

Forget those scanners. just clone adam

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We spend millions of tax dollars on MRI imagers, CAT scanners, PET scanners and radiation equipment. Maybe we should rethink the way these funds are spent and use them instead to find a way of cloning Adam McLeod, a 20-year old British Columbian.

Why? Because Adam, it seems, doesn't need any of this sophisticated instrumentation to diagnose or treat illness. He manages to do it just by connecting to a person's "holographic energy system." And the patient doesn't even have to be present! Adam is a whiz at "distance healing" which requires nothing more than viewing a photograph of the subject and remotely adjusting his "quantum hologram." Just imagine the savings to society if we could clone this amazing fellow and have a collection of Adams sitting in a control room, diagnosing and curing people around the world.

But there is an eensy weensy problem here. So far, the only talent Adam has convincingly demonstrated is the ability to attract crowds.

There is no shortage of people willing to plunk down \$100 for a day-long seminar with the man who claims to have cured legendary singer Ronnie Hawkins of pancreatic cancer by treating his tumour on the "energetic level." Little surprise, then, that people flock to his sessions, dreaming of being healed by Adam Dreamhealer, the name McLeod has adopted for his professional career. And quite a career that is turning out to be.

By his own account, Adam first noted his special powers when he was 15. All of a sudden, pencils and erasers began to fly out of his hands. Actually, I noted similar effects around the same age. Objects moved strangely around me. Wads of paper mysteriously lifted into the air and metal spoons bent as if they were made of putty. Of course in my case they were helped by that "special something" I purchased in magic stores. But I digress.

Strangely, no one other than Adam ever saw the pencils and erasers perform their acrobatics, so we have only his word for the occurrence of these kinetic events.

I know if I saw objects spontaneously take flight around me, I would make every effort to document the gravity-defying phenomenon. While it seems Adam alone witnessed the flying school supplies, he did have company when his life was changed by an encounter with a giant black bird that "downloaded all the information in the universe" into his brain. I kid you not. I couldn't make this up.

When he was 16, Adam had a dream in which a big black bird told him to go to Nootka. He described the dream to his parents who apparently thought it important enough to research where Nootka was. After all, they were already convinced that their son had special powers, since Adam had healed his mother of trigeminal neuralgia, an excruciatingly painful facial nerve condition. Or so they say. Nootka turned out to be an island near Victoria, accessible only by boat.

And off the family went on a wild adventure to search for the big black bird. Once on the island, Adam knew precisely where to go because the landscape was exactly as

in his dream.

And suddenly, there it was! A four-foot tall black bird staring at Adam. Surely a sight that would make any ornithologist's mouth water. In any case, faster than you can say Google, the bird downloaded all the information in the universe, whatever that may mean, into the teenager's brain, and his healing career took flight. If you are interested in more details of this amazing escapade, you can find them in Adam's books. Logic would send you to the humour section of the bookstore, but chances are you'll find them in "New Age."

Of course, the real question here is not how a bird came to accumulate all known wisdom, or why it selected a Canadian teenager to become a human bird brain.

The question is whether Adam can really do what he says he can. If so, he will go down in history as the man who rocked the very foundations of science. Let's face it, science just can't explain how looking at a photograph of a person who may be halfway around the world can cause chemical changes in that person's body. What kind of energy can be emitted that doesn't fall off with distance? Since energy cannot be created or destroyed, just changed from one form to another, where is it coming from? And how does it target one specific person? Why isn't everyone in the path of this mysterious force healed?

Adam claims to see "auras" around people. Easy enough to test. All that is needed is a barrier behind which people can hide so only their auras stick out. Let Adam determine in a statistically significant way whether or not someone is standing behind the barrier. Or gather a number of people with various ailments and have Adam diagnose their illnesses. Simple enough.

The ABC television program 20/20 took a shot at appraising Adam. First, he was asked to evaluate the medical status of a woman volunteer. Adam correctly determined that she had a minor back problem (who doesn't?) but completely missed her breast cancer. He failed to affect a reporter's brain waves, which he claims to be able to do. No documented evidence of unusual healing was turned up by the investigators and it seems that Ronnie Hawkins's pancreatic cancer was never confirmed by biopsy.

This is not to say that people who flood to Adam's seminars derive no benefit. Belief can be very powerful and there is no doubt that some people will feel better after one of his healing sessions. But feeling better is not the same as being better. That requires clinical evidence.

Here is my advice to Adam: show what you can do under proper controlled conditions. James Randi will hand over his million dollar prize if you can move pencils, detect auras or diagnose illnesses from pictures.

A Nobel Prize in medicine, and perhaps even in physics, would surely follow. Otherwise, restrict yourself to motivational speaking and forget about bamboozling people with "quantum holographic healing."

That stuff is for the birds.

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