the Earth's climate, revived his theory.

Deep-sea sediments containing the shells of small plankton-like organisms, called *foraminifers*, hold a history of climate change.

When alive, these organisms fix themselves to two types of oxygen atoms: the abundant and more common oxygen-16 isotope, and oxygen-18. Oxygen-18, the heavier isotope, is enriched in ocean water; the lighter atom is found in higher concentrations in snow and ice. Whenever water is extracted from the ocean to make more ice, the calling card is left in the oxygen. This enrichment, from oxygen-16 to oxygen-18, is seen in the carbonate shells of the foraminifers (made of  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ). The carbonate precipitates from sea water, so the oxygen that builds the carbonate crystals reflects the composition of the sea water.

By analysing oxygen isotopes in foraminifers, scientists can determine when the Earth produced more glaciers and the time periods when ice ages occurred. In sea-floor sediments, evidence for 100,000-year as well as 41,000-year and 23,000-year cycles in climate has been discovered. But there are still unresolved questions.

In glacial data, the 100,000-year cycle seems to dominate, with the 41,000-year cycle weaker and the 23,000-year weakest of all. However, in insolation theory, it is the reverse: the 23,000-year cycle dominates and the weakest appears to be the 100,000-year cycle.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Himalayan Uplift and the Global Climate**

One of the more recent theories to explain ice ages links changes in global climate to one of the Earth's most impressive geological features: the Himalayas. According to the theory proposed in 1988 by Maureen Raymo, an Earth sciences research professor at Boston University, as the Himalayas grew, a massive amount of rock was exposed to the elements. Monsoon rains soaked the land, and the face of the exposed rock eroded.

This process of chemical weathering extracted so much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere that global temperatures dropped, thus

triggering an ice age.<sup>4</sup> To show that this was the case, Raymo turned to the study of sea-floor sediments and strontium.

There are several types (isotopes) of strontium, each with a different atomic mass. Strontium-87, a heavier variety, is washed into the sea by the chemical weathering of rock. The lighter variety, strontium-86, is released by the spreading seafloor and comes from deep inside the Earth. By comparing the amounts of the isotopes in different layers, Raymo believed that she would learn which process was more active at any point in time. Thirty-five million years ago, strontium-87 increased dramatically, coinciding with the Himalayan uplift.

With the strontium evidence, Maureen Raymo thinks she has solved the ice ages mystery. First, the uplift of the Tibetan region intensified the Indian monsoon. Then the monsoon rains eroded the mountains, stripping carbon dioxide from the air. Finally, with less carbon dioxide, the atmosphere gradually cooled.

**In sea-floor sediments, evidence for 100,000-year as well as 41,000-year and 23,000-year cycles in climate has been discovered. But there are still unresolved questions.**

## Ocean Currents and a New Ice Age

Although distinct ocean currents have been known about for some time, scientists have recently determined that ocean currents play a crucial role in climate and weather. New research has shown that shallow, warm-water currents from the Pacific flow westwards, around Africa, and then northwards along the African and European coasts.<sup>5</sup> The flow of these waters keeps Europe balmy in contrast to its counterpart, Labrador, across the Atlantic. It provides Western Europe with a third as much warmth as the Sun does, and is part of a global oceanic system that maintains the climatic *status quo*.

In the North Atlantic, the Gulf Stream carries heat in the form of warm water to the north and east. And as it moves north, it evaporates and transfers its heat to the coastal areas. The warm water becomes saltier with evaporation, and when it reaches the latitude of Iceland its density reaches a point that it sinks to the bottom. Then it becomes part of the cold-water return cycle and flows southwards in the Atlantic towards Antarctica, around Africa and back to the Pacific via Australia. If by some way the warm waters ceased, Europe would enter a mini ice age. Recent studies suggest that this is a possibility and that the present conveyor belt in the North Atlantic is unpredictable.<sup>6</sup> Since the end of the last ice age, the Arctic icecap has continued to melt, allowing fresh water into the North Atlantic. If too much fresh water enters the ocean (thereby diluting its salt content and keeping it less dense), it will not sink and join the return currents at the bottom; it will remain where it is, blocking the warm currents from entering and thus altering the climate of Europe.

The cold, salty water that flows from the South Atlantic and eastwards near the Antarctic coast sinks into the depths, thereby boosting its push to the interconnected system of ocean currents. According to Wallace Broecker of Columbia University, New York, Antarctic surface waters are sinking at only a third of the rate they were a hundred years ago. If this is correct, the slowdown in the Antarctic deep current will make the Antarctic region colder and the Gulf Stream warmer. The present global warming trend began during the 1880s and received a boost during the 1970s from man. Broecker believes that this warming is man-made and is fighting against a natural cooling trend.<sup>7</sup>

## The Visiting Comet

Donald Patten proposes a completely different theory as to the cause of the ice age—one that involves a catastrophe of global proportions. Although his idea seems to be as much

theologically driven as scientific, he puts forth a well-researched and plausible explanation of the effects that a comet "near miss" would have on the Earth's climate.<sup>8</sup> He also discusses motives and beliefs—almost a creationist's rebuttal to geologic uniformitarianism—and provides a history of scientists and writers espousing a catastrophic approach to Earth geology. Since the 1920s, George McCready Price, Byron C. Nelson, Alfred M. Rehwinkel, Henry Morris, Charles Hapgood, Ivan T. Sanderson, Immanuel Velikovsky and Dolph E. Hooker, among others,

have carried the banner of a sudden catastrophic approach to explaining ice ages.

The phenomenon that provides Patten and others with some punch to their proposition is the bizarre evidence of the frozen mammoths, which is still a mystery today. Although mammoths are not the sole animals that have been found frozen (rhinoceroses, sheep, horses, oxen, lions, tigers and bison have also been found), as an extinct species they have been at the forefront of scientific research. Their remains,

sometimes whole, have been found in Siberia and Alaska by the tens of thousands and have provided the world with an ongoing supply of ivory.

Russia has a 2,000-year-old tradition of providing ivory from Siberian islands. Between 1880 and 1900, nearly 20,000

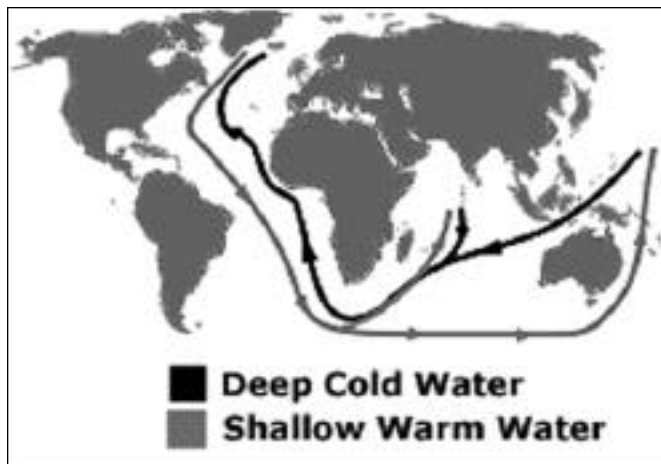
tusks were taken from a single island. It is estimated that there may be up to three million mammoths still buried in Siberia.<sup>9</sup> According to a *National Geographic* article, experts estimate that there are 600,000 tons of ivory still available for recovery.<sup>10</sup> A sudden calamity, such as an asteroid impact or a comet near miss, fares well in explaining the deaths of millions of animals. Its precedent is seen in the greatest extinction of all at the end of the Cretaceous period,

when a giant asteroid impact resulted in the extinction of dinosaurs.

In his comet near-miss theory, Patten also explains the formation of mountain ranges and why they are distributed in an arc across the continents. When this icy visitor came too close to Earth, it became trapped in orbit for a period of nine months, circling as another moon. On two occasions when it came quite close, its gravitational pull exerted extreme force not only on the oceans, creating giant tidal waves, but also on the Earth's molten core. Magma in the core reacted in much the same way as the oceans do to a gravitational force. As a result, with each close pass of the comet, a wave of molten rock was pulled upwards, forcing the Earth's crust upwards.

As this comet danced in Earth's orbit, ice that had broken away from its mass was deposited in vast quantities through electromagnetic deflection. [Note: the "dirty snowball"

**Donald Patten proposes a completely different theory as to the cause of the ice age—one that involves a catastrophe of global proportions.**



theory is being challenged by the plasma comet theory. Ed.] According to Patten's theory, six million cubic miles of ice was dumped on the northern and southern hemispheres each—ice with a temperature of  $-150^{\circ}\text{F}$ . At the centre nodes, the ice would have been three miles thick and feathering out at the edges. The ice appeared suddenly, not over a long period of time. Only this, according to the theory, accounts for the sudden freezing of millions of animals.

Patten also argues that the shape of the ice sheets fits the comet near-miss theory. The continent-sized glaciers of the last glacial period were thickest at the centre. From today's climate in Antarctica, we know that very little snow falls at the centre of the continent due to the cold dry air's inability to retain moisture. It is a desert wasteland of rock and gravel. On the edges, however, there is substantial snowfall because of the convergence of warm, moist air with cold air. If snow were to be the primary factor in creating the ice of the ice age, then its accumulation would be thicker at the periphery and not at the centre.

### The Wandering Poles

One of the most intriguing human elements of the wandering pole theory of history professor Charles Hapgood is that Albert Einstein believed researching the subject was desirable and that it "would not be justified to discard the idea *a priori* as adventurous".<sup>11</sup> Einstein's letter to Charles Hapgood, dated November 24, 1952, is published in Hapgood's book *The Path of the Pole*:

"I frequently receive communications from people who wish to consult me concerning their unpublished ideas. It goes without saying that these ideas are very seldom possessed of scientific validity. The very first communication, however, that I received from Mr. Hapgood electrified me. His idea is original, of great simplicity, and—if it continues to prove itself—of great importance to everything that is related to the history of the earth's surface."<sup>12</sup>

Hapgood began his research into the wandering poles as a result of his interest in geography and ancient maps, which led to his re-discovery of the Piri Reis map, a hand-drawn Turkish naval map that had been gathering dust since the 16th century. According to its sources, the map was drawn a few years after Columbus launched his first voyage to the Americas. Admiral Piri Reis, the map's cartographer, noted that his world map was derived from very old reference maps. Upon close inspection, Hapgood noticed evidence of spherical trigonometry in the map's layout and a detailed knowledge of global geography that included the coastline of Antarctica at some remote time when it was free of ice. The map was accurate at a time when no one should have known the coastal areas of Antarctica. This prompted Hapgood to search for an explanation that eventually led to his controversial theory.

According to Hapgood's theory of wandering poles, every

20,000 to 30,000 years the Earth's continental plates move rapidly as a single unit over great distances. This phenomenon, known as continental drift, occurs today but at a much slower rate. His theory stipulates that if conditions arise that create an imbalance in the Earth's gyroscopic rotation, the Earth's plates will move in such a manner as to return the Earth to a balanced spin.<sup>13</sup>

Geologic evidence suggesting that the poles may have been in different positions during the Pleistocene is impressive. Using geomagnetic and carbon dating evidence, Hapgood identifies the locations of four previous poles and maps out their transitional paths. By around 11,600 years ago, towards the end of the Pleistocene, the North Pole moved to its current position in the Arctic Ocean; by 50,000 years ago it was in Hudson Bay; by 75,000 years ago it was in the Greenland Sea; and by 120,000 years ago the pole was in the Yukon Territory of Canada.<sup>14</sup>

How this movement can occur is easily explained by the Earth's composition. We live on the crust, the outer surface, which is comprised of six main continental plates and a few smaller ones. The inner core consists of solid iron, which is surrounded by an outer core of liquid iron. Surrounding the core is the mantle, composed of molten rock (lower mantle) and solid rock (upper mantle). The upper mantle and crust are loosely connected and able to slide against each other, the least effect of which is continental drift. Theoretically, each layer is capable of movement independent of other layers. According to Hapgood, the top two layers can slide, if certain forces are applied, while the core, axis and orbit of the planet remain unchanged. The difficult part is: what force causes the slippage?

In Hapgood's opinion, the centrifugal momentum of icecaps, eccentric to the poles, provides this force. The weight of the ice on the poles creates an imbalance in the Earth's rotation. Eventually this

builds to a point where a change is required to correct the imbalance. Hapgood realised that the entire planet did not need to be repositioned around its axis to maintain its balance. Only the outer crust needed to move, just as the loose skin of a peeled orange can slide around the inner fruit. He envisioned a catastrophic and dramatic move of the entire crust that allowed the polar ice caps to melt in a new, warmer climate. Ice would then begin to build at the new poles, awaiting the next shift. The crust's rapid movement, of course, would create environmental mayhem. If the current level of seismic and volcanic activity were a result of plates shifting between one and four centimetres per year, a much faster rate of change would likely be apocalyptic.

Whatever way the poles shifted, regional climates everywhere would change dramatically. The displaced polar ice would melt, causing incredible floods. The new polar areas would freeze in a relatively short amount of time, almost instantly killing life that was accustomed to a warmer climate. Areas of climatic convergence would shift; deserts

**Geologic evidence suggesting that the poles may have been in different positions during the Pleistocene is impressive.**

would receive rain while rainforests would become deserts. Plant and animal life would need to adapt to the new conditions or become extinct. The evidence suggests as much.

Frozen deposits of soil, rock, plant and animal remains, commonly known as *muck*, exist in Alaska. Professor Frank Hibben of the University of New Mexico explains: "In many places, Alaskan muck is packed with animal bones and debris in trainload lots. Bones of mammoths, mastodons, several kind of bison, horses, wolves, bears and lions tell a story of a faunal population ... within this frozen mass lie the twisted parts of animals and trees intermingled with lenses of ice and layers of peat and mosses. It looks as though in the midst of some cataclysmic catastrophe of ten thousand years ago the whole Alaskan world of living animals and plants was suddenly frozen in mid-motion like a grim charade ... twisted and torn trees are piled in splintered masses ... at least four considerable layers of volcanic ash may be traced in these deposits, although they are extremely warped and distorted."<sup>15</sup>

In southern California's La Brea tar pits, more than 565 species of animals were fossilised in the sticky tar (asphalt) some 10,000 years ago. During the first excavation in 1906, scientists found a bone bed that contained over 700 sabre-toothed tiger skulls. Combined with wolf skulls, they averaged 20 per cubic yard.<sup>16</sup> There existed more bones than tar and were discovered "broken, mashed, contorted and mixed in a most heterogeneous mass",<sup>17</sup> nearly identical to the muck of Alaska. One hundred thousand fossilised birds were also recovered representing over 138 species, 19 of which are extinct.

During the same period of time, mammoths were being killed in a similar fashion. John Massey Stewart, writing in the *Smithsonian*, estimated that more than 500,000 tons of mammoth tusks were buried along Siberia's Arctic coastline.<sup>18</sup> Several dozen frozen mammoth carcasses have been found with the flesh still intact, such as the Jarkov mammoth.<sup>19</sup> They died suddenly, and found in their stomachs was undigested plant matter that included grass, bluebells, wild beans and buttercups. Scientists have concluded that some of the mammoths died of asphyxiation, but in general the cause of death has not been determined.

A shift of the North Pole from Hudson Bay to its current position in the Arctic Ocean would explain the mysterious extinctions and mass burials that occurred at the end of the Pleistocene. During the time of the Hudson Bay pole, the northern Siberian coastline would have had the same latitude as Japan does today, far outside the Arctic Circle. But when the poles shifted, the climate would have rapidly changed within a matter of days from a summer savannah where

mammoths grazed to a frozen wasteland. In his theory, Hapgood also explains the mountain-building forces as a function of gravity. Although the forces that build a mountain are obviously complex, the principles are simple to explain. As an area of land moves towards the pole, because the radii and circumference of the Earth become shorter there is less surface area in which to move. (The Arctic Circle and equatorial circumferences differ by 13 miles.)

