



The Unknowable

Osteopaths tap into the universal memory of the Zero Point Field

By R. Paul Lee, DO, FAAO, FCA

Palpating primary respiration, Osteopaths rely on the unknowable. The word, 'unknowable,' comes from Herbert Spencer, an author that Dr. Still is known to have read. In *First Principles* (1862) and several subsequent works on biology, psychology, sociology and ethics, Spencer popularized the ideas of evolution and the survival of the fittest, for which Darwin (*Origin of Species*, 1864) was later credited. From Spencer, Still also read about the 'perfection of man,' based on science, rather than religion, which Still's independent mind found difficult despite his childhood exposure to this Methodist doctrine by his evangelistic father, Abram. Spencer impacted the literate in Europe and America in the late 1800s with notions of, the progression of man, cause and effect, structure and function and holism about which Still expounded in his writings. Spencer invented the term, 'unknowable' claiming that the ultimate realities of science and religion could not be known. (Trowbridge, *Andrew Taylor Still, 1828-1917*, p.117)

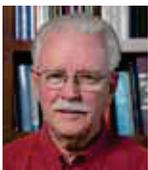
We see Dr. Still distinguishing between the knowable and unknowable in his writing:

- ▶ "The mind is asked to find the connection between the physical and the spiritual." (*Philosophy and Mechanical Principles of Osteopathy*, 249)
- ▶ "Having spent many years of my life in the study of the anatomy of the physical man, of his bony framework and all thereunto attached, I have also tried to acquaint myself with the real spiritual man." (Booth, *History of Osteopathy*, 18)
- ▶ "When matter passes beyond the degree of being atomized farther, then it is life." (*PMPO*, 254)
- ▶ "First, there is the material body; second, the spiritual being; third, a being of mind which is far superior to all vital motions and material forms, whose duty is to wisely manage this great engine of life." (*PMPO*, 16-17)

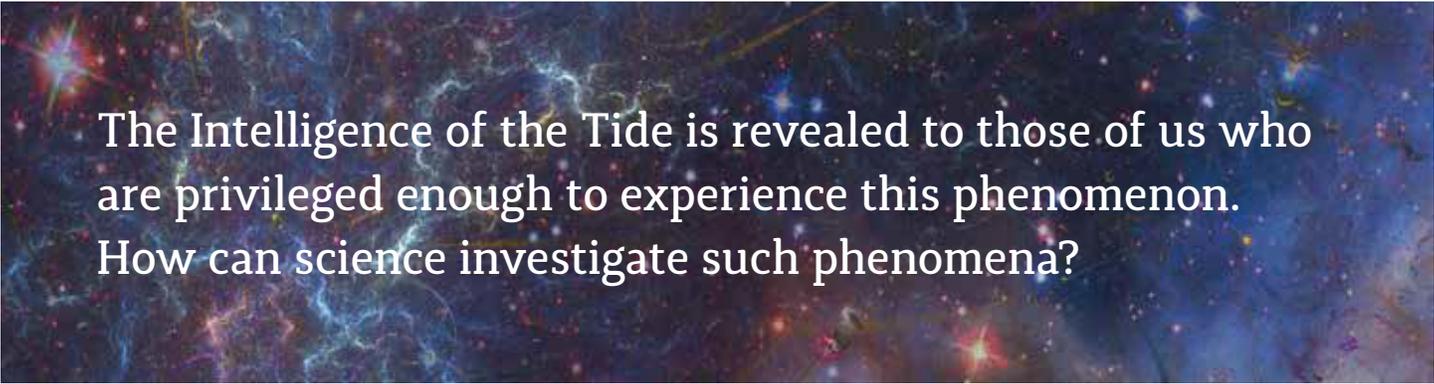
In these passages, Dr. Still proclaims Osteopathy's basic principles founded at the intersection of spirit (unknowable) and matter (knowable) and navigated by mind (unknowable). Still said that the human is triune, composed of Mind, Matter and Motion. In this context, 'Motion' represents spirit, as 'Matter' represents body in today's version: 'body, mind and spirit.' Unlike body, both mind and spirit are unknowable, since their operation cannot be quantized or their source scientifically located. However, the material human is amenable to scientific exploration; for example, in biomechanics, normal joint motion is quantified and in biochemistry, enzymes in cellular physiology are located and their specific function determined.

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With this simple understanding that Osteopathy's philosophy functions by using two unknowable characteristics, mind and spirit, we find ourselves free as Osteopathic thinkers, feelers and knowers from the straightjacket that binds conventional medicine. Conventional medicine will not entertain any *therapy* that cannot be proven by science (afraid as it is of its snake oil past), although its *diagnostic* means exceed this limit. Diagnosis by conventional medicine includes methods whose foundation cannot be scientifically explained. The ultimate underpinnings of magnetism and electromagnetic energy upon which magnetic resonance imaging and computed tomographic scans are based remain under



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investigation and cannot be fully explained by physicists – unknowable. In therapy, by contrast to conventional medicine, Osteopathy includes the richness of being human within its purview – emotional, mental and spiritual aspects. Robert Fulford, DO used unknowable elements in his therapy – magnets and crystals; attention, compassion and intention; recognition of energy and spirit – achieving sometimes spectacular results where other “experts” had failed.

