

Aura Diagnosis?

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In late 1993, I attended a Body, Mind, Spirit "Show" in Melbourne. One presenter had a machine that he claimed read the human aura. This machine had a set of electrodes shaped like the fingers of the left hand upon which one rested ones left palm and fingers. A Polaroid camera mounted in front of me took my photograph and also scanned a supposed interaction between my aura and the electrodes to the same Polaroid film.

First, I had the aura "read" with the left hand like everyone else. When the lovely colour print and the computer print out which interpreted it arrived, I said to the owner that that was not the correct interpretation of the aura as presented. No sooner had I said that, than we had our first remarkable experience. Without anyone doing anything, his printer suddenly chattered into life and printed another print out that in my view was a better interpretation of the aura. The owner was mystified, since the printer needed to be instructed to print and had not received any such instruction. Further, one of the areas of the aura needed to get a print out was missing from this print out! The owner scrawled a question mark on this print out, and left it at that!

I then had another picture done from my left hand, this time with a large silver ring that holds a quartz stone, worn on my right hand in my lap; that Polaroid and its interpretation were substantially different from the first one with the ring off the right hand.

I really wanted to have the aura read from my right hand, but the left-handed set of electrodes precluded that. I decided to put my right hand under his electrode box, 4-5 inches away from the electrodes. He said it could not possibly work since I was not touching his electrodes. I did this with the ring off, with it on but turned upwards into my palm (those two Polaroids are identical) and then with the ring on, but worn in the normal position. That produced a very different image again.

Finally, I put the ring by itself under the box, oriented as it would have been if my hand had been there, and with me out of the picture. The owner of the machine said I would simply get a black Polaroid. On the Polaroid, mostly black, is a thin orange line. Looked at with a hand lens, this line consists of two tightly coiled elements rather like the medical caduceus. Perhaps these are the "auras" of the stone and the silver in which it is enclosed. Although I had paid him a lot of money, the owner's experiences had definitely upset him, and he seemed pleased when I left.

I went again in 1994, and used a double-handed machine (different owners) that did essentially the same things. I had it read touching their electrodes, and also with my hands held 6 inches from the electrodes. The two readings are totally different, and the owners seemed non-plussed at getting a reading without touching the electrodes. I have used my colour scanner to create colour prints of these Polaroids and can supply these and photocopies of the computer print outs for the 1993 set at cost to members.

There seem to be several issues. First, what are these machines reading and how are they producing the colour "auras" visible on the Polaroid? Secondly, does this process have anything at all to do with the "human aura" as seen, e.g., by those trained to see it or by Bob Cripps "Aurascope"? Thirdly, it seems to me that if the jewellery one is wearing can generate an image different from that obtained when not wearing it, then interpretations of auras

with such machines need to be very much more carefully done than is the case at these "Spiritual Trade Shows." Finally, what is happening in the cases where I was not touching any electrodes? And what can we say about the two thin lines from the isolated ring?