

From Salamander Bones to the Seven Towers of Satan

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Runes #III-3, May 1985
Order of the Trapezoid
Temple of Set

In our explorations into the phenomena of life and death, we've come across a good many interesting facts and theories, all of which bring us closer to the "smoking gun" we're ultimately after: a kind of "unified field theory" that would explain things like magic, ESP, PK, consciousness, the *psyche*. etc.

As in any new or unusual field of inquiry, however, there is a high error-factor. Some of the errors are both understandable and unavoidable: the normal give-and-take of the experimental process.

Other errors are more annoying: those which derive from quackery, fraud, ooga-booga mysticism, or just plain stupidity masquerading as true wisdom or authority. It has often seemed in the Church of Satan, Temple of Set, and Order of the Trapezoid that we have had to endure three steps back for every one taken forward, and that whatever knowledge we've gained has been at the expense of rather a large number of grey hairs.

In this environment it makes our day, as Clint Eastwood would say, to come across real "breakthrough" material. Here it comes, in the form of a new book entitled *The Body Electric: Electromagnetism and the Foundation of Life* by Robert O. Becker, M.D. and Gary Selden (NY: William Morrow, 1985).

Becker is an orthopedic surgeon who was not content just to set or wire broken bones together and let the body take it from there. He became interested in the field of bodily regeneration. The first part of his book is an Alice in Wonderland tour through hydras, salamanders, and other comparatively simple forms of animal life that are able to regenerate their bodies in whole or part far beyond the capabilities of more complicated life-forms (such as humans).

A hydra cut in half will quickly develop into two hydras, for example, and the salamander can completely replace amputated legs and tail - all at once if necessary - as well as its jaw and eye lenses.

To make a very long and highly technical story short, Becker gradually uncovered a number of correlations between electromagnetic phenomena and the behavior of living tissue. The first 2/3 of his book reads more like a medical research text than a survey written for non-MDs, but it certainly establishes the atmosphere of scientific precision in which Becker operates. When he makes a point about EM fields, it is because he has carefully cited the results of his experiments leading to that particular conclusion.

In the last third of the book, Becker takes a close look at a number of developments in EM research. One of these may very well be the "smoking gun" of the Gift of Set itself:

Francis Ivanhoe, a pharmacologist and anthropologist at two universities in San Francisco, made a statistical survey of the braincase volume of all known Paleolithic human skulls, and correlated the increase with the magnetic field strength and major advances in human culture during the same period.

Ivanhoe found bursts of brain-size evolution at about 380-340,000 years ago, and again at 55-30,000 years ago. Both periods correspond to major ice ages, the Mindel and Würm, and they were also eras when great cultural advances were made - the widespread domestication of fire by *Homo erectus* in the early Mindel, and the appearance of *Homo sapiens sapiens* (Cro-Magnon peoples) and gradual decline of Neanderthals (*Homo sapiens*) during the Würm.

Two other glaciations in the same time span - the Ganz ca. 1,200-1,050,000 years ago and the Riss ca. 150-100,000 years ago - didn't call forth such obvious advances in human evolution. They also differed from the other two in that the average geomagnetic field intensity was much lower.

Ivanhoe has proposed a direct link from the magnetic field through the growth-hormone regulator pathways in the brain to account for the sharp evolutionary gains. He suggests that part of the hippocampus, a section of the brain's temporal lobe, acts as a transducer of EM energy. A part of the hippocampus called Ammon's horn, an arch with one-way nerve traffic directed by a strong current flow, may read out variations in the field strength, feeding them by a bundle of well-documented pathways called the fornix to the hypothalamus and thence to the anterior pituitary, where growth hormone is produced. It's known that larger amounts of this hormone in pregnancy increase the size of the cerebral cortex and the number of its nerve cells in the offspring, as compared with other parts of the brain.

Ivanhoe also notes that the hippocampus and its connections with the hypothalamus are among the parts of the brain that are much larger in humans than in other primates. The idea gains further support from the fact that neural activity in the hippocampus increases with electrical stimulation and reaches a maximum at 10^{-15} cps, at or slightly above the dominant micropulsation frequency of today's field ...

Here, as in experimental science in general, we are dealing with the "how", not with the "why". Nevertheless an understanding of the "how" is virtually essential to meaningful conjectures concerning the "why".

