

The Frankenstein Method

Take one high-energy particle physicist, a human nervous system, and an unsuspecting public, what do you get?

You get the story of The Frankenstein Method.

It started one day in a small village in Russia. At age fourteen, Max Frankenstein (no relation to Dr. Victor Frankenstein, who used high-energy electrical discharges to revivify dead tissue) was leaving home. It is not known whether anyone tried to stop him. Possibly not.

Even at age fourteen, Max Frankenstein had an indomitable will, and once he had decided on something, he didn't stop until he got there. His determination made him strong, perhaps supernaturally strong. One day, he set out on foot and walked to France. This was possibly the first sign that Max Frankenstein took things farther than most people, perhaps too far. There might have been a reason for it.

In France, Max Frankenstein found work and lodging with the village butcher and his family and gradually became known by the local villagers as a brilliant boy genius with an unusual accent, an unusually penetrating gaze, and a round head. Dogs liked him. Cats, however, made themselves scarce whenever he was around. This fact did not escape the noticing of the villagers, who noticed that cats seemed to be getting scarcer and scarcer. People began talking. Rumors began to spread about Max Frankenstein, the butcher's helper, and the scarcity of cats. People began to worry about their meat. They had nothing to fear. A budding scientist, Max was just using cats for experimentation to discover how they would behave when they had brain damage. (Eventually, Frankenstein published a book, *Body and Mature Behavior*, which gives you an idea of his bent of mind.)

Soon, Max Frankenstein decided that perhaps it was time to leave town. At dawn, one morning, he set out on foot for the big city with only a sack and his prodigious mind (which he kept in the sack along with dried meat). There, in anonymity, he secretly learned judo. He progressed in his abilities to an uncommon degree and emerged as a judo master. His creative mind saw judo a little differently than most people did -- as a healing art -- and he began applying it to his students with notable enthusiasm.

Eventually, tired of France and French judo students, he left for England. This was during the war.

Max Frankenstein's reputation had preceded him. A British police inspector reviewing his file passed his file to British Intelligence, and an alert intelligence officer recognized in Max Frankenstein a brilliant, if cryptic mind. Perhaps such a mind might have a talent for deciphering cryptic messages (cryptic minds are like that -- always encrypting and decrypting). Max Frankenstein was contacted and offered a position decrypting messages from the Nazis. (Why the Nazis were sending encrypted messages to the British, no one knows. Possibly, it was to make them crazy.) Frankenstein accepted the position and soon saved the war -- whatever that means.

After the war, Max Frankenstein studied and earned a doctoral degree in high-energy particle physics. In high-energy particle physics, he saw a likeness of the human

mind, which is always going off in all directions, and he wondered how such a mind could exist in the human brain and what the collateral damage might be.

His insatiable curiosity led to experimentation on reprogramming people's brains to see how it would affect their ability to move. His idea was to help people develop new movements, but for some people, any movement would do (a similarity he had with the other Dr. Frankenstein).

Many years of experiments on humans, including experiments on himself, led to the development of the Frankenstein Method (also known as Frankenstein Functional Integration) and to a saying that epitomizes its spirit, a saying that came to be known as Max's Maxim: "Life is movement – so go, already!"

© 2004 Lawrence Gold
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED