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00:00:00,808 --> 00:00:05,809

In ancient science, the world was thought to be comprised of four elements.

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00:00:05,809 --> 00:00:09,810

Earth, air, fire, and water.

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00:00:09,810 --> 00:00:14,812

Water was and still is considered to be the essence of life itself.

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00:00:14,812 --> 00:00:18,813

But fresh water is not always available to us where and when we need it.

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00:00:18,813 --> 00:00:23,814

Through the centuries, however, certain people have been able to detect its hidden presence

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00:00:23,814 --> 00:00:26,815

by an ability which has yet to be explained.

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00:00:26,815 --> 00:00:31,816

Water-witching, divining, dousing, whatever name it's given,

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00:00:31,816 --> 00:00:35,817

remains one of the most puzzling mysteries of nature.

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00:00:42,819 --> 00:00:47,820

A solitary figure seeks out a new source of water using a divining rod,

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00:00:47,820 --> 00:00:50,821

one of the most primitive tools known to man.

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00:00:51,821 --> 00:00:56,823

As unscientific or even comical as this method may seem to some,

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00:00:56,823 --> 00:01:01,824

more serious consideration is being given to the technique than ever before.

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00:01:01,824 --> 00:01:05,825

In the past few years, the severe droughts that struck much of the United States

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00:01:05,825 --> 00:01:11,827

have forced scientists to examine every possible technology which might prevent future calamities.

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00:01:11,827 --> 00:01:16,828

Many pioneers died crossing the western deserts to settle the Pacific coast.

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00:01:16,828 --> 00:01:20,829

Yet geologists acknowledge that beneath those treacherous sands

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00:01:20,829 --> 00:01:26,831

and those of other continents as well, is enough water to satisfy all of today's needs.

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00:01:26,831 --> 00:01:29,831

But the question is how to find it?

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00:01:32,832 --> 00:01:36,833

Some of the most advanced research is being carried out in England.

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00:01:36,833 --> 00:01:40,834

Here in the West Country, the word dousing had its origins,

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00:01:40,834 --> 00:01:45,836

and long before King Arthur, dousers were finding ancient wells and springs.

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00:01:46,836 --> 00:01:51,837

In those times, fresh water was not only valued but hallowed,

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00:01:51,837 --> 00:01:55,838

with sacred properties for healing attributed to it.

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00:01:58,839 --> 00:02:05,841

To head our current investigation, we called in a respected expert in the field, Francis Hitchings.

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00:02:05,841 --> 00:02:08,842

One of the results of this resurgence of interest in dousing

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00:02:08,842 --> 00:02:14,843

is the growing number of books on the subject, all of them dealing with a specific aspect.

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00:02:14,843 --> 00:02:19,844

I myself got involved because I wanted to write a book which was a state-of-the-art account of it,

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00:02:19,844 --> 00:02:24,846

and when I began two years ago, I must say I thought that dousing was probably all a load of hocus

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00:02:24,846 --> 00:02:28,847

which would never stand up to experimental investigation.

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00:02:28,847 --> 00:02:31,848

However, after that time, having gone to the States and all around Britain,

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00:02:31,848 --> 00:02:36,849

looking at douses and talking to them, I've discovered that dousing certainly does work.

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00:02:36,849 --> 00:02:39,850

The only questions remaining for me are the two.

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00:02:39,850 --> 00:02:42,850

One, how often does dousing work?

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00:02:42,850 --> 00:02:44,851

And secondly, how well?

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00:02:44,851 --> 00:02:49,852

Tom Graves, who used to teach dousing officially for the inner London educational authority,

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00:02:49,852 --> 00:02:53,853

believes that anybody can be taught to douse.

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00:02:53,853 --> 00:02:56,854

London Education Authority, I taught about 500 people.

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00:02:56,854 --> 00:03:00,855

I only had two really total failures. They were both professional scientists.

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00:03:00,855 --> 00:03:04,856

Their problem was they were too busy analyzing what wasn't happening.

