

# Clairvoyance

T036 The Inner Teachings 3rd February 1937 Pembroke Hall, London

## Invocation:

Great White Spirit of the open sky, of the mountaintops and the winding valleys, Great Spirit of love, who hast given to Thy children abundance, teach us to receive Thy healing power, Thy food which nourishes all the vehicles of man\*. May the spirit of the eternal wisdom bless each waiting heart. May these Thy children be caught up in the power and the glory of the spiritual vision, and may they learn to distinguish the things which are real from the unreal. Strengthen each soul, O Father God\*, in this meeting. And we lay upon the altar of Thy service—ourselves. May we be worthy channels.

Amen.

*[\*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction. In this prayer, White Eagle refers to the masculine aspect of God without denying the feminine.]*

Brethren, there is need to distinguish between the spiritual or that which is eternal, and that which is unreal, terrestrial. The average human is unconscious of the spirit worlds outside—or more correctly ‘within’—physical life. There is a heavy curtain obscuring the vision of man, so that, unable to register the spiritual, he is only conscious of those things which he can contact through his physical senses.

Tonight we talk about the gift or the sense of clairvoyance. We in this meeting recognise that we are in prison in the physical body, but also we realise that there are states of life of rarer character within the physical, which may be penetrated. Clairvoyance is a word loosely used; any impression which the etheric body registers is called clairvoyance. We will endeavour to enlarge your understanding of clairvoyance by explaining simply what happens.

There are some today who have in the past partially developed certain centres in the etheric body, and are able, in the present day of life, to use certain powers. In the present life they must recharge or quicken again those centres of psychic force. Long ago the neophyte had to pass through great tests before he was initiated into the mysteries of the worlds within himself—tests within, tests on the astral plane, before the Master revealed to him these mysteries of eternal life. Many years elapsed whilst the neophyte was learning to penetrate the mystery of his own being. Today, you, in common with a number of others, are dimly conscious of the spirit world. Within yourself certain powers stir, but this stirring is rather nebulous. The mind takes a very great place in your life. If that which you call ‘reason’ interferes with spiritual illumination, if the highest within you is waiting to reveal the finer plane of life, and if the brain and the mind of earth holds you down like the ballast in a balloon, that of course has its use. But if you want your balloon to soar through the skies, you must throw out some ballast, and when you would descend you must release some of the surplus gas.

In our sevenfold being there is a vehicle or body which I will call the etheric. Interpenetrating the physical body is the etheric, consisting of two parts. This etheric body is connected to the nervous system. At death the etheric body is withdrawn and its lower part, being of the earth, earthy, soon disintegrates. This important part forms the bridge between the finer worlds and

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the physical. Within this dense etheric body is also a finer etheric, which I will call the body of light, or the vital body. This vital body again interpenetrates the lower etheric, and also interpenetrates the higher vehicles, the mental body, the intuitional body and the celestial body. So we get a connecting link, a thread of light descending from the Christ sphere or plane of divine life, down through the various bodies into the etheric, the latter being the bridge which connects all to the physical sense or brain of man. We find connection between the etheric body and certain centres in the physical body. Those of you who are students of medicine will recognise these centres as focal points of the main lifestream in the physical body, which is centred in the brain and spinal cord. These centres again are connected with the different spheres or planes of spiritual life.

When I talk of ordinary clairvoyance, I am referring to that vision which is most commonly known to man and is also found in animals. There is really much misunderstanding about clairvoyance. The dense etheric body may in some people be loosely attached, may loosely penetrate the physical body, and is easily driven out, or at slight encouragement will slip out of the physical body. The etheric plane lies close to the physical, and to many spirit people it appears almost as dense and heavy as physical substance itself. This lower etheric reflects pictures, and those who from birth (not all, but some) one would describe as 'involuntary clairvoyants' reflect or register these forms or pictures as do the animals—sometimes. In the past this vision was part of man, in use before he came into such close and 'tight' contact with his physical body.

The average person is very 'tight'. The etheric body goes in with a click, is sealed in, and they are conscious of nothing. Others again have a loose etheric body, sometimes more out of the physical than in, and troubles result such as obsession and uncontrolled clairvoyance. There is a vast difference between this clairvoyance on the low etheric plane and another type which is the result of training and correct use of the centres in the etheric body. I will describe the difference in this way.

