

Voluntarily Cooperation and the Celestial Twinning Bond

**The Children's Saviors:
Emil Behring and Paul Ehrlich**

**The Sign: Pisces
Keyword: I believe**



Paul Ehrlich



Emil Behring

Although today there is no precise definition of “twinning bond,” nobody denies its existence. This strong emotional or even telepathic bond is described in research of identical twins reared apart. The relationship between such twins is usually much more intense than that between unrelated people. They may share a closeness that would be hard to match in most other relationships, or they may compete with each other in a struggle to be first. Goering and Rosenberg seemed to belong to the latter category, their instinctive wish to be first dictated to them the desire to get rid of each other, yet even so, in the Nuremberg trials they did not blame each other.

Was it just by chance that a kind of celestial twinning bond was observed in the previous stories, or is there a special system of relationships characteristic of celestial twins? Are celestial twins compelled to be in constant competition or do their joined efforts release unusually strong powers as are ascribed by mythology to some biological twins?

Some of the answers to these intriguing questions I found in the comparative life stories of the Nobel Prize winners in Medicine, Emil von Behring and Paul Ehrlich. These celestial twins were, like Halem and Stauffenberg, born in Pisces. Though from birth separated by geography, religion and genes, they both found their life mission in Berlin, where both worked at the Institute of Hygiene. Their “chance” meeting resulted in a lifelong collaboration. Both were honored as “the

children’s saviors,” because their joint work saved millions of children from diphtheria, until the 20th century one of the most serious contagious diseases. If Goering and Rosenberg are remembered (and cursed) for their urge to “use” people, Behring and Ehrlich are remembered for their urge to “serve” them. Many would say that in their typical Piscean urge to serve humanity and heal it from all contagious diseases, both were ready (like Halem -Stauffenberg) to sacrifice their lives.

Paul Ehrlich and Emil Behring were born on March 14 and 15,⁸⁶ 1854, respectively.

Paul Ehrlich was born in Strehlin, a country town about 20 miles south of Breslaw (now Wroclaw), in the large Jewish family of Ismar Ehrlich. Emil Behring was born in the remote village of Hansdorf in the large family of a Prussian teacher August Georg Behring.

In both families there was a keen interest in education but no special interest in medicine. Emil’s father intended his son to be a minister or a teacher, both traditional family professions. Paul’s paternal grandfather, Heinmann Ehrlich, had collected an extensive private library and gave lectures on physics and botany to fellow citizens of Strehlin. Paul’s father was an innkeeper who, like Behring, had no special expectations that Paul become either a doctor or a medical scientist.

In order to ensure their proper education both children were sent out of their homes early. Behring’s father enrolled the 11-year-old boy in the Gymnasium of Hohenstein in East Prussia. Ten-year-old Ehrlich went to the Gymnasium in Breslaw, where he boarded with a professor’s family and accepted Spartan living and classroom conditions in the best Prussian tradition.

Until they were 20 years old, both celestial twins hesitated in choosing their profession. Emil discovered his interest in medicine during his school years, but he saw no hope in pursuing it because the family could not afford to pay for a medical education. Instead, he had to enter the University of Königsberg as a theology student. Then, the fortunate intervention of fate changed his plans: in 1874 one of Emil’s teachers arranged his acceptance at the Institute of Military Medicine in Berlin, where he would receive free medical training in return for ten years of subsequent service in the army medical corps.

Already as a young boy Paul Ehrlich tended to believe that life itself was identified with chemistry. Yet after matriculating in 1872 he encountered significant difficulties in finding his path to medicine. He was interested in organic chemistry, but at that time this subject was not yet accepted as an independent

86 Since the recording of birth time, which occurs around midnight, is often only approximate, I decided to allow for a mistake of one day. Therefore, in the present case the difference in birth times can vary from just a few minutes (if both births were around midnight between the 14th and 15th) to about 48 hours (if one was near midnight between the 13th and 14th, while the other near midnight between the 15th and 16th).

