

## LEVITATION THE MIRACLE OF FLOATING ABOUT

Levitation is a miracle reported in the occult world and also in the Catholic Church. A person just floats in mid-air.

The priest who debunked many Catholic miracles, Herbert Thurston, observed that in cases of saints floating in mid-air without support, the miracle of levitation, that reliable first-hand reports were very rare (page 166, The Book of Miracles). St Teresa of Avila testified in her own writings that she could levitate. This miracle was a burden to her and very embarrassing for it sometimes took place during services in Church (ibid, page 168). She prayed for the levitations to stop. A nun called Sister Anne once found her floating and in a very frightened state. Teresa warned Anne never to tell anybody and she said she didn't until she was compelled to tell at the canonisation inquest after Teresa's death. Teresa used to try and fight the miracle and hold on to things to keep herself on the ground. One time this happened was before Bishop Yepes just after communion time at mass. This would indicate that the power to levitate was an uncontrollable force from her own mind or demons were doing it for she found it very distressing. God would have been furious with her had he been doing it because she had been trying to hold herself down. It has been noted that the records of her trips into space were not checked out by the Church and there is no convincing document that shows that more than one witness saw her rising. Plus there are contradictions in the accounts and many stories were improved with the telling (ibid, page 169).

The Book of Miracles argues that the Buddhist and Hindu holy men who can levitate while holding on to a cane are not using contraptions to make it seem like they are floating for the contraptions would be bulky and heavy and would need to be put together but the holy men just hold the stick and rise into the air without any evidence of anything suspicious (page 173). But if they can rise into the air they should not need a stick. Good magicians always make it look like they have no props and find ways to hide them and use them discreetly.

Catholic Leroy stated the differences between possibly divinely inspired levitation and that of the occultists/psychics/mediums

| MYSTICAL AND MIRACULOUS                             | OCCULT DEMONIC UNCATHOLIC           |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Caused by weightlessness                          | Invisible means of support          |
| 2 Radiate light                                     | No light                            |
| 3 Happens anywhere                                  | Has to be induced - usually indoors |
| 4 Can happen in daylight                            | Only in the dark                    |
| 5 Levitate even when sick                           | Can't levitate when ill             |
| 6 Levitate during spontaneous ecstasies and trances | Must put themselves into a trance   |
| 7 Levitate in private                               | Done for public performances        |
| 8 Caused by the grace of God in the person          | Caused by an inherited gift         |

This list contains errors.

Regarding point 1, St Teresa of Avila said, "When I tried to make some resistance, a great force beneath my feet lifted me up." Her levitation was not caused merely by weightlessness.

However, she said that after the levitation that she felt so weightless that "I scarcely knew that my feet touched the ground." She is really only saying she felt weightless not that she actually was. She is not sure what was happening.

Would a God do a miracle on her against her will?

Regarding point 2, occultist Daniel Dunglas Home radiated light when levitating.

And he did it outdoors which refutes point 3.

Regarding point 7, Catholic saint, St Joseph of Cupertino, the patron of aviators, did levitations in public. And some mediums did them in private.

Regarding point 8, both saints and mediums claimed that they had a gift from God or a grace.

The differences are not then as accurate as Leroy thinks. Or does he think it? Is he just trying to hide the fact that the Catholic Church was embracing occultism? He is trying to make Catholic levitations look good and Spiritualist or occult ones look bad. He needs to find distinctions between them even if there are none.

In relation to Joseph, he may have hallucinated his flights and levitations. Perhaps the truth was he could jump no higher or better than anybody else but his drug induced state made him think he was levitating and staying in the air a while.

A cleric who knew Joseph well said simply: "I can say nothing except that he was a saint who went into ecstasy and was adored by everybody" (Chiappinelli 2008). That says it all.

The accounts that he levitated for a few seconds and sometimes even about a half an hour are tempered by the fact that he seems to have leaped onto something and then came down. He went up on a tree and up to a statue and stayed there. He was never suspended in mid-air.

Why Can the Dead Do Such Great Things? Saints and Worshippers from the Martyrs to the Reformation, by Robert Bartlett, Princeton records how Joseph, like many others in medieval times, baked the notorious black bread. The ingredients included hallucinogenic mushrooms. He and presumably the witnesses to his levitations ate this bread.

Robert Smith in Comparative Miracles debunked the levitations of St Teresa of Avila. Until then, her case was considered to be the most satisfactory in terms of believability.

He was sceptical because:

She only levitated in front of people she was close to and who would have been reluctant to say anything about her that would make her seem to be a fraud.

She never levitated in front of more than one person.

She was very secretive which shows that she did not want to be seen by many people at the one time.

The eyewitness reports of the levitations were kept secret by the Church and the witnesses did not write the reports themselves. Church personnel wrote them down and the witnesses were not allowed to check the data over. How suspicious!

Many of the accounts contradict themselves and each other.

Some of the witnesses changed their stories as time went on.

Teresa did the levitations in a state of trance and may have been wrong to think she was levitated. She may not have known for definite what she was doing.

I would add that when she complained of being levitated against her will that if the levitation was real, it was evil spirits that were doing it. "Occasionally, I was able, by great efforts, to make a slight resistance, but afterwards I was worn out like a person who was contending with a strong giant. At other times it was impossible to resist at all - my soul was carried away and almost always my head with it - I had no power over it - and now and then the whole body as well, so that it was lifted up from the ground."

Catholicism is an occult religion if levitation is anything to go by.

The miracle is very useless and bizarre. It is all about show. Religious people always chase after the showy miracle worker or the showy miracle shrine but if somebody had the miracle power to heal hearts and inspire evil people to become ultra-humanitarians that person would not be heard of. Even if the devotees do good, they are still no better than the rest of us.