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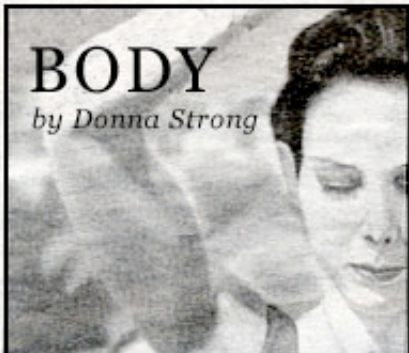
ISSUE 30 • OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2000



ENLIGHTENED URBAN LIVING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**BODY**

by Donna Strong



## We Are The Earth

Our Conversation with Gregg Braden

GREGG BRADEN WAS IN TOWN LAST SPRING SPEAKING AT THE BODHI TREE ABOUT HIS MOST RECENT BOOK, *THE ISAIAH EFFECT*. MY FRIEND NATALIE CALLED TO SHARE AND I WAS RIVETED, NEARLY CATAPULTING OUT OF MY CHAIR TOWARD THE BOOK STORE. I'VE KNOWN ABOUT GREGG BRADEN FOR MANY YEARS, BASED ON HIS FIRST BOOK, NOW A CLASSIC, *AWAKENING TO ZERO POINT*. FROM

this beginning, Braden's books have been exploring the subtle connections that cause one form to have an effect and initiate change in another. In *Awakening*, the theme was on how earth changes were affecting our human lives and consciousness.

This third book, *The Isaiah Effect*, continues the exploration that Braden has undertaken for the past fifteen years, unraveling messages of the Essene texts and continuing to illuminate the subtle, yet powerful connections in life. Braden's previous background as an earth scientist and computer systems designer are still being well-utilized as he draws from vast swathes of information, both ancient and modern, to synthesize seemingly disparate threads into a vision of unity, peace and harmony. I was delighted recently to spend an hour with Gregg Braden. He has a rich sentience in his expression that supports the compelling nature of his work.

The name Isaiah in this book comes from the prophet Isaiah, who is believed to be the source of wisdom documented in this scroll. Braden offered that the Isaiah Scroll is significant as one of the oldest documents known that has been written in a continuously written language; Hebrew, and it is the only scroll in this cache of over eight-hundred in the Dead Sea Library that is completely intact. The scrolls record the spiritual teachings of the Essenes, a fairly mysterious sect, first known five hundred years before Christ.

According to Braden's research, both Roman and Jewish scholars described the Essenes as "a race by themselves, more remarkable than any other in the world." Braden shared that they lived simply, away from urban areas of the time in desert communities. For them, prayer and daily labor working with the earth were devotional offerings, honoring the seamless connection to all life, both on earth and the larger cosmos.

The Isaiah Scroll itself focuses on Essene understanding of prayer and prophecy, the two themes of the book. These ancient wisdom teachings are interwoven by Braden with findings of current quantum science in a manner that offers a radiant message of

hope. In a world that is so full of difficulty and struggle, *The Isaiah Effect* provides a rich tapestry of inspirational insight. The Essene form of prayer offers the empowerment to chose the future that is our heart's desire, both individually and collectively.

The Essenes held an essential understanding that we are all connected and it was expressed in the phrase, 'as within, so without.' In the West we have lost this understanding as a basis for life to a significant degree. From Braden's research, events that occurred around 325 A.D. to remove certain information from sacred texts set this discontinuity in motion. The Essene texts had provided references to understand man's relationship to one another and to the forces of the earth and the cosmos. With removal of this information, a foundation for inner knowing was withdrawn as a collective reference.

The Isaiah Scroll underscores our innate connection as a basis of life here. Whatever is happening to the earth is happening to us. "The Essenes are very clear about this, they say, 'We are the earth. We are nothing more, nothing less.' The elements that make up the earth are the elements that make our body; carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen and the other elements that go along with it. So when the earth goes through a change, its happening within us as well whether we recognize it or not."

This Essene earth wisdom has found a phenomenal convergence in new research. One of the best examples in the book describes how focused feelings of deep love had the effect of making the DNA more coherent in its shape! An intelligent blueprint of life, the integrity of its shape is critical to the ongoing repair and reproduction of itself as the basic code that orders life processes. As Braden sees it, "these reports now demonstrate, perhaps for the first time, that emotion is the missing link, a direct line of

communication to the very core of life itself."

Further, there is proof of a relationship between human DNA and the physical world beyond DNA. Says Braden, "The implications are vast, empowering and to some people a little frightening, I think. Its called the Phantom DNA Effect. A Russian scientist, Vladimer Poponin, demonstrated under laboratory conditions that DNA affects matter through a field that exists between the DNA and the physical world around us. The DNA speaks to the world through that field as a conduit."

This research is an empirical exclamation point emphasizing the statement of the Essenes, 'as within, so without: we are the earth.' What happens inside us is expressed in the world. Being made up of the same basic materials, we share communication through an elemental resonance, like the tides, flowing out and then the waves return. Very simply, we are always connected in life whether we are conscious of it or not.

The empowerment that is recorded in the Essene texts is cultivated through a form of prayer that unites thought with an emotion so that the two streams merge in to a feeling. Emotion brings creative potency, while thought brings direction to the feeling that emerges from this union.

This method, according to the Essenes, is our rightful way of creating the good that we envision in a way that acknowledges our deep connection to life. Braden offered, "What the Essenes are saying to us is that if we would like to change what is happening in the world, the way that we accomplish lasting change is by becoming that change from within, because the world around us is simply mirroring our thoughts, feelings and emotions that we hold within our bodies." ♦



Gregg Braden is speaking at the Prophet's Conference, being held in Palm Springs this December. For more information contact 888-777-5981 or [www.greatmystery.org/psconference.html](http://www.greatmystery.org/psconference.html).

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