



EDGAR CAYCE AND THE SOURCE OF HIS PSYCHIC POWERS

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ABSTRACT: *Edgar Cayce, often referred to as the "Sleeping Prophet," was a renowned American psychic who captivated the world with his remarkable abilities. Born in 1877 in rural Kentucky, Cayce possessed an extraordinary talent for accessing information beyond the scope of ordinary perception. He would enter a deep trance-like state and offer insights into a wide array of subjects, including health, spirituality, history, and even future events.*

KEYWORDS: Edgar Cayce and the Source of His Psychic Powers



Edgar Cayce, often referred to as the "Sleeping Prophet," was a renowned American psychic who captivated the world with his remarkable abilities. Born in 1877 in rural Kentucky, Cayce possessed an extraordinary talent for accessing information beyond the scope of ordinary perception. He would enter a deep trance-like state and offer insights into a wide array of subjects, including health, spirituality, history, and even future events.

Cayce's psychic powers seemed to stem from a unique source, as he claimed to have a direct connection to the *ākāśik* records, an ethereal realm that supposedly contains the collective knowledge and experiences of all human souls. In this state of altered consciousness, Cayce could tap into this universal database and retrieve detailed information about an individual's past lives, illnesses, and potential paths for healing and personal growth.

While Cayce's abilities were awe-inspiring, the origin of his psychic powers remained a subject of fascination and speculation. According to Cayce himself, his gifts emerged during a childhood accident when he fell unconscious and experienced a divine revelation. Following this incident, he discovered that he could enter into a self-induced trance state, allowing him to access higher realms of consciousness and provide readings for those seeking guidance.

Cayce's abilities garnered attention from various individuals seeking answers and relief from their ailments. Over the course of his career, he conducted thousands of readings, which were meticulously documented and stored by the Association for Research and Enlightenment (ARE), an organization founded to preserve and disseminate his teachings.

Many books and articles have been written about him, but no concrete evidence has been offered by any of the authors about the source of his psychic powers. In this article, I will offer my explanation for the readers to consider.

In school, Cayce played baseball like most boys of his age. There was nothing particularly special about that. At least, not until one fateful day, while playing a game of baseball at school, when he was struck by the ball at the tail end of his spine, directly on his coccyx.



Fig. 1.

This incident was recorded in Thomas Joseph Sugrue's biography of Cayce in 1943,¹ but was not discussed in any real detail; it was only recorded that it caused the young Cayce a great deal of pain and that he acted strangely afterwards. It would have been insightful to learn more about the specifics of this strange behavior. But because Sugrue did not provide details, we are left to imagine what these strange behaviors might have been.

Practically all the the authors have pointed this out, but no one has ever explained the cause or source of Cayce's psychic powers. When History Channel decided to produce a documentary about Edgar Cayce in December 2022, I was invited to offer a Hindu perspective on his powers. The incident that changed the course of Cayce's life immediately seized my attention. That, to me, was clearly the key to his psychic powers. When I made the connection between getting hit in the coccyx and awakening the *kundalini*, I had a moment of *satori*, or revelation. The accidental strike to Cayce's coccyx had activated his *kundalini*, and it was this that gave him the clairvoyance to diagnose health ailments and to forecast stock markets and other events. These abilities sent him soaring to stardom—a stardom which would also, ultimately, kill him.

¹ *Story of Edgar Cayce: There Is a River*, 1997. A.R.E. Press (Association of Research & Enlightenment).

See also *Edgar Cayce: An American Prophet* by Sidney D. Kirkpatrick and Stephen Graybill (Audio Book). Blackstone Publishing, 2019.

Before we return to the subject of Cayce's psychic powers, it is important to talk about the placement of the coccyx in the body. In the Hindu Yoga System, the coccyx is the exact location of the *muladhāra chakra*, the source of the *kundalini*. Those who practice Kundalini Yoga know how to activate the sleeping energy of the *kundalini*, in the form of a coiled snake, through a deep breathing exercise. Once activated, the energy of the *kundalini*, like a snake, rises through each energy center, called *chakra*, until it reaches the head, i.e., the crown *chakra*, called *sahasrāra*.

