

for the real cause and thus an amelioration of the problem. Profiteers offer – mostly at a very high cost - unnecessary defensive machines against radiation which does not exist.

- Coming up with a diagnosis through the pendulum or rod is totally dubious and should be strictly rejected. For the patient there is the danger of a wrong diagnosis and a wrong treatment

- Using the pendulum as a decision making tool leads to dependencies and the loss of personal responsibility

Why do people in pastoral care look into pendulums and dowsing rods?

Not a few radiesthetes tend to overstep the theoretical natural possibilities within the course of their activities. Pendelling over a map, agreeing to certain signs with the rod, in order to gain a variety of information, or so called mental pendelling are not forms leading to a natural knowledge.

Fear of Radiation and a Pagan Fear.

While in pre-industrial times, popular superstitious belief put down any unexplained accidents, illnesses or misfortunes to the influence of witches or demons, nowadays – according to modern cultural speech patterns - rays are being made responsible for this. Amulets, talismans and “ray protection machinery” are comparable superstitious protective measures. The fear of demons as well as of imaginary rays are an expression of the old pagan fears, which surrounds those who do not believe in the salvation power of Jesus Christ.

- The use of pendulum and dowsing rod in order to find out about hidden things, which are not accessible to natural knowledge falls under the “mantic” practices, i.e. those practices that fall within the clairvoyant spectrum. Such practices however - in all their forms - belong to the sins of abomination (see Dtn 18,9-11)

- It is not seldom that for people involved in pendelling or using a dowsing rod, these practices become an easy entry point into other forms of occult or superstitious practices.

Other writings on the subjekt:

Edwards, Harry, *Alternative, Complementary, Holistic & Spiritual Healnig*, Roseville 1999

Feder, Kenneth L. *Frauds, Mysteries and Myths*, 3rd ed. (Mountain View, California: Mayfield Publishing Co., 1998).

Park, Robert, *Voodoo Science, The Road from foolishness to fraud*, Oxford 2000

Randi, James. *An Encyclopedia of Claims, Frauds, and Hoaxes of the Occult and Supernatural* (N.Y.: St. Martin’s Press, 1995).

On the subject of New Age, there is an informative document issued by the Church:

“Jesus Christ, the bearer of the waters of life”. Considerations on New Age from a Christian viewpoint. Rome 2003. This document can be downloaded via the following internet address: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/interelg/documents/rc_pc_interelg_doc_20030203_new-age_en.html

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Catchword

Pendelling and Dowsing Rod



Perhaps already from antique times, but certainly from the late middle ages onward, people have tried to discover treasures thought to be hidden within the ground with the aid of a hazel twig or something similar. The mysterious movement of the rod is meant to show the desired

item. Even in those days there were sceptics who thought that not a great deal could be gained with this practice. Paracelsus himself called this practice an “insecure art”.

Since the 5th century the dowsing rod is mentioned in books dealing with superstitions. Nevertheless even today there are many adherents of this “art”. Today they are called “radiesthetes”, i.e. those sensitive to rays.

But what is behind this practice and why are people in pastoral care concerned about it?

What do people employing dowsing rod and pendulum look for?

- In the late Middle Ages people were searching for ores and water
- Today water diviners search for water, or underground water-courses
- For the last 70 years or so, following the esoteric boom, users of the dowsing rod have begun to search for earth rays, or for so-called geo-pathological zones, disruptive zones, or networks of rays. It has become a tradition to search for locations of power and alternative therapists use the pendulum (sometimes also the rod) to diagnose an illness or to find healing medicines.
- Many also use the pendulum or the rod to access hidden information of any kind

Underground Water Courses, Disruptive Zones & Co – do they exist?

The geologists say No! These are apparently claims only, which cannot be scientifically confirmed, because:

- **„Underground water-courses“ and so-called „geo-pathological zones“ cannot be scientifically confirmed.**
- Water does not flow in subterranean rivulets, but permeates the earth generally. Disruptive zones and earth rays - as described by the radiesthetes - cannot be measured or verified by any objective method. They can only be subjectively felt.



Some dowsers claim, that water can be found, even by dowsing over a map

and obey other laws than those claimed by the radiesthetes

- When working under scientifically controlled conditions, no radiesthete has succeeded up to now to prove their abilities
- Radiesthetics is thus considered a superstition within the ranks of scientists, similar to occultism or the pseudo sciences. It depends on the self deception of those using pendulums and rods.

Why do pendulum and rod show a reaction – and why do radiesthetes again and again find water? Why do some people sleep better after someone using a pendulum has advised them to move their beds?

- The movement of the rod and the movement of the pendulum is caused by minute muscular movements
- On a subconscious level the rod user is responsible for the answers, for the location - when the rod moves, as well as for the direction - in which the pendulum moves.
- The movement happens when a

Radiesthetes who examine a location independently from each other, seldom reach the same conclusion.

All known and measurable physical powers conduct themselves differently

person's subconscious desires it.

Disruptive zones cannot be verified by any objective measurement techniques, thus science concludes that they only exist within the brains of those who believe in them.

Since water is permeating the ground generally, (in the middle of Europe the probability of finding water when drilling a hole lies between 60 and 95%) each user of the rod finds water. Some users of the rod orient themselves unconsciously with the help of vegetation, which shows where water can be found in not too great a depth. The knowledgeable do not need a rod.

In the case of sickness, disturbed orientation or other problems, the radiesthetes consulted always find detrimental zones under the bed of such people. When positive effects are noticed after a change in the sleeping place, this can be ascribed to the placebo effect.

Can pendelling or using a rod lead to problems?

Since the movement of rod or pendulum is caused by the subconscious, it is a wrong conclusion to believe it possible to gain hidden knowledge in this way.

Since pendelling or using a rod causes belief in detrimental zones, this can cause fears and loss of freedom in those concerned.

To hold detrimental zones responsible for existing illnesses, disturbances in orientation or other similar problems interferes with a search

The existence of carcinogenic geo-pathological zones is a speculative idea, first claimed in the 1930s