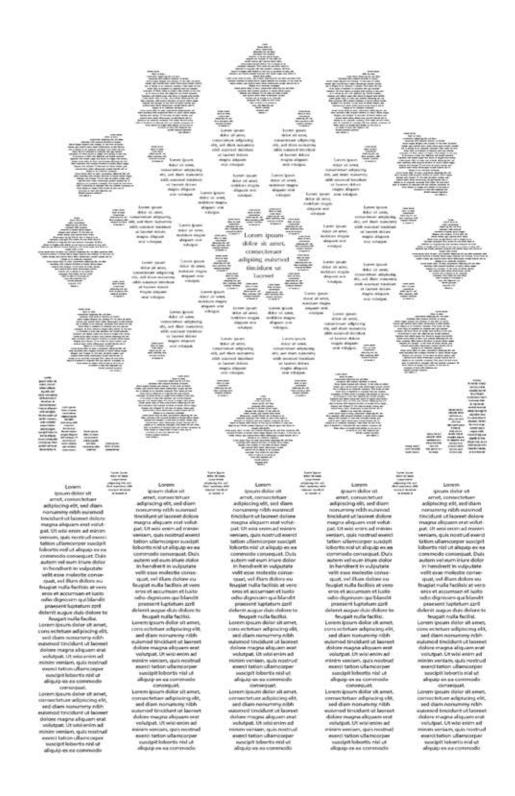


MIRACLES

MIRACIES

"Those who assume that miracles cannot happen are merely wasting their time by looking into the texts: we know in advance what they will find for they have begun by begging the question." - C.S. Lewis, Miracles



I have created this book to challege the beliefs of those who read it, hopefully opening their minds to a world of unlimited possibilities.

02. 03.

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Introduction

I began my project by researching various historically acclaimed miracles; events such as the appearance of Mary, the mother of Jesus (Our Lady) at Lourdes, France in 1858, the imprint on the Shroud of Turin and the numerous miracles surrounding the life of Padre Pio amongst others. As a consequence of my research I discovered that despite substantial evidence supporting these events, there was always criticism and denial of the miraculous having actually taken place. So, I felt obliged to ask myself a couple of questions: Are miracles real? If so, can they be proven?

Subsequently I set out on further research by studying the book "Miracles" by Clive Staples Lewis (1898–1963) who was one of the intellectual giants of the twentieth century and arguably one of the most influential writers of his day.

Lewis starts by asking the question "can we determine a miracle by solely looking at the evidence?" His answer being no, we cannot, unless we determine the observer's position on the supernatural; as consequently all evidence on the supernatural will be shrouded in ifs, buts and maybes.

I then realised that the question that really needs to be answered is "are miracles possible? If so, are they probable?" As if an individual believes the supernatural to be impossible, no amount of evidence could ever convince him or her of a miracle's authenticity. Additionally, Lewis concludes that "seeing is not believing" as, because of the phenomena of illusion, we cannot trust our senses as they are not infallible. Therefore experiences alone cannot answer my original question of "are miracles real?"

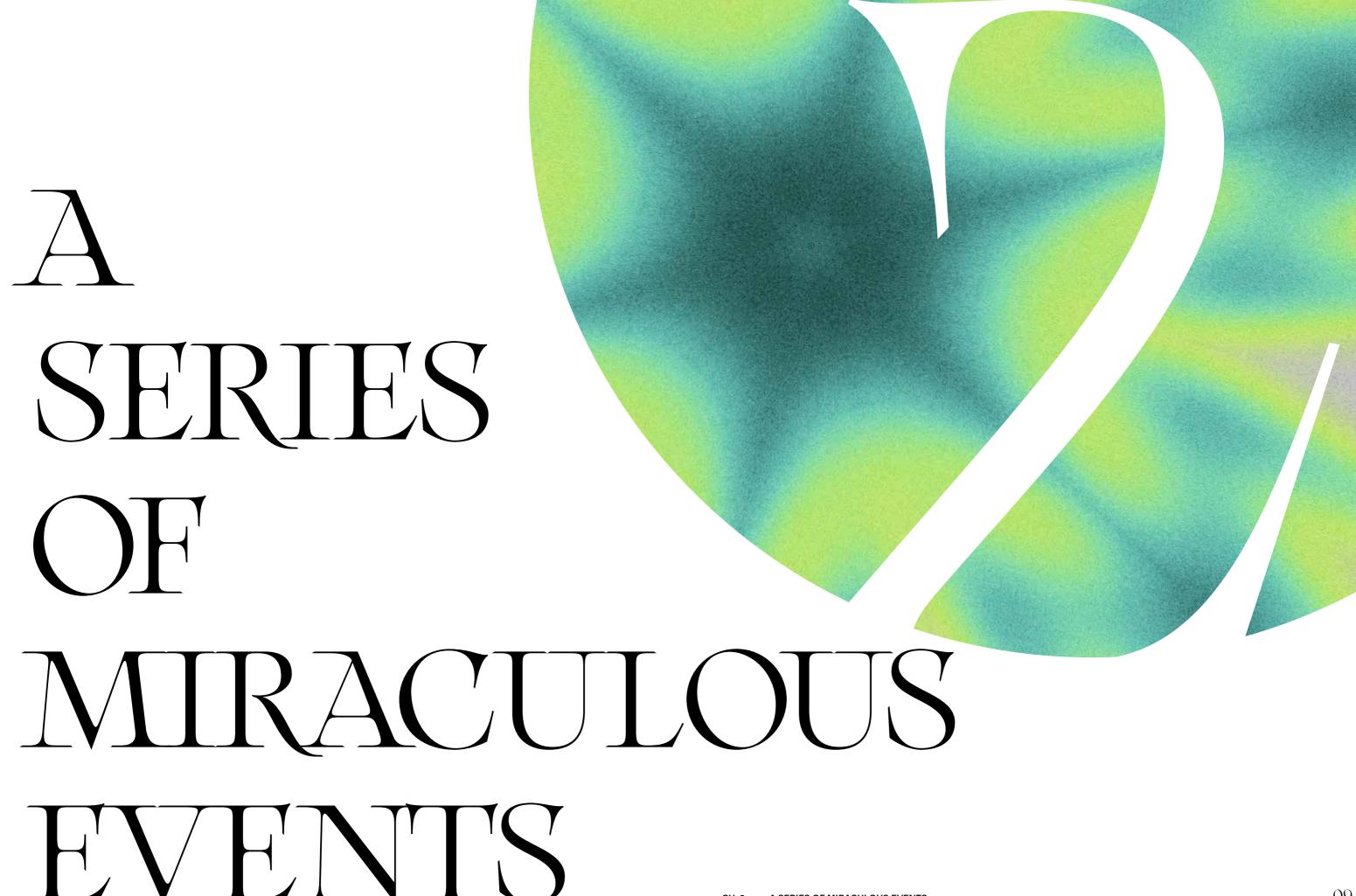
After gathering this information, I pondered on Lewis' final and most important question, as it directly correlated with the questions I am trying to answer i.e.

