Photographic Images of Orgone Energy Functions IV: The Life Formula

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It was his continuous contact with a neglected biological function—human sexuality—that allowed Wilhelm Reich to accomplish his extraordinary discoveries. Sexuality caused anxiety in his time and still causes anxiety today.[1]

From psychoanalysis to character analysis the observation of the central role of sexual desire allowed Reich to discover the mechanism of emotions—the ameba in us. His interest in the patient's perception of currents—the worm in us—was the starting point for both the bioelectric investigations and the experiments on protozoa, which led to vegetotherapy. His focus on sex economy enabled Reich to continuously modify and improve the therapeutic process, which ultimately led him to the discovery of the orgasm reflex—the jellyfish in us.[2] Thus, the *orgasm* and its function as the main regulator of the organism's biological energy metabolism became the center of Reich's inquiry and the source of another astounding discovery: the definition of life.

Common to the living is a particular pattern of functioning: mechanical tension (swelling)⟶bioenergetic charge⟶bioenergetic discharge (convulsion)⟶relaxation, discovered by meticulous investigations of every detail of the human orgastic experience (Reich 1974). Through his experiments measuring the skin's bioelectrical charge during emotions and sensations, Reich was able to demonstrate that the intensity of pleasurable sensations is directly

[1] In 1886, Jean Charcot, the founder of the medical specialty of neurology, in discussing a symptomatic female patient said, "Mais dans ces cas pareils, c'est toujours la chose genitale, toujours, toujours, toujours." ("But in these cases, it is always something genital, always, always, always.") His pupil, Sigmund Freud, wrote, "Well, but if he knows that, why does he never say so?" (Freud, page 14, Reich 1973a, page 95)

[2] See Foglia, A. 2005, 2008, 2009.

correlated with the quantity of bioelectrical surface charge. Moreover, mechanical tension without bioelectrical charge does not produce sexual sensations thus confirming the theoretical assumption of the tension-charge pattern (Reich 1982, pages 127-8). In contrast, muscular contraction goes together with bioelectrical discharge and shrinking,[3] confirming the discharge-relaxation beats and their relationship (Reich 1979, page 20-1).

This pattern not only refers to the orgasm but in fact to every living movement: "[...] the heart, the intestine, the urinary bladder, the lungs, all function according to this rhythm. Even the division of cells follows this four-beat pattern. The same is true of the movement of protozoa and metazoa of all kinds" (Reich 1973b, page 5). "[...] orgasm is a fundamental biological phenomenon; [...] like respiration it is a basic function of every animal system. Biophysically it is not possible to make a distinction between the total convulsion of a jellyfish[4] and the orgastic convulsion of a multicellular organism" (Reich 1973b, pages 3-4).

Reich concluded that the *orgasm formula* is the *life formula*. Thus, life itself is defined by the unfolding of the four-beat formula—a definition still not considered or even recognized today, as mechanistic science tries to explain it with confused and unrelated factors as the capacity to move, to evolve and adapt, to replicate and regenerate itself (Koshland).[5] *Emotions* (pulsation), *sensations* (spinning wave) and *convulsions* (orgasm reflex) are basic movements determining living functions of simple and complex organisms. They are mirrored in their pattern of individual (ontogenic) as well as in their evolutionary (phylogenic) growth. For

[3] Here, shrinking refers to the genital mucosa.

[4] Heretofore, the German term "*Zuckung*" has been erroneously translated as "contraction" instead of "convulsion;" similarly, the term "*Qualle*" has been erroneously translated as "ameba" instead of "jellyfish."

[5] The most famous book on this subject, *What is Life?* by Erwin Schrödinger (1944), mirrors the very dissociation of armored scientific thinking into mechanistic and mystical thinking. After 90 pages in which the author does not really explain what life is, but makes sophisticated conjectures on the structure of the "life material"—the gene—and its behavior in actual contradiction to the second law of thermodynamics, he then adds a chapter of his personal belief about a mystical pervasive consciousness at the root of life.

Reich, they were also the launching pad for the discovery of the *orgasm formula*, and with it of the *life formula*, the bioenergetic unfolding of which determines life.