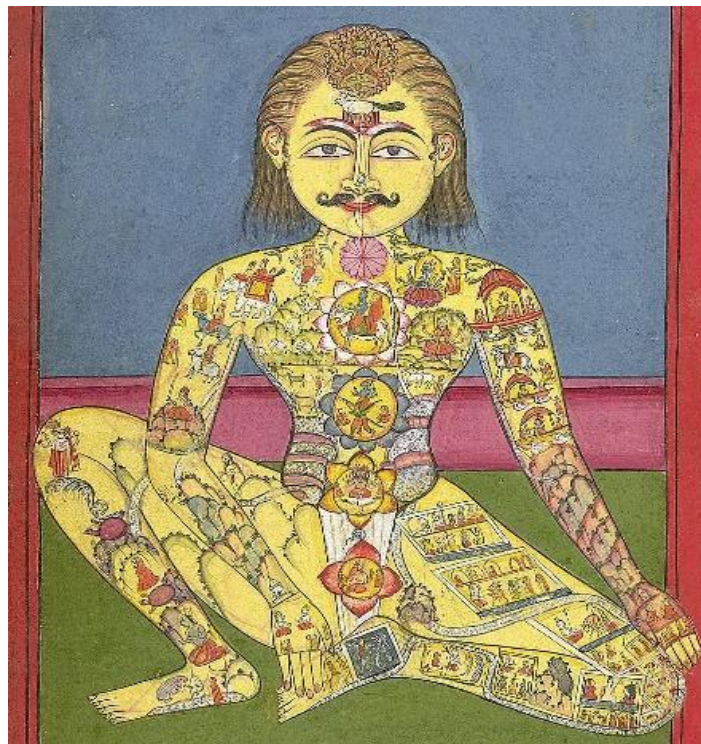


Fig. 2.

After the ball game at school, Cayce went home complaining of the pain he had suffered as a result of the strike. According to his biographer, the young Edgar diagnosed his own ailment as he lay sleeping in bed that night, then gave instructions to his family to prepare a specific cure for him. The rest, as they say, is history. Cayce's ability to see things while asleep became a pattern, as he would go on to make many predictions and diagnoses in his sleep that were ultimately proven correct. Today, he is often described as an "American prophet who was able to channel his higher self while in a trance-like state."

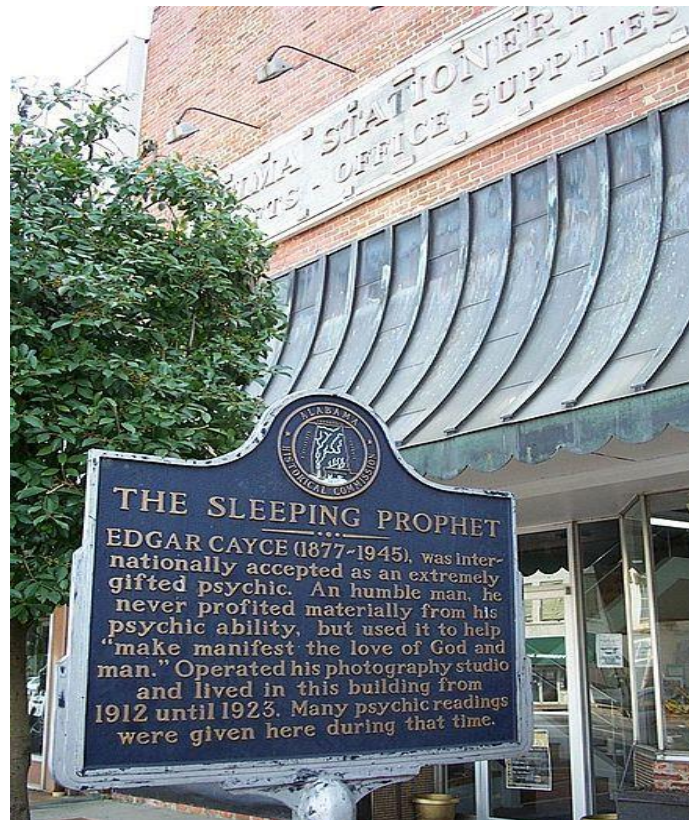
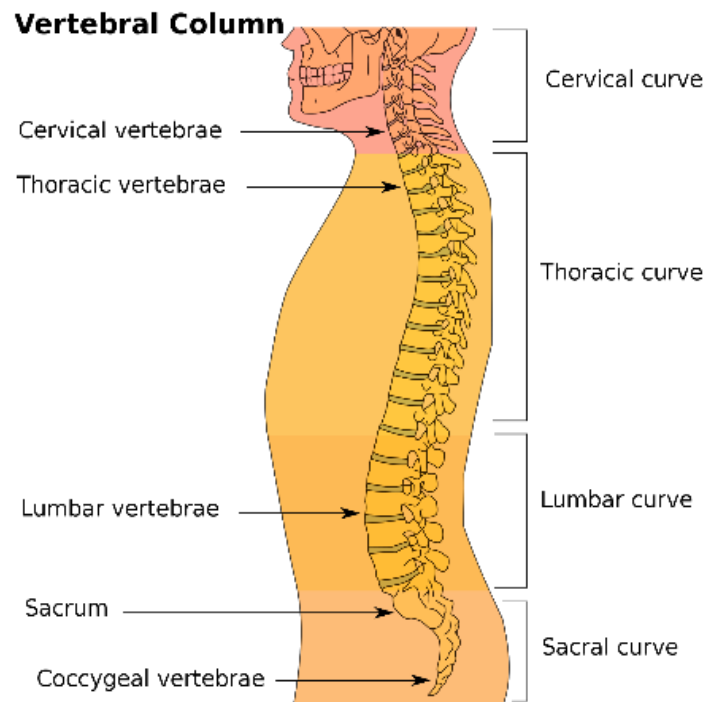