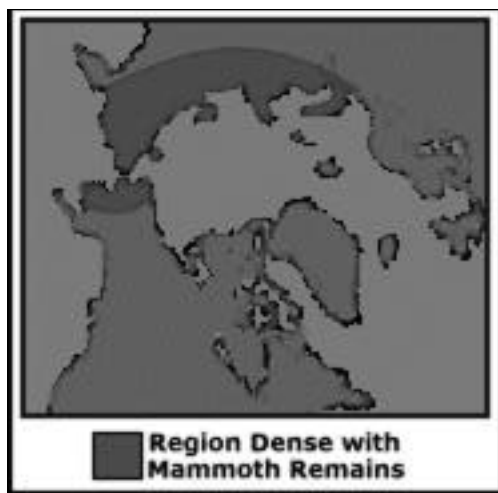
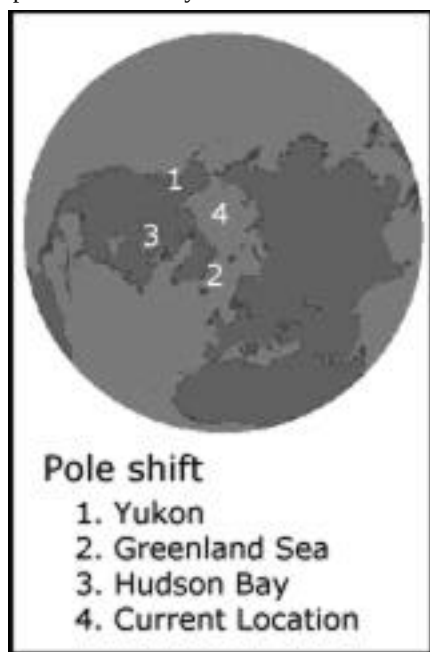
A surplus of surface exists, and this, being pulled down by gravity, must fold. Mountains are not being pushed up, but the surface is being pulled down nearer to the Earth's core. The force of gravity over a large area folds the surface in a small area to accommodate its new position on the globe. In the opposite direction, as land moves away from the pole, it must expand. Major parallel faults will occur with minor faults at right angles. Where these faults occur, molten rock from below fills up the crevasse. According to Hapgood, the movements of land to and away from the equator over millions of years have produced the mountain ranges we admire today.<sup>20</sup>

### The Galactic Superwave

Still another, more recent, theory explains that the global warming at the end of the last ice age was a result of a cosmic phenomenon known as a *galactic superwave*, proposed by physicist Dr Paul LaViolette. According to LaViolette, every 13,000 to 26,000 years the galaxy's core (the bulge where there exists an immense number of stars) emits intense cosmic radiation.<sup>21</sup> This radiation, composed of high-energy electrons and electromagnetic radiation (from radio waves to X-rays and gamma rays), sails out from the core of the galaxy in a "superwave" travelling near the speed of light. When the superwave finally reaches our solar system, some 28,000 light years from the galactic core, it alters the behaviour of the Sun.

Our solar system is shrouded in cosmic dust and debris, known as the Oort cloud. According to LaViolette's theory, when the superwave passes through this cloud it brings with it a large amount of dust, and when the dust reaches the Sun it serves as fuel for the Sun's furnace. As a result, solar flare activity increases and the

Sun's corona and photosphere increase in size—with drastic climatic effects for Earth. The increased solar activity would cause a sudden period of warming for the Earth's climate. Furthermore, cosmic particles that entered the Earth's atmosphere would be captured by the Earth's magnetic field and form radiation belts in the upper atmosphere. In a single day, the energy injected into the Earth's atmosphere would be equivalent to a billion-ton hydrogen bomb. These climatic effects would last for several thousand years.



According to LaViolette, such a superwave was responsible for the drastic climatic changes our planet experienced between 15,300 and 14,150 years ago<sup>22</sup> that ultimately ended the ice age and caused the extinction of numerous species. He also believes that the evidence suggests that two particularly intense solar flares occurred about 12,840 years ago and 12,730 years ago,<sup>23</sup> producing large coronal mass ejections that overtook the Earth. LaViolette believes that the sudden super-warming was responsible for initiating rapid glacial melting and continental flooding.

### A Permanent Ice Age or No Ice Age At All?

The various hypotheses explaining the Great Ice Age appear as a grab-bag of theoretical "pick and choose". Each is backed by scientific evidence and has its own aficionados. Each tells a story of the Earth's past and all fall into one of two general categories: those who postulate slow, gradual, climatic change, and those who describe a sudden catastrophic beginning to the ice age. However, Hapgood in his pole shift theory implies that the ice age never existed. But that is a matter of perception, geographically speaking, as there is always an existing ice age near the poles. North America was located close to the Arctic Circle and was naturally covered in ice because of its position, as were the various poles before it (and as is our current north pole). With the exception of mountain formation, the mechanics of pole shift are essentially the same as slow continental drift, only it occurs during a much smaller period of time. This, of course, has made Hapgood's theory controversial.

Regardless of whether the ice age was a natural phenomenon or the result of an interstellar visitor, the climate drastically altered life for those that were alive. It is a known geologic fact that at the end of the last ice age, c. 10,000 BC, many North American species became extinct, including the mammoth, camel, horse, ground sloth, peccary (a pig-like hoofed mammal), antelope, American elephant, rhinoceros, giant armadillo, tapir, sabre-toothed tiger and giant bison. Whatever caused the ice ages, it also affected the climates of lower latitudes in Central and South America. Those lands also have revealed evidence of mass extinctions. The mechanism that brought these animals to their graves is still a mystery. ∞

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## AN UNKNOWN PLANET ORBITS IN THE OUTER SOLAR SYSTEM

by Julian Kane © 2007

A theory is hereby proposed that an unknown mega-massive planet has, for billions of years, been orbiting at 77.2 AU [astronomical units] from the Sun—within a 44-AU-wide, virtually empty Great Void that surrounds the Kuiper belt (1 AU = 93 million miles, the mean Earth–Sun distance). The Void is postulated to have been formed by the strong gravitational attraction of the unknown planet having removed all CKBOs (classical Kuiper belt objects) that had existed previously in the vicinity of the massive planet's huge orbit.

The Kuiper belt is a doughnut-shaped, 10-AU-wide region surrounding the regular planets that contains possibly trillions of small CKBOs, with some larger than Pluto. CKBOs, which make up approximately 70 per cent of the known KBOs (Kuiper belt objects), orbit the Sun in nearly circular paths that are typically within the ecliptic, the general plane of the solar system. KBOs are primordial planetesimals that had not coalesced to form planets billions of years ago.

Some CKBOs, known as RKBOs (resonant Kuiper belt objects), have been pulled by Neptune's gravity into orbits which resonate with that planet's 165-year orbital period. These comprise about 20 per cent of all KBOs. The SKBOs (scattered Kuiper belt objects) are CKBOs that have been perturbed into highly eccentric, extremely inclined orbits, and they make up roughly 10 per cent of the KBOs within the belt.

A small number of SKBOs apparently are the only objects that remain within the Great Void surrounding the Kuiper belt. They may have been near aphelion and far away enough to have avoided being captured whenever the unknown planet had orbited into a suitable position to acquire them.

No CKBOs are present beyond 50 AU from the Sun. This evidently is the outer edge of the Kuiper belt, which extends

some 10 AU from Pluto's 39.5 AU mean distance—to the belt-end's 50-AU distance from the Sun. Pluto's mean orbital distance appears to separate the closer-in eight regular planets from most of the myriad farther-out KBOs.

Pluto may be either a KBO or an anomalous, presently inexplicable ninth regular planet. Except for a small number of SKBOs, nothing has been found in the Great Void. The Void extends about 44 AU—from the 50-AU end of the Kuiper belt to the 94-AU end of the solar system. The unknown planet is theorised to be orbiting at 77.2 AU, virtually halfway across the Void.

It is postulated as having had sufficient mass, time and gravitational effect during the aeons it has been in orbit to have removed the CKBOs that previously had existed there ever since the solar system first formed. Some scientists postulate a "passing star" to have provided the gravitational influence needed to take out the many CKBOs that had formerly occupied the Void, but a passing star would only have had a single pass and insufficient time during a relatively short period to eliminate all the missing CKBOs.

The 94-AU solar system end, which also is the outer edge of the Great Void, was detected by NASA's *Voyager 1* space probe in December 2004 when it reached the heliosheath, a transitional zone between the solar system and outer space. A sudden increase in magnetic intensity (due to solar wind deceleration) indicated

that *Voyager 1* had left the solar system and had entered the heliosheath, where the solar wind was expected to encounter resistance.

The 77.2-AU distance from the Sun to the proposed unknown planet is derived from a formula and numerical progression conceived by Johann Titius in 1766 and first published by Johann Bode in 1772—after which it became known as Bode's law. It uses a peculiar formula to derive an enigmatic numerical progression that generally matches the AU distances from the Sun of most solar system entities.

The positions of all six planets known in 1766 (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn) were consistent with Bode's law, but the formula was largely ignored because it included a planetary space between Mars and Jupiter where no planet existed.



However, when Sir William Herschel serendipitously located Uranus in 1781 (the first new planet to be discovered in recorded history), it was observed to be close to where Bode's law would have positioned a planet beyond Saturn. Interestingly, Bode also had proposed the name Uranus, which was adopted for Herschel's new planet.

In 1801, Giuseppe Piazzi and others began discovering objects in the asteroid belt and found them to be located between Mars and Jupiter, almost precisely where Bode's law predicted a missing planet. Nonetheless, most astronomers now dismiss Bode's law as a fortuitous coincidence because the total combined mass of all asteroids is too small ever to have been a planet—and because Bode's law has no correlation with Neptune's location.

However, the lack of mass in the asteroid belt may be due to a former terrestrial planet orbiting between Mars and Jupiter having suffered a shattering collision aeons ago—with many of the exploded, irregularly shaped, multi-sized fragments having been distributed throughout its orbit, and with many more fragments having ended up on other planets or in the Sun or in outer space. Also, metallic and "stony" meteorites that were perturbed out of the asteroid belt and which landed on Earth have compositions

that are analogous to our silicate crust and mantle and to our nickel-iron core.

Also, Neptune's not matching any Bode's law projected position could be due to that planet having shifted its original orbit from a different position to its

**Neither Titius nor Bode ever explained how the strange numerical progression was derived.**

present one, as is theorised by many astronomers.

Pluto, discovered in 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh, was found to be approximately at the mean AU distance where Bode's law indicated a planet beyond Uranus.

In addition, the unknown massive planet projected to exist in the Great Void correlates fairly well with the 77.2-AU distance that Bode's law proposes for a planet beyond Pluto.

## Bode's Law Formula

The puzzling Bode's law formula and its

numerical progression are:  $n$  (the Bode law's progression number) plus four divided by 10, where  $n$  equals zero for planet no. 1 (Mercury), three for planet no. 2 (Venus), six for planet no. 3 (Earth), and so on, with  $n$  continuing to double its value for each successive planet thereafter. Although the Bode's law projection for a trans-Uranian planet does not match Neptune's position, it does correlate broadly with Pluto's mean distance from the Sun. Bode's  $n$  value for a planet beyond Uranus is 384 (which is Pluto's  $n$  value). Bode's  $n$  value for a planet beyond Pluto is 768 (which is the unknown planet's  $n$  value). Therefore, 768 plus four divided by 10 equals 77.2—which is the Bode's law projected AU distance for a trans-Plutonian planet.

To best clear the CKBOs out of the 44-AU-wide Great Void, the massive unknown planet should be moving in an orbit approximately halfway across the Void—close to 22 AU beyond the 50-AU end of the Kuiper belt. This would place its mean distance from the Sun at 72 AU—slightly more than one-half an AU different from the Bode's law projection.

The table below compares the Bode's law predicted AU distances with the actual AU distances of the solar system bodies. The correlation is apparent and remarkable.

Why Bode's law works may involve the spacing sequences undergone by the Kant-Laplace nebular rings when they first formed 4.6 billion years ago. Neither Titius nor Bode ever explained how the strange numerical progression was derived. Titius may just have kept trying different sequences until he fortuitously found one that best matched the positions of the planets then known.

The existence of the new unknown planet (which I have named Muriel), cannot be proved until it is located and verified by astronomers. I have given the name Bode to the planet that formerly orbited between Mars and Jupiter until it exploded billions of years ago and broke up into asteroid belt fragments. ∞

[Source: Great Neck Record, Long Island, New York, online edition, 13 April 2007, <http://tinyurl.com/365ymf>. Julian Kane is an Earth scientist and retired professor at Hofstra University, New York, USA; he can be contacted by email at [juliankane@optonline.net](mailto:juliankane@optonline.net).]

| (a)<br>PN* | (b)<br>Planet or Planetary Objects | (c)<br>Bode's $n$ Value, Formula and Progression | (d)<br>Bode's AU Distance | (e)<br>Actual (Mean) AU Distance |
|------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1          | Mercury                            | $0+4/10$                                         | 0.4                       | 0.39                             |
| 2          | Venus                              | $3+4/10$                                         | 0.7                       | 0.72                             |
| 3          | Earth                              | $6+4/10$                                         | 1.0                       | 1.0                              |
| 4          | Mars                               | $12+4/10$                                        | 1.6                       | 1.52                             |
| 5          | Asteroid belt                      | $24+4/10$                                        | 2.8                       | 2.8**                            |
| 6          | Jupiter                            | $48+4/10$                                        | 5.2                       | 5.2                              |
| 7          | Saturn                             | $96+4/10$                                        | 10.0                      | 9.54                             |
| 8          | Uranus                             | $192+4/10$                                       | 19.6                      | 19.18                            |
| 9          | Neptune                            | (no Bode's law) correlation                      |                           | 30.06                            |
| 10         | Pluto                              | $384+4/10^{***}$                                 | 38.8                      | 39.44                            |
| 11         | Unknown planet                     | $768+4/10^{****}$                                | 77.2                      | ?                                |

\* Position number.  
 \*\* Approximate mean actual distance of asteroid belt objects.  
 \*\*\* Pluto's  $n$  value (384) is double that of Uranus (192), since Neptune's distance has no Bode equivalent.  
 \*\*\*\* Unknown Planet Muriel's  $n$  value (768) is double that of Pluto's (384).  
<http://www.antonnews.com/greatneckrecord/2007/04/13/opinion/environmentalrecord.html>

# NEWSCIENCE NEWSCIENCE NEWSCIENCE

## PROJECT ALPHA

by Michael Prescott © 2007

Today a reader, Travis, asked me about *Project Alpha*, the famous episode from the early 1980s in which supersceptic James Randi arranged for two young magicians to infiltrate a parapsychology lab in order to confound the researchers.

Over the years, this strange incident has assumed almost legendary proportions in the minds of some sceptics and reporters, who claim that the researchers were totally fooled.

Here, for instance, is the way the story was told in *Las Vegas Style* magazine [date not given; Ed.], with my comments and corrections in brackets and in bold font.

"By 1979, Banachek [one of the magicians in question, whose real name is Steve Shaw] was starting to draw national attention as a gifted performer in extrasensory perception crafts. That was also the year that McDonnell Douglas Aircraft awarded a \$500,000 grant to Washington University in St Louis for the establishment of the McDonnell Laboratory for Psychical Research. **[Incorrect: the grant was not bestowed by the corporation but by James S. McDonnell as a private gift.]** The lab was supposed to come up with evidence that things like bending a fork with your thoughts was a real thing. If the idea of spending half a million clams on fork-bending seems just a little soft in the head, you're not alone. James Randi was an internationally known magician and an active investigator of paranormal claims when McDonnell Douglas [*sic*] made the grant. He decided to send two young illusionists into the McLab to debunk it. Banachek was one of the illusionists.

"For three years [he] was subjected to every test the pros could come up with to prove he had authentic psychic powers. He bent things, burned things, moved things and knew things. He passed every test with flying colors **[false: see Michael Thalbourne's article; link below]** and at the end of the three-year period the McDonnell Laboratory for Psychical Research proudly announced to the scientific community that they had the real thing in the form of Banachek.

**[False: no such announcement was made.]** OMNI magazine did a spread on Banachek. *Discover* magazine said 'his demonstrations were just phenomenal'. Even the *National Enquirer* called him a '...Prodigy. Nobody like him in his field.'

"Mid bow for the McDonnell folks James Randi drops his bomb that Banachek had been working for him for the past three years and, what's more, everything he did was an illusion. Remember? Illusions are ideas creating misleading appearances. And mislead

**As both Beloff's and Thalbourne's accounts make clear, there is much less to Project Alpha than its cheerleaders would have us believe.**

Banachek did. You know you have a major coup in your pocket when you sting the *National Enquirer*. **[Really?]** The guys at the Laboratory for Psychical [Research] were crushed." **[False: they had already suspected Shaw and his partner of fraud, and had dismissed them both more than a year earlier.]**

I guess *Las Vegas Style* subscribes to the motto, "Print the legend". The actual facts behind this case are thoroughly presented in a paper I found online in PDF (Adobe) form: "Science Versus Showmanship: A History of the Randi Hoax", by Michael A. Thalbourne. Originally I had thought of summarising this article, but there's no need to do so because it speaks for itself. Thalbourne,

who was a participant in some of the events, writes in a straightforward, engaging style and lays out the key facts and timeline in the clearest possible way.