Turning to ESP, Becker suggests that the DC perineural system and its EM fields "provide the only theory of parapsychology that's amenable to direct experiment, and yields hypotheses for almost all phenomena except precognition".

It is possible, he thinks, that higher life-forms' increasing dependence upon digital impulses for sensory input may have suppressed our awareness of the "hum of EM information" from other creatures, just as the sensory organs and brain are known to filter out "noise" of other types so that humans can concentrate on specific impressions. If telepathy is linked to ELF (extremely low frequency) radiation, that would account for its not becoming weaker over great distances.

On the less pleasant side of things, Becker came across evidence, both from his own research and from that of others, that certain kinds of EM radiation can either generate or accelerate damage to living organisms. He cites the instance of the Russian researcher, Yuri Kholodov, who found areas of cell death in the brains of rabbits after subjecting them to 100-200 gauss magnetic fields. The fields were found to have activated stress hormones within the rabbits, but in a way that the rabbits could not consciously sense any stress.

In 1969 Becker was one of the scientists asked by the U.S. Navy to review possible side-effects from Project Sanguine, the ELF transmitter the Navy intended to build in Wisconsin to communicate with nuclear submarines. He observes:

The only thing sanguine we found was the name ... The antenna would produce an EM field 1 million times weaker than that from a 765-kilovolt power line. It was to broadcast at 45-70 hz, frequencies close enough to the Earth's micropulsations that living things are very sensitive to them. Similar fields had been shown to raise human blood triglyceride levels (often a harbinger of stroke, heart attack, or arteriosclerosis), and change blood pressure and brain wave patterns in experimental animals. The generalized stress response, desynchronized biocycles, and interference with cellular metabolism and growth processes were also distinct possibilities.

The committee recommended that Project Sanguine be shelved pending further data in these problem areas. The Navy marked the report "For Official Use Only" and eventually moved the project to Michigan, renaming it Project Seafarer. A new review committee was chosen; Becker was not on it.

The ELF project was later redesigned and renamed again, heavily funded by the new Reagan Administration, and after a lengthy legal battle is now under actual construction.

The essence of the danger posed by EMR on living organisms is that ELF radiation of 30-100 hz appears to interfere with the body's normal biological cycles. Results may include a continuous condition of mild stress throughout the organism, often triggering its various immune and disease-lighting systems. As the body adapts to the ongoing presence of these systems, their combative effect on serious infections and diseases is lessened.

EMR can also cause change in strains of bacteria, enhancing their growth and resistance to antibiotics. This, suggests Becker, may account for the onslaught of "new" diseases since 1950, many of them developing from pathogens previously incapable of inducing disease. Among these: Reye's syndrome, Lyme disease, Legionnaire's disease, AIDS, and Herpes.

Other experiments described at length by Becker, in detail too complex and technical to be adequately summarized in this article, have yielded implications that:

- Microwave exposure can cause decreased energy levels in the brain by inhibiting electron transport chain function in brain mitochondria.
- Even very weak ELF fields, such as that produced by a TV set 60 feet away, can both accelerate and decrease human reaction time.
- A statistical study of suicide events in the vicinity of overhead high-voltage power lines revealed that magnetic fields averaged 22X higher at suicide addresses, and that areas with the strongest fields contained 40X more fatal locations.
- Animals exposed to EMR undergo a variety of blood changes, such as decline in red cell count and hemoglobin concentration, hence oxygen capacity.
- EMR of the sort received by many people in "home" environments may reduce the strength of electrical impulses governing contraction of the heart muscle by as much as 50X.
- There is an increasing body of evidence that cell-division-related diseases, such as cancer, are aggravated by EMR.
- Improperly or inadequately shielded video terminals may be a factor in the extremely high numbers of women computer operators experiencing

miscarriages, stillbirths, and birth defects.

Becker devotes considerable space to a discussion of EMR potential as mind-control weaponry, noting that the CIA's MKULTRA program, in addition to psychedelic drug & hypnosis research, also included funds for "techniques of activation of the human organism by remote electronic means".

Readers of my *Church of Satan* history will be familiar with the Yezidi legend of the "seven towers of Satan extending across Asia, atop each of which sits a Priest of Satan, beaming energy to control the forces of the world for evil". [Cf. William Seabrook, *Adventures in Arabia*.]