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00:03:04,856 --> 00:03:08,857

Dousing, as far as I'm concerned, is a skill, much like any other skill.

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00:03:08,857 --> 00:03:13,859

It does take a certain amount of instinct, a feel, a practice, and very little else.

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00:03:13,859 --> 00:03:18,860

Dousing has always been, first and foremost, a practical matter.

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00:03:18,860 --> 00:03:23,861

When you have trouble with your water supply, like John Mitchell, high on the Yorkshire Moors,

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00:03:23,861 --> 00:03:26,862

you look for a douser.

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00:03:26,862 --> 00:03:30,863

I rely on well water for my everything, in fact.

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00:03:30,863 --> 00:03:35,864

The well was built in 1700 when the house was built,

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00:03:35,864 --> 00:03:42,866

and it's never run dry at all until this year, when it completely dried up.

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00:03:42,866 --> 00:03:51,869

John Mitchell called on Dr. Arthur Bailey, a top-level scientist and senior lecturer in electronics at Bradford University.

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00:03:51,869 --> 00:03:55,870

He is also president of the British Society of Dousers,

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00:03:55,870 --> 00:04:02,871

and is on the society's list of professionals who can be trusted to go to work on problems like John Mitchell's.

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00:04:05,872 --> 00:04:10,874

Well, this is the well. Looking down it, there's nothing at all to be seen.

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00:04:10,874 --> 00:04:16,875

So the first thing to do is to establish, in fact, if there is a flow of water into the well, or if

it's completely dry.

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00:04:16,875 --> 00:04:21,876

I do this by using vertical angular odds, these are they,

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00:04:21,876 --> 00:04:26,878

and by walking around the well, we can see if there's a flow of water into it.

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00:04:30,879 --> 00:04:34,880

They're starting to move, so I should be on the edge of a flow of water, and in fact,

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00:04:34,880 --> 00:04:37,881

it's quite a strong flow.

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00:04:37,881 --> 00:04:39,881

They're then open out again.

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00:04:39,881 --> 00:04:43,882

So the flow of water into that well is about perhaps 18 inches wide.

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00:04:43,882 --> 00:04:47,883

It's a good flow of water, so there is water into the well.

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00:04:47,883 --> 00:04:50,884

The next thing to do is to see which way it's flowing.

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00:04:50,884 --> 00:04:55,885

And if I concentrate on direction of flow, the rods move that way,

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00:04:55,885 --> 00:05:03,887

showing that it's flowing down in a direction from the house further up the field, down this way, and out towards the quarry.

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00:05:03,887 --> 00:05:07,889

The next thing to do is to see if that water flow is in fact flowing into the well,

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00:05:07,889 --> 00:05:10,889

because if it's too deep, of course, it will miss it completely.

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00:05:10,889 --> 00:05:15,891

So again, I find the centre line of the stream,

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00:05:15,891 --> 00:05:22,892

and then from there, walk out until the rods cross once more, and that will give me the depth.

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00:05:22,892 --> 00:05:28,894

So starting off from there, still nothing.

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00:05:28,894 --> 00:05:33,895

It's obviously a very deep flow of water.

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00:05:33,895 --> 00:05:37,896

Still nothing. Ah, there we go.

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00:05:37,896 --> 00:05:39,897

That's it.

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00:05:39,897 --> 00:05:43,898

I subsequently paced this out and discovered the flow of water is about 100 feet deep.

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00:05:43,898 --> 00:05:47,899

Checking afterwards with Mr Mitchell, he in fact confirmed this figure

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00:05:47,899 --> 00:05:50,900

that the depth of his well is approximately 100 feet.

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00:05:50,900 --> 00:05:54,901

So this shows that the flow of water is running right through the bottom of his well.

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00:05:54,901 --> 00:06:02,903

So what has happened is that the original 15 feet depth of water that he used to rely on for pumping has disappeared,

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00:06:02,903 --> 00:06:08,905

and this appears to be due to the blasting that's been taking place in the quarry.

