

PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL INFLUENCES OF MIDDLE-AGED PERSONS ON YOUNG SENSITIVES

ALAIN ASSAILLY (*France*)

There is little doubt that adolescents in the throes of puberty play an important part in certain paranormal manifestations. A lesser role is also taken, it would appear, by some middle-aged persons—whether consciously or unconsciously—their influence being exerted through the agency of the young people.

Unfamiliarity with this joint action—brought to my attention by a recent poltergeist affair—prevents us from realizing just how frequently such phenomena have been described.

Let us examine several of these cases in which the presence of a mature person alongside an adolescent is mentioned.

In a poltergeist manifestation cited by Ernest Bozzano (*Phénomènes de Hantise*, Paris, Alcan, 1929, pp. 250 ff.), Professor Lombroso noted the presence of a 13-year-old boy and a woman of 50 who was highly nervous and had undergone a hysterectomy.

Similar cases that occurred in three different regions of France are described in Camille Flammarion's *Les Maisons hantées* (1923).

Émile Tizané states in his book *Sur la Piste de l'Homme inconnu* (Amiot-Dumont, Paris, 1951, p. 68), that "a widow is frequently among those present" when poltergeist phenomena occur.

Prof. Christiaens of Lille, France, describes in the March 1951 number of the *Annales de Médecine légale et de*

Criminologie the case of a certain Josiane, 19 years of age, on whom were centered rather spectacular phenomena over a period of 36 days. Imprints of little hands with claws on them appeared on a window pane and could not be effaced. A bedside table apparently walked from one room to another and ironically threw at the foot of a nun's bed a scapular which she had set out to protect the girl. Mysterious noises were heard, etc. Among the many witnesses of these phenomena, only an elderly woman named Madame Marnet, ordinarily a very fearful soul, did not appear to be disturbed. Josiane was sent to a place nearly 200 miles away and the occurrences ceased but began again when she unexpectedly returned. Madame Marnet fell ill immediately after the girl left and died some three years later.

Here is another story told me by Father Larregain, a credible witness, and also published in number 112 of the magazine *Pères Blancs*:

In May 1951 in Dono village, in the Sudan, a 50-year-old witch doctor named Kalfara together with Moussopin, his frail daughter of 12, made a group of hysterical young girls perform collective levitations. The feat was accomplished seven times in all. As a missionary looked on, Kalfara simply nodded his head once and made two peculiar little sounds with his tongue against his teeth. Thereupon Moussopin emitted two very faint cries but they sufficed to set off the levitations by the girls who were scattered throughout the village near which the witch doctor and his daughter stood.

On the psychological plane, the frequency with which youths are dominated by middle-aged persons is worth noting.

On the physiological level, let us point out the parallel between the basophilic cells of the hypophysis during the pre-puberty phase and the male or female climactic stage. We should also observe the role apparently played by the thyreotrope hormone which seems to be responsible for the "evil eye" and which deserves to be studied as a psi

factor. This is suggested by the case of a sensitive whose thyroid had been removed and that of the two patients that Rhine mentions in his book *New Frontiers of the Mind*.

At the start of the century William Barrett wrote in the *Proceedings* of the SPR (Vol. XXV, p. 411) that a young boy often formed the nucleus that played the decisive role in poltergeist phenomena. Further research may determine the nature of the missile with which the middle-aged person is able to split the nucleus within the young sensitive and measure the energy thereby released.