

## EXPLORING PSYCHOMANTEUM AS A PSI-CONDUCTIVE STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS

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### ABSTRACT

The mirror gazing procedure termed the “psychomanteum” was developed by the world renowned psychiatrist Dr. Raymond Moody. It was designed to facilitate reunion experiences with deceased individuals, as a means of addressing the feelings surrounding bereavement. Although the modern psychomanteum is not normally employed to seek ESP information about the future, it may be that the psychomanteum is psi-conductive. For example, there are many similarities and differences between psychomanteum experiences and accounts of hypnagogic/hypnopompic imagery, which is conducive to ESP. The aim of this paper was to explore whether the psychomanteum technique encourages a psi-conductive state of consciousness, which would result in scoring that is significantly above MCE. One hundred and thirty participants (92 females and 38 males; Mean age= 47.44) were recruited by announcements in newspapers and our web site. Seventy eight percent claimed to have had a variety of ESP experiences. A number of variables, such as vividness of imagery and hallucinatory experience, were examined. Two conditions, psychomanteum and no-psychomanteum condition, were compared. A CD-pool containing 200 high-quality color pictures, such as animals, icons, foods, people, landscapes, religion, scenic pictures, structures, and humoristic cartoons, were designed using a RNG for randomization. Under psychomanteum condition, psi-hitting was obtained (30.8% above MCE); however, under no-psychomanteum (“control”) condition, 29.2% was obtained (where 25% was expected). The results differ slightly from MCE in the psychomanteum condition ( $p = .02$ , one-tailed) in comparison with no-psychomanteum condition, but no significant differences were found. A number of positive correlations were also found, for instance, participants who attained higher scores on auditory and visual hallucinations tended to demonstrate psi-hitting.

### INTRODUCTION

Beginning in very remote times indeed, certain individuals see remarkable visions when gazing into the clear depth of a mirror, the still surface of a clear pond, or a crystal ball. These visions are eidetic; that is, they are projected into the visual space and are seen as though they are externally located. The imagery assumes an apparent size proportional to the size of the speculum, small images being seen in small speculums, and large images in large ones. The crystal gazer has a sense that the visions appear and proceed independently of his or her conscious volition. Crystal gazing, as scrying, came to be used for divination: fortune telling, seeing events taking place at a great distance, locating lost objects, and criminal detection (for a discussion of the history see Thomas, 1905; Hyslop, 1896).

Divination by crystal gazing was practiced among the Ojibwa, Apaches, Cherokees, and other Native American groups. The chief oracle of Tibet used a magic scrying mirror to divine the future, and the cabinet ministers took his visions into account in directing state policy. In medieval Europe, *specularii* traveled from town to town telling fortunes by mirror gazing (Besterman, 1965; Kieckhefer, 1989). Gurney, Myers and Podmore (1886), in *Phantasms of the Living*, report hallucinations (apparitions) of faces in a polished surface of a wardrobe and in a window. People also reported colors and flashes of light, but these were not formed into images. It may be that these images seen by people could be developed into more complete and long lasting images, perhaps with symbolic meaning. The phenomena reported seem generally similar to those found by Roll and Braun (1995) and Radin and Rebman (1995).

This mirror gazing procedure termed “psychomanteum” was developed by psychiatrist Dr. Raymond Moody (Arcangel, 1994; Arcangel, 2005; Moody, 1992; Moody with Perry, 1993; Moody & Arcangel,

2001) who authored the best-selling book *Life after Life* (Moody, 1975) at the seventies. It was designed to facilitate reunions with deceased individuals, as a way of addressing feelings of bereavement. Moody conducted clients through a process of remembrance and counseling combined with the mirror-gazing, and reported that about 50% of the participants believed they had a reunion with a loved one. Some of these reunion experiences involved apparent apparitions of the deceased person, both in the mirror and externally in the room. The apparitions that appear in the Psychomanteum may be similar to crisis and other apparitions that have been the topic of parapsychological theory and research, and the question of survival after death (R. Moody, personal communication, June 3, 1995). Moody has directly observed more than 300 individuals during psychomanteum experiences and interviewed them afterwards about their experiences. Based upon this work, he concluded that crystal gazing can be a helpful technique in tapping into one's creative potential and as an aid to self-understanding. According to Dr. Moody's files, several people reported using their experiences as a part of a process of psychotherapy, for example in ferreting out conflictual issues and even in recovering repressed early trauma.

