

Article

Towards a Science of Consciousness: Hunt of Major Impact Factors

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Abstract

A perspective on the development of a science of consciousness is presented. The article begins with a proposed definition of pure consciousness that is followed by an explanation of why anyone might aspire to progress towards it, how one might make progress, what obstacles are likely to be encountered, and what the significance of reaching the destination might be. In the six sigma methodology, major impact factors are the vital few causes that determine systems performance; in the present context, the ability to reach the state of pure consciousness. The paper presents a six sigma analysis of the consciousness effort and identifies a major impact factor, possibly for the first time that will render the pursuit of pure consciousness a bit easier.

Keywords: scale of consciousness, map of consciousness, meditation, six sigma.

INTRODUCTION

Ancient works, such as the *Upanishad*, strongly suggest the possible existence of an infinite database (*Akashik Record*) which is said to contain a permanent imprint of all data, information, facts, etc., from the Big Bang to the present. This is the domain of the unmanifest or pure consciousness. The Late Maharishi Mahesh Yogi puts it this way (1): *Self referral pure consciousness, the source of all intelligence, is the ultimate reality of life from where creation emerges, from where the administration of life is maintained, and where the physical expression of the universe has its basis.*

In the manifest world, information, data, facts, etc., are available in the form of a large but finite chain of causes and effects A -> B -> C.... Any one of them may be taken to be an effect (outcome) if doing so brings benefit to an individual or a business enterprise and the scientific methodology of six sigma applied to achieve the best possible performance of the outcome (2). A desire to do all that we do in the best possible manner with six sigma is synonymous with the *excellence of the external*. However, this is only half of the quest to emerge as one's best. The other half is the *excellence of the internal*, the focus of this paper. When the excellence of the external is combined with the excellence of the internal, it becomes possible to emerge as one's best. This is as good as a human being can be.

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The topics we address in this paper are: How to go from the manifest domain of A -> B -> C ->... to the unmanifest domain of A B C...; Why one should aspire to make the effort; What is the process with which progress may be made; And, what evidence is there to suggest that individuals have succeeded in their quest to reach the level of pure consciousness. In scrutinizing the ideas and concepts in the paper, however, we must steadfastly remain committed to relying on data alone for decision making.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF SCIENCE AND SIX SIGMA

According to the natural laws cited in (2), any outcome is influenced by three types of causes: (i) Common causes – causes that are unknown or uncontrollable, (ii) Measurement error, and (iii) Assignable causes – Causes that can be discovered. The natural state of a process is one where its outcome(s) are influenced solely by common causes. Six sigma strategies are all about minimizing measurement error and discovering and fixing the assignable causes so that the outcome is returned to and remains in its natural state.

Six sigma principles assert that even under the best of circumstances, repeated experimentation under identical conditions will not produce identical results owing to common cause variability. That is, in a random sample of n aspirants following an identical process, not everyone will reach a specified level of consciousness. Science on the other hand, demands that they do. Thus, the quest for a science of consciousness is tantamount to a hunt for major impact factors influencing the level of consciousness. As this paper will attempt to show, significant benefits will accrue even with our limited current understanding of all the impact factors that affect consciousness.

DEVELOPING A SCALE OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Perhaps the first necessary step for progressing towards a science of consciousness is a scale of consciousness. Such a scale has been derived on the basis of three natural laws that the first author articulated in the early nineties which were in turn used to develop a theory of rise and decline of cultures (3).

1. Human actions are determined by three components of the mindset: (i) The *S* component – truthfulness, honesty, compassion, evenness of mind - unaffected by success or failure, non-injury, etc., (ii) The *R* component- Bravery, ambition, ego, greed, etc., and (iii) The *T* component - lying cheating, causing injury in words or deeds, killing, lethargy, excessive sleep, etc. Each of the current 6 ½ billion inhabitants of the planet Earth have a unique combination of these three components that determine who they are. Taking the three components as fractions summing to 1, actions of an individual with a high *S* component are generally expected to be good while those of an individual with a high *T* component are generally expected to be bad. This has been true for thousands of years and it will be true for thousands of years in the future, unless nature decides to change its own natural laws.
2. The mindset components undergo transformation over time leading to rise and decline of societies. The *S* component dominates during the rise while the *T* component dominates

during decline. The impact of environmental factors on mindset transformation cannot be ruled out.

