

Study of Paranormal Phenomena by Means of Experiments at
Microscopic Level (*)

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Abstract:

The experiment demonstrated that Mr. Zhang Baosheng possesses paranormal abilities. He can make small objects penetrate obstacles. After such penetrations, the microscopic structure and properties of the objects do not show any observable changes.

(*) From the editor: Such phenomena and paranormal abilities of human body are unimaginable for ordinary people. Nevertheless they are really true. We provide this article for reader's consideration as an example of research in somatic science.

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paranormal abilities have raised challenging problems to modern physics. It is important to include to the comprehensive somatic research of these phenomena the advanced tools and techniques of modern physics, including those of experimental nuclear physics [1].

The goals of this experiment are the following:

1. To look for changes in the microscopic structure and properties of the object that, as a result of psychokinesis (PK), penetrated the bottle's wall.
2. To study the mechanism of the PK-induced penetration by testing, using nuclear trace detectors, whether the macroscopic objects disintegrate during the penetration (with speed smaller than the speed of light) into nuclear size particles.

In conducting of this experiment we cooperated with Mr. Zhang Baosheng - famous because of his outstanding paranormal abilities. He is currently employed at the Institute of Space Medico-Engineering (ISME). The experiment was done on July 10, 1988 at the China Institute of Atomic Energy.

I - The Experiment

1. Recognition of characters sealed in an envelope (test of clairvoyance), and transfer of an object and written characters into the sealed envelope (test of PK).

In a sealed business envelope two pieces of polyester foil were prepared in advance. One of them was transparent, about 2mm thick. Four Chinese characters " 中华神功 " were written on it with a red, fine point permanent marker. After writing, the text was covered by a 0.5 mm thick trace detector that looks like a common red translucent foil. Both foils were taped together making the text impossible to read or even see under normal viewing conditions. The only person who knew the text and the contents of the envelope, prepared in advance, was Dr. Li. Before the experiment he did not communicate with Mr. Zhang.

After Mr. Zhang arrived, at first his clairvoyance abilities were tested by showing him the envelope. Upon presentation, Mr. Zhang gave a proper description of the content of the envelope as two rectangular pieces of foil, one of them red, held together in four corners by adhesive tape. He also said that there were 4 red characters written on the foil but he could not see them clearly. In his attempts to guess he wrote " 中华 ", " 人体神秘 ". Then, he crossed everything over. Finally he gave up saying again that he could not see clearly.

Next, Mr. Zhang folded one of the edges of the envelope, sufficiently to cover a small coin, and handed it to one of the

scientists (Dr. Chen). The latter, after ensuring that the coin is indeed in the fold and not in the envelope, held it visible to all the present. After a short pause Mr. Zhang said "O.K." and, indeed, the coin was no longer outside but inside the envelope.

After that Mr. Zhang wrote "您好" "谢谢" "你" with a ball pen on the envelope. He is known to be able to transfer characters written on an envelope into the paper that is inside the envelope. Unlike in previous tests, this time the use of polyester foils was intended to make such a transfer impossible since ball pen ink can not adhere to the type of foil that was used. Not being aware of that, Mr. Zhang announced, after a brief concentration, that the text has been transferred.

Before being cut open with scissors, the envelope was scrutinized in turns by several investigators for possible signs of tampering but none were found. The coin and the foils were retrieved from inside. The three sentences were indeed written inside. However, not on the foils but, reduced in size and not altered in shape, on the pieces of Scotch Tape holding the foils together.

2. Destruction of a watch

During the experiment Mr. Zhang expressed his wish to brake a watch. Dr. Li immediately surrendered his own for that purpose - a mass produced, mechanical watch; "Beijing" brand. Dr. Li was asked to hold the watch inside his clasped fist. Next, Mr. Zhang made a gesture as if he were picking something from Dr. Li's skin, from the back of his closed palm, between the thumb and the index finger. What Mr. Zhang picked up was a minute hand. In the same fashion he extracted also a second hand and an hour hand. This process was slow enough that all the present could clearly see the hands emerging from Dr. Li's skin. Dr. Li did not feel any pain or other sensations associated with the parts piercing his hand. It was the first documented event of an object penetrating human body in such a fashion.

