

## Water in Western and Chinese Culture - A Comparative Survey

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The presentation “**Water in Western and Chinese Culture - A Comparative Survey**” examines the historical, cultural and theoretical review of ideas concerning water in the Western and Chinese world from the early cultural beginning to the present day. That would be a narration on the history of ideas concerning water with its intersection of scientific mainstream ideas and the use of water in traditional cultures and society. The presentation starts with ideas about water in Western religion and philosophy, [Christianity, Jewry and Greece Philosophy], narrates the main development in medical history, like Hippocrates (469-370 BC), Galen (129-216 AD), Paracelsus (1493-1541 AD), Sebastian Kneipp (1821-1897 AD) and the beginning of modern water sciences by Victor Schauberger (1885-1958 AD). It will compare the Western historical development with the classical Chinese glance on water during imperial China, like early written comments since Zhou 周 Dynasty (1200 BC), main Chinese philosophical and divinatory Classics, like Yijing 易經 “Book of Changes”, since Song-Dynasty (960-1200 AD) the ideas about water in Chinese landscaping theories “Wind and Water” 風水 (fengshui) and also outstanding individual contribution to water sciences like the writings by Song Yingxing 宋應星 (1587-1666) and other Chinese scientists and philosophers, who are rather unknown in the Western world. During Imperial China the concept of water partly also follows the Chinese life force concepts of Qi 氣 and therefore also plays a role in Daoist longevity techniques, like in the famous school of the Inner-Elixir 內丹 (neidan). The focus of the investigation about water of Dr. Kubny is to show the development of main attributes and qualities, which were attached to the element water by human culture, science, philosophy and religion through all historical epochs, and which are also currently ruling the understanding of water in modern Western science of our time, so for example the coming up of the current usage of the term “living water” which originally is an old religious concept in Jewish tradition. The presentation shows the results of the analysis of the philosophical and medical literature of the very both cultures. It is a historical comparative review of concepts of water taken out from different cultural epochs and different scientific points of view on water. It will show, that the understanding of water is not influenced by Western evidence based natural sciences but also by social circumstances, religious believing and philosophical ideas.