Several visual images are usually seen in the mirror. These included black robed figures, animal faces, flowers, a starry night, a landscape, and faces. These may be similar to imagery seen in crystal gazing and the uses of mirrors by shamans and priests, where images are seen to form in the reflective surface (Lang, 1910; Myers, 1903). Some people report that these apparitions are accompanied by electrostatic sensations (prickling skin, hair standing up), changes in ambient temperature (typically to extreme cold), or illumination anomalies (sparkling lights, the whole room diffused with bright light) (Moody & Perry, 1993). The experience of seeing an apparition can also be accompanied by feelings of profound meaning, sometimes leading to significant transformations of personality. These dramatic effects are reminiscent of phenomena associated with peak experiences and mystical states (Ludwig, 1966). The psychomanteum experience appears generally to be beneficial and may help the grieving process, even if strong reunion experiences are not reported (Hastings *et al.*, 1999; Moody, 1994; Roll & Braun, 1995). Research has also found that widows and widowers who report some form of contact with their deceased spouses, in a non-psychomanteum context, generally find them helpful (Rees, 1971).

Radin (2001) noted at least five possible hypotheses about the psychomanteum, one of which is the telepathic hypothesis. Intense telepathic rapport may affect brain functioning, causing the telepathic communication to be perceived as though it was projected from outside the body. Sometimes this may take the form of the "sender's" image, as is often reported in cases of crisis telepathy (Gauld, 1977). Other hypotheses are neurological, perceptual, psychokinetic and the ghost hypothesis. In recent years, a number of researchers have employed psychomanteum chambers to try to facilitate reunions between participants and their deceased loved ones (Hastings *et al.*, 1999; Moody, 1994; Moody with Perry, 1993; Radin & Rebman, 1996; Roll & Braun, 1995; Moody & Arcangel, 2001).

One possible explanation for psychomanteum apparitional experiences is that they involve hypnagogic-like imagery whose content may be strongly influenced by the needs, motivations and expectations of the participants. Hypnagogic/hypnopompic imagery is that which occurs during the transition states between sleep and wakefulness (see Mavromatis, 1987; Schacter, 1976). However, the main difference between psychomanteum imagery and hypnagogic/hypnopompic imagery is that in the former case the participant presumably has his/her eyes open whereas in the latter case the participant may or may not have his/her eyes open. Another difference is that, unlike hypnagogic/hypnopompic imagery, psychomanteum experiences do not tend to feature non-verbal auditory imagery. Psychomanteum experiences also seem to be more interactive, more emotional and have more of an impact on the participants (see Sherwood, 1998, 2000). The hypnagogic-like imagery could be psi-conductive. Further research is needed to investigate the potential influence of participants' mental set and expectations on the content of psychomanteum experiences with psi. As an altered state of consciousness (Braud, 1978; Honorton, 1974), there are many similarities and differences between psychomanteum experiences and accounts of hypnagogic/hypnopompic imagery.

Like other forms of sensory deprivation, psychomanteum stimulation would be associated with increased attention to internal imagery. Investigators suggested this association to develop an "experimental-hypnagogic" technique to facilitate the study of hypnagogic imagery. Studies of sensory deprivation suggest that perceptual isolation effects are related to the length of isolation. This appears to

be particularly true in the case of the psychomanteum technique. For example, the result of ganzfeld stimulation is the experience of diffuse, unpadding light characterized by reports of being immersed in a “sea of light,” disorientation, and the occurrence of “blank out” periods in which there is a complete disappearance of visual experience (Avant, 1965). However, Tart (1978) has argued that we cannot be sure our procedures are actually causing changes in participants' attention states because such changes are not always measured in these studies. The argument is that although some procedures may have a track record of producing ESP, we do not know if an alteration in consciousness has occurred, or to what degree. It is also unclear whether an alteration in consciousness contributes in any way to ESP success.