- The phenomenon of rise and decline is cyclical. The present rise of China and India, which the first author predicted in the early nineties, is an indication of the cyclical nature of the rise and decline (3). He elaborated these principles and presented supporting evidence in the monograph. A pictorial depiction of these ideas is presented in Figure 1.

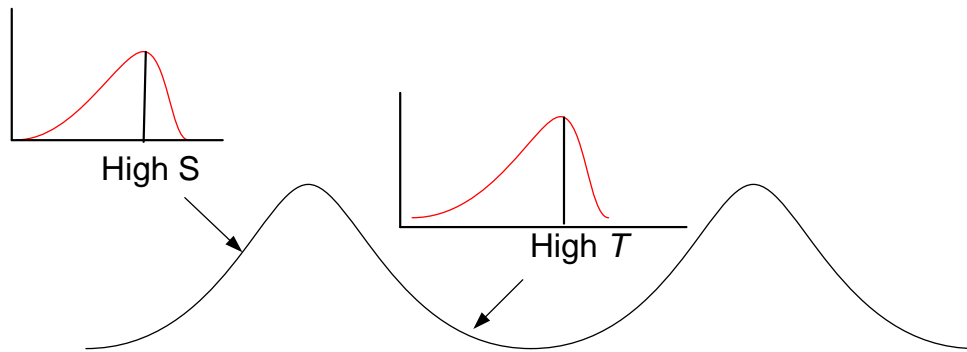


Figure 1. Mindset Transformation Leads to Rise and Decline of Societies

The *S*, *R*, *T* components permit us to prepare a Scale of Human Consciousness. The numerical scale shown in Figure 2(a) for the *S*, *R*, *T* components is arbitrary but chosen to lead to a maximum value of 100 for the Scale of Consciousness shown in Figure 2(b).

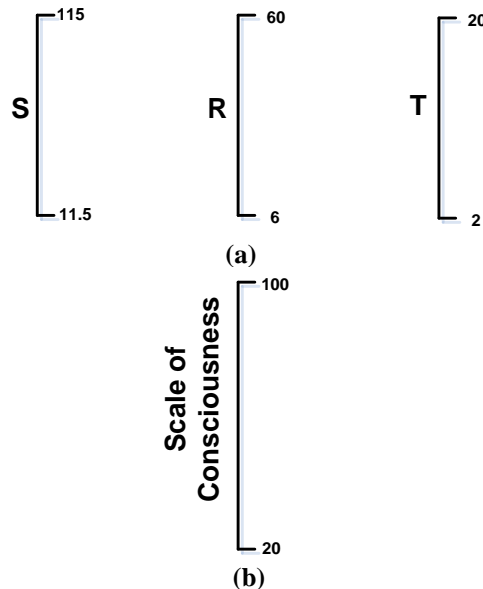


Figure 2. Scale of Consciousness Derived from *S*, *R*, *T* Components

To derive the high and low limits for the Scale of Human Consciousness from the *S*, *R*, *T* components, it is assumed that the minimum fraction of each component required for life is 0.1 and therefore the maximum fraction of any one of these components is 0.8. These

assumptions lead to the Scale of Consciousness shown in Figure 2(b). The highest value for the Scale of Consciousness is derived from the formula:

$$\begin{aligned} SoC_{Max} &= f_{1,Max}S_{Max} + f_{2,Min}R_{Max} + f_{3,Min}T_{Max} \\ &= (0.8)(115) + (0.1)(60) + (0.1)(20) = 100 \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

And the minimum value is computed from the formula:

$$\begin{aligned} SoC_{Min} &= f_{1,Min}S_{Max} + f_{2,Min}R_{Max} + f_{3,Max}T_{Max} \\ &= (0.1)(115) + (0.1)(60) + (0.8)(20) = 20 \end{aligned} \quad (1b)$$

Thus, in the scheme depicted, each of us would have a level of consciousness somewhere in the range of 20 to 100. The domain of pure consciousness lies on beyond the high end of the Scale of Consciousness.

