

Conundrum

Written by James Randi
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But the degree of dilution "60X" - equivalent to "30C", for reasons you don't want or need to know - is the dilution suggested by Sam Hahnemann himself for general purposes, well past the Avogadro point. And just how dilute is this, in terms we laymen might understand? This would require giving two billion doses per second to six billion people for four billion years to be relatively sure that a single molecule of the original material was actually delivered to any of those patients. Impressed?

Think that's ridiculous? Well, the presently used dilution of the currently *most popular* homeopathic flu symptom remedy - Oscillocoquinum - is 400X, which makes the mind boggle dangerously, if you're not a woo-woo. And the "active" ingredient? It's an "extract of Muscovy Duck liver and heart." That's one part of extract in SEE CHART (Click on graphic for a larger view).

No, we aren't making this up, folks. That's what the homeopaths themselves claim, but they explain the apparent idiocy by telling us that they're well aware that none of the original substance is present, but they believe that the "vibrations" or "memory" of the stuff is still there, somewhere, and can cure the patient.

If you find this reasonable, I suggest you take two aspirins and call me in the morning. Just summon me by whispering my name; the vibrations, I'm sure, will reach me...

And yes, "diluent" is correct...!