Irrespective of whether the psychomanteum technique induces a quasi-hallucinatory psi-conductive state, we might learn from the work of the early English psychical researchers in the 1880's and 90's. They began to see a new meaning and interpretation in psi hallucinations. The most complete record is found in *Phantasms of the Living*, written in 1886 by Edmund Gurney, Frank Podmore, and Frederic W. H. Myers. In this study Gurney *et al.* characterized the experiences which are today classed as parapsychical hallucinations as “telepathic hallucinations.” The implications of this definition gave experiences of this type their significance for the survival problem since the agency involved was in many instances represented as that of a deceased person.

L.E. Rhine (1953, 1963) found a total of 825 hallucinatory experiences, which she had drawn from a general case collection of over 8,000 items. As such, hallucinations comprised about 10 percent of the total. The remaining 90 percent were dreams and intuitions. When the cases were separated on the basis of sense modality, they fell into four groups: visual, auditory, olfactory, and somatic. The classifying of the types of ESP phenomena represented in the hallucinatory cases involved the sense modalities. However, the decision as to whether these cases were telepathic, clairvoyant, or precognitive in origin depended on what was perceived. That is, on the nature of the event associated with the percipient's paranormal experience.

This predilection for telepathy in comparison with clairvoyance was the result of an assumption as to the way in which telepathy works. With this concept of the telepathic process, psi hallucinations took on peculiar significance: hallucinatory psi experiences were a once frequently discussed and debated topic. In fact, terms like *ghost* and *apparition* –however– appear again and again in the older literature. Since all experiences that led to terms like *vision*, *ghost*, or *apparition*, have one common characteristic, that of being taken for sensory experience, but without the presence of an objective stimulus, they fall by definition into the general broad class of hallucinations. This class includes experiences varying in character and origin from the pathological to the religious. The perspective of parapsychologists is different from the rest in one essential aspect. Even though no objective stimulus is within sensory range, a stimulus does exist which could be accessible to extrasensory perception. It is interesting to note that experiences which are reportedly shared by two or more people are also categorized under psi hallucinations.

When applied to a parapsychical occurrence, the word hallucination has not always meant exactly what it does today. Before the discovery of any of the extrasensory phenomena – telepathy, clairvoyance, or precognition– such occurrences could not have been defined in terms of psi. Hallucinatory parapsychical experiences can be defined as the expression of the sensory equivalent of impressions received by extrasensory means. Hallucinations are one of the four forms of spontaneous experiences, the others being intuitions, and unrealistic and realistic dreaming (Rhine, 1953, 1963).

Our study compared psi performance in the psychomanteum with performance in an equivalent non-psychomanteum condition. It also explored ASC in the psychomanteum as a potentially psi-conductive state of consciousness. We hypothesized a (1) significant difference between scoring in the psychomanteum and the non-psychomanteum condition in a positive direction for the psychomanteum condition. Our rationale was that (2) if the psychomanteum truly induces a non-ordinary state of consciousness, this would increase ESP scores, and the presence and intensity of a non-ordinary state of consciousness could be related with ESP hits. It was decided in advance that we would conclude that this experiment offers support for the claim that psychomanteum stimulation is psi conducive only if there was a significant difference between the psychomanteum and the non-psychomanteum condition.

## METHODS

### *Participants*

The sample included 130 participants, of which there were 92 females (71.4%) and 38 males (28.6%). Ages ranged from 19 to 75 years ( $M = 47.44$ ;  $SD = 12.02$ ). Participants were recruited by announcements in newspapers and magazines and our web site in order to request an admission interview for the psychomanteum session. The participants did not receive information about characteristics related to the hypothesis of the experiment. As a part of the recruiting procedure, participants filled out a consent form.

### *Instruments*

*Betts's Vividness of Imagery Scale* (Richardson, 1969). We used the Spanish-speaking version of this scale (López, Paino, Martinez, Caro, Lemos, 1997) (Cronbach's  $\alpha = .77$ ). This contains 35 short descriptions, from which participants must try to imagine employing the seven different sensory modalities: visual (i.e. "the sun as it is sinking below the horizon"), auditory ("the meowing of a cat"), cutaneous ("the feel of sand"), kinetic ("reaching up to high shelf"), gustatory ("taste of oranges"), olfactory ("the smell of new leather") and organic ("the feeling of a sore throat"). The vividness of each experience was rated on a 7-point Likert scale. This ranged from a maximum score of 1 to a minimum score of 7, as such, lower scores reflect higher vividness experiences. The Auditory and Visual imagery scales were used for analysis.

