

Rivers of Love Special Report: Dr. Robert Heath and the Pleasure Center

In today's Special Report we will discuss Dr. Robert Heath, a physician practicing at Tulane University Medical School starting in the 1950's.

A member of the department of neurology and psychiatry, Dr. Heath treated some of the most violent and depressed patients imaginable, suffering from schizophrenia, incurable epilepsy, tremors, and severe pain.

In 1950, Dr. Heath began implanting electrodes in the brains of his patients. These electrodes, strategically placed in specific places in his patients' brains, were left in some of his patients for years. Some of these patients experienced remarkable turnarounds in their condition.

You see, Robert Heath had discovered the parts of the human brain that regulate pleasure and punishment. When his patients flew into a violent emotional rage, he found that the punishment area of the brain, (consisting of the hippocampus, thalamus, tegmentum, and half of the amygdala) was activated. He also found that when his patients were reporting pleasurable experiences, the other half of the amygdala and the septal area were activated.

Dr. Heath had an idea. He speculated that the delusions and hallucinations of schizophrenia might be the result of the patient's inability to experience pleasure. He thought that their fear or rage impulse could occur because they did not have enough pleasure to "neutralize" it.

When he implanted electrodes and he stimulated the punishment center of the brain, the pleasure center shut down. And when he stimulated the pleasure center, the punishment center shut down.

Dr. Heath began stimulating the pleasure centers of his patients' brains as a way to treat mental illness. When he had a patient in a psychotic rage, and he stimulated their pleasure center, they stopped raging. In patients with severe pain from things like cancer, their pain disappeared. This also seemed to work on severe depression, mania, suicidal tendencies, and homicidal impulses. Eventually he found a way to stimulate the pleasure center via the cerebellum, thereby avoiding the invasive procedure to implant electrodes in the more forward parts of the brain. And he designed a system whereby the electrodes could be left in the patients' brain for years, stimulated by a pacemaker.

One violent young man was constantly trying to cut the hospital staff and himself. When the electrodes were implanted, his violent behavior ceased. He was sent home and all was well until some time later when he inexplicably attacked his parents. On examination, it was discovered that some wires in his pacemaker had broken so his brain was not getting pleasurable stimulation. Once the problem was fixed, the attacks of rage again ceased.

A similar incident occurred in 1977, when a man kept hearing voices telling him to choke his wife. When the electrodes were implanted the voices ceased and he was sent home. Like the

gentleman above, when his wires broke, the voices again returned. And once the wires were fixed, the problem again disappeared. It seems that in these situations there would be strong social and medical pressure to not "let the batteries run out"

Remarkably, Dr. Heath estimates that about half of the seventy or so patients on whom he has done this procedure have been significantly helped. Considering that his patients were considered some of the most severe cases imaginable, this is amazing.

It appears that for some reason, depressed and violent patients have improved the most, and chronic schizophrenics the least.

Dr. Heath also experimented with injecting acetylcholine into patients septal areas with one woman reporting multiple orgasms lasting thirty minutes.

So, my friends, this just verifies what I have long suspected (not that it needs any verification); I quote from the introduction of How to Worship the Goddess:

1) Any pleasure we experience that is not derived from the suffering of another sentient being is good for us. It is good for us physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

2) Sexual pleasure is good. Sexual pleasure is a great gift, and it exists for far more reasons than just procreation.

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How to Worship the Goddess and Keep Your Balls: A Man's Guide to Sacred Sex ... excerpts from the book: http://www.davidbruceleonard.com/ROL_worshipthegoddess.html