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A¹ Dowsing in an Age of Science

Jim Willis

Dowsing, like every other technology, is subject to change over time. Because dowsers operate on a deeply intuitive level, our mental processes, shaped by prevailing culture, can sometimes work to our disadvantage if we are not careful. Thinking and reasoning, the generally accepted ways of functioning these days, are not bad things. But if left unexamined they can sometimes hinder us.

Our social environment shapes us in quiet and unacknowledged ways. This raises a question: How does a thinking, educated dowser in the 21st century approach a craft that was discovered and practiced by people who lived thousands of years ago?

Let's begin with a simple premise: *What our culture teaches us about reality is insufficient.* Thus, a traditional, common-place way of viewing the world doesn't stand up to scrutiny, no matter how "normal" it feels to you.

Make no mistake about it. This is hard! Accepting that there may be mysterious forms of energy flowing through us unnoticed and unacknowledged is really tough for an educated, western, modern human being. It goes against most of our assumptions and threatens to turn our logical world-view into something that feels suspiciously like medieval superstition. Who wants to turn back the clock to the Middle Ages? Haven't we progressed past those days?

Maybe this will help. For many years I've employed an invaluable tool that informs our understanding about how humans currently perceive the world around them. I call it the *A/B/A¹ Stage-Theory of Metaphysical Development.*

Let's use a belief in Santa Claus as an analogy to understand how the system works.

- *Stage A: Intuitive Ability*

In *Stage A*, we, as children, exhibit a blind belief in a man with a red suit and white beard who comes down the chimney on Christmas Eve to bring us presents. We interpret the Christmas myth in a very literal sense. There is a real workshop at the North Pole and a real Santa. A large conspiracy, consisting of television shows, our social network, and an adult population who participate in the cover-up, convinces us that the myth is true. We believe it and it works. That's sufficient, even if each passing year finds us asking more questions.

Stage A in this example represents various metaphysical belief systems, including dowsing, that were practiced by most humans from the dawn of our species right up through most of the 15th century. During those years we utilized what I like to call *Intuitive Ability* while we sought to understand the world around us. It was simple and it worked. We wove a rich and complex mythology around it to explain the whole thing. If understood metaphorically, that mythology still rings true today.

This stage ended only after a dedicated and sometimes deadly battle raged between intuition and intellectualism, championed by heroes such as Copernicus and Isaac Newton.

- *Stage B: Intellectual Disability*

Now back to the Santa Claus metaphor.

There comes a time early in our childhood development when Christmas agnosticism rears its ugly head and we begin a difficult transition period. Facts cannot be denied, so we enter *Stage B*. We no longer blindly accept rituals and myths. We don't write the traditional letter to Santa. There are better ways to manipulate the real providers. We may be a little bitter, but we are certainly more savvy and sophisticated.

We soon become Santa Claus atheists who tolerate the system because it serves as a crutch to those we consider to be less mature than ourselves. On the other hand, there is still something in it for us, and we want it to be there when we need it. After all, it's fun and it gives us legal holidays. So we outwardly play the game.

That's what we've been doing ever since academic science began to wage war on what many began calling "primitive superstition." Metaphysics was dethroned and replaced. *Stage A* was fine for a while, just as Santa Claus is fun for children, but eventually we had to grow up. It was time for *Stage B*. That's where we've been for the last five hundred years.

Unfortunately, it's beginning to appear as though we may have thrown the baby out with the bath water. The *Intuitive Ability* that once served us so well was replaced by *Intellectual Disability*. In short, we stopped believing in anything we couldn't overtly perceive with our five senses.

But a hundred years ago we discovered a quantum world full of magical surprises and it began to look as though *Stage B* was a stepping stone to something bigger than we could have possibly imagined.

- *Stage A¹: Conscious Ability*

With time and providence, something wonderful begins to happen when children grow into adults. They once again find Santa Claus. They become believers again.

Not in a literal sense, of course. They know there is no workshop at the North Pole. But the myth becomes a metaphor for something that is very real. They say wholeheartedly, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus!"

And there really is! It turns out that belief in the popular Christmas myth is much more than a metaphor. It's just that the reality is very, very different from that which we understood as children. Santa Claus is discovered to be an interlocking network of loving friends and world-wide, fully encompassing, enjoyable social customs. We come to understand its importance. We feel, probably without being able to explain why, the significance of what Christmas really is. We transition to what I call a *Stage A¹* system - an understanding that is based not upon a crude myth but upon its significance, which is both metaphorical and actually true at the same time. Santa lives! The importance now lies in the reality to which the story points.

And there *is* such a reality! People *do* show their love by giving presents, singing songs and feasting together. The Grinch of *Stage B* didn't steal Christmas! Those are real things. They actually exist. They're not simply metaphors. Instead, they prove to be part of a universal system that is much bigger than a single man in a red suit.