*Barrett's Hallucinations Questionnaire* (Barrett and Etheridge, 1992, Barrett and Etheridge, 1994; Barrett, 1993). We used the Spanish-speaking version of this scale (López, Paino, Martinez, Caro, Lemos, 1997) (Cronbach's  $\alpha = .93$ ). This assesses 22 different types of hallucinatory experiences, such as hearing one's own name when nobody is present, hearing one's own thoughts aloud, hearing voices coming from a place where nobody is there, or hearing voices belonging to dead friends or relatives. The item is separated by a 5-point Likert scale, rated from 1 (never) to 5 (very often). The Auditory and Visual hallucination scales were used for analysis.

*Phenomenology of Consciousness Inventory, PCI* (Pekala, 1991b): The American version was translated into Spanish by the authors. Information about its reliability and validity was not given. This is a 53-item inventory that maps 12 major and 14 minor dimensions of participants' experience. They include the following sub-dimensions (in parentheses): positive affect (joy, sexual excitement, love), negative affect (anger, sadness, fear), altered experience (body image, time sense, perception, meaning), imagery (amount, vividness), attention (direction, absorption), self-awareness, altered state of awareness, internal dialogue, rationality, volitional control, memory, and arousal. An example of a PCI item for altered state of awareness is "My state of awareness was not unusual or different from what it ordinarily is" versus "I felt in an extraordinarily unusual and non-ordinary state of awareness." Each dipole of the item is separated by a 7-point Likert scale that participants use to evaluate their experience. With the PCI we rated the *psychomanteum* experience of the sample and the time period in question by means of statements like the one shown below: 1. *Sensations*: are internal bodily impressions that you become aware of. Itches, pressure, pain, warmth, and coldness are examples of such sensations; 2. *Perceptions*: are impressions that you feel you receive from the external world. Perceptions come from the environment through sights, sounds, smells, etc.; 3. *Feelings or Emotions*: are those internal impressions or moods such as happiness, joy, anger, excitement, etc.; 4. *Thoughts*: are internal words, statements, and verbalizations that you are saying to yourself.; 5. *Images or Imagery*: are internal visual (sights), auditory (sounds), kinesthetic (bodily), olfactory (smells), tactual (touch), or gustatory (tastes) impressions or pictures which pass before your mind, no matter how vague or dim they may be. They originate within you instead of coming from the environment; 6. *Impressions or Events*: are any of the above, i.e., sensations, perceptions, thoughts, or images.

### *Sender and Experimenter*

The first author (AP) was the experimenter, who met and ran each participant in the study. The second author (JV) was sender to the entire sample. Each session was carried out in two trials per participant (psychomanteum/non-psychomanteum condition). The sender had taken part in other ESP studies as a sender (Parra & Villanueva, 2003a, 2003b, 2004) and knows meditation and imagery-techniques.

### *Psychomanteum Chamber*

The chamber is a space of 4 meters' squared with a 2.35 meter ceiling. The chamber is built within this larger room, with dimensions of 6 by 8 feet and an 8 foot ceiling, and it has no windows, the ceiling and two walls faced the outside (i.e., had no common walls with other rooms). It is located above a storage room. To help create an isolated, undisturbed setting, the selected chamber room is in a remote, second floor area of our laboratory building at the Institute of Paranormal Psychology in Buenos Aires. The walls and ceiling of the lab are painted matte black to reduce light reflections. The chamber itself is electromagnetically shielded.

The walls of the psychomanteum chamber were constructed out of 2 inch x 4 inch wood studs, 5/8 inch wood studs, 5/8 inch wallboard, and R11 Fiberglas insulation. To form a rudimentary electromagnetic shield inside the chamber, the floor, walls and ceiling are completely covered with aluminum insulation, and then checked throughout for electrical continuity. The insulation consisted of a sheet of 1/16, 99 percent pure aluminum, a quarter-inch air spacing consisting of plastic bubble wrap, and then another sheet of 1/16 aluminum. The walls and ceiling of the chamber are covered by black velveteen fabric to create a dark, featureless interior, and the floor is covered by a black carpet.