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branch of science at German universities. At the beginning of his studies he took a disappointing introductory course in natural sciences at Breslaw University. Then he spent three semesters at Strassburg, where he was deeply impressed with the anatomist Wilhelm von Waldeyer, the first German professor to introduce a chemical outlook into medicine. Waldeyer's influence helped Ehrlich to determine his life's course: in 1874 Paul returned to Breslaw to complete his studies for a medical degree.

Synchronicity seemed to direct the lives of Behring and Ehrlich: their careers were influenced by the intervention of their teachers; as a result, they began their medical studies simultaneously in 1874. They also earned their M.D.'s simultaneously in 1878. Immediately upon graduation, Ehrlich was appointed assistant to Professor von Frerichs, Director of the famous Charite Hospital in Berlin. He remained there until 1887 by which time he had been appointed Senior Physician. By a remarkable coincidence (or due to a "celestial twinning bond") in 1880, the year before his attachment to a cavalry regiment, Behring was appointed an intern at the same Charite Hospital. For the first time destiny brought these celestial twins to the same place to get the same qualifications for their future work.

Until 1887 Behring served as physician and surgeon first in West Prussia and then by his request in Silesia (birthplace of Ehrlich!) From 1887 his life course began to change. First, he was sent for further training to the Pharmacological Institute in Bonn. Then he was sent in 1888 to Berlin, and after a brief service at the Academy for Military Medicine, his army service ended in 1889. The same year Behring joined the newly organized Institute of Hygiene as assistant to its director, the bacteriologist Robert Koch.

While it seemed natural for Behring, the military doctor, to look for a new civil employment after ten years of obligatory service, there was no logical reason why Ehrlich, the Senior Physician at one of the best hospitals in Germany, suddenly had to change his life. Yet Ehrlich's life began to change exactly the year 1887, when Behring began his preparations for future research work.

This year brought the premature death of Prof. von Frerichs of Charite Hospital. The new director did not recognize the importance of Ehrlich's research work and he was forced into the rigid routine of traditional clinical medicine. Ehrlich's inquiring mind could not endure such strain. He began visibly to fade away. The decade of fruitful association with the clinic finally ended in 1888, when Ehrlich discovered tubercle bacilli in his sputum. In the opinion of his friends, his illness was caused by the psychological strain at work. Accordingly, he resigned from his position at the Charite Hospital. To cure his disease he journeyed the same year to Egypt, remaining there until full recovery. The easily cured tuberculosis of the lungs never troubled him again. Ehrlich returned from Egypt in 1889. The same year Koch offered him a place in his newly created institute. The celestial twinning bond worked again: Behring and Ehrlich simultaneously joined the staff of the same institute. Now began their active cooperation and close friendship.

Until 1892 they worked in the same building, “The Triangle,” yet their work was carried out independently in different laboratories and in different topics of immunology. Both became “microbe hunters,” as Paul de Kruif would call them later in his exciting book about the first microbiologists. *Microbe Hunters* vividly describes Ehrlich’s and Behring’s lifestyles as well as the exceptionally fervent and dingy atmosphere of the Triangle:

Paul Ehrlich was there, smoking myriads of cigars, smearing his clothes and his hands and even his face with a prismatic array of dyes, making bold experiments to find out how baby mice inherit immunity to certain vegetable poisons from their mothers...⁸⁷

Emil Behring, who had “the head of the poet” and was fond of rhetoric, was there too:

‘I will find a chemical to cure diphtheria!’ he cried, and inoculated herds of guinea pigs with cultivation of virulent bacilli. They got sick, and as they got sicker he shot various chemical compounds into them... The hecatombs of corpses went on piling up, but they failed to shake his faith in some marvelous unknown remedy for diphtheria hidden somewhere among the endless rows of chemicals in existence.⁸⁸

Their research was enthusiastic, but random. They belonged to those rare indefatigable researchers who “...were not searchers for truth, but rabid, experimenting healers, rather; ready to kill an animal or even a child maybe with one disease to cure him of another...They stopped at nothing.”⁸⁹

Ehrlich and Behring worked independently, until the day came when the results of their research enriched and promoted the work of each other. That day came when Behring announced his discovery of the diphtheria antitoxin. His antitoxin was introduced into medical treatment with the highest hopes, but the results were disappointing. Although his discovery was unquestionable, some children continued to die. Total failure threatened his work. He needed help, but Koch was preoccupied with an outbreak of cholera, and, besides, he personally was not so impressed with Behring’s discovery.

