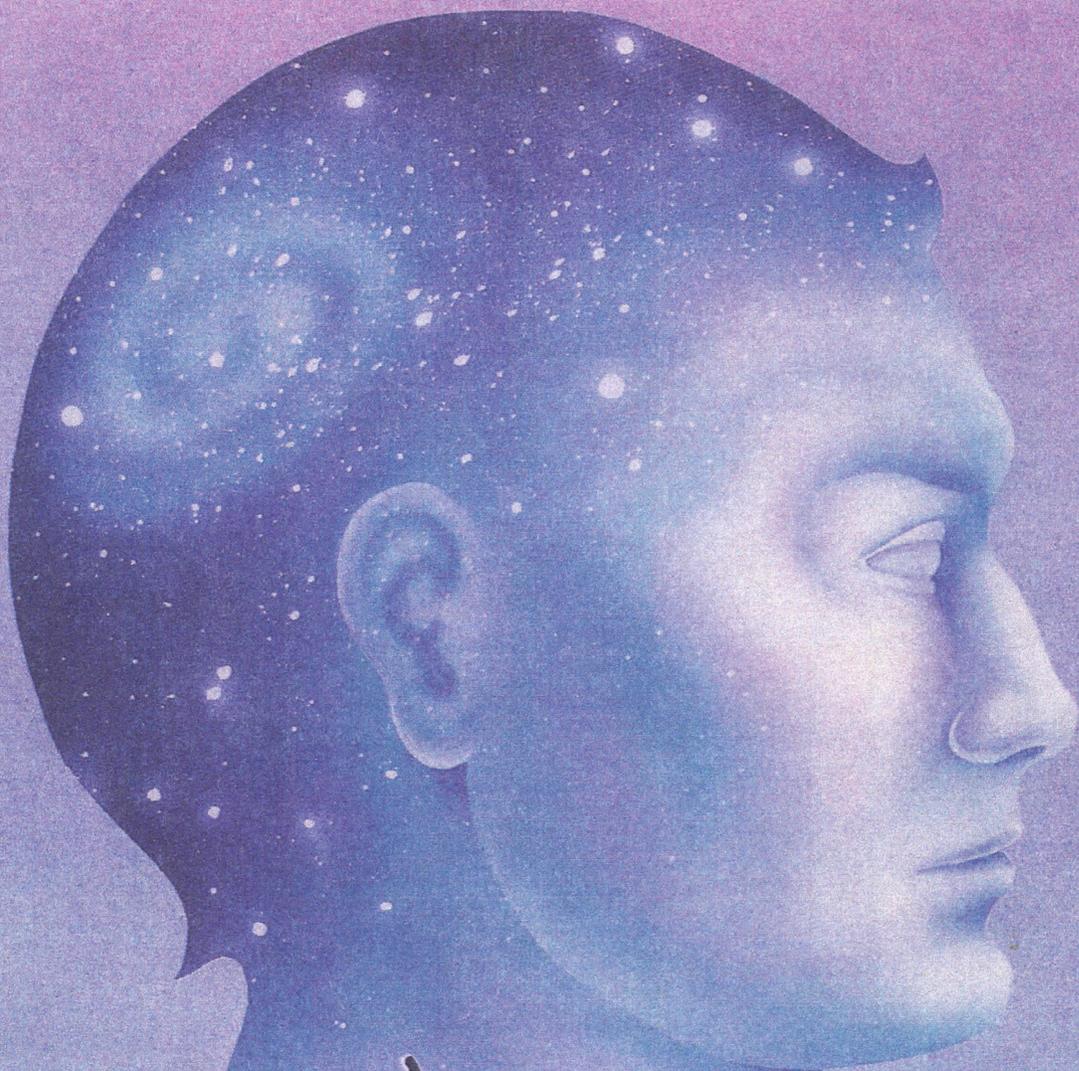


AN INTRODUCTION TO

# Psychic



# Studies

HAL N. BANKS, S.T.D.

— A Maverick Publication —

An introduction to

**PSYCHIC STUDIES**  
Its Theological, Historical and  
Philosophical Implications

A course designed for independent study as well as classroom use.

*by*

*HAL N. BANKS, S.T.D.*

— Revised Edition —

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## IN DEDICATION

*This book is dedicated to Phyllis Eileen Davis-Banks, an unflaggingly loyal, unselfish and devoted wife, a skilled editor and affectionately prudent critic. Without her inspiration and support, it would have remained in the dream stage.*

## PREFACE

You are about to embark upon an exciting and most exhilarating adventure, a course of study that could change your thinking and perhaps even your life. In a very real way, it is like standing on the threshold of tomorrow about to enter a world beyond the five physical senses; a new world of the mind. And what an astonishing and fascinating world it is. Many of my students in university teaching look upon the work as pleasant; they speak of it as a fun course. They take it with eyes open, minds alert and ready to be exercised, and without rigidity of attitude. With few exceptions these students complete the course with a buoyant spirit and a zest to move beyond the tip of the iceberg to further study and research. I hope this will also be your experience.

This is a *SURVEY COURSE* and will be taught from the perspective of parapsychology's history, theological and philosophical background. It is a qualitative and not a quantitative study, so we will *NOT* be looking at parapsychology as an experimental science. For the past forty years, the subject has been dominated by the experimental or laboratory approach so it is especially important that we concentrate on gaining theological, historical and philosophical insights.

While we are handling the fundamentals, an overview of the discipline's history, you will find a strong emphasis on the literature of the psychic. In a sense the course is bibliographic; an introduction to its great books that, unfortunately, so few people are familiar with. A thorough immersion in the contents of this book will bring you to a point of departure where you'll be able to find your own personal path leading to further exploration or research in this many-faceted field.