Fig. 3.

Now, let us again return to Kundalini Yoga. Practitioners of Kundalini Yoga believe that the seat of psychic power, in the form of a coiled snake, lies dormant at the base of the spine (*muladhāra*). Once aroused, this energy rises up through the body to the crown *chakra*, opening the gateway to the universe. So, there seems to be a direct connection: once Cayce's *kundalini* was activated by being struck at that very spot, he was able to tap into the *ākāśik* records through his *kundalini* rising.²

² For a study of Kundalini Yoga, see *Serpent Power* by Arthur Avalon (Sir John George Woodroffe), originally published in 1918.

**Fig. 4.**

In a trance-like state, Cayce came to believe that all minds are timelessly connected. There are elements in him of a Hindu yogi, who is able to connect his mind to the ultimate reality where all knowledge and information is stored as though in a supercomputer. The *ākāśik* records are this supercomputer. If one knows how to open it, then, in theory, such an individual will be able to access great knowledge. Like an enlightened Hindu master, Edgar Cayce developed the ability to tap into those *ākāśik* records, ultimately making him famous.

Lately, in the West, there has been a great deal of interest in trying to study yoga from a scientific perspective. Is there any compatibility between science and yoga? Can yoga's psychic energy be measured by any scientific apparatus?

Indian and Tibetan yogis (*lāmās*/monks) have been subjected to various scientific probes, including brainwave scanning via electrodes in the nation's neuroscience laboratories. Institutions like Maharishi International University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison are conducting research on the relationship between meditation and the brain, and there are more than 300,000 articles, books and websites dealing with the subject. Many independent researchers such as Dr. Peter Bloomfield of Olive View-UCLA Hospital are also conducting research on gamma waves.³

³ In 2018, Dr. Bloomfield reached out to me asking my help in conducting research using qEEG machines to measure gamma waves while subjects were meditating. Unfortunately, the research couldn't be conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Writing for Lion's Roar: Buddhist Wisdom for Our Time, an online journal, Daniel Coleman and Richard Davidson observed, "All the yogis had elevated gamma oscillations not just during meditation but even during baseline measurements of their everyday neural activity. The study team had stumbled onto the key to what makes meditation so special—a neural signature showing permanent transformation in the brain as a result of meditative states."⁴ This may be what happened to Edgar Cayce, even without meditating.

Though some skeptics attributed Cayce's abilities to his subconscious mind or latent psychic potential, many individuals found solace and healing through his readings. Edgar Cayce's profound impact on countless lives and his tireless efforts to promote spiritual growth and understanding have solidified his place as one of history's most influential and celebrated psychics. His legacy continues to inspire and intrigue seekers of truth and seekers of mysteries that lie beyond our conventional understanding. For this, we owe our debt to Hindu yoga system.

Photos and illustrations are taken from Wikimedia, an open source.

Fig. 1. Portrait of Edgar Cayce, 1910. Photo source: Wikipedia

Fig. 2. In front of the building in downtown Selma, Alabama, where Cayce lived and worked from 1912 to 1923. Photo source: Wikipedia

Fig. 3. Diagram of chakra centers in the human body. Painting by an anonymous Nepali artist, 19th century. Photo source: Wikipedia

Fig. 4. Placement of coccyx in the human body. Photo source: Open source.

⁴ Daniel Coleman and Richard Davidson, "How Meditation Changes Your Brain — and Your Life," <https://www.lionsroar.com/how-meditation-changes-your-brain-and-your-life/>