

Principles and Practices of Radiesthesia
 Abbe Mermet
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Letter from the Vatican

LETTER FROM THE VATICAN

'I would have written to you much sooner had it not been that I was required to attend an audience of the Sovereign Pontiff for the purpose of explaining to Him personally the nature of the researches to which the members of your Association are dedicated, and to tell His Holiness of your wish to have for the officers of your Association, and for its activities, the Apostolic Blessing. The Holy Father was touched by the sentiments expressed in your letter, and has charged me to communicate to you His Paternal Blessing.

'I should add that the Sovereign Pontiff has kept the last number of the Bulletin of your Association that I brought with me to the audience, so as to be able to examine it at his leisure.'

A letter written in May 1935 by Mgr Eugène Tisserand, Prefect of the Vatican Library, to Monsieur Delattre, Secretary General of the Society, *Amis de la Radiesthésie.*

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3. ERRORS DUE TO THE MENTAL STATE

11. Auto-suggestion - One imagines, *a priori*, or owing to certain information, or because of another dowser's opinion, that there exists a treasure in a certain place. The pendulum will then give the figure of gold which exists only in the operator's imagination. One must remain calm, indifferent, and in a passive mental state, without any preconceived ideas, and submit to reality without trying to distort it. Men endowed with powers of creative imagination, false philosophers, are the most dangerous of all. I often receive maps and plans on which a local dowser, and sometimes a well-known one, has written: 'Here, at the foot of the old tower, there is a treasure at a depth of 10 metres. I feel the presence of gold, diamonds, etc.' But, actually, there is nothing at all. Or, sometimes, the magnetic image of an old gilt snuff-box kept under a glass case. The art of dowsing consists in finding what actually exists, and above all in not finding what does not exist.

4. ERRORS DUE TO BODIES OR THEIR RADIESTHETIC FIELDS

12. Identical Bodies - If you are searching, for example, for a lost knife, the mental ray may well lead you to an old saucepan, which is normal for it gives off the same radiations. This your assistants will find quite amusing.

13. Identical Figures - Several bodies have the same numerical figure, for example, water and copper. One must avoid confounding them. The operator should not work only from his room; on location, he should ascertain if there are similar bodies, which may be a cause of error.

14. A body unknown to the operator may have the same figure as that of the body searched for. He should be on the look out particularly for natural gas, marsh gas and other hydrocarbons, which may cause many errors.

¹ The operator is referred to what we have said in this connection about the fundamental ray and the spirals. If the figures of certain bodies are sometimes identical, they differ nearly always by their fundamental ray and spirals. Furthermore, one can always resort to the 'witness' method.

15. When searching for missing persons, the operator must bear in mind that some people have the same individual numerical figure. In order to distinguish them, the operator must find out discreetly the radiations of their clothes which are hardly likely to be identical. Or else, he must discern them from a general impression, impossible to describe, and characteristic of the individual, which is felt in studying the individual's radiations.

16. In the case of a child who has been missing for two years for example, his personal numerical figure may be higher than it was originally.

17. Strange as it may seem one may easily make a mistake by counting the number of oscillations. When the pendulum changes its movements at the end of a series, its impetus leads it on and it draws a number of ellipses which one does not know whether to attribute to oscillations or to rotations. One hesitates between 6 and 7, between 11 and 12, etc. Then one must wait before counting until the oscillations are well formed, and several series must be counted, and an average taken. Preferably, the second or third series should be taken.

18. One is apt to forget that the fundamental ray of gold is not always directed towards the west.

19. The principal causes of these errors are magnetic images. The radiesthetic image misleads one about the real position of a given body.

20. The images of the cross of gold, when they are displayed, are also misleading. One must wait until they form a vertical column.

21. The lines of force parallel to streams of water or to veins of metal, especially the great parallel, often lead one to think that the real body is situated below them.

22. In estimating depth, layers of clay or marl, which scarcely affect the pendulum, remain unobserved. Yet their thickness must be added to the apparent depth.

23. Certain atmospheric conditions, such as stormy weather, certain hours of the day, are unfavourable. The magnetic equi-

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PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF RADIESTHESIA

Your ability to find water and to make a distant diagnosis is really astonishing.

May I ask you, just to confound the critics, to indicate on the enclosed document how many scars I have, and also where, and how many teeth?

(Signed) R. Chauvet, *Engineer, Morges (Switzerland)*.
19th February 1932.

I want to thank you and congratulate you most warmly. The indications you gave are absolutely correct. I have three scars which you indicated exactly. And as for teeth, I have lost three on each side as stated.

Again thanking you, etc.

R.C.

3. A CASE OF DIAGNOSIS BY MEANS OF SIGNATURE

A friendly mayor, M Veron, of La Combe, had got in touch with me about finding some water for his locality of Saint-Didier-en-Velay. But after a short time our correspondence suddenly came to an end. Why did he stop writing to me? Had the idea been given up? At last, an explanation came. He had been laid up. Wishing to make sure that it was not a diplomatic excuse, I wrote to the mayor telling him that he should look after himself for, judging by his signature, he had been suffering from an affection which I clearly indicated to him and from which he had not yet recovered. I also advised him to mention certain details to the doctor who was treating him. Incidentally, this doctor happened to be very sceptical about anything connected with Radiesthesia, and particularly pendular diagnosis.

