

In my 40s, and heading into my 50s now, having embraced the wonder of fatherhood, the blessing of a deepening marriage, and the early edges of tragedy and suffering, grace and awe, I'm what I'd call open and practical. If there is no science but a phenomenon is real, I'm okay with the notion that something beyond my grasp is in control.

This actually happened in a funny way after I spoke on stage recently. A woman who'd been in the audience waited behind and, after everyone left, came very hesitantly to share something. "I'm not the aura lady," she said. "I don't go around seeing people's auras, but yours was so big for the first 15 minutes, I couldn't hear what you were saying. And it had a tail like a comet that was following you around the stage."

"Okay," I said, "that's cool." And, now, of course, I had to know. "What color was it?"

"Violet," she told me, and off she went.

Later that day, I met a friend in a coffee shop and recounted the story, without revealing the color. She looked at me and shared, "Yeah, I saw it, too."

"Oh, sure you did," I said. "What color?"

"Violet."

A few months later, I bumped into a friend and his girlfriend at a small gathering and repeated the story, again without revealing the color. The girlfriend was what I'd call decidedly woo-woo. She said she saw it, too, as I stood before her. Clear as day, it was violet.

Now, of course, the aura gauntlet had been thrice thrown down, so I had to know what violet meant. I took to the Internet. On allaurasandchakras.com, I learned that violets are unorthodox, inventive, intelligent, highly intuitive, visionary, big-picture thinkers with a profound yearning to make a difference and a relentless need for meaning. They're great at breakthrough ideas, seeing how things fit together in a way nobody else sees. But they're less interested in granular process, systems, and details. They have an uncanny ability to predict trends and see possibility, often long before it manifests, which can also lead to the frustrations of being perpetually "too early"