One intent of this study is to help lift our sight from the crassness of the material world to new levels of spiritual understanding; to grasp the fact of personal survival which gives rich meaning to life, its purpose and content; and to nourish a theology of hope that makes the future bright with abundant promise.

Interwoven throughout the subject matter you will note a thankful acknowledgement to the God who created us, and recognition of his intimate involvement in all paranormal experience. He is the source of the gifts that are creatively ours. My approach to psychic studies is avowedly spiritual. However, banish any fear of an effusively sentimental jargon-saturated evangelism. I sincerely believe that God, or however you would categorize the Author of Creation, has spoken and we are the recipients of his all-embracing love. He manifests in all that we call psychic.

*Hal N. Banks*  
*Anchorage, Alaska*  
*January 1, 1980*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

ii

Preface

|                    |  |    |
|--------------------|--|----|
| <i>CHAPTER I</i>   | A DEFINITION OF THE TERM "PSYCHIC" .....                   | 1  |
|                    | a. Recommended First Steps                                 |    |
|                    | b. Bibliographies are important                            |    |
|                    | c. Glossaries are also invaluable                          |    |
|                    | d. Bibliography  |    |
|                    | e. Books in which Glossaries are found                     |    |
| <i>CHAPTER II</i>  | PARAPSYCHOLOGY: ONE OF ITS TWO DIVISIONS, ESP .....        | 4  |
|                    | a. What is Telepathy?                                      |    |
|                    | b. What is Clairvoyance?                                   |    |
|                    | c. Clairvoyance can be divided into four main subdivisions |    |
|                    | d. What is Clairaudience?                                  |    |
|                    | e. What is Clairsentience?                                 |    |
|                    | f. What is Psychometry?                                    |    |
|                    | g. What is Precognition?                                   |    |
|                    | h. The difference between Precognition and Premonitions    |    |
|                    | i. The Central Premonitions Registry                       |    |
|                    | j. What is Retrocognition?                                 |    |
| <i>CHAPTER III</i> | PARAPSYCHOLOGY: ITS OTHER DIVISION, PSYCHOKINESIS ...      | 9  |
|                    | a. Psychic Healing   |    |
|                    | b. What is Levitation?                                     |    |
|                    | c. Poltergeists  |    |
| <i>CHAPTER IV</i>  | THE ROLE OF SKEPTICISM.....                                | 13 |
|                    | a. Dangers associated with Parapsychology                  |    |
|                    | b. Don't endanger your Spiritual Life                      |    |
|                    | c. Danger signs  |    |
| <i>CHAPTER V</i>   | THE CRITICS OF THE PSYCHIC .....                           | 18 |
|                    | a. The wariness of Science                                 |    |
|                    | b. The attitude of the Church                              |    |
|                    | c. Caution   |    |
|                    | d. Anything that is new is usually opposed                 |    |

|                     |  |    |
|---------------------|--|----|
| <i>CHAPTER VI</i>   | THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SPIRITUALISM .....  | 23 |
|                     | a. The Declaration of Principles   |    |
|                     | b. What Spiritualism is and does   |    |
|                     | c. An interesting note   |    |
| <i>CHAPTER VII</i>  | PARAPSYCHOLOGY THROUGH THE AGES .....  | 27 |
|                     | a. The birth of modern Spiritualism  |    |
|                     | b. The Ghost Society   |    |
|                     | c. The London Dialectical Society  |    |
|                     | d. The Psychological Society of Great Britain  |    |
|                     | e. The British Society for Psychical Research  |    |
|                     | f. The American Society for Psychical Research   |    |
|                     | g. A New Era begins  |    |
|                     | h. Names to be remembered in retrospect  |    |
|                     | i. Other prominent persons who were interested in, or in some way<br>involved in psychic matters |    |
| <i>CHAPTER VIII</i> | THE BEST IS YET TO BE .....  | 35 |
|                     | a. Natural Law does not preclude the fact of free will   |    |
| <i>CHAPTER IX</i>   | THE TWO BODIES OF MAN .....  | 39 |
|                     | a. The Silver Cord   |    |
|                     | b. Out-of-Body experiences   |    |
|                     | c. Near death experiences  |    |
| <i>CHAPTER X</i>    | WHAT ARE APPARITIONS? .....  | 45 |
|                     | a. Deathbed apparitions  |    |
|                     | b. Hauntings   |    |
|                     | c. Two classic illustrations of apparitions  |    |
|                     | d. What is an aura?  |    |
| <i>CHAPTER XI</i>   | THE NEW ENVIRONMENT .....  | 54 |
|                     | a. The next dimension, or plane, is similar to our earth environment                             |    |
|                     | b. We reap what we sow   |    |
|                     | c. Like attracts like  |    |
|                     | d. We are not changed in the "twinkling of an eye"   |    |
| <i>CHAPTER XII</i>  | OUR LIFE ON THE OTHER SIDE IS ONE OF<br>DEVELOPMENT, PROGRESS, GROWTH .....                      | 62 |
|                     | a. Where is the next dimension?  |    |
|                     | b. Mind — the controlling factor   |    |
|                     | c. What is it that survives bodily death?  |    |
|                     | d. The Spirit world is solid   |    |

