

PK OCCURRENCES, EPILEPSY AND REPRESSED AGGRESSION: ANALYSIS OF ANDRÉS VERNIER'S CASE

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THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis (RSPK) or poltergeist activity has been described by various authors in diverse ways (Alvarado & Zingrone, 1995; Cassirer, 2001; Houran & Lange, 2001; Jordan Peña, 1982; Owen, 1964; Roll, 1977; Spencer & Spencer, 1997; Tinoco, 1978). The most frequently reported phenomena are the raining of stones and other small objects, the throwing and displacements of objects, loud noises, lights, apparitions and nauseating odours. Some victims of poltergeist activity even report somatic lesions, such as pinches, bites, blows and sexual attacks (Wilson, 1981; Roll, 1977).

A case is happening now to a family in the city of Río Tercero, in the province of Córdoba, Argentina. The head of the family is Oscar, 50 years old. His wife is Mónica, 44 years old. Neither of them have reported any previous paranormal experiences and they are not involved in occult studies or cults. They have a good educational level and socioeconomic status. They live with their four children, who all attend high school.

In general, phenomena take place in the house, never outside. The appearance and movement of stones is characteristic of the phenomena; they move violently towards windows, often destroying the glass. Three to five holes of up to 12cm diameter have been made in plastic blinds and other holes in fabric curtains. Recently a similar hole was made in a mirror. Such activity started on the night of 25th February 2004 when a stone broke a window. On the night of the 26th, Mónica, one of the principal witnesses, described an incident with stones "like a bombing" that went on for six hours. The next day a similar incident lasted for approximately ten hours. After this time incidents continued at irregular intervals, but the intensity of them increased. The size of the stones, which are typical to the Cordobese hills and can be found on the road to the family's house, became bigger as days went by. Their weight reached about 1.3 kilograms.

The paranormal activity – characterized by the displacement of these stones at high speed and with great violence – had main two periods.

The first was between 26th and 29th February, and the second between 1st and 3rd March. The events then continued during various periods: 16-18 and 25-28 April, and 2-3 and 12-18 May. They also occurred in shorter periods of one or two days in between these dates, including activity at the moment of writing this article. (Mónica emails me with accounts of the RSPK events each day). In total, twenty-nine attacks with stones have destroyed windows, mirrors, and the TV set. Only on two occasions have the stones taken a 'wrong turn' and hit a piece of furniture or the wall, rather than glass. Over a one-month period the 'stone rain' destroyed blinds, windows of doors, the windscreen of the family car, the garage window and the dining room window. It is really amazing to observe the impacts produced by the stones.

In her attempt to find a rational explanation for these phenomena, Mónica said that initially she and her family thought that somebody was throwing the stones. They held this view until the police and the local sheriff observed their house for three days and discounted this as a possibility. A total of 16 policemen, watching around the house, in full light, failed to identify who was throwing stones. There no 'suspect' for these events – any culprit should have been visible, yet no one was. Some of the policemen described 'impossible trajectories'. The stones hit the windows of the house with incredible aim. The sheriff, who was alerted many times by denunciations of 'attacks' on the family, was incapable of explaining the trajectory of one of the stones, which destroyed a window of the house in front of him.

All family members, the sheriff, and neighbours, attribute events to the 'psychic power' of Andrés, the 18 year old son. If the cause of the phenomenon were fraudulent (e.g. Andrés or some accomplice throwing the stones with the force of their hand), this would require an incredibly skilful thrower, capable of fooling the family members and neighbours over the last four months, in situations where any such manipulation would be easy to detect.

Some neighbours alerted the Catholic Church at Rio Tercero, fearing the presence of 'spirits.' However, three Catholic priests who visited the house said that there was nothing there. Two psychics, who also visited the house, indicated that they felt a "powerful energetic force." However, neither Mónica, nor her family,



The author examining some of the stones

attribute the phenomena to spirits of the dead, ghosts or any other supernatural entity.

Fortunately, no stone has ever hit a member of the family. Mónica told me of the anomalous behaviour of the stones: "I was reading a book with my son Ezequiel, sitting near the window, when a stone passed in between us without hitting us and stopped on the table. It should have slid across the table's surface or gone further, on account of the speed the stone had when it came in."