Then Ehrlich offered Behring the chance to collaborate. In extensive experiments on animals Ehrlich worked out a precise method of obtaining antitoxins of sufficient strength for practical use and devised accurate methods of measuring their curative potencies. Once Ehrlich had developed the correct dosage and purity, Behring and Ehrlich now were able in cooperation to produce effective clinical antitoxins. In 1894 their new antitoxins were tried on 220 children with diphtheria and achieved great success.

Because of the close cooperation that existed between Behring and Ehrlich during this period, it was very difficult to decide to whom the major credit for the achievement should be paid. Sometimes it is given to Behring as he produced the first antitoxin; sometimes it is given to Ehrlich since his work enabled practical

87 Paul de Kruif. *Microbe Hunters*, New-York, Harcourt, Brace, 1926, p. 195.

88 *Ibid.*, p. 196.

89 *Ibid.*

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treatment. During a long period of exhaustive and intensive search they had worked almost as inseparable Siamese twins. The separation came after the success. It was very painful and left scars on both scientists.

The clearest reason for the separation was a financial one. Until their first success Behring and Ehrlich had invested their own money in this research, working at an incredible pitch of excitement under very primitive conditions. The situation changed when a chemical factory proposed to produce the diphtheria serum for general medical use. Initially a contract with both the investigators was proposed. Still the factory was worried that such a “double burden” upon its budget would be insupportable.

Behring was first to understand the difficulty in paying both investigators. To resolve the problem he promised Ehrlich to use all his influence to get him appointed to a position as Director of a state institute. In such a position he would be free to act according to his own ideas and plans, but he would not be allowed to accept any money from a chemical factory. This suggestion excited Ehrlich greatly. He believed in Behring’s promise and immediately signed the documents releasing his claims on any profits.

Yet Behring was unable to keep his promise. At the same time he also did not want to share his profits with Ehrlich. He was always short of money, and now he wanted to keep everything for his family and his future institute. Ehrlich was deeply hurt. Later he would say that it was not the question of money that he could not excuse, but the unfriendly way it was done. Although relations of formal politeness between the two were eventually renewed, a great gap remained always between them.

Behring’s relationships with Koch had been deteriorating, and in 1894 he became a professor of hygiene in Halle. He taught there with only moderate success and already the next year he got an appointment as professor of hygiene at Marburg. This appointment was against the wishes of the Medical Faculty and was possible only due to efforts on his behalf by Dr. Althoff, the Director of the Prussian Ministry of Education and Medical Affairs. Behring proved to be a poor teacher, and he decided to dedicate himself entirely to research. At Marburg he finally became able to organize his own institute and to maintain it from his income until the end of his life. Gradually, he began to attract world recognition and innumerable rewards (including the first ever Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1901). He also built himself a castle on the heights surrounding Marburg-on-Lahn.

Soon after the separation from Behring, Ehrlich’s life also changed with the help of the same Dr. Althoff who helped his celestial twin. First, Dr. Althoff helped Ehrlich to establish an antitoxin control station at Koch’s institute. Then, at the end of 1896 an Institute for the control of therapeutic sera was established at Steglitz in Berlin and Ehrlich was appointed its Director. Soon Dr. Althoff realized that Ehrlich’s genius demanded better facilities, and he helped him to build the Royal Prussian Institute for Experimental Therapy. Opened in 1899

in Frankfurt-on Maine, it was directed by Ehrlich until the end of his life. Once again the celestial twinning bond had entered the lives of these scientists: using the influence of the same minister both fulfilled their dreams to lead their own research in institutes, called later by their names. In his institute Ehrlich achieved great triumphs, there he got innumerable rewards including the Nobel Prize for Medicine (together with Ilya Metchnikoff, in 1908).

Behring became famous and rich, but he was unhappy. His victory over diphtheria was not yet complete. By the time diphtheria symptoms were observed, it was often too late for the antitoxin to work, resulting in the patient's death. Behring's research in this area got stuck for many years. Unfortunately, he also made no progress in his other research projects.

