

NESS INFORMATION SERVICE

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Theories

Since I met Roland Watson at the loch in July, he has sent me two very interesting letters. The first expanding on his ideas as to what Nessie is, then one detailing some research he has done. Roland believes the creatures are Tulpas or materialised thought forms, and he feels the same applies to U.F.O.'s and most other Fortean phenomena. Tulpa is a Tibetan word and the means of creating one is an established religious rite among Eastern mystics, the physical universe is said to be permeated with a 'mind stuff'. This is readily affected by every thought, like a stone thrown into water; creating a "thought ripple", the more intense the thought the longer lasting the impression on this 'mind stuff'. Thus by meditation or sustained intense emotion, this 'mind stuff' can be coagulated into a form to which some of the meditator's vitality is transferred, presumably this form can be 'living' or inanimate. At first the Tulpa is nebulous and almost intangible but further meditation and mental visualisation of the Tulpa fully materialises it. That basically is an explanation of how a Tulpa is believed to transpire. What the 'mind stuff' is, in scientific terms, Roland is not sure. He says it could be some form of energy field, or something more abstract. He goes on to summarise a theory published by Tom Bearden in the Fortean Times (no 26). It is based on the many worlds interpretation of quantum mechanics postulated by John Wheeler in 1957. In this theory the mind is modelled as a 4-dimensional space, sharing the same time dimension as our own 4-dimensional space but one whose 3-d spatial is 3 or more 'orthogonal' turns away from our own 'dimension' in n-dimensional space, n can take any value from one to infinity theoretically. All 3-D spatial frames share the same time dimension. A thought form is real and tangible in the mind's 3-D spatial frame which is 3 or more orthogonal turns away. A small 'crosstalk' exists between all dimensions with the same time axis, which is regarded as an oscillating wave and other orthogonal worlds exist as small 'jitters' on this wave. If ordinary time coherence to an orthogonal form is made in a large number of coherent stages in our reality, then undetectable phases of the coherent form multiply exponentially until this super-positioning reaches and breaches the quantum threshold of detectability. At this point Tulpa begin to materialise, and orthorotate into our 3-D spatial frame; 3 orthoturns away, the Tulpa have zero dimensions and so are undetectable, 2 orthoturns away they have 1-dimension and are still undetectable, 1 turn away and they assume a visible 2-dimensional image which is intangible and composed wholly of electromagnetic energy, one more turn and they assume a 3-dimensional solid form. So the 'jitter' on the time carrier wave is amplified by ESP until it can be detected. Bearden states that he believes that the collective unconsciousnesses of the human race is responsible. Roland says he has discarded mankind as the cause of these (UFO's Nessie) Fortean phenomena, and is looking to metaphysical beings as the progenitor and sees them as 'extraneous minds'. Why they are producing these Tulpa is the main question, and the most obscure, though some deception is at work, especially in UFO's, though Roland tends to regard the Loch Ness Monster as a modern-day portent or sign just like Mhorag and the Soe-Orm were once regarded.

Roland is trying to fit Ley-lines into this theory, as they seem to play a practicable part in Fortean phenomena. Firstly he would like to ascertain what a ley-line is actually 'transmitting', is it magnetic, electric, or both, or abstract. An alternative to ley-lines may be piezo-electric fields generated by geological faults which invariably lie near ley-points. It goes without saying that Loch Ness itself is a

giant fault, he says. He has carried out a statistical analysis of the distribution of sightings of the creatures in comparison to a probable ley-line system over Loch Ness. From the literature on the creatures he gathered 71 surface sightings and 12 land sightings. There were more than that but in the 71 he feels the creatures position was given accurately. These sightings were then plotted on a map of the loch along with the ley-lines. From this he has produced the following results, of the 71 sightings 36 were within 100m of a ley-line. He went on to calculate the chances of a creature appearing within 100m of a ley-line, when it is assumed that it may appear at random anywhere on the loch surface, which he has worked out is 55,756,800 square metres. Total length of ley-lines over the loch is 40,700 metres, he allows 100m on each side of the lines, this gives the result that the 'area' of the ley-lines is 0.146 of the total area of Loch Ness, therefore the chance average is 7 to 1. Using that figure and the 71 sightings the number of sightings within ley-lines should be 10.37. But 36 sightings were plotted in those areas, therefore it has to be calculated what are the odds of this large number occurring. By binominal expansion, the odds of 36 sightings occurring within 100m of a ley-line is about 1.4 billion to one. Roland says that this seems to rule out chance alone accounting for the result. He realises there are many 'buts' and would welcome any comments from members. Perhaps at this point I should put in one of those 'the editor is not responsible for views expressed etc.' statements, as members will know Roland's ideas are not the same as mine. But we do have members who support his theories, and, I am grateful to him for the research he is doing, and for letting us have his findings.

