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## WATER HYPOSTASES

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### Abstract

The following study is dedicated to water as the central element of nature and of human existence. As we begin, there will be a short presentation of water and its qualities. Afterwards there will be a discussion about the significance of water in different religions and customs. The paper ends with the description of EMOTO experiment.

*Keywords:* water, religion, tradition, sacred

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### 1. Water and its properties

“Water, this flowing mater, from which we construct all those needed to our food in that pious and useful manner to our natural needs, by which we bathe and disperse from around us, all dirt that brings forth disease and damage, by which we finally collect the ardent recovery, by which not only us are conquered, but also are other constructions.”

(1823, Iași, Ioniță Sandu Sturza Voevod)

The British name it ‘water’, the Germans ‘wasser’, the French ‘eau’, the Spanish and Portuguese ‘agua’, the Russians ‘voda’, the Italians ‘acqua’, the Arabians ‘mayah’, the Chinese ‘shui’, the Danish ‘vand’, the Finnish ‘vetta’, the Greeks ‘hydor’, the Hawaiians ‘wai’, the Jews ‘mayim’, the Indians ‘pani’, the Dutch ‘water’, the Indonesians ‘air’, the Japanese ‘mizuk’, the Norwegians ‘vann’, the Polish ‘woda’, the Swedish ‘vatten’, the Hungarians ‘viz’, the Turks ‘su’, the Celts ‘suire’, in Esperanto it is called ‘akvo’, in Latin ‘aqua’, in Romanian ‘apa’, in Sanskrit ‘ap’...

Not long time ago, it was believed that water exists only on our planet. Quite recent researches established, through the spectroscopic method, the undeniable presence of water in the Universe, not only in the form of gas (vapors), but also in solid form (ice) [1].

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Molecular water appears in circumstellar and interstellar clouds and is an important constituent of several comets' tail (for example Halley). Furthermore, it can be found at the surface of less hot stars (the red giants), where the special requirements for the existence of water molecule are met (i.e. high pressure, relatively low temperature and low ultraviolet radiation).

In our solar system, the planet Mars has, in its ice cap, high quantities of water, and its typical surface (e.g. river banks), indicates the existence of a liquid water period. On Venus, the high percent of atmospheric deuterium sustained the idea of the existence of water in the past. The satellites of the large planets from the outskirts of our solar system also present water in solid form (e.g. Mirinda - Uranus' satellite - is almost exclusively formed of ice). Therefore, the presence of water on other planets, that one time was believed to be a simple myth, is today in the centre of an ardent research.

Water exists from the very beginning of Earth's creation but not in its liquid form and not in the form of vapours in the atmosphere, but bound in rocks. It was gradually released as vapours by the hot rocks along with carbon dioxide, forming the second atmosphere (the initial one, from helium and hydrogen, from the beginning of the Earth, is believed to have been rapidly 'swept' by solar wind). When the cooling of the crust progressed enough, the water condensed, rain appeared, the seas were formed, and the water percentage from the depth continued to increase through the volcanic emanations.

Earth is the only known place where water certainly appears in liquid form. It is the result of many factors convergence; small changes can lead to the disappearance of liquid water and subsequently of life (e.g. a variation with only +/-5% of the distance towards the Sun, a variation of the spectral composition or of the intensity of its radiation, or the alteration of our planet's atmosphere).

The water on Earth is a constant quantity that we cannot influence, in comparison with other resources such as fish or lumber, which we can theoretically enhance, or other such as fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) which are now reduced by humankind through consumption. We can, however, alter its quality and we are doing it fully.

The importance of water is evident in many domains: it stands at the basis of the biosphere existence, it is a medium of life for aquatic plants; it has kinetic and potential energy useable to man and necessary to nature; it is the main agent in the modelling the surface; it is a cooling agent in technique and in nature; it is a primary mater in economy; it is a means of transportation for ships but also for dissolved substances; it is a mean of hygiene for washing, removal and the dilution of pollutants; it is a therapeutic agent (mineral springs, mineral water treatment).

