

Dear Editor,

I must admit to finding the Worthing Dowzers/Beadon Block problem fascinating as I know the Worthing group well and was privileged to learn all about the "energy control unit" in Clive Beadon's presentation at the International Congress in Oxford in 1983.

First I recommend a rummage through the BSD archives. Before my time there was a Congress — I associate a spa town with the story, Tunbridge Wells maybe or Harrogate — at which the springs in the town were researched by an outdoor party. One of the members announced that he (it would hardly be a she) had "switched the streams off" — by the placing of some mineral or artefact if not purely by thought. Sure enough, the rest of the party found that for dowsing purposes the streams had vanished — except for one freethinker who said to himself: "this has got to be codswallop," and made the decision that for him, the streams still existed. Sure enough again, he found that all the original courses instantly reappeared and could be dowsed, somewhat to the discomfiture of the others, who still could not dowse them.

It always surprises me about the dowsing world that this was not seized on as a highly significant event. At the very least trials should have been held to see whether dowsing could be "turned off" like that without the dowzers being told anything about it. The idea of "rays" at least could be afforded a good funeral.

My own impulse in such imponderable cases is not to hypothesise on the basis of guesses but simply to dowse the thing. Quite what is going on in the subconscious, when we do not have the first concept of how the apparent linkage with the world as a whole operates, is not an easy thing to dowse: trying to get "the other end" to suggest a vocabulary in which you can ask the questions is a frustrating business as all the enterprise and inventiveness have to be supplied at your end. It is, of course, possible to get clear answers in several different traditional belief systems, such as theosophy or spiritualism, but I regard this as rather like trying to learn the workings of transistor radios using Hottentot. But using a system of "concept dowsing" where one starts with an approximation to the required term and then refines it laboriously, I have come up with some results which readers may find interesting, even if, as an unprovable dowse, they do not have evidential value beyond being clues. I will present them here as dogmatic fact, it being understood throughout that I recognise they are a close cousin to fantasy. I will start by explaining some basic concepts.

There are four principal reasons good relaxed dowzers get misleading results:

1. Terminology and conscious cultural standpoint — the meaning of something, based on your current concepts and beliefs. If you are a certain kind of Christian fundamentalist, dowsing is

- divination and treating with familiar spirits and as such, evil. Dowsing the matter will therefore confirm that you are evil. The *correct answer* is that you are evil in the light of your current understanding of things, which to an enlightened Christian fundamentalist, if there is such a thing, is a different matter. It is important to grasp here that there are some things humans will never understand, so that dowsing cannot be perfectable, only improvable.
2. Perceptual reach which is insufficient for the purposes of the quest. All situations have infinitely long histories only part of which need be known to answer a question reasonably usefully. The perceptual subconscious reach of a dowser, or to be more accurate, the perceiving consciousness (PC) of which the dowser is a part, which will include and be magnified by other people paying subconscious attention to the quest, is necessarily finite and it is chance whether the PC is matched adequately to the quest unless it is a regular one the PC is used to, in which case it will have improved contact with practice. Dowzers can check the degree of contact *for the practical purposes of the quest* as a percentage and if they have under 80% then they need to improve it before asking their question. (Ask me how if you like, but why not dowse how?) In very broad generalities, beginners tend to be in contact with only the most recent and therefore least complex part of a history — a parallel situation exists with regard to healing.
 3. There is no English term for this but a translation is “subconscious legitimate-way-of-thought” (SLWOT). In computer terms, the PC has a menu of understandable concepts which it uses in multiple to interpret reality. Many of these concepts are like mental tramlines established over millenia of human experience and very difficult to escape from, some of them will have been built up by the PC or constituent individuals of it to meet the needs of usage and a few may well be rogue ones useful in another context but unhelpful in the present one. During a dowse the intelligences of the dowzers will co-operate as a “perceiving intelligence” (PI) to refine the choice of SLWOTs and this will be optimised if the dowzers allow time before asking for a response and bear consciously in mind the ready abandonment of habituated SLWOTs where they are inappropriate — or more simply put, subconscious explorativeness. (Again, I have an array of arcane procedures for this, but the questing dowser should establish his or her own system.)
 4. Finally, processing accuracy. I have not researched quite how the PI builds up the PC's picture of reality, but in this particular context it is enough to know that choice of too many incorrect SLWOTs, which happens when the conscious cultural

frameworks of the dowzers limit the terms in which questions can be posed and understood, produces an outright wrong answer even if the actual dowser reading the response is a freethinker.

So much for the terms of reference. What happened at Worthing? A simplified answer seems to be that firstly, someone in the group was carrying around a set of SLWOTs borrowed from a subconscious tradition, itself a product of insufficient perceptual reach, that one of the many hundreds of thousands of influences the Beadon cube is capable of countering causes inability to dowse — a nearer approach to the truth being that it does this only in certain other undetected circumstances.

Next, these SLWOTs are partially shared for other purposes by other PCs which include dowzers sceptical of the use of Beadon cubes, whose belief that the no-dowsing effect is *not* cleared with the help of a cube creates a disabling pattern. This renders the Worthing group vulnerable to this particular effect by their use of the shared SLWOTs.

In short, a case of unwitting self-hypnosis with the aid of subconsciously transferred belief patterns. The cure is for the Worthing company to read up the Tunbridge Wells (or Harrogate) affair and take the appropriate lesson: stand aside for a moment and do your own thing.

Of course, the Beadon Block comes into the bigger controversy about whether dowser-healers need such toys at all, and that is something I have some more concepts for. (Briefly, problems have infinite roots, there is no such thing as a perfect solution, HIs — healing intelligences as per PIs — are not something you can generalise about, it depends on what your goal is, and is an electrician's screwdriver a shibboleth when a real weirdo could do without?) But that's another matter.

Daniel Wilson, Kent.

Dear Editor,

The correspondence in the magazine fills me with the urge to set down my own thoughts and intense feelings on the subject under discussion — the Beadon Block — which thanks to the kindness of Clive Beadon who loaned me one — I had it in my possession resting on my desk, unmolested, both in and out of its protective covering for a week or two.

Before I report the “devastating” effect it had upon me may I for a moment mention the very many other devices that have appeared from time to time. All of them have been inspired by a real desire to help in an underlying cause that each of us in the Society believe could hold out great benefit to mankind in one way or another. Go on — look at the Society's Booklist. You will see many subjects listed thereon from Aromatherapy to Water Divining and I'll wager that close scrutiny will reveal hosts of devices, designs and symbols