

THE PSYCHO GALVANOMETER

A lecture given on
2 February 1952

This lecture, missing for many years, was finally located in 1985. Unfortunately the beginning of the lecture is missing from the only available recording, and we have been unable to find any transcript to supply the missing text. The existing recording starts here.

Auditing With Accuracy

... this moment requires some nerve. And it is pretty easy for an auditor to swerve off from something that looks to him to be pretty highly charged, and back off and say "I'll do something else." At that moment, he is really running away from his own service facsimile, and he is running away from the preclear's.

You could say to yourself, "Well, I know the theory of automobiles because I can walk, and therefore, using all my knowledge of walking, I'm going down here and step in this automobile. Don't know anything about this automobile, but I can drive this automobile like mad. Why, sure, because I know how to walk." Walking is transportation; you walk, so therefore you can drive a car. You step in the car — somebody has left the motor running — you mesh the gears and go off down the street; you hit a fire plug on this side, a deadman abutments on that side, run over the traffic cop on the corner and look back there. And dianetically it would be looking back and finding yourself a lot of preclears who weren't too well off.

Now some auditor who knows his business gets ahold of these preclears and he finds the darnedest things. He finds some poor preclear way back down the track someplace, all fogged up, and the auditor suddenly saying, "What does that phrase mean to you? Now, you've got to know!" The fellow hasn't even got the somatic off the phrase yet; he hardly knows there's a phrase there. "You've got to know that."

By the way, this "technique" swept through Elizabeth, so that everybody who got back down the track was suddenly finding himself jumped with this savage series of questions: "You've got to know. You've got to know what this means to you. Now, how does this evaluate?" And maybe it didn't evaluate at all. And then the auditor would get mad because the preclear wouldn't evaluate. You see how far off these techniques can go?

There is a steering wheel, clutch, brake pedal, solenoid; there is a motor — pretty easy, actually. But the type of Dianetics which we are doing . . .

[Gap in recording]

The basic on the team idea is trying different teams. That is the stuff now; that is the stuff out of two years of experience — because an auditor can do just dandy for two or three hours. But your average auditor starts to ease off; he starts losing the drive, the interest and so forth. When he gets over about eighteen or twenty hours a week that he is putting in, the fine edge is gone and he is not doing himself too much good.

So we are trying for a team basis by which an auditor, in order to deliver Optimum auditing and continue to deliver optimum auditing from here on out, had better be swamped up all the way and be swamped up for his preclears — get his preclears run out of him.

This is very strange. This means apparently the only supersonic, or "supersanics," that we will have in Dianetics will be the auditors. Other people will get service facsimiles run out and they will feel fine and they will be in good shape and they'll be computing well. But remember there are little secondary chains and that sort of thing that ordinarily wouldn't be touched.

Well, an auditor is in there pitching, and every time he runs into a case (it is actually an overt act to fool around with another human being's wits to some slight degree; it is a little bit of an overt act) he will find another chain, something else he did, some horse whose ear he cut off back in the War of 1812 or something like that — new overt act. This will come up. Before an auditor has been practicing for a year, he ought to start growing wings, because he will just get the rest of every slightest chain picked up along the line.

All a service facsimile is, is a network of unresolved and confused data which is hanging in present time. That is all it is. It is a bunch of maybes and so forth.

The service facsimile is the main motion that the individual couldn't handle. The individual has received a motion sometime in his life. Now, self-determinism says you must be able to do anything you want with any motion you have. This motion he has received, such as being hit in the teeth or something of the sort, is destructive. So, in order to be self-determined, in order to be a free individual, in order to have some liberty with what he is doing, he has to turn this motion around and direct it out. He has to be able to do so; he doesn't necessarily have to do so. But all of a sudden this motion is something he can't handle; he uses it one day and somebody dies. That is non survival. So, he may use it many times.

Well, there is that main motion, but actually, there are probably several thousand little secondary motions that don't amount to anything. Eventually, if an auditor keeps it up, why, you pick them all up. His auditor will probably have a hard time trying to find anything in his case — not too long, but he should keep picking up.

Now, this is in the interest of putting people in the field who look like Dianeticists, who are Dianeticists; this is very important to you.

Now, your psychogalvanometer measures nothing more than the physical charge generated by a facsimile in contact with the organism. And that differentiation you should understand, and realize that what you are measuring is an electrical potential in the organism which is affected and influenced by the facsimile. You are not measuring the electrical potential of facsimiles.

This is like ammeters. You know, everything we do in this society, practically, is measured on a secondary basis. You find out how much current is flowing in a wire with an ammeter by finding out how much magnetism there is in the area. You are not measuring the current at all; what you are doing is measuring the magnetism. Yet the ammeter says so many amperes of current, which is very forward of it because it is really not measuring that; it is measuring how much of a magnetic field is there around that.