HOW TO MEASURE THE LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS

With a scale of consciousness at hand, the next task is to find a way to measure it. Ancient references to the unmanifest and Akashik Record notwithstanding, no one had found a way to measure the level of consciousness, until recently that is. Dr. David R. Hawkins (4) (MD, Medical College of Wisconsin 1953; Established as Marquette University School of Medicine), appears to have succeeded in that effort with the help of Kinesiology and muscle testing methodology pioneered by Dr. John Diamond, MD. He asserts that the human nervous system is capable of downloading the information, data, facts, etc., from the unmanifest to the manifest with muscle testing, a test procedure used by the International College of Applied Kinesiology (5, 6). This method requires two persons, a tester and a subject. The tester places two fingers of say the left hand on the wrist of say the right hand of the subject extended so that it is at a right angle to his/her body. The tester rests his right hand on the left shoulder of the subject for balance. Then, the tester makes a declarative statement having correct and incorrect responses and tells the subject to resist as he quickly applies downward pressure on the wrist. Dr. Hawkins found that the subject resisted the downward force and the deltoid muscle remained strong if the declarative statements were correct but would go weak if the declarative statements were incorrect. He subjected the results of over four thousand subjects to χ^2 tests of hypothesis testing producing favorable p -values. Monte et al., healthcare professionals affiliated with Philadelphia-area medical schools, conducted a muscle-test investigation with 87 college students and reported that the correct and incorrect responses to declarative statements could be distinguished from the plots of applied force versus time (7). They used a computer-assisted dynamometer in the investigation to eliminate human bias. Here too, the p -values were favorable. However, in this investigation, the subjects knew what the correct responses were (e. g., my name is ... OR I am a US citizen). When downloading from the infinite domain of the unmanifest to the finite domain of the manifest, it is quite possible that not even the subconscious would have a clue of what the correct response is. It is remarkable that Dr. Hawkins and his researchers obtained correct responses even under these circumstances.

The outstanding work of Dr. Hawkins, notwithstanding, it is essential to investigate this issue further. Proceeding without validating measurements has been shown to lead to catastrophic results. This is because the variability in an outcome should arise from major impact factors (so that we could discover and fix them) and not from errors in the measurement systems. The problems during the 2000 Presidential election in Florida are just one of the myriad of examples showing what can happen when measurement systems are not validated. In that example, the variation in the outcome, interpreted results, ought to have come from voter intent and not from poor ballot paper design and problematic vote counting machines.

In the present context, what requires validation is this: “*Can muscle testing done with a dynamometer-based measurement system provide correct responses within a prescribed error tolerance (say $\pm 3\%$) even when the subjects have no knowledge of the topic?*” Just as Dr. Hawkins and his research group recapitulated Thomas Edison’s search of 1,600 materials to arrive at Tungsten in less than ten minutes, we could visualize tackling six sigma projects involving highly complex nonlinear dynamic processes in a fraction of the time if this measurement system can be validated. The possibilities are endless!

Equally important, Dr. Hawkins also developed what he referred to as a Map of Human Consciousness. The resulting logarithmic scale is shown in Table I. He identified numerous attributes corresponding to different levels of Consciousness. Using muscle testing he calibrated the level of consciousness of numerous individuals and works. For example, he calibrated Jesus, Sri Krishna, Buddha whom he called **Avatars**, (Sanskrit for Incarnation) at 1,000; Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Theresa, and the US Constitution at 700; eminent scientists, Newton, Einstein at 499, and the likes of Hitler well below 250.

Table I. Hawkins’ Level of Consciousness (5)

Level	Score (Log ₁₀)
Enlightenment	1,000
Joy	540
Love	500
Reason	400
Acceptance	350
Willing	310
Neutral	250
Courage	200
Pride	175
Anger	150
Desire	125
Fear	100
Guilt	30
Shame	20

Figure 2 and Table I may be seen to be strikingly similar. Although independently developed, the first author had pegged the three incarnations at the top of the scale of consciousness (3).