The case is also covered, in less detail, by John Beloff in *Parapsychology: A Concise History* [St Martin's Press, 1993].

As both Beloff's and Thalbourne's accounts make clear, there is much less to *Project Alpha* than its cheerleaders would have us believe. Regardless of what the *National Enquirer* may have said, the researchers never publicly committed themselves to the view that the phenomena they observed were genuine. They remained properly cautious in their published remarks. Indeed, they privately came to the conclusion that the two test subjects were not worth studying any further, and politely terminated the experiments. Even so, Randi had the chutzpah to hold a press conference, claiming that the lab had been successfully duped—a story that is repeated to this day.

To nail down this point, I direct your attention to the appendix that follows the bibliography in Thalbourne's paper, where the published conclusions of the researchers are reproduced. This document is dated September 1, 1981, more than one year before Randi's January 1983 press conference exposing the hoax. Regarding the test subject Mike Edwards (Shaw's partner in trickery), the researchers write:

"The outcome of this research is suggestive of psychokinesis but inconclusive, due to its exploratory nature... However, ordinary explanations exist for these effects, given the conditions under which they have been observed. Thus, although several events of interest have transpired, we do not claim that evidence conclusive of 'psychic ability' has yet been demonstrated in our research [emphasis added]." ∞

[Source: Michael Prescott's Blog, 21 March 2007, [http://michaelprescott.typepad.com/michael\\_prescotts\\_blog/2007/03/project\\_alpha.html](http://michaelprescott.typepad.com/michael_prescotts_blog/2007/03/project_alpha.html); for Michael Thalbourne's paper, see [http://www.ai princ.org/para-c05\\_Thalbourne\\_1995.pdf](http://www.ai princ.org/para-c05_Thalbourne_1995.pdf); the *Las Vegas Style* article is posted at [www.banachek.org/nonflash/Articles/las\\_vegas\\_style\\_magazine.htm](http://www.banachek.org/nonflash/Articles/las_vegas_style_magazine.htm).]



# THE FORGED ORIGINS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

**In the fourth century, the Roman Emperor Constantine united all religious factions under one composite deity, and ordered the compilation of new and old writings into a uniform collection that became the New Testament.**

**by Tony Bushby**  
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## **What the Church doesn't want you to know**

**I**t has often been emphasised that Christianity is unlike any other religion, for it stands or falls by certain events which are alleged to have occurred during a short period of time some 20 centuries ago. Those stories are presented in the New Testament, and as new evidence is revealed it will become clear that they do not represent historical realities. The Church agrees, saying:

"Our documentary sources of knowledge about the origins of Christianity and its earliest development are chiefly the New Testament Scriptures, the authenticity of which we must, to a great extent, take for granted."

(*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. iii, p. 712)

The Church makes extraordinary admissions about its New Testament. For example, when discussing the origin of those writings, "the most distinguished body of academic opinion ever assembled" (*Catholic Encyclopedias*, Preface) admits that the Gospels "do not go back to the first century of the Christian era" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. vi, p. 137, pp. 655-6). This statement conflicts with priesthood assertions that the earliest Gospels were progressively written during the decades following the death of the Gospel Jesus Christ. In a remarkable aside, the Church further admits that "the earliest of the extant manuscripts [of the New Testament], it is true, do not date back beyond the middle of the fourth century AD" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, op. cit., pp. 656-7). That is some 350 years after the time the Church claims that a Jesus Christ walked the sands of Palestine, and here the true story of Christian origins slips into one of the biggest black holes in history. There is, however, a reason why there were no New Testaments until the fourth century: they were not written until then, and here we find evidence of the greatest misrepresentation of all time.

It was British-born Flavius Constantinus (Constantine, originally Custennyn or Custennin) (272-337) who authorised the compilation of the writings now called the New Testament. After the death of his father in 306, Constantine became King of Britain, Gaul and Spain, and then, after a series of victorious battles, Emperor of the Roman Empire. Christian historians give little or no hint of the turmoil of the times and suspend Constantine in the air, free of all human events happening around him. In truth, one of Constantine's main problems was the uncontrollable disorder amongst presbyters and their belief in numerous gods.

The majority of modern-day Christian writers suppress the truth about the development of their religion and conceal Constantine's efforts to curb the disreputable character of the presbyters who are now called "Church Fathers" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. xiv, pp. 370-1). They were "maddened", he said (*Life of Constantine*, attributed to Eusebius Pamphilus of Caesarea, c. 335, vol. iii, p. 171; *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, cited as *N&PNF*, attributed to St Ambrose, Rev. Prof. Roberts, DD, and Principal James Donaldson, LLD, editors, 1891, vol. iv, p. 467). The "peculiar type of oratory" expounded by them was a challenge to a settled religious order (*The Dictionary of Classical Mythology, Religion, Literature and Art*, Oskar Seyffert, Gramercy, New York, 1995, pp. 544-5). Ancient records reveal the true nature of the presbyters, and the low regard in which they were held has been subtly suppressed by modern Church historians. In reality, they were:

"...the most rustic fellows, teaching strange paradoxes. They openly declared that none but the ignorant was fit to hear their discourses ... they never appeared in the circles of the

wiser and better sort, but always took care to intrude themselves among the ignorant and uncultured, rambling around to play tricks at fairs and markets ... they lard their lean books with the fat of old fables ... and still the less do they understand ... and they write nonsense on vellum ... and still be doing, never done."

(*Contra Celsum* ["Against Celsus"], Origen of Alexandria, c. 251, Bk I, p. lxvii, Bk III, p. xliv, passim)

Clusters of presbyters had developed "many gods and many lords" (1 Cor. 8:5) and numerous religious sects existed, each with differing doctrines (Gal. 1:6). Presbyterian groups clashed over attributes of their various gods and "altar was set against altar" in competing for an audience (*Optatus of Milevis*, 1:15, 19, early fourth century). From Constantine's point of view, there were several factions that needed satisfying, and he set out to develop an all-embracing religion during a period of irreverent confusion. In an age of crass ignorance, with nine-tenths of the peoples of Europe illiterate, stabilising religious splinter groups was only one of Constantine's problems. The smooth generalisation, which so many historians are content to repeat, that Constantine "embraced the Christian religion" and subsequently granted "official toleration", is "contrary to historical fact" and should be erased from our literature forever (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Pecci ed., vol. iii, p. 299, passim). Simply put, there was no Christian religion at Constantine's time, and the Church acknowledges that the tale of his "conversion" and "baptism" are "entirely legendary" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. xiv, pp. 370-1).

Constantine "never acquired a solid theological knowledge" and "depended heavily on his advisers in religious questions" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, New Edition, vol. xii, p. 576, passim). According to Eusebius (260-339), Constantine

noted that among the presbyterian factions "strife had grown so serious, vigorous action was necessary to establish a more religious state", but he could not bring about a settlement between rival god factions (*Life of Constantine*, op. cit., pp. 26-8). His advisers warned him that the presbyters' religions were "destitute of foundation" and needed official stabilisation (ibid.).

Constantine saw in this confused system of fragmented dogmas the opportunity to create a new and combined State religion, neutral in concept, and to protect it by law. When he conquered the East in 324 he sent his Spanish religious adviser, Osius of Córdoba, to Alexandria with letters to several bishops exhorting them to make peace among themselves. The mission failed and Constantine, probably at the suggestion of Osius, then issued a decree commanding all presbyters and their subordinates "be mounted on asses, mules and horses belonging to the public, and travel to the city of Nicaea" in the Roman province of Bithynia in Asia Minor. They were instructed to bring with them the *testimonies* they orated to the rabble, "bound in leather" for protection during the long journey, and surrender them to Constantine upon arrival in Nicaea (*The Catholic Dictionary*, Addis and Arnold, 1917, "Council of Nicaea" entry). Their writings totalled "in all, two thousand two hundred and thirty-one scrolls and legendary tales of gods and saviours, together with a record of the doctrines orated by them" (*Life of Constantine*, op. cit., vol. ii, p. 73; *N&PNF*, op. cit., vol. i, p. 518).

## The First Council of Nicaea and the "missing records"

Thus, the first ecclesiastical gathering in history was summoned and is today known as the Council of Nicaea. It was a bizarre event that provided many details of early clerical thinking and presents a clear picture of the intellectual climate prevailing at the time. It was at this gathering that Christianity was born, and the ramifications of decisions made at the time are difficult to calculate. About four years prior to chairing the Council, Constantine had been initiated into the religious order of Sol Invictus, one of the two thriving cults that regarded the Sun as the one and only Supreme God (the other was Mithraism). Because of his Sun worship, he instructed Eusebius to convene the first of three sittings on the summer solstice, 21 June 325 (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, New Edition, vol. i, p. 792), and it was "held in a hall in Osius's palace" (*Ecclesiastical History*, Bishop Louis Dupin, Paris, 1686, vol. i, p. 598). In an account of the proceedings of the conclave of presbyters gathered at Nicaea, Sabinus, Bishop of Hereclea, who was in attendance, said, "Excepting Constantine himself and Eusebius Pamphilus, they were a set of illiterate, simple creatures who understood nothing" (*Secrets of the Christian Fathers*, Bishop J. W. Sergerus, 1685, 1897 reprint).

This is another luminous confession of the ignorance and uncritical credulity of early churchmen. Dr Richard Watson (1737-1816), a disillusioned Christian historian and one-time Bishop of Llandaff in Wales (1782), referred to them as "a set of gibbering idiots" (*An Apology for Christianity*, 1776, 1796 reprint; also, *Theological Tracts*, Dr Richard Watson, "On Councils" entry, vol. 2, London, 1786, revised reprint 1791). From his extensive research into Church councils, Dr Watson concluded that "the clergy at the Council of Nicaea were all under the

**The Church admits that vital elements of the proceedings at Nicaea are "strangely absent from the canons".**

power of the devil, and the convention was composed of the lowest rabble and patronised the vilest abominations" (*An Apology for Christianity*, op. cit.). It was that infantile body of men who were responsible for the commencement of a new religion and the theological creation of Jesus Christ.

The Church admits that vital elements of the proceedings at Nicaea are "strangely absent from the canons" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. iii, p. 160). We shall see shortly what happened to them. However, according to records that endured, Eusebius "occupied the first seat on the right of the emperor and delivered the inaugural address on the emperor's behalf" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. v, pp. 619-620). There were no British presbyters at the council but many Greek delegates. "Seventy Eastern bishops" represented Asiatic factions, and small numbers came from other areas (*Ecclesiastical History*, ibid.). Caecilian of Carthage travelled from Africa, Paphnutius of Thebes from Egypt, Nicasius of Die (Dijon) from Gaul, and Donnus of Stridon made the journey from Pannonia.

It was at that puerile assembly, and with so many cults represented, that a total of 318 "bishops, priests, deacons, subdeacons, acolytes and exorcists" gathered to debate and decide upon a unified belief system that encompassed only one god (*An Apology for Christianity*, op. cit.). By this time, a huge assortment of "wild texts" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, New Edition, "Gospel and Gospels") circulated amongst presbyters and they

supported a great variety of Eastern and Western gods and goddesses: Jove, Jupiter, Salenus, Baal, Thor, Gade, Apollo, Juno, Aries, Taurus, Minerva, Rhets, Mithra, Theo, Fragapatti, Atys, Durga, Indra, Neptune, Vulcan, Kriste, Agni, Croesus, Pelides, Huit, Hermes, Thulis, Thammus, Eguptus, Iao, Aph, Saturn, Gitchens, Minos, Maximo, Hecla and Phernes (*God's Book of Eskra*, anon., ch. xlviii, paragraph 36).

Up until the First Council of Nicaea, the Roman aristocracy primarily worshipped two Greek gods—Apollo and Zeus—but the great bulk of common people idolised either Julius Caesar or Mithras (the Romanised version of the Persian deity Mithra). Caesar was deified by the Roman Senate after his death (15 March 44 BC) and subsequently venerated as "the Divine Julius". The word "Saviour" was affixed to his name, its literal meaning being "one who sows the seed", i.e., he was a phallic god. Julius Caesar was hailed as "God made manifest and universal Saviour of human life", and his successor Augustus was called the "ancestral God and Saviour of the whole human race" (*Man and his Gods*, Homer Smith, Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1952). Emperor Nero (54–68), whose original name was Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus (37–68), was immortalised on his coins as the "Saviour of mankind" (ibid.). The Divine Julius as Roman Saviour and "Father of the Empire" was considered "God" among the Roman rabble for more than 300 years. He was the deity in some Western presbyters' texts, but was not recognised in Eastern or Oriental writings.

Constantine's intention at Nicaea was to create an entirely new god for his empire who would unite all religious factions under one deity. Presbyters were asked to debate and decide who their new god would be. Delegates argued among themselves, expressing personal motives for inclusion of particular writings that promoted the finer traits of their own special deity. Throughout the meeting, howling factions were immersed in heated debates, and the names of 53 gods were tabled for discussion. "As yet, no God had been selected by the council, and so they balloted in order to determine that matter... For one year and five months the balloting lasted..." (*God's Book of Eskra*, Prof. S. L. MacGuire's translation, Salisbury, 1922, chapter xlviii, paragraphs 36, 41).

At the end of that time, Constantine returned to the gathering to discover that the presbyters had not agreed on a new deity but had balloted down to a shortlist of five prospects: Caesar, Krishna, Mithra, Horus and Zeus (*Historia Ecclesiastica*, Eusebius, c. 325). Constantine was the ruling spirit at Nicaea and he ultimately decided upon a new god for them. To involve British factions, he ruled that the name of the great Druid god, Hesus, be joined with the Eastern Saviour-god, Krishna (Krishna is Sanskrit for Christ), and thus Hesus Krishna would be the official name of the new Roman god. A vote was taken and it was with a majority show of hands (161 votes to 157) that both divinities became one God. Following longstanding heathen custom, Constantine used the official gathering and the Roman apotheosis decree to legally deify two deities as one, and did so by democratic consent. A

new god was proclaimed and "officially" ratified by Constantine (*Acta Concilii Nicaeni*, 1618). That purely political act of deification effectively and legally placed Hesus and Krishna among the Roman gods as one individual composite. That abstraction lent Earthly existence to amalgamated doctrines for the Empire's new religion; and because there was no letter "J" in alphabets until around the ninth century, the name subsequently evolved into "Jesus Christ".

### How the Gospels were created

Constantine then instructed Eusebius to organise the compilation of a uniform collection of new writings developed from primary aspects of the religious texts submitted at the council. His instructions were:

"Search ye these books, and whatever is good in them, that retain; but whatsoever is evil, that cast away. What is good in one book, unite ye with that which is good in another book. And whatsoever is thus brought together shall be called *The Book of Books*. And it shall be the doctrine of my people, which I will recommend unto all nations, that there shall be no more war for religions' sake."

(*God's Book of Eskra*, op. cit., chapter xlviii, paragraph 31)

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"Make them to astonish" said Constantine, and "the books were written accordingly" (*Life of Constantine*, vol. iv, pp. 36-39). Eusebius amalgamated the "legendary tales of all the religious doctrines of the world together as one", using the standard god-myths from the presbyters' manuscripts as his exemplars. Merging the supernatural "god" stories of Mithra and Krishna with British Culdean beliefs effectively joined the orations of Eastern and Western presbyters together "to form a new universal belief" (ibid.). Constantine believed that the amalgamated collection of myths would unite variant and opposing religious factions under one representative story. Eusebius then arranged for scribes to produce "fifty sumptuous copies ... to be

written on parchment in a legible manner, and in a convenient portable form, by professional scribes thoroughly accomplished in their art" (ibid.). "These orders," said Eusebius, "were followed by the immediate execution of the work itself ... we sent him [Constantine] magnificently and elaborately bound volumes of three-fold and four-fold forms" (*Life of Constantine*, vol. iv, p. 36). They were the "New Testimonies", and this is the first mention (c. 331) of the New Testament in the historical record.

With his instructions fulfilled, Constantine then decreed that the New Testimonies would thereafter be called the "word of the Roman Saviour God" (*Life of Constantine*, vol. iii, p. 29) and official to all presbyters sermonising in the Roman Empire. He then ordered earlier presbyterial manuscripts and the records of the council "burnt" and declared that "any man found concealing writings should be stricken off from his shoulders" (beheaded) (ibid.). As the record shows, presbyterial writings previous to the Council of Nicaea no longer exist, except for some fragments that have survived.

