

Unbelievable: Dowser Finds Drinking Water in the Desert

It is not a Fata Morgana. The Swiss dowser Hans-Anton Rieder has found water in the African country Eritrea. Three litres per second are bubbling up from the newly found source – at a place that geologists considered completely dried out and unfavourable.

He considers himself an “assistant at a birth for Mother Earth”. The water is his child. The Swiss Hans-Anton Rieder has already tracked down hundreds of water veins. Almost thirty years now, he travels around the globe with his dowsing rod, bringing people water, as he did this summer in Eritrea. Local authorities of the African country had been asking for the help of the 69-year-old. “In Eritrea it hasn't been raining for five years now”, Toni Locher, president of the Swiss charity organization for Eritrea (Suke), explains. “There is an acute need for water.” Thanks to a donation, the relief organization has now been able to finance the drillings in a completely dried out area. During this years may, Rieder travelled to Eritrea, accompanied by a team of the Swiss television. When barely arrived, the Valais dowser was already pointing out the right spot for the drilling in the desert sand. At a very unfavourable place, as geologists agreed. “There is definitely no water here!” stated a team of local experts. “From a geological point of view, Anton Rieder can only loose here.”

In fact, the Swiss was mistaken. For the water was not in the depths he first indicated but deeper below.

When the drillings finally reached 109 metres under the surface, the earth started shaking before releasing, with a thunderous crash, an enormous water fountain. To the great amazement of the experts present, it was possible to record this impressive moment on film. Since then every second are running three litres of water from the source, securing by that the survival of thousands of people. Where there was only sand before, now as well camels pause to drink, as the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages come flocking to fill their containers. Toni Locher from Suke was the first one who tasted the water: “This is good water!” he said happily. In the meantime, “waterman” Rieder thinks ahead: “In principle an extensive irrigation of the desert would be possible”, he is convinced. “Then there would grow plants and animals would romp again.” Has he ever doubted finding water there? “No! The water is always there it's only a matter of depths.”

Water Veins in Plentiful Supply

The dowser believes that there is a whole network of water veins around the globe. Just like the veins in the human body. Everywhere it is possible to find a water vein within a radius of a hundred metres. The water veins do not depend on the precipitation because their water comes from the sea. Rieder: “The water veins react to ebb and flow and thanks to the rotation of the earth their pressure is constant.” This, at the same time would also cause their desalination. Every time Hans Anton Rieder hits a water vein, his dowsing rod starts swinging. It does not matter here whether he is really standing above the vein or only sees it on a map or screen. “I scan the landscape with my eyes and ask my subconscious via the dowsing rod if and in which depth there is a water vein”, Rieder told “mysteries”. Of course, these details had to be checked carefully on the ground. Though geologists would probably shake their heads in disbelief at statements like this, the success proofs Rieder right and follows him everywhere.

The “waterman” does not know where his gift comes from. He discovered it 28 years ago, when a dowser encouraged him to use his sensitivity. The Swiss is convinced: “Looking for water veins, takes place in the head. I call it my biocomputer.” He wants to be at his fellow creatures' disposal. Doing so, the 69-year-old not only finds water veins but also field lines.

New Several Million Euro Project

His commitment is wearing Rieder out. The dowser knows: “I have to pay attention to refill my own batteries time and again” Nevertheless he wants to continue. Not only in Eritrea:

“The water vein we have found now is a rather poor source - despite its more than 250,000 litres of water each day. There could be found bigger water veins for sure.”

Therefore, the relief organization Suke is already checking on a bigger project with which the whole valley could be irrigated. “For that we would need approximately 15 drillings”, the spokesperson from Suke, Andy Stauber calculates. "In addition we want to accompany the whole project with a special food and nutrition security programme, imparting agricultural knowledge to the population.” According to Stauber nothing is yet determined. "At a rough estimate, such a project would cost about one million Swiss franc.”

Wherever Hans Anton Rieder comes, there flows the water

The water comes from deep below, out of the interior of the earth. Everywhere; no matter where. Also here at the Fafleralp in the Loetschental (Switzerland). H. A. Rieder, standing next to a cow, takes out his dowsing rod. Now his good nose for water appears. "Wait" interrupts Rieder. "Good nose? Not at all!" The 66-year-old man from Loetschental smiles, "I don't feel the water – I measure it! Where does it flow through? How deep do I have to drill to get it to the surface?" Since more than 20 years, his hit rate lies at 98%. Far too high to let himself be laughed off as a dowser. Rieder describes himself as a water finder. And he is the best one in his field, number one in a sector where school science is still in its infancy. A man in demand, in a time when drinking water is also called "blue gold" and big combines like Coca Cola purchase the rights on the mineral water sources.

The cow at the Fafleralp raises its head. The man in the red jersey starts measuring and says, "Here a water vein is running in a depth of 50 metres". Rieder works quickly and accurately. His measurements take only a few minutes. How is something like that possible? The farmer Anton Iten also asked himself this very same question and commissioned the water finder from Valais. "After this summer my sources will dry out", said Iten before Rieder came. Now the farmer from Lucerne has a new source above his farm, with water coming from a depth of 65 metres. "Ground water", scientists would complain. "Water veins", Rieder replies and justifies that ground water would never be under the same pressure like these water veins. He puts his dowsing rod aside and outlines his theory on a sheet of paper. According to Rieder the water veins spread out over the globe, functioning like veins in the human body. Like the degrees of longitude and latitude, they are running on the North-South and the East-West axis. Rieder stops speaking to give the listener time to assimilate. Disbelief cannot irritate him. Five hundred successful drillings proof what he has to explain repeatedly, which he does with the calmness and patience of a mountain dweller. He knows that it could take years for his theory to become socially acceptable. Until then the water finder from the Loetschental continues drilling. Even in the desert. With the help of the relief organisation "Die Wueste lebt - Wasser fuer alle", that has been founded especially on this purpose; he wants to connect the inhabitants of the Indian desert province Rajasthan to the water veins. Last winter he managed to provide 35 villages with wells within 20 days. That is the supply of drinking water for 40,000 people. He promised, "This water will not run dry." to the dumbfounded Indian farmers. Once again, disbelief, this time combined with great gratitude. "When I see the beaming faces of the children", says Rieder "I know why I'm doing this work". Rieder helps wherever he can. He does not bother about frontiers. He even helped a Swiss farmer in New Zealand to get water by indicating the right place on a map from home. Sitting at his kitchen table, he ran a pencil over the map, imagining he was standing on the field. Rieder reveals that his method was always the same, no matter if he was standing on the very field or 20,000 kilometres far away. "When measuring, I'm working like a "biocomputer". I scan the landscape or the map with my eyes and I ask my subconscious via the dowsing rod if there is a water vein here." When the dowsing rod moves, he has found a water vein, which does not seem to be too difficult for him.