

THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF DOWSING

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This article is a slightly expanded version of a talk given at the British Society of Dowsters Conference at Tunbridge Wells in May, 1966. It gives a few dowsing experiences of my own over a wide field and looks at the mental and physical aspects of each. It gives no solution to the problem of what dowsing is, but is intended as a thought provoker!

Why do we want to know more about the forces we use in dowsing? I suggest first, because man is inquisitive and likes to know how things work. Secondly, because many of us feel we could be more effective as dowsters and therefore more useful, if we knew more about how the thing works. Lastly, it is such a fantastic and such an ancient ability it is indeed surprising that no one yet seems to have got anywhere near the answer. For this generation who understand how to get to the moon it is indeed a challenge, for dowsing is, I believe, but one of our own personal abilities there to be developed and used if we wish.

In recent years there have been two broad schools of thought. Briefly, those who could be described as the Physical school and the other the Mental school.

The Physical school believe that things emanate and that the dowser is able to pick up those emanations. The Mental school believe, broadly, that the whole business is a mental one, and there this explanation stops. I do not like this word "mental"; many of us use it in expressions like "Dowsing is a mental business." It is a loose word covering too much; here it is used as an expression to cover something which is not physical and is not explained by Science. However I shall use it where I must for want of a better, as readers will understand what is meant.

I must make three points before starting on the examples. The first is that we talk of Dowsing, Distant Dowsing and Map Dowsing. Distant Dowsing is taken to begin beyond the point at which the dowser can be expected to pick up emanations from the object of the search. I believe that all dowsing is one and that these expressions are descriptive of method only and not descriptive of different means. The second point is that while dowsing work is enormously varied, what I would call "Searching" forms a large part of most branches. The third is that I think we all now accept that the rod is merely an indicator reacting to the dowser's muscular movement and has no magic in itself.

Finding North

This is my first case. It is not difficult to know the direction of north. I have never tried to get it accurately, but normally it

is easy to get the general direction. I suggest that this ability, which all dowsers probably have, is the beginnings of what is known as "a good bump of locality." Like all dowsing abilities it requires training and practice.

Is this ability physical or mental? On the physical side there will undoubtedly be small observations and deductions which are subconsciously recorded. The more observant the person and the more the need to know, the more will be recorded. This may add up to give quite a good guess direction.

But if the eyes are shut and the rod is swung round with a definite query in the mind "Where is the North?" I find I get a movement of the rod at a certain part of the swing. (Normal technique for me). By swinging back I can centre on this direction, which should be North. Done this way we call it Mental and it is this same system that many dowsers use when searching for the general direction of a whole variety of things.

Examining this technique in a little more detail we have:—

- (a) Myself, Physical, knowing clearly what I want to find.
- (b) My search mechanism, which I can switch on and off at will. In this case I swing it horizontally until it touches the object of the search at whatever distance. This direction is conveyed to me by the rod's movement.
- (c) The object of the search in most cases is definitely physical. In this particular case it is the North, presumably the magnetic North, which is physical. No one would claim to be sensitive enough to react like a compass, so I believe we are using some other force in the search.

For simplicity I must give this force a name and for the time being I will call it Force Q. Force Q if told clearly what to search for at the other end will pick it up, whatever the range and it can select, if required, from other similar objects. This moment of pick-up or selection must involve a physical contact if what is being sought is physical.

Following a Human Being

My second case perhaps brings this out more clearly. When the last British troops left Suez in the emergency of 1957 it was reported in the news. I then knew that my son was on the way home but I had no idea when he had left or in what ship. For fun I tried to plot his position each evening for the next few days, using a pendulum and a one page atlas map of the Mediterranean. The position spots were converted to Latitude and Longitude.

Later I had a letter from my son posted in Gibraltar giving the name of his ship and probable date of arrival at Southampton. Before this date I sent my position plots to the Captain of the ship

and asked him to comment. In due course he did, giving the ship's corrected positions. The first four days were as follows:—

	<i>My Plot</i>	<i>Ship's Position</i>	<i>Error</i>
1800 hours, 24 Dec.	20° 30 E. 35° 30 N.	20° 30 E. 35° 30 N.	— —
2145 hours, 25 Dec.	12° 30 E. 36° 45 N.	13° 30 E. 36° 45 N.	1° —
1745 hours, 26 Dec.	7° 30 E. 37° 30 N.	8° 22 E. 37° 30 N.	0° 52' —
1830 hours, 27 Dec.	0° 36° 45 N.	3° 00 E. 36° 45 N.	3° —

How much of this operation is mental and how much physical? In this case there was a strong personal link between me and my son. I was quite clear who I was searching for, so at this physical level there was no chance of picking up the wrong man among so many ships and among so many men in the ships.

The rough probable route of the ship from Suez to Gibraltar could be guessed, so it was a matter of searching as if I were looking over the side of an aeroplane flying along the possible route.

Physically, I could clearly indicate who I wanted to locate. With Q force switched on working vertically in this case because I was map dowsing, the force was able to select and locate my son. At the moment of location there must have been a definite physical contact. The fact that there was a small error in the positioning can be partially explained by the inaccuracy of the means I was using; a large pendulum and a small scale map, plus the difficulty of converting the position found on the map accurately to latitude and longitude.