Now, your psychogalvanometer has not been well understood in the past and has not been of much use. I can give you a couple of things on it that interest you: When you get a psychogalvanometric reading, people in the past thought you were measuring the energy potential of thought. What they are measuring is the energy potential of the body when it is affected by a thought. You are effecting a body change, in other words, with a facsimile.

You, being a human being and having facsimiles of your own and being alive, can get into contact with and communicate with the facsimile battery of another human being — the standard memory banks of another human being. That is the only way you cross that bridge; you are alive and he is alive. But if you weren't alive or if he weren't alive, you would have a hard time doing this.

There is your communication factor on this. So you can look at human beings and you can talk to human beings and you can change their facsimiles just by talking to them; that is to say, you can alter the position of the facsimile or alter the position of the human being in his own time stream.

As you talk to a human being you suggest certain things, and these facsimiles which you are cleaning up will move in on him. There he is, feeling happy, and all of a sudden you talk to him about his grandfather's death. Well, his grandfather's death was way back someplace, and he hadn't been thinking about it at all. But you, by just talking to him, have reached out and picked up Grandfather's death and you have brought it over here and you hung it on him.

When you say "How did you feel about Grandfather's death?" — being very obliging, low tone scale and in ARC, he will tell you. He has hung himself or you have hung him with that facsimile. Now, there is a little charge on that facsimile. It has got everything all written up in it and it says "Yak-yak-yak-yak," grief, age so-and-so, so many quarts of tears unspilled, physiological condition so-and-so; then cut finger yesterday, somatic still present, and so on and so on and so on and so on. "Smell of rose water or lilies of the valley has a very antipathetic feeling."

Actually, if you started writing up one facsimile, you would just get pages and pages and pages of odds and ends; you would get, oh, well over fifty perceptics listed — that many — and you would get all these various environmental conditions and cross indexes and restimulators. And if you started to run one out to its *reductio ad absurdum* — everything that had anything to do with this facsimile — you would probably find yourself writing several billion words, because there is this much tied in, because it is an integral part of this person's life, and in such a way he would influence or be influenced by all the rest of his memories. The cross indexes on it are almost infinite; you are not worried about that. It says here "grief, residual" on that facsimile. "How do you feel about your grandfather's death?"

So you look at this fellow, and he's a good circuit case and he sits there — "Didn't affect me, affect me, affect me."

And you say, "Well, now, did you cry at the time?"

"Oh, no. No. Matter of fact, I was very — we were . . ."

You say, "Well, now, how about your grandmother? Were you affected any when she died?"

"Died a long time ago; I was a baby at the time. These things don't worry me anymore."

"Well, how about your eldest son when he died in that train accident?" and so forth.

"Oh, well, he was driving too fast. I've always thought 'Well, it might have served him right.' He was a good boy; his mother liked him. He and I were never very close."

"Well, now, we'll take your father. Did you ever feel sorry for your father in any way?" (Father, by the way, had a habit, and you see that your preclear is doing this too. You know this.) "Did you ever feel close to your father?"

"No, my father and I were never very close. He was away from home a great deal of the time. He would work on the road; he was a traveling salesman. We never had much to do with each other."

What are you going to do? Every computation you throw at this individual, every thought that you have, has resulted in failure as far as you are concerned, and you start to sink lower and lower and lower. What are you going to do?

You look at this fellow; you know, obviously, from all manifestations and the rules of the road what his service facsimile is. And you are crossed; there is nothing you can do about it. You will feel pretty bad, when you know darn well that all you have got to do is get him to running the right echelon and you will be all set. Maybe you won't have the altitude with this person that you ought to have. Maybe he says, "Well, I've been to an awful lot of medical doctors,

and they said there was nothing could be done about this epiglottis. And you fellows think you can do something about it. Well, I'm pretty sure you can't."

Very interesting. Well, you are up against it — and by the way, this is a fairly standard situation. I am not telling you anything that is very abstruse. What do you do?

It is not possible for an individual to avoid running head-on into his service facsimile — if you know it. Psychogalvanometric testing has been relegated mainly to lie detecting. Well, it doesn't detect lies. It has been relegated to crime detection; it doesn't detect crime. But oh boy, oh boy, oh boy, it takes terrific charge to make this machine work and make it work adequately, and that charge is in the service facsimile. It takes big charge to make this machine work, and that is the charge you are looking for.

You start to ask a person questions on the subject of his service facsimile and if you are right on the groove with what you are asking him (and you've got a long, codified sheet that I'm writing up for you), all of a sudden, bong! — unless this person is complete apathy. Then his whole track is so charged that he is all service facsimile. You just ask for anything and he is liable to bleed. But your usual case that you will be working will go wham!