Some council records also survived, and they provide alarming ramifications for the Church. Some old documents say that the First Council of Nicaea ended in mid-November 326, while others say the struggle to establish a god was so fierce that it extended "for four years and seven months" from its beginning in June 325 (*Secrets of the Christian Fathers*, op. cit.). Regardless of when it ended, the savagery and violence it encompassed were concealed under the glossy title "Great and Holy Synod", assigned to the assembly by the Church in the 18th century. Earlier Churchmen, however, expressed a different opinion.

The Second Council of Nicaea in 786–87 denounced the First Council of Nicaea as "a synod of fools and madmen" and sought to annul "decisions passed by men with troubled brains" (*History of the Christian Church*, H. H. Milman, DD, 1871). If one chooses to read the records of the Second Nicaean Council and notes references to "affrighted bishops" and the "soldieri" needed to "quell proceedings", the "fools and madmen" declaration is surely an example of the pot calling the kettle black.

Constantine died in 337 and his outgrowth of many now-called pagan beliefs into a new religious system brought many converts. Later Church writers made him "the great champion of Christianity" which he gave "legal status as the religion of the Roman Empire" (*Encyclopedia of the Roman Empire*, Matthew Bunson, Facts on File, New York, 1994, p. 86). Historical records reveal this to be incorrect, for it was "self-interest" that led him to create Christianity (*A Smaller Classical Dictionary*, J. M. Dent, London, 1910, p. 161). Yet it wasn't called "Christianity" until the 15th century (*How The Great Pan Died*, Professor Edmond S. Bordeaux [Vatican archivist], Mille Meditations, USA, MCMLXVIII, pp. 45-7).

Over the ensuing centuries, Constantine's New Testimonies were expanded upon, "interpolations" were added and other writings included (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. vi, pp. 135-137; also, Pecci ed., vol. ii, pp. 121-122). For example, in 397 John "golden-mouthed" Chrysostom restructured the writings of Apollonius of Tyana, a first-century wandering sage, and made them part of the New Testimonies (*Secrets of the Christian Fathers*, op. cit.). The Latinised name for Apollonius is Paulus (*A Latin-English Dictionary*, J. T. White and J. E. Riddle, Ginn & Heath, Boston, 1880), and the Church today calls those writings the Epistles of Paul. Apollonius's personal attendant, Damis, an Assyrian scribe, is Demis in the New Testament (2 Tim. 4:10).

The Church hierarchy knows the truth about the origin of its Epistles, for Cardinal Bembo (d. 1547), secretary to Pope Leo X (d. 1521), advised his associate, Cardinal Sadoletto, to disregard them, saying "put away these trifles, for such absurdities do not become a man of dignity; they were introduced on the scene later by a sly voice from heaven" (*Cardinal Bembo: His Letters and Comments on Pope Leo X*, A. L. Collins, London, 1842 reprint).

The Church admits that the Epistles of Paul are forgeries, saying, "Even the genuine Epistles were greatly interpolated to lend weight to the personal views of their authors" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. vii, p. 645). Likewise, St Jerome (d. 420) declared that the Acts of the Apostles, the fifth book of the New Testament, was also "falsely written" ("The Letters of Jerome", *Library of the Fathers*, Oxford Movement, 1833–45, vol. v, p. 445).

## The shock discovery of an ancient Bible

The New Testament subsequently evolved into a fulsome piece of priesthood propaganda, and the Church claimed it recorded the intervention of a divine Jesus Christ into Earthly affairs. However, a spectacular discovery in a remote Egyptian monastery revealed to the world the extent of later falsifications of the Christian texts, themselves only an "assemblage of legendary tales" (*Encyclopédie*, Diderot, 1759). On 4 February 1859, 346 leaves of an ancient codex were discovered in the furnace room at St Catherine's monastery at Mt Sinai, and its contents sent shockwaves through the Christian world. Along with other old codices, it was scheduled to be burned in the kilns to provide winter warmth for the inhabitants of the monastery. Written in Greek on donkey skins, it carried both the Old and New Testaments, and later in time archaeologists dated its composition to around the year 380. It was discovered by Dr Constantin von Tischendorf (1815–1874), a brilliant and pious German biblical scholar, and he called it the Sinaiticus, the Sinai Bible. Tischendorf was a professor of theology who devoted his entire life to the study of New Testament origins, and his desire to read all the ancient Christian texts led him on the long, camel-mounted journey to St Catherine's Monastery.

During his lifetime, Tischendorf had access to other ancient Bibles unavailable to the public, such as the Alexandrian (or Alexandrinus) Bible, believed to be the second oldest Bible in the world. It was so named because in 1627 it was taken from Alexandria to Britain and gifted to King Charles I (1600–49). Today it is displayed alongside the world's oldest known Bible, the Sinaiticus, in the British Library in London. During his research, Tischendorf had access to the Vaticanus, the Vatican Bible, believed to be the third oldest in the

**A shudder of apprehension echoed through Christendom in the last quarter of the 19th century when English-language versions of the Sinai Bible were published.**

world and dated to the mid-sixth century (*The Various Versions of the Bible*, Dr Constantin von Tischendorf, 1874, available in the British Library). It was locked away in the Vatican's inner library. Tischendorf asked if he could extract handwritten notes, but his request was declined. However, when his guard took refreshment breaks, Tischendorf wrote comparative narratives on the palm of his hand and sometimes on his fingernails ("Are Our Gospels Genuine or Not?", Dr Constantin von Tischendorf, lecture, 1869, available in the British Library).

Today, there are several other Bibles written in various languages during the fifth and sixth centuries, examples being the Syriacus, the Cantabrigiensis (Bezae), the Sarravianus and the Marchalianus.

A shudder of apprehension echoed through Christendom in the last quarter of the 19th century when English-language versions of the Sinai Bible were published. Recorded within these pages is information that disputes Christianity's claim of historicity. Christians were provided with irrefutable evidence of wilful falsifications in all modern New Testaments. So different was the Sinai Bible's New Testament from versions then being published that the Church angrily tried to annul the dramatic new evidence that challenged its very existence. In a series of articles published in the *London Quarterly Review* in 1883, John W. Burgon, Dean of Chichester, used every rhetorical device at his disposal to attack the Sinaiticus' earlier and opposing story of Jesus Christ, saying that "...without a particle of hesitation, the Sinaiticus is

scandalously corrupt ... exhibiting the most shamefully mutilated texts which are anywhere to be met with; they have become, by whatever process, the depositories of the largest amount of fabricated readings, ancient blunders and intentional perversions of the truth which are discoverable in any known copies of the word of God". Dean Burgon's concerns mirror opposing aspects of Gospel stories then current, having by now evolved to a new stage through centuries of tampering with the fabric of an already unhistorical document.

### The revelations of ultraviolet light testing

In 1933, the British Museum in London purchased the Sinai Bible from the Soviet government for £100,000, of which £65,000 was gifted by public subscription. Prior to the acquisition, this Bible was displayed in the Imperial Library in St Petersburg, Russia, and "few scholars had set eyes on it" (*The Daily Telegraph and Morning Post*, 11 January 1938, p. 3). When it went on display in 1933 as "the oldest Bible in the world" (ibid.), it became the centre of a pilgrimage unequalled in the history of the British Museum.

Before I summarise its confusions, it should be noted that this old codex is by no means a reliable guide to New Testament study as it contains superabundant errors and serious re-editing. These anomalies were exposed as a result of the months of ultraviolet-light tests carried out at the British Museum in the mid-1930s. The findings revealed replacements of numerous passages by at least nine different editors. Photographs taken during testing revealed that ink pigments had been retained deep in the pores of the skin. The original words were readable under ultraviolet light. Anybody wishing to read the results of the tests should refer to the book written by the researchers who did the analysis: the Keepers of the Department of Manuscripts at the British Museum (*Scribes and Correctors of the Codex Sinaiticus*, H. J. M. Milne and T. C. Skeat, British Museum, London, 1938).

### Forgery in the Gospels

When the New Testament in the Sinai Bible is compared with a modern-day New Testament, a staggering 14,800 editorial alterations can be identified. These amendments can be recognised by a simple comparative exercise that anybody can and should do. Serious study of Christian origins must emanate from the Sinai Bible's version of the New Testament, not modern editions.

Of importance is the fact that the Sinaiticus carries three Gospels since rejected: the Shepherd of Hermas (written by two resurrected ghosts, Charinus and Lenthius), the Missive of Barnabas and the Odes of Solomon. Space excludes elaboration on these bizarre writings and also discussion on dilemmas associated with translation variations.

Modern Bibles are five removes in translation from early editions, and disputes rage between translators over variant interpretations of more than 5,000 ancient words. However, it is what is *not* written in that old Bible that embarrasses the Church, and this article discusses only a few of those omissions. One



This is a section from the Epistle to the Hebrews in the Sinai Bible. Up until the eighth century, scribes copying manuscripts left no spaces between letters, words or sentences, and they bumped individual consonant letters together in a continuous line without vowel letters.

glaring example is subtly revealed in the *Encyclopaedia Biblica* (Adam & Charles Black, London, 1899, vol. iii, p. 3344), where the Church divulges its knowledge about exclusions in old Bibles, saying: "The remark has long ago and often been made that, like Paul, even the earliest Gospels knew nothing of the miraculous birth of our Saviour". That is because there never was a virgin birth.

It is apparent that when Eusebius assembled scribes to write the New Testimonies, he first produced a single document that provided an exemplar or master version. Today it is called the Gospel of Mark, and the Church admits that it was "the first Gospel written" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. vi, p. 657), even though it appears second in the New Testament today. The scribes of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke were dependent upon the Mark writing as the source and framework for the compilation of their works. The Gospel of John is independent of those writings, and the late-15th-century theory that it was written later to support the earlier writings is the truth (*The Crucifixion of Truth*, Tony Bushby, Joshua Books, 2004, pp. 33-40).

Thus, the Gospel of Mark in the Sinai Bible carries the "first" story of Jesus Christ in history, one completely different to what is in modern Bibles. It starts with Jesus "at about the age of thirty" (Mark 1:9), and doesn't know of Mary, a virgin birth or mass murders of baby boys by Herod. Words describing Jesus Christ as "the son of God" do not appear in the opening narrative as they do in today's editions (Mark 1:1), and the modern-day family tree tracing a "messianic bloodline" back to King David is non-existent in all ancient Bibles, as are the now-called "messianic prophecies" (51 in total). The Sinai Bible carries a conflicting version of events surrounding the "raising of Lazarus", and reveals an extraordinary omission that later became the central doctrine of the Christian faith: the resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ and his ascension into Heaven. No supernatural appearance of a resurrected Jesus Christ is recorded in any ancient Gospels of Mark, but a description of over 500 words now appears in modern Bibles (Mark 16:9-20).

Despite a multitude of long-drawn-out self-justifications by Church apologists, there is no unanimity of Christian opinion regarding the non-existence of "resurrection" appearances in ancient Gospel accounts of the story. Not only are those narratives missing in the Sinai Bible, but they are absent in the Alexandrian Bible, the Vatican Bible, the Bezae Bible and an ancient Latin manuscript of Mark, code-named "K" by analysts. They are also lacking in the oldest Armenian version of the New Testament, in sixth-century manuscripts of the Ethiopic version and ninth-century Anglo-Saxon Bibles. However, some 12th-century Gospels have the now-known resurrection verses written within asterisks—marks used by scribes to indicate spurious passages in a literary document.

The Church claims that "the resurrection is the fundamental argument for our Christian belief" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. xii, p. 792), yet no supernatural appearance of a resurrected Jesus Christ is recorded in any of the earliest Gospels of Mark available. A resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ is the *sine qua non* ("without which, nothing") of Christianity (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. xii, p. 792), confirmed by words attributed to Paul: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain" (1 Cor. 5:17). The resurrection verses in today's Gospels of Mark are universally acknowledged as forgeries and the Church agrees, saying "the conclusion of Mark is admittedly not genuine ... almost the entire section is a later compilation" (*Encyclopaedia Biblica*, vol. ii, p. 1880, vol. iii, pp. 1767, 1781; also, *Catholic Encyclopedia*, vol. iii, under the heading "The Evidence of its Spuriousness"; *Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. iii, pp. 274-9 under heading "Canons"). Undaunted, however, the Church accepted the forgery into its dogma and made it the basis of Christianity.

The trend of fictitious resurrection narratives continues. The final chapter of the Gospel of John (21) is a sixth-century forgery, one entirely devoted to describing Jesus' resurrection to his disciples. The Church admits: "The sole conclusion that can be deduced from this is that the 21st chapter was afterwards added and is therefore to be regarded as an appendix to the Gospel" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. viii, pp. 441-442; *New Catholic Encyclopedia* (NCE), "Gospel of John", p. 1080; also NCE, vol. xii, p. 407).

### "The Great Insertion" and "The Great Omission"

Modern-day versions of the Gospel of Luke have a staggering 10,000 more words than the same Gospel in the Sinai Bible. Six of those words say of Jesus "and was carried up into heaven", but this narrative does not appear in any of the oldest Gospels of Luke available today ("Three Early Doctrinal Modifications of the Text of the Gospels", F. C. Conybeare, *The Hibbert Journal*, London,

vol. 1, no. 1, Oct 1902, pp. 96-113). Ancient versions do not verify modern-day accounts of an ascension of Jesus Christ, and this falsification clearly indicates an intention to deceive.

Today, the Gospel of Luke is the longest of the canonical Gospels because it now includes "The Great Insertion", an extraordinary 15th-century addition totalling around 8,500 words (Luke 9:51-18:14). The insertion of these forgeries into that Gospel bewilders modern Christian analysts, and of them the Church said: "The character of these passages makes it dangerous to draw inferences" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Pecci ed., vol. ii, p. 407).

Just as remarkable, the oldest Gospels of Luke omit all verses from 6:45 to 8:26, known in priesthood circles as "The Great Omission", a total of 1,547 words. In today's versions, that hole has been "plugged up" with passages plagiarised from other Gospels. Dr Tischendorf found that three paragraphs in newer versions of the Gospel of Luke's version of the Last Supper appeared in the 15th century, but the Church still passes its Gospels off as the unadulterated "word of God" ("Are Our Gospels Genuine or Not?", op. cit.).



Bust depicting Pope Pius II (1458-64) wearing a papal version of the Mithraic cap.

### The "Expurgatory Index"

As was the case with the New Testament, so also were damaging writings of early "Church Fathers" modified in centuries of copying, and many of their records were intentionally rewritten or suppressed.

Adopting the decrees of the Council of Trent (1545-63), the Church subsequently extended the process of erasure and ordered the preparation of a special list of specific information to be expunged from early Christian

writings (*Delineation of Roman Catholicism*, Rev. Charles Elliott, DD, G. Lane & P. P. Sandford, New York, 1842, p. 89; also, *The Vatican Censors*, Professor Peter Elmsley, Oxford, p. 327, pub. date n/a).

In 1562, the Vatican established a special censoring office called Index Expurgatorius. Its purpose was to prohibit publication of "erroneous passages of the early Church Fathers" that carried statements opposing modern-day doctrine.

When Vatican archivists came across "genuine copies of the Fathers, they corrected them according to the Expurgatory Index" (*Index Expurgatorius Vaticanus*, R. Gibbings, ed., Dublin, 1837; *The Literary Policy of the Church of Rome*, Joseph Mendham, J. Duncan, London, 1830, 2nd ed., 1840; *The Vatican Censors*, op. cit., p. 328). This Church record provides researchers with "grave doubts about the value of all patristic writings released to the public" (*The Propaganda Press of Rome*, Sir James W. L. Claxton, Whitehaven Books, London, 1942, p. 182).

Important for our story is the fact that the *Encyclopaedia Biblica* reveals that around 1,200 years of Christian history are unknown: "Unfortunately, only few of the records [of the

Church] prior to the year 1198 have been released". It was not by chance that, in that same year (1198), Pope Innocent III (1198–1216) suppressed all records of earlier Church history by establishing the Secret Archives (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. xv, p. 287). Some seven-and-a-half centuries later, and after spending some years in those Archives, Professor Edmond S. Bordeaux wrote *How The Great Pan Died*. In a chapter titled "The Whole of Church History is Nothing but a Retroactive Fabrication", he said this (in part):

"The Church ante-dated all her late works, some newly made, some revised and some counterfeited, which contained the final expression of her history ... her technique was to make it appear that much later works written by Church writers were composed a long time earlier, so that they might become evidence of the first, second or third centuries."