"If we cannot trust experience, and historical evidence has no weight without belief in the supernatural, how can I answer if miracles are real?"

So, apparently one cannot! I determined that I can't answer if miracles are real or not, because my faith would create a bias and I can't convince "you" of the authenticity of a miracle unless I first challenge your disbelief in the supernatural. Therefore, I concluded that all I can achieve is to enable the reader to personally determine whether miracles are possible.

The remainder of this book is constructed in a manner that allows the reader to step into the information and insights that I unveiled while researching miracles. Hopefully, this will assist you to answer for yourself whether they are possible, through embarking on my same journey.





A. Holy Mary of Guadalupe and the Tilma

Context:

In the 15th and 16th centuries the indigenous peoples of what is now Mexico suffered conquest by the Aztecs and subsequently by the Spanish conquistadores. It was a custom of the Aztecs to offer their captive victims as human sacrifice to the snake god Quetzalcoatl. By Aztec accounts this claimed a quarter of a million lives per year. In the dedication of just a single temple, involving a celebration of a mere four days, the Aztecs would slaughter and sacrifice more than eighty thousand men and women.

The natives lived a life of natural and supernatural terror, yet the fear of their idols kept them trapped in idolatry. They resisted conversion to the Christian faith with any effort of the missionaries proving ineffective.

Brief Summary:

In 1531 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to a peasant man named Juan Diego. He was a simple, elderly man and a convert to the catholic faith. One day he was on his way to attend Mass when Our Lady appeared to him. She asked him to go to his bishop and request a church to be built in her honour on that very spot on Tepeyac Hill. The bishop was sceptical and asked Juan Diego to provide a sign to prove that his vision was authentic.

When Juan Diego next saw "Our Lady," she filled his overcoat (tilma) with roses even though it was mid-winter and roses were out of season. When the bishop took the roses from Juan Diego's garment, he saw that Mary had miraculously left her image on Juan's tilma.

Juan Diego's tilma, made from cactus fibre, would typically fall apart and start to decompose after five years. Initially it was deemed miraculous for lasting fifty years. It has now endured half a millennium and the image on the Tilma is visited by hundreds of thousands of pilgrims annually.

Cathedral built on Tepeyac Hill, Mexico City.



B. Apparition Analysis

1st Apparition:

Juan Diego was on his way to church when he heard singing from the top of the hill known as "Tepeyac" which prior to the Spanish colonisation was a sanctuary to Tonantzin, the Aztec goddess of the earth, corn, and fertility. Juan Diego described the singing as a chorus of birds more beautiful than any birds he had ever heard.

When Our Lady appeared to him for the first time, she requested that a church be built on the spot where she appeared. She then asked that this request be relayed to Bishop Juan de Zumaraga.

2nd Apparition:

The bishop's initial thoughts were, "why would the Blessed Mother appear to this local native?" He was suspicious because of the vast amount of idolatry and pagan worship at the time. He asked himself, "why would she request that a church be built on Tepeyac Hill, the location of a former Aztec temple dedicated to the pagan goddess Tonatzin?" The bishop had dismissed Juan Diego, so Juan Diego returned to the hill and told the Blessed Mother what had happened. Juan Diego even asked Mary "Is there anyone else you could get to relay this message?" As she could have gone to the bishop directly, but, as we will discover later, 'God' often purposefully uses the people that we often think of the least.

3rd Apparition:

Before sending Juan away, the bishop requested evidence of the miracle. Juan promised that he would return with a sign from the Virgin Mother. After the third apparition, Our Lady asked Juan to return the next day and promised that she would give him a sign.

10. CH. 2 A SERIES OF MIRACULOUS EVENTS 11.

B. Apparition Analysis

4th Apparition:

Juan's plans to return to see the Virgin Mary changed because his uncle had developed a sickness and uncles were an extremely important part of the culture in that day and age. So, instead of returning the next day, he tried to find a doctor for his uncle, but his efforts, unfortunately, were of no avail. So, on December 12th, Juan wrapped himself in a tilma to protect himself from the cold and went in search of a priest for his uncle.

As he approached Tepeyac Hill, Mary appeared to him once more, despite the fact he had taken a different route as he hadn't wanted to be delayed. He pleaded that they meet another time as it was urgent he helped his dying uncle. When he finished speaking, Mary spoke:



Stands before a Brilliant Light - Sun rays completely surround the Virgin of Guadalupe as if to indicate that she is their dawn. She is the Mother of Light, Mother of the Child-Son, Mother of the True God. She makes Him descend to the "center of the moon" (Mexico in Nahuatl)

"Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest son, that what frightens you is nothing. Do not let it disturb your face, your heart, do not fear this sickness or any other sickness, nor any hurtful thing. Am I not here. I who have the honour to be your mother?"

She revealed herself as Mother and Queen and reassured Juan that his uncle would be cured. He would later learn that she appeared to his sick uncle 'Juan Bernedino' at the same time.

Juan Diego trusted her and asked for the sign that he could take back to the bishop. She told him to go back to the top of the hill and that he would find a variety of flowers to bring back so she could arrange them in his tilma to be carried as if they were in a basket. Roses were out of season at that time of year yet there they were in front of Juan Diego. Mary said this would be proof enough to convince the bishop to build the church. In native American culture, flowers and songs were highly significant as they were symbols of truth.

Juan then returned to the bishop and emptied his tilma, showing the flowers. The roses fell to the floor, revealing an image of Mary imprinted on the tilma. This was the sign for which the bishop was asking. Everyone in the room fell to the floor, overwhelmed with emotion. The bishop dropped to his knees and begged Juan for forgiveness. He then untied the tilma from Juan's neck and took it into his private chapel and welcomed Juan to stay with him for the day.

The next day people from nearby villages became aware of the story and started to help build the chapel. Mary asked and the people delivered. Natives saw a real meaning in the tilma because the type of tilma you wore portrayed your social status. The miracle gave a new found dignity to the common peasants, especially the Native Americans. Juan Diego went from lowly peasant to having an important place in the church. This kind of social leap was unheard of.

