

# The Levico Spring- the water that heals.

Springs are for the benefit of humanity: today they still represent, in many places an indispensable (re)source of water and a healthy foundation for life. In recent decades, countless springs have been lost due to controversial construction and agricultural measures, always aimed at economic exploitation and generating pollution, in a general lack of public interest.

In the past some Sources have received special attention: they have been visited by people from many places and venerated with fervor as places of worship and healing.

This knowledge of their qualities is today generally forgotten or, if known, considered a legend of the past. In many cases, it is also difficult to find out whether and how the springs and sources of water are still effective and are still hygienically suitable for human consumption.

People today are asking themselves new questions with changing interests. They are increasingly looking for places that are still regenerating nature. Realizing the refreshing and invigorating qualities of an unpolluted spring, wondering about the meaning and content of truth of the old legends and trying to know the wider contexts of these stories.

In order to satisfy these desires and to preserve and, where possible, expand the knowledge of particular springs, we report these springs and places with extraordinary waters to illustrate them from different points of view, with a particular interest in the places and waters known as therapeutic or sacred thermal springs.

Below we present the famous healing waters of Levico-Vetriolo in northern Italy.

## **Localization**

The "strong" water of Levico springs at the edge of one of the largest faults in the Alps, in Valsugana to the east of Trento. On the slopes of the mountain village of Vetriolo at 1500 m and surrounded by alpine forests, water flows from the rocks at the end of a narrow mining tunnel 130 m long. The tunnel was once dug to extract copper and ferrous sulphate (vitriol), hence the name of the place.

The peculiarity of the water that poured into it was then discovered, to the point that in 1804 a first bathing establishment was opened in Vetriolo. In the middle of the 19th century, during the Belle Époque, the fashion for thermal treatments flourished. New bath resorts were built in a more favourable climate, 1000 m below, in Levico and Roncegno, mainly to house the Court of the Austrian emperor. The mining galleries at the top of the mountain where the spring flows are no longer open to the public today. They are protected by a heavy, sealed door. The special beneficial and healing effect of this water, however, can be found in the three spas of Vetriolo, Levico and Roncegno.

## **Legend on the origin of the healing spring of Levico**

Fravort - one of the mythical kings of the Alps - whose name today corresponds to the dominant mountain of the region - had three children. His eldest son Cupro, had hair, and was very vain and envious. His skin was yellow-red and almost as shiny as gold. His envy of Aureus, the noble cousin by far preferred by men, was boundless.

His second son, Sidero, was a strong and stocky young man, with black hair, black eyes, a sincere gaze and a firm and obstinate will. Only the influence of his mother had been able to tame him.

His third son, Cobaldo, had grey steel hair. His character was shy, moody, irritated by his gray nature and loved the white color of the moon, with which he had learned to dress. With the help of his cousin Sulfurius, however, he also knew how to use showy clothes, with which he willingly made himself at the disposal of the people. His favourite colour remained white, thanks to which he could become particularly dangerous for human beings.

"Yes, my children will make themselves useful to humanity," said the father, and so he sent them into the world.

Cupro emigrated to the island of Cyprus and taught many arts there. However, his envy led him to behave fraudulently: on a journey to the faraway land of India, he deceived the great king and his daughter about his true nature, who had developed a great dependence on wealth and thought he was Aureus. On the day of his marriage to the king's daughter, the deception came to light and caused such confusion and disappointment that the king's daughter died on her way to the altar.

Sidero came to the Urals and taught people how to build houses and use tools. There he came across a forge, where the deep and glorious contralto voice of the beautiful daughter of the blacksmith struck him and enchanted him. Under Sidero's influence, after a short time, humans learned to build instruments of death, so much so that in the end the war raged in all countries and the beautiful and warlike daughter died on the battlefield.

Cobaldo also visited many villages, stayed in industrial cities and chemical laboratories, was particularly skillful in dyeing and gave some good advice on medicine. However, he had often lent his hand to criminal actions, so he was always under the control of the police and was generally feared. After some time he wished to return to the mountains and was well received by the inhabitants, because he taught them to climb the mountains more easily and to improve the wellbeing of their livestock. There he found the tender, blond daughter of a wealthy peasant with beautiful eyes of the "Forget Me Not" color, who was suffering from anemia. With the collaboration of Cobaldo, not only did the strength of the young daughter of the farmer return, but the love of both grew. The marriage was celebrated. In his joy, however, Cobaldo forgot that while a loving caress could help her health, a more intimate union had to bring death to his wife. And so it happened.

Eventually, the three children arrived before their father again. The father saw that in their unilateralism they had brought suffering, war and death to the people. During his pleading to God they were locked up in the mountain for expiation. Awareness of their actions and their repentant tears would bring salvation and blessing to humanity.