At the same time in spite of separation, Behring's and Ehrlich's collaboration had to continue for the rest of their life. They could separate their private lives, but it was impossible to separate their "entwined" work, because Behring's antitoxins had to pass through obligatory control carried out by Ehrlich's institutes. In addition, Behring continued throughout the years in all round-about ways to get Ehrlich's help. He even tried to demand from authorities that Ehrlich's institute at Frankfurt ought, by rights, to undertake without charge all the experimental control, which he, Behring, wanted done.

Ehrlich refused to let himself be exploited again. In a 14-page official letter to Althoff (dated 1906) Ehrlich described in detail all the long amazing history of the mutual discovery.⁹⁰ First Ehrlich reminded that "He [Behring] owes his success with the diphtheria serum, especially his big material success, to me." Then came the complaints: "And when he finally... was covered with honor and glory, his first deed was to rob me of the rewards of many years of work." These complaints were expressions by feelings of bitterness:

But the revenge has come. He can see how far he has got without me since our separation. Everything is blocked now: his work on plague, cholera, glanders, streptococcal infections. He makes no progress with diphtheria – only hypotheses of a daring kind and pseudo-exact manipulations of numbers. All this with more than sufficient means in hand, and a swarm of collaborators... and the assistance of the big factory.⁹¹

Ehrlich wrote that the unfriendly way in which the separation had been carried out had been a Pyrric victory for Behring. Yet his struggle with Behring made Ehrlich feel completely exhausted; he understood that it was impossible to emerge a winner from these mutual recriminations. Although the atmosphere of the very strained relationships between the two men entered their works, Ehrlich continued to make many additional experiments for Behring.

Behring continued working as randomly and as hard as usual, and the greatest triumph of his life finally came in 1913. At the age of 59 he produced an active, preventive vaccine that provided lasting protection against diphtheria. This time

⁹⁰ M. Marquardt. *Paul Ehrlich*, New-York, Henry Schuman, 1951, pp. 34-37.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 35.

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the victory over diphtheria was complete. In addition, during WWI Behring's tetanus vaccine saved the lives of so many soldiers that he was awarded the government's Iron Cross.

One of the most important reasons why Ehrlich refused to cooperate with Behring was Behring's wish to force him to cooperate in immunology and serum therapy. Behring tried to impose his will on Ehrlich, but this did not correspond to Ehrlich's own inclinations. Ehrlich knew that their first success was due to independent research and voluntarily cooperation. It resulted from combining the complementary works and not from identical results. As long as each of the celestial twins worked in his own area, perhaps very close to each other, but still in his own narrow area, there was no struggle, no manipulation, rather friendship. The problems had begun when Behring tried to compel Ehrlich to work exactly in the same areas as he himself did. Ehrlich became furious feeling that he was going to lose his identity.

Ehrlich gradually learned that there were also positive sides in their separation too. For a short time these celestial twins had become too close. The released energies and the resulting success of such "togetherness" were extremely strong, so strong that for a moment, perhaps, these celestial twins had forgotten to let each other be alone. They could not grow in the shadow of one other. Each needed his own space. Both needed to discover new ways of coexistence: to seek spaces in their togetherness; to stand together, yet not too close.

After the separation, Ehrlich was free to go his way as a founder of chemotherapy. He began his search for chemical poisons, which he called the "magic bullets." These magic bullets should aim exclusively at parasitic strangers to the organism, but not touch the organism itself. It was the boldest idea of the scientist, whom his enemies called "Dr. Fantasy." The main aim of the first magic bullet was chosen to be spirochete, the causal organism of syphilis.

Like Behring, Ehrlich was a stubborn and irrational scientist, led by his faith. There were years and years of exhaustive work without any visible results. He got stuck, but he continued to draw absurd diagrams for his staff, picturing imaginary arsenic remedies that they with their expert wisdom knew were impossible to make. 606 different substances were tested; with each of these substances numerous animal experiments were conducted. Even the tireless Doctor Hata, who came from Kitasato's institute in Tokyo, was getting impatient. That meant a great deal, for Ehrlich always spoke very highly of the great patience of the Japanese scientists. (Behring highly appreciated his Japanese collaborator, Doctor Kitasato).