|                      |  |     |
|----------------------|--|-----|
| <i>CHAPTER XIII</i>  | OUR WELCOME TO THE OTHER SIDE .....                        | 68  |
|                      | a. The prime of life                                       |     |
|                      | b. Thoughts are things                                     |     |
|                      | c. Sudden or violent death                                 |     |
|                      | d. What about suicide?                                     |     |
|                      | e. We recall the past when we arrive in the Spirit world   |     |
|                      | f. Is there a Last Judgment?                               |     |
| <i>CHAPTER XIV</i>   | WHAT ABOUT HELL? .....                                     | 74  |
|                      | a. Earthbound spirits                                      |     |
|                      | b. Rescue operations                                       |     |
| <i>CHAPTER XV</i>    | WHAT IS A MEDIUM? .....                                    | 78  |
|                      | a. Mediumship in History                                   |     |
|                      | b. There are two broad classes of mediumship               |     |
|                      | c. Mental Mediumship                                       |     |
|                      | d. Physical mediumship                                     |     |
|                      | e. The characteristics of a Medium                         |     |
|                      | f. Why communicate with the Spirit world?                  |     |
| <i>CHAPTER XVI</i>   | TRANCE .....   | 84  |
|                      | a. The control   |     |
|                      | b. What is the difference between a guide and a control?   |     |
|                      | c. What is direct voice mediumship?                        |     |
|                      | d. Voices on tape  |     |
| <i>CHAPTER XVII</i>  | THE PHENOMENON OF MATERIALIZATION .....                    | 91  |
|                      | a. Ectoplasm   |     |
|                      | b. What is an Apport?                                      |     |
|                      | c. Psychic photography                                     |     |
|                      | d. Thoughtography  |     |
| <i>CHAPTER XVIII</i> | WHAT IS AUTOMATIC WRITING? .....                           | 96  |
|                      | a. What is a Ouija Board?                                  |     |
|                      | b. What are Cross-Correspondences?                         |     |
|                      | c. Why all the trivia in communications?                   |     |
| <i>CHAPTER XIX</i>   | WHAT ARE BOOK AND NEWSPAPER TESTS? .....                   | 102 |
|                      | a. The difficulties in communicating                       |     |
|                      | b. Suggestions on how to sit with a Medium                 |     |
|                      | c. Not all persons should visit a Medium                   |     |
|                      | d. A sampling of the great Mediums of the past and present |     |
|                      | e. A personal testimony                                    |     |

|                      |  |     |
|----------------------|--|-----|
| <i>CHAPTER XX</i>    | POSSESSION .....   | 109 |
|                      | a. Exorcism  |     |
| <i>CHAPTER XXI</i>   | REINCARNATION .....  | 113 |
|                      | a. The cons of Reincarnation   |     |
|                      | b. The Doctrine of Karma   |     |
|                      | c. What is Deja Vu?  |     |
| <i>CHAPTER XXII</i>  | DREAMS .....   | 120 |
|                      | a. The interpretation of dreams  |     |
| <i>CHAPTER XXIII</i> | EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OFFERING WORK IN<br>PARAPSYCHOLOGY .....            | 123 |
|                      | a. Selected organizations devoted to research                                |     |
|                      | b. Other organizations devoted to parapsychological or Psychic con-<br>cerns |     |
|                      | c. Publications  |     |
|                      | d. Libraries   |     |
|                      | e. Where to order your books   |     |
|                      | f. Bibliography  |     |

*“To upset the conclusion that all crows are black, there is no need to seek demonstration that no crow is black; it is sufficient to produce one white crow; a single one is sufficient.”*

— William James

## CHAPTER I

### I. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM “PSYCHIC?”

A. *PSYCHIC* comes from the Greek *psyche* and means “soul.” When I use this term I am talking about matters having to do with the mind or the mental process. The word refers to nonphysical.

1. When *PSYCHIC* is used in this book it refers to nonphysical phenomena that are extrasensory in nature.

a. *PSYCHIC* is also used as an umbrella term and includes a whole range of phenomena associated with human behavior; behavior that cannot be explained by what we currently know scientifically.

### II. DO *PSYCHIC* AND *PARAPSYCHOLOGY* HAVE THE SAME MEANING?

A. *Parapsychology*, in a restricted sense, is defined as the scientific, statistical, the experimental approach to extrasensory phenomena. *Parapsychology* is placed within the framework of science.

1. Parapsychologists are scientists and use the scientific method in their research. They are hesitant to include matters of a religious or philosophical nature.

a. This course is concerned with phenomena, mostly spontaneous, much of which cannot be exhaustively examined in the laboratory. My approach is qualitative rather than quantitative. *PSYCHIC* best describes the content of this course.

B. Let's further examine the term *PARAPSYCHOLOGY*.

1. The Greek prefix *para* literally means “alongside”, “beside,” or “beyond.” *Psychology* is the science of mental processes or behavior.

a. When these two words are combined you have *parapsychology* which literally means *beyond psychology*.

i. Thus, a working definition of *parapsychology* would be:

The study of phenomena which lie outside the range of normal experience, that seem to defy accepted scientific laws: the laws of nature.

ii. Another excellent definition would be:

“The study of those forces within the mind or of human behavior which are beyond the scope of or cannot be explained by conventional psychology or other sciences.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Allan Angoff, (ed), *The Psychic Force*, (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons 1970), p. 337.

- b. Most knowledge reaches us *indirectly* through the five sensory organs.
  - 1. Hearing
  - 2. Sight
  - 3. Smell
  - 4. Taste
  - 5. Touch
- c. Some knowledge reaches us *directly* bypassing the five sensory organs. Several examples would be:
  - 1. Mind-to-mind communication (telepathy).
  - 2. The prediction of future events (precognition).
  - 3. The feeling of having had the same experience previously (deja vu).
- d. In 1935, pioneer parapsychologist Joseph Banks Rhine, introduced the term *parapsychology*.
  - i. "...Dr. Rhine requested the Department and the University (Duke) for permission to give the work he supervised a distinctive name and organization. With the approval of Professor McDougall, he selected the word 'parapsychology,' as a translation of the German word *parapsychologie*..."<sup>2</sup>

III. *Umbrella* terms used to describe extrasensory experiences are:

- A. E.S.P. (extrasensory perception).
- B. Psi (the 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet).
- C. Psychic phenomena.
- D. Paranormal.