Others listed above would occupy a position between the high and low limits. In an unpublished 1993 article, *On the Cyclical nature of Excellence*, Deshpande and Christopher presented evidence of the rise and decline of Greece (3). The plot shown in Figure 3 depicts the number of persons born in Greece that were listed in the 23 volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica. The rise and decline of Greece is unmistakable. It should be clear that the average *S* component of the Greek society would have had to undergo mindset transformation for the rise and decline to occur. However, some eminent reviewers of the article questioned the wisdom of drawing broad conclusions from a single data source no matter how reputable. The availability of Hawkins' Map of Consciousness presents an opportunity to validate these conclusions which in turn could also serve as a validation of the muscle testing methodology itself as a means to measure the level of consciousness. Dr. Hawkins calibrated the present-day US at 455 and the present-day India at 355. As per the theory of rise and decline and the laws of transformation of the mindset, it is virtually certain that by the turn of the Century, India's level of consciousness would be significantly higher and it is hoped that the US level of consciousness would not have degraded by much.

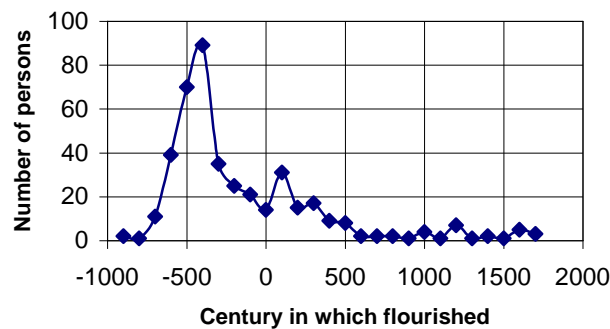


Figure 3. Rise and Decline of Greece

The concepts involving the transformation of the mindset apply to societies at large and not to individuals. The theory of rise and decline places no limitations for an individual in any society at any stage of rise and decline to rise on the scale of consciousness, even to the level of an incarnation. In fact, scriptures suggest that it is precisely at a time when a society is in decline, incarnations arrive on the scene to nudge it back towards higher *S* component.

HOW TO RAISE ONE'S LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Now, we consider how to raise one's level of consciousness. In the context of the *S*, *R*, *T* components, raising the level of consciousness is equivalent to raising the *S* component and reducing the *R* and *T* components. There appear to be two approaches to raise one's level of consciousness: (i) Conscious Effort – The characteristics of *S*, *R*, *T* components being clear, one could track one's level of consciousness on a control chart periodically, say once a week. If the desire is genuine, the control chart could be a useful tool to ensure that the level of consciousness is not degraded over time. (ii) Follow a process whose side-effect is a rise in the level of consciousness.

In the search for a process whose side-effect is a rise in the level of consciousness, the first question is whether there have been in the past or are there some at present who have

succeeded in reaching the level of pure consciousness. A related question is what constitutes pure consciousness, and how to know whether someone had reached the level of pure consciousness.

In recorded human history there appear to have been individuals who have reached the domain of pure consciousness in their own life times. Siddhartha - from Prince Siddhartha to the Buddha - is a well-known example. One way to refer to individuals who have experienced pure consciousness is to say that they have found a way to access to A B C... without having to scrutinize A -> B -> C..... That is, having the knowledge of subjects without rationality. Another characteristic of these individuals is that humanity at large implicitly recognizes that they have experienced pure consciousness. Finally, the *S* component of these individuals is very high.

A process that led these individuals to the state of pure consciousness is meditation and here there is a challenge. We in the professional scientific community are rather fond of rational thinking and sciences. Much of this paper is written with that bent of mind. In the context of pursuing meditation for raising one's level of consciousness though, there appears to be a need to distinguish between what is called Shruti (meaning revealed) and Smruti (meaning learned or acquired). Sciences and six sigma are in the latter category. Progressing with meditation appears to require that we diligently follow the prescribed process while abandoning rationality but remaining steadfastly committed to relying on data alone for decision making.