"The watch's glass is broken" stated Mr. Zhang. Indeed, when Dr. Li opened his hand there was a clear gap running across the length of the glass. From the condition of the edges it appeared that the damage was inflicted by partial melting of the organic glass. All three hands were missing and there were deep scratches on the metal back of the watch, as if someone would use a file on it, but the mechanism of the watch was still ticking.

3. Test of psychokinesis involving objects penetrating obstacles

Two bottles were prepared:

(1) The bigger one, made of clear glass, was approximately 14 cm high, 11 cm in diameter. It was a standard bottle used in hospitals for transfusions of saline solution. It can be distinguished by a tight rubber plug with a long rubber skirt that folds out on the bottle's neck providing a firm and difficult to remove lid. Inside the bottle were: a pellet containing a radioactive α source (^{241}Am), an α -Fe Mössbauer

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absorber with Josephson bridge node sample, four pieces of trace detector material, a metal sample, a small, 3cm by 1cm ampule containing a liquor sample, ten yellow and ten white medical tablets (vitamin C), and an ordinary bolt nut. A thin cotton thread was tied to the nut. The other end of the thread extended outside the bottle, between the rubber plug and glass, and was tied to the bottle's neck. The fragile superconducting samples were wrapped and sealed in several layers of the trace detector foil.

(2) The smaller bottle, measuring 8cm (height) by 5cm (diameter), was made of clear plastic and had a plastic screw-on lid. In the bottle there was a sealed pouch made of a transparent, foil-like trace detector material. From the outside the foil was practically invisible as it seemed to be part of the bottle's walls. Any objects emerging from the inside would have to pass not only through the sides of the bottle but also through the layer of the trace detector. Inside the sealed pouch in the plastic bottle there were 10 yellow tablets and 6 white tablets of vitamin C, and a tungsten sample.

During the experiment one of the investigators (Dr. Du) held the larger (glass) bottle in both hands. Mr. Zhang, without himself touching the bottle, held the investigator's wrists. After several minutes of deep concentration a white Vitamin C dropped to the table from the bottom of the bottle. Two yellow tablets followed the same way. Next, pieces of superconducting material emerged from the side wall succeeded by already empty but still sealed plastic wrapping. In a similar fashion solid pieces of the trace detector and all the other objects were extracted from the bottle with the exception of the liquor sample, radioactive source, and the nut with the attached cotton thread.

At some point during the test Mr. Zhang apparently attempted to extract the nut from the bottle. At that time, entire length of the thread became visibly stiff. About 3 or 4 cm of the thread emerged from under the tight rubber plug before the cotton fiber lost its stiffness and Mr. Zhang gave up attempts to extract it any more.

After a next period of concentration, Mr. Zhang asked for permission to touch the plastic bottle, already held by the investigator (Dr. Du), and, without inverting, shook it. As the result most of the tablets came out, together with the tungsten sample. Immediately inspected, neither the bottle, nor its seal, nor the plastic pouch showed any damage or alteration.

4. Burning of a shirt

During the experiment Mr. Zhang wished to burn cloth. One of the investigators (Dr. Du) took off his white, polyester shirt and handed it to Mr. Zhang. Mr. Zhang put the shirt on the table and touched it with his hand. At that time smoke came out of the

fabric and a number of black, burned spots appeared. Using his thumb, Mr. Zhang touched the fabric in a few more places creating each time burned spots.

II - Analysis of the samples

1. Measurement of the properties of the superconductors

In the experiment we have used Y-Ba-Cu-O ring shape superconductor node (joint) called bridge node. Heating it above 400°C as well as mechanical damage or any structural changes would have an effect on its superconducting properties. In spite of having penetrated through many layers of trace detector foil and through the bottle's wall, the bridge node retained its magnetic sensitive properties. The response to AC and DC magnetic field was measured, within the experimental uncertainty, to be the same as before.

2. Measurement of the properties of the radioactive α source

In the experiment we have used a $1\mu\text{Ci}$, 2mm in diameter, ^{241}Am α source (from a fire detector). Ten days prior to the experiment the α spectrum was measured with a Si(Au) surface barrier detector. Some 28 hours after the exposure to the paranormal abilities the spectrum was remeasured under otherwise the same conditions. Neither the intensity, nor energy distribution showed any changes above the error limits.

