



An E-mail from:
DouglasBaker.org
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Newsletter #1

Near Death Experiences (NDEs), Spiritual Events and Carbon Dioxide Levels

It has long been known that the inhaling of natural gasses like carbon dioxide and some variations of the combined carbon and oxygen molecule have given spiritual experiences, often unexpectedly. The Delphic Oracle was purported to be the speaking of Apollo through an older woman of blameless life, chosen from among peasants on Mt Parnassus, practicing chastity for 30 years

From a fissure on Mt Parnassus arose potent gasses which intoxicated a Sybil or prophetess who breathed the fumes.*

The Oracle at Delphi

“Apollo spoke through his oracle, who had to be an older woman of blameless life chosen from among the peasants of the area. The Sybil or prophetess took the name Pythia and sat on a tripod seat over an opening in the earth. When Apollo slew Python, its body fell into this fissure, according to legend, and fumes arose from its decomposing body. Intoxicated by the vapors, the Sybil would fall into trance, allowing Apollo to possess her spirit. In this state she prophesied. She spoke in riddles, which were interpreted by the priests of the temple, and people consulted her on everything from important matters of public policy to personal affairs.

Upon arriving at Delphi, the supplicants registered and paid a fee; when their appointments neared, they purified themselves at the Castalian Spring, where the bathing trough is still visible. They then proceeded along the Sacred Way, a zigzag flagstone walk up the hill. The Sacred Way was lined with statues and offerings, most of which have long disappeared, although a few surviving examples can be seen in the Delphi Museum. Also along the way were a series of treasuries, small shrines sponsored by various Greek cities as thank-offerings for important victories. The best preserved of these is the Athenian treasury, built in 490 BC to celebrate the Athenian victory at the Battle of Marathon. Because of its balance, harmony, and purity of line, it is regarded as the finest example of ancient Doric style.

The Sacred Way ended outside the temple. There the pilgrims would sacrifice a sheep or goat, whose entrails were examined by the priests for omens. Then the pilgrims entered one by one to ask the Sybil their question. A carved domed rock, the omphalos, or naval of the earth, was kept at the place of prophecy. In an ancient flood story about the human race, the omphalos was the first thing to emerge from the waters as they receded. In another account, Zeus sent two ravens out from the ends of the earth to find its centre, and their beaks touched at the omphalos. The stone is presently kept in a museum.

The centrepiece of Delphi was the temple of Apollo, built with donations from every Greek city-state and from abroad. The base of the temple still stands, with half a dozen of the original columns. On the outside of the base are over 700 inscriptions, most

announcing the emancipation of slaves, which was considered a special act of piety to be performed at Delphi. At the far end of the temple is the altar, originally decorated with memorials, ex-votos, statues, and offerings.

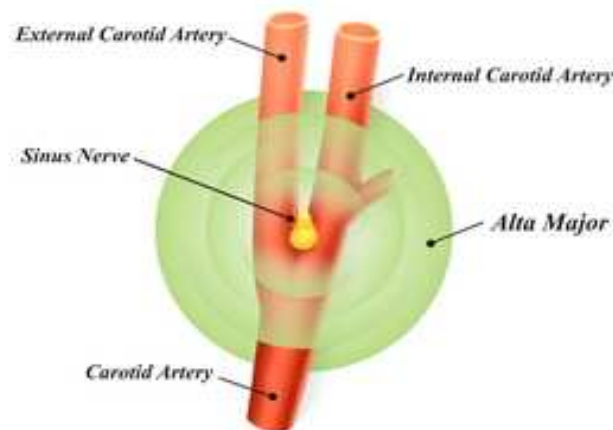
Above the Temple of Apollo is an outdoor theatre with 33 tiers of stone seats that held about 5,000 people. A stadium seating 7,000 nearby was used for the Pythian Games, held every four years to celebrate the victory of Athens over the Phoenicians, who had attacked Delphi and tried to seize its treasures. Several centuries later, when Rome conquered Greece and Athenian protection collapsed, the Emperor Nero looted 500 statues from the shrine. In the fourth century AD, Julian the Apostate, a Christian emperor who returned to paganism, ordered Delphi's restoration as part of his campaign to restore the ancient gods, but in a eerie scene, the oracle wailed but refused to prophesy. That event was considered a sign of the end, and by 390 AD the shrine was closed by the Christian Emperor Theodosius, Soon after the temple was razed.”

* Reference: <http://psychicinvestigator.com/demo/DELPHI.htm>

Of course we are well aware that nitric oxide, used in the dentist chair produces unusual experiences such as feelings of peace and joy and supernatural encounters. We are also aware that carbon monoxide is poisonous to the human system and death dealing in badly ventilated bedrooms where there is an open fire of some sort.

Esoteric Science has down through the ages mooted “Chakra” areas of sensitivity to any spiritual evoking factors that a neophyte might encounter, either deliberately or unconsciously. Alice Bailey’s (AAB) teachings suggested that such areas located with the thyroid gland in the neck, for instance, were sensitive to gasses taken into the blood stream. In the case of the throat chakra the take up of oxygen by the blood was monitored by the thyroid gland and its surrounding energy centre and was symbolized in yoga by the 16 petal lotus.