BENEFITS OF REACHING THE STATE OF PURE CONSCIOUSNESS

Some may believe that meditation is for those in the pursuit of spirituality, not relevant for others. By now, numerous studies have appeared in reputable scientific and medical journals confirming the health benefits of meditation. Both Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev and Dr. David Hawkins report significant benefits when they came out of meditation. Says Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, *"When I came out of meditation, I thought a few moments had passed, but thirteen days had passed; People had garlanded me, they were prostrating in front of me; my fractured foot was completely healed and my migraine was gone forever..."* Dr. David R. Hawkins similarly reports *"The miraculous happened, beyond ordinary comprehension. Many chronic maladies from which I had suffered for years disappeared; my eyesight spontaneously normalized and I no longer needed my lifetime bifocals. Occasionally I would feel an exquisitely blissful energy, an infinite love, suddenly begin to radiate from my heart"*. These experiences and others described in the ensuing paragraphs suggest that even skirting with pure consciousness would bring enormous benefits. In yogic circles, Patanjali (~ 500 BCE) is credited with pioneering the eight-step Yoga system for pure consciousness of which meditation occupies the last three steps (concentration, meditation, pursuit of pure consciousness). This system reminds us that a major impact factor important for success with meditation is the state of health. Patanjali designed a set of Aasanas for the proper functioning of external systems (joints, muscles, spine, etc.), breathing exercises, called Pranayam for internal organs and systems (nasal systems and sinuses all the way to GI and urinary tract), and meditation for the mind. This system is a great example of Shruti for there was no known science available to Patanjali to design his Yoga system. Another major impact factor

important to success with meditation is the food we eat, a topic we consider a bit later. The last impact factor important in meditation has to do with whether meditation is pursued alone or in a group. Those who are believed to have realized pure consciousness never meditated in a group but this issue is important to the most of the rest of us who wish to pursue meditation for health and wellness. The rationale for why one might engage in group meditation practices is this: In the *Biology of a Cell* (8), The Late Dr. Lewis Thomas (MD, Harvard) writes that a single ant or termite does not have very many neurons and yet in a large group, they accomplish outstanding things such as building a colony with beautiful columns and arches. It is as though they acquire intelligence as a group that is otherwise absent in them individually. The first author is aware of at least two situations where the beneficial effect observed in a large group of meditators is not experienced in a person practicing alone. The Late Maharishi Yogi suggested that meditation by a larger group of people would not only raise the *S* component of the participants (our words) but also the surrounding society. Furthermore, a sufficiently large group meditating would promote global peace. It wouldn't be difficult to design a six sigma experiment to ascertain the validity of this claim.

WHY DEFECTS ARISE IN MEDITATION PRACTICES

It should be clear that a teacher is required for progress with meditation. The problem is that even with the best Yoga Guru available, not everyone will realize the same level of benefits from meditation even if every aspect of the program is identical in all respects for all participants. In other words, there will be defects. We believe that the major impact factor missing from the analysis is the participant's own level of consciousness. This is believed to be a significant discovery, although the assertion must be validated with extensive data.

EXAMPLES OF THE PROPOSED HYPOTHESIS

We present several pieces of evidence to support our conviction:

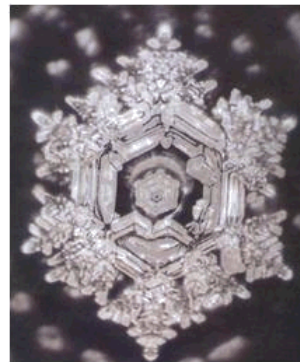
1. Our associate Sanjeev S. Aroskar (B. Tech. Electronics, IIT, Mumbai), an IT entrepreneur based in Pune, India, attended Pranayam camp of Swami Ramdev near the city a few years ago. Along with him were nine friends four of whom were diabetic. They attended one session every day for a week waking up at 3:30 in the morning, travelling 90 minutes by road to the camp, and doing the Pranayam exercises along with tens of thousands of attendees under the guidance of Swami Ramdev. They would return a few hours later, have breakfast at home, and go to work. This was their routine for seven days. It is clear that this was not a controlled environment. The sugar levels of the individuals were monitored on a daily basis. During the program, it was observed that the sugar levels of diabetic patients dropped substantially. Upon return, the group continued to do the same exercises at home alone but the extent of benefits dropped. The group could not reproduce the results when doing these exercises on their own.
2. In the summer of 2010, two hundred participants were undergoing a 90-day Yoga Program coupled with dietary considerations at the Isha Institute of Inner Sciences in

McMinnville, Tennessee. About 80 days into the program. A friend and associate Dr. Thangam “Sam” Rangaswamy along with his friends visited the ashram when the participants were meditating with their eyes closed. A little later, when Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev entered the hall unknown to the participants, some 20% of the participants suddenly exhibited signs of joy and laughter. The remainder exhibited no such effect.