A reclining chair and a wall mirror (1x1 meters) were brought inside the chamber and positioned for optimum comfort and viewing angles. Because the chamber is essentially a darkroom, a dim incandescent reclining chair lamp was placed behind the reclining chair, facing down, to provide some illumination so the participant could see the mirror. A dimmer control for this lamp can be operated outside the chamber to adjust illumination levels.

### *Type of Targets*

A CD-pool containing 3,500 color pictures of high-quality were designed from many collections of CDs clip-art. For each participant one picture-target randomly selected was used. A personal computer Pentium® IV (Intel®), 2.4 GHz, 512 RAM, 30 Gb. hard disc with SVGA color screen, PC-system video 8Mb, 3D AGP and a CD ROM reader 56X owned by the Institute of Paranormal Psychology was used.

### *Targets*

A CD-Rom contained 3,500 high-resolution jpg pictures was used. All pictures were taken from a clip-art, which contained nine groups of irregular, well differentiated pictures, such as animals, icons, foods, people, landscapes, religion, scenic pictures, structures, and humoristic cartoons. AP, selected approximately 200 attractive pictures from each group according to the original clustering of the product. He designed a pool where all pictures of each subgroup were numbered from 1 onward. An individual who had no contact with the participants and the sender and almost none with the experimenter, used a random number generator to separately and sequentially select pictures within each subgroup. After this, AP delivered the CD to JV with the pictures re-clustered and divided by groups, who then randomly selected one picture (as target) and after that three decoys. The picture target came from different subgroups (for example, a horse from the subgroup animals, a baby sleeping with his mother from the subgroup people, a church from the subgroup religion, and Popeye and Olive from the subgroup 'humoristic cartoons'). The target was selected once the experimenter (AP) and participant had entered the psychomanteum chamber. The three decoys were selected before AP and the participant came into the sender's room. During this procedure, the sender remained alone in his room. A standard coding of digits was used for all participants according to their testing numbers (determined by the order of testing).

When both conditions (psychomanteum and control) were complete, a randomization procedure for judging was used by JV for displaying the three decoys and the target picture. Avoiding any preference effect, a value (1–4) was randomly assigned by the sender for the target picture. Photoshop 5.0 was used for display four pictures at the same time because it did not allow any sensory cues between participant and experimenter, after the sender had finished viewing the target image on the PC screen. Both procedures were blind to AP and target pictures were never printed on paper. This procedure was employed for five reasons: 1. picture subgroups are easily clustered; 2. it facilitated randomization process; 3. target pictures were characterized by their diversity and visual attraction to serve as a good target for a GESP experiment; 4. this avoided any sensory (visual) cues, 5. Finally, this avoided any manipulation of the target, mainly during the target-viewing and judging stages.

### *Target security*

JV made the selection of the targets for each participant (each condition) individually, prior to each session, but he kept a paper-and-pencil register of the names of each participant and picture-targets selection, which was never in contact with AP (a security copy was kept by JV in a safe place unknown to the experimenter). JV kept the register in a close envelope with him. Before each condition JV remained alone in the sender's room, when he prepared each target. This procedure protected against the (unlikely) possibility of any leaking of target information to AP. The experimenter did not access the sender's room (JV) before and during the psychomanteum session. Both were separately isolated in different rooms (see Figure 1).

Also, the experimenter did not show the sender's room to the participant prior to the psychomanteum test. The experimenter had no contact with the sender during picture-target viewing period, as he left the room prior to the selection of the target picture by the sender.

The distance between sender and participant, as well as the walls of the Institute, and the design of the Psychomanteum chamber is optimal and safely isolated. As such, there could not have been any communication of sensorial clues either intentionally or unintentionally.

### *Test instructions*

Descriptions of the experiment were given to the participants. Participants were told that the experiment was a telepathy experiment with two conditions: psychomanteum and a non-psychomanteum condition. Both conditions were said to stimulate psychic abilities in people. They were told that both situations were being explored in this research project, such that the relative importance of each for stimulating psychic abilities could be investigated.

### *Altered state manipulation*

In the psychomanteum condition, participants undergo a 9-minute recorded relaxation exercise before the target-viewing period, which included autogenic phrases (Jacobson, 1974). This was recorded using the voice of one of the experimenters (AP). The participant was positioned in the reclining chair directly in front of the wall mirror. The instructions and relaxation exercises were delivered in a slow, soothing but confident manner with classical music [Antonio Vivaldi's *Double concerto*, Largo G Minor] in the background. The auditory stimulation was given by a 33-minute, white-noise, CD generated for this experiment.