I have said with Q force switched on; it may be that this force is outside us but always there and that we can, as it were, hook on to it as the trolley arm of a tram contacts and obtains power from the overhead cable. Whether the force is within each of us, or whether we just hook on to it remains to be seen. There is no doubt that we can make use of it or not, at will. Personally I prefer to think that it is within us.

Finding metal in a human body

The last two cases dealt with distant objects, the next deals with a range of an inch or two.

Some years ago I visited a government office whose inhabitants dealt with the finding and classifying of ancient sites, I did not know them well then though I do now. I had been suggesting that

dowsing might be useful in their work, little knowing how difficult archaeological dowsing can be. As I left, one of them asked if a dowser could find a piece of metal in a man's back. I said that if he was properly qualified he should be able to do so, implying that I was not. He immediately threw off his coat, keeping his waistcoat on, laid himself over the table and invited me to see if I could locate the piece of metal he had carried in his back since the first world war. I was in a bit of a panic, but produced my pendulum and without touching him moved it up his spine and round about thinking of "Metal, but excluding Braces." Shortly I felt that I had found the spot, put my finger on it was and told that I was quite correct.

I now know this to be a fairly simple sort of search but it was new to me then. I knew I was looking for metal and bar possibly the braces there was unlikely to be other metal in the area of my search. I was close to him but not touching. It is just possible that I could have picked up metal emanations, but I have no idea how large the piece was and I very much doubt if I found it by that means. He knew, of course, where the metal was and possibly could have helped or hindered, but he was lying on his face and couldn't see what I was doing. I don't think I was influenced by him in any way; if anything I think he would then have been opposed to me.

I remember it being a fight to concentrate and exclude the others in the room and to ignore the somewhat odd and trying circumstances.

Apart from the trying circumstances, I believe the problem is similar to the last case. Instead of, as it were, leaning over the side of an aeroplane searching an area of sea for a man, I was leaning over a man's back searching an area of back for a piece of metal. The range was different, 3 inches as opposed to about 2,000 miles, but I do not believe that matters. I knew what I wanted to find, the Q force was switched on and told me when my pendulum passed over the metal. Here again there must have been a physical identification in that it was able to discriminate between bone, braces, metal and the piece of metal I was seeking.

Locating the source of a sore Shoulder

The next case has a slightly more medical note. Quite often I have found it fairly easy to put my finger almost straight away on the critical sore spot on the body or limb of a human being. In this particular case no pendulum was used.

A friend of ours was having trouble with a shoulder that ached by day and particularly by night, and she was not able to locate the trouble. I ran my hand over the shoulder with in my mind, "Where is the root of the trouble?" and very quickly was able to put a finger on a spot and was promptly told that that was the sore spot.

In this and in other cases, it has seemed to me that the sore spot was slightly warmer than the rest of the shoulder, but in addition to this, one seemed to be attracted to this spot in some way, so it would seem that the usual search mechanism was at work. This search could have been successful by purely physical means, but I have no knowledge of anatomy and do not believe the solution came this way.

Finding Archaeological ditches

I have used archaeological ditches on more than one occasion as an example of the breadth of dowsing work. Is the finding of such a ditch, where nothing shews on the surface, a physical or a mental matter?

As far as this article is concerned such a ditch is merely a place where the original sub-soil has been dug out and, for a while, has formed an obstacle. Later it fell into disuse and disrepair and gradually silted up or was deliberately refilled. Due to plough action nothing shews on the surface. There is undisturbed sub-soil up to the shoulders of the ditch, then within the ditch there is mixed earth, rubble and silt, etc. This ditch filling will be of a different consistency from the surrounding subsoil.

I do not think that a ditch can emanate. But there is a marked difference in texture between the undisturbed subsoil and the contents of the ditch, and it is this change in texture that one is able to pick up, either when dowsing on the ground, or by map dowsing at any distance. Ground dowsing at, say, 6 foot range and map dowsing at any range, the mental approach is exactly the same; only the tools used are different. Once again we seem to have the sequence of the physical start in the dowser, the Q force as the means of search, and the physical identification by the Q force of the difference in texture of the ditch from the surrounding subsoil.

Finding a lost drain

Another example in the same type of work is the straight-forward lost pipe problem.

A dowser once complained that he could not find some lost field drains on a farm. When questioned it was evident that he was searching for the water in the drains. When it was suggested that perhaps the drains were blocked and that no water ran in them and that he should look for the tile drains themselves, all was well and they were found.

It is sometimes alleged that running water sets up forces that can be detected scientifically. I do not know if this is true, but I do not think that a tile drain can be detected scientifically, but the trench in which it lay could. Had the pipe been lead, it could

have been found by a mine detector, but the mine detector could not detect the trench in which the pipe lay, nor could it find a tile drain. Our Q force is thus superior in that it can detect the ditch and the pipe whatever the pipe is made of.

Following a dog

The next example is quite different. Some years ago I decided to try to follow my dog by dowsing as I had never tried this branch of the work before.