Apparition Analysis

When Juan Diego returned to his uncle he found that his uncle had been cured. He explained everything that had happened to his uncle and to his surprise, his uncle already knew. The uncle told Juan that Mary had revealed her name to him as:

"The Perfect Virgin HOLY Mary of Guadalupe was interpreted as 'Cuadalupe' Guadalupe"

meaning "one who treads on snakes"; it was also the name of a nearby area. Others believe it was a reference to Guadalupe, Spain the home town of Hernan Cortez the Spanish conquistador who conquered the Aztecs. Most importantly her name was placed into the minds of the natives to request her intercession for a renewal of the people.

On December 26th the chapel was complete, in honor of Mary and to house the Tilma.

After the miracle, the natives realised if Juan Diego, a lowly peasant could get to heaven, so could they. Within six years six million Aztecs converted to Christianity. This is the largest conversion of a people ever recorded in history. Additionally, the basilica which now houses the Tilma is the most visited Catholic site in the world and the third most visited sacred site in the world.

15. 14. A SERIES OF MIRACULOUS EVENTS

THETILMA



C. Supernatural Symoblism

The tilma introduced Christianity in a way that the indigiounous people could understand because it represented a "new hope."

Colour: The blue and green colour on the mantle was very important; it was a colour that indicated to the natives someone important, as only an empress would wear such colours.

Hair and Ribbon: In the image her hair is long and let down. This was a style used only by virgins; married women would wear their hair up. The black ribbon that appears to be coming from her wrists, is actually tied around her waist; this ribbon indicated that she was pregnant. This combination portrayed a miracle in itself as the Indians could understand from the image that she was a virgin yet pregnant.

A symbol of victory over the pagan religion:

Mary appears standing on the moon which, to the Aztecs, was the god Coyolxauhqui. Additionally she stands before the sun. This is important as it proclaims to the Aztecs that there is someone greater than the sun which, to them, was the greatest of their gods, Huitzilopochtli. Intriguingly the natives were afraid of solar eclipses more than anything else and Mary is seen here standing in front of the sun. This is critical as if something appears in front of the sun it would normally appear black due to it obscuring the light source, but Mary is illuminated despite the moon she is standing on being blackened, indicating that she brings more light than the sun itself. To the Aztecs an eclipse indicated the sun was being eaten, consequently the Aztecs considering themselves "the children of the sun" interpreted this as their father being devoured which, to them, was the worst of all omens. The Aztecs believed this signified that they were doing something wrong and would turn to sacrifices to earn favour with their gods.

The Angel: Beneath Mary is a strange angelic figure with the face of a child but with the bold look of someone wise. The angel is supporting the mother. To the Aztecs an angel was a symbol of royalty. The Spaniards thought this depiction of an angel was strange but to the natives it was totally reasonable as this angel has the wings of an eagle. The eagle depicts the bird that can fly the highest and in Aztec culture was thought to deliver food to sustain the gods as often in its claws it would carry the hearts and blood of the victims that had been sacrificed. The angel takes the place of the eagle symbolizing a new messenger, bringing new food. What was once the blood and hearts of those sacrificed has now switched to the body and blood of Jesus found in the Eucharist, additionally highlighting that Jesus had given himself as the ultimate sacrifice, showing the indigenous people that their human sacrifices were not necessary.

C. Supernatural Symbolism

The Face:

The face of 'Our Lady' is a Mestizo face signifying the union between two great cultures, the indigenous peoples and the Spanish. The eyes cast downwards to portray humility and compassion, Native Americans would have been unaware of a 'deity' with such humble characteristics, thus indicating to the Aztecs that she is not 'God' and that there is someone greater than her. Mary does not claim to be God, only a messenger.

The Hands:

Additionally, Mary's hands, which are in a praying position, further highlight that she is not God because her hands, being in prayer, show supplication to somebody greater than herself. Though the Spaniards would recognise this gesture as traditional praying hands posture it's more striking that the natives also recognised it as prayer. Why? Well, the natives' normal form of prayer would be through dance as, for them, prayer was expressed through the whole body. Often the emperor would join with his people in dancing and singing to the gods. So, you may ask where is she dancing in the image for them to interpret a prayerful act? By looking closely, the bend in her left knee is all that is necessary to indicate she is in a position of dancing, a position of prayer.

The Clothing:

For the natives to trust Mary they needed to see that she was a good woman. Her clothes symbolically represent her characteristics. Under her neck is a gold brooch which to the natives would portray sanctity. Additionally, the bow around her waist held significance with the indigenous peoples, it was known as "Najvi Olen" which translates as "the flower of the sun," a symbol of fertility, abundance and new life.

As mentioned previously, the placement of the bow is significant because of Mary's swollen waist revealing her pregnancy. The Spanish word for pregnant is "encinta," which literally translates to "adorned with a ribbon."

On the tunic, you can also see nine flowers. The natives had a special reverence for flowers as to them they signified the continuation of life. On each flower is a small series of blooms which were a symbol of truth to the Aztecs. The flowers emanating from the area of the blue mantle covered in star indicate truth coming from a celestial origin.

The word "encinta" has two translations in spanish it can either mean 'pregnant' or its literal translation meaning 'adorned with a ribbon.'



"awoman clothed with the sun."

