

## Editor's Note: Advancing the Discoveries of Wilhelm Reich

About 30 years ago, I became intrigued with the writings of the late Dr. Wilhelm Reich on the controversial subjects of *biological energy* and his thesis that blocked emotions and sexual repression led to mental illness, neurosis and violence. I met and studied with some of the scientists who had worked with Reich, experienced the *orgone therapy* Reich had developed, undertook my first experimental evaluations, and eventually became the first student at a mainstream American university to earn a Ph.D. for scientifically testing Reich's ideas.

For those who don't know, Reich was one of the youngest and most energetic members of Sigmund Freud's inner circle — while his name today has been politically erased from the "official history" of psychoanalysis, in the late 1920s he was factually one of the primary workers and leaders within the *International Psychoanalytic Association (IPA)*. However, he was ultimately centrifuged out of that organization for his social reform and anti-Nazi work, which had upset some of the IPA's more conservative elements. Where psychoanalysis has remained static and unproductive, Reich's *sex-economic* theory by contrast has blossomed into a productive and powerful theory for explaining human behavior among cultures around the world, from ancient to modern times.

Historians have since documented the general capitulation of German psychoanalysis to the Nazis, but not so Wilhelm Reich, an Austrian-Ukrainian of Jewish heritage. Freud's early work strongly suggested emotions and sexuality were expressions of a tangible energetic "something", but it was Reich who provided the clearest evidence that the Freudian *libido* was a *real energy*, discharged during emotional expression and sexual orgasm. Parental or social punishments against the youthful expression of emotion, or of sexual love, led to internalized repression — obedient young people learned to hold back their feelings and sexual desires, but this was accomplished only by literally tightening one's muscles, binding the energy down within the body and creating a powerful conflict of internal bioenergetic tension. If repression became chronic, the consequent chronic internal tension formed a neuromuscular *armoring* (much like the metal armor of a Medieval knight) by which the individual protectively walled themselves off from their own forbidden inner feelings, and the punishing outer world of painful experiences. Reich developed

therapeutic methods to help people give up their emotional armor; but he also approached the problem from the social and political side of things, working to pass laws against child abuse, to protect children against adult seduction but also to legalize their own romantic relationships (as with the teenagers Romeo and Juliet), to end compulsive marriages, give women equal rights and pay, and to make divorce and contraceptives more freely available. For this, he was attacked by the Nazis, whose ranks were in fact composed of various anti-sexual "moral majoritarian" religious extremists, misogynists and pedophiles.

By the mid-1930s, Reich had been kicked out of the IPA, his books attacked and burned by the Nazis and German Communist Party. He fled to Denmark, and later to Scandinavia; while there, he undertook some of the first bioelectrical experiments on the subject of human sexuality and emotional expression. Reich's bioelectrical experiments proved that human emotion, sexual excitation and orgasmic discharge were *measurable phenomena*. It was a breakthrough discovery in the field of human sexuality and psychology — but the first of a series of discoveries that would increasingly put him at odds with the prevailing academic/scientific *status quo* of his time, and of the present time as well. Science of the 1930s was intolerant of open discussion of "orgasm", and Reich's books uncompromisingly focused upon such issues: *The Function of the Orgasm*, *The Sexual Revolution*, *People in Trouble*, and *The Mass Psychology of Fascism* are breakthrough classics hardly mentioned even today, but nevertheless a light-year ahead of reductionist biochemical-genetic behavior science and "biological psychiatry".

Reich's later microscopical experiments with ameba would produce other breakthroughs in the biological sciences, in his discovery of the specific process of *bionous decay of tissues* into small life-particles (termed "apoptosis" by modern biology), which lay at the *basis of cancer cell formation*. Reich's findings on cancer are directly observable, and not just some speculative theory — his observations on precancerous cellular processes significantly predated those of George Papanicolaou (of "Pap-test" fame), and Reich believed his scientific priority had in fact been stolen. To this, we can add that today, his pioneering work on *bions* and *biogenesis* has nearly been forgotten, though his experiments continue to yield life-like protocellular and cellular forms, just as he described them in the 1930s. Classical microbiology of today, with its acknowledgment of primitive microbes

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within extremely hostile super-hot or frozen environments (ie., *extremophiles*, *Archaea*, etc.), appears dramatically closer to Reich's descriptions than to the static and sterile world of classical microbiology of his day. Science journals today regularly publish photographs of protocellular forms strikingly similar to those of Reich, created in laboratories using protocols similar to his pioneering methods — though Reich is never mentioned.

