

Austin American Statesman
October 30, 2004

Faith Can't Be Gauged by Tests of Science

By Nogie King

One of the things I love about my job is the fact that every Friday I have dinner with some of the best-known authors in the fields of personal growth and spirituality.

Recently, I dined with Joan Borysenko, Janet Quinn and Dr. Richard Moss as they chatted about spiritual "aha" moments and science.

Like many others in town, we found ourselves discussing the film "What the #\$*! Do We Know!?" and the experiments of Dr. Masaru Emoto, in which he uses magnetic resonance to photograph crystals of water under different circumstances. Some traditional scientists have questioned the methodology of his work, and certainly the "cause and effect" scientists have questioned the methodology of his work, and certainly the "cause and effect" scientists have been negating mystical experiences for centuries. Science, to them, is about being repeatable. If it can't be replicated, then it isn't valid.

But what if, methodology aside, the concept itself is valid? I respect science, but I also respect the validity of "aha" moments. Isn't it possible to be valid without being replicable? Indeed few mystical experiences are replicable anyway. What if the validity is dependent on the field of the observer?

For instance, haven't you ever wondered about beginner's luck? What is this energy that creates conditions whereby the person who knows the least about the rules in a card game can win decisively the first time he or she plays?

What about the power of prayer? Most people of faith have experienced at least one standout instance when a group of people joined together, focused their attention and good wishes on a particular person and had positive, measurable results. Often the person in question actually felt the energy of others praying for them.

I remember my first meditation retreat. For 10 days we were silent, at only two simple meals a day, made no eye contact and meditated 10 hours a day. On the eighth day I had one of the most profound moments of my life. A deep sense of love for every living creature filled my body. I will always treasure this moment, and I have never been quite the same since. Yet in more than 20 years of serious meditation since that day, I have been unable to reach that same level of love and compassion again.

Borysenko shared with us an extraordinary day during which she found herself in a strange energy field in which she was able to correctly call every race at the horse track before it was run. She simply could not lose.

Richard Moss calls these “confirming experiences.” They often open doors within us to see worlds that we never believed were possible. When these moments happen, no amount of traditional science can explain them away. It is a knowing that simply IS.

Once you open Door No. 1, it seems to move you toward Door No.2, each confirming the possibility of the existence of the next. Of course, it doesn't move in such a linear fashion, but with each new connection to the energy of the field of possibilities we have set in motion the manifestation of that reality.

Is that how intention works? That may be a part of it, but remember that each of these non-ordinary events comes to us as if to a child. We were unaware of this possibility until it happened to us.

Quantum physics and movies such as “What the #\$*! Do We Know!?” show us different ways to think about thought and intention and emotion. Clearly there are fields of energy that we cannot see but that affect us and are impacted by us. Science may ask how and why but I ask simply...why not?