Revelations 12

C. Supernatural Symbolism

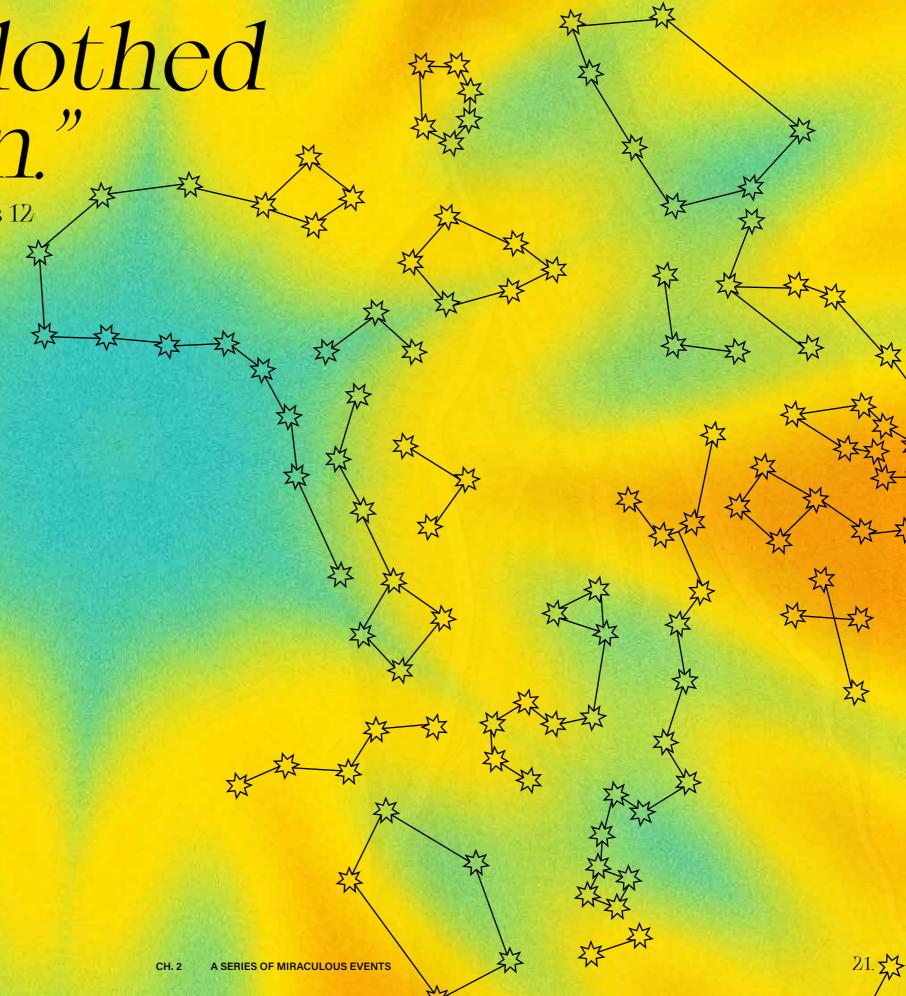
A Marian Constelation:

In the image Mary is surrounded by light and she is standing on the moon with stars on her mantle, these stars placed on her mantle represent her "Crown of Stars."

"A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head" - Book of Revelation, Chapter 12

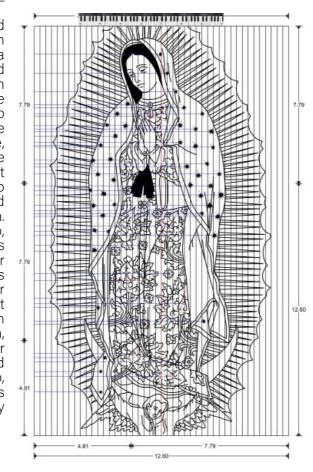
The stars indicated to the natives that Mary's origin was heavenly through the celestial/cosmic imagery.

Through studying the layout of the stars on the mantle, astronomers have shown that the stars appear exactly how the constellations would have been seen in the sky on the 12th December 1531.



D. Did you think that was it?

A Hidden Song: Truth was also expressed through song, but how can we see truth in song on an image? Well, Fernando Ojeda (Phd) through extensive research and analysis discovered that by using the golden ratio you could mathematically determine musical notes hidden in the tilma. Fernando explains; "based on previous studies made upon the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, I reasoned the following: if the stars of the mantle are the constellations of the sky at the time of its impregnation, the dress also represents proportionally the main hills and volcanoes in the orography of the region. If the whole image keeps the golden ratio, then it has perfect symmetry, therefore it has music. The mathematician and philosopher Pythagoras pointed out that where there is perfect symmetry there is music. As their positions were different I considered that each star according to its position and each flower's centre according to its position, indicates a certain musical note." After placing the image inside the golden ratio and then superimposing the diagram of a piano, he was able to find the stars and flowers aligned to make chords creating a melody with perfect harmony.



Coloring: Although we can clearly see the image of Mary on the Tilma, amazingly no paint has been discovered on the fabric. NASA scientists confirmed that the material that colours the Tilma belongs to no known element on earth. In addition to this scientists were unable to detect any sign of brush strokes or any known painting technique for that matter, no sizing, no sketches, no touchups, nothing!

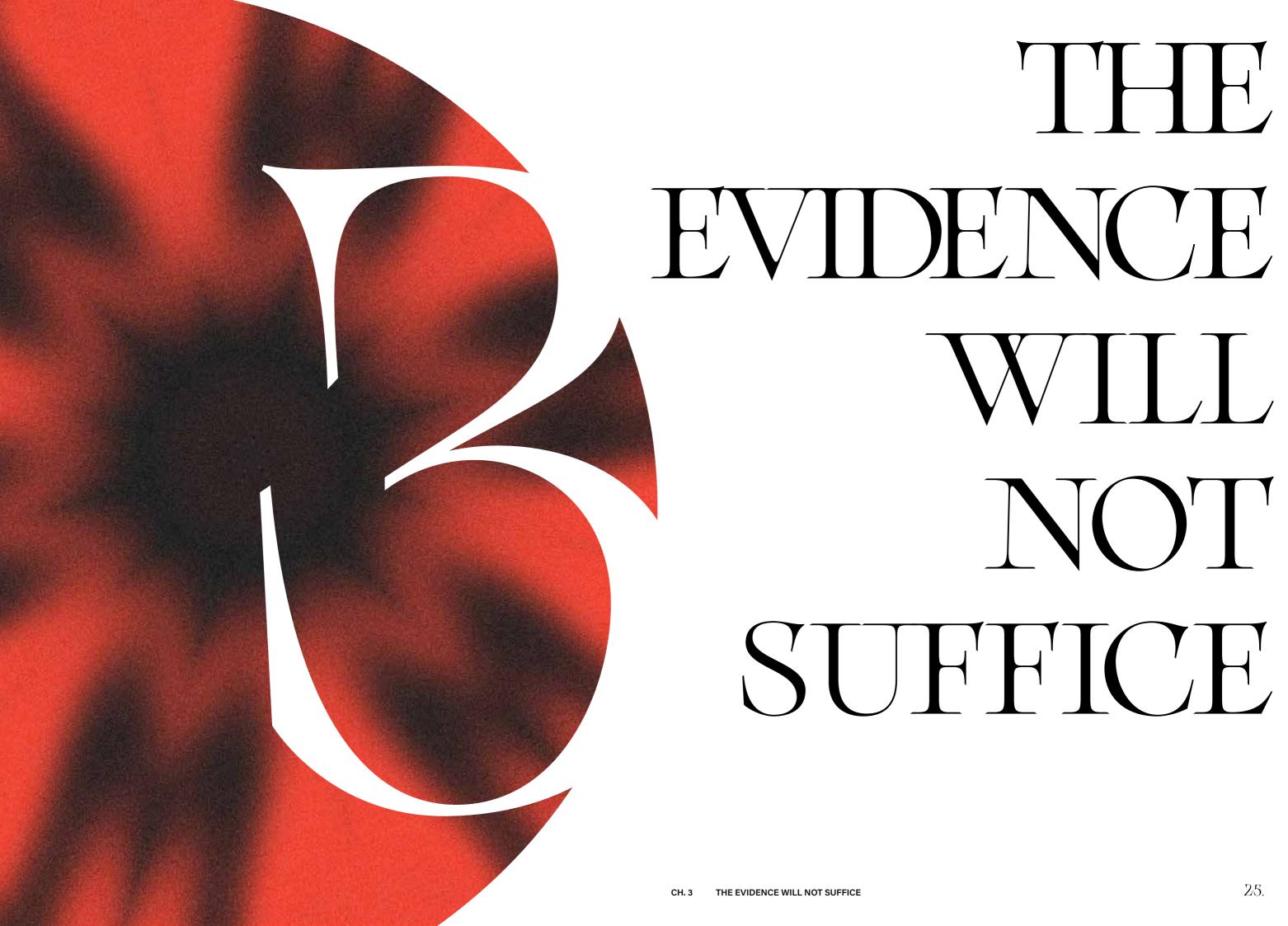
Furthermore there is no sign of cracking, peeling, fading and none of the colours have faded which is miraculous after such a long period of time. Yet, astoundingly, when analysed from a distance of three to four inches, one can only see cactus fibres on the material; as if by magic the colours disappear. When analysed further, under laser, scientists discovered that there is no colouration on the cloth whatsoever and that the colours actually hover over the cloth at a distance of three tenths of a millimeter.