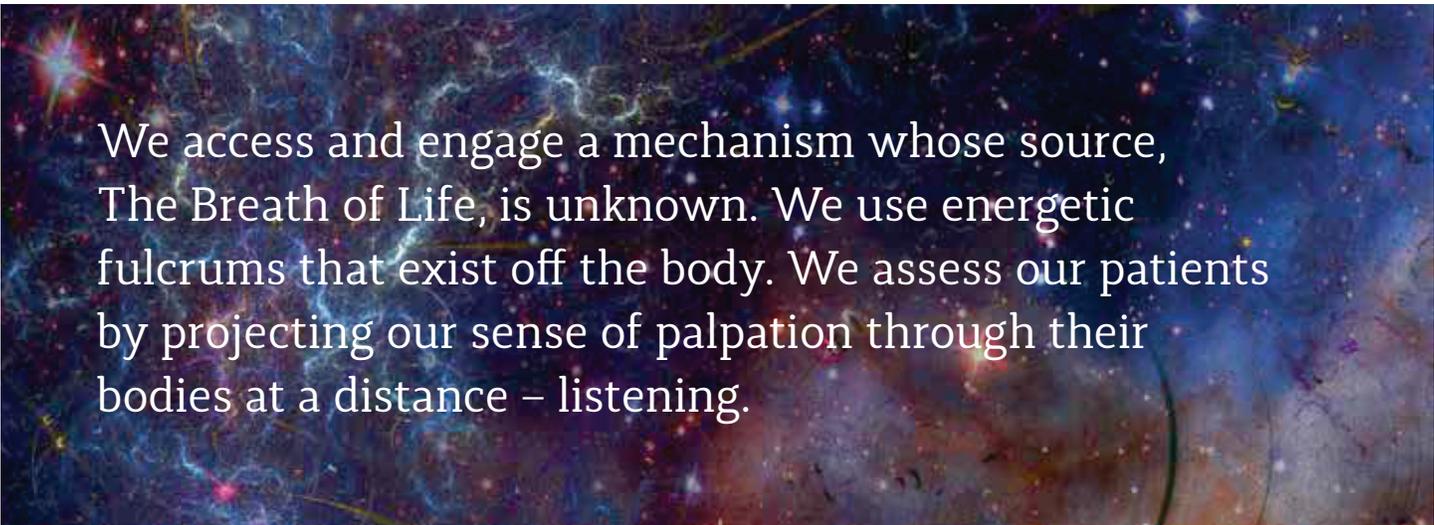
Using this freedom from scientific constraint, Dr. Sutherland, the discoverer of primary respiration proclaimed that the fluctuation of fluid is from a source that is unknowable – The Breath of Life. Sutherland found no muscular agencies that caused the fluctuation of fluid or any other of his five elements of his discovery: the primary respiratory mechanism. During that moment of great insight, as a student at the American School of Osteopathy, when he experienced his ‘guiding thought,’ he entertained a novel idea: a respiratory mechanism moved the living skull. He initially rejected the thought that the beveled surfaces of the sphenosquamous suture revealed an underlying respiratory mechanism. But when the idea of motion of the skull would not let him rest, he eventually surrendered and began to research a notion that he feared could land him in the local asylum.

These ideas of spirit are like that; outside of religion, they can land you in the local asylum. Dr. Sutherland said that it wasn’t important to know how spirit influenced matter, but only that it did and that we could rely upon the expression of spirit – the potency of the Tide – to do the work. “Our knowledge,” he said, “is like that of the electrician who merely knows that the potent current, or M-element [mutual inductance], is present and that he is learning *how to utilize its force*. We, too, merely *know* that the cerebrospinal fluid is present and contains the ‘highest known element’ and that we are learning, through the cranial concept, *how to utilize its force* in behalf of the ills of mankind” (*Contributions of Thought*, 1998, 273; italics in original). Further, he declared that this fluctuation of fluid expressed Intelligence. And, it delivered the Health. How can science investigate these propositions from Sutherland?