Water is the element of life that bathes and feed us. In ancient cultures, water represents the essence of life. The Romans were the first to draw water in canals, in their growing towns, with the help of aqueducts. They were also the ones to realize that sewer water could sicken men and that must be removed.

The hydrologic cycle of water explains the interactions between the hydrosphere, atmosphere and lithosphere. Water or the hydrologic cycle

represents a major force on our planet. Water is in a continuous movement, evaporating from the oceans, lakes, small and big rivers, into the atmosphere. When the atmosphere can no longer sustain the humidity in the clouds, rain, snow, hailstone or sleet begin to appear.

A certain quantity of water is blocked in the form of ice, in the ice cap and glaciers. Ice melts in springs, causing subterranean water leakage, seeping through the ground towards the surface or returning to the sea. The oceans are formed of a great quantity of water, but it is salt water. The movement of the oceans has also a direct effect upon the atmosphere. The oceans and the atmosphere interact in order to give us weather. Water ensures the Earth its capacity to offer life. There is no need to explain to an organism how important water is to its existence. An amphibian knows that he must lay its eggs in water or they will not grow. Even flies know that they must place their eggs in fresh water.

Diseases caused by water appear when contaminated water is consumed. These diseases can include bacterium infections (*Salmonella*), viruses or small parasites (*Cryptosporidium*, *Guardia* and *Toxoplasmosis*). These viruses and organisms can cause illnesses such as cholera, typhoid fever, malaria, botulism, poliomyelitis, dysentery and hepatitis A [2].

The simplest method of treating water is by boiling it. But, in the case of chemically polluted water reserves, this method is not always efficient and sure.

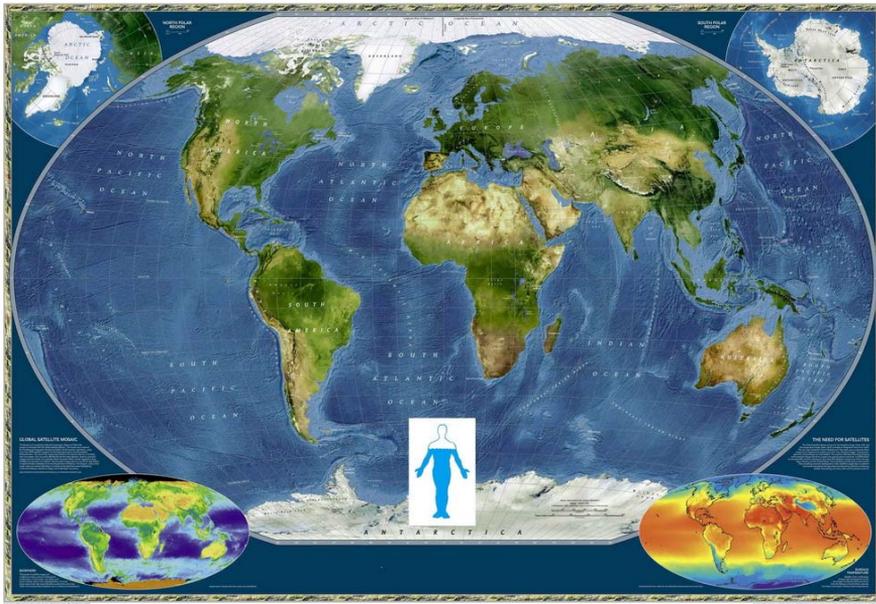
Water is the resource that cannot be seen as rightfully ours. It must be preserved, as we preserve other precious resources.

Water exhibits a set of complex characteristics, through these features it succeeded in becoming an important factor to every organism on Earth. The difference between its boiling point and its freezing point is one the largest in comparison with other chemical compounds. Water also has a high specific heat, which means that it can absorb and lose a high quantity of heat before its temperature can change. This aspect is a very important element to the mammals' capacity to maintain their body temperature. Furthermore, it consumes a high degree of energy before it evaporates. Because of this reason, water evaporates hardly from ponds or lakes, where numerous life forms depend on a stable and warm environment. Water is less dense in solid form than in liquid one, for that is why ice floats instead of sinking. This property permits the development of life in Polar Regions and sub-regions and permits life to continue even under the surface. If ice would have been denser than water, it would have sunk and more ice would have formed on the top of it. As a result, life in all waters would have been trapped in ice in many areas of the world where there is cold enough in order to freeze water.