3. Dr. Masaru Emoto, a Japanese scientist, took water droplets, exposed them to various words, music, and environments, and froze them for three hours. He then examined the crystal formations under a dark field microscope. Figures 4(a) and (b) show one set of photographs taken:



(a) Ordinary Water



(b) Water with Prayer

Figure 4. Dark Field Photographs of Water molecules

There are grumblings on the Internet about the inability to reproduce the results.

4. We have uploaded a small video clip titled, “Deshpande Experiments” on YouTube showing the first author calibrating the level of consciousness of several individuals with a commercially available quartz-faceted pendulum connected to a glass Bead with a chain (9). The pendulum was expected to move in a back-and-forth motion if the declarative statement were untrue and rotate clockwise, looking down, if the declarative statement were true. It may be noted that Jesus, Buddha, Sri Krishna calibrated near 1,000 while Adolph Hitler calibrates under 300. On the hand, the first author could to make the pendulum assume any of the three forms of motion – clockwise, counter clockwise, and back-and-forth just with an intention, indicating the influence of the mind. It is suggested that someone with an appropriately higher level of consciousness could obtain correct answers every time.
5. Swami Ramdev is a Yoga Guru in India who teaches Pranayam breathing exercises for improving health and wellness. His programs are carried daily on television and he has tens of millions of followers. Several thousand attend his programs where he is seen as urging his followers to tell themselves “my ... is getting better” (e. g., my serum sugar level is reducing) while doing one of these exercises called Kapalbhathi. He claims that he can cure serious diseases like cancer and the professional medical association in India is upset. Examine this from a measurement validation perspective. First, when he says “I can cure

cancer” what he must mean is that “I have cured cancer”, not that he will be able to cure every patient of cancer. If the claim were stated this way, the medical community would be able to ascertain its validity. Second, in the context of this paper, the patients who have been cured might have skirted with pure consciousness while pursuing the Pranayam in his presence but not everyone would be able to.

6. Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev cured an individual of a snake bite with the leaves of a certain bush. Sadhguru later mentioned to a friend, “*It wasn't really the leaf that cured him*”. The patient cured himself but he couldn't have done it without the intervention of Sadhguru. Again, the major impact factor is the affected person's reach of pure consciousness and the influence of Sadhguru which made it possible.
7. The Late Pope John Paul II was beatified in May 2011. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints unanimously agreed that the sudden recovery of Sister Marie Simon-Pierre from Parkinson's disease after she prayed to John Paul II was miraculous. This example too required the ability of Sister Simon-Pierre to skirt with pure consciousness and the presence of the Late Pope John Paul which made it possible.
8. In the meditation programs that lead to levitation (called Yogic flying, see (10)) only a fraction of the participants levitate. The missing impact factor may be the participant's own level of consciousness.
9. An acquaintance of associate Sanjeev Aroskar came to see him in Pune a few years ago telling him that his five arteries were blocked requiring a heart bypass operation for which he had no funds. Aroskar told him to do Pranayam regularly and meditate on the Anahata (Heart) Chakra while telling himself that his arteries were clearing up. The doctors had given the person a few months to live and since Aroskar did not see him for over a year, he surmised that the patient had died. Only to his amazement, Aroskar ran into the person two years later, hail and hearty. He told Aroskar that he had followed Aroskar's advice and that his arteries had cleared up substantially now not requiring an operation. The hypothesis is that the same major impact factor was at play here too.
10. The penultimate example involves the food and drinks we consume. Yogis characterize foods and drinks as Positive Pranic, Negative Pranic, and Neutral. Positive Pranic foods and drinks are said to promote the *S* component, negative Pranic foods, the *R* component, while the neutral foods promote the *T* component. Yogis design their diet that primarily focuses on Positive Pranic foods. These practices are probably several thousand years old and naturally a question arises, how did these folks figure out which was which? Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev demonstrates an interesting experiment in which the Rudraksha Mala is seen to rotate clockwise (looking down) over Positive Pranic foods, counter clockwise over negative foods and back-and-forth over neutral foods. The YouTube video clip (9) shows this experiment for some select foods. Here, again the first author is able to get the correct answers when he knows what the correct answer is, but not otherwise. For example, a friend put before him a bottle of clear liquid and asked him to repeat the Rudraksha experiment. It appears that the first author's mind concluded (incorrectly so) that the liquid was water and sure enough, the Mala rotated clockwise. When it became