(*How The Great Pan Died*, op. cit., p. 46)

Supporting Professor Bordeaux's findings is the fact that, in 1587, Pope Sixtus V (1585–90) established an official Vatican publishing division and said in his own words, "Church history will be now be established ... we shall seek to print our own account" (*Encyclopédie*, Diderot, 1759). Vatican records also reveal that Sixtus V spent 18 months of his life as pope personally writing a new Bible and then introduced into Catholicism a "New Learning" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. v, p. 442, vol. xv, p. 376). The evidence that the Church wrote its own history is found in Diderot's *Encyclopédie*, and it reveals the reason why Pope Clement XIII (1758–69) ordered all volumes to be destroyed immediately after publication in 1759.

### Gospel authors exposed as imposters

There is something else involved in this scenario and it is recorded in the *Catholic Encyclopedia*. An appreciation of the clerical mindset arises when the Church itself admits that it does not know who wrote its Gospels and Epistles, confessing that all 27 New Testament writings began life anonymously:

"It thus appears that the present titles of the Gospels are not traceable to the evangelists themselves ... they [the New Testament collection] are supplied with titles which, however ancient, do not go back to the respective authors of those writings." (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. vi, pp. 655-6)

The Church maintains that "the titles of our Gospels were not intended to indicate authorship", adding that "the headings ... were affixed to them" (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Farley ed., vol. i, p. 117, vol. vi, pp. 655, 656). Therefore they are not Gospels written "according to Matthew, Mark, Luke or John", as publicly stated. The full force of this confession reveals that there are no genuine apostolic Gospels, and that the Church's shadowy writings today embody the very ground and pillar of Christian foundations and faith. The consequences are fatal to the pretence of Divine origin of the entire New Testament and expose Christian texts as having no special authority. For centuries, fabricated Gospels bore Church certification of authenticity now confessed to be false, and this provides evidence that Christian writings are wholly fallacious.

After years of dedicated New Testament research, Dr Tischendorf expressed dismay at the differences between the oldest and newest Gospels, and had trouble understanding...

"...how scribes could allow themselves to bring in here and there changes which were not simply verbal ones, but such as materially affected the very meaning and, what is worse still, did not shrink from cutting out a passage or inserting one."

(*Alterations to the Sinai Bible*, Dr Constantin von Tischendorf, 1863, available in the British Library, London)

After years of validating the fabricated nature of the New Testament, a disillusioned Dr Tischendorf confessed that modern-day editions have "been altered in many places" and are "not to be accepted as true" (*When Were Our Gospels Written?*, Dr Constantin von Tischendorf, 1865, British Library, London).

### Just what is Christianity?

The important question then to ask is this: if the New Testament is not historical, what is it?

Dr Tischendorf provided part of the answer when he said in his 15,000 pages of critical notes on the Sinai Bible that "it seems that the personage of Jesus Christ was made narrator for many religions". This explains how narratives from the ancient Indian epic, the *Mahabharata*, appear verbatim in the Gospels today (e.g., Matt. 1:25, 2:11, 8:1-4, 9:1-8, 9:18-26), and why passages from the *Phenomena* of the Greek statesman Aratus of Sicyon (271–213 BC) are in

the New Testament.

Extracts from the *Hymn to Zeus*, written by Greek philosopher Cleanthes (c. 331–232 BC), are also found in the Gospels, as are 207 words from the *Thais* of Menander (c. 343–291), one of the "seven wise men" of Greece. Quotes from the semi-legendary Greek poet Epimenides (7th or 6th century BC) are applied to the lips of Jesus Christ, and seven passages from the curious *Ode of Jupiter* (c. 150 BC; author unknown) are reprinted in the New Testament.

Tischendorf's conclusion also supports Professor Bordeaux's Vatican findings that reveal the allegory of Jesus Christ derived from the fable of Mithra, the divine son of God (Ahura Mazda) and messiah of the first kings of the Persian Empire around 400 BC. His birth in a grotto was attended by magi who followed a star from the East. They brought "gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh" (as in Matt. 2:11) and the newborn baby was adored by shepherds. He came into the world wearing the Mithraic cap, which popes imitated in various designs until well into the 15th century.

Mithra, one of a trinity, stood on a rock, the emblem of the foundation of his religion, and was anointed with honey. After a last supper with Helios and 11 other companions, Mithra was crucified on a cross, bound in linen, placed in a rock tomb and rose on the third day or around 25 March (the full moon at the spring equinox, a time now called Easter after the Babylonian goddess Ishtar). The fiery destruction of the universe was a major doctrine of Mithraism—a time in which Mithra promised to return in person to Earth and save deserving souls. Devotees of Mithra

**This explains how narratives from the ancient Indian epic, the *Mahabharata*, appear verbatim in the Gospels today (e.g., Matt. 1:25, 2:11, 8:1-4, 9:1-8, 9:18-26).**

Continued on page 80





## GENESIS FOR THE NEW SPACE AGE

**Secret Development of the Round-  
Wing Plane, the Extra-Terrestrials  
Inside the Earth, and the Arrival of  
the Outer-Terrestrials**

by John B. Leith © 1980

### Introduction

Some of the most closely guarded secrets of this century—and perhaps since time began—will be discovered within the pages of this book. At the heart of the long-kept secrets is the phenomenon, euphemistically known as unidentified flying objects [UFOs], which certain nations of this world have developed with the aid of outer-terrestrials from other planets.

The manuscript is entirely original, from primary sources, most of which must remain anonymous. Over 100 interviews were conducted. Research for the project took three years of two men's time, plus thousands of hours contributed freely by others, some of whom placed their careers in jeopardy to do so. Material was gathered mostly in the USA, but also visited were the USSR, Mexico, Germany, Canada, France, England, Spain, Brazil and the Vatican.

Washington was where the real struggle

was fought to pry the truth from bureaucratic vaults. During the task of researching projects related to the UFOs, a few allies who wanted the entire story explained were gradually located in all walks of the capitol's life. Some of those who came to our aid were senators, congressmen, top military men in all the services and high-ranking civil servants as well as agents and retired agents of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Through the efforts of all those sympathetic people, the book was completed. Its contents simply attempt to open up, without apology, the postwar history of the so-called UFO for examination.

The USA and Canada as well as Britain and Germany are the main custodians of the secret UFO knowledge revealed herein. But only in such a freedom-loving nation as the USA could there have surfaced bold men willing to defy tradition and disclose the buried facts about the new age of visiting spaceships and inner and outer terrestrials.

The manuscript did not begin on a theme re development of the so-called UFO. It was started more as a doubtful question about the phenomenon in general, and as ensuing facts were enlarged the story of an international competition was recognised

which had begun in the 1930s and which the authors labelled "the Space Race". Quite soon, in the uncovering of additional information, it became apparent that Earth was no longer a singular planet on which men looked and listened for the reality of similar life elsewhere in the universe. Instead, it was evident that Earth itself was that sphere in this solar system which sister planets had been monitoring closely for years. "We were not alone" was the discovery which we, the authors, and countless others had made. But who would believe that report if we were to tell? This was the mind-boggling dilemma.

Right from the start it was anticipated that much of the new information sought on the space age could not be freed from security wraps for national defence reasons, which indeed proved to be so. Sympathetic to this corollary, the authors did not inquire at all into military secrets. But a recurring irritation was the unavailability of certain material of related UFO importance which will not be released for 50 years from its happening. That keeps many relevant events hidden till the 1990s or later. In this latter case, perhaps only history, or time, or unknown witnesses will come forward to expose the truth.

But aside from the military considerations, this explosive knowledge had also been suppressed simply because

# THE TWILIGHT ZONE

of its phenomenal and disquieting aspects and the effect they would have in the public mind and spirit.

Nevertheless, if the story of man's sudden immersion into the interplanetary world of extraterrestrials isn't unfolded in part, at least, its telling may come too late. For the inhabited solar system in which we dwell and the equally inhabited space beyond is far more complex than the average intelligent person would realise. It is in fact a universe of principalities and powers which have traditionally been visiting and perhaps seeding planet Earth for a thousand millenniums and which probably will continue whether or not we accept their incredible reality. It is this knowledge that will confound most religionists and many scientists and educators in the next span of years more than any other current revelation about outer space. An eminent physicist of Stanford University has stated that "committed Christians of all faiths will likely be the most unbelieving—as in Galileo's time".

It may be that the greatest danger to the thoughtful reader will be his despondent reflection that God does not exist or at least has become remote and impersonal. On the other hand, the revised rationale of the agnostic may be to elevate man into God's abode, raising man's ego-image still higher. But what to rightly believe will become self-evident to thoughtful people when they know for certain that the horizons of the heavens are endless and that there is a

Force unlimited by time and space which must be omnipotent and omnipresent to fashion and turn the endless wheels of the cosmos, wherein Earthman may be only an insignificant figure.

For those who will think this material is science fiction in disguise, they are asked to delay judgment until the conclusion of the book. Meanwhile, a few of the problems encountered are shared with the reader.

One foreign government complained to the US State Department that its embassy staff were being badgered by the authors. In another country, the stay of the researcher was cut short when he was asked to leave. The Vatican registered a strong diplomatic protest with the President of the USA that one of its top emissaries was interrogated and forcibly searched while bringing material into the USA for the authors. A special hearing of congressional and senate committees met in Washington to act on the refusal by a government agency to release unclassified information as required under the Freedom of Information Act. In another case, the researcher was taken into custody for attempting to photograph non-classified National Archives exhibits, and an executive order was secured to release him from detention. And just as offensive was a forceful reminder that the collecting of information and pictures from our former German enemies was treason under a still-existing wartime statute.

The drama of subterfuge on both sides

went on and on, and in itself would comprise a book of skirmishes with the military and science worlds that would be both laughable and yet lamentable. But as the story of the round-wing plane unfolds, it will be realised how the authorities became committed to a bond of silence going back 30 years. Nevertheless, the gathering of information for this book was not simply a game of the pen versus the sword. It was a rivalry of serious intent by the authors and those who came to their aid to persuade the government sources to reveal long-overdue facts on the UFO enigma. And for those opposing forces who had been made keepers of the secret by the previous generation, it was a concerted attempt to dissuade the authors to go home and forget about UFOs and the nation's possible involvement.

But curiously, the whole series of episodes has produced a grudging respect for the thrust of science in the free world and the hidden might of its military. Only in a democracy could the forces of constraint and openness meet in confrontation, and the lesser of the two protagonists be allowed to survive and tell of the struggle.

As this century ends, a reluctant United States has been shoved onto the world's stage at the most critical time of our civilisation. Whether America likes this role or not, she and her friends are the star players who must take major parts in shaping this planet's destiny here and beyond. For far from being weaklings, the USA and her allies are the noble giants who hold aloft over our planet the shield that would keep our world intact and still free.

## Earth under Surveillance

The Sun was two o'clock high on June 24, 1947, over Mount Rainier in Washington state, USA. A commercial pilot flying northerly in a clear sky over the Cascade Mountains fixed his sight to the left where a flash had occurred at the 10,000-foot elevation of the towering mountain. As the experienced 50-year-old Kenneth Arnold scanned the reflection, little did he think that his description of the objects seen near the burst of light would result in the coining of a new universal word.

Here is how Arnold expressed himself that afternoon, as reported later in newspapers around the world: "The nine



*"Hello. I'd like to report an Unidentified Frying Object."*

objects I saw flew like saucers, if you skipped them across the water." Although what Arnold saw was highly technical, he pictured it in a simple, idiomatic term which thereafter caught the imagination of kings and commoners across the globe.

Thus was born the age of flying saucers in the 20th century. And no one, scientist or seer, could turn back the clock ticking toward the arrival of the new aerial age. Hundreds of thousands of similar sightings in the current years would leave the world divided about the controversy. Simply understood, the question raised would be: are the flying saucers real pieces of hardware or are they figments of imagination?

Unknown to Arnold in the immediate post-war years, the unidentified flying objects he observed had been constructed in and had taken off from the geographical area beneath which he flew. In his reflections, he would not surmise that he had just witnessed the evidence of an aeronautical secret which had been kept under official wraps for over 20 years. What the veteran pilot of fixed-wing aircraft had watched were his own countrymen piloting a revolutionary breakthrough in aerodynamics, named "round-wing aircraft".

Today, the latest versions of those early round-wing planes which Kenneth Arnold glimpsed over the Cascade Mountains have escaped the bonds of Earth's gravity and, thus weightless, patrol the outer skies of this planet and venture fearlessly into the realms of vast space.

At this juncture, before the wider explanation of the intriguing aerial phenomenon is revealed, the average reader will recognise this unanswered riddle. Never has it been told to laymen the identities of the thousands of aerial sightings seen by professional airmen and ordinary spectators in the last half of this century.

To state the conundrum briefly, the so-called flying saucers seen by Arnold and countless others across the globe were called "unidentified flying objects" by the United States Air Force. The terminology became commonplace but deceptive. Hence the shorter euphemism, UFOs, was used to describe such aerial sightings the world over. This being so, the reader will first become acquainted with four identifiable aerial happenings which have been declassified. They are all researched

and documented cases from the years 1947, 1948 and 1955, and are actual crash landings and subsequent encounters with beings from other worlds.

Following these reports, the story will be revealed of the round-wing plane as it was developed on planet Earth. And when the revelation is unfolded, quite imperceptibly, the following conclusion will dawn on most readers.

The genesis of a new age has already begun for Earthlings. And it is self-evident: we are late in joining the interplanetary creatures who have ventured into the vastness of the universe in search of other intelligent beings...

## Case Number Four: United States Receives Visit from Beyond Earth

Washington, DC, February 18, 1975; time, 10 pm. A hovering squadron of high-altitude lights had just placed America's capitol under a blanket of surveillance. Before departing, they would send shivers through the security surrounding US President Gerald Ford, and their mission would also change the USA's scientific thrust in outer space within 60 days.

On this winter's night in question, the sky over Washington was clear and visibility was excellent. High above at 50,000 feet, 12 unidentified and stationary lights had appeared. The lights were not celestial bodies, mirages or balloons, nor were they conventional aircraft. They were, in fact, UFOs—a name first applied in 1966 by the US Air Force to describe growing numbers

of unidentified flying objects sighted around the globe.

At the three major airports around Washington, several monitor systems handle traffic and also act as an early warning vigilance for unidentified aircraft. There is the AACS, i.e., Aircraft and Airways Communication System, the sophisticated radar at Andrews Air Force Base, the GPR (Ground Position Radar), etc. Therefore, besides untrained street personnel who spotted the mysterious lights, there were also the competent operators of the AACS, Andrews Air Force Base radar and GPR, who were continuously watching the activities of the unidentified flying objects.

At 10.16, one of the lights detached itself from the formation and, peeling off to the right, dropped toward the city. Its colour changed from blue to white. In a park in Georgetown, the northwest section of the capitol, the light landed and as it went out there appeared in its place a solid object. Standing where the light had been was a 30-foot, saucer-like object with dome, supported by tripod legs.

Underneath the craft, a door opened from which stairs extended to the ground and an ordinary-looking being with occidental features descended. The six-foot-tall man moved briskly away from the perimeter of the craft and evaporated before his viewers. As he did so, curious onlookers, who had seen the craft's landing in their neighbourhood, ran toward the machine. But 10 feet away from the craft, an



*"If it turns out there is a parallel universe, does that mean there are two Gods?"*

# THE TWILIGHT ZONE

invisible force-field kept the sightseers away. The hatch closed, and the machine stood isolated and alone.

About 10.20, after the being had departed from the craft, there simultaneously appeared a stranger before the security guard at the street entrance to the White House. In perfect English, he asked to see President Ford. The being's request was refused.

At approximately 10.21, a being in a flight suit was seen walking down the hallway to the Oval Room. A Secret Service man challenged the figure from behind. It continued on. A bullet from the gun of the President's guard apparently passed through the being without drawing blood.

At the next instant, the stranger disappeared from the view of the Secret Service pursuer and silently passed through the locked and closed door to the Oval Room. Thereupon it stopped in front of President Ford, working alone at his desk. The startled President looked up at the figure of a tall, slim man with black hair, dressed in what appeared to be a trim flight-suit of silver-coloured jacket and pants tucked into calf-length boots.

The being spoke calmly: "President Ford, I am sorry to intrude in such an unearthly way, but I have a message of great importance which must be told." He continued: "I am a scientist from Earth's sister planet Venus, which, regardless of Earth's scientific postulations, is inhabited

by a people identical to those like yourself on Earth. But my mission in being here tonight concerns special knowledge which others in this solar system have elected to give the United States as our chosen custodian for planet Earth."

