

## **Early Roots of Deep Ecology, a review of Viktor Schauberger: A Life of Learning from Nature**

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a pioneering Austrian forester and brilliant inventor Viktor Schauberger, paved the way for much of our modern understanding into the vital energies of water and energy generation available in vortex mechanics.

The author Jane Cobbald, experimented with another of Schauberger's suggestions applicable to agriculture and fertility of the soil – the use of copper implements for cultivating and planting. This she tried and in experiencing a difference, became a student of his lifework. Her illuminating and accessible book describes Schauberger's observations and experiences in the forest, at lakes and rivers, experiences which fostered his unique comprehension of the living interchange of wise Nature. "The water's most deeply concealed psyche often revealed the most extraordinary things to me." (p.17)

One such encounter was during a hot summer sitting by the Od Lake in upper Austria. A very tall "water spout rose from the centre of the lake." (p.29) The experience would in time reveal his insight into *implosion*. A pivotal principal governing the formation of all organic creation is the hollowing out of inner space. This *original motion* is the inward curving suctional motion which follows a spiraling, pulsating rhythm forming a vortex. It is the cool, condensing, levitating movement of *implosion*.

Applying his guiding motto – Kapieren and Kopieren – Comprehend and Copy- Schauberger would develop the life-generating vortex-implosion principle into numerous patents and inventions. The technology of the Industrial Revolution (still used today) was based on an inefficient, unnatural system of energy and motion-motions Nature uses to decompose and dissolve matter. Most of the energy is lost during an explosive process through frictional resistance, producing useless waste heat. Implosion is regenerating and explosion is degenerating. "Today's technology strives to move forwards with forces that operate backwards". In contrast he continues "A bird does not fly – it is flown. A fish does not swim – it is swum". (p.32)

The chapter Cobbald entitled 'Feeling the Earth's Pulse' discusses waters temperature gradients – its rhythms of warming and cooling as it diffuses into the earth. This was an essential element in Schauberger's views as it relates to the stable temperature found in high mountain springs, a river's ability to regulate itself, the soils absorption of rainwater and reducing the damage to walls of dams. Water reaches its greatest density at 4` C, just

above freezing and grows lighter as it solidifies and freezes – solid ice floats. Schauberger referred to this as the *anomaly point*.

The Sun warms bare, exposed soil becoming warmer than the falling rain. The groundwater expands more quickly than the rain, creating a negative temperature gradient from the earth to the air. The rain is not able to be absorbed into the ground and runs off its surface. When trees and plants cover and protect the soil from overheating, it stays cooler, a positive temperature gradient. The warmer rain expands into the soil where it is cooled and more rain can penetrate. Thus rainwater can go through a complete cycle assimilating through the earth, maturing and appearing at springs. Schauberger applied the anomaly point factor to a river-regulation device, logging flumes and a mechanism which lessens temperature extremes in walls of dams. Later he developed an egg-shaped vessel which transformed drinking water to the quality of springwater.

Schauberger acknowledged the wisdom of great thinkers before him. Cobbald includes a favored quote – the last line from Goethe’s **Faust** – “The Eternal Feminine draws us onwards”. I found it telling that within the span of 235 years, J.W. von Goethe, Viktor Schauberger, Wilhelm Reich, Nikola Tesla and Theodor Schwenk lived and pioneered collectively, the deeper recognition of the organic totality of Nature, influencing deep ecology, Gaia Theory and Biomysticism today. Through their intuitive sensing and exploration into the intensive dimensions and living intelligence of Nature, their cumulative wisdom and practical initiatives contain life-affirming, regenerative solutions for the malaise facing our culture and the Earth.

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March 1, 2007