Jim Skeldon, a recently joined member, who now lives at Dores, has had a number of sightings, his first being in 1969 of a hump and neck. Over the years he has formed his own theory, which was strengthened by something he observed in 1977. This was before heart illness forced him to retire prematurely, and he was employed as a garden supplies manager in the midlands. It was a large centre, with landscaped gardens and pools and waterfalls, in which there were fish, frogs, newts, and a few leeches. One day he saw a leech, like a small black slug, on the damp grass by the side of a pool. As he watched, a bump appeared at the narrow end, which slowly elongated and a tapering neck developed into a sharp point. The base of the neck fitted into the main part of the body exactly like the neck of a horse joining at the shoulders. The neck, wide at the base, narrowing gradually towards the point, was waving in the air, but it was the wafer thin effect that astonished him. From the rear it was almost impossible to see from only 18 inches or so away. It seemed to balance the point by the neck swaying from side to side. The rear end curved down quickly until almost straight, very much the shape of the creature photographed by Hugh Gray in 1933. As he watched, the neck still weaving seemed to pull part of the body into itself, becoming bulbous. It then appeared to have a smaller neck and two humps, this process continued, and the leech finished with three humps and no neck. The action was repeated three times before the leech reached the water again. During his 1969 sighting the curved neck was seen moving to the west, then moments later to the east, then to the west again, but at no time did he see the neck turn or submerge. He had also been astonished by the speed with which the neck shot forward. He later realised that at the same moment the hump had disappeared completely. This indicated to him an elasticity of the body or the likelihood that the animal was an invertebrate. When watching the leech in 1977 and noting the thinness of the neck, it seemed to support that thought. If Nessie's neck was thin, in the same way, it would be visible from the side, but would disappear, edge on, as it turned, to re-appear moving in the opposite direction. Jim reasons that if Nessie were a member of the Plesiosaur, Elasmosaurus, family, she would be an air breather, and would therefore spend most of the time on the surface diving occasionally for food. As it is the opposite would seem to be the case, almost continually below the surface with brief glimpses above. So Nessie obtains oxygen from the water, similar to an amphibian, as does a leech. Nessie does not like loud or sudden noise, Jim quotes a number of reported sightings, including one of his own, to support this. Now leeches, along with most invertebrates, find their prey by vibration in the water. If some part of the body searches for sound, it would obviously be sensitive to loud or sudden sounds.

If Nessie is no more romantic than a large leech, and Jim says that film has been taken in South America of leeches 20 feet long, why does she come to the surface at all, or even on to land? The one Jim watched in the garden centre had come out of the water on its own, but why? Leeches like ancient amphibia breath through the skin, through a series of spiracles. The creatures doing this in Loch Ness could have bother with the suspended peat particles in the water. The spiracles could gradually become blocked. They are then forced to the surface to try to flush them clear. Calm days are the most suitable for this task, as the lack of surface motion allows the peat particles to settle a little. Most sightings are reported on calm days! They clear the tubes by drawing in air and clean water and pumping out violently, a few convulsions would soon create a commotion, waves or even foam. Water and air expelled at, or just below, the surface makes a snorting sound. There are a number of 'snorting water horse' reports! Also expelling air in that manner could give rise to reports that say, 'it sank straight down' etc.

On 23rd December 1981, at mid-day, Jim saw and photographed a patch of foam some 30/50 feet in diameter, while travelling from Foyers to Dores. I have seen a slide of it, and sent my suggestions as to what may have caused it to Jim. In return he sent me the letter containing the above theory, saying that he felt that the foam could have been the result of one of the creatures clearing its breathing tubes. I find his thoughts very interesting, but perhaps one or two points should be raised. Shouldn't we see more foam patches? How does a leech feed, what is its diet? Many reports of Nessie on the surface say how silent it was, many more than say it was making noise or splashing! Nevertheless the invertebrate theory is quite widely held, and was once held and written about by F.W. Holiday in 'The Great Orm of Loch Ness', although 'Ted' went for a type of worm rather than a type of leech.

Expedition

I have information from Theo Brown concerning an expedition he is intending to organize in 1983, and following years if experiments prove his new ideas correct. Theo, an Australian, is a research associate of the World Life Research Institute at Colton, California, among other appointments. Since 1960 he has become internationally known through his work in the fields of shark repellents and the Crown of Thorns starfish infestation of the Indo-Pacific region. He is now director designate of the Australian Division of the World Life Research Institute, and is shortly to commence research under the Egyptian Government's Institute of Oceanic Science & Fisheries at Cario. In July and August 1978 Theo visited Scotland gathering data and researching for a book on the Loch Ness Monsters. To assist with this investigation, experimental work involving the under-water transmission of low frequency pulsed signals, a proven method of attracting some species of large marine predators (sharks), was carried out. Sonar equipment was used to monitor the transmission zone. Various signal patterns were evaluated at Loch Ness. Several large schools of fish seemed to respond and moved towards the surface from deep water during early experiments. Of the 73 separate control periods utilizing the sonic approach, only one yielded a sonar response of any significance. In this instance some large, unknown animate object was apparently attracted by the sound stimulus and entered the transmission zone at a depth of about 200 feet, where sonar contact was maintained for a period of some seconds. When the sonar chart was examined it suggested that the target could have been between 30 and 50 feet in length. In 1979 Theo again visited Loch Ness, this time for three months, for continued experimental work with sonic lures. Despite an extensive programme Theo finished the season with negative results. After discussing these results with several associates, Theo decided not to use sonar to monitor future experiments in the loch. Although of a very limited nature, evidence had been accumulated which seemed to suggest the animals in the loch were sensitive to echo sounding transmissions, and quickly moved away from the high frequency signal cones produced by this type of equipment. Sonar units employing low frequency signals appeared to elicit a similar response.