Water is a remarkable solvent, in which, many elements and compounds can be dissolved by its molecular structure. Gases as oxygen and carbon dioxide can also be dissolved, being thus prepared for the photosynthetic and non-photosynthetic organisms to use.

Even more, water presents viscosity. We can observe the effects of viscosity along the uniform banks of rivers and springs. The water along the banks is almost still, while as the centre current can be unstable. The resistance between the layers is called viscosity. This property permits small fish to swim efficiently in the strong currents. The viscosity is also responsible for the turbulences that lead to the mixing of air in water and the uniform distribution of the micro-organisms.

From a biological point of view, our bodies are made from a very high percentage of water, thus we need it for our survival. Our cells need a specific amount of water in order to function properly. It is also necessary that water should be correctly assimilated by the organism, water should be in perfect balance with other elements around it (Figure 1). It is no ordinary coincidence that water is found in the same proportion of about seventy percent in the composition of the human body and of the planet Earth.



**Figure 1.** The ratio of water in our bodies - 70% in report to the surface of water of the globe - approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

## 2. Water in mankind's religions

Water has fulfilled an important role not only in the countries history, but also in their religion, mythology and art. It is certainly an important symbol throughout the entire world, even before the beginning of the written history. Water is often perceived as a god, goddess or divine agency in religions. Rivers, rain, ponds, lakes, glaciers, hailstorms or snow are some of the forms water may take when interpreted and incorporated in cultural and religious spheres. Religious water is never neutral and passive. It is considered to have powers and

capacities to transform this world, annihilate sins and create holiness. Water carries away pollution and purifies both in a physical and symbolical sense. Water is a living and spiritual matter, working as a mediator between humans and gods. It often represents the border between this world and the other.

Water was and is considered in most religions as purifying, including Hinduism, Christianity, Islamism, Judaism and Shinto.

The ancients believed water to be the origin of all things; the fruit of love between the Earth and the sky. Throughout time beliefs have evolved, but no one can deny the special role of the substance that Leonardo da Vinci entitled 'the life sap of the Earth'. The source of water was always been considered sacred, especially in countries that lack it. The ancient Romans and Greeks build temples and small shrines in the close vicinity of water sources, and associated them with the divine that were sometimes entitled nymphs.

There are references to both floods and water-rites in various ancient religions from the Americas, Africa and Asia, found on stone tablets or on architectural inscriptions.

In Egyptian mythology 'Nu' was the beginning of everything and it was represented through water. It brought men life, and in the time of drought, it brought chaos. Water was perceived as a gift from the gods, because it poured from the Heavens.

It was often believed that water had supernatural powers. In the Celtic mythology, for example, Sulis was the local goddess of thermal water; in Hinduism, water was personified as a goddess under the name of Ganga. Also, different gods were considered the protectors of different springs, rivers or lakes. In the Roman and Greek mythology, Peneus was a river god, one of the 3.000 oceanides.

The ancient Greek philosopher Empedocles elaborated an entire philosophical doctrine (a kind of pre-atom theory of the world) based on the four fundamental concepts of the Universe which were represented in the real world, according to his theory, by four fundamental elements: water, earth, wind and fire.

In the classic Chinese philosophy, water, as a classical element of philosophy, was one of the five constituent elements of nature, alongside with earth, fire, wood and metal [3].

"If I were called in/ To construct a religion/ I should make use of water"- wrote the English poet Philip Larkin in 1954 - and many religions do so.

The waters - the historian of religions Mircea Eliade wrote in the 50's - are the "... spring and origin, the matrix of all possibilities of existence; they precede any form and sustain any creation". So things stand from the beginning of the world and so, as the legend say, even before it.