3. Mössbauer spectrum measurement

In the experiment we have used Mössbauer α -Fe absorber; 25 μm thick, 10 mm in diameter. There were two such absorbers. One served as a reference sample, while the other, some 48 hours after it penetrated the bottle, was used to measure Mössbauer spectrum.

Mössbauer spectrum is a sensitive probe of a nuclear environment. If there were changes in charge distribution of the atomic electrons or in nuclei themselves, the Mössbauer spectrum would change also. There were no changes observed in the Mössbauer spectrum of the α -Fe absorber after it penetrated the wall of the bottle.

4. Analysis of gas chromatogram of the liquor sample

Dagu liquor sample was used. Although it did not emerge from the bottle it could have been influenced by paranormal abilities. Gas chromatogram of the sample was made. It showed that the spectrum and the alcohol content did not change. It means that there were no obvious changes in the molecular structure of the sample.

5. Analysis of nuclear traces in the trace detectors

The goal of this test was to check for possible annealing or sensitization effects to the previously induced nuclear traces in the trace detector material after it has penetrated the bottle. Two groups of CR-39 solid state nuclear trace detectors were used. They were both irradiated by fission fragments, but only one group was influenced by the paranormal abilities. Both groups were likewise etched and carefully inspected under a microscope. No significant differences were observed.

6. Observation of the foil trace detectors.

After the tungsten sample and tablets penetrated through the walls of the plastic bottle and through the sealed pouch made of a trace detector foil, the foil was inspected visually and with the aid of a microscope. The pouch was not broken and there were no traces of damage. After etching the foil was reinspected and again, it did not show any traces of passing microscopic particles or objects.

7. Observation of surface appearance of the metal sample with an electron microscope.

By means of an electron microscope the surface appearance of the metal sample used in the experiment was compared with the surface appearance of a reference sample. No obvious changes were visible. The same was true for the deeper layers of the metal structure exposed after grinding the surface away.

III - Conclusions

1. The experiment has demonstrated once again that Mr. Zhang Baosheng possesses paranormal abilities. He can make objects penetrate walls of sealed containers. In this experiment all of the experimental artifacts were prepared by researchers from the China Institute of Atomic Energy. The researchers had no contact with Mr. Zhang before the experiment. Many of the samples such as the superconductor nodes, radioactive source, Mössbauer absorber, or the irradiated nuclear trace detectors have unique characteristics and could not be substituted. The experiment has been viewed simultaneously from different angles. Considering all of the above the experiment was conducted under tightly controlled conditions.

2. The experiment confirmed that Mr. Zhang can transfer objects into a sealed envelope. His clairvoyance enables him to recognize characters in the envelope without opening it. He can also transfer the characters he wrote on an envelope to objects inside the envelope. It was confirmed that, during such transfer, the characters can be reduced in size. However, the experiment has also showed that the transfer can only be done onto surfaces to which the ink can adhere. Also, once the visibility of the characters is diminished, Mr. Zhang has difficulties to recognize

them in a sealed envelope as well.

3. The experiment demonstrated that Mr. Zhang has the ability to make the hands of a watch penetrate other person's hand without inflicting any pain or other sensation.
4. The experiment demonstrated that Mr. Zhang has the ability to burn cloth instantly upon the touch of his hand.
5. None of the objects (superconducting node, radioactive source, Mössbauer absorber, solid state trace detector, metal sample, liquor sample, etc.) that either penetrated the bottles or might have been influenced by the paranormal abilities [of Mr. Zhang] showed any observable changes in their molecular, atomic or nuclear structures.
6. Since there were no traces, detectable under a microscope, after particles penetrated nuclear trace detector foils, the mechanism of such penetrations still remains an open question.

About twenty senior researchers observed this experiment. Among them were physicists and chemists from China Institute of Atomic Energy and somatic science specialists from the Institute of Space Medico-Engineering.

Reference:

- [1] Qingli Li, "Challenging Problem to Modern Physics", Atomic Energy Science and Technology 22 (3), 381-384 (1988).

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