Heartbeat: When analyzed with a stethoscope over Mary's waist scientists discovered that the Tilma was releasing a rhythmic beat of 115 pulses per minute, the same as that of a baby in the womb.

Material: The Material of the Tilma has a lifespan of no longer than between twenty and thirty years, scientists cannot explain why the cactus fibre material has not yet decomposed. Scientists even had a replica created on the exact same material and that completely disintegrated after several centuries. Furthermore you must take into account that for the first one hundred and thirty years of its existence the Tilma was completely unprotected, coming in contact with humidity, dust, human contact and soot from burning candles.

Additionally cactus fibre is a very rough material. When examining the back of the Tilma the fabric is consistent with what is expected, but when analysing the front of the Tilma, it is as smooth as silk.

ZZ. CH. 2 A SERIES OF MIRACULOUS EVENTS 23.



'We don't have any natural explanation of what happened.

Miracles: Uncovering the veil

Fact or Fiction

'With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God'

Miracles: Uncovering the veil

Wednesday, January 31, 2021. £2

THE EVIDENCE WILL NOT SUFFICE

Article: My response to David Hume's argument against the validity of miracles and why I am in disagreement.

Now that I have informed you of the miracles surrounding Our Lady of Guadalupe, it is important to realise that all this evidence amounts to nothing if you believe the supernatural is impossible. As the science of any age cannot prove the supernatural, this is what makes it miraculous.

Famous naturalist and enlightenment philosopher David Hume suggests a 'miracle' is a breaking of the laws of nature. He states that a miracle is "a transgression of the laws of nature by the interposition of some invisible agent."

I have to disagree and argue that the "supernatural" is not in violation of nature. It is actually "apart from the order of nature," hence the term "supernatural" i.e. 'above nature.' This is why when measured, miracles are not judged by their rarity but by the degree of their departure from the ordinary course of nature. The more the power of nature is surpassed the greater the miracle.



"A wise man proportions his belief to the evidence". - David Hume

has to be instantaneous.

complete and permanent.

Additionally, Hume's has five main arguments as to why miracles do not exist:

1. Hume's argues that the simplest explanation is usually the correct one, the lesser miracle." In my opinion, this rule is redundant as the the Vatican process has for confirming the miraculous goes through every measure of ruling out all other possibilities. example, when someone is miraculously healed, to even be considered, the healing

Furthermore, it must not have any scientific whatsoever. If that wasn't enough the Vatican then has a board of five of their best physicians known as the Consulta Medica review medical evidence such as scans and x-rays to remove any further doubt. Lastly, you may suggest the Vatican would be biassed, but I will give you the example of Lourdes, thousands of people claim to be healed every year yet the Vatican hasn't approved any healing at Lourdes to be miraculous since 1988. Out of the millions of claims since 1858, only 67 have been approved.

2. Hume claims "a wise man proportions his belief to evidence" therefore suggesting that you must choose the side that has more evidence, I don't totally disagree as it doesn't disprove the miraculous, I would personally say there is more evidence for the miracle of the Tilma than there is against.

3. Hume suggests that with miracles there is always inadequate testimony and that an individual who claims to have witnessed a miracle must have nothing to gain. In this case, I would present Hume with the miracle of the sun at Fatima in 1917. The miracle was pre-announced,

there were over 70,000 witnesses many of these witnesses were hostile, only attending to disprove the claims. Additionally, not only the people that gathered for the miracle witnessed it, but people from villages miles away also saw the miraculous.

4. For his fourth point, Hume claims witnesses of miracles are often from "ignorant or from barbarous nations" and says the miracles of the bible were witnessed by "poor uneducated fisherman." Unforunately there's nothing I can do about Hume's view on the intellect of the poor ,but rather I will affirm that God often chooses to reveal himself to the poor because of his great compassion for them.

5. Finally Hume claims that miracles in other religions cancel each other out. Well, regarding non-Christian religions, Vatican II tell us, "The Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions" therefore it could well be that God has worked a miracle for somebody outside the Christian faith. In fact it would be arrogant to believe that God only intercedes in the lives of Christians.

"to those who have faith, no explanation is required...

...for those who do not have faith no explanation will ever surfice."

27.

is required. For those who do not have faith no explanation will ever surfice."