The RSPK activity becomes more intense when Andrés is awake. On occasions when stones have entered the house, it is almost always in his presence. If he is not there, nothing happens. Mónica and her husband have suggested that Andrés is the RSPK agent or 'telekinetic focus.' As mentioned, the rush of PK activity occurred during periods of increasing intensity, but then it decreased. During a long period (17 days) no PK phenomena were observed. This coincided with

a period in which Andrés received a dose of medication and had to be hospitalized.

On June 1st, Andrés started taking a new medication, because of which he slept until the afternoon. His mother said: "He slept until 15:30, got up and had lunch in the kitchen. I had already taken the precaution of closing all the shutters and doors. There was no place for any stone to enter. However, with Andrés standing next to the refrigerator, my husband and I heard a very loud noise. When we went to see, the TV screen was broken by a stone, which was embedded in the TV set." As soon as possible, Mónica checked all the windows and doors through which the stone could have entered: "However, I [Mónica] found nothing that could explain to me how that stone could have entered the kitchen. We went out of the house, accompanied by Andrés. When we came back, another stone, the entrance of which we could not explain, broke the curtain and a large window." Mónica kept the piece of damaged curtain. It has a small hole, showing damage produced by the impact of a stone. Oscar remembers a still more alarming incident: "Andrés and his dog were playing in the kitchen, when suddenly we heard another impact on the television set. The screen had been left totally destroyed." Denise (the younger daughter of the Venier couple) felt a strange sensation, like a breeze and a vivid sensation of 'pressure' on her ears, just before hearing the impact (she was in front of Andrés). Then another stone impacted strongly, breaking the curtain, the window and the wooden shutter. Verónica (the older sister) also witnessed an incident. A stone came from behind her (Andrés was visible), left a small scratch on the cabinet and the TV, before hitting the window violently: "Like the stone had rotated on an inexplicable trajectory, to hit the glass directly. I can't explain it." The next day, his father took Andrés in his car to Villa del Dique, a pretty area to the west of the city. Mónica told me that although Andrés was anxious the phenomena had ceased. However, on their return, twenty minutes later, another stone welcomed them. Mónica felt the need to protect their computer for fear "that this too would end under the impact of a stone."

Mónica and Oscar have asked for help and counselling from priests, healers and seers, and have sought psychiatric and psychological assistance. A Catholic priest asked Andrés to take a cross and kiss it. Some have offered to



The destroyed TV set with embedded stone

'exorcise' the house, but a solution has not been found at the present time. Mónica and Oscar have thanked me for my presence in their house and for "making it possible that other people will listen to us". They said that my intervention has helped them to "feel more at ease in control", but still hope "that this situation, so interesting, ends or improves". They will continue to keep a record of events, which at the time of writing this article, are still occurring. On June 20th, Mónica wrote that a stone had broken the bathroom mirror and another had broken the glass of the kitchen door. Andrés had started to behave improperly again and he seemed to be very disturbed. Although his parents have tried to follow my advice and that of a psychiatrist, Andrés has continued to insult them and display hostile and aggressive attitudes.

Andrés's psychological report indicates that the young man manifests aggression verbally towards his family and seldom towards strangers. He can be impulsive and antisocial, which makes social relations difficult. A series of neuropsychological tests were given to Andrés. During my visit, I also conducted some projective drawing tests with him (*Draw a House-Tree-Person Test* and *Draw Your Family Test*) and Andrés completed some personality scales: *Eysenck's Personality Questionnaire-Revised* (EPQ-R), the *Dissociative Experiences Scale-Revised* (DES-R), and the *Schizotypal Personality Questionnaire* (SPQ). The scores indicated emotional instability, irritability, impulsivity and feelings of inadequacy in his environment.

His father reports that Andrés has behavioral problems (such as not respecting other persons, and not accepting being advised or oriented). Since childhood, Andrés has been hyperactive, which has caused some difficulties at school. The neuropsychological tests indicate that Andrés may have neurological disorders (mainly frontal lobe). An early diagnosis indicated that Andrés suffers from epilepsy (photosensitive) (see Solfvin & Roll, 1976). He has had convulsions since the age of 12. Andrés's main symptoms are irregular 'blanks' since the age of 9. He is medicated with antiepileptics and anticonvulsives. Andrés has also been receiving psychomotor, psychopedagogic, psychological, neurological and psychiatric treatments. His mother adds that he has suffered from many life-style restrictions (e.g. on recreational activities such as biking, going out at night, swimming, driving a motorcycle or a car), requiring that he be accompanied or be under observation.