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00:06:08,905 --> 00:06:16,907

Unfortunately for Mr Mitchell, his property is adjacent to a rock quarry where dynamiting has taken a precious toll.

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00:06:16,907 --> 00:06:21,908

It seems he will have to extend his deep well even deeper.

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00:06:21,908 --> 00:06:31,911

Dowsers have long talked about primary water, water of great purity, rising through narrow fissures deep below the earth's surface.

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00:06:31,911 --> 00:06:38,912

Geologists have recently come to believe it may be formed by cooling down processes at the earth's core.

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00:06:38,912 --> 00:06:46,914

They call it juvenile water, and although there's a great deal of it, it can usually be located only by dowsing methods,

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00:06:46,914 --> 00:06:51,916

because the veins through which it rises have to be precisely located.

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00:06:51,916 --> 00:06:56,917

Geologists and dowsers are nowadays much more in communication with each other,

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00:06:56,917 --> 00:07:05,919

but in the past, the dowzers' art has seemed so mysterious that witchcraft and magic have been suspected.

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00:07:05,919 --> 00:07:12,921

Although the skills of divining were practiced by ancient people, Christianity forced dowsing underground,

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00:07:12,921 --> 00:07:16,922

along with alchemy, and other forms of occult knowledge.

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00:07:16,922 --> 00:07:29,926

But still it kept going, and modern dowsing began when Queen Elizabeth I imported dowzers from Germany to find underground veins of tin, metal, and gold.

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00:07:29,926 --> 00:07:37,928

Springs, fountains, and healing wells were sacred places long before churches and cathedrals were built over them,

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00:07:37,928 --> 00:07:41,929

perhaps to absorb their supposedly mystic powers.

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00:07:43,929 --> 00:07:48,931

So what happens when the rod starts twitching spontaneously in someone's hand?

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00:07:48,931 --> 00:07:57,933

To people like Pat Lucas, Britain's only professional woman dowser, there is an unmistakable physical sensation.

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00:07:58,933 --> 00:08:04,935

I was taught to dows by Mr George, who came from Radnyshire.

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00:08:04,935 --> 00:08:08,936

He was a famous old dowser and has been dead for a number of years now.

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00:08:08,936 --> 00:08:13,937

He taught me to hold the hazel tweak, which is one I always use, this way,

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00:08:13,937 --> 00:08:17,938

laid in the flat of the hands with the thumb on the side of the tweak,

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00:08:17,938 --> 00:08:23,940

and the tweak arms resting on the first two fingers, holding it horizontal with the arms nice and relaxed,

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00:08:23,940 --> 00:08:26,941

and with no open tension on the throat of the tweak.

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00:08:26,941 --> 00:08:30,942

He said, don't put any energy into the tweak, it'll come with its own accord.

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00:08:30,942 --> 00:08:34,943

So I know I'm different from a lot of dowsers in this, but I still stick to what he told me.

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00:08:34,943 --> 00:08:41,945

He told me also to go very slowly and to concentrate on what I was looking for, and this I try to do as well.

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00:08:41,945 --> 00:08:47,946

What I feel is an energy, I can only put it as an energy, which seems to pull right through my body,

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00:08:47,946 --> 00:08:53,948

through my arms, through my legs, I start everything right through, and I get a pulsing effect here very often,

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00:08:53,948 --> 00:09:00,950

as if my heart races. I think the heartbeat does accelerate quite a bit when you come into a big body of water,

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00:09:00,950 --> 00:09:05,951

or even a small one, if you cross it enough times, it seems to build up and your heart gets agitated.

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00:09:05,951 --> 00:09:10,952

I sometimes get a dead thumb, one side or the other, if I keep crossing the stream.

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00:09:10,952 --> 00:09:15,954

The total effect is one of physical exhaustion and physical tiredness,

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00:09:15,954 --> 00:09:21,955

plus obviously mental tiredness from the concentration, but it's entirely natural as far as I'm concerned.