- 1. Avoid use of the word *occult*. While admittedly there is a fine line in some instances, I would place under the word occult such things as astrology, magic, numerology, palmistry, witchcraft, phrenology, alchemy and anything of an esoteric nature. This study is not concerned with the occult.
- 2. Avoid use of the word *supernatural*. It implies that there is an existence outside of the natural world not attributable to natural forces. "The supernatural is only the natural not yet understood."<sup>3</sup> Use the term *supernormal*.

IV. *Parapsychology* borrows heavily from the physical and behavioral sciences. Its approach is interdisciplinary. Concepts are borrowed, namely from psychology and physics.

V. **AN ADDED NOTE:**

It is important to remember at this juncture:

"...that even basic issues in parapsychology have not been resolved, making it impossible to speak of even generalized data recognized by the parapsychological community. It seems that parapsychologists agree on only a few basic tenets, namely that the mind does have some sort of faculty or ability to obtain nonsensory access to information. The hows, whys and wherefores are still evasive..."<sup>4</sup>

It is impossible to confine the human spirit to what we touch, see, taste, hear and smell.

<sup>2</sup>J. B. Rhine and Associates. *Parapsychology: From Duke to FRNM* (Durham, North Carolina: The Parapsychology Press, 1965) p. 17.

<sup>3</sup>Carl A. Wickland, *30 Years Among the Dead*, (Hollywood, California: Newcastle Publishing Company, Inc., 1974), p. 389.

<sup>4</sup>D. Scott Rogo, *Methods and Models for Education in Parapsychology*, (New York: Parapsychology Foundation, 1973), p. 2

## RECOMMENDED FIRST STEPS

- I. In any sensible approach to a new field of study, it is advisable to begin thinking in terms of the whole. It is imperative that you have an *overview* of the subject before you move beyond the first chapter. When I first became interested in psychic phenomena, I immediately consulted several reliable encyclopedias. I familiarized myself with the substance of these articles until I felt I had a good overall grasp of the material. Then I was in a position to approach the subject intelligently. When consulting an encyclopedia, look under the following headings:

- A. Parapsychology
- B. Psychical research
- C. Spiritualism

The following Encyclopedias are especially recommended:

- A. Encyclopedia Britannica
- B. Encyclopedia Americana
- C. International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences.

## II. BIBLIOGRAPHIES ARE IMPORTANT

- A. Bibliographies are invaluable. I can't afford all the books that come to my attention, so I place the names in a special file folder. This is my *bibliography file*. If the volume is reviewed, you are especially fortunate. File the review. Within a year following my initial interest in psychic studies, I had compiled an excellent working bibliography; the primary sources of information; the "classics;" the formative or foundational literature.

1. Keep a *priority book list*. I carry such a list with me so that when I visit a book store, preferably second-hand, I know what to look for. This makes for real treasure hunting.

- B. Another extremely profitable first step is to make contact with several prominent parapsychologists or psychic researchers and ask them for their personal bibliographies; the books that have been the most influential in the building of their own careers. I did this with remarkable success. It is flattering to the respondents, and I have found them most gracious. I asked the prominent Santa Barbara sensitive George Daisley for his list. He replied with the names of 12 books that he felt were classics. This gave my own career a big boost.

## III. GLOSSARIES ARE ALSO INVALUABLE.

- A. A glossary is a vocabulary which contains specialized terms, and every discipline (sociology, psychology, medicine, etc.) has its own specialized vocabulary. Your course of study will contain words peculiar to the field of psychic studies. Many of the books found in the bibliographies contain excellent glossaries. The careful student will familiarize himself or herself with these specialized words.

### BOOKS IN WHICH GLOSSARIES ARE FOUND

Ashby, Robert H., *The Guide Book to the Study of Psychical Research*. New York: Samuel Weiser, Inc. 1972.

Knight, David C., *The ESP Reader*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1969.

Jacobson, Nils O., *Life Without Death*. New York: Dell Publishing Co., 1974.

Rhine, J. B. and J. G. Pratt, *Parapsychology: Frontier Science of the Mind*. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1957.

White, John, (ed.), *Psychic Exploration*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1974.

Wolman, Benjamin B., *Handbook of Parapsychology*, New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1977.

*“The only thing good without qualification is extended vision, the enlargement of one’s understanding and awareness of what reality is ultimately like.”*

— *Huston Smith*

## CHAPTER II

### I. PARAPSYCHOLOGY IS A SCIENCE THAT HAS TO DO WITH ESP AND PSYCHOKINESIS.

#### A. *Extrasensory Perception*

1. Included in the term *ESP* are:

- a. telepathy
- b. clairvoyance
- c. precognition

#### B. *Psychokinesis or PK*

1. Has to do with the powers of the mind (mind over matter).

- a. The term *General Extrasensory Perception* is frequently used to describe Telepathy, Clairvoyance, Precognition and Psychokinesis.

II. Gifted subjects have been known to exhibit both ESP and PK, which would suggest that there is a linkage or unity between the various manifestations of psychic ability. We should avoid getting locked into arbitrary divisions and subdivisions.

A. ...It now seems that the types of phenomenon that belong to this field have a kind of unity and that psi ability may even be a single system, of which the subtypes are just the phenomena or effects that are produced as psi functions within the integrated individual...<sup>1</sup>

### III. WHAT IS TELEPATHY?

A. Telepathy is mind communicating with mind — an extrasensory experience.

1. ...Telepathy is one manifestation of the collective phenomena that parapsychologists refer to as ESP. It involves information received by a subject (perceptant, recipient, or receiver) from an agent (transmitter or sender) apparently through some type of ‘mind-to-mind’ contact...<sup>2</sup>
2. ...Telepathy means the direct communication of thoughts from mind to mind without using the senses. Ideas, feelings and words are transferred mentally through this psi process. Distance seems to have little effect on telepathic abilities.<sup>3</sup>

B. Telepathic experiences are frequently associated with crisis situations, especially where strong emotional feelings are involved. Where there are strong family ties, persons in love, and close personal working relationships, spontaneous telepathy is most likely to occur.