Much of the alien's conversation remains classified, but some of the subject matter has been verified from executive sources. In general, the visitor spoke of the dawning of a new age for Earth in science, medicine and other wonders—but hinged his remarks with a single admonition: "Earth must first denounce nuclear war." The verdict of the outer-terrestrial stemmed from an inerrant moral law of the universe, which Earth nations had broken by splitting the atom to destroy their fellow men.

Almost an hour later, the outer-terrestrial departed. Upon leaving, he placed on the President's desk a dull, silvery object of elliptical shape with rounded edges. The stranger called it a Venusian book—a gift from his planet to America.

Simultaneously, several miles away, the being re-entered the vehicle in which he had come. It took off and joined the lights above, at which time the formation disappeared off the radar screens of the nation's capitol.

This meeting between an outer-terrestrial being and a world leader is only one of the hundreds recorded since Earth's first nuclear explosion took place in 1945. American presidents alone have had a minimum of 60 visits.

Earth has been watched by outsiders for at least 45 millennia, and throughout the pre-Adamite civilisations. According to their spokesmen, they have witnessed this latest civilisation's advent of the railroad, the discovery of electricity, the aeroplane and auto, the rocket, the smashing of the atom and, lately, the fearful number of nuclear test explosions. And, finally, the uncontrolled aggressions of nations to make their own atomic bombs—with intentions to deploy them.

As the President picked up the object and examined it that night of February 18, 1975, he called for Secret Service personnel. He also asked for the Secretary of State and scheduled a meeting of the General Staff to be held at the Pentagon as soon as possible to evaluate the disc.

During the presidential dialogue, the extra-terrestrial being declared the US Air Force should learn the formula encased in the disc. Mr Ford had gingerly examined the object, but laid it down, perplexed as to why the alien should leave such an indecipherable thing as a parting gesture. Was it really a goodwill gift of science from another world, or was it some diabolical, destructive force that might enslave onlookers or destroy a city?

Like his predecessors going back to Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Ford must have asked himself some startling questions about this peaceful outer-terrestrial invasion, whose spokesmen looked human and acted like friends, notwithstanding that their arrivals were always without warning or prior signal.

And, in a broader sense, US officialdom was also asking, "Why all the sudden attention which Earth was now receiving after years of comparative isolation?" Even more perplexing questions were being asked by the suspicious military and science worlds. If these outer-terrestrials were so advanced scientifically and metaphysically, what did they know about the future destiny of mankind that made them suddenly want to share their knowledge with a single nation, the USA?

Aside from these basic quandaries, other sobering judgments had already been established—which authorities had long hesitated to pass on, and for an understandable reason. Those claiming to come from our solar system and even beyond were often nearly identical to certain Earth races in appearance and in biological, functional and mental ways.



Obviously, there existed a correlation between Earth beings and inhabitants from certain other planets.

As President Ford may have pondered these revelations that historic night, he was well aware that alien ships of countless origins were now bridging the time and distance barrier between various planets in the universe, the knowledge of which leading nations of the world had denied the public. Furthermore, appraisal of the combined worldwide UFO phenomenon by military consultants was singularly conclusive. They concluded that all of planet Earth was under systematic surveillance by three distinct classifications of alien intruders. Those were labelled: (1) friendly, (2) presumed hostile, and (3) unknown.

**Category (1), friendly.** The craft were usually round winged in shape, originating within our solar system. Their human occupants have openly made themselves known to certain Earth governments and their leaders from time to time (such as the foregoing visit to President Ford). The same outer-terrestrials have also occasionally appeared by accident; for example, the Captain Mantell incident over Goodman Field, Kentucky, in 1948 [case number three].

**Category (2), presumed hostile.** These aliens generally came in round-wing planes and were of human resemblance from diminutive sizes to over six feet in height. They had, on occasion, attempted to infiltrate Earth by establishing hidden bases in remote areas, and their spacecraft were also engaged in mapping Earth and other questionable activities. It is believed they originated from one planet or constellation; for example, the Farmington affair of 1955 [case number one].

**Category (3), unknowns.** Unknowns were patrolling Earth skies and watching our people and military installations increasingly in the late 1970s (see chapter XVII, "Strangers in Our Skies"). They arrived in spacecraft of various dimensions and shapes, up to 1,000 feet long. Occupants were observed to be of a variety of physiological descriptions, some of which, by Earth's standards, bordered on the ridiculous or grotesque, according to their own admissions which were delivered telepathically to Air Force pilots and airport controllers, etc. Observations of their spacecraft by competent observers suggested that their space technology may

be more advanced than that of this solar system.

But one repetitious warning was delivered by all the friendly outer-terrestrials with whom physical and voice contact had been made. According to informed Air Force sources, that constant warning stated a nuclear holocaust on Earth was possible within a generation unless immediate plans were made now to prevent it.

## Alien Planet in our Solar System

As President Ford may have reflected on the promise of sudden increased knowledge for this world in exchange for abandoning the international nuclear race, 2,700 scientists, engineers, physicists, astronomers, geophysicists, mathematicians, geologists and radio engineers were occupied 24 hours a day at the Goddard [Space Flight] Center in Maryland, keeping watch on a more disturbing phenomenon.

A magnetically weak but inhabited alien planet, over twice the size of Earth, had wandered into our solar system and attached itself to the force-field between the Sun and the Earth. By the year 2000, this incoming intruder could possibly regress the climate, where a third of the world's people are located, toward another ice age. Its effects were particularly being felt in the northern latitudes, where teams of American, Canadian, Japanese and Russian meteorologists and weathermen daily gathered the evidence of an abrupt change in world weather patterns.

But, underlying these hidden discoveries and new knowledge of outer space, the real question being asked by the world's leaders was how to tell the public without creating panic. Collective scientific minds working on the secret already were aware of these explosive truths and the problems they presented. But how much of the biased viewpoints of our history, religion, philosophy and science would have to be discarded in order to make way for the new 20th-century revelations?

These revelations clearly indicate that Earthlings are not isolated but in fact are part of an interplanetary league of intelligent creatures. Our counterparts from planets nearby and other destinations light years away are trying to give warring Earth nations a message. The aliens are telling us to stop the nuclear race and destroy our stockpiles before we destroy our planet and its civilisations. In return for heeding this advice, they would provide Earthmen with the advanced technological, scientific and medical secrets of the Universe. ∞

## Editor's Note:

This extract has been slightly edited for publication here. The full 450-page manuscript is available as an e-book from the Onelight.com Publishing website, <http://www.onelight.com>. A 135-page section is available free at <http://www.onelight.com/GenesisForTheNewSpaceAge.pdf>.







# REVIEWS

## BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

### THE TEMPLAR PIRATES: The Secret Alliance to Build the New Jerusalem by Ernesto Frers

Destiny Books, Rochester, VT, USA, 2007  
(pub. in Spanish as *Piratas y Templarios*, Ediciones Robinbook, Barcelona, 2005)  
ISBN 1-59477-146-4 (183pp tpb)  
Available: <http://www.DestinyBooks.com>

Piracy has been around for as long as seafaring and has played its part in the unfolding of history since four millennia ago when Egyptian and Phoenician cargo ships were first targeted. In the sixth century BC, it became an organised method of plundering and subjugating coastal and island peoples in the Aegean and Mediterranean seas.

This is the launching point for mediaeval historian Ernesto Frers, but his prime interest here is in the role of the Knights Templar. The Norman Templar king Roger II of Sicily was the first to fly the so-called Jolly Roger flag (the skull and crossbones) in defiance of the pope in 1127, but it was not until their excommunication by Pope Clement V in 1307 that the Templars turned to maritime piracy in a big way. This was after they received a tip-off ahead of a raid by French king Philip IV's troops and decided to flee their port of La Rochelle. Their divided fleet headed for disparate destinations: Portugal, Scotland and the New World, where, later, with Henry Sinclair's backing, they established colonies in a bid to build a New Jerusalem, free of papist control. Indeed, the Templars' piracy for hundreds of years was part of their secret war against the Holy See, and their efforts were

bolstered by opportunistic buccaneers from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean.

Frers traces the influence of the remnant Templars in the expeditions of Christopher Columbus, Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh as well as French Huguenot buccaneers who started their own libertarian brotherhood. The pirate knights and their brothers also influenced the rise of the revolutionary movements in France and America along with the growth of Freemasonry, four of whose members—Franklin, Jefferson, Adams and Paine—helped to write the US Declaration of Independence. These are fascinating undercurrents with occult offshoots which Frers brings to light, and they present a different picture from "official" history.

### THE LORDS OF AVARIS: Uncovering the Legendary Origins of Western Civilisation

by David Rohl

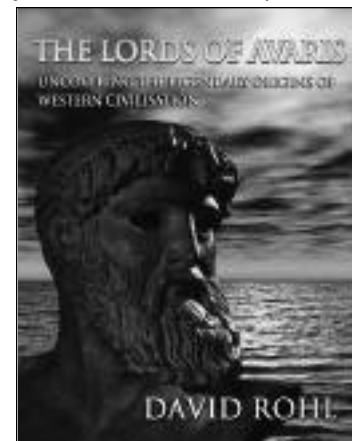
Century, London, UK, 2007  
ISBN 1-7126-7762-3 (524pp hc)  
Available: see [www.randomhouse.co.uk](http://www.randomhouse.co.uk)

The origins of Western civilisation are traditionally sourced in Classical Greece and Rome, cultures that are traceable to the Heroic Age of ancient Minoan Crete, Mycenaean Greece and Trojan Anatolia (Turkey). But what if the myths of minotaurs and labyrinths, Trojan warriors and Cyclopean citadels were not just the stuff of Homeric legend but historical narratives?

Archaeologist David Rohl (*The Lost Testament*, NEXUS 10/02) has managed to bring these myths to life by applying the same New Chronology (NC) he proposed in his 1995 book *A Test of Time*, which gives a radical down-dating of Egyptian history by deleting three centuries of "artificial time"

from the New Kingdom and the Third Intermediate Period. But not only does his NC offer an historical timeline for the Old Testament narratives, it places the Heroic legends in their proper context.

The scene begins in the second millennium BC, following a catastrophe and subsequent famine that destroyed many Middle Eastern cities and ended the Early Bronze Age. It's the time when Indo-European-speaking tribes from the north, who became the Hittites and the later founders of the Greek, Persian and Roman empires, began their invasions of Mesopotamia and Egypt, thus creating a three-way struggle. Starting with the Hyksos who ruled in Avaris in the Nile Delta, Rohl takes the reader on an epic journey through 2,000 years of history, ending with the foundation of Rome by the Trojan hero Aeneas. On the way, among other events he explains the sudden appearance of the Etruscans in Hesperia (Italy). Rohl's superbly illustrated book complements his richly detailed text. *A tour de force.*



# REVIEWS



## PARALLEL UNIVERSES OF SELF

by Frederick E. Dodson

Llumina Press, USA, 2006

ISBN 978-1-59526-654-5 (323pp tpb)

Available: <http://www.llumina.com>

Life is too short to waste time in the head-space of an insignificant, needy person when you can revel in the real you as a multidimensional, eternal being, says "reality-creation coach" Fred Dodson. Based in Germany, he has been teaching creative learning for the last 10 years, and in this, his 16th book, he provides well-honed mental and emotional techniques for exploring reality and consciousness. His first bit of advice is to "go for the real thing"—for experience, not just knowledge for its own sake—and with joy in the process.

Dodson's take on reality creation (RC) is inspired by the latest ways of thinking in frontier science; it's a theory of "parallel universe reality emulation" (PURE), and is more expansive than some "new age" versions of RC that he regards as hindered by egocentric focus and based on a sense of lack and wishful thinking. Surely influenced by ancient Hermetic philosophy with its laws of correspondence and attraction, Dodson says that if like attracts like then lack attracts lack. The shortcut to your heart's desire is being "the version of yourself that is already experiencing that reality", but attachment to that desire isn't the way.

By tapping into the infinite self, however, we don't actually create reality because within infinity everything already exists; thus it doesn't need creating. But that doesn't mean that we can avoid personal responsibility or shirk common sense and intuition, our own "inner authority": we'll never feel fulfilled if we do. He recommends taking time to

become silent and relaxed, and to connect with happiness in the here and now. His own stories about the path of enlightenment are instructive, and much of what he says will give a sense of *déjà vu* to fellow seekers. If I had to sum this up, I'd say you'll never get from A to B as long as you maintain the distance. Just be there!

## COURAGEOUS SOULS: Do We Plan Our Life Challenges Before Birth?

by Robert Schwartz

Whispering Winds Press, USA, 2007

ISBN 0-9776794-5-4 (319pp tpb)

Available: [www.CourageousSouls.com](http://www.CourageousSouls.com)

It's one thing to countenance reincarnation but it's another to think that maybe we plan our major challenges in life before we are born, and in agreement with other souls. Four years ago, marketing consultant Robert Schwartz set out to explore the meaning of life and decided to visit a medium. She explained that we all have spirit guides—noncorporeal and nonjudgemental beings whom we consult when we plan our lives in between incarnations—but we also have free will. Schwartz went through a reawakening process and soon afterwards had an enhanced communication with his soul in an experience where he felt unconditional love for everyone. This set him on a path to ascertain why he'd pre-planned certain learning experiences in his life. The result of his questing is this book.

Schwartz recruited the assistance of four mediums and channels and posted messages on Internet bulletin boards, seeking feedback from individuals keen to explore any underlying difficulties they've faced in life. Dozens of people were involved in this pre-birth-planning study, and the stories of 10

"courageous souls" were chosen for inclusion. With the help of the psychics, they delved into issues to do with physical illness and disability, handicapped children, drug and alcohol addiction, accidents and deaths. Each case is presented with notes from the psychic readings where the spirit guides were contacted. Despite their difficulties, each person came to understand that their "life script" was agreed upon and motivated by love and the opportunity for soul growth fostered by learning through hard knocks.

Their stories and their resolutions are deeply moving and make us wonder whether we have indeed set ourselves up for tragedy and triumph in order to progress our own evolution and that of others. We are left feeling heartened by the prospect that we can tap into our soul space and transform anger, guilt and blame into love, forgiveness and acceptance. Schwartz's research is a life-affirming exercise that shows we direct our soul learning and aren't hapless victims of the vagaries of fate.



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# REVIEWS

## HOW TO SWAP ASTHMA FOR LIFE by Michael Clark, NMQAA

The Well Naturally Pub. House, UK, 2007  
ISBN 978-0-9555839-0-2 (261pp tpb)

Available: <http://www.wellnaturally.co.uk>

That the UK alone has five million diagnosed cases of asthma and 18,000 new cases each week is cause for great concern, and UK Buteyko practitioner Michael Clark is determined to do something about it. In fact, he met Prof. Buteyko, developer of the scientifically based breathing technique that overcomes "overbreathing", just months before he died in 2003 and promised to spread the word about the technique.

In his book, Clark gives a brief history of asthma before describing the different types of asthma and their triggers, which can include allergens such as animal dander, pollen and dust mite dirt, airborne pollutants, perfumes, bacteria, poor diet (e.g., too much acidifying rather than alkalising food), stress and even fear. He then discusses the conventional asthma medications and their side effects, and follows up with information about Buteyko's treatment and the science of respiration and breathing.

In the following sections, Clark explains some essential breathing and posture techniques that have been used successfully in teaching asthmatics how to breathe properly without hyperventilating. This condition causes a depletion of carbon dioxide in the lungs, which causes the blood vessels to spasm and tissues to be starved of oxygen. The Buteyko breathing method restores balance to the respiratory system.

Next, Clark looks at other alternative asthma treatments from acupuncture to yoga, and hints at why your GP may not have heard of the drug-free Buteyko technique.

Finally, he outlines a code of conduct that holistic Buteyko practitioners must abide by; this constitutes useful advice, too, for the client in selecting the right teacher.

A Q&A section, a paper on the theoretical premises of the Buteyko Method and a glossary cap off this very informative book.

## THE INTENTION EXPERIMENT by Lynne McTaggart

Free Press/Simon & Schuster, USA, 2007  
ISBN 0-7432-7695-7 (289pp hc)

Available: <http://www.simonsays.com>

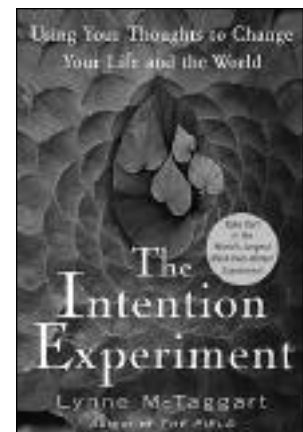
In the follow-up to her book *The Field* (see NEXUS 8/06), London-based health and spirituality author Lynne McTaggart explores what shamans and mystics have known since time immemorial: that thoughts are things with a tangible energy and can exert influence on other things for good or ill, thus affecting physical reality. Furthermore, the power of thought, or intention, can transcend time and space.