In the non-psychomanteum condition, the experimenter was indicated that participant "remained with eyes closed, quiet, waiting for mental impressions for a twenty-three minute period." Participants also freely chose a relaxation technique. Neither music or white noise were used.

### *Randomization*

All randomization procedures were carried out using a Random Event Generator (REG). The sender was blind to the experimental condition. For counterbalancing the psychomanteum/non-psychomanteum conditions ABBA was employed (being A= psychomanteum condition and B= non-psychomanteum condition; B= non-psychomanteum condition and A= psychomanteum condition).

### *Testing Procedure*

Participants received an information pack before the session. It included a 4-item previous psi experience questionnaire designed by the authors. General information on the research program was also delivered. AP greeted participants at the door when they arrived and attempted to create a friendly and informal social atmosphere. AP engaged in conversation with the participants before the session. The experimenters sought to encourage a positive expectation for the selection of the target picture among participants.

Both conditions were carried out in separated rooms, one of them using free-response technique under psychomanteum stimulation and other one using a non-psychomanteum, both conditions used a free-response methodology. Both conditions were counter-balanced for each participant, who visited to the psychomanteum chamber just one time. The sender was not aware which condition the experimenter had randomly assigned.

In both conditions, the experimenter left the room once the experiment began and returned when the target viewing period ended. In both conditions, the experimenter remained silent in room B to control the session period using a chronometer. The participant stayed in the session room and the experimenter indicated the target-viewing period twice to the sender using a caller (a sound gadget which emits a *one-bip*). This indicated the beginning and the end of the viewing period. The target picture remained on the computer screen for twenty-three minutes.

Each participant was asked to verbalize his mental impressions as much as possible following the psychomanteum, which were then tape-recorded by the experimenter. Many people felt better speaking after rather than during psychomanteum (as Moody recommended). As participants did not have to verbalise during the session, the collection of mentation information was improved as it could be transcribed directly from a tape recording. Then, both experimenter and participant went into the sender's room. When the participant was seated in front of the computer's screen, a judgment procedure began.