<sup>1</sup>J. B. Rhine, *Parapsychology, Encyclopedia of the Unexplained*, (ed.), Richard Cavendish, (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1974), p. 179.

<sup>2</sup>Stanley Krippner, *Telepathy, Psychic Exploration*, (ed.), John White (New York: G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 1974), p. 112.

<sup>3</sup>Patrick Somerset, *Developing ESP for the Millions*, (Los Angeles: Sherbourne Press, Inc., 1969), p. 39.

1. ...Friday, around 4:30 p.m., I decided to write my 18-year-old son a letter. He lives in California and I hadn't talked with him since April, because he doesn't have a phone. I'm not much on letter writing, so I decided to make this letter funny. I started out telling this story of phones and perhaps he'd heard of them and that there was such a thing as a phone booth, and maybe he'd seen one. However, it would cost him a dime and that might be the catch. I finished the letter, put it in my purse and within the hour Kenny was standing in a phone booth calling me collect...(Nancy Bengston, Student, 1979).

That is telepathy.

- C. Experiments in the laboratory notably by Dr. J. B. Rhine have given conclusive evidence that telepathy occurs.
- D. The term telepathy was coined by F.W.H. Myers, one of the founders of the British Society for Psychical Research, and the author of *Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death*.
  1. The term telepathy comes from two Greek words: *Tele* (at a distance), and *pathos* (feeling). Literally, telepathy means *feeling at a distance*.

#### IV. WHAT IS CLAIRVOYANCE?

- A. Clairvoyance occurs when there is an awareness of some objective event or object without the use of the five physical senses.
  1. "...Clairvoyance, the perception of a person, object, place or event without the use of the physical organs, without actually being there and seeing or hearing them..."<sup>4</sup>
  2. "...Clairvoyance, extrasensory knowledge about material objects or events not obtained from another animate mind..."<sup>5</sup>
    - a. Clairvoyance comes from the French and translates *clear-seeing*.
  3. Some parapsychologists relate clairvoyant experiences to telepathy, but there is a difference. Telepathy relates more to thoughts and feelings, while clairvoyance is associated with the perception of images and symbols and "scenes played out."
  4. Rex G. Stanford gives an example of true clairvoyance:

...For example, if a person is able to guess accurately the order of a concealed deck of conventional playing cards (to a degree that reasonably well rules out chance as an explanation) and if the order of that deck of cards was, at the time of the subject's guessing, unknown to anyone through sensory means, we say that clairvoyance has occurred.<sup>6</sup>

#### V. CLAIRVOYANCE CAN BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR SUBDIVISIONS:

- A. *X-Ray Clairvoyance*. The ability to see into sealed envelopes, closed spaces, boxes, books and rooms.
  1. **An example:** A written message is placed in a sealed envelope and is given to a person with clairvoyant powers. He or she is able to read the message. The one who reads the message is blindfolded or the eyes are taped shut. Sometimes called billet reading.
- B. *Medical Clairvoyance*. The ability to see within the human body, its mechanism, and to diagnose disease. Edgar Cayce would be a notable example of one who possessed this remarkable talent.

<sup>4</sup>Frank J. MacHovec, *ESP and other Psychic Phenomena*, (New York: The Peter Pauper Press, 1973), p. 17.

<sup>5</sup>D. Scott Rogo, *Parapsychology: A Century of Inquiry*, (New York: Taplinger Publishing Company, 1975), p. 14.

<sup>6</sup>Rex G. Stanford, *Clairvoyance, Psychic Exploration*, (ed.) John White (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1974), p. 134.

C. *Travelling Clairvoyance*. The ability to change one's perception; to travel with the mind and to describe a distant sight.

1. ...At the request of a sitter the medium, who is usually entranced, will, in effect, proceed to find someone; or go to some specified place, describe his supposed journey, how he has now arrived, perhaps in a room in a strange house, which, with its occupants and their doings, he will describe with sufficient detail to permit of subsequent verification...<sup>7</sup>

a. The classic, well-authenticated example of travelling clairvoyance is Emanuel Swedenborg's vision of the disastrous Stockholm fire. He correctly saw and reported the fire which was burning 300 miles from where he was visiting in Gothenburg. In his vision, he reported that the fire was contained a few doors from his home. This later proved to be correct.

D. *Platform Clairvoyance*. The ability to see or perceive discarnate (a person not in the physical body) personalities. The clairvoyant, working before an audience, frequently describes spirit folk, loved ones of those present.

## VI. WHAT IS CLAIRAUDIENCE?

A. Clairaudience is considered a facet of clairvoyance.

1. The term clairaudience comes from the French and literally means *clear-hearing*.  
2. Clairaudient — The experience of receiving paranormal information through auditory impressions.<sup>8</sup>

a. In several of my sittings with English medium George Daisley, he heard *spirit voices* along with his clairvoyant impressions. There was a blending; a mixture of clairaudience and clairvoyance.

i. The famed Joan of Arc claimed to have heard voices.

## VII. WHAT IS CLAIRSENTIENCE?

A. Clairsentience is also considered a facet of clairvoyance.

1. Clairsentience is: "Psychic perception by sensing conditions that pertain to communicating entities...a faculty often blended with clairvoyance and psychometry mediumship."<sup>9</sup>

a. Medium George Daisley sensed the presence of *spirit folk*.

