

Editor in Chief

The Spirit(s) of Healing

I RECENTLY REVIEWED THE FEEDBACK received from my colleagues regarding my editorials. It is interesting to note that the subject matter that generates the most interest seems to center around my editorials dealing with *wizards* and *healers*. I find it very surprising because the editorials have centered on a variety of subjects over the years dealing with acupuncture techniques, journal development, an interview with Dr Bill Craig, military acupuncture activities, leadership, China Center of Excellence, discussions of articles, editorial for my future colleagues, etc. Yet with all this information that I have transmitted to you, it is the wizard and healer that makes my phone ring off the hook and provokes taps on the shoulder at symposiums.

What is it about the wizard and healer that causes such a reaction? I have thought about this and cannot find a suitable explanation. It is as if the chapter is not complete on this subject and more is expected. I do believe that all of us wish that wizards and healers exist. We look forward to wizards helping us out of our predicaments. We also hope that somewhere is a healer to help our most difficult patients. But I wish to tell you that you are your own wizard. Every day when you confront the needs and suffering of your patients and decide the best treatment, you are to that patient a wizard and even a healer. Most of us wish to think that a wizard is a third-party divorced from you but available, hopefully, when your needs arise. A lot of you don't even realize that your everyday treatments are healing to the patient. You may get very much involved in the mechanics of running your lives and your office, and battling insurance and reimbursement, and you forget how your patient sees you. There is a difference when you write a prescription for a medication and tell the patient to return in 2 weeks and when you needle a patient and the suffering may be relieved immediately in a treatment session.

You must realize that all of you are both healers and wizards. Do they only exist in the fantasies of your mind? They are in reality what you wish them to be. But most importantly, it is *you*. There are many problems that exist in our own lives, families, medical practices, communities, and na-

tion. Will our new President be the magical wizard? We continue to look for the rescue from a third-party be it a healer or a wizard. We often think of a healer and wizard as being isolated from our normal population. These 2 entities have a magical address and are perhaps hidden from view. And that is the problem. We have become very frightened about things that we think we cannot achieve or see happening in our own reality. We are scared that perhaps our medical skills are inadequate and we will not help our patients get better. So, deep in our spirit, we long for a rescue from a mystical being who can be a wizard and a healer to ourselves, families, and patients.

It is time for all of us to recognize that we all have these wonderful characteristics to heal, to solve problems, and to love our fellow man. If you look around you for solutions, you are a wizard. Some solutions are very difficult and not easily solved but during your quest for a solution, you will become a wizard. All of us wish we had magical skills that could cure every disease known to man. I don't think that will ever be possible. But if you help one patient, you are in reality the healer. And the more you help, the better at healing you become. I believe all of us have these gifts. But the problem is that we are so absorbed in other things that we forget or cannot even conceive of turning these gifts on. The answer is that we must look for a wizard and a healer from *inside ourselves*. The "address" is *our heart and souls*.

Speaking of "healers," our congratulations and thank you, Dr Toshikatsu Yamamoto, for your gift to the world of Yamamoto New Scalp Acupuncture (YNSA) on this your 35th year. May YNSA be spread all over the world to serve and support suffering patients even more in the future.

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