This homey analogy illustrates what I call the *A/B/A¹ Stage-Theory of Metaphysical Development*: A literal belief system, called *A*, is followed by skepticism. This is something quite different, so I call it *B*. Skepticism is followed by a new system, built on the myth of the first stage, hence the *A*, but interpreted with greater maturity, so it becomes *A¹*.

Today we stand on the verge of a paradigm shift in human consciousness. If we look through the lens of our *A/B/A¹* pattern of metaphysical growth we can

discern our progress. It turns out that dowsing, a blend of intuitive ability and conscious intention, may well lead the way.

- *A: The Age of Intuitive Ability*

During this stage dowsing was practiced because it worked. The *necessities* of life trumped the search for the *meaning* of life. And that was sufficient.

- *B: The Age of Intellectual Disability*

It took a long time, but the first stage of human metaphysical development - the *A Stage* - eventually led to the second stage - the *B Stage*. During this stage we gave vent to our powerful human curiosity. It drove us to extremes. We wanted to know how things worked and we wanted to learn how to control the process.

What a wonderful, innovative stage! We experimented with economics, governmental policies, philosophies, social systems and race relations. We learned to be comfortable in all sorts of weather. We learned to be well-fed even in times of drought and famine. We learned to fly through the air, walk on the moon, speed down roads that are marvels of engineering, conquer every inch of the planet, pave over our environment, destroy our ozone layer, wreck our ecosystems, bring our species to the brink of extinction by means of many different technologies, and we overpopulated to our heart's content. We became fat and happy, even though continually discontented, and we generally accepted, as if it was our birthright, our rule as the dominant life form ever to arise on planet earth.

We also lost the sense of magic that lay outside the perception our five senses. But the voice of the mystic, the spiritual craving of our first ancestors, the impulse of the shaman, artist and musician, refused to evolve away. From the long forgotten *A Stage* of human development it echoed down the corridors of time: Who are we? Why are we here? Are we a part of something bigger?

It's the voice that refuses to die, no matter what the prevailing culture does to snuff it out.

- *A¹: The Age of Conscious Ability*

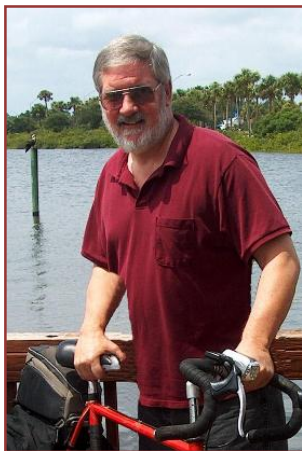
Thus it is that today's visionaries still believe we live in an ocean of energy that connects everything together. But this belief is now expressed *both* by those who practice the dowser's craft *and* those who explore quantum reality. Together they explore a perception realm that can be revealed through complex

mathematics *and* dowsing with proper intention. The difference is this. The mathematics of theoretical physics *describes* other realities. Through dowsing, we actually *experience* them!

Many people think such visionaries are misguided at best, seriously deluded at worst. But what if the visionaries are onto something? What if they are, indeed, agents of change? Could this be the beginning of a new stage of human development? Are physics and metaphysics beginning to merge into one lane of traffic? Are the voices of our ancient *Stage A* intuitive ancestors melding with the informed opinion of modern *Stage B* intellectuals, pointing the way to a new understanding of what it means to be human?

Dowsing is much more than an interesting parlor trick. It is much more than tracking underground water or discovering auras and earth energy. The dowsing implement you hold in your hand points the way to a fresh understanding of what it means to be alive and connected to a greater reality. *You* are the dowsing rod, not the implement you choose to point the way into the unknown. The magic of the cosmos flows through your body. It always has. It always will. It never left. We just ignored it for a while. The ability to discern the magic may, through disuse, have atrophied. But it's still there. You can find it anew, and you don't need to check your intellect at the door while you search. Indeed, the very thought processes that once caused humankind to doubt the metaphysical forces that underlie existence now stand poised to aid us in our search for a new tomorrow.

We may have stumbled for a few years and lost our way. But now it's time to pick up our dowsing rods and walk into our future!



Jim Willis is the author of many books on spirituality and religion, among them *The Dragon Awakes: Rediscovering Earth Energy in the Age of Science*, and *Ancient Gods: Lost Histories, Hidden Truths and the Conspiracy of Silence*. His new book, *Supernatural Gods: Spiritual Mysteries, Psychic Experiences and Scientific Truths* (Visible Ink Press) is scheduled for release this summer. You can follow him online at jimwillis.net and facebook.com/jimwillis.author.