## VIII. WHAT IS PSYCHOMETRY?

A. Psychometry is the ability to obtain information by psychic means by touching or handling an object.

1. ...It seems to be a property of matter that it carries with it permanently, as a sort of influence or aura, a complete history of itself. Psychometry is the peculiar clairvoyant faculty which enables certain mediums, while in the normal state, to perceive incidents in these histories...<sup>10</sup>

B. The term psychometry literally means *soul measurement*. The word is coined from the Greek: *psyche*-soul and *metron*-measure. Psychometry is also called *object-reading*.

C. In a general sense then psychometry could be considered a facet of clairvoyance.

D. The pioneer researcher in this field was J. Rhodes Buchanan (1814-1899). He coined the word *psychometry*. Buchanan believed that some emanation was given off by all substances including the human body and sensitives were able to feel and get certain psychic impressions.

<sup>7</sup>A. Campbell Holms, *The Facts of Psychic Science*, (New Hyde Park, New York: University Books, 1969), p. 88.

<sup>8</sup>Nils O. Jacobson, *Life Without Death*, (New York: Dell Publishing Co. 1974), p. 327.

<sup>9</sup>Norman Blunsdon, *A Popular Dictionary of Spiritualism* (London: Arco Publications, 1961), p. 43.

<sup>10</sup>A. Campbell Holms, *The Facts of Psychic Science*, (New Hyde Park, New York: University Books, 1969), p. 93.

1. Dr. Buchanan, excited by his convictions, exclaimed:

...The past is entombed in the present, the world is its own enduring monument; and that which is true of its physical is likewise true of its mental career. The discoveries of psychometry will enable us to explore the history of man, as those of geology enable us to explore the history of the earth. There are mental fossils for psychologists as well as mineral fossils for the geologists; and I believe that hereafter the psychologist and the geologist will go hand in hand, the one portraying the earth, its animals and its vegetation, while the other portrays the human beings who have roamed over its surface in the shadows, in the darkness of primeval barbarism. Aye, the mental telescope is now discovered which may pierce the depths of the past and bring us in full view of the grand and tragic passages of ancient history.<sup>11</sup>

- a. Buchanan said that psychometry was a science, and he felt:

...that everything that has ever existed, every object, scene, event, that has occurred since the beginning of the world, has left on the ether or astral light a trace of its being. Not only on the ether, but likewise on more palpable objects, trees and stones and all manner of things.<sup>12</sup>

- E. I had two psychometric readings in Boston; one given by English medium Douglas Johnson; the other by a Spiritualist minister, the Reverend Gladys Custance. Mr. Johnson received his psychic impressions from a ring and Mrs. Custance from a watch that had originally belonged to my father. Both readings, an hour in length, were impressive.
- F. Psychometry is used in the field of criminology, and an excellent record of such is found in *The Psychic World of Peter Hurkos* by Norma Lee Browning. Gerard Croiset and Lotte Von Strahl are also specialists in this facet of psychometry.

## IX. WHAT IS PRECOGNITION?

- A. Precognition is predicting the future; extrasensory knowledge of some future event.
  1. "...Precognition — the ability to perceive and know the future without the aid of sensory clues or inferences."<sup>13</sup>
    - a. Patrick Somerset, quoting from *Recollections of Abraham Lincoln* by Lamon, records a precognitive dream of Lincoln's in which he foresaw his own assassination and the circumstances surrounding it.

Lincoln remarked:  
...Determined to find the cause of a state of things so mysterious and so shocking, I kept on until I arrived at the East Room, which I entered. Then I met a sickening surprise. Before me was a catafalque, on which rested a corpse in funeral vestments. Around it were stationed soldiers who were acting as guards; and there was a throng of people, some gazing mournfully upon the corpse, whose face was covered, others weeping pitifully. 'Who is dead in the White House?' I demanded of one of the soldiers. 'The President,' was his answer; 'he was killed by an assassin!' Then came a loud burst of grief from the crowd, which awoke me from the dream.<sup>14</sup>
  - B. I was with medium George Daisley in Alaska at the time Bishop James A. Pike was lost in the desert of Israel. I heard Daisley predict three times that Pike would not be found alive. He was correct.

<sup>11</sup>J. Rhodes Buchanan, *Encyclopedia of Psychic Science*, 1966, p. 39.

<sup>12</sup>Lewis Spence, *Encyclopedia of Occultism*, 1960, p. 333.

<sup>13</sup>Patrick Somerset, *Developing ESP for the Millions*, (Los Angeles: Sherbourne Press, Inc., 1969), p. 50.

<sup>14</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 51-52.

## X. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRECOGNITION AND PREMONITIONS

A. It is difficult to determine the difference between precognition and premonitions. I've heard the terms used interchangeably.

1. "*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* defines the word premonition as: "A warning in advance; forewarning; a presentiment of the future; a foreboding."<sup>15</sup>
2. A premonition can be a vague feeling that something is going to happen. You can't quite put your finger on it, but the feeling persists. My wife, Eileen, has on more than one occasion told me that she had a premonition, a feeling that something was going to happen; and it usually did. There is a predictive element in premonitions, but the details are frequently lacking; there isn't the preciseness so often present in precognition.
  - a. In precognition, the percipient is, in many instances, accurately positive that an event is going to happen.

## XI. THE CENTRAL PREMONITIONS REGISTRY

A. If you have a premonition, such as you might have in a dream, you can register the premonition with the Central Premonitions Registry. The question is often asked, "Can premonitions really foretell the future?" Would it be possible to prevent disasters or tragedies if premonitory warnings were taken seriously? The C.P.R. may provide answers with its scientific approach. Premonitions may be sent to:

1. Central Premonitions Registry, Box 482, Times Square Station, New York, New York 10036.
2. Premonitions Registry, Toronto Society for Psychical Research, 10 North Sherbourne Street, Toronto 5, Ontario, Canada.

## XII. WHAT IS RETROCOGNITION?

A. Retrocognition is knowledge of the past acquired supernormally or by psychic means. *Retro* means behind and *cognition* means knowledge.