The miraculous source of Levico was born from the confluence of their various and dangerous unilateralisms.

### **Some data on hydrology**

Water flows continuously from the porous rock where the pyrite - a fine composition of iron and sulfur - is most likely set in a lenticular way.

The rock also contains various metals such as copper, zinc and arsenic, which release a rich bacterial flora from the colorful and iridescent rock face.

The thinnest crystalline structures, sharply pointed and velvety at the same time, dominate the rock with numerous mineral veins. On average, about 780 l/hour of water is regularly brought to light in the tunnel,

absorbing all minerals and metals. Healing water is collected for thermal baths. In case of heavy rainfall, the leachate only reacts after 2-3 months, which indicates a well-protected water supply.

## Nature of the water

### 1. Physical, chemical and bacteriological characteristics

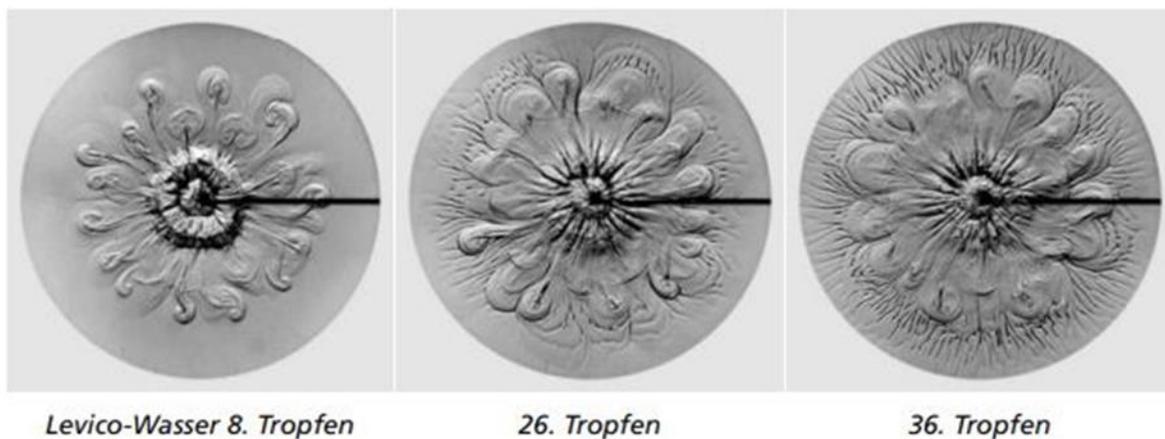
The water emerges clear and crystalline from the rock. Probably because of its strong acidity value, as well as its protein structures, which keep the minerals colloiddally in solution. If water is exposed to light, heat or air, it becomes reddish, and iron can precipitate in floccules.

It has a very metallic, bitter-acidulous taste, which has an astringent effect. You can drink it, some drops are enough for the therapy, you can drink up to half a glass a day. Chemical analysis clarifies the concentrations of the individual components: It is a very acidic, sulphurous water, similar to sulphuric acid, extremely rich in minerals, although it is cold and does not flow out from the depths like thermal water. On average it contains 1800 mg/l of iron, mainly in reduced form, 140 mg/l of zinc, 80 mg/l of calcium, 90 mg/l of magnesium, 30 mg/l of copper and 8-10 mg/l of arsenic in a less toxic compound.

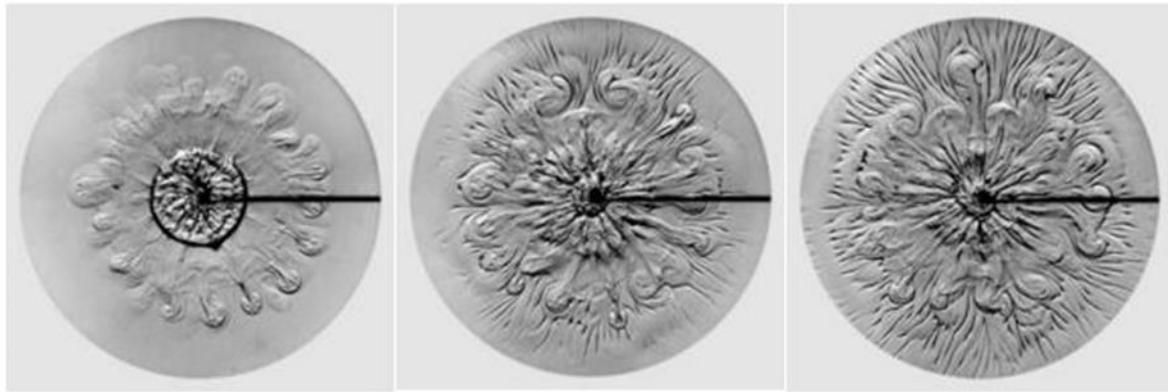
These values may fluctuate greatly over time but remain very high, well above those of drinking water. Pyrite, which originated from dead vital processes, is dissolved from the rock by a new vital process, and Levico water is therefore not a simple mixture of substances, but a living composition, the secret of which has not yet been fully researched.