The Babylonians believed that the world was formed from a mixture of fresh and salty water. The Pima Indians believed that Mother Earth was fertilized by a drop of water. Another archetype related to water is the flood that destroys an entire world, encountered in the Hebraic, Greek and Aztec cultures.

In the Bible, water is used as a metaphor for the power that we receive from God. Genesis tells us that the world was created by a God that made a vault between the waters to separate water from water (Genesis 1.6).

Water was not always seen as a force of good. In some cases, it can be seen as a large negative power. There are two obvious examples. The first and most obvious example is the 40 days of flood and Noah's tale. The second example comes from the time of Moses who, separating the Red Sea, allowed the Hebrew people to pass it through, behind them the water raised, drowning the Egyptians that were following them.

The idea of bestowing water a spiritual sense is fascinating. The role of holy water in our religious life is as important as natural water is necessary for our biochemical life.

God is the source of our living water. God creates a spring of life in each of us when we appeal to Him. Living water sustains and permits us to continue our Christian life. Even the smallest sip of water that comes from our Saviour is enough. Water is sacred for it gives life and vanquishes the thirst that can kill a man after 4-5 days, long before famine strikes. Thus, words and moral laws depicted by God in many religions are often described as pure water that cures the soul's thirst [4].

### **3. Ritual cleansing**

Water can symbolize a cleansing of the soul or even represent the divine. Water plays a central role in many religions and beliefs around the world: Source of life, it represents (re)birth. Water cleans the body, and by extension purifies it, and these two main qualities confer a highly symbolic and even sacred status to water.

For ancient and primitive cultures, water was highly valued due to the important connection between water and life. Without water, the body dies. Without water, the crops die. Water was therefore obviously a precious gift from the gods. Many cultures, including a number of Native American tribes, developed the rituals of bringing on the rain.

Virtually all religions - from Shintoism, Hinduism and Buddhism to Judaism, Islam and Christianity - have stories of great floods in one form or another - floods that swept the Earth clean and allowed it to start again, refreshed and renewed.

The Jewish use water for a number of symbolic cleansing rituals as well, from washing hands before and after meals to washing oneself after performing what are considered impure actions, such as coming in contact with the dead persons. In Judaism, it is customary to say a prayer before washing your hands in the feast of Passover. Here water is being used to cleanse the hands of anything dirt, preparing them for eating.

Holy water is a cornerstone of Christianity to this day.

In the New Testament, 'living water' or 'water of life' represents the spirit of God, that is, eternal life. In Catholicism and Orthodoxy, the holy water is used to bless the Christians in the church. This water is blessed by a priest, and is supposed to have spiritually cleansing powers. This is because holy water harms anything unholy, and is used to ward off or get rid of evil spirits

In Islam, man must be clean before his meeting with God and the only way he can achieve this is with the aid of the water. The five daily prayers can be made only after the body is cleansed with clean water (Wudu). There are three types of washing. The first and most important involves the washing of the whole body, which is compulsory after having sex, and is recommended before Friday prayers and before touching the Koran.

Before each of the five daily prayers Muslims must bathe their head, hands, forearms and feet. Mosques provide fountains for this purpose. When water is limited, the followers of Islam use sand to cleanse themselves; this is the third form of washing.

In Shintoism, water is used in almost every ritual to clean a person or a place. Shinto shrines frequently feature water basins for people to wash their hands in or to drink from before entering a sacred space.

Tibetan Buddhists use water for ritual cleaning of the hands, feet, face and mouth.

Hindus consider water and the contact of bodies with water, the Ganges River in particular, to be of great spiritual significance. In Hinduism, the Ganges is sacred because this religion fancies it as a girl goddess with four legs, born at Vishnu's feet, holding in her hands flowers and a vase full of water and sitting on a crocodile.

Water is imbued with powers of spiritual purification for Hindus, for whom morning cleansing with water is an everyday obligation. All temples are located near a water source, and believers must bathe before entering the temple. In Hinduism water has even the ability to confer spiritual ability. Monks like to travel to holy places and view this as necessary, with water as the divine fuel consumed along the way. Many pilgrimage sites are located on river banks; sites where two, or even three, rivers converge are considered particularly sacred.

