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HOME EXPERIENCES IN SPIRITUALISM

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Prispevki k odkrivanju zgodovine ezoteričnih tradicij - v izvorniku

I believe that Spiritualism will prove to be the great harmonising religion of the future, and that we are but at the beginning of its onward march. I therefore hold it to be a duty on the part of every Spiritualist to give mankind the results of home studies and personal experiences.

In Austria and Hungary, Spiritualism is almost unknown; still we have a spiritual society, under the presidency of Mr. Constantin Delhy, at Vienna, and under that of Dr. Grünhut, at Pesth; but I will begin by narrating to you how the phenomena first appeared in my home. From childhood I was taught to regard mesmerism as something most injurious to health. I remember when I was a child, in the years 1851/52, when there was much talk about "table turning," my sister and I tried the thing, and our small children's table was soon galloping under our hands. The grown-up ones thought we were only playing, but they soon discovered that then heavy table also moved, when I put my hands upon it. My dear mother soon forbade all table-turning, saying it was the "devil," and this belief I faithfully maintained until I married, a step in life which occurred when I was very young and childish.

I suffered much the first year after my marriage from painful cramps. In 1865, we met a mesmerist at Pesth, who told me, after looking at my forehead, that I was certainly a clairvoyance and a writing medium, a remark which filled me with suspicious fears. I did not understand the meaning of his words, but he stated that automatic writing would surely relieve me of my cramp. I, however, dismissed this idea altogether, knowing, as I told him, that mesmerism was of the devil.

On another occasion, when suffering from awful cramp, I felt so desperate, that I begged my husband to give me a lead pencil, saying, "Now it's all the same to me, whether it's the devil or no, if only it will help me." I took pencil and paper, and to my great astonishment and terror, I felt my arm violently shaken, and saw broad letters written without having any idea what the words were. An old friend manifested, and gave us prophecies, which were soon afterwards fulfilled. This spirit also begged me to let him write, saying that it would heal all my cramps, which in the course of time proved to be true. My husband and myself were strongly moved. I could not sleep the whole night. Next morning I prayed fervently to God to take this power from me, if bad, or to guide me in the right use of it, if good, I saw

that there was a power acting independently of my thoughts, as it wrote mechanically upon subjects I was not thinking about.

I continued the writing. Several spirits wrote most fluently; some told us astounding truths; other lied. I gave several tests, and answered sealed letters. The tests, when they came spontaneously, were perfect; when they were asked for and forced, they failed totally, though I concentrated my willpower upon the writing; so I saw that there was a leading will beyond mine. My leading spirits announced themselves as Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Buddha; they told us to heal through mesmerism and homoeopathy, and from the year 1865 till this day, they have led us in a path of instruction, love, and godly wisdom. My husband soon became a medium through my mesmerising him, but only for drawing; he never could write a single word. Through his mediumship we obtained, during these years, many most curious drawings, of good and high spirits, with long luminous hair, which was said to be their "fluid;" often they had crowns or turbans of light upon their heads: then came pictures of bad or low spirits, with all kinds of ugly horns, often like tails. My husband had, whilst drawing the likeness of a good spirit, an agreeable odic feeling; but whilst drawing low ones, he often had a spasm in the throat. He made, through Humboldt's spirit, drawings of animals from the planet Mercury, and of plants and trees from Venus. While my mediumship was fast developing, we heard through a physician of the spirit-circle of Delhy at Vienna, and we obtained Kardec's books and the *Revue Spirits* to read. We were most astonished and rejoiced to find that they contained nothing new, but only the confirmation of all that we ourselves knew and had experienced.

Several spirits, especially dear Buddha, had told us about reincarnation; others, lower ones, had denied it. Many held it as a truth, and now we found this doctrine freely expressed in Kardec's books. For my part, I had a hard antipathy, a dislike to the idea of re-incarnation; I would not hear of it; now I see in this doctrine the great way of progress and God's love.