1. "... 'Retrocognition' is a term invented by the same nineteenth century pioneer in psychical research who gave us 'telepathy,' Frederick W. H. Myers. He defines it as 'knowledge of the past, supernormally acquired' — that is, knowledge not gained through the senses from records or from the memory of living persons. It corresponds to the better known 'precognition,' or knowledge of the future not gained by ordinary means."<sup>16</sup>
2. A famous example of retrocognition is found in the English Journal of the Society for Psychical Research for 1952. In July, 1951, two English women were vacationing in the City of Puy close to Dieppe in France. They rented a second-story room overlooking the ocean. This same house had housed German soldiers during the Second World War. Early one morning near the end of the month the women heard the sounds of battle — gunfire, shells exploding, planes, shouting and the cries of fighting men. The sounds were coming from the beach. Investigators discovered that what the two women heard was a "playback" of Allied landings on the German-held Dieppe and Puy on Wednesday, August 19, 1942.

<sup>15</sup>*The American Dictionary of the English Language*, (New York: American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., and Houghton Mifflin Company, 1969), p. 1034.

<sup>16</sup>*Gracia Fay Ellwood, Psychic Visits to the Past*, (New York: New American Library, 1971), p. 14.

"All things, by immortal power,  
Near or far,  
Hiddenly  
To each other linked are,  
That thou canst not stir a flower  
Without troubling of a star."

— Francis Thompson

## CHAPTER III

### I. WHAT IS PSYCHOKINESIS?

- A. A simple definition of *psychokinesis* or simply *PK* would be *mind over matter*. It is possible to influence the outside world by pure thought.
- B. "Psychokinesis...is the ability to affect objects and the material course of events mentally, for example, to cause dice which have been thrown by a machine to fall in a certain way..."<sup>1</sup>
- C. ...Psychokinesis or PK is what the layman calls 'mind over matter.' It is the ability to influence the objective environment without the use of the motor system of the body (the muscles and glands). PK is the counterpart of extrasensory perception or ESP, which is the acquisition of knowledge without sensory aid...These two abilities together make up the communication or exchange a person may have with his surroundings in the form of experiences that are familiarly called 'psychic.' Such communication is better known as parapsychical or psi behaviour and its study is called parapsychology (or psychical research)...<sup>2</sup>
- D. There seems to be a relationship between ESP and psychokinesis, but what that relationship is we are not sure. Whether PK operates distinct from other psi manifestations or is one aspect of the whole we do not know.
- E. Some parapsychologists should include the following subdivisions.

### PSYCHIC HEALING

- I. There seems to be some connection between PK and psychic healing, but the evidence isn't conclusive.
  - A. Dr. Bernard Grad of McGill University in Canada did prove that the *laying on of hands* on surgically wounded mice was responsible for their wounds healing faster than mice that did not receive similar treatment. Oskar Estebany was the healer used in a controlled experiment.
    1. Grad also planted barley seeds. The seeds were watered by Estebany who had held the water container for a period of time while the other seeds were watered from containers that had not been held. The results were significant. The grain watered from the container that the healer had held experienced greater growth than those watered from containers that had not been held. So, it does appear that the growth of biological organisms is affected by PK.

<sup>1</sup>Nils O. Jacobson, *Life Without Death*, (New York: Dell Publishing Co., 1974), p. 12.  
<sup>2</sup>J. B. Rhine, *Psychokinesis, Man, Myth & Magic* (1970), Vol. XVII, p. 2285.

B. There is a great resurgence of spiritual healing throughout the United States.

1. Gordon Turner in his book *An Outline of Spiritual Healing* says that:  
...Spiritual healing utilizes a natural power arising from a natural source. It serves as a stimulus for natural processes but its reaction takes physical effect upon the physical organisms of the body. It directly brings the spiritual mind and the physical body into a state of temporary flux. It must be admitted however that there is, as yet, no direct knowledge as to the technically-precise nature of this power.<sup>3</sup>
2. Persons prominent in spiritual healing include: Olga Worrall, Harry Edwards, Agnes Sanford and Emily Gardiner Neal.
3. Many churches are now recovering the ministry of spiritual healing. If you are interested in this area, excellent information is available from Pastor Don Bartow, The Spiritual Healing Ministry, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 171 Aultman Avenue, N.W., Canton, Ohio 47098.

#### WHAT IS LEVITATION?

- I. There would appear to be a correlation between PK and *levitation*.
  - A. In defiance of gravity, physical objects such as heavy tables rise from the ground and float. There have been instances where human beings have levitated.
    1. "Levitation, rising of physical objects, tables, pianos, etc., or of human beings into the air, contrary to the laws of gravitation and without any visible agency..."<sup>4</sup>
    2. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus walked on the water. We read: "...And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea..."<sup>5</sup>
    3. Many of the venerable saints were known to have risen while in the state of prayer or meditation.  
...So Rulman Merswin said that in the rapture which accompanied his conversion, he was carried round the garden with his feet off the ground; and St. Catherine of Siena, in a passage...speaks of the strength of the spirit, which raises the body from the earth.<sup>6</sup>  
St. Teresa of Avila speaks of her feet scarcely touching the ground during the "rapture."
    4. Daniel Dunglas Home (1833-1886), probably the most famous of all mediums, performed many feats of levitation. He once, in the presence of witnesses and while in a trance floated horizontally out of one window and in another. At one point he was 85 feet above the ground and unsupported:  
...Then Home, (pronounced *Hume*) who had been in trance for some time, began to walk about uneasily and finally wandered into an adjoining room. At the same moment Lindsay heard a voice whisper in his ear, 'He will go out of one window and in at another.' He had barely time to communicate this startling intelligence before they heard the window in the next room being flung up. Lindsay's account continues: 'We heard the window in the next room lifted up, and almost immediately afterwards we saw Home floating in the air outside the window.  
...The moon was shining full into the room. My back was to the light; and I saw the shadow on the wall of the windowsill, and Home's feet about six inches above it. He remained in this position for a few seconds, then raised the window and glided into the room feet foremost, and sat down.