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00:09:21,955 --> 00:09:25,956

It feels as if you've done jolly hard days of work and I enjoyed it.

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00:09:25,956 --> 00:09:30,957

It appears from Pat Lucas' experience that there is a physiological basis for dowsing,

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00:09:30,957 --> 00:09:37,959

some kind of energy that comes up from underground streams which dowsers can literally feel.

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00:09:37,959 --> 00:09:43,961

The question remains, however, can modern science find any way of explaining this phenomenon?

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00:09:44,961 --> 00:09:49,962

We're about to attempt an experiment never tried before.

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00:09:49,962 --> 00:09:56,964

In order to determine whether or not a change takes place in the dowsers' brain when his response occurs,

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00:09:56,964 --> 00:10:04,966

a new device has been built by a biofeedback expert, John Steele, who calls his equipment a mind mirror.

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00:10:04,966 --> 00:10:08,967

Now on the mind mirror we have the four basic different patterns of brain waves.

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00:10:08,967 --> 00:10:15,969

Beta waves over here on both sides represent information processing and alarm reactions.

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00:10:15,969 --> 00:10:21,971

The alpha, which is a slower frequency, represents an open, passive state of awareness,

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00:10:21,971 --> 00:10:24,972

which is the basis of meditation and other related states.

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00:10:24,972 --> 00:10:31,973

The theta waves, which are slower yet, represent inspiration, creativity and visual imagery,

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00:10:31,973 --> 00:10:33,974

such as asenism and dreaming.

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00:10:33,974 --> 00:10:40,976

And the delta, which is the slowest waves that we have, we usually expect to see them only in sleeping.

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00:10:40,976 --> 00:10:47,978

We now find in healing and in ESP phenomena, and we would expect to see them also in dowsing,

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00:10:47,978 --> 00:10:52,979

which is a characteristic of the mind reaching out into the unknown.

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00:10:52,979 --> 00:10:59,981

Basically good, the atmospheric balance in the right and left side letters.

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00:10:59,981 --> 00:11:07,983

That's it, I'll give you a little bit of alpha flickering over out there.

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00:11:07,983 --> 00:11:12,984

I'll try the most activity up in the beta ring.

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00:11:12,984 --> 00:11:24,987

Little spots of alpha beginning to come in, which is indicative of open passive states.

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00:11:24,987 --> 00:11:39,991

We basically began with alpha blocking state, which is this pattern right here.

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00:11:39,991 --> 00:11:44,993

As you can see, there's no alpha right here. We have a lot of beta and a lot of delta.

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00:11:44,993 --> 00:11:47,993

Very calm passive aware state.

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00:11:47,993 --> 00:11:54,995

Now, after we began to dows and move towards the water source, a definite change did take place, which is as such.

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00:11:54,995 --> 00:12:00,997

We move to this pattern over here, where we have the basic configuration again of the alpha blocking.

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00:12:00,997 --> 00:12:05,998

But this time, as you can see, a small alpha spike comes into the middle.

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00:12:05,998 --> 00:12:14,000

Now, this alpha spike represents a below the threshold stimulus, trying to break into awareness.

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00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:21,002

This is indicative of what we might call an ESP phenomena, starting to come through to consciousness.

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00:12:21,002 --> 00:12:27,004

The alpha represents a very open and natural state.

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00:12:27,004 --> 00:12:34,005

That's very reassuring for me, John, because I've always thought it was a very natural thing.

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00:12:34,005 --> 00:12:42,008

Scientifically speaking, some outside event must take place to trigger off these mental and physical reactions.

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00:12:42,008 --> 00:12:48,009

Some signal that says, water is here.

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00:12:48,009 --> 00:12:52,010

Basically, there are two theories about this signal.

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00:12:52,010 --> 00:12:59,012

Either it comes from within the electromagnetic spectrum, with the body acting in some way like a radio receiver,

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00:12:59,012 --> 00:13:08,014

or there's some kind of physical energy involved, not yet known to science.