Our hypotheses have even extended beyond the above to propose that the Breath of Life, through its emissary the Tide, taps into an embryogenic template to not only construct the material form of the living body but also to maintain its physical structure thereby ensuring normal function throughout life. The Breath of Life is also responsible for initiating metabolism as a normal part of the living cell. Further, it is clear to me, the Intelligence of the Tide refers to this same embryological template to reconfigure traumatized tissue under the hands and through the intention, attention and the images held by the mind of the Osteopath. Palpating during treatment, we feel spirit working through the fluid fluctuation – swirling, chaotic, or sometimes smashing waves – doing the work to re-establish the original configuration held by the template. The Intelligence of the Tide is revealed to those of us who are privileged enough to experience this phenomenon. How can science investigate such phenomena?

Dr. Still was already familiar with the unknowable before Spencer coined the term in 1862. As Still’s first biographer, E. R. Booth indicated in *History of Osteopathy*, 1905, Dr. Still was clairvoyant and telepathic. (p. 19) Early in his itinerant phase of life (1880s), he would amuse the onlookers by revealing the thoughts of those in the audience. With an unproductive reaction from this gag, he ceased such spectacles, but there are many reports of his clairvoyance. (Booth, 28) During his years at the American School of Osteopathy, he befuddled students by suddenly appearing in the back of the classroom and firmly stating, “Here is your lesion!” Then, he proceeded to the front of the room, interrupting the teacher, to demonstrate its location on the subject of their investigation. Dr. Still told a student, Harry Chiles, at the ASO while he was printing an issue of *The Journal of Osteopathy* that at that very moment ships were sunk in the Spanish American War in Cuba before the reports came on the wire the following day. (Booth 20-21) Arthur Hildreth told the story that, as a child, Arthur witnessed Dr. Still, pause to gaze through the open door when his mother asked if he could help her friend and neighbor. Then, he turned to her saying that her neighbor had a goiter and if she would come in he could cure it, which he did (Booth, 29).

continued



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Dr. Still carried in his mind images of normal anatomy. He developed these images diligently. For years, anatomical charts covered his walls in his log cabin in Baldwin City, Kan. He carried a bag of bones exhumed from Indian graves in Kansas and learned by feel, without looking, to identify each carpal or phalanx, how they fit together, and to which side of the body they belonged. He knew every ligamentous attachment and vascular groove. He said, “To know a bone in its entirety would close both ends of an eternity.” His palpatory skill and anatomic knowledge left most of his students bewildered. His clairvoyance added another dimension that most could not duplicate. Nevertheless, his instruction to them – and to us – was to carry in your mind images of normal anatomy as a painter carries the image of the beast or scene he wishes to represent with his brush. I propose that these images of normal anatomy serve a distinct purpose in treatment. They stimulate the mechanism to go to work. How, you ask, does this happen?

Looking at Osteopathy through the lens of advanced physics, that which describes the ultimate behavior of those very phenomena from which Dr. Still derived his philosophy – Nature – we might draw the conclusion that Dr. Still knew these principles of quantum physics inherently and through personal experience before scientists had discovered, researched and pronounced them valid. Dr. Still understood that everything is connected to everything else – entrainment. He understood that the mind has power to affect matter – Heisenberg principle. He realized and used to a great degree his ability to access knowledge first-hand as recorded in his *Autobiography* when he cites his ‘dreams even while awake.’ What I believe he was doing, and what I believe we are all doing in our work is tapping into the great universal memory of the Zero Point Field, which explains all of these phenomena. The Zero Point Field displays all of these properties, properties that we use in our work on a daily basis without questioning or fully comprehending the details of what we are doing.

We access and engage a mechanism whose source, The Breath of Life, is unknown. We use energetic fulcrums that exist off the body. We assess our patients by projecting our sense of palpation through their bodies at a distance – listening. We can even work on them without touching them, perhaps even working remotely. As table trainers, we observe another person applying our teaching on a third individual without touching either of them. We work with energies from past lives, shock fields from this time and space or other realities, all with intention. We ask the patient’s mechanism what their body needs, get valid answers, and put it to work with our intention. Without knowing it, I contend that we rely on a ‘template’ of the normal human that the mechanism accesses routinely and that resides as part of the ZPF for the correction the mechanism makes. Our images of normal anatomy harmonize with the template to actuate the mechanism. We use crystals, magnets and intention to move physically fixed fascia.

I contend that the Zero Point Field explains these phenomena we use routinely and with which we are intimately familiar. These phenomena need an explanation, after all, for our own understanding but also to lend validity to what we already know is valid, but goes unexplained. Explore what is known about the Zero Point Field for your own edification. There is information online. Lynne McTaggart’s book, *The Field* (2002) is a great resource. It helps me understand what a genius Dr. Still was and what a determined being he was, against such enormous resistance, isolation, recrimination, and even subterfuge, to elucidate this truth about nature, even before it was generally held. Today, we still have much to learn about the place of such things as the ZPF in our lives, but we are growing into a more profound relationship with this mother of all relationships. It makes us whole and powerful beyond what we could have expected. Perhaps, the ZPF makes what we thought to be unknowable knowable. ◀