I asked my wife to take him by any route she liked to a spot in my garden which was invisible from where I was standing. The distance involved was about 600 yards through woodland and over a field. I intended to follow the actual route taken and not go direct. I took a tuft of his hair and gave them a ten minute start, knowing that they would be at their chosen spot before I started. When, soon I found them I told her in detail my route and she confirmed that it was the one that they had followed.

By using the rod I was able to follow as if a scent had been laid or an invisible line existed. Every 10 to 15 yards I stopped and swung the rod from side to side to feel the direction of the route ahead. I had always in mind "Where is the dog's trail?" Was this Physical or Mental?

On the physical side I knew the dog well and for that matter there were no other dogs about, but there were sheep. So the Q force had to differentiate between his path and that of the sheep. Apart from the fact that one was picking up places where the dog had been, there does not seem to be anything different in this type of search from any other.

Depthing water under clay

There seems to be no doubt that the counting down method for depthing water does work. Presumably the standard unit of measurement visualized by the dowser must be accurate. On the face of it, it would appear to be a straightforward searching problem, only vertical rather than horizontal. "How deep is *this* stream of water?" The clear question is asked, the Q force is switched on, it reaches the physical object selected by the dowser and an answer is available.

All this seems standard and straightforward. But why do some dowsers have difficulty with clay belts over water? Is this fact or inhibition? The standard advice is to add the thickness of the clay belt to the depth given by the count down. If it is fact and not inhibition, here for the first time there seems to be a physical intrusion into a normal, so called mental dowsing action, for force Q having been given a clear problem has properly identified the stream but the depth given is corrupt to the extent of the

thickness of the clay belt. I do not know the answer to this problem and only mention it as, if it is valid it is the only intrusion I know into the normal search mechanism.

Healing. Plant improving

These are fields in which I have done very little work. I accept the fact that it is possible to diagnose what plant foods are lacking in the soil and as far as this article is concerned I believe this work is in the same field as the doctor or healer, working with human beings, who selects medicines by dowsing means.

By scientific soil analysis and by normal medical practice it is possible to guess at the needs of plants and humans. But dowsing results seem often to be more effective.

Does the dowser use physical means or is it by the use of force Q that the answer is achieved?

Turning to the other aspect of plant improving and to healing humans, by touch; here again both seem to me to be in the same category. It is said that some people have green fingers and it seems to be true. There is no doubt that plants do grow better for some than for others and it is not just a question of better knowledge or skill. The green finger folk don't seem to have to bother so much to produce good results.

I think the healer who deals by touch with headaches, sprains, aches and pains, etc., works in the same field.

In each of these cases the effect could be a purely physical one, a transference of something from the gardener or healer to the plant or person. If so, it is not recognized by the scientific world. While I am sure that something does pass without much effort, I am equally sure that the output can be improved by use of the force I have called Q, whether this force is within us or available outside us.

I do not wish to get too involved in the vast fields of healing and plant improvement as I know so little about the practical working side of either, but I feel there is a very close relationship between the "seeking" dowsing work and the human and plant Healing type of work.

Dating

As the object of this article is to provoke thought, I am including a short note on experimental work on the dating of ancient things like pottery, tools, relics and field sites.

The method is simply to concentrate on the object with the query in mind "When was this made?" A count is then taken off it. The older an object is the fewer the count off it. An object made about 1250 B.C. would give a count of 25, and A.D. 1 gives a

count of 40. An experimental comparative scale has been worked out as a graph, so it is simple to convert from counts to date.

This application of dowsing seems to be comparable to depthing and in fact to the whole range of the "searching" examples quoted, in that the query starts physical with the dowser and ends physical with the object, in between is the Q force.

To Sum Up: There are large fields of dowsing which I have omitted, and I have only touched on the important healing side, for the reason that these are subjects I know little about.

I have given instances of work in a wide and varied field and it would seem that the only common factor is the mysterious and unknown force used in dowsing. What it is I do not pretend to know.

For what it is worth this is what I think at present:

- (a) The business of dowsing is part physical and part mental.
- (b) Dowsing usually begins in the physical and ends in the physical. It begins in the human wanting to know something and visualizing clearly what he wants to know. This is physical. Force Q having been briefed is able to cover the intervening distance of miles or time and differentiate at the other end between physical things and select the one required.
- (c) Force Q is either a part of ourselves (a force that we can use at will and switch off at will), or it is a force outside ourselves which we can hook on to at will and use. I prefer to think that it is within us.
- (d) The ability to use force Q can be developed so that we become more sensitive, more versatile, more accurate and more skilled in its use.
- (e) By the use of this force we can cover any distance from touch to many thousands of miles round the world or thousands of feet up or down into the earth.
- (f) Dowsing ability is latent in a very large number of people, only waiting to be developed.
- (g) Lastly. If we are to understand the business of dowsing I am sure we must study the mechanisms used over the whole broad field. We must not just study water divining or distant healing or some other particular technique; we must learn from, and study across the whole wide field.

If by bringing together these varied cases I have provided food for thought in any way, I shall be satisfied.