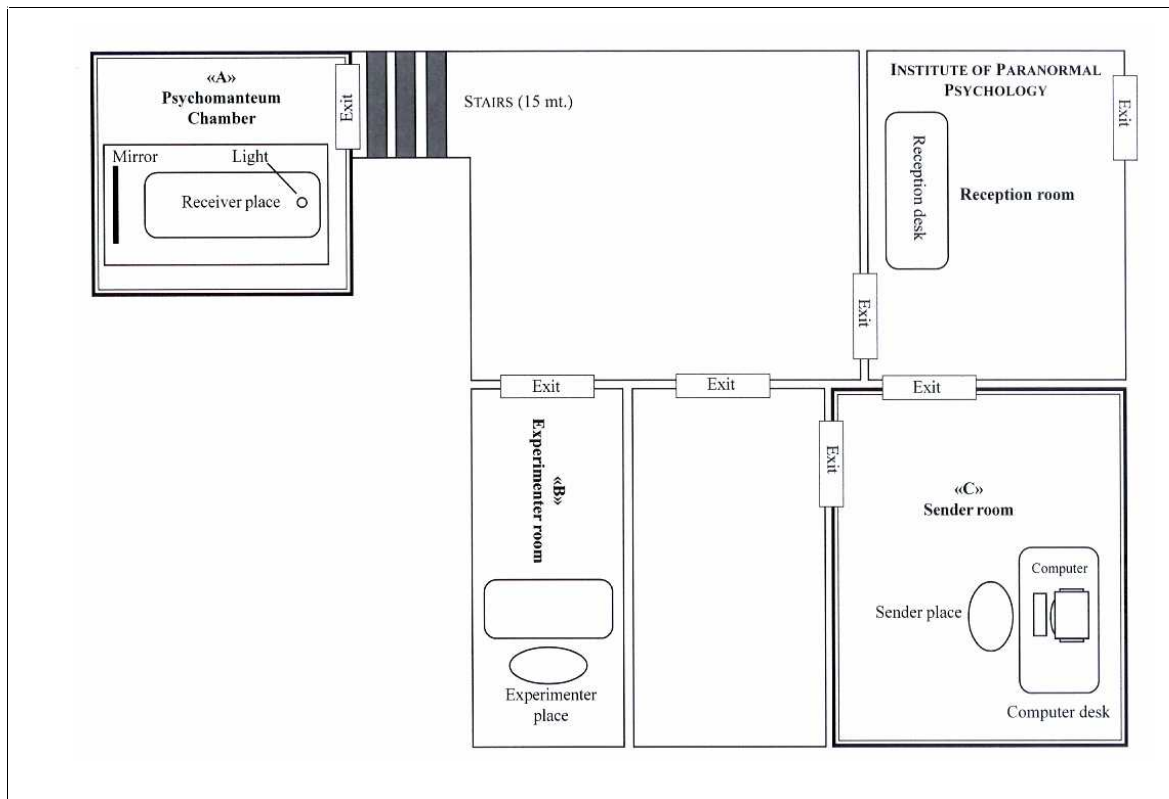


Figure 1 Psychomanteum Chamber

### *Psychomanteum condition*

The experimenter remained in room B, so that he had no contact with the sender during the observation of the target. The target remained on the computer's screen for twenty minutes, while being viewed by the sender. Using a caller (a sound gadget which emits a *bip*), the experimenter communicated to the sender the beginning–end of the “viewing” period of the target. Immediately after the psychomanteum session, each participant was asked to verbalize his/her impressions as much as possible. They were audio-taped by the experimenter.

### *Non-psychomanteum condition*

The participant was placed in room A. No light under the reclining chair was used during the no-psychomanteum period. The mirror was also covered using a blackboard. The experimenter also had no contact with the sender. The sender observed the target, which was displayed on the computer's screen for the same duration as for the psychomanteum session. Again, using a caller, the experimenter communicated to the agent the beginning–end of the “viewing” period of the target. Within no-psychomanteum condition the participant's mentation was not audio-taped.

### *Judgment procedure*

The participant viewed the four potential targets (the actual target and three decoys on the computer screen), which were presented in one of four random placed at the computer screen. The participant, viewed each possibility and associated to the picture as though it were the actual target, describing perceived similarities between the item and the impressions experienced in the psychomanteum. Ranks were allocated as follows: rank 1 represents the highest coincidence with the potential target and 4



represents the lowest (or null) coincidence. Scores 2 and 3 represented “mid-scores”. Both conditions were not compared to one another. The judgment procedure lasted between five and ten minutes (according to each participant) for both conditions (psychomanteum/no-psychomanteum). The forms were individually signed by each participant.

## RESULTS

The aim of this research project was to explore whether the psychomanteum technique is a psi-conducive state of consciousness more than chance expectation. Z-score test was used to determine if a significant relationship exists between psychomanteum and no-psychomanteum condition. It was hypothesized that this experiment would offer support in a positive direction for the psychomanteum condition. Table 1 indicates that expected results were better using psychomanteum condition than the no-psychomanteum condition. The *z*-score was also obtained by means of the sum of ranks, however the results were not significant when the results of the psychomanteum were compared with no-psychomanteum condition (see Table 2).

TABLE 1:  
DISTRIBUTION OF SCORES: JUDGING PROCEDURE

|                           | <i>Scores</i>   |                 |                 |                 | <i>z</i> score | <i>p</i><br>(one-tailed) |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
|                           | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>th</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> |                |                          |
| Expected                  | 25.0            | 25.0            | 25.0            | 25.0            |                |                          |
| Observed psychomanteum    | 30.8<br>(40)    | 28.5<br>(37)    | 20.8<br>(27)    | 20.0<br>(26)    | −2.00          | .02                      |
| Observed no-psychomanteum | 29.2<br>(38)    | 23.8<br>(31)    | 21.5<br>(28)    | 25.4<br>(33)    | −.67           | n.s.                     |

\* Negative *z* score indicates score position. First is highest coincidence; fourth is lowest or null. Hits refer to first-place rank (*P*= .25).