According to Irwin (2004) about 70% of 'RSPK agent' cases involve youngsters less than 20 years old. The psychoanalyst Fodor (1959) suggested that RSPK (poltergeist) disturbances were not caused by spirits, but by human agents suffering from repressed anger, hostility or sexual repression. He presented the case of a woman whose repressions provoked a rush of PK activity in Thornton Heath, England, in 1938 (Fodor, 1948).

William Roll explored a possible link between Central Nervous System (CNS) dysfunction and PK (Roll, 1968; 1970; 1984, 1993; Roll & Montagno, 1983). Roll studied 116 cases of CNS dysfunction that happened over four centuries in more than one hundred countries. Roll identified the repetition of RSPK in these cases. He also discovered that the most frequent agent was a child or an adolescent (Roll, 1977). Roll, who authored *Unleashed: Of poltergeist and murder* (Roll, 2004), based on the case of the RSPK activity of Tina Resch in 1984, proposed that the incident was due to the electromagnetic energy of the agent affecting the kinetic energy of objects. He has also speculated that these processes may involve the neutralization of the gravitational field around the agent. "Only now we are understanding the electromagnetic medium that fills the space and interacts with gravity and inertia" (Roll, 2003). Roll bases his theoretical speculation about RSPK on the model of physicist Harold Puthoff,

who affirms that empty space is not really 'empty' but filled with zero point energy (ZPE) that remains active at absolute zero when thermal effects are frozen. According to Roll, Puthoff's most interesting proposal is that ZPE could be the mechanism for RSPK through its interaction with gravitation and inertia.

According to Roll (2003), inertia, that is, resistance of an object to acceleration, is a known phenomenon, but lacks scientific explanation. Puthoff considers inertia to be a product of ZPE. He gives us an example of inertia: "Suppose you are standing inside a train. If the train leaves the platform suddenly, you may fall to the floor. What is the force that seems to come from nowhere, that hits you to make you fall?" Puthoff explains that the phenomenon results from the relative acceleration of the fixed stars. In the example of the train, the punch was given by the pressure of the ZPE that fills the space between us and the stars. The inertial mass of an object on earth would result from the mass and position of all the matter in the Universe. It is known as the 'Mach principle' proposed by the Austrian philosopher Ernest Mach. This theory originates in quantum physics, which says that the vacuum is an active site. "If the conscious or unconscious intentions of a person, like those of a poltergeist agent, can interact with the ZPE, this means that the vacuum has an unconscious component."

The main problem for the researchers of RSPK has been identifying the energy that provokes the movement of the objects. Maybe Andrés wants to communicate a message, or attract attention, like a signal in an environment to which he cannot adapt himself. This lack of adaptation is projected in a similar manner as seen in the psychological mechanism of 'displacement of aggression,' but at a psi level rather than the psychological level. In this model, rupture of the repressed hostility takes the form of PK force, an unconscious manifestation of Andrés' frustrations. The rush of PK alleviates the intense frustration and tensions that could cause damage to the persons involved, unless these tensions could be psychologically elaborated somehow. The poltergeist phenomena might well be, in part, 'therapeutic', which explains why such rushes have short life (Rogo, 1974). However, the psychological and neurobiological conjectures about RSPK manifestations had received many

criticisms. The theory on this subject has been evaluated using anecdotal clinical observations, and fragmented and unsystematic data. Recently, Taboas (1980; 1984; 2002), Taboas and Alvarado (1981), Stokes (1997) and Watt (1994) have presented balanced criticisms of the RSPK models. Andrés' case has been presented anecdotally, and many important artifacts were not controlled. It may be that aggression is not a necessary ingredient in RSPK. However, this case could be described as an interesting, provocative and suggestive basis for testing such a theory. I would be more than glad to see a group of Argentine investigators developing rigorous methodological tests to help us decide if these conjectures are on the right or the wrong track. RSPK events have always been a mystery, and taking into account the very few researchers in the field and the few economic resources available, it seems to me that the phenomena will continue to be clouded in uncertainty for an indefinite time.

From the viewpoint of Andrés and his family, perhaps this case could be best resolved with a therapeutic approach, regardless of whether psi is or is not involved. In Andrés' case it may be that RSPK activity is a psychopathological and an interpersonal issue as well as parapsychological issue.

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