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00:13:08,014 --> 00:13:17,017

Harry Lovegrove is an electronics engineer who may be on the verge of a breakthrough with the electromagnetic theory.

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00:13:17,017 --> 00:13:23,018

Believing the human body can sense minute changes in microwave heat coming up from the Earth's core,

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00:13:23,018 --> 00:13:30,020

he has developed an artificial way of reproducing this phenomenon by laying down electromagnetic lines.

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00:13:30,020 --> 00:13:39,023

However, before he demonstrated this, an independent dowser was asked to come in and locate an area free from ground disturbance.

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00:13:39,023 --> 00:13:47,025

When dowsing across the yard, there's absolutely nothing here. This area is completely clear.

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00:13:47,025 --> 00:13:52,026

I can feel something coming up. There's something here.

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00:13:52,026 --> 00:13:59,028

Well, that's the main drain. You can see it there. That's running right through the yard this way.

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00:14:01,028 --> 00:14:04,029

And this is absolutely clear. Over here.

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00:14:04,029 --> 00:14:13,031

Now, to a dowser, the whole of the ground would appear to be as though it was made of a plate

glass, frosted glass,

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00:14:13,031 --> 00:14:24,034

and heat from below when it passes pipes or water or anything which can disturb the rays from beneath will cause a shadow on the surface.

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00:14:25,035 --> 00:14:31,036

Now, what I have here is a piece of apparatus which I've designed and built.

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00:14:31,036 --> 00:14:38,038

It gives out an electromagnetic wave which causes a shadow on the ground

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00:14:38,038 --> 00:14:45,040

exactly the same way as a natural shadow is caused by a pipe or anything else interfering with the radiation coming up from below.

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00:14:45,040 --> 00:14:51,041

So having got the machine exactly level, which is very, very critical,

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00:14:51,041 --> 00:15:01,044

I shall now try and set this beam down, switch on, and now this beam is slowly affecting the

ground,

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00:15:01,044 --> 00:15:11,047

and after a minute or two, this will lay down a shadow pattern across the ground which anybody can
douse for the next two or three weeks.

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00:15:13,047 --> 00:15:19,049

After the machine was removed, the dowser returned to see if he could detect the electromagnetic
line.

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00:15:19,049 --> 00:15:24,050

He did so with 100% accuracy.

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00:15:24,050 --> 00:15:25,050

And it's...

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00:15:32,052 --> 00:15:34,053

...on a line through there.

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00:15:34,053 --> 00:15:39,054

Mr. Lovegrove's microwave experiment seems to have been proven out.

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00:15:40,054 --> 00:15:47,056

However, even if subsequent research independently substantiates Harry Lovegrove's theories,

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00:15:47,056 --> 00:15:50,057

it's unlikely that he's come up with the whole answer.

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00:15:50,057 --> 00:15:58,059

Occasionally, a handful of the very best dousters do things so mysterious that they're quite beyond explanation.

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00:15:58,059 --> 00:16:02,060

Take for instance their use of the pendulum.

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00:16:03,060 --> 00:16:09,062

Now, there are a number of substantiated cases of where, using a pendulum like this,

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00:16:09,062 --> 00:16:18,064

dousters have discovered the exact location of crashed airplanes, missing people, murder victims, stolen goods, and so on.

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00:16:18,064 --> 00:16:24,066

One douser who's renowned for such feats is Bill Lewis of Abergavenny in South Wales.

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00:16:24,066 --> 00:16:32,068

Over a period of three years now, I've conducted a series of tests with him to find out just how accurate he is

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00:16:32,068 --> 00:16:36,069

and how often he achieves his apparently supernatural results.

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00:16:36,069 --> 00:16:44,071

He's one of the people who believes that ancient standing stones in many parts of the world were built above the crossing of underground streams.

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00:16:44,071 --> 00:16:52,073

Now, I'd heard that a number of these stones existed in New England, but as they're not marked on maps there, I didn't know where to look for them.