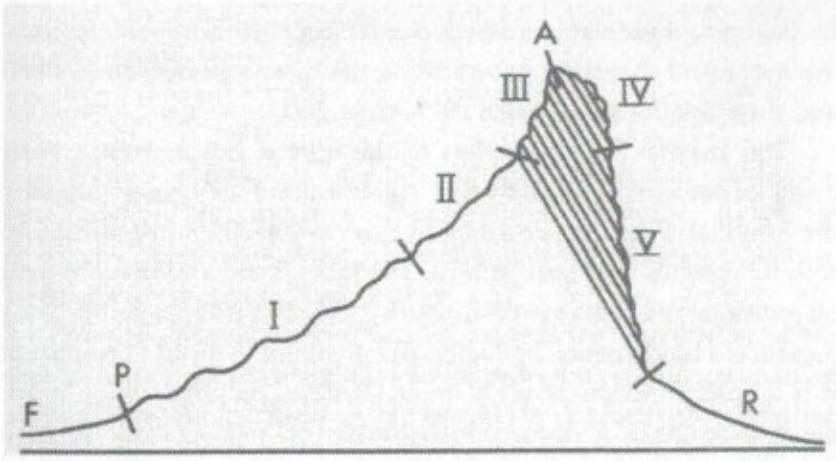

Figure 15a

Reich's drawing depicting the orgasm graphically refers to the subjective dynamic of pleasure during orgasm.[6] This subjective perception mirrors the objective change of bioelectrical charge and excitation during orgasm. F = Forepleasure. P = Penetration with the "interesting biological phenomenon of friction." Friction of organic and inorganic materials provides electrical charge. Erection of the penis and swelling of the vaginal mucosa (mechanical tension) take place. I = Phase of voluntary control of excitation, II = Phase of involuntary muscle contractions and automatic increase of excitation. III = Sudden and steep ascent to the climax (A), here discharge of bioelectricity, in the form of convulsive muscular contractions, sets in. IV = Orgasm. The shaded portion represents the phase of involuntary convulsions of the body and consequent discharge of bioenergy. V = steep drop of the excitation with subsequent shrinking of the genital mucosa. R = pleasant relaxation. (Reich 1973a, pages 103; 272-5)

[6]Eighty years after the discovery of the 4-beat orgasm formula, we are still unable to find a way to measure the subjective pleasurable sensations and objective bioenergetic unfolding of the orgastic convulsion.

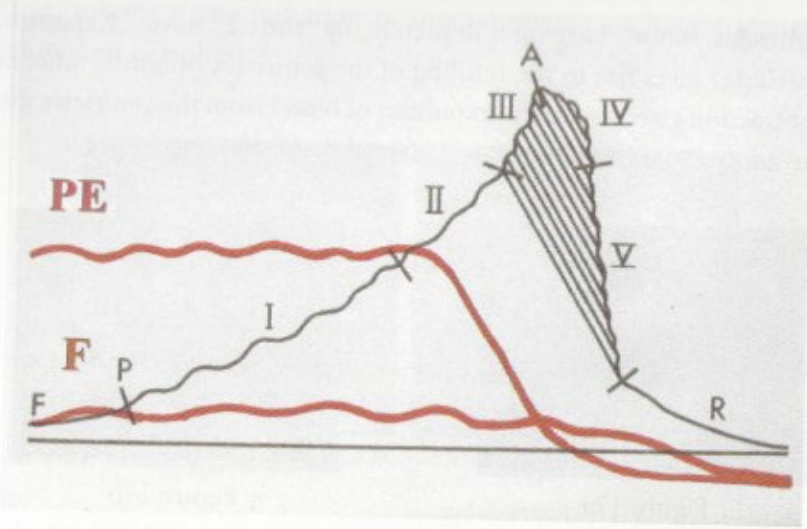

Figure 15b

Orgasm graphic showing two types of pathological unfolding of the 4-beat orgasm formula. PE: premature ejaculation. F: frigidity.

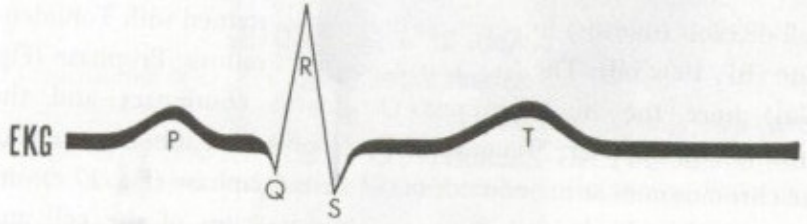

Figure 16

The electrocardiogram represents the complex sum of bioelectrical atrial and ventricular charging and discharging occuring during one heartbeat. The P wave represents the charging of the two atria, the QRS (the depolarization of the ventricles) the discharging of the two

ventricles, whose charging is depicted by the T wave. Expansion (swelling) gives rise to the refilling of the ventricles (diastole) whereas contraction gives rise to the expulsion of blood from the ventricles into the aorta and other large arteries (systole). (Csapo, page 86)