"to those who have faith, no explanation

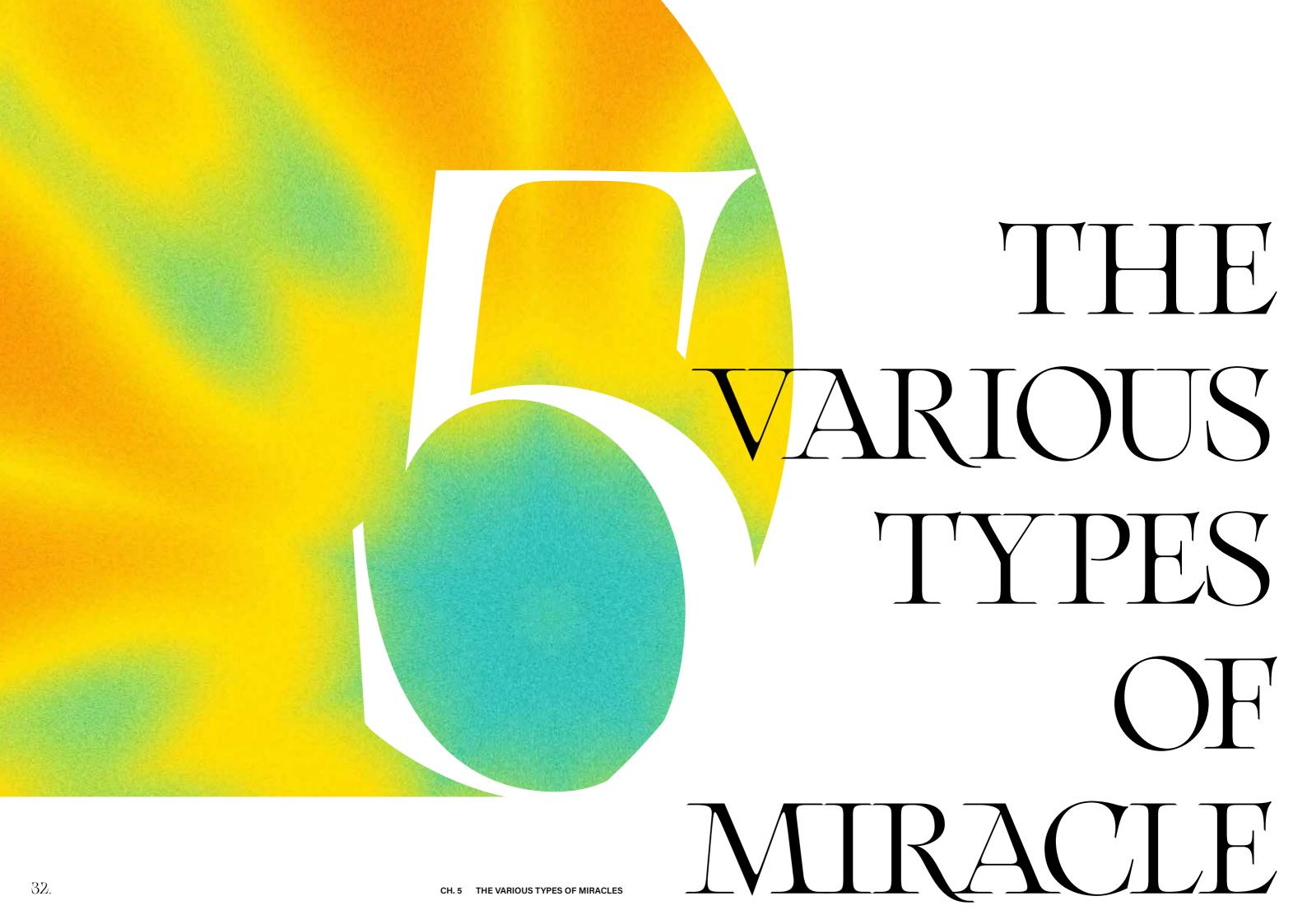
26. CH. 3 THE EVIDENCE WILL NOT SUFFICE

PROBLEM PERCEPTION

Littlewood's Law

Miracles aern't quite as far away as you percieve them to be. People often believe there is no chance miracles could happen to them just because of how rare they are. Litllewoods law might help you to remove that doubt that rather spectacular things do happen, and they happen more frequently than you think!

"a person can expect to experience events with odds of one in a million at the rate of about one per month."



TYPES OF MIRACLE

A. What are miracles?

Miracle, a noun meaning "amazing or wonderful occurrence," comes from the Latin miraculum "object of wonder."

Dig way back and the word derives from smeiros, meaning "to smile," which is a spontaneous thing to do when a miracle happens.

"Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." - John 4:48

"Events brought by divine power apart from the order usually observed in nature" - St Thomas Aquinas

B. What makes a miracle?

Miracles are often called signs, marvels, prodigies or wonders.

A miracle is an event perceivable by the senses and caused by God alone outside the ordinary course of created nature. Miracles are inexplicable by science of all ages and times because they cannot be accomplished by any natural power.

What constiutes a Miracle?

- 1. It has to be divine.
- 2. Has to be apart from the order of nature (not against it but above it, which means supernatural.)
- 3. Has to cause wonder through the five senses.

C. Three basic levels of miracle.

Substantial Miracles:

totally exceed the power of nature in the very substance of the event e.g. bilocation (Padre Pio, Alphonsus Liguori, Gerard Majella)

Subjective Miracles:

are within the power of nature to perform, but not in the specific context e.g. nature causes life, but never in a corpse.

Modal Miracles:

are within the power of nature to perform in a particular context but not in such a manner e.g. nature can cause a sick man to regain his health but not instantaneously.

"Events brought by divine power apart from the order usually observed in nature" - St Thomas Aquinas

CH. 5 THE VARIOUS TYPES OF MIRACLE 35.

D. Diffrenitating Miracles

Miracles occur in the sphere of the supernatural which is directly under God's influence. These prodigies belong to a realm which is above and beyond nature, in fact it transcends and outclasses physical nature. As a consequence, it can be said that supernatural phenomena stem directly from the will of God which is outside the human influence and doesn't follow the course of nature, for example giving sight to the blind, resurrecting the dead or walking on water.

In conclusion, we human beings operate in the natural world, the known universe with which we can understand, relate to and work. Angels and demons or similar forces operate in the preternatural sphere which is beyond nature but not above it, in other words we are talking of a 'relative supernatural' realm in between God and nature.

Supernatural

This is where God works.

Preternatural

This is where angels, demons and the devil work.

