

**FUTURE-SHAPING THE DIALOGUE:
Therapeutic Touch as a Highly Human Function
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Hello! How very good to see you again. I have been privileged to know most of you, but it has been several years since we've had the opportunity mano a mano.

Our mutual quest, Therapeutic Touch – now over 40 years into that questing – has guided us through the last days of a worldview that saw all about as being a grounded concoction of atoms and electrons. This conception slowly but surely morphed into one of digital bits and bytes, and now, in this time of unique Singularity, that understanding delves more confidently and deeply into the turf of clouds and avatars.

However even here, in this rarified very high-tech ambience, Therapeutic Touch, as a mode of transpersonal healing, can do better than high-tech on a number of counts when we frame that ambience in an atmosphere that is important to humans, rather than robots. Therapeutic Touch is then superior in:

- The efficiency with which the Therapeutic Touch therapist (TTrx) can establish a conscious relationship with her inner self.
- The ease and clarity of mind-mind communication
- The recapturing of the TTrx's natural ability to "google" the vital-energy and psychodynamic fields of her healing partner, the person she is treating.
- The elegance with which she rapidly learns to use her chakra complex with knowing intentionality.
- And how to scaffold a person in need with deep compassion-based TT healing skills.

- How to draw upon that compassion to “bless” such healing partners who are in urgent need.
- How to intelligently assist in the conscious awakening of the healing partner’s relationship with her or his own Issie (the TTrxs’ affectionate name for the inner self).
- How to sensitively assist a person in final transition with appropriate TT skills. And not least,
- How to ground angelic assistance knowledgeably during treatment with Therapeutic Touch.

Scanning that list one is impressed by the sophistication of the higher human functions that have the opportunity to potentiate during the Therapeutic Touch process. Foremost and critically is the underlying initial impulse of Therapeutic Touch as an act of transpersonal healing, the TTrx’s compassion for the plight of someone in need. Under the urgent drive of this profound yearning to help or to heal, the subtle energies of compassion can ally themselves to become an effective power in the employ of higher human functions.

Compassion as power drives the inner work of Therapeutic Touch. It maintains the fire-in-the-belly, the imperative that presses the TT therapist towards a conscious relationship with her deep-seated ally Issie, her inner self. This enactment of the “heroic leap” of mythology, permitting the self-awakening into a new territory, is personally demarcated for the individual by her Issie. It is because of this centrality of compassion-in-action to the TT process that, after M. Eliade, a foremost authority on shamanism who coined the term describing the essential shaman as technician of ecstasy, I have dubbed Therapeutic Touch therapists as “technicians of compassion”.

The psychodynamic language of compassion is expressed in many ways that evoke great power. The spectrum is diverse, spanning simple expressions of one’s humaneness, e.g., random kindnesses and forbearances, through a range of benevolences under the name of grace, charity and mercy. These expressions tell us that compassion prompts or sets in motion a spiritual force that arises out of the heart chakra.

Fundamentally, the Therapeutic Touch process itself is a function of the heart chakra:

- In the beginning it is compassion for someone in need that brings the TT therapist to the healing act.
- The TT therapist starts the session with a shift in level of consciousness to that of sustained centering, and maintains that centered state until the end of the TT session. That state of quietude and inwardly focused attention is assumed so that she can significantly help or heal the person in need. This provides the deep spiritual tension for the attraction of Issie, her inner self, who resides in the heart chakra, it is said. In practice, the TT therapist uses the heart chakra to get at and bolster the healing partner's (the healee's) own defenses, such as his immune system. As the TT therapist begins the TT Assessment, she frequently uses her solar plexus chakra to assist and reinforce this largely psychic determination.
- High aspirations for the success of the TT session and other strong emotions cascade, the intrinsic forces subtly honing in on the fine focus of the dynamism of the TT therapist's heart chakra. This is quickly followed by a similar translocation in the throat chakra, and perhaps also in the crown chakra, depending on the zeal and authority of her motivation.
- In the meanwhile the search for cues in the healing partner's vital-energy and psychodynamic subtle energy fields may result in a true visualization of the healing partner's problems, the operant subtle energies now transposing their pranic flows from the TT therapist's heart chakra to the ajna chakra, popularly known as the Third Eye.
- Stimulating the ajna chakra also serves to marshal the pranic flow to the crown chakra. The crown chakra has several unusual mental and spiritual attributes, which coalesce to help both the TT therapist and the healing partner during the healing moment.
- As the TT therapist shifts into the rebalancing, or actual healing phase of TT, she seeks the help of her ally, Issie, and any other benevolent forces, such as angels, beings considered in holy regard, or other helping exemplars she believes in. Called upon, they respond; however, they do so on their own terms.

- If the TT therapist is able to create a fine-energy atmosphere where these figures can operate, the healing partner's sensibilities may be awakened. He may feel as though a sense of presence is intervening on his behalf.