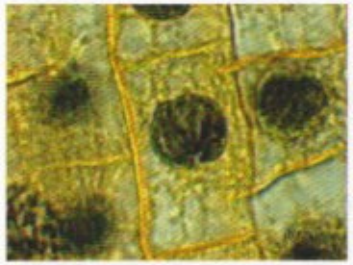

Figure 17a

Figure 17b

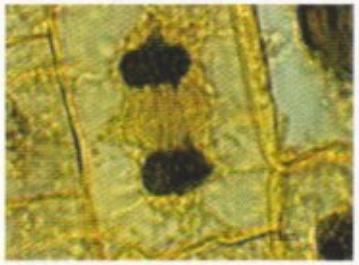

Figure 17c

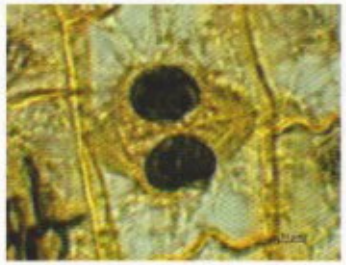

Figure 17d

Cell division (mitosis) in common onion cells stained with Toluidene blue (BF, 100x oil). The four classic stages of mitosis: Prophase (Fig. 17a): here the homogeneous chromatin condenses and the chromosomes appear; Metaphase (Fig. 17 b): with the alignment of the chromosomes at the equator of the cell; Anaphase (Fig. 17 c): the chromosomes divide and move to opposite sites of the cell and Telophase (Fig. 17 d): with the formation of the new nuclear membranes and the beginning of cytoplasmatic division (cytokinesis). (Pederson) These four stages clearly depict the four-beat formula: Prophase represents the tension phase, Metaphase the charge phase, Anaphase the discharge phase and Telophase the relaxation phase. Moreover, Prophase and Metaphase represent central excitation, whereas Anaphase and Telophase represent peripheral excitation.

Thus, mitosis is the pulsation of orgone energy excitation between center and periphery.[7]

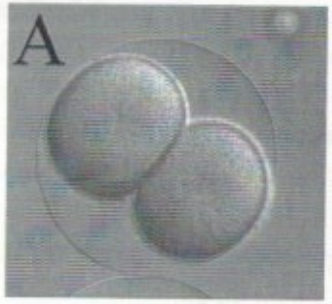

Figure 18a

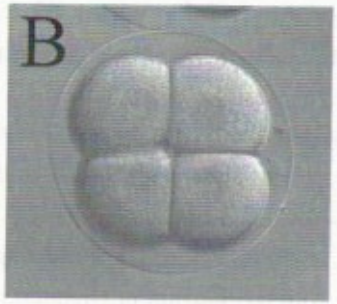

Figure 18b

Cell division (mitosis) in fertilized sea urchin embryo at the two- (Fig. 18a) and four-cell stage (Fig. 18b). (www.fasebj.org) The expansion with swelling of the cell and the subsequent contraction and division are best seen in moving images. See, for a beautiful example, www.youtube.com, Fertilization and Embryo Development in the Sea Urchin Strongylocentrotus Droebachiensis.

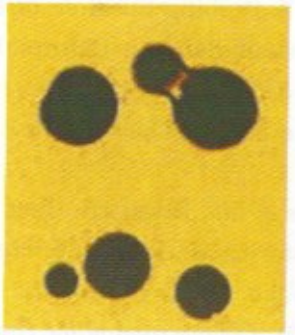

Figure 19

Lifeless oil droplets show the tension and relaxation pattern (Gunning, page 11473-4), whereas Oparin's *coacervates* (Oparin) and Fox's *protenoids* (Fox) (considered "protocells" or cell precursors) display the 4-beat life formula in the same way Reich's functionally

[7]Konia, C. Personal communication, March 3, 2016.

identical *bions* do (Reich 1979, page 63). This is demonstrated in behaviors reminiscent of living functions, just as in this dividing protenoid (Fig. 19, Gram-stained protenoids, BF 100x oil). However, the unfolding of the 4-beat life formula is not yet fully developed, hence they cannot be considered alive (Reich 1973b, page 60).

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