TABLE 2:  
COMPARISON BETWEEN PSYCHOMANTEUM AND NO-PSYCHOMANTEUM CONDITION USING WILCOXON RANK TEST

| <i>Scores</i>                       | <i>Ranks</i>   | <i>N</i> | <i>Mean Score</i> | <i>Sum of Score</i> | <i>z</i> | <i>p</i> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| psychomanteum –<br>no-psychomanteum | NEGATIVE RANKS | 41(a)    | 49.34             | 2023.00             | −.97     | n.s.     |
|                                     | POSITIVE RANKS | 54(b)    | 46.98             | 2537.00             |          |          |
|                                     | TOTAL          | 130      |                   |                     |          |          |

- a. Ranks no-psychomanteum < Ranks psychomanteum.  
b. Ranks no-psychomanteum > Ranks psychomanteum.  
Hits refer to first-place rank (*p*= .25).

## DISCUSSION

Our results showed that scoring was better for the psychomanteum condition than the control (non-psychomanteum) condition, although there was no significant difference between the two conditions. We should not conclude that if the “good” ESP results in our experiment using psychomanteum induction were related to a modified state of consciousness or not. As such, even if we could compare the hits in studies using free response with and without psychomanteum (or other techniques), we cannot evaluate

with certainty that the hits are related to a modified state of consciousness without being able to measure the extent of this modified state, as these results could be dependent on other variables which are independent of a non-ordinary state.

Our research also attempted to associate ESP scores and the altered state that the technique was presumed to induce. This study did not show a relationship between the main ASC items of the PCI to our psychomanteum hits. We cannot be sure our procedure is actually causing changes in the participants' attention states because such changes cannot always be measured in the studies.

This also raises the controversial question of what a 'no-psychomanteum' condition actually is, if a participant is relaxing in the same place in a quiet room, with eyes closed or with eyes open, sitting upright in a chair or in an ordinary (not soundproofed) room. Moreover, others have mentioned problems such as lack of control groups, a variety of design and individual difference problems, and an alternative (more general) explanation using expectancy effects of different types. The argument is that although some procedures may have a track record of producing ESP, we do not know if an alteration in consciousness has occurred, or at what degree, and if alteration of consciousness contributes in anyway to success in the experiment.

The *Phenomenology of Consciousness Inventory* gave information about the phenomenology of the experience. Some participants indicated psychophysical relaxation, which is consistent with the score for sensation of pleasure about the experience. It is probable that both variables influence the number of hits in the experience. Some participants also reported a consciousness of their bodies. However, some of them indicated not to have experienced changes in their corporal perception, and some said their bodies were lighter, heavier, numb, and out-of-proportion.

In fact, many participants in this sample did not indicate a drastic change in their state of consciousness. Some of them lost the notion of elapsed time (temporal distortion) and less time than normal (i.e. 10 instead of 33 minutes). This also might be in relation with the high score for sensation of pleasure and relaxation during the experience.

Some analysis was performed to determine if a significant relationship existed between auditory and visual hallucination (measured using Barrett's scale) and psi-hitting in the psychomanteum condition. A number of positive correlations were found. Although it is natural to suppose that visual mental imagery is important for psychomanteum condition and ESP, participants who scored low visual imagery tended to exhibit psi-hitting. However participants who scored higher on auditory ( $Rho = -.15, p = .09$ ), tactile ( $Rho = -.20, p = .02$ ), and visual hallucination ( $Rho = -.16, p = .07$ ) tended to score psi-hitting. Supporting the telepathic hypothesis, perhaps intense telepathic rapport affects brain functioning, causing the telepathic communication to be perceived as though it was projected from outside the body, sometimes in the form of the "sender's" image, as is often reported in cases of crisis telepathy.

It would be interesting to design an experiment in order to explore the psychomanteum protocol independent of the "parapsychological" context, that is, the participants in the psychomanteum should be paired with participants run in the same protocol, but who ignore the fact that they are participating in a psi experiment or have no knowledge that this condition has anything to do with a parapsychological study. Independent judges would be used to evaluate the correspondences. If the effect is sufficiently strong, we should be able to note the functioning of ESP. Undoubtedly, we should assess psi experiences by a brief interview by a qualified person who could give the psi experiences some sort of quality rating. Further research will be needed to investigate the potential influence of participants' mental set and expectations on the content of psychomanteum experiences with psi.

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