Buddha and Mary helped us to heal many hundreds of sick people who came to us. We healed many of what our leading spirits called "spirit obsession." In our book, *Studien in der Geisterwelt*, we mention a few of the most curious cures. Through the conversion of the bad spirit whose influence once made sick, many patients were cured of epilepsy, madness, and convulsions of all sorts. In the same book, we publish some most curious revelations by different spirits, which were all written through my hand with great rapidity, without my knowing what I wrote. Handwritings have been often thus given of departed ones, so as to be recognised as identical with that which they wrote when on earth. Healing often came spontaneously.

In the second year of my mediumship, I began to see visions in a glass of water, and upon window-panes, quite unexpectedly. The looking into the water-glass was now our chief amusement, to me quite delicious and highly interesting; I not only saw numbers of spirits of all kinds in it, but also incidents which afterwards actually took place, as beautiful allegorical pictures, were explained to us by spirit writing. In this way I saw in my water glass, before they occurred, many occurrences in political, social, and family life. We often got warnings of the most useful kind.

The first book we published, *Betrachtungen fur Alle*, is a simple prayer-book, written by several spirits. Re-incarnation was always maintained; we got many proofs of its truth. I will here only mention three proofs. We cured a peasant of epilepsy; the bad spirit, through whose influence he fell into convulsions, was converted, and begged to be re-incarnated in the body of this man's wife; the higher spirits said,

“God would allow it as an atonement for her former sins.” So I told the good peasant, “You will have a girl child, whose godmother I shall be.” The man, highly astonished and somewhat shocked, said, “Dear lady, how should we get a child? I am a grandfather; my wife, who is old, has had no child for twelve years?” After a lapse of ten months I was asked to come to the peasant’s cottage, as his wife had got a girl, whose godmother I had promised to be; so the spirit had kept her word. The child died in its fifth month, and manifested itself then, as a most happy spirit, who had been justified through incarnation and earthly death. Some friends of ours lost their boy, a child they ardently loved; his spirit manifested itself to me, and said, that he had come out of impatience too soon upon earth; his mission would only begin in two years; that then he again would be re-incarnated as a boy by the same parents. All was fulfilled, though the mother was very sick; she got the boy back, after the lapse of two years.

I had from my childhood the feeling that a guillotine had cut off my head. I often mentioned this to my dear governess, and my conviction was, that I should be guillotined in a great revolution. A deep love for unhappy Marie Antoinette, a keen interest in the French Revolution, was noticeable in me. You can well imagine my astonishment, when, on becoming a medium, Buddha told me that I had been one of the victims of the French Revolution, Princess L ----- . It seems quite incomprehensible. And thus was explained the mystery of feeling the guillotine on my neck. Once I went to see a trustworthy somnambulist; his first words were, while I was not at all at that moment thinking of my guillotine,— “Do you remember when you were Princess L ----- . Your head was cut off? Then you came back to this sad earth out of love.” Two years later I met a Jewish *blind* seeress, who described most distinctly, though materially blind, all people and spirits who were about her. As I approached her she stammered — “I see a cut off head near your head, and hear the name L ----- . Here she spelled out the same name which Buddha and the first *somnambule* had given me; the remark made an awful and disagreeable impression upon me. I have a dread of Paris, which town I never wish to see.

So, the fact that re-incarnation takes place as a means of progress, purification, and atonement, presents itself as proved to us. So, too, the fact, that under certain laws, bad spirits have a sickening power, and good ones a healing power, over mankind.

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* The following books have been written through the mediumship of Baroness Vay: - *Betrachtungen fur Alle* (Meditations for All) *von Adelma*, and *Geist Kraft Stoff* (Materials for Spirit Power) *von Vay*; both books published by Rudolf Lechner, Karnthen Strasse, Vienna. A third book with a few engravings of the medial drawings of Baron Vay, is coming out at Leipsic, entitled *Studien in der Geisterwelt*; or, *Studies of Spirit Life*, Oswald Mutze. — Ed.