Very late in her outpouring of Esoteric Science AAB indicated that for people treading The Path of spiritual unfoldment progressively, they should expect the gasses in the blood to be somewhat controllable in processes like meditation and concentration on a visualized symbol (object for meditation). AAB allocated the anatomical site for this phenomenon to the sinus node at the bifurcation of the external and internal carotid arteries.



Recently, Esoteric Science has drawn attention to the phenomenon of ‘near death experience’ such as seeing under stress life experiences portrayed in a series of flashes before ones eyes and

many other spiritual phenomenon.

Here is a link to much more information on the subject:

http://www.douglasbaker.org/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=6&products_id=169

("Out of Body, Near Death Experience" MP3 lecture, Part # 4056S)

Recent scientific papers show that "A study of 52 patients who were resuscitated after suffering a cardiac arrest found that about one in five (11 patients) reported unusual experiences such as feelings of peace and joy or supernatural encounters.

Those patients were found to have a higher concentration of CO₂ in their breath and arteries, suggesting a possible physiological cause for the sensations."

This new centre revealed by AAB caused a flurry of interest in esoteric circles and there were many attempts to give it symbolic expression so that it could be located in meditation. DB's books give graphic detail as to where the Alta Major centre is located and how it can be symbolically linked to inflowing stimuli from an area of the skin of the neck just below the lobes of the ears both right and left, some have called it the 'winged wheel'.



In ancient days and even in recent times various attempts have been made by women in particular and men more latterly to wear gemstones in the earrings in order to feel (comfortably) energies passing centrally at the winged wheel of Alta Major, thus giving access and some control to the level of pressure placed on gasses of the blood. Now science is showing that indeed the Near Death Experiences (NDEs) are (like hypnotism) being acceptable to physiological sciences.

"Zalika Klemenc-Ketis, who led the team from the University of Maribor, said that further studies were required, using larger sample sizes to investigate the apparent link.

"Several theories explaining the mechanisms of NDEs exist," she said. "We found that in those patients who experienced the phenomenon, blood carbon dioxide levels were significantly higher than in those who did not."

See Near-death experiences may be linked to raised carbon dioxide levels@

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/health/article7091118.ece

The ability to act upon blood gasses may increase the flow of blood into the brain and the head region generally.

This does not mean that anybody and everybody will have OBE and NBE or even spiritual experiences by controlling blood gasses in the way described above. Indeed esoteric science would maintain that any winning of spiritual experience would depend on the degree on which the process of opening the 3rd Eye depended.

Here are some links for more information:

For the MP3 audio lectures "The Opening of the Third Eye, Parts 1 & 2, click:

http://www.douglasbaker.org/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=7&products_id=1

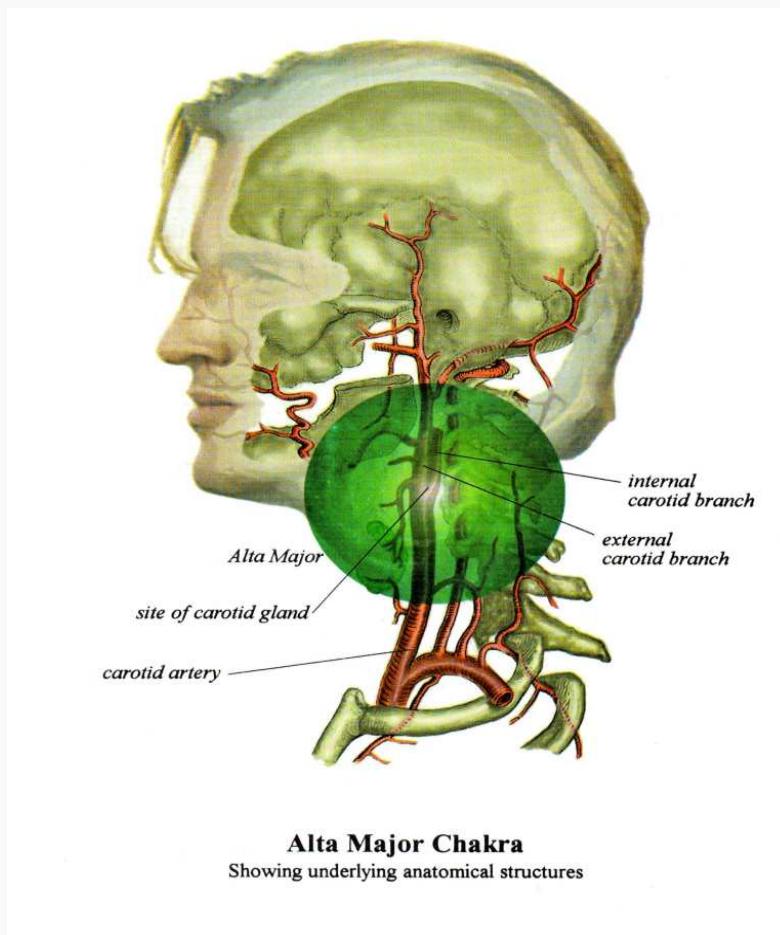
http://www.douglasbaker.org/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=7&products_id=4

And for the Book "The Opening of the Third Eye" click:

http://www.douglasbaker.com/cgi-bin/bookstore.pl?more_info+1271773082+26

And for the book "The Third Eye" click:

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