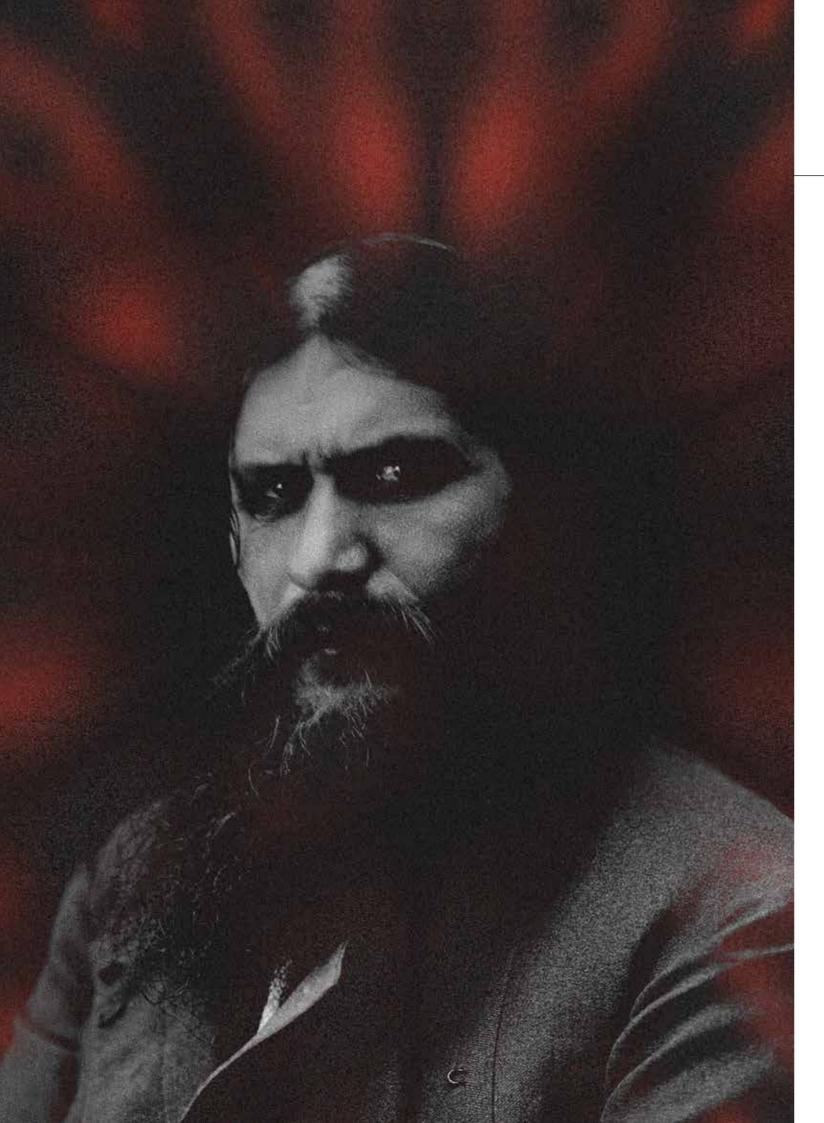
Natural

This is where humans and nature works.

E. What a miracle is not.

Not everything that happens in medicine is a miracle, it has to actually be supernatural for it to be categorised as a miracle. That doesn't mean God isn't intimately involved in everything that happens in medicine, but for example someone experiencing cardiac arrest receiving defibrillation and having their heart starting again, doesn't come under the definition of a miracle and this is an important delineation. For it to be a miracle it has to be above nature, not just electrical process restarting a heart.

A miracle is not a violation of the order of nature as some philosophers would have you believe, it is important to remember for Christians, like myself, God is the creator of things both natural and supernatural.



THE DARKARTS

E. What a miracle is not.

"There will come a time where anti-Christ figures will perform lying wonders." - St Paul

The devil with permission from God can set up and take away infirmities to make it seem like a cure has taken place, if, for example, someone opens themselves up to the occult or diabolic.

Example:

The story of Alexei Romanov & Grigori Rasputin

Alexei Nikolaevich of the House of Romanov, was the last Tsesarevich and heir apparent to the throne of the Russian Empire. He was the youngest child and only son of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna.

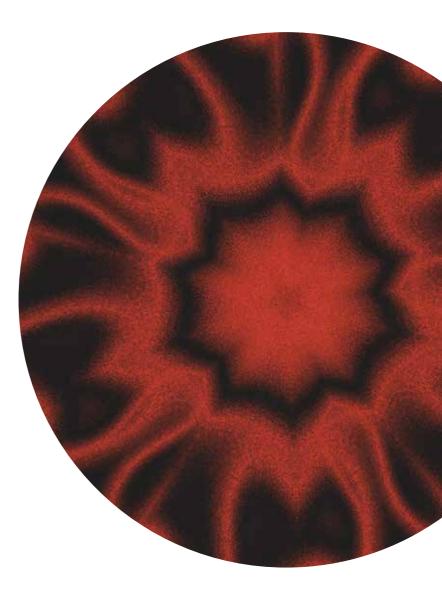
Before Alexei was born his mother Alexandra Feodorovna had sought out the occult in order for her to conceive a baby boy. After this she was in fact blessed with a baby boy, Alexei. Unfortunately he suffered from hemophilia, a condition where the blood does not clot properly.

Everytime Alexei would suffer from this condition she would call in Gregory Rasputin a so-called "faith healer." Rasputin would bless Alexei and each time Alexei would get better and it would give the appearance of being miraculous, especially given the nearness of death on certain occasions. It is important to recognise that Alexei was never completely healed of Hemophilia and each time there would be a long recovery process.

Was this a miracle?

Well, it is interesting to look at the results of these events. Gregory Rasputin was able to worm his way into the royal family and influence them. Because of this suspicion was cast upon the royal family, and those on all sides, the liberals, communists and royalists suspected Rasputin of being an enemy of their cause. So the royalists killed him. Rasputin's death was a pivotal moment and some would say the beginning of the Russian revolution as it wasn't long after that the royal family was arrested and killed. So essentially this man who performed lying wonders had a significant role in creating the events which ushered in the communist revolution of 1917.

A true miracle lasts forever and will never have negative repercussions.



"The devil with permission from God can set up and take away "blockages" to make it seem like a cure has taken place."