In spite of all the difficulties, taking on burdens that would have overtaxed any man and "burning his candle at both ends," Ehrlich got his famous 606. It was very dangerous to prepare this substance; it was extremely hard to keep it, and its injection required special skills and precautions. Yet given the devastation wrought by syphilis, a worldwide demand soon arose for this new weapon against the disease. The work of production and control took several additional

years, until in 1913 the new substance, called Neosalvarsan was widely accepted in the medical practice. Two decades after their separation, Behring and Ehrlich came almost simultaneously to what they believed to be the most significant achievements of their lives, Behring – his active vaccination; Ehrlich – the remedy against syphilis.

Among the Ehrlich's numerous congratulatory letters there was one that was especially significant to him. It was the letter from Behring: "success decides/ whether right or wrong/ whether good or bad."⁹² Although Ehrlich did not like this verse, he was very glad to have Behring's appreciation. After all, these celestial twins did care for each other and understood each other's motivations better than anyone else could imagine.

"Serve or suffer," is the traditional motto of the Pisces.⁹³ Many of Behring's and Ehrlich's colleagues were astonished by how much they were driven to work. Some thought it incredible and supposed that such self-sacrificing work would inevitably lead to suffering. Yet when asked why they overworked, Ehrlich's serious and kind reply was, "One simply has to, one is urged by some force from within."⁹⁴

What was this mysterious "force from within," which brought a son of the Jewish innkeeper from Upper Silesia and a son of the Prussian provincial teacher to devote their lives to healing the world of its worst maladies? Absolutely nothing in their family histories or in their early childhood environment could answer this question. Perhaps, the answer was written in their stars? At least, Hickey's characteristic of Pisces gives some glimpse into the possible nature of Ehrlich's and Behring's mysterious "forces from within":

When they are true to their real nature Pisceans have a high and holy destiny and are the true saviors and servants of mankind. They have a great sense of compassion and sacrifice themselves in utter devotion for the redemption of the world... They make wonderful doctors and in any area of the medical field do excellent work.⁹⁵

Success came, but in the beginning of their sixties Ehrlich and Behring were already old men, used up, crippled by time and indulgence, rapidly crawling the narrow, one-way street toward death.

Ehrlich already had burned out his candle. Long years of heavy smoking of especially strong cigars and an almost complete disregard for proper nutrition had combined to produce a disastrous effect on his health. After the discovery of his magic bullet he could no longer withstand what he felt to be the malicious opposition and personal hostility, which continued to come from his enemies. There were priority claims from other researchers and accusations of charlatanry and ruthless experimentalism, from which he was forced to defend himself.

92 M. Marquardt. *Paul Ehrlich*, New-York, Henry Schuman, 1951, p. 33.

93 I. M. Hickey, *Astrology, a Cosmic Science*, USA, CRCS Publications, 1992, p. 28.

94 M. Marquardt. *Paul Ehrlich*, New-York, Henry Schuman, 1951, p. 3.

95 I. M. Hickey, *Astrology, a Cosmic Science*, USA, CRCS Publications, 1992, p. 28.

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Known for his titanic optimism regarding his work, Ehrlich, nevertheless, suffered from depression at the end of his life. Aged 61, he collapsed in August 1915 with a second, terminal stroke. Ehrlich was buried in the Frankfurt Jewish cemetery. In his obituary the *London Times* acknowledged Ehrlich's achievement in opening new doors into the unknown, saying that the whole world was in his debt. Behring came to Frankfurt to take part in the funeral ceremony. An aged and sick man, he followed the funeral procession with difficulty, his hand resting heavily on his cane. At the open grave he said, "Now you are at rest, my dear friend... /You always had a sensitive soul... / And if we have hurt you...forgive us!"⁹⁶

Led by a strong desire to succeed in his mission of savior, Behring also worked day and night forgetting to take care of his body. Once his colleague (presumably, it was Ehrlich) expressed his opinion about Behring's self-destructive way of life, "He who worships success/ Can make the world/ Neither good nor happy."⁹⁷ From 1901 his health began to deteriorate. From time to time he had to seclude himself in Switzerland, especially when suffering from bouts of depression that occasionally required sanatorium treatment. An authoritative and solitary man, he defended himself incessantly against all kinds of scientific attacks. He had few friends, and when the war separated him from his colleagues outside Germany (such as Emil Roux and Ilya Metchnikoff) it greatly depressed him. His weakened constitution was unable to withstand any additional strains. First he fractured his thigh; then he contracted pneumonia and died on March 31, 1917 in Marburg. He was only 63 years old.