Unlike conventional medicine, Reich's discovery also revealed *the role of emotional-sexual energy in the psychosomatic process*. What at first appeared to be only "bioelectricity" was later clarified by Reich as a much more powerful bioenergetic force — a form of *life-energy* at work within living organisms, expressing itself as emotion and sexual excitation, but also directly observable in the microscope as a bluish-glowing field around living blood cells and other microbes. This bluish-glowing energy, which he eventually called *orgone energy* (to preserve its relationship with living processes), was later observed as a subtle *blue-glowing energy-field* (or *aura*) around organisms, trees and even mountain ranges. The blue orgone also exists in a free form within the atmosphere and in lakes and the oceans — Reich wrote about an "envelope" of blue-glowing energy surrounding the Earth long before the first satellite photos confirmed it.

Orgone energy in the atmosphere is a physical phenomenon similar to the older ideas of "vital force" and "cosmic ether" combined, but far more dynamic and tangible in nature. It behaves lawfully, fills all space, expands and contracts in pulsatory rhythm, and interacts differently with different material substances: every kind of matter appears to attract the orgone, but the energy is bound to, or discharged from matter at different speeds. Water strongly attracts the orgone, or life-energy, giving rise to the phenomenon of *living water* (described classically as "activated" or "structured" water) which is fundamental to life processes, and to the Earth's weather as well. Orgone has also been demonstrated in high vacuum proving it *fills all space* much as a *cosmic dynamic ether*. Reich's experiments in these directions led to even more controversy: New methods for treating chronic diseases such as cancer, and for ending drought and greening deserts were developed and tested, with positive results. New theoretical approaches were also opened for possible detoxification of nuclear waste, and for turning of motors powered by the background sea of cosmic energy — a new source of pollution-free energy, which some day might propel humankind to the stars. Fantastic? Surely! But founded upon new experimental tests and observations in the best tradition of the natural sciences.

During the course of Reich's investigations, he developed a special metal-lined enclosure which attracted a high charge of orgone energy inside itself, directly from the atmosphere: *the orgone energy accumulator*.

The orgone accumulator was proven to charge seeds and increase garden plant growth, speed the healing of burns and cuts, boost the overall vitality and immune-strength of organisms, and there are a number of physical experiments which demonstrate anomalous phenomena inside the accumulator. Reich observed that certain kinds of low-energy contractive illness, such as cancer, would often symptomatically yield with careful application of the orgone accumulator. After he moved to the USA, he treated people experimentally with his combined emotional/orgone-energetic approach. By the 1950s, following a malicious press smear-campaign (concocted by his old enemies from the Stalinist left), he was subjected to a grinding "investigation" by US Food and Drug Administration, which was at that time (1955) engaged in an all-out war against natural healing methods (the repression of natural healing methods has always been a major agenda of organized medicine, the pharmaceutical industry and the FDA). The FDA obtained a court injunction which ordered the *banning and burning* of Reich's books — any book containing the forbidden word "orgone" was ordered destroyed, even his classics on human sexuality which only mentioned orgone energy in the preface. The FDA factually burned Reich's books and journals on several occasions (most recently in 1962), while Reich was given a 2-year jail sentence for a misdemeanor technicality, dying in prison in 1957. The FDA's attack against Reich constituted a major *fraud upon the courts and the American people*, and the Reich legal case continues to overshadow the better-known Scopes Monkey Trial in constitutional significance, in that *American courts, including the Supreme Court, authorized the burning of scholarly books and the jailing of scientists for maintaining unorthodox viewpoints*.

In this #5 issue of *Pulse of the Planet* — the first one to be organized and published since 1993 — we present a collection of essays and experimental research papers which flesh out various aspects of Reich's sex-economic and orgone-biophysical findings, building upon work previously published. The topics range as wide as Reich's own research, from babies and emotions, through the subjects of bions and biogenesis, the orgone energy accumulator and cloudbuster, to the questions of "free energy" and UFO phenomenon. This issue also supplies new evidence in support of the ether-drift experiments of Dayton Miller, whose work was prematurely dismissed by the physics establishment.

The science of *orgonomy* — focusing upon orgone energy functions in nature — surely will constitute the core foundation of a new life-affirming and technologically-fruitful science for the 21st Century. The reader should not be disappointed.

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