

I Contain Beef
Joy C. Perkinson

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the
Requirements of the Application
for
Inclusion in the Discourse
Regarding
Beef-Skin Permeability

4 August 2014

Something happened when I read the transcript of the Perkinson-Sonderhouse Discourse. I felt individual curious neurons activating. As they had lain dormant for decades, they awoke screaming in agony. I fell to the floor in the fetal position and blacked out. When I regained consciousness some hours later, I knew I needed to sate their curiosity by joining your Discourse. This experience prompted my initial request for an application, and I thank the reviewers in advance for their consideration.

Regarding body immersion, my answers depend on the choice of immersed body part. I have discovered through hours of research¹ that absorption rate depends on the body part. Absorption rate is greatest on the scrotum and slowest on the palm of the hand or sole of the foot.

² As of most recent inspection, I am scrotum-free, so the most absorbent part of my body is my forehead. For those not possessing a forehead, the absorption rate proceeds to armpit \geq scalp $>$ back = abdomen $>$ palm = bottom of foot. Absorption quantities are furthermore associated with substance concentration, contact duration, solubility of the substance into human skin and blood, and the state and hairiness of skin. No equation has yet been developed to adequately describe epidermal beef absorption, though I hope to develop this subject if I am accepted to the Discourse.

Of the three substances mentioned in the application, I would be most willing to immerse myself in beef fat. I have familiarized myself with similar substances through decades of bathing. Much soap is made of rendered fat, and experienced soap makers allege that saturated animal fat yields a harder soap than vegetable oil.³ I have been using hard bar soap for months, so I am uniquely situated to withstand submersion in animal fat. Thus, I can confidently rate my willingness to be submerged in beef fat a 5: I would bathe in the fat for nights on end. Beef fat will also absorb the fastest of the three substances listed in the application, because lipids will permeate through skin faster than other substances. The rate-limiting layer of the epidermis is the lipophilic *stratum corneum*³. Thus, bathing in beef fat for nights on end will certainly result in beef fat in my bloodstream.

I would be second-most-willing to immerse myself in cooked, blended beef. Cooking the beef removes most of the potential stench and significantly decreases Squick Factor (SF) of the

¹ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absorption_\(skin\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absorption_(skin))

² Baynes, RE and Hodgson E., "Absorption and Distribution of Toxicants" in Chapter 6 of A Textbook of modern toxicology, 3rd edition. 2004, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

³ <http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Make-Soap-3/step2/Obtain-Clean-Rendered-Fat/>

experience. My willingness for this submersion is 4. However, in this case I would resist immersing the most difficult to clean body parts, as I am less acquainted with beef smoothies than beef fat. Immersing my limbs, abdomen, back, and forehead for a few hours would be manageable. As discussed, absorption would proceed fastest through the forehead in this case, and slowest through the palm or sole of the foot. Absorbed mass would depend on the fat content of the beef. However, some absorption into the bloodstream would certainly occur, given scientific results indicating that nearly all molecules will penetrate the epidermis to some degree during prolonged contact.⁴

I would least willingly immerse a body part into a cow, and would rate my willingness 3. My reluctance is due to the uncertainty regarding which part of the cow I would be immersed in. I would prefer to be immersed in a haunch. However, I could very well be inserted into a cow's stomach or rumen via cannulation⁵, which would reek of cow vomit and may irritate the skin due to low pH or the rumen's attempted microbial fermentation of my body part. I could also be immersed in the guts of the cow, which would smell even worse than the rumen, if the Tauntauns of Hoth or personal experience with gutting fish accurately indicate gut odor. I could furthermore be immersed in the mouth or throat of the cow, giving it opportunity to bite me. Not knowing the insertion point, I would choose to immerse my left arm up to the elbow in the cow. If my arm ended up in the rumen and got partially broken down by bacterial fermentation, then I would still have full use of my dominant arm. If it ended up in the throat of an angry cow, I would unleash consecutive right hooks to the cow's left eye and throat until the cow stopped trying to dismember me, or I could hit it with nearby blunt objects. In any case, I expect that some of the cow would enter my bloodstream, given the results discussed in the previous paragraph and in reference 4.

At this point, I must add a caveat to all three substances: if any of them contained a dangerous transmissible disease, my willingness to immerse myself in it would decrease to 2. I considered rating my willingness just 1, but then I remembered the intense cranial pain to which I was subjected upon reading the original transcript of the Discourse. If I must risk disease to participate in the Discourse, so be it. However, in this case I would choose to immerse the sole of my foot into the substance and withdraw it as quickly as possible, to minimize chance of disease transmission. I would choose foot over hand because foot calluses would minimize absorption. Then I would wash my foot and seek medical help. I might use soap rendered from beef fat to wash up; ah, the irony.

Upon sufficient beef absorption, I would most assuredly be a McDonalds hamburger.

I hope you have found my responses satisfactory and honest. Please contact me if you require additional information. And, please, respond quickly. I fear the neurons will strike again.

Yours truly,
Joy C. Perkinson,
Sempai,
Master of Science,
Dabbling Alchemist.

⁴ Morganti, P., Ruocco, E., Wolf, R., & Ruocco, V. (2001). "Percutaneous absorption and delivery systems." *Clin Dermatol*. **19**: 489-501.

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannulated_cow