To complete these comparative stories, it should be mentioned that both men were called "monomaniacs" of science and that very little is reported about their personal life. Both were happily married (Behring in 1896, Ehrlich in 1893), and both had children (Ehrlich had two daughters; Behring had six sons and one daughter). Their wives were their lifelong companions.

These people were never identical, but they were as if fated to supplement each other. After their death the whole world showed gratitude to both of them, mentioning their names together in innumerable papers. Here is only a short list of such posthumous publications:

H. Dold. *In memotium Paul Ehrlich und Emil von Behring zur 70 Wiederkehr ihrer Geburtstage* (Berlin,1924).

A. Bayer. *Zum 100 Geburtstage von Paul Ehrlich und Emil von Behring* (*Deutsches Gesundheitwesen* 9, 1954).

C.H. Browning. *Emil von Behring and Paul Ehrlich: Their Contribution to Science* (*Nature* 175, 1955).

The story, which had begun simultaneously, continued to be entwined even after the physical death of these celestial twins.

96 M. Marquardt. *Paul Ehrlich*, New-York, Henry Schuman, 1951, p. 34.

97 *Ibid.*, p. 33.

Astrological and Theta-factor insights

What answers about the possible nature of relationships between celestial twins can be glimpsed from this story? Some biographers stay laconically that “a lifelong friendship was formed”⁹⁸ between Behring and Ehrlich. Other biographers stress the strained character of the relationship between the two men. Ms. Marquardt (Ehrlich’s secretary) describes different periods of their relationship, including friendship, separation and bitterness; but according to her there always were feelings of mutual esteem and care for each other between the two of them. From these comparative biographies it is not clear whether this relationship constituted “friendship” or not, yet is beyond any doubt that being a solitary figure in medicine, Behring had just a few friends and that one of them was Ehrlich. It is also clear that this relationship was so intense and long-lasting that it might be called a celestial twinning bond. The meeting of the two celestial twins reared apart did release extremely strong feelings of both mutual attraction and repulsion between them. These feelings were of dual nature including love and care, envy and fear.

To gain better understanding concerning the mutual suffering connected with this cooperation, I want to analyze the possible reasons for the self-destructive tendencies of these great men. It was obvious that both never knew how to take care of themselves. Both were Pisces, and according to Hickey, “They [Pisces] never feel that they do enough so they often overwork, putting stress and drain on the physical body.”⁹⁹ Because both of them used to deny the most basic needs of their bodies, it is reasonable to suggest that they considered it normal to deny the same needs from their celestial twin, whom they felt as their twin soul. If so, the situation Behring’s denial of physical energy (money) to Ehrlich and Ehrlich’s vengeful denial of mental energy (his help) to Behring would be only an extension of the way each treated his own body.

Speaking of care and love, how could these necessary attributes of friendship find their expression in two similar persons who could be so self-destructive and stubborn as Ehrlich and Behring were known to be? For example, let us consider Ehrlich’s complains about Behring’s unbearable methods of work:

I know from my previous experience of work with von Behring that it would mean a perpetual rush to keep a rapid change of preparations. Extensive series of animal experiments are planned with great care, and before these are finished we are told that meanwhile something newer and better has been found which must be tried immediately, etc.¹⁰⁰

At first glance it seems that Ehrlich’s complaints were justified. Yet the great

⁹⁸ *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, ed. C. Gillespie, New York, Charles Scribner’s Sons, vol. 1, 1970, pp. 574-578; vol. 4, 1971, pp. 295-305.

⁹⁹ I. M. Hickey, *Astrology, a Cosmic Science*, USA, CRCS Publications, 1992, p. 28.

¹⁰⁰ M. Marquardt. *Paul Ehrlich*, New-York, Henry Schuman, 1951, p. 39.