Experiments into the so-called "observer" effect in quantum physics were stepped up over 30 years ago to test "directed remote mental influence" and "intentionality", and here McTaggart highlights some landmark scientific research illustrating how intention works, how it can be used in one's life, and the conditions that optimise its effect. Tom Rosenbaum and Sayantani Ghosh's work with "mutable" crystals, Cleve Backster's research on plants and cell cultures reacting to human intent, Elisabeth Targ and Marilyn Schitz's "Love Study" on the effect of "remote staring", Stanley Krippner's research into brain coherence of indigenous and spiritual healers, and Mitch Krucoff and Suzanne Crater's "MANTRA" studies of directed prayer groups are just some of the

frontier science that is changing our understanding of consciousness and reality.

McTaggart introduces her own exciting experiment in which readers can participate after completing her practical program of "intention exercises" designed to aid meditation, visualisation and focus of intent. She's set up a website, <http://www.theintentionexperiment.com>, to allow participants to link up to focus the collective power of positive intention on specific targets, e.g., in remote healing of individuals, clearing pollution or generally helping make the planet a better place with more compassionate people. She has the support of consciousness scientists Brenda Dunne and Robert Jahn of the PEAR lab at Princeton University and Fritz-Albert Popp and colleagues at the International Institute for Biophysics in Germany in designing experimental protocols and analysing the results of each experiment.

It will be interesting to see more proof that the power of our thoughts, intentions, imagery and actions *can* change the world.



# REVIEWS



## THE ARK, THE SHROUD, AND MARY by Philip Gardiner

New Page Books, NJ, USA, 2007

ISBN 1-56414-924-2 (318pp tpb)

Available: [www.NewPageBooks.com](http://www.NewPageBooks.com);

<http://www.gardinersworld.com>

Philip Gardiner has spent years studying P esoteric art and literature, making contacts with members of secret societies and travelling the world in search of answers to some of the great mysteries of history.

While in Winchester Cathedral, England, looking for images to use in his previous book *Gnosis* (see 13/02), he had an insight about similarities in symbolism in the reliefs on show, perceiving a link between Mary, (the mother of Jesus), the Ark of the Covenant and the Shroud of Turin that some might regard as far-fetched. The story that emerged for him concerns the loss of the Old Covenant and the emergence of the New Covenant or Testimony with the resurrection of Christ from the tomb or Ark.

Gardiner has looked further into the Ark tradition and found evidence of it in Egypt, Mesopotamia and India, where the festival of Jagganath—its centrepiece a large ark-type vehicle—is still celebrated at the Puri shrine in Orissa state. These ancient civilisations also had their goddesses, and Gardiner wondered whether Mary was a Christian version of the Egyptian Isis. But what was her connection with the Ark?

After analysing the myths and etymology associated with the Ark, Gardiner believes it was a "repository" or "vessel" protecting the Divine light of wisdom—and so, too, was Mary who (as the myth goes) gave birth to the Divine child who grew within her. Similarly, the Shroud of Turin could be a repository of the Divine light, released by

Christ while in a state of ecstatic enlightenment as a burst of photonic energy.

The hidden message Gardiner discerns is that God is to be found within each of us: we are the vessels carrying the Divine light. The way to tapping it starts with learning to balance our desires and developing compassion. Gardiner's book informs and inspires.

## CRUSADE AGAINST THE GRAIL

by Otto Rahn

translated by Christopher Jones

Inner Traditions, Rochester, VT, USA,

2006 (first pub. in German as *Kreuzzug*

*gegen den Gral*, Urban Verlag, 1933)

ISBN 1-59477-135-9 (229pp tpb)

Available: see [www.InnerTraditions.com](http://www.InnerTraditions.com)

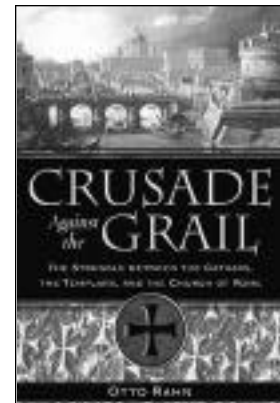
I n the process of preparing the first English translation of Otto Rahn's influential 1933 book *Kreuzzug gegen den Gral* ("Crusade against the Grail"), historical scholar Christopher Jones retraced Rahn's footsteps through the caves and castles of the former Cathar territory of southern France.

Based on his reading of Eschenbach's mediaeval chivalric epic *Parzival* as an historical account, Rahn saw the Cathars as the last custodians of the Grail—not the Holy Grail or cup of the blood of Christ, but a "stone from the stars". In his book, Rahn develops the Grail into an icon for the survival of the soul—an emblem for the unseen. The beliefs of the Cathars stemmed from ancient Druidism with a dose of Gnosticism and Manichaeism from the East. Their philosophy was based on the Minne—ideal, sublime love—as the law, and it was practised most diligently by the "Pure Ones", spread by the troubadours and supported by the knights and the people.

Rahn points out that most of the Cathar

writings and, indeed, their culture, were wiped out during the Albigensian Crusade, commencing with the destruction of Béziers in 1209 and continuing till 1229, covering the regions of Languedoc and Provence. Hundreds of thousands of "heretics" to Roman Church doctrines were wiped out by the popes and their minions. However, Rahn managed to piece together a good modicum of their history from extant records and from descendants of survivors. His accounts of the demise of the Cathars are truly shocking, and perhaps Rahn was trying to make sense of his own troubled times in the light of these bloody massacres.

A top German archaeologist and Grail historian, Rahn caught the attention of Heinrich Himmler soon after publication of his book and was induced to assist the Nazis in their explorations into ancient civilisations and treasures. Disillusioned, in 1939 Rahn died in a ritual Cathar style, allegedly committing suicide. His work lives on and contributes a warning about the dangers of extremism that's as true now as in his day.





# REVIEWS

## IN SEARCH OF QUETZALCOATL by Pierre Honoré

Adventures Unlimited Press, Kempton, Illinois, USA, 2007 (first published in German as *Ich Fand Den Weissen Gott*, Verlag Heinrich Scheffler, 1961)  
ISBN 1-931882-57-6 (228pp tpb)

Available: [adventuresunlimitedpress.com](http://adventuresunlimitedpress.com)

Many ancient peoples of Central and South America left behind records of a bearded "white god" who brought civilisation to their tribes. He was Quetzalcoatl to the Toltecs and Aztecs, Viracocha to the Inca, and Kukulcan to the Maya.

French researcher Pierre Honoré, whose highly illustrated book on the mysterious heritage of American civilisation was published in 1961, travelled extensively in South and Central America when he was based in Brazil as a government adviser and director of a research institute. In the course of his 15-year investigations of ancient cultural remnants, he observed many parallels with ancient Mediterranean cultures as well as Chinese influences that arrived via the Pacific, causing a cultural explosion in Peru and Bolivia with the Chavin civilisation from around 1000 BC. Later outpourings of Cambodian, Indian and Javanese cultures can be seen in Toltec and Mayan architecture. But it was Mediterranean influences—Minoan and perhaps Phoenician—that were responsible for the bearded white god legends and artefacts, Honoré believed. In a foray up an Amazon tributary, guided by tribal youth with knowledge of the "white god", he rediscovered stones bearing an ancient script of Phoenician source.

Particularly notable was his research into the similarity between Mayan glyphs and the Minoans' original pictorial script, used until

around 1700 BC. Honoré reasoned the script had to have been transferred to the New World by that date; but if it took another 1,500 years for the Mayan civilisation to emerge, then the script had to have been nurtured by an older, as yet unknown, civilisation probably based in the Amazon Valley, where some native peoples of fair skin and hair were still known to live.

While much more has been uncovered since Honoré did his research, his book has laid essential groundwork for getting to the heart of the Mesoamerican mysteries.

## GENESIS OF MAN by June Austin

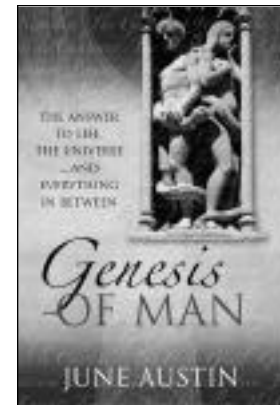
Authors Online for Pigsty Press, UK, 2006  
ISBN 0-7552-0236-8 (261pp tpb)  
Available: <http://www.juneaustin.co.uk>;  
<http://www.authorsonline.co.uk>

In combining her knowledge of pre- and ancient history with mythology and spiritual philosophy, Surrey-based Reiki master and crystal therapist June Austin speculates in *Genesis of Man* on who we are, where we came from and where we're heading.

Austin presents evidence for an alternative celestial heritage where the first humans were seeded by extraterrestrial "gods" who returned from time to time to instruct the fledgling *Homo sapiens*. Information about the solar system, for instance—as can be seen in ancient clay seals—was passed on by the Nephilim, part angelic souls from another world, Nibiru, to the ancient Sumerians of Mesopotamia. These were a people whose civilisation *seemed* to "spring from nowhere", as did that of the Egyptians, the Maya and perhaps even the Atlanteans. However, some of what Austin suggests about civilisations of prehistory and other

matters is sourced from the realm of channelling, which can't be considered reliable.

Nor can more recent records in the Gospels be considered "Gospel truth", and Austin admits this, relating examples of inconsistencies between these four books, yet she devotes many pages to alternative takes on what are undoubtedly forged holy books but coded with esoteric messages. Influenced by the famous "Course in Miracles", Austin makes the case for our being souls interconnected with the Divine source, our role in this world being to learn to balance the light and the dark within ourselves. The more aware we are of our Divine heritage, the more connected we are with humanity as a whole and the more able we are to exercise forgiveness and compassion to our fellow man. The way home comes by getting in touch with the silence within, not by blind faith in a priesthood or religious buildings and ceremonies. (I'd have liked to see a closing chapter that draws all these threads together, but maybe that's in the second edition that's being printed as we go to press.)



# REVIEWS



## **A GAME AS OLD AS EMPIRE: The Secret World of Economic Hit Men and the Web of Global Corruption** edited by Steven Hiatt

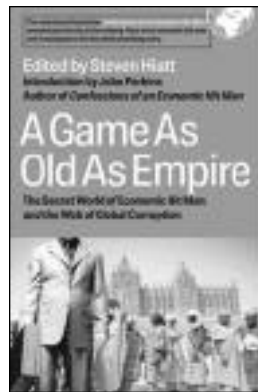
Berrett-Koehler Publishers, San Francisco, USA, 2007

ISBN 1-57675-395-6 (310pp hc)

Available: <http://www.bkconnection.com>

When former "economic hit man" ("EHM") John Perkins came clean in 2004 about his past as an agent for the "corporatocracy", bringing developing nations to their knees, he was somewhat stunned by corporate media's lack of interest in his book, *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*. This only proved his point about corporate interests protecting their own. Pressed to prove that this secret global empire actually existed, Perkins and his publisher set about commissioning this compilation, appointing editor and activist Steven Hiatt to the task.

The result, *A Game As Old As Empire*, is a collection of essays by former EHMs, jour-



nalists and activists who are just as keen to expose the fact that corporations, governments, financial institutions and international agencies enrich their coffers under the guise of "foreign aid" and "international development". Perkins leads with new revelations about the dark side of globalisation, and Hiatt is next with his views on the Global Empire's web of control, where the Global South subsidises the wealthy North.

A dozen others speak out: former banker Sam Gwynne on setting the debt trap; ex-offshore banker John Christensen on laundering dirty money flows; Lucy Komisar on the BCCI's double game; Kathleen Kern on the human cost of cheap cellphones (coltan vs the Congolese); Andrew Rowell and James Marriott on mercenaries protecting corporate interests on the African front lines; and Gregg Muttitt on EHMs' hijacking of Iraq's oil reserves. But there's more...

Former World Bank staffer Steve Berkman explains how the debt-based development strategy diverts money into the hands of the corrupt elite; Ellen Augustine reveals how

the World Bank financed martial law under Marcos; Bruce Rich uncovers the secretive world of export credit agencies (ECAs) and the social, economic and environmental damage they wreak around the world; and James S. Henry unveils the mirage of debt relief, where poor countries are forced to close hospitals and schools, and he suggests steps for an effective debt relief campaign.

Antonia Juhasz (*The Bush Agenda*) has the final say with her piece on the global web of resistance that in recent years has been making a dent against exploitation and introducing strategies that promote social justice and empowerment. This is a call to action!

## **THE CHILLING STARS: A New Theory of Climate Change**

by Henrik Svensmark & Nigel Calder

Icon Books, UK, Canada, 2007;

Totem Books, USA, 2007

ISBN 1-84046-815-7 (246pp tpb)

Available: <http://www.iconbooks.co.uk>

Just when you thought the carbon dioxide theory of global warming was gaining the upper hand, along comes a theory that puts the Sun back into the equation and introduces cosmic rays and clouds. *The Chilling Stars* is a collaboration between Henrik Svensmark, of the Danish National Space Centre, and Nigel Calder, science writer and editor of *New Scientist* in the 1960s.

Ten years of research by Svensmark shows that cosmic rays, sourced from exploding stars, play a part in making clouds here on Earth, but that, in the last 100 years, increasing levels of solar activity have deflected more and more of these rays, resulting in fewer clouds and a warmer planet. Studies of Greenland and Antarctic ice cores as well as seabed cores show that our climate is cyclical and goes through warming and cooling phases; indeed, it can even go through warming during times of glaciation.

Only last year, Svensmark was able to demonstrate in the lab that cosmic rays, of the highly energetic muon variety, have enough velocity to approach sea level and, because they are charged, liberate electrons and act as building blocks of condensation nuclei on which water droplets form to produce clouds in the lower atmosphere. When the Sun is in a less active phase, more of these muons can penetrate our atmosphere and form more clouds, radiating more heat into space. As well, cosmic ray bombardments differ in magnitude depending on the location of the solar system in its path through the Milky Way; when we cross the galactic mid-plane, cosmic rays are stronger and the Earth goes through a cooling cycle.

Before you make up your mind about the causes of climate change, you're advised to read this controversial, compelling book.



# REVIEWS

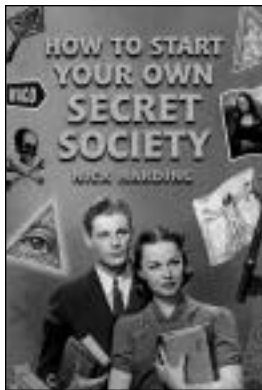
## HOW TO START YOUR OWN SECRET SOCIETY

by Nick Harding

Oldcastle Books, Harpenden, UK, 2006  
ISBN 1-904048-84-6 (350pp pb)  
Available: <http://www.noexit.co.uk>;  
[www.turnaround-uk.com](http://www.turnaround-uk.com)

His tongue often firmly in cheek, Nick Harding carries off this guide to starting your own secret society with aplomb while being quite serious about the subject. With this book, I'm reminded of the Monty Python sketch where the John Cleese character lashes out at the Freemason architects who wouldn't let him join their fraternity. Here are tips for come-uppance against the nefarious powers that be, whether they be at local, national or global level, and many opportunities for creative participation.

As you'll see in these pages, many revolutionary movements got their impetus at the local pub or coffee house. Some were more successful than others, and Harding gives



pointers on how to maintain secrecy, create special communication codes including passwords and handshakes, and deal with the inevitable political intrigue that results from, well, having a secret society. Some societies of the past were actually satires on the really secret societies of their times, which is heartening in that this confirms humour's long history as an antidote to oppression. So, with this considered advice, you're encouraged to let rip with your wishes for local dominion or global domination.

Harding acknowledges input from Masonic brothers who have enlightened him as to the workings of their secretive ceremonies. These notes proffer essential background information if you want to create your own inner sanctum and confound your potential detractors. There are tips on what to look for in conspiracy theorists to head them off at the pass, and notes on requirements as a member of such high-profile groups as the Knights Templar, Illuminati, Opus Dei and the Freemasons. An amusing diversion with snippets of truth.