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00:16:52,073 --> 00:17:03,076

So Bill Lewis noted down where he thought they'd be, and in the end he gave me some 55 archaeological features all over the United States for me to go and check up on.

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00:17:03,076 --> 00:17:11,078

And that I did. I went round the states on a round trip and I took photographs wherever I went trying to find out whether he was right or whether he was wrong.

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00:17:11,078 --> 00:17:22,081

And if you consider the odds against finding anything when you're dotting a pencil onto maps covering an area of 9,500 square miles the other side of the Atlantic,

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00:17:22,081 --> 00:17:34,084

the results that Bill Lewis came up with are truly remarkable. Overall, he was 40% accurate, and this included finding three hibeetu undiscovered standing stones in Vermont,

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00:17:34,084 --> 00:17:38,085

one of them the tallest yet found.

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00:17:42,086 --> 00:17:50,088

This 40% success rate recurred on a number of occasions during the experiments I carried out during that three year period.

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00:17:50,088 --> 00:17:57,090

And I've been forced to the conclusion that there are really two elements to dousing. One of them you might call psychical,

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00:17:57,090 --> 00:18:07,093

the kind of work that Bill Lewis and other people get up to where you can't rely on it, but it does happen sometimes and it's a fact that can't be ignored.

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00:18:07,093 --> 00:18:20,096

The other one is practical, physical. Water dousing particularly. That I guess has been going on since the dawn of mankind and it's still providing the livelihood for experts like Stan Shepherd of Devon.

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00:18:20,096 --> 00:18:39,101

I go onto the site and by my rods, my steel rod, I react where the water is flowing in as much as I turn around until I locate it.

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00:18:39,101 --> 00:18:53,105

To keep myself turning, I'm eliminating any small streams or difficult subterranean subsurface water. I've got it there.

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00:18:53,105 --> 00:19:05,108

I know my water, of course, is running down in that area. I know then that I've got to go to it to find its nearest edge.

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00:19:06,108 --> 00:19:19,112

I'm getting closer now. I'm feeling something and I've hit it. Now then, I have to go further on and work back to it again.

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00:19:20,112 --> 00:19:28,114

Now I've got to go towards the actual water course itself again.

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00:19:29,114 --> 00:19:47,119

Then it's got me. So I then back onto into the center of the course. By going across it like this, I can hit the center of it.

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00:19:48,119 --> 00:20:01,123

That's right in the center. I do that four times to strike the actual point of drilling.

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00:20:01,123 --> 00:20:12,126

When Stan Shepherd first started his own water drilling company, his was the smallest of seven local operators. Today, none of the other companies are still in business.

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00:20:13,126 --> 00:20:25,129

So confident was he in his dousing ability that he worked on the basis of no water, no fee. And after 50 years, he can still claim that he has never drilled a dry well.

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00:20:25,129 --> 00:20:35,132

We've seen doublers from many walks of life. They claim that the ability to douse is perfectly natural, a sixth sense, latent in everyone.

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00:20:35,132 --> 00:20:48,135

But like most things, it takes time and experience to master. Because science cannot yet explain how dousing works, it has been at best disbelieved, at worst branded as witchcraft and magic.

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00:20:48,135 --> 00:20:56,137

There's a lot more research and investigation that will have to be done to evaluate these phenomena. Nature is always slow to reveal her secrets.

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00:20:56,137 --> 00:21:00,138

And when she does, she usually does so in small stages.

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00:21:00,138 --> 00:21:11,141

Coming up next, 20th century with Mike Wallace reports on the worldwide spread of industrial pollution and the dangers we now face from global warming.

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00:21:11,141 --> 00:21:16,142

Then weapons at war tracks the sixth century evolution of artillery cannons.

199

00:21:16,142 --> 00:21:26,145

And later tonight, what happened to the Neanderthal cave dwellers Histories Mysteries investigates at 8, here on the History Channel, where the past comes alive.

200

00:21:30,146 --> 00:21:35,147

Music