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irony was that Ehrlich used exactly the same methods of work, because his own “theories led always to new plans and projects, far exceeding the limits of his essential daily duties.”¹⁰¹ Why should Ehrlich, who was never accustomed to going ahead slowly in one direction, complain about Behring? Dr. Meyer told Ehrlich:

I was always filled with admiration at the way you would suddenly abandon a particular line of work if you saw that nothing would come of it; and you would immediately begin something fresh.¹⁰²

Thus, what Meyer admired in Ehrlich, the latter hated in his celestial twin! Perhaps Ehrlich felt that such overwork could not bring good to anybody, that self-sacrifice could not make the world happy. Yet what he wanted to stop for Behring’s sake, he could not stop in himself. Looking in the mirror is not pleasant when you have an inner conflict and your actions are often taken against your own feelings.

The symbol of Pisces is of two fish swimming in opposite directions but tied together so that neither alone can make any progress: “In Pisces one fish swims downstream representing the personality, the other fish swimming upstream represents the soul.”¹⁰³ Pisces are dealing with an inner conflict. As a result of such inner conflicts there might be even a trait of martyrdom in their behavior. Behring and Ehrlich defended themselves against outside enemies. They fought against external microbes, but they themselves were their own worst enemies, destroying their own bodies from within. Any time when the “fish” of their soul and body swam in different directions, their Sun in Pisces worked in a destructive way. But, of course, under a different Theta-factor and with different attitudes of the people involved this destructive self-sacrifice was less obvious than in the case of Halem-Stauffenberg.

Before their common discovery Behring and Ehrlich were largely unknown scientists without money to carry out their own serious research. The moment they understood the necessity of cooperation, they got recognition and abundance. The way to this cooperation was not straightforward and fearless, but eventually neither of them was robbed of his unique fame: there were enough Nobel Prizes to be awarded to both and enough resources to open two institutes for each of them to direct. Their story might be summed up by the ancient wisdom of *Ecclesiastes*:

Two are better than one; because they have a good payment for their toil. For if they fall, the one can help the other up. But woe to a single person who falls, for there is no one to help him up.

Also if two people lie together they keep warm, but how can a single person keep warm? A single person may be overcome, but two together can resist. A three-ply cord cannot be easily broken.

101 Ibid., p. 42.

102 Ibid., p. 227.

103 I. M. Hickey, *Astrology, a Cosmic Science*, USA, CRCS Publications, 1992, p. 28.

Elizabeth Levin, Ph.D.

The three-ply bond between these celestial twins could not be easily broken even when they were angry about each other. Their partly voluntary and partly compelled cooperation has created a new reality for many children. In the end they presented us not only with their “magic bullets,” but also with the example of the entwined “magic powers” of celestial twinship.

The keyword of Pisces is “I believe,” and the most important driving force of their lives is their faith. This hidden “key” to their inner world gives very important insight into the very “core” of these celestial twins. This keyword is reflected in Ehrlich’s and Behring’s unwavering faith in their mission as world saviors. This keyword is also able to “explain” their irrationality and stubbornness as well as their erratic work methods: he who believes does not need to reason his choices, he is led only by his inner truth.

This story not only highlights the correlation between astrological theories and actual people, but it also demonstrates our ability to overcome egoistic pride. Fear and struggle for a place under the Sun have been normal behavior since Cain and Abel, Esau and Jacob. Yet Ehrlich and Behring achieved their success when they went beyond personal pride. When they lived beyond the fear of competition, they were like fish swimming in the same direction. The effect of this victory of the soul over the personality was so enormous that its results are remembered gratefully even a century after its occurrence.

When I originally summed up my three comparative pilot stories of celestial twins, I became convinced beyond any reasonable doubt that there might be a strong similarity between the lives of celestial twins, and, in the case of their meeting, a kind of celestial twinning bond might be observed. In addition, I received the impression that astrological insights into personality might be quite valuable for my further research into the Theta-factor. I concluded that all the synchronicities in the first three cases of celestial twinship went far beyond any reasonable probabilities of “pure coincidences,” and thus I decided to plan further serious research.