There are many other denominations where water plays a central or otherwise important role. The Baha'i Faith places great importance on water and uses it in its mandatory cleansing rituals

The body can be submitted to thirst. And so can the spirit. "I must live beside a lake" - wrote the Swiss Carl Jung, who plunged in the depths of the human psychic and associated water with the subconscious. From the very arrival in this world, in a torrent of amniotic fluid, until the ritualistic bathing of the dead (tanarah in Judaism, ghusl almayyit in Islamism), water flows through our lives, drawing a line between the sacred and profane, between life and death. It surrounds us, it plunges us, it comforts us, it squirts us - and the blessings flow, wide and deep, as the waters of Jordan from the Scripture, miracle worker as the spring from Lourdes, and cathartic as the tears [4].

#### **4. The baptism and the funeral rite**

In Christian customs water is used in christening, thus, children and new comes from other religions begin a new spiritual life. It represents the border between this world and the other.

Water is intrinsically linked to baptism, a public declaration of faith and a sign of welcome into the Christian church. When baptised, one is fully or partially immersed in water, or one's head may simply be sprinkled with a few drops of water. The sacrament has its roots in the Gospel, wherein it is written that Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.

In baptism, water symbolizes purification, the rejection of the original sin. Holy water is used for various significant rituals of transition in life and therefore also in funeral rites.

Zen Buddhists pour water at funerals symbolizing the infinite. Funeral rites typically take place near or on bodies of water. Buddhism tries to get beyond the elements but one instance where they break this rules comes in their funerals where water is poured into a bowl and put beside the dead monk's body. They recite incantations to help the soul regenerate like the rain (like the circuit of water in nature).

A ritual bath in pure water is also made to the dead ones in many other religions, including Judaism and Islamism.

#### **5. The Emoto experiment**

A modern spiritual exercise regarding water was carried out by a Japanese researcher named Masaru Emoto. In his book 'Messages from water' he minutely describes how he has tried to influence water through prayer, song, music, written words and images [5].

His technique consists of testing the effects of various influences over water under the form of drops of frozen water and in the form of small crystals, such as snowflakes.

These crystals are photographed with a microscope attached to a camera in an extremely cold room, the crystals rapidly disintegrating. The samples of water were collected from a faucet or from a polluted lake. The untreated water is photographed. Then, the water is treated under any of the previously mentioned methods. Sometimes, a word is recorded on a band and then left to play during the night. Positive words, such as 'love' and 'content' would change the water at a microscopic level. The new crystals are nicely arranged and have higher symmetry. The negative words have the opposite effect.

Since our bodies are in majority composed of water, interesting questions arise on how we can heal ourselves through prayer, positive words or music. The technique has been tested throughout the world, using words in different languages, with positive result [5, p. 8].

Dr. Masaru Emoto's research has introduced the 'hado' concept. The word 'hado' is formed from two kanji ideograms, **ha** and **do**, which mean wave and movement. Therefore HADO is the intrinsic vibration model that exists at the atomic level of mater, being considered the smallest component of energy.

Hado is the energy associated to the human conscience, according to Dr. Masaru Emoto. Researching this energy, he came to the conclusion that thoughts and feelings influence and shape physical reality. Inspired by the results of an American researcher, who succeeded, through the aid of a magnetic resonance device to implement in water certain beneficial, therapeutic information, Masuro Emoto brought further the studies in the magnetic resonance domain.

One of the contemporary concerns of the research group ran by Masaru Emoto is the desire to create devices that would make possible for anyone to photograph the water crystals, even at room temperature, a possibility that could be achieved by means of superconductive materials that would facilitate this idea.

## **6. Conclusions**

The life and death giving water has been the subject of study since the oldest of times. Researches have approached water as mater, but also as a symbol in religion and traditional culture.

The EMOTO experiment proves that water has the capacity to transform energy and information. This new beginning gives new opportunities for scientific research and for the human imagination to discover the ultimate truth behind the essence of water.

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