

## Pioneers of Energy Healing

### Dr Franz Anton Mesmer



Welcome to the first article about energy healing pioneers.

Energy healing is as old as humanity and it is considered that one of the oldest forms of that discipline is acupuncture. According to some historians, acupuncture appeared around 100 B.C.

Franz Anton Mesmer is the first Western scientist who not only started researching energy healing, but also treating patients with it (where he used his hands as the only tool in his practice). Later, when he was doing treatments for the groups, he invented what he was calling a “baquet”.

An English physician who observed Mesmer described the treatment as follows:

In the middle of the room is placed a vessel of about a foot and a half high which is called here a "baquet". It is so large that twenty people can easily sit round it; near the edge of the lid which covers it, there are holes pierced corresponding to the number of persons who are to surround it; into these holes are introduced iron rods, bent at right angles outwards, and of different heights, so as to answer to the part of the body to which they are to be applied. Besides these rods, there is a rope which communicates between the baquet and one of the patients, and from him is carried to another, and so on the whole round. The most sensible effects are produced on the approach of Mesmer, who is said to convey the fluid by certain motions of his hands or eyes, without touching the person. I have talked with several who have witnessed these effects, who have convulsions occasioned and removed by a movement of the hand...

Mesmer was born in the village Iznang in Germany (on the shore of Lake Constance) in 1734 and studied to become a medical doctor in Vienna, Austria. After graduation, he married a wealthy widow Anna Maria von Posch and established himself as a physician. He also became a patron of the arts and at one point is said to have arranged a performance in his garden of Mozart's one-act opera. Mozart was only 12 years old at that time. Mesmer's career in Austria came to an abrupt end after unsuccessful treatment of blindness that caused a scandal.

One year later, he moved to Paris, France where he established a medical practice in a wealthy part of the city. Very soon after his new beginning in Paris, people were divided in two groups: one believing that he was a charlatan and the other believing that he made a great discovery.

In his first years in Paris, Mesmer attempted to get the approval of Royal Academy of Sciences or Royal Society of Medicine for his newly discovered theories. The only one physician of high professional and social status that became Mesmer's student and supporter was Charles d'Esion. He encouraged Mesmer to publish a book about animal magnetism and this helped at least initially to bring him recognition and even most importantly new clients.

Like many researchers throughout history, he discovered that inside human body there is energy that when blocked or in excess could cause illness and that that same energy can be manipulated (by hands, acupuncture needles or similar) and thus restore body to perfect balance and when that happens, we become healthy.

Asian people called this energy chi, qi or ki and Mesmer believing that stars and planets influence our bodies, called it animal magnetism. It is important to clarify that in this context, the word "animal", coming from the Latin word "anima" means "magnetism of the soul". The practice of helping clients with this technique was called magnetism or mesmerism and practitioners were called magnetizers or mesmerizers.

In 1784, King Louis XVI without Mesmer's request formed a commission that was made of celebrity scientists of that time, such as chemist Antoine Lavoisier, American ambassador Benjamin Franklin, physician Joseph-Ignace Guillotin (yes

the inventor of a guillotine) and some other scientists that are less known today. Even though the commission never concluded that mesmeric treatments did not work, their main reason was to see if that fluid or energy that Mesmer was talking about really existed or not. The conclusion was that this was not the case. That fact (that they could not find any proof of existence of energy or fluid in the human body) is being used even today to “conclude” that any energy treatment’s success is purely because of the placebo effect or the fact that the recipient of the treatment believes that such treatment would help. Only one member of the commission – the botanist Antoine Laurent de Jussieu disagreed with the conclusion of their official report. He declared Mesmer’s theory credible and worthy of further investigation.

Even though the commission never directly investigated Mesmer (they investigated the practice of Charles d’Eson), Mesmer was soon driven into exile. He continued to practice in Switzerland for a number of years and eventually died in 1815 in Meersburg, Germany.

Mesmerism is believed to be the same phenomenon as hypnotism and Mesmer is frequently credited as a pioneer in that area as well, however practitioners of hypnotism can rarely accomplish pain reduction that can rival the outcome of the typical practitioner of mesmerism. Scottish doctor named James Esdaile performed pain-free surgeries (or more correctly amputations) and had mortality rates far lower than any other surgeon at the time when anesthesia was not even invented. Other surgeons would make their patients drunk and proceed to cut what was needed to be removed, not to mention that washing hands before surgeries would be considered unnecessary.

This is Dr Esdaile’s report from 1846:

*I beg, to state, for the satisfaction of those who have not yet a practical knowledge of the subject, that I have seen no bad consequences whatever arise from persons being operated on when in the mesmeric trance. Cases have occurred in which no pain has been felt subsequent to the operation even; the wounds healing in a few days by the first intention; and in the rest, I have seen no indications of any injury being done to the constitution. On the contrary, it appears to me to have been saved, and that less constitutional disturbance has followed than under ordinary circumstances.*

*There has not been a death among the cases operated on*

Typical patient in mesmeric state went to deep sleep where they could come up with the best course of treatment or substance needed to cure them (it is believed that Edgar Cayce was using mesmeric sleep to get his readings).

Other than for surgeries, mesmerism was used to successfully treat many different medical conditions, because after all most physicians of that era only had bloodletting and different poisons as their main tools of the trade.

In 1994, a movie “Mesmer” was made, starring late Alan Rickman. It is highly recommended to watch the movie and find more details about the life of that legendary pioneer of energy healing.

The way how Mesmer was treated by official science is not the only case of being persecuted because of a discovery that does not resonate with the orthodoxy. In fact, this series of articles will explore some other great pioneers such as Wilhelm Reich, Bruno Groning and others. Many of them were even imprisoned because of their discoveries and even died as a direct result of pressures that they had to endure to remain in practice and defend themselves in trials that looked like modern day witch hunts.

Short Bio:

Mr René Dosen holds Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree from Concordia University (Montreal). He is also certified Consulting Hypnotist and Energy Healer specializing in not only Therapeutic Touch but various other modalities such as Bioenergy Healing, Pranic Healing, Reconnective Healing, Reiki (master of Usui and Karuna), Inka Shamanism (trained by Dr Alberto Villoldo’s The Four Winds Society).