### 2. Flow quality

In addition to its ingredients, water is characterized by its additional and essential ability to flow. The drip method is a tool for exploring this quality criterion. The examination of Levico's water with the drip image method in autumn 2015 has given the following results. Here three representative images of 5 repetitions are shown (see Fig. 11 + 12).



**Abb. 11:** Repräsentative Strömungsbilder des Levico-Quellwassers



Institutsquelle 10. Tropfen

26. Tropfen

36. Tropfen

**Abb.12:** Repräsentative Bilder der Institutsquelle zum Vergleich

Trial	Flow movement	Drawing of sliding shapes	Structure of the vortex zone
<b>Levico water</b>	Mostly water that flows radially, moderately moving	Weak, then large round vortex forms, the remains of which remain longer in the following image and form a crown of rays. Outgoing scrolling forms, blurred and confused with minimal outlines. At the end of the experiment, more and more flat areas, flowing out, are being experimented. End of wide band branching of the dendritic structures of the periphery.	Multiform vortex rings with often ring-shaped areas connected until the end of the experiment.

These samples of Levico water are hardly comparable to the water of an ordinary spring. At first, its flow images are first finely structured, then strongly inflated, expression of its high minerality, and they transmit an impression of warmth and light in a rather severe and restrained structure.

### The general effect of Levico water

During the sensory study of this water, the experienced experimenter, concentrated inwards, is able to observe the immediate effects caused by the sample under test. The effects do not yet refer to the physical body, but are directed at the body of the vital forces of man. The following description is the result of research carried out on many experimenters and concerns the general effect of Levico's water.

The tests were carried out first with pure water, and then in dilutions of up to 1/1000.

Undiluted, this water first causes an astringent movement, which usually occurs with acid samples. This first contracting movement disappears at higher dilutions. The following characteristics can be observed in both pure and diluted samples:

- At the beginning, angular and structured elements appear, consolidating at the level of the feet, similar to mineral and crystallized structures. They create an intense bond with the earth, in the sense of a strong anchoring of the person.
- Then heat fields unfold, which gradually rise and spread throughout the body, in grasping and thickening movements. This heat not only works in the sense of an interpenetration of the body, but also exercises a real "mixing", has the effect of stimulating a rebalancing of disharmonies.
- From below, a movement rises vertically, like a column, which is experienced as a corroborating force addressed to the entire human individuality.
- There is also a cup-shaped opening movement in the heart area, which gently illuminates and warms it up.
- A light that expands widely in long, subtle rays, which communicate an opening, luminous, purifying and harmonizing effect.
- Finally, the vertical movement in the form of a column rises to a superior light source, similar to the sun, which leads man to bind even more deeply to himself, to be master of himself.
- Furthermore, water supports the processes of consciousness, leading for example to more acute sensory perceptions and to a clearer and more light-filled thought; leading to an opening and clarity of the sphere of feeling, which is much more balanced and brings with it a consolidation and strengthening of the will, making it more decisive, more determined and oriented towards a goal.

If there were imbalances, sclerosis or weaknesses between the various experimenters, this water seemed to initially reflect them, like a mirror, in a very global and at the same time individual way. A process of balancing these unilateralities also began, intensifying the person's bond with his or her individuality, so that the human being could experience to be sustained on his or her way to himself or herself in a caring, liberating and deeply active way, with great wisdom.

The water of Levico, given to us during the reign of Mount Fravort, appears as a particular composition of a variety of metals - mainly iron, copper and arsenic - and it is a model of human organization in its activity. Its balancing and individual healing effect means that it is used with great success in the medical field for a variety of diseases and weaknesses, especially through baths.

Among the various ways to experience the healing properties of this water, the Roncegno Thermal Baths, which are called Casa Raphael and are anthroposophically managed, seemed to us the place where there is really an awareness of the uniqueness of this water and its effects.

Here people are lovingly supported by the water and the whole team in a movement towards themselves.

Rudolf Steiner's words about this water sounded like this: "The waters of Roncegno or Levico seem to be prepared by a good spirit in order to develop in the outer nature a series of forces capable of playing a favorable role in the human organism."

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