It is often at this time that the TT therapist has the opportunity to bestow perhaps a most enduring gift upon the healing partner. With the aid of a dollop of "clairvoyance-lite", it appears to me as if something like the following can take place: The healing partner who is even minimally knowledgeable of the Therapeutic Touch process, knows that its most basic assumption is that healing is a natural potential which can be utilized under the appropriate circumstances. He knows, therefore, that whatever the therapist is doing, he can learn to do, too. Particularly if his condition is improving under Therapeutic Touch treatment, he admires the TT therapist. She may become his model or mentor in reference to Therapeutic Touch, for he can imagine that one day he might be able to do for others what she is doing for him now.

He intently watches the therapist and may closely identify with her, particularly at the highpoint of the healing moment when her interior experiences often are reflected in her physical and emotional states. Her actions appear to "light up" with conscious intentionality, and her "soft eyes" convey the calm resolve and compassionate affect that deeply motivates her.

Her whole being resonates to the vibrations of the essential nature of her ally, Issie. Together, bonded by motivation and aspiration, the TT therapist and her ally dance this healing moment in balance and harmony, as one.

In the power of that moment, the healing partner knows that he is witnessing the conjoined work of the therapist and her soulmate, Issie, and he is assured that, like her, he also has a soul which he can call upon. This realization may be the most precious gift the therapist can give him, for this special knowing will resound again and again in the coming days of his recuperation as he, too, comes to realize for himself the profundity of the compassionate act, and recognize himself as one of many in a living chain of beings who aspire toward human unition made conscious through resolute acts of loving kindness for those in need.

According to Richard W. Samson, the highly regarded futurist, highly human skills will be sought after well into this "Newer" Age, to the year 2030 and

beyond. Samson is the first of whom I am aware to use the term, “highly human functions” in the workplace. His reasoning is straight-forward, stating the case to be that as high tech progresses there will be a growing felt need for highly human functions. These can only be supplied by human workers with uniquely human traits, abilities and skills that even computers tied to extremely skillful artificial intelligence cannot perform; they simply are not designed for highly human functions.

Among the highly human functions that are acknowledged to be of exceptional use are such inborn traits as creativity, responsibility, and subjective reasoning. Seen from a deeper perspective, these traits would infer that highly human functions also include insight and intuition, trust and faith, the ability to conceive remarkably abstract thought and the potential to foresee future permutations of probable, new flow patterns of life energies that can be importantly associated with healing in this Newer Age.

Megatrends that highlight higher human functions are rapidly shaping the tomorrows of our Newer Age. In a recent issue of *The Futurist* (1-2/11, p31) several leading trend analysts envisioned a diverse array of likely occupations that would be functioning and economically feasible by the year 2030. In its final form this list included such future jobs as brain signal decoder, for instance. Such decoders would rate high in the ability to use mind-mind communication to understand persons disabled by brain damage.

In all, a list of 70 occupations was developed, some of which had not yet been invented. As examples, included were such categories as space junk haulers and recyclers on one end of the spectrum, while classifications such as augmented reality architects and trans-humanist consultants occupied the other end. Importantly, however (and I’m sure to all our great delight, even our relief) right in the middle of this list, about 32nd in this field of 70 listings, was ranked healing as we know it now, in Therapeutic Touch. So, based on such well informed and heavily credentialed professional advice, most of us in this room needn’t worry about a job for the next 15 years.

In its sphere of influence, it is humane efforts such as Therapeutic Touch that are coming forward with a strong voice to declare a vision of the possible and

its fundamental meaning. At this time, we understand, human beings harbor within themselves a very great possibility and a corresponding huge responsibility. These tidings teach us about the inner world at the core of the concepts, deep heart qualities and moral practices of the world's major systems of inner quest and, importantly, how they can be applied with compassion in the outer world that most people consider the more common reality.

For such a vast scheme to materialize during our time there will be a crucial need for us to develop a user-friendly access to a new and higher quality of consciousness. However, we are also living in a time of the most all-encompassing global paradigm shift in this planet's history. Consequently we are facing a future so unique – a time of Singularity is the descriptive phrase frequently used – to make one wonder whether we are about to slip into a world familiar heretofore only to that of slick sci-fi.

Still, we, as TT therapists, are not at a total loss. Therapeutic Touch as a lifestyle has quietly imbued within us certain characteristics of the heart that can best develop in intimate relationship with Other, such as occurs during the healing act. Among such valued correlates are compassion and empathy, kindness and mercy, tenderness and the giving of solace. And the key is in the active “practice, practice, practice” of Therapeutic Touch to meet the needs of those who are ill or injured or in final transition, for it is here, in this yearning to help or to heal, that we strive beyond our reach and in so doing learn to claim the new inner territories of this Newer Age.

It is a quest worthy of our finest efforts, and I wish you well upon your journey. I'm sure the Program laid out for us in the coming days of this 3rd International Congress on Therapeutic Touch will provide many incisive models. Thank you for having me. I enjoyed being with you very much.

*Richard W. Samson. “Highly Human Jobs”, The Futurist, May 2011, p.29.