When the doctor came to see him again, the mayor showed him my letter which he read with some indignation. 'You have no confidence in me, then', he said, 'since you have decided to consult a dowsing quack.' The mayor protested that he had not consulted me but only told me that he had not been feeling too well and therefore had not been able to write as

TELEDIAGNOSIS

usual, adding that the last letter he had sent me had been typed and all I had from his own hand was his signature.

A few days later, the doctor himself paid me a visit at Jussy and admitted having been dumbfounded by the case of the mayor at Saint-Didier. He asked me if I would be willing to carry out an experiment in his presence. He wanted to know what I thought about the state of health of a young man whose photograph he showed me and who was closely connected with his family.

I made an examination on the photograph of the whole body of the young man in question, pointing out the weak spots, and when it was over (after about two minutes) the doctor said frankly: 'I would not have believed it possible but I do now for I can't ignore facts. Everything you have told me is absolutely correct. You have even pointed out two things to which I had not paid much attention, but which I know to be perfectly true.'

A few days later, his sister-in-law called on me with a letter from him asking me to make a pendular diagnosis in the hope of detecting the cause of a complaint which ordinary methods of diagnosis had failed to trace. This was duly done.

I have in my possession a large file of testimonials from doctors admitting the accuracy of my diagnosis in cases they had sent me for examination.

4. CASES OF DISTANT DIAGNOSIS
WITHOUT ANY MATERIAL CONTACT

Stockholm. One day, in November 1934, a humorous colleague, Abbé Stuckelberger, came to see me and asked me if I had any news about his niece. (I learnt later that he wanted to put me to the test.) I enquired if he had a photograph, a letter or anything that his niece had worn or touched. He said he had not. I then informed him I could not tell him anything as I was not a clairvoyant. 'Ah,' he replied, 'but according to you, distance is of no account in radiesthetic detection, and also you have a physical thing you can use as a starting point -

Notes
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of light
and
- the
Dr H.
of
other
indications.
He
made
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glob.
these

my brain. Try and get into contact with my niece through my brain!

I was taken aback by this strange request but I asked him to close his eyes and concentrate his attention on his niece.

A minute later I told him that his niece was at a distance of about 1,600 kilometres to the North of Geneva, and was sitting, at that moment, and that she was suffering from heart trouble.

All these details proved to be correct. The niece was in Stockholm (which is about 1,600 kilometres from Geneva); she was suffering from heart trouble, and at the time, 3.30 p.m., she was sitting and knitting.

Poitiers, Nantes. A journalist in Poitiers, to whom I told the above story, asked me if I could tell him where his father was and what he was doing at that moment. I informed him that his father was at a distance of about 320 metres from where we were, in a direction I indicated with my hand, and that he was lying down with his head pointing to the East, suffering from rheumatism.

The journalist admitted in the presence of three local councillors that all these details were absolutely correct.

In the same way as in the case of my colleague's niece, I asked the journalist to concentrate his attention on his father.

Another journalist had a similar experience a few days later when he came to see me.

Needless to say that these two sceptics were thoroughly convinced.

Jusy. One day, one of my parishioners called on me in a state of great distress. She wanted me to tell her where her husband was and whether he was well or not. He had been away three days working in his own part of the country and his return was overdue. As he was not in the best of health his wife feared that something serious had happened to him. I asked her to concentrate hard on her husband. I was able to reassure her at once and tell her that her husband was at Balaison, working

near a house, and that there was no reason to worry about his health. The same evening, this woman came back smiling and told me her husband had just returned home, and that at the time she was visiting me he was actually working in his garden near the house.

What is the explanation? As the science of psychology is still in its infancy, one can only put forward certain hypotheses. But it would seem that one is not far from the truth in accepting the following hypotheses.

Thought is indeed an act of pure intelligence; but the brain is the 'instrumental condition' of thought, and thought cannot be elaborated unless the cerebral cells enter into a state of vibration. Now it is precisely the waves emitted by these vibrations that the pendulum detects, and that it follows, so to speak, to the end of the thread - that is to say, to the end of the wave. Just as it is possible to detect at a distance a mass of gold, coal, or a water stream, together with the particular conditions accompanying them, because the waves emanating from them establish a contact between the material mass and the brain, so, it would seem, a living being (as well as an inanimate object) reveals himself to the investigator's brain through the waves emitted by his organism, and quite irrespective of distance.

In Geneva we can hear an orchestra playing in Paris, just as well as if it were playing in front of us.

Thus the process of 'thought-reading', which has long been regarded as a dangerous and mysterious occult phenomenon, is nothing but a physical and natural function of the human brain when it manifests itself under the conditions we have indicated.

On a certain occasion, I asked a colleague of mine to think of one of five things which I mentioned to him (I said five to facilitate the work). They were: gold, silver, coal, copper and potatoes.

Holding my pendulum over his head to pick up the cerebral wave needed in this experiment, I was able to tell him that