

Case #54 — Deer Thoughts

Can you perceive the relationship between the following three phrases?

- “at times as well behaved as the pupils in a convent for well-trained young ladies”
- “Their large sweet eyes are used to watching the passing”
- “the modern lady of fashion whose eyes”

Don’t spend too much effort on it — the relationship cannot be seen without the rest of the passage.

Cross correspondences can be extremely evidential but are notoriously difficult to understand, thus they rarely make any list of the most convincing cases. This is one case, however, whose simplicity and strength merit a far wider publication than it has, so far, received.

Dr. Gustave Geley was a professor of medicine at the University of Lyons and a Laureate of the French Medical Faculty. According to a paper¹ he read before the French Society for Psychological Research, a woman known as Beatrice,² had two friends — Catherine and Stéphanie — both of whom were talented mediums who used automatic writing to contact the spirit world. Catherine claimed that she could sense the presence of the communicating spirits in the form of lights. Her key contact always signed his name as “Roudolphe.”

On the 16th of September, 1913, Beatrice was sitting with Catherine in Paris when the medium announced that one of the lights seemed to be coming and going rather rapidly. After making that unusual statement, her hand wrote the three statements given above. Neither Catherine nor Beatrice had any idea what the phrases meant.

While this strange session was taking place in Paris, Stéphanie was having her own session with some friends she had gone to visit in a

town near Bordeaux (which is over 200 miles south of Paris). Like Catherine, Stéphanie was channeling the spirit Roudolphe, and, like Catherine, she was puzzled by the writing she produced during her session. It seemed to be a sort of prose poem such as might be devised by a student in a creative writing class. But a student producing this piece would have gotten a poor grade, for the flow of the writing was broken by several gaps, as if the writer had been distracted for a while and commenced again in a different place. These gaps coincided with unusually long and quite noticeable pauses in the automatic writing.

Here is what the hand of Stéphanie wrote:

“The Deer In The Wood

“Have you sometimes met, dear friend, as you walked in the thickets, the deer that live and roam through the leafy branches, ... [long pause] ... at times the flock, jumping and frightened, so graceful and fascinating? Have you ever asked yourself what those pretty animals were thinking, and what they would become later? Far be it from me to draw their horoscope (which would after all be of no interest to them), but it seems to me that their mentality must be very different from that which animates the deer of the forest ... [long pause] ... strange vehicles running without the aid of an animal’s legs, and in those carriages or along the more or less frequented paths, they have contemplated women with elongated eyes like their own, delicate and stylish women. Who can ever tell us if ... [long pause] ... become so unnaturally large under the dash of the pencil, is not a doe of the forest in the throes of retrospective recollection?”

If you haven’t already, read this passage again while inserting the phrases given at the start

of this article into the gaps created by the pauses. Or, read the passage below, in which all that hard work has been done for you.

“Have you sometimes met, dear friend, as you walked in the thickets, the deer that live and roam through the leafy branches, **at times as well behaved as the pupils in a convent for well-trained young ladies**, at times the flock, jumping and frightened, so graceful and fascinating? Have you ever asked yourself what those pretty animals were thinking, and what they would become later? Far be it from me to draw their horoscope (which would after all be of no interest to them), but it seems to me that their mentality must be very different from that which animates the deer of the forest. **Their large sweet eyes are used to watching the passing** strange vehicles running without the aid of an animal’s legs, and in those carriages or along the more or less frequented paths, they have contemplated women with elongated eyes like their own, delicate and stylish

women. Who can ever tell us if **the modern lady of fashion whose eyes** become so unnaturally large under the dash of the pencil, is not a doe of the forest in the throes of retrospective recollection?”

As far as has been determined, this is an unearthly passage; that is, it doesn’t come from any document written on this plane. Therefore, it cannot have been created from anyone’s memory nor by clairvoyantly sensing some arcane text. Neither does it make any sense to say that the mediums were reading each other’s minds, for the part that each wrote was not in the mind of the other ... until they compared notes later.



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¹ An English translation of this paper was published in the *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*, vol. viii, 1914. A synopsis of this paper appears in Thomas’ *Some New Evidence for Human Survival*, and in a 1928 pamphlet by the Reverend C.W. Leadbetter, titled *Spiritualism and Theosophy: Scientifically Examined and Carefully Described*.

² All names, except the researcher’s, are pseudonyms.