Stand by the side of a very still lake, and look at the water and see the reflection of the trees and the sky. How beautiful it is! But should that lake become ruffled, your reflection will be shattered. Take your eyes off the reflection in the water, however, and direct your vision to the true landscape—the trees and the skies as they are, and you will see something which is steady, clear and to your sense *real*. This is the difference between involuntary clairvoyance, a registration of the lower etheric body, usually uncontrolled and undeveloped, and the intelligent or the trained clairvoyance which receives light or impetus from the plane of divine spirit.

There are certain drugs which loosen the etheric and send it out of the physical body. An intoxicating spirit will do the same, driving the etheric sometimes to a very unhappy plane. When the poor patient suffers from delirium tremens, actually the etheric body is out, and registers all the sights and conditions of this low etheric plane. An anaesthetic will also drive out the etheric body, in which case sometimes it is active, but often just supine and does not convey anything to the memory.

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Many of you have awakened the psychic centres in a past incarnation; when you are reborn, these centres throw out light which interpenetrates or loosens the texture of the etheric body, and this will cause what is described as a natural medium or a natural clairvoyant. The natural clairvoyant therefore is one born with the knowledge of how to use intelligently these centres of the body for great work.

I hope that you will not all start trying to develop these centres—you need more knowledge, far more than I am giving you now. The centres commence to radiate when the will is directing them towards intelligent activity. Usually the centre which first becomes aware of things outside the physical is that situated at the solar plexus. Some say ‘I cannot see or hear, but I *sense*’. If we try to analyse how we ‘sense’ we do not know. Carefully examine the experience and you will discover that it is in the solar plexus that you get that feeling, and so you sense, you feel.

The next is the brow centre, called incorrectly the pituitary gland. Tonight we will refer to it as the brow chakra. This can radiate in orderly fashion under the direction of the will and intelligence, and will cause the medium to become aware of the spiritual spheres of life. True clairvoyance is not that vision which suggests that you see something with your physical eye. No. Clairvoyance is within. You may appear to be looking at an object, but actually you are looking deeply within this flower-like centre. You will say ‘Yes, but that is only imagination’. When you use that word remember White Eagle’s words, and cast out more ballast. Imagination is a term loosely used. Imagination is the door to spiritual vision. Therefore you may see clairvoyantly with your eyes closed—in fact, you will see better so. Do not imagine that the brow or the solar plexus are the only centres, for when you reach the intuitional or buddhic\* plane, you see not with the brow only, but with other centres. The heart centre commences to radiate, and you become ‘aware’ of truth. When you get to this plane, you register or reflect the spiritual worlds truly. Actually at this stage the whole body (not the physical only, but the higher bodies) is registering, and you see from any part. Indeed, the whole being sees.

*[\*Buddhic is a Sanskrit term meaning ‘enlighten’. The buddhic plane is sometimes defined as the realm of intuition.]*

Q.Is a ghost actually the etheric body?

A.Yes, not a real spirit, but simply a phantom. Your earth world is a world of illusion; so is the etheric world.

Q.Is not involuntary clairvoyance rather a dangerous thing?

A.Involuntary clairvoyance can be very dangerous; many mistakes are made.

Q.Is there not a method by which anybody can see truly?

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A. Most certainly, but it is a long process of self-purification, and many people are not ready to make the sacrifice.

Q. That means that they are using clairvoyance for material reasons?

A. Possibly, but often the motive is good. People in some cases desire to help their friends, but it is dangerous. First should come development of character, purity of thought and life, humility of spirit and a great love for God and man. Trained clairvoyance means that the clairvoyant thinks not of himself, but of rendering the highest and truest service to the evolution of mankind. Meditation, contemplation of God-like qualities, love, tolerance, kindness—all these qualities will help to prepare the ground.

Q. Does one retain the same etheric body through many incarnations?

A. No. However, there is what I will describe as the seed atom of the astral body, which is used again in the creation of the fresh body. Thus there will be this faint memory in the new body, of past experience.

Q. You mentioned the pituitary gland. Is not that a very important receiving centre?

A. That is only a connecting link with this etheric body and the centre referred to. The pituitary gland is a very sensitive receiving station in so far as it is a very sensitive nervous centre, but I do not want to give the impression that it is the true receiver of spiritual vision.

## Benediction:

Thou who art the eternal life and love and wisdom, the Father of all living things, we pray that we may live to Thy honour and glory, to serve our brother man more truly and more lovingly every day, and so may Thy peace bless each life here.

Amen.

*The search matches with either words and phrases, which appear in the text, or the following 'key' words and phrases, which are similar in meaning to those in the document:*

*Inspiration, mediumship*