



Excerpt

A Most Unusual Life: Dora van Gelder Kunz

Clairvoyant, Theosophist, Healer

By Kirsten van Gelder and Frank Chesley

Taken from Chapter Eight: Healing and Therapeutic Touch (1972-1975)

Dora really came into her own in 1972 when what she described as her double life ended with the death of her husband, Fritz. She and Fritz had travelled all over the world due to his work. They met with dignitaries, philosophers, scientists and religious leaders. It wasn't until his final two years of life that Fritz slowed down. In the late sixties, Fritz had surgery for prostate cancer, but opted out of radiation and chemotherapy. He believed that he would die before the cancer recurred. Dora later said that they didn't know that "it would be so bad." Within only a few years the cancer metastasized; he experienced increasing pain and was forced to curtail his activities. His pain became so severe that he spent the last couple days of his life in the hospital for pain management. Dora still visited her parents the last year of Fritz's life. Her father, Karel, was ninety-six, very frail, nearly deaf, and virtually blind. He died the same year as Fritz. While Dora undoubtedly grieved, she understood death in a very profound way from her religious studies and her personal experience through clairvoyance. For both Fritz and Karel, death was a relief from the suffering of old age and infirmity.

Dora was exhausted after caring for Fritz during his last months of life, but she knew how to draw on energies in nature to restore her balance and health. She had her trusted friends and relied on them, though they too, grieved. Dolores Krieger, who had been a student of Fritz's, stayed at his bedside after others went home and was with him when he died. Letters of support poured in from those who knew Fritz and Karel -- and Dora, took a few weeks for herself, shook herself off, and got on with her life.

This is copyrighted material

She had never regarded herself as an unequal partner, but Fritz's world almost completely revolved around metaphysics, physics, philosophy and academic research. Dora was now free to engage herself entirely in her own work, to focus on healing and theosophy with little reference to family obligations. She had developed a unique combination of psychological, clairvoyant and intuitive insight during her years with Dr. Bengtsson, Dr. Karagulla, and Dr. Laidlaw and had gradually applied that to healing. In addition, she had incorporated elements of style from three lay Christian healers: Ambrose Worrall, Oskar Estebany and Kathryn Kuhlman.

Following her clairvoyant observation in 1970 of Kathryn Kuhlman, Dora and Dr. Karagulla observed her a second time in 1974. Dora was particularly interested in Kuhlman and spoke of her with great admiration many times throughout her life. Karagulla and Dora's research was compiled and published in 1989 in a book entitled *The Chakras and the Human Energy Fields* not long after Karagulla suffered a fatal heart attack. Emily Sellon was responsible for compiling the vast information and completing the manuscript for publication. Without her efforts, the remarkable book would have remained unpublished. The book is primarily a clairvoyant investigation of the vital (etheric) field associated with the chakras and includes descriptions of some of the remarkable results of Kathryn Kuhlman's healing. Dora stated, "Very few have that sense of openness with a belief system which knows you can completely flood the other person with this healing energy. Most people are not secure inside themselves. [However,] outside of the healing service, she was always worried that the Holy Ghost would leave her. There was only one Kathryn Kuhlman and when she left there was no one like her to replace her. There are small healers but none like her with the same powers."¹ In the "Chakra book," as Dora liked to call it, Dora is identified as DVK.

In the case of healers, the appearance of the etheric field varies. The majority of those who use their hands during healing are to some degree using part of their own etheric field to help the patient, though energies from the universal field also come into play. As a result, their etheric fields seem to have more elasticity than the average, thus enabling them to

¹ Dora Kunz in conversation with Erik Peper, Renee Weber and John Kunz. Used with permission of Erik Peper. Afternoon session, August 8, 1979. Pumpkin Hollow Farm. Craryville, NY.

transmit energy to the patient. An exception to this was the case of the well-known healer, Katherine (sic) Kuhlman, who transmitted a type of energy which was not directly related to her own etheric field. She acted somewhat like a lightning rod, in that she was the agency through which etheric and/or astral energies in the general field were activated and transmitted. In the case of exceptional healers, such as Miss Kuhlman, there are other factors which come into play.²

We attended two of Kathryn Kuhlman's healing services in May, 1970 and January, 1974. . . We arrived an hour early so that DVK could observe Miss Kuhlman both before and during the healing service. At both of these services there was organ music and a choir of over two hundred voices which sang hymns. DVK's opinion was that the rhythm and vigor of the music played an important part in preparing for the healing, by building a tremendous thought-form which enveloped the whole auditorium and united the energies of the thousands of people present.

Observing the healer's chakras, DVK noticed that the solar plexus, the brow and the crown chakras were the most powerful, and that there was a state of almost perfect harmony between the etheric and astral centers. There were no blocks. When Miss Kuhlman prayed, she tuned into the tremendous spiritual power which she called God, and she became for the time its focus and channel.

As the service progressed, the concerted force of the prayers and singing focused and consolidated a link with the healing forces. The unity of the immense audience enabled Miss Kuhlman to draw on some of its etheric energy in order to help her build up a condition of enormous power. This energy was both etheric and astral. As she began to talk about the Holy Spirit, she became tremendously charged with energy, and all her vehicles (that is, her aura) began to stretch and expand. She became like a great electrical dynamo, or a lightning rod which attracted this higher

² Shafica Karagulla and Dora van Gelder Kunz. *The Chakras and the Human Energy Fields*. (Wheaton, IL: Theosophical Publishing House, 1989), 93 – 94.

force. When she started to speak with deep conviction her face became pale, and DVK believed she was not fully conscious of what was happening, although she was aware she was being used as a channel by a force beyond herself. She constantly repeated that she herself was not the healer but rather the Holy Spirit, of which she was the instrument. . . .

At the moment of the healing, the patients felt a tremendous stream of energy passing through them, which many described as “a bolt of lightning,” coming from a deep spiritual level right through the emotional and etheric fields. The solar plexus and crown chakras were the two most affected. The “bolt of lightning” sensation came when these two and then all the other chakras were speeded up.

According to DVK, it was this sudden speeding up of the chakra system that checked the disease process. Those who were healed were told to throw away their braces and crutches and walk up to the platform in order to test what had happened. . . .

There was a question in DVK’s mind, however, as to whether the experience of being healed would change a person in the long run, and whether it might make one more sensitive to the needs of others. She had an opportunity to observe a patient with rheumatoid arthritis who had been healed by Kuhlman the year before, and noticed that a tiny link had been made between the person’s higher or spiritual level and the emotions. It was as though the healing energy had penetrated the astral body, and this had effected a real and enduring change in the person.³

Just a few months after Fritz died, Dora held what she called the Invitational Healers Workshop at Pumpkin Hollow Farm. The response from those who attended the first Healers’ Workshop was positive and from then on, the Healers Workshop was offered annually at Pumpkin Hollow Farm. Within a few years she offered an annual Invitational Healers Workshop at Indralaya and both places often had waiting lists for applicants.

³ Shafica Karagulla and Dora Kunz. *The Chakras and the Human Energy Fields*. (Wheaton, IL: Theosophical Publishing House, 1989), 179.