After evaluating the published records of previous experimental projects at Loch Ness, of which there is a vast amount, Theo reached the conclusion that an entirely new approach was necessary. Mr Leif Karlssen of Mona Vale near Sydney, an electronics engineer, was consulted about the problem, and subsequently devised the concept of establishing pressure sensitive underwater corridors across the loch, in the areas where the greatest number of sightings and contacts had occurred in the past. Basically, the development project centres on utilizing the pressure waves and low frequency vibrations generated by the movement of objects through the water, such as those created during the passage of a school of fish, or some large animal. This stimulus will activate underwater sensing units consisting of pressure sensitive transducers positioned to provide co-ordinates and other data, which will in turn relay the signals to surface buoyed transmitters. The sensing units will be positioned underwater in a triangular configuration, a system that can be extended to establish corridors through any large expanse of water. A shore-based or ship-board receiving station will then feed the information into computers through filterbanks. The computers will analyse the data and provide a three dimensional graph of large objects, give details on the location, size, speed and directional movements of all contacts, monitor the time period involved, duration of specific activity and associated information. Because the equipment is activated by pressure and sound waves generated by animate objects, life forms will be unable to detect and avoid the corridors established across the loch. This approach should yield quantitative and other data acceptable for scientific evaluation purposes, while the method being employed can be duplicated by subsequent, independent scientific investigators. Preliminary tests during 1983 involving the technique will be aimed at determining computer response to all known phenomena experienced within Loch Ness, including the movement of large solitary and school fish; divers and other submersible objects; the passage of surface vessels; waves and similar surface disturbances; underwater currents etc. Any subsequent intrusion into the pressure sensitive zone by large, unknown animate objects, will be readily discernible through computer data analysis.

The passive underwater sensing units will consist of specially arranged transducers (hydrophones) capable of detecting infrasonic pressure waves and low frequency acoustic sound emissions. These units can operate at varying depths and consist of a surface buoy incorporating a transmitter with a suspended transducer assembly and bottom mooring facilities. After initial evaluation and testing, it is hoped that it will be possible to establish pressure sensitive corridors across the loch, and to monitor them for a full calendar year.

The sheaf of papers that Theo kindly sent me, go on to outline the work done and results obtained at the loch since 1960, and then to give details of the computer programme necessary to obtain the required readouts. A very interesting line of thinking. One I have wondered about myself, but did not think equipment of a sensitive enough nature was available. After all water (a liquid) cannot be compressed, so if you slap the surface at Loch End, in theory, you should be able to follow the resulting vibrations all the way to Fort Augustus! Perhaps that is stretching the point, but that is the principal. Apart from programming the computer to recognise all the usual disturbances, and to sort out the 'large animate objects', I feel the problem is going to be the usual one. That is, one of deploying equipment in the water, and getting it to work, and not to tangle rigging lines, and not to ..., the list is almost endless. But Theo has vast experience of working in the world's oceans, and has worked extensively in Loch Ness, so he is well qualified to be able to make everything work correctly. I certainly hope so, as new lines of research bring hopes of an answer to the mysteries.

Well that is number 55, thank you for your letters. Your news and views are always welcome. Any comments, what did you feel about the Hugh Gray photograph? The address and telephone number are at the top, the name is Rip Hepple and annual subscriptions are: U.K. £2.50 U.S.A. Canada \$9.00, other areas on application.

Post Script

I have just received word that the Loch Ness Monster Exhibition, from Drumnadrochit, has taken to the road. Tony Harmsworth, the curator, has more than 40 exhibits, slide shows, etc, there will also be lectures. Adrian Shine, leader of the Loch Ness and Morar Project, will be with the exhibition, presenting their findings to date, and also recruiting volunteers for the coming season. The dates and venues I have are :- Grand Hotel, Tynmouth, 22nd-26th January, Willerby Manor Hotel, Hull, 30th January-2nd February. Old Brewery House, Reepham, Norwich, 4th-7th February. Crowbrough, Tunbridge Wells, at the Crest Hotel, 10th-13th February. Continental Hotel, Plymouth, 17th-20th February. Wessex Hotel, at Street, 26th February-1st March. Aberfan Hotel, Aberavon, Port Talbot, 10th-13th March. New Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, 17th-27th March. All dates inclusive, opening times 9.30am to 9.30pm.

I also understand that the 17th February edition of the New Scientist, is to be of special interest to us. Adrian Shine is publishing an account of the Project's work and findings. The magazine would seem to be a must to anyone interested in the investigations at Loch Ness. The exhibition is to be highly recommended, and a grand opportunity for those who cannot make the trip north to the loch. Also a chance to get first hand details of the Project, and sign up for a week or two at the loch.

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