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# SCIENCE NEWS

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## Mission to Mars



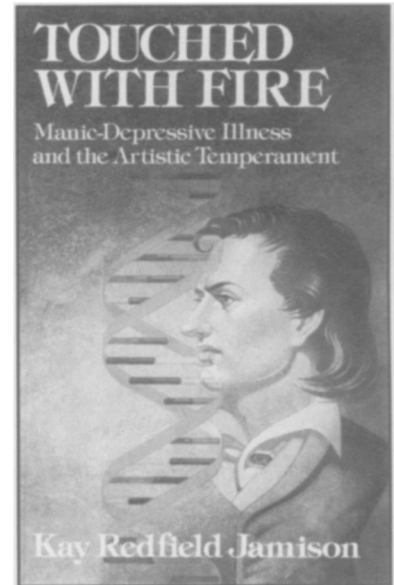
The anguished, volatile intensity we associate with the artistic temperament, often described as "a fine madness," has been thought of as a defining aspect of much artistic genius. Now, Kay Jamison's brilliant work, based on years of studies as a clinical psychologist and prominent researcher in mood disorders, reveals that many artists who were subject to alternately exultant and then melancholic moods were, in fact, engaged in a lifelong struggle with manic-depressive illness.

Manic-depressive illness, a surprisingly common disease, is genetically transmitted. For the first time, the extensive family histories of psychiatric illness and suicide in many writers, artists, and composers are presented. In some instances — for example, Tennyson and Byron — these psychiatric pedigrees are traced back more than 150 years. Jamison discusses the complex ethical and cultural consequences of recent research in genetics, especially as they apply to manic-depressive illness, a disease that almost certainly confers both individual and evolutionary advantages, but often kills and destroys as it does so.

— from *The Free Press*

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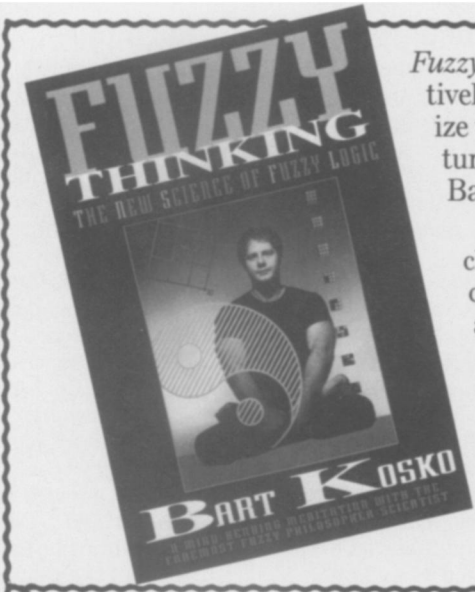
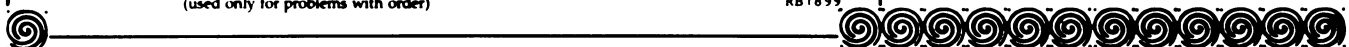
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Fuzzy logic mimics the working of the human brain and is used in machines so they will think more like human beings. Japanese and Korean companies already apply fuzzy technology to the tune of billions of dollars a year in such products as air conditioners that instead of producing an all-or-nothing blast of cold air, constantly adjust to the precise temperature in the room and emit a corresponding degree of cooling air.

Fuzzy logic even applies to ethical questions. For example, when does life begin? At fertilization? When the fetus is six months old? At the time of birth? Fuzzy thinking says that life begins at all of these times — to a certain degree. It is the challenge of juggling apparently conflicting concepts, several seemingly different truths, that makes fuzzy logic so controversial — and so potentially rewarding in all areas of life from the bedroom to the boardroom.

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