

ALBERT DE ROCHAS

Back Through the Lives

SUCCESSIVE LIVES · NOTEBOOK 2

Sessions with Eugénie, Louise and Mayo

PART II · CASES 3-7

BLUSABOOKS



Back Through the Lives

ALBERT DE ROCHAS · SUCCESSIVE LIVES (PARIS, 1911) · PART II
· CASES 3–7

Every chapter — four parts

IN DE ROCHAS'S WORDS

*the complete text, checked against the
French edition of 1911*

IN PLAIN WORDS

what happens in this chapter

TERMS

the chapter concepts explained

WHAT MODERN SCIENCE SAYS

*hypnosis, memory and what is still
unexplained*

A historical text, not a manual.

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FOREWORD

Albert de Rochas (Albert de Rochas d'Aiglun, 1837–1914) was an officer of the French army engineers and later administrator of the École Polytechnique in Paris. Alongside his service, he spent decades studying what was then called "magnetism". In 1911 he published *Les vies successives* ("Successive Lives"), in which he brought together his experiments with memory regression: the sleeping subject is led back step by step through childhood to birth — and, as it seemed to him, further still.

This is the **second notebook** of the series. It contains **cases 3 to 7** of the book. Eugénie, a widow from Grenoble, returns to her childhood in sleep and, when pushed forward, seems to foresee her own future. Mme Lambert sees herself old but refuses to look at the moment of her death. Louise remembers herself as a country priest. Mlle Mayo, an eighteen-year-old girl, whose séance journal is the longest and most carefully recorded story in the book: thirty séances, the reports of a doctor, an engineer and an officer, and three "previous lives". Finally Madame Roger, in whose sleep the murderer Philibert and his last days come back to life.

The notebook contains the **author's full text** for this part, word for word, with all his footnotes and the samples of the subjects' handwriting from the 1911 edition.

How to read. Each chapter has four parts. *In de Rochas's words* — the author's full text. Then come our three parts. *In plain words* — briefly, what happens in the chapter. *Terms* — the concepts of the chapter. *What modern science says* — how such experiments are explained today and what still remains without an answer.

In the "Successive Lives" series:

1 · Ancient Beliefs and Magnetic Sleep 2 · Back Through the Lives 3 · Eleven Lives 4 · The Astral Body and Premonitions 5 · The Evolution of the Soul

CHAPTER I

EUGÉNIE, MME LAMBERT AND LOUISE

IN DE ROCHAS'S WORDS

CASE 3 — EUGÉNIE, 1904

At the time when I was experimenting at Voiron with Joséphine, I found at Grenoble another subject, whom I studied along the same lines with Dr Bordier, director of the School of Medicine and Pharmacy, very much a materialist by education, but of a mind upright enough to modify his opinions before the evidence of the facts.

This subject was a woman of 35, named Eugénie, a widow with two children, earning her living by charring; while her husband was alive she was employed in glove-making, and both of them earned good wages, which were not saved. She is an apathetic nature, very frank and little inquisitive. Excellent health.

Here is a summary of a few séances that we held at the School of Medicine.

When she disengages under the influence of the passes, Eugénie sees forming successively: a blue phantom on the right, then another, red one on the left; these two phantoms then unite into one, which has the same form as her physical body and is joined to it by a luminous bond. In the middle of this bond there is a kind of ball, more luminous than the rest, by means of which she sees both her separated bodies at once; she believes it is her spirit⁶³.

⁶³ I obtained the same observation in Paris with Laurent, and I related it in the *Annales des Sciences psychiques* in September 1895. It is not always repeated; the brilliant ball (the mental body) sometimes remains in one of the two other bodies, and then the subject sees only the one in which he is not.

She has been asleep for some minutes by means of longitudinal passes from top to bottom. I have already taken her back a few years. She answers only when questioned, and does not answer if the question falls upon a phase of lethargy; one

must then either deepen the sleep or proceed to a partial awakening, so as to bring her to one of the neighbouring phases of somnambulism.

I continue the longitudinal passes; I see a tear welling in her eyes. She tells me that she is 20 years old and has just lost a child.

Continuation of the passes. It occurs to me to see what the instinct of modesty will yield. I lift her dress slightly; she pulls it down sharply: "No, not now; it is not proper in the daytime." She takes me for her husband; she is 17 and has been married a few months.

Continuation of the passes. A sudden start with a cry of terror; she has seen appear beside her the phantoms of her grandmother and of one of her aunts, who had died recently, a few days apart⁶⁴. She is now 14. I lift her dress again; she defends herself and presses her knees together. I ask her what she is afraid of; she answers that she knows one must not play like that with boys.

⁶⁴ This apparition, which had taken place at precisely the age to which I had brought her back, had made a very deep impression on her.