Truth is again stranger than fiction: In 1976 a new radio signal began to be heard around the world between 3.26 & 17.54 mhz, soon nicknamed the "woodpecker" because of its modulated pulse signal. It was soon traced to a giant transmitter in the Ukraine. Relates Becker:

The signal is so strong it drowns out anything else on its wavelength. When it first appeared, the UN International Telecommunications Union protested because it interfered with several communications channels, including the emergency frequencies for aircraft on transoceanic flights. Now the woodpecker leaves 'holes'; it skips the crucial frequencies as it moves up and down the spectrum. The signal is maintained at enormous expense from a current total of seven stations, the seven most powerful radio transmitters in the world.

Within a year after the woodpecker began tapping, people in various locations in the U.S. & Canada began complaining of pain and pressure in the head, anxiety, insomnia, lack of coordination, numbness, & fatigue. Some engineers who studied this phenomenon in Oregon, where the communities of Eugene & Corvallis seemed to be particularly subject to the symptoms, traced a 4.75 mhz signal to the woodpecker and suggested that it might in fact be an experimental model of Nikola Tesla's magnifying transmitter. [Cf. *Runes #I-2: "Tesla"*.]

"The available evidence," comments Becker, "suggests that the Russian woodpecker is a multipurpose radiation that combines a submarine link with an experimental attack on the American people. It may be intended to increase cancer rates, interfere with decision-making ability, and/or sow confusion and irritation. It may be succeeding."

The Body Electric, then, is a mixed bag of good and bad news. It may open the door to the Gift of Set - and it may just as well confirm the *Book of Coming Forth by Night's* warning of annihilation - not by something as spectacular as bombs or bullets, but, as Dr. Becker puts it:

It may be hard to convince ourselves that something we can't see, hear, touch, taste, or smell can still hurt us so dreadfully. Yet the fact must be faced, just as we've learned a healthy fear of nuclear radiation. Certain scientists, some perhaps acting in a program of deliberate disinformation, keep telling the public that we still don't know whether electropollution is a threat to human health. That's simply not true.

Associated Press Update 1990

Clam Lake, Wisconsin (AP): A 15-mile antenna strung out like a giant cross in the Chequamegon National Forest quietly sends radio messages to missile-equipped submarines patrolling deep waters around the world.

The Navy began using the \$400 million ELF system last fall, replacing smaller transmitters that had been sending messages to missile-equipped submarines since the late 1960s.

The earlier project went through despite years of protests based on fears that the low-frequency radio waves would fry fish in nearby streams and produce two-headed squirrels.

“In the last two years we have had only two protests of any significance. Those folks were strictly anti-military,” said Lt. John Smythe, project commander. “I think the biological, ecological and safety issues have all been addressed.”

At one point, demonstrations occurred almost weekly at the fenced-in transmitter site in northwestern Wisconsin. Nuclear-weapons opponents argued the system would make the forest a target for Soviet missiles, and environmentalists called for more studies.

ELF, or extremely low frequency, is the only system of its kind that sends radio waves that penetrate water. The system permits submarines to prowl undetected by radar while receiving messages several hundred feet under water.

The antenna - two strands of cable strung on wooden poles - and a transmitter are tucked into the forest atop 20,000 feet of buried rock near Clam Lake, a quiet tourist wayside. Bears frequently climb on the poles, and snowmobiles glide through a corridor carved in the trees.

Jerry Holter and his wife Tish, both 60, live about a mile from the antenna and have watched the project unfold since 1969. “They brought in peace activists by the busloads,” Holter recalled. “You won’t find anybody in the area that ever thought the project would do all the things opponents claimed, including make you sterile if you walked under the lines.”

Mrs. Holter served as a “human guinea pig” for researchers monitoring the medical effects of the system on nearby residents. “We are both so darn healthy, it’s funny,” she said.

But Mark Peterson, executive director of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College in Ashland, said the project still has its skeptics. They point to studies that indicate milk production of cows that graze near high voltage electrical lines drops off, he said.

The system, and a companion one near K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base south of Marquette, Michigan - use a total of \$60,000 worth of electricity each month and employ about 75 people, mostly civilians, Smythe said.

ELF is scaled down considerably from the original plan, which included a grid of 6,200 miles of buried cable and 100 transmitters built to survive a nuclear war.