IFTING
THE VEIL

A. What is the Veil?

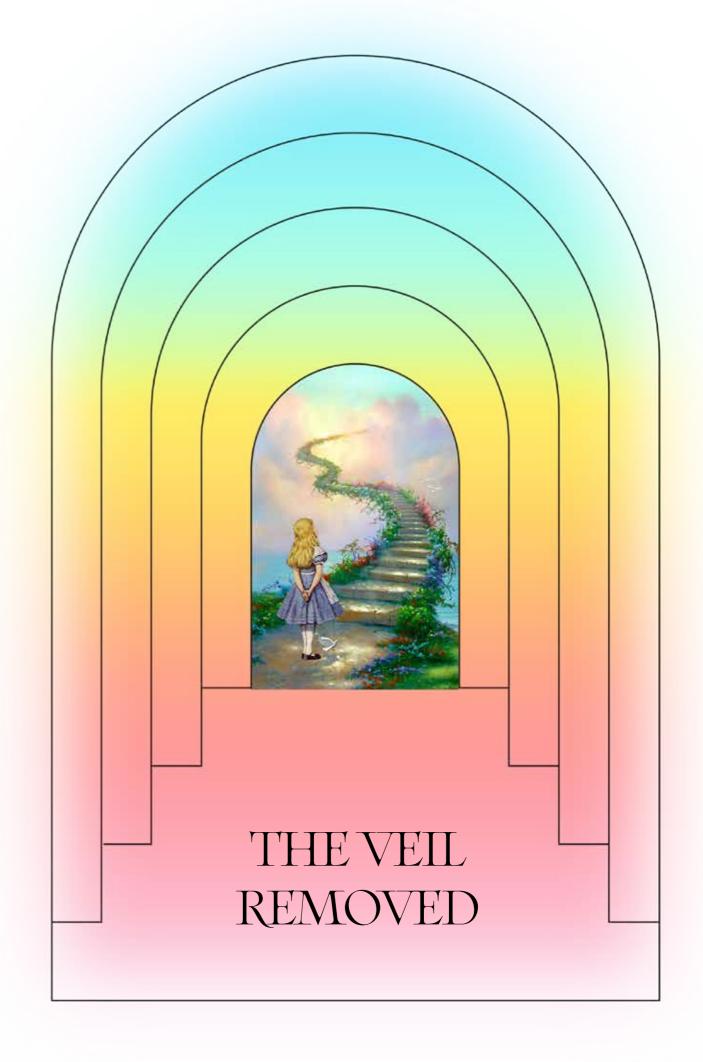
The veil is the belief that we humans can only see five percent of what is actually around us. Our eyes confine us to see only the material world, whilst in reality, the spiritual realm surrounds us and is far bigger. In his book "The Veil", Blake K Healy talks of being able to see angels and demons around us. He sees them as clearly as night and day, yet we cannot? Well, this is because God reveals this gift to only a few. Many of the saints had momentary removals of the veil during their lives, where God allowed them to see the spiritual domain. Likewise, it is often the case that exorcists are given this gift and refer to it as a 'burden'. We couldn't possibly understand what it is like to see the very demons that surround us.

In other forms of spirituality, people believe that using psychedelic drugs helps remove the veil temporarily, for example, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) causes "hallucinations" but what if these weren't hallucinations? What if the chemicals in LSD were removing the "veil" from over your eyes? Could that be why you perceive the world transforming around you? Is this why the ancient Egyptians were so fascinated with worshipping the pineal gland i.e. the Eye of Horus?

The pineal gland produces dimethyltryptamine, also known as DMT, another psychedelic drug often used by various cultures for ritual purposes. When taking DMT recreationally it is said to cause out of body experiences that are often compared to transportations to another dimension.

I only mention this to allow you to reconsider for yourself the existence of the spiritual world. Without belief in the spiritual, belief in miracles remains impossible.





Radiowaves

Microwaves

Infared

Visible Light

B. Science vs Spirituality

The "veil" for now is just a theory and scientists will say there is absolutely no evidence for such a dimension existing in our reality. Although, after researching the topic, I discovered that "visible light" which means the light you and I can see around us, only makes up 0.0035% of the electromagnetic spectrum. So, the rainbow of radiation we can see around us is so insignificant that in my opinion, it would be ignorant to rule out the possibility of a spiritual realm operating at a different optical frequency making it entirely invisible to the human eye.

I also wish to note that interestingly many people who claim to have seen heaven, consistently refer to having seen colours not pertaining to this earth.

Ultraviolet Light

X-Rays

Gamma Rays

H. 6 LIFTING THE VEIL



ADIVINE ARTIST

A. Naturalism

Naturalism and any school of thought that stems from it, considers nature as the fount of all that exists and explains everything within its limits or boundaries. Naturalism looks at material reality, natural laws and phenomena as the only valid reality, therefore denying anything that is outside the physical sphere and excluding the existence of any principles that transcends nature. In so doing it claims that the universe and all things in existence are governed exclusively by nature, its laws and its forces. In other words there is nothing outside nature and all answers can be found within itself. The intervention of a supernatural being is denied, even when the remote possible existence of a God could be accepted in order to explain the world or when, like in the case of pantheism, divinity is identified with the world; in this natural world reason suffices, creation and creatures are self-sufficient. In this context there is no space for any transcendent, no place for miracles... everything can be explained by 'natural means' if not, denied or contested with erroneous, fallacious, inaccurate or distorted findings.

A. Supernaturalism

Supernaturalism is directly opposed to Naturalism, it admits a supernatural intervention in nature and its laws, hence going beyond what can be seen or the limits of human explanations in science or reason. Supernaturalism doesn't reject science and its laws, but rather looks at: a supernatural existence as a transcendent cause above and beyond it; at God and his actions; at a creator in charge and control of his creation who governs the visible and the invisible and to whom the unexplainable can be attributed. In this dimension of mystery the supernaturalist lets the spiritual cohabit with the material, embracing two realities that don't exclude each other but rather coexist in a deeper, complimentary context that goes beyond appearance, hence accepting miracles as tangible signs and phenomena of a supernatural power.

ITIS P YOU.



"Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed." - John 22-29

A. It's up to you!

You may have noticed that throughout my studys on miracles I have included abstract depictions of how I percieve the miraculous. The idea stemmed from the book "Thought Forms" by Annie Besant and C. W Leadbeater.

Whilst introducing Leadbeater, a supposed clairvoyant, the author claims that "Whilst observing with clairvoyance the internal effects of religious services, he (Leadbeater) saw that christian sacraments and eucharistic rights were designed to release uplifting spiritual forces."

As a christian this quote stuck with me and I wanted to create a variety of abstract designs depicting these uplifting spiritual forces. I imagened what I would see if the veil was lifted from me and I saw the spiritual realm collide with the physical realm.

To the left is the final image I leave you with it is my portrayal of the miraculous in the sky. When you look up at the clouds if you use your imagination you can make out all sorts of images, but perhaps someone else who is looking at the exact same spot cannot see what you are seeing.

Well, my opinion on miracles is similar, I believe they are constantly happening around us. Big miracles and small miracles but unfortunately often we dont have eyes to see them, our minds are so preocupied with the material world that we dont even begin to consider the spiritual.

When we do eventually ponder on the spiritual mysteries we can be consumed with the thought that miracles are these huge nature altering events that we would be able to see with our very eyes. Dont get me wrong, they are! But at the same time I believe that God is constantly working in our lives, he oversees our every move, he guides us to places we need to be. He works in our lives when we aern't even aware of it and although all this happen in an unseen realm it doesnt make it any less real.

In this analysis on miracles I have tried my best to make you aware of what miracles are and how they work. My goal was not to give you answer but to leave you asking questions. I hope I have increased you intrest in this topic, and likewise learnt a few new things.

May god bless and protect you!

"Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed." - John 20-29