## GHOST PLANE: The Untold Story of the CIA's Torture Programme

by Stephen Grey

Scribe Publications, Melbourne, Australia, 2007 (first published by C. Hurst & Co., UK, 2006)  
ISBN 1-921215-35-6 (339pp tpb)  
Available: see [scribepublications.com.au](http://scribepublications.com.au);  
<http://www.hurstpub.co.uk>

The expression "extraordinary rendition" describes the capture of suspected terrorists and transfer by CIA-hired private jets to foreign prisons and secret detention facilities for interrogation and torture. Journalist Stephen Grey headed the UK *Sunday Times Insight* investigation team when, in the USA soon after 9/11, he first heard of these transfers and then set about obtaining the logs of these new-style "Air America" CIA flights.

Grey went public in May 2004 in an article for the *New Statesman*, and in time has collected about 12,000 records for over 20 planes that transported prisoners to a range of countries cooperating with the US Bush administration in its "war on terror", including Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Morocco and Thailand, most of which had no problems with their military secret police torturing detainees held without charge. Yet even in December 2005, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice claimed the US would never transport prisoners to places where they'd be tortured, and British PM Tony Blair denied there was evidence of any illegal conduct.

In *Ghost Plane*, Grey spills the beans on the CIA's extraordinary rendition program as well as the Pentagon's role in mass renditions via US military transport planes. Indeed, there's nothing new about these renditions: the US has been carrying them out for decades but stepped up activities in response to 9/11. Grey has been able to pin down 89 renditions since then (listed in the appendix), but he suspects that several thousand individuals have been imprisoned. In fact, the Guantánamo Bay renditions are just the tip of the iceberg, he maintains.

While the majority of prisoners are still unaccounted for, some have been released on no charges and their desperate stories are recounted here, along with testimony on and off the record from CIA pilots, operations officers and chiefs as well as White House officials who knew that torture was inevitable in these foreign prisons.

Grey recounts in the third part of his book the international public backlash against these renditions and the involvement of so-called democratic governments in facilitating them. All the while, the Bush administration wants to continue these covert extra-legal practices. This is a chilling exposé that, it's hoped, will help turn the tables.

# REVIEWS



## DVDs/CDs

Compiled by Duncan Roads

### THUNDERBOLTS – The Tutorial: Pt 1

Produced by David Talbott, Ben Ged Low  
© 2007 Silver Wolf Productions Inc. and Kronia Group

Available: <http://www.thunderbolts.info>;  
<http://www.kronia.com/>

Current popular scientific theories can neither predict nor explain the recent discoveries and phenomena we are now observing in space.

David Talbott and Wallace Thornhill are two among many proposing a new theory which can predict and explain these phenomena. The Electric Model challenges our fundamental assumptions about the workings of the universe and explains why the Sun is *not* a nuclear furnace, why comets are *not* dirty snowballs and why there is *no* such thing as dark matter.

This DVD, with its breathtaking graphics and imagery, clearly shows both sides of the debate in easy-to-understand language.

It is interesting to note that some of the ancient rock art found in Australia shows exactly the same electric discharge patterns as found in plasma experiments in the lab.

The Electric Model is surely our next step in understanding how the cosmos works.

Warning! This DVD contains stunning colour images of galaxy spirals, clusters and nebula forms. Electrifying!

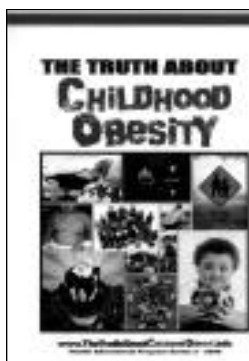


### THE TRUTH ABOUT CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Produced by Health Educational Program,  
<http://www.thetruthabouthypertension.info>  
Available: Eleotin 4 Diabetes, PO Box 12,  
Hornsby NSW 2077, Australia, tel+61 (0)2  
9476 0936, <http://www.eastwoodcos.com>

According to the US Centers for Disease Control, nine million American children are substantially overweight. Based on current trends, this number is estimated to increase by 20% in the next five years.

Though many factors contribute to cause obesity, the largest single cause is poor



information. Many parents and adults, in addition to children themselves, fail to see the consequences of what would seem like a collection of harmless habits. With the knowledge of causation—ranging from imbalanced diet to lack of exercise—parents, guardians and children can be better equipped to combat obesity.

Dr Youngsoo Kim and Christina Sestan discuss the various contributing factors and also show steps you can take to prevent or reverse obesity.

### A SPACE STORY: An Antidote to Narrow Mindedness

© 2006-07 by Mayan Animations

Website: [www.mayananimations.com](http://www.mayananimations.com)

This thought-provoking DVD includes audio interviews with some of today's foremost scientists and researchers exploring UFO-related issues and zero-point energy.

Basically what you have here are some very good audio interview clips running in the background, accompanied by some very spacey, but unrelated, graphics. By "spacey", I mean imagery of UFOs, alien landscapes, spacescapes, etc.

Nick Pope (former UK Ministry of Defence officer on the UFO desk) is quite candid regarding his views and involvement at the MoD. There are lots of interesting tidbits, including his observations about the number of abductees who have the rhesus negative blood type.

Engineer John Hutchison is also interviewed and, as usual, he has some amazing things to say about gravity and antigravity. (I'm still waiting for a good DVD just on him—hint, hint!)

Nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman has always got some real pearlers, and he drops most of them during his interview segments.

Alex Agnew, of whom I was shamefully unfamiliar beforehand, comes up with some fascinating quantum physics information.

Having unrelated, "relaxing" imagery running across the screen, while you listen to physics raves, really does help you reach a rational understanding of these subjects.





# REVIEWS

## MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

### GYPSY GROOVE

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2007 (43mins)

Distributors: **Aust**—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Putumayo Music, tel 07759 600495; **USA**—[www.putumayo.com](http://www.putumayo.com)

Gypsies, or Roma as they prefer to be called, have an extensive, amazing history. They migrated from the Indus Valley over 1,000 years ago, first to the Middle East and Eastern Europe and then on to the rest of the world. As master musicians/entertainers, they cross into many genres—flamenco, Jewish klezmer and even classical music. *Gypsy Groove* features Balkan beats, gypsy jams and other gems from leaders of this rich music scene. A fast, fantastic collection that gets you on your feet.

### LION OF AFRICA

by Manu Dibango

Global Mix, UK, 2007 (CD & DVD, 84mins each)

Distributors: **Australia**—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Global Mix, tel +44 (0)118 9406812, <http://www.esip.co.uk>

The growth of world music in the last 30 years owes so much to Manu Dibango. His mixture of Cameroon dancehall style with American soul-jazz woke up the world in the 1970s with his huge hit "Soul Makossa". Manu is a singer, a composer and an arranger, with multi-instrumental talents ranging over alto and tenor sax, marimbass and piano. This UK concert, recorded in October 2004 for his 71st birthday, also features Baaba Maal (vocals), Coco Mbassi (vocals) and Courtney Pine (sax)—all giants of world music. You're treated to a sublime version of "Summertime", a cool rendition of the signature "Soul Makossa" and many more jazz, swing and African-influenced standards. A classic CD, and you can take in the concert on DVD as well. Heaven!

### THE SHAPE OF LIGHT

by Jeff Ball

Red Feather Music, 2007 (60mins)

Distributor: **USA**—Four Winds Trading Company, tel 800 456 5444 (toll free), [www.fourwinds-trading.com/store](http://www.fourwinds-trading.com/store); <http://www.jeffball.net>

Jeff Ball's new album *The Shape of Light* uplifts with rhythm that is loose and yet sweet. Jeff, on Native American flute, is supported by an ensemble of talented musicians: Peter Phippen on bansuri (bamboo flute), Ron Kravitz on the hang and the shruti box; Ron Warren on piano; Dawn

Avery on cello; Arvel Bird on violin; John Natale on acoustic guitar; and Trevor Ball on rainstick. Flute devotees as well as ambient music lovers will treasure this CD.

### VIEUX FARKA TOURE

by Vieux Farka Touré

World Village, Europe, 2006 (50mins)

Distributors: **Aust**—Select Audio, tel (07) 3849 6020; **Germany**—Harmonia Mundi, tel +49 (0)711 2567671; **USA**—World Village, tel (818) 333 1500, website <http://www.worldvillagemusic.com>

Vieux Farka Touré's debut album represents an historic passing of the torch from father Ali Farka Touré to son (NEXUS 12/06, 13/04). Vieux is a highly talented guitarist, singer, songwriter and percussionist in his own right. His songs are global-minded music for the new millennium, where ancient African meets reggae and rock. His late father joins him on two tracks, and Toumani Diabaté plays kora on another two. A fabulous first album, mixing modern with Malian traditions.

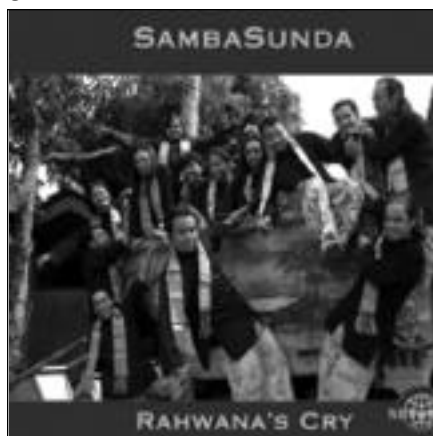
### RAHWANA'S CRY

by SambaSunda

Network Medien, 2005 (59mins)

Distributors: **Aust**—Select Audio, tel (07) 3849 6020; **Germany**—Network Medien, fax +49 (0)69 499 0097, website <http://www.networkmedien.de>

In modern Indonesia, a fresh generation of musicians is redefining an ancient musical heritage. SambaSunda, a 17-member group, brings together an array of Sundanese and other ethnic instruments to create a new-style gamelan orchestra. Classic sounds of the traditional instruments evoke the past and also reflect the bustling, urban, youthful energy of today. SambaSunda's members, while respecting their roots, have found a way to layer old into new. They resist electronica, mixing instruments and blending old dance styles into new forms. An energetic album from a new Indonesia.





Continued from page 24

### About the Author:

Gary S. Goldman graduated with honours in 1977 from California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), with a double major: a BS Engineering (electronics emphasis) and a BS Computer Science. He holds a PhD in Computer Science, gained in 1981 from Pacific Western University in Los Angeles, California, USA.

In 1980, as Vice-President of Systems Development at Cascade Graphics Development, he developed the first microcomputer-based computer-aided drafting (CAD) system (prior to the well known AutoCad product). Dr Goldman holds a US patent (#4,223,255, granted in September 1980) for a micro-programmed, high-efficiency motor-in-a-wheel called "Power Wheel", for use in electric vehicular applications. This invention was featured on the front cover of the Fall 1980 issue of *Science and Mechanics*.

For 30-plus years, Dr Goldman has served as a computer consultant, responsible for the automation of a wide variety of businesses, improvements in production and conversion of databases. He has authored and presented

numerous manuscripts contributing to engineering and computer science disciplines and enjoys writing heuristic programs.

Dr Goldman served for eight years (from January 1995 until his resignation in October 2002) as Research Analyst for the Varicella Active Surveillance Project in Antelope Valley, in a cooperative project with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, Atlanta, Georgia). A new book based on his research, *The Chickenpox Vaccine: A New Epidemic of Disease and Corruption*, by Mark Orrin, is available at the web page <http://www.injectionbook.com/chickenpoxvaccine.html>. The book was an award-winning finalist in the Current Events: Political/Social category of the National Indie Excellence 2007 Book Awards.

Presently, Dr Goldman serves as a consulting computer scientist and is on the board of directors of Pearblossom Private School, Inc., which provides distance education to over 5,000 independent study students each year in grades K through 12 throughout the USA (see website <http://www.PearblossomSchool.com>). He is also Editor-in-Chief of the peer-reviewed journal *Medical Veritas: The Journal of Medical Truth* (<http://www.MedicalVeritas.com>).

com). He has served as a reviewer for the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Vaccine* and *The American Journal of Managed Care*. He is included on the Editorial Board of *Research & Reviews in BioSciences*. His biography is included in *Who's Who in Science and Engineering* (Marquis, 8th Edition, 2005–2006) and *Who's Who in the World* (Marquis, 23rd Edition, 2006).

Dr Goldman has recently contributed 18 articles, presentations and abstracts (nine in which he served as the lead author) on varicella vaccination, herpes zoster, capture-recapture techniques as well as other vaccine-related topics; the majority of the articles were published in peer-reviewed medical journals in the US and UK between 2000 and 2006. He can be contacted by email at [pearblossominc@aol.com](mailto:pearblossominc@aol.com) or via his website <http://www.drgoldmanonline.com/>.

### Editor's Note:

Due to space constraints, we are unable to publish the complete version of this paper with appendices including case studies, endnotes and references; it is available as a PDF document at the web page <http://www.MedicalVeritas.com/FULLNEXUS.pdf>.

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The swallowing of semen is symbolic for retaining his seed and actually not ejaculating.

Here is a quote from the last paragraph of the Gospel of Philip: "If anyone becomes a son of the bridal chamber, he will receive the light [the Chrism]. If anyone does not receive it while he is here, he will not be able to receive it in the other place [the afterlife]."

He who will receive that light will not be seen, nor can he be detained. And none shall be able to torment a person like this, even while he dwells in the world."

According to the Gnostic Gospels, the main purpose of Jesus was to teach eternal life by re-creating the divine androgyne and thus overcoming the separation of the sexes in the sacrament of the bridal chamber.

Being born again in this way with an immortal light-body, any successful follower was no longer a Christian but became a Christ (Gospel of Philip).

The real significance of the crucifixion and the crowning achievement of Jesus' life was the reappearance of Jesus and his

continued teaching in the materialised form of his immortal light-body. This was to demonstrate to his followers the truth of his teachings about the divine androgyne and eternal life.

Therefore, the real basis of the teachings of Jesus is sacred sexuality, the same as in Buddhist, Hindu and Taoist teachings. ∞

### Endnotes

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Walter Last worked as a biochemist and research chemist in the medical departments of several German universities and at Bio-Science Laboratories in Los Angeles, USA. Later he worked as a nutritionist and natural therapist in New Zealand and in Australia, where he is now based.

He has written numerous health-related journal articles as well as several books, including *Heal Yourself* and *Healing Foods* (Penguin). Presently in print are *The Natural Way to Heal* (Hampton Roads, 2004; see review in NEXUS 11/04) and the *Heal Yourself* Series—seven small books about overcoming specific diseases such as arthritis, asthma, cancer, candida, diabetes and weight problems; see web page [http://www.theartof-life.com/Products\\_02.html](http://www.theartof-life.com/Products_02.html). His article "The New Medicine of Dr Hamer", about Dr Ryke Geerd Hamer's discovery of the shock-conflict mechanism underlying cancer development, was published in NEXUS 10/05, and his article "How Scientific Are Orthodox Cancer Treatments?" was run in NEXUS 11/04.

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partook in a sacred communion banquet of bread and wine, a ceremony that paralleled the Christian Eucharist and preceded it by more than four centuries.

Christianity is an adaptation of Mithraism welded with the Druidic principles of the Culdees, some Egyptian elements (the pre-Christian Book of Revelation was originally called *The Mysteries of Osiris and Isis*), Greek philosophy and various aspects of Hinduism.

### Why there are no records of Jesus Christ

It is not possible to find in any legitimate religious or historical writings compiled between the beginning of the first century and well into the fourth century any reference to Jesus Christ and the spectacular events that the Church says accompanied his life. This confirmation comes from Frederic Farrar (1831–1903) of Trinity College, Cambridge:

"It is amazing that history has not embalmed for us even one certain or definite saying or circumstance in the life

of the Saviour of mankind ... there is no statement in all history that says anyone saw Jesus or talked with him. Nothing in history is more astonishing than the silence of contemporary writers about events relayed in the four Gospels."

(*The Life of Christ*, Frederic W. Farrar, Cassell, London, 1874)

This situation arises from a conflict between history and New Testament narratives. Dr Tischendorf made this comment:

"We must frankly admit that we have no source of information with respect to the life of Jesus Christ other than ecclesiastic writings assembled during the fourth century."

(*Codex Sinaiticus*, Dr Constantin von Tischendorf, British Library, London)

There is an explanation for those hundreds of years of silence: the construct of Christianity did not begin until after the first quarter of the fourth century, and that is why Pope Leo X (d. 1521) called Christ a "fable" (*Cardinal Bembo: His Letters...*, op. cit.). ∞

### About the Author:

Tony Bushby, an Australian, became a businessman and entrepreneur very early in his life. He established a magazine-publishing business and spent 20 years researching, writing and publishing his own magazines, primarily for the Australian and New Zealand markets. With his strong interest in metaphysical subjects, he has developed longstanding relationships with many associations and societies throughout the world that have assisted his research by making their archives available.

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