known that it was alcohol, the Mala rotated in the correct direction, counter clockwise. Sadhguru adds that the experiment is not intended to be a proof of anything but in the light of the concepts presented in this paper, we strongly suspect that the ability to arrive at correct answers has to do with the level of consciousness of the experimenter. This too requires further validation.

11. In most of the foregoing examples, the consciousness levels of at least two persons were potentially relevant to the observed outcome. This last example is interesting in that the consciousness level of only person may have played a role. Upon hearing that Yoga Guru "Guruji" Paranjothiar of Tirumurthi Hills near Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu, India, was visiting Dr. Rangaswamy in Louisville in 1992, Ravi Pattar, a CPA based in Indianapolis approached Sam and enquired if Guruji could do something for his friend Usha Sitaraman who was lying in a coma in a hospital. Usha was married to a physician and at the time was in mid-forties. The Indianapolis doctors had given up hope that she would recover. Guruji asked about her and learned that she had two young children. Guruji was driven to Indianapolis and after spending a few minutes with the patient, he returned to Louisville. In a few days, Usha came out of the coma and recovered.

Now, Dr. Hawkins calibrated the level of consciousness of someone on the verge of dying at 20 on a logarithmic scale of 20 to 1,000. Guruji by his own admission has an abundant storehouse of Pranic energy that probably translates into a high level of consciousness in our jargon. He says he is capable of transferring some of that energy to someone who is deficient. How he discerns who is a worthy recipient and on what basis is something we can only guess.

In the foregoing examples, it is important to remember that the probability of getting a specific outcome in a binary system is $1/2$. Furthermore, "*If there is causality, there is always correlation, but if there is correlation, there may or may not be causality*". The causality must be ascertained with a disciplined six sigma analysis. A related principle is, as we discover correlation in (independent) samples after samples after samples repeatedly, the probability that there is causality, and not just a correlation, rises.

DISCUSSION

The muscle testing method as a means of downloading information, data, facts from the unmanifest needs further validation. One reason we decided to write this paper at this time is to bring the ideas and concepts to the attention of readers some of whom might wish to initiate their own investigations and report the findings.

The ramifications of successful validation of the muscle testing method are profound. For the first time in human history, we would have access to virtually infinite knowledge regardless of when such knowledge first became available to humanity. Regardless of the outcome of the validation experiments, the implications of the work presented are significant at least in the qualitative sense.

CONCLUSIONS

A perspective towards the development of a science of consciousness has been presented. We have shown how two investigators working independently have arrived at substantially similar ideas. We have attempted to show that the stumbling blocks in the pursuit of a science of consciousness are major impact factors not yet known. If and when all major impact factors are found, then the science of consciousness will become reality. A very significant development towards progress is the discovery that one major impact factor important in the pursuit of pure consciousness is the level of consciousness of the person engaged in the effort. We have attempted to show that the diligent pursuit of pure consciousness can bring significant benefits and if the person is one of those lucky ones to even skirt the domain of pure consciousness, tremendous benefits could accrue. If upon reading we were to pose a query, “What did Jesus and Sri Krishna mean when they said “*Come to me, or take refuge in me, or come to the Kingdom of God*”, and you answered, “*Silly, they were urging you to pursue pure consciousness*”, then that would be an Aha moment and we would wear a smile for the rest of the day! Science and spirituality may well emerge as two sides of the same coin after all.

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