And here she is now at 11. She is about to make her first communion; her greatest sins are having sometimes disobeyed her grandmama and above all having taken a sou from her papa's pocket; she was very ashamed of it and asked his pardon. Asked whether she would rather die than renounce her religion, she does not answer, but the expression of her face shows that she does not aspire to the palms of martyrdom.

At 9. Her mother died a week ago; she is very sad. Her father has just made her leave Vinay, where he is a dyer, to send her to Grenoble to her grandfather's, so that she may learn sewing there. She no longer needs to go to school: she can read, write and count. I make her write.

A fresh attempt on her dress. She gives me a slap, saying: "Naughty boy, will you stop it!"

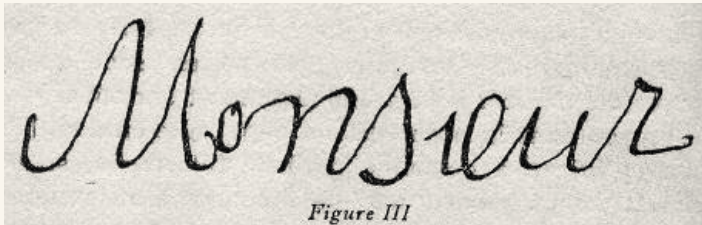
At 6. She is at school in Vinay and already writes well.

At 4. She looks after her little sister when she is not at school. She is beginning to make strokes and to write a few letters: a, e, i, o, u. She no longer reacts when her dress is touched; her modesty has not yet awakened.

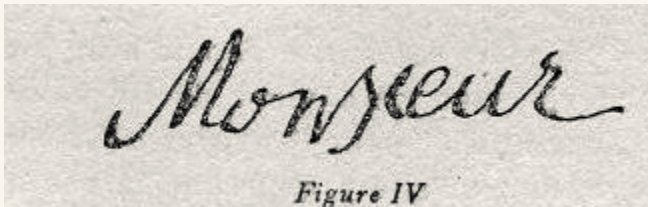
She is now much smaller. She does not know how old she is; she does not talk yet; she only says: Papa, mama. I shall come back presently to her impressions during her first years.

Transverse passes, in waking her, make her go through exactly the same phases and the same states of mind.

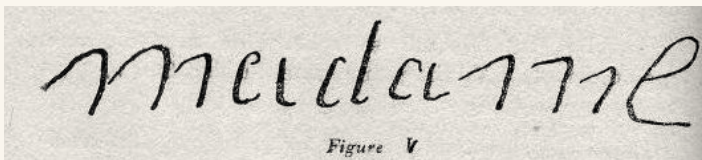
Here are four specimens showing the progress of her schooling from the age of 4 to her present age.



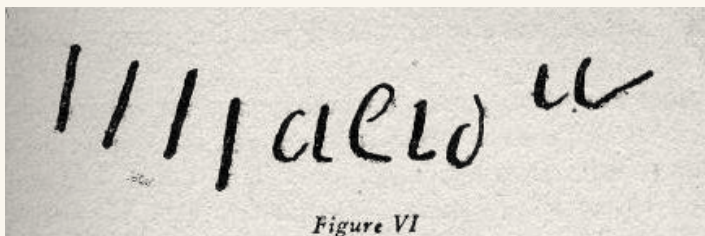
NORMAL HANDWRITING



HANDWRITING AT 9 YEARS



HANDWRITING AT 6 YEARS



HANDWRITING AT 4 YEARS

At the preceding séance we had left Eugénie in the state of a very small child nursed by her mother. By deepening her sleep still further, I brought about a change of personality. She was no longer alive; she was floating in a half-darkness, having neither thought, nor needs, nor communication with anyone.

New passes bring about a new state. She sees herself in a cradle, very puny; she is called Ninie or Apollonie⁶⁵.

65 In a small number of séances, especially at the beginning of our experiments, there appeared, between the present personality and that of Apollonie, the personality of a child called, like her, Eugénie Delpit, who died very young. Her mother had some ten children, most of whom died very early; could she be the reincarnation of one of these children, which had left little trace in her memory, or is it a simple error due to her present imagination? We shall see a case of a similar intercalation in No. 15.

Further back still in the past, she again becomes floating in space, in a state of calm comparable to the limbo of the Catholic Church.

I did not dare push the sleep further, for the magnetization had lasted more than three quarters of an hour and we both felt exhausted; but by pressing the frontal point of somnambulatory memory I called up still more distant memories. Before that she had been a little girl who died very young of a fever brought on by teething; she sees her parents in tears around her body, from which she had freed herself very quickly.

I then proceeded to awaken her by transverse passes.

On awakening she goes through all the phases described above in the reverse direction and gives me new details, drawn out by my questions. Some time before her last incarnation she felt that she had to live again in a certain family; she drew near to the woman who was to be her mother and who had just conceived; she did not enter the foetus, but surrounded the mother until the moment when the child