

The Numbers Of The Beast

— Case 21 —

Dr. Morris Netherton began specializing in what he terms “Past Lives Therapy” around 1970. He does not call what he does “hypnosis” as he relies on word associations rather than the more common types of trance induction, but his methods seem to work well for accessing traumas in past and pre-natal lives. In 1978 he published a collection of his cases¹ that includes several with exceptional verification; one of these took place during a training demonstration in Brazil.

Dr. Netherton regressed a young woman suffering from agoraphobia (the fear of being in open places). Starting when she was 16 years of age, her fears had steadily grown until she was very uncomfortable when not near her home and she trusted only her immediate family.

While regressed, she recalled a life that ended in a Nazi concentration camp. According to her story, when she arrived at the camp, a guard burned an identification number into her arm. As she told of this, she suddenly began screaming and clutching at her arm. Netherton noticed red welts appearing on the woman’s arm. These began to resolve themselves into numbers. An elderly psychologist sitting nearby jumped up and rolled up his sleeve to show similar numbers that had been burned into his arm at just such a camp. The man was so excited that it took a while for Dr. Netherton to calm him down so that the session could continue.

During this session, the recalled personality gave numerous facts identifying herself, her family, and the camp. She said that she died after suffering through several months of exposure to the harsh elements there.

The numbers on the subject’s arm faded away when the session ended. But, an assistant at the

demonstration had taken a photograph of the numbers and an inquiry was made by sending only that identification number to the Holocaust Museum in Israel. The report sent back by the museum described a young girl whose name, birth date, parent’s name, village of birth, and date of death perfectly matched the facts given by the subject.

According to Dr. Netherton, the experience “changed the young lady’s feelings, and she began returning to her normal life.”

Not Unique

As unusual as it seems, this was not the only occurrence of such phenomena. Not long after the “birth” of Spiritualism near Rochester, New York, an illiterate servant girl, working for the family of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Burtis in that same city, developed a condition in which writings and drawings would spontaneously appear on her arm. These would fade away, once they have been read by a family member, who generally found them relevant to a current issue or situation in the household.²

In 1929, an article in the French *Revue Métapsychique*,³ presented testimony and illustrations of “skin writing” by the medium Olga Kahl. In front of numerous witnesses, among them the eminent professor Charles Richet, letters of the alphabet would appear on Kahl’s forearm in apparent response to the unspoken thoughts of the witnesses.

Comment

No amount of telepathy or clairvoyance can explain this case. The only conceivable link between the arm that was branded by the Nazis and

¹ Netherton, Morris and Nancy Shiffrin, *Past Lives Therapy*, William Morrow Publishers, 1978.

² This case and another similar one are described by Emma Hardinge on page 196 of her monumental work, *Modern American Spiritualism*, first published in 1870.

³ Barrington, Mary Rose, “Archive No. 86: Mrs. Olga Kahl – Ideas Expressed as Skin Writing by Dr. E. Osty; Summarized form pages 124 – 136 of *Revue Métapsychique*, 1929,” in the *Paranormal Review*, Issue 66, April 2013, Society for Psychical Research.

the arm revealing the numbers in Brazil is the continuing spirit (or “soul” or “astral body”) of the girl who died in the concentration camp.

Anyone proposing that this is a case or possession rather than reincarnation, needs to explain why the session resulted in a disappearance of the woman’s agoraphobia.



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