<sup>3</sup>Gordon Turner, *An Outline of Spiritual Healing*, (New York: Warner Books, Inc., 1972), p. 17.

<sup>4</sup>Nandor Fodor, *An Encyclopedia of Psychic Science*, (Secaucus, New Jersey: The Citadel Press, 1966), p. 194.

<sup>5</sup>Matthew 14:25.

<sup>6</sup>Evelyn Underhill, *Mysticism*, (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1961), p. 377.

...Lord Adare then went into the next room to look at the window from which he had been carried. It was raised about eighteen inches, and he expressed his wonder how Mr. Home had been taken through so narrow an aperture.

...Home said (still in trance) 'I will show you;' and then, with his back to the window, he leaned back and was shot out of the aperture head first, with the body rigid, and then returned quite quietly.

...The window is about seventy feet from the ground.<sup>7</sup>

### POLTERGEISTS

1. Parapsychologists tend to regard *poltergeists* as a manifestation of PK. The word poltergeist is of German origin and translates: *poltern* (noisy or rattling) and *geist* (spirit). We talk about noisy or boisterous ghosts.
  - A. Poltergeist phenomena have well-defined characteristics. They are usually sporadic and of fairly short duration. Their wild and boisterous activity can include the throwing of objects such as stones, crockery and other objects; the ringing of bells; the rearrangement of furniture, the disappearance and reappearance of objects; the turning on and off of lights; flashes of light, bumps and bangs, hearing of footsteps, breaking of windows, etc.
    1. ...Poltergeist phenomena have well-marked characteristics. They are sporadic, i.e., they usually break out singly, without apparent cause, continue with varying intensity for a few weeks, or months, and then cease. They occur in the presence of spectators, and are evidently produced for the express purpose of annoying, perplexing or frightening; otherwise they seem to be quite meaningless. They are not usually malicious and rarely inflict injury...<sup>8</sup>
    2. ...The list of mischievous — and sometimes malicious — things poltergeists do, or cause to happen, is almost endless. They turn lights on and off. They pull girls' hair. They yank bedclothes off. They rip clothing. They cause money to appear and disappear — one, the Poona Poltergeist, even made change! They smash wine bottles and rattle dishes. They fill hats with water just as the wearers put them on. They produce jets of liquid — including milk, beer, oil, and coffee. They lock doors and unlock them again — and steal the keys. They cause hot water to freeze and cold water to boil. They suffuse rooms and houses with odd perfume.<sup>9</sup>
  - B. Poltergeist activity occurs close to an individual, called the "focus person," and parapsychologists suggest that it might be the person's own unconscious PK that is responsible for the incidents.
  - C. Much poltergeist activity centers around adolescents and clergymen. In some instances the adolescent is emotionally disturbed.
    1. ...Usually when these phenomena occur the child is psychologically disturbed, sometimes even mentally retarded. It appears that some sort of psychokinetic force is generated by his unconscious emotional conflicts. The poltergeist does the kind of things that a mentally retarded child might do in hysterical rage or malicious fun, or simply to draw attention to himself. Some very technical minds seek to explain that the disturbed mind creates heat, and the poltergeist, through some occult talent, is able to transform it into kinetic energy, and undirected impulses and then send their vibrations out in random disarray.<sup>10</sup>
  - D. Poltergeists are not seen, but their bewildering activities are.
  - E. The most destructive activity of a poltergeist, if it occurs at all, is the setting of fires.

<sup>7</sup>Jean Burton, *Heyday of a Wizard*, (New York: Warner Books, Inc., 1974), p. 179.

<sup>8</sup>A Campbell Holms, *The Facts of Psychic Science*, (New Hyde Park, New York: University Books, 1969), p. 251.

<sup>9</sup>David C. Knight, *Poltergeists: Hauntings and the Haunted*, (New York: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1971), p. 12.

<sup>10</sup>Margaret Waite, *The Mystic Sciences*, (Woodbridge, Connecticut: Apollo Books, 1971), p. 137.

- F. Another enigma confronting parapsychologists who investigate poltergeist activity is the appearance and disappearance of objects. In some instances such objects, physical matter, penetrate other matter. Is it a case of materialization and dematerialization? Is it possible for an object to move from one location to another by non-physical means? See Chapter XVII.
- G. Another interesting thing about poltergeist phenomena is that when an object is tossed, a person does not witness the actual throwing. It is seen in flight.
- H. The Borley Rectory in England was famous for its variety of poltergeist incidents. Harry Price in his book *The End of Borley Rectory*, speaks of several instances:  
...Tuesday was fairly quiet, except that a stone was thrown (from inside the house) at a large window in the hall, completely smashing it; and at night Mrs. Foyster stumbled over a brick that had been placed outside the bathroom door. The next morning Mr. Foyster found a couple of pebbles under this pillow.<sup>11</sup>
- I. The late Bishop James A. Pike tells of many incidents, presumably poltergeist activity, in a flat in England where he and his son roomed prior to the boy's suicide. "...The next morning...we found books which had been moved, windows opened which had been closed, safety pins lying open in several places, clothes misplaced, and a broken Marlboro cigarette (Jim's brand, not smoked by any of the three of us) in front of the nightstand between the twin beds..."<sup>12</sup>

The senior Pike concluded that his son was attempting to make his presence felt.

<sup>11</sup>Harry Price, *The End of Borley Rectory*, (London: George G. Harrap & Co., LTD., 1946), p. 52.

<sup>12</sup>James A. Pike, *The Other Side*, (New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1968), p. 103-104.