You know very well, by the way, that this person has lost his mother at the age of five, and you say there must be terrific charge on this. Yes, there is normal charge on this. "How did you feel about your mother? Did you have a bad time when your mother died?" Now, whether he remembers it or not, that facsimile is going to move in. And the needle will say tock! tock!

You know very well that his dog was run over — and that he caused it — when he was fourteen, let's say. All right. "Now, how do you feel about your dog?" (There is a grief charge sitting there.) Tock! Tock!

"Well now, let's see. How do you feel about murdering little babies in cold blood?" Tick.

"How would you feel if you had thrown a baby down on the floor and burst its skull?" Tick, tick, tick — not saying anything much.

"Well, how would you feel if you'd thrown your own child down on the floor and stamped on it because you didn't think it was your child?" or something of the sort. Whong! Wham! Wham! You keep tuning the dial over to pick the needle up for you. You are into the service-facsimile area; you got a picnic on your hands. You just start feeding him questions about children, about this kind of accident. You ask him the day of the month, the month of the year, the year, the century — whatever you want: you are going to get answers. And if that machine isn't talking, then you are not asking, and that is about all there is to it.

In a very low apathy case — very low — you will find that much of a drop demonstrates terrific charge. Your normal apathy case will sit there and hold those electrodes and just hold the electrodes, and that needle will be motionless — the needle won't bob at all. The apathy case is not very restless, and they will just hold these things and the needle is just as stationary . . . You, as operator, couldn't set this needle that stationary. I mean, it's just there, like the Rock of Gibraltar.

You ask him about this and about that and about something else, and all of a sudden you ask him about some tremendous thing which is directly related to the service facsimile and it kicks that much on the dial. And then you get the real hot charge and it only kicks that much.

They are all charged! That is why an apathy case reacts this way. To make this machine operate at all for the apathy case, you have got to have everything tuned down practically to zero. In other words, the amount of juice going through the machine and the amount of juice which facsimiles are generating in this preclear are comparable levels. Cases are pretty bad w off when they are down in that category.

Now, you may find some people who you would think, normally, were psychotic or something, and you would say, “Well, they must be pretty crazy.” And you find out this case is running way up the dial somewhere — way up the dial, main manifestations: nervousness, restlessness. They will take these electrodes, they will hold the electrodes under their arms, and of course every time they move these electrodes, your needle starts jumping around. But it jumps in peculiar ways that don’t betray it in any way. Then they will knock the cans together for a while. In short, they make it tough for you.

But you will notice something when you are running such a case on a psychogalvanometer: they only do this when you ask them for hot material. So that is the reading. But you get them calmed down a little bit and you will find out the most interesting things.

As related to the service facsimile — which is to say, the motivator and the overt act — a psychogalvanometer is sudden death: It tells you right exactly what you are looking for. It will tell you what the motivator is; it will tell you when it happened; it will tell you who was present, how long it took place; it will tell you odds and ends of other material about it you want to know. It will tell you when this act was first used harmfully; it will tell you the date, the hour, the minute, the name of the person.

You get into some kind of routine like this: “Now, the first name of the person you murdered begins with a letter which is in the first half of the alphabet.” No — see, it doesn’t move. “It begins with a letter in the second half of the alphabet” — wham! “It begins with O . . . P . . . Q . . . R . . . S . . . T . . . U?” — wham! “It begins with U. A name beginning with U will now flash. One-two-three-four-five.” (snap!)

“Eunice.”

Oh. We know right away this pc was awfully illiterate when this thing happened. That’s right; that is straight dope.

So you say, “Was the person’s name Eunice?” — wham! “Was she pretty?” — wham!

“Had she been good to you?” — machine trying to get off the dial. You adjust your needle upright. That needle is still down at zero, actually, but you have just brought it back so you can keep on reading it.

“And she didn’t suspect you were going to do it to her?” — wham! You know she wasn’t very bright. Well, actually, you are just traveling through dial after dial as you investigate this service facsimile of the death of Eunice: a little drama which may have happened in 1910 and it may have happened in ‘05, just like that. I mean, it doesn’t matter when it happened.

Somebody is going to get the idea sooner or later that the older a facsimile is, the more it deteriorates. Well, facsimiles don’t happen to be subject to the wear and tear of the physical universe. We look at the physical universe and we see that sandstone erodes and great men die and turtles shed their shells, but that doesn’t happen to facsimiles. You can blow hurricanes at them and there is nothing there to erode. An incident that happened two million years ago is just as hot today as it was two million years ago.

The public has done a wonderful job of invalidating this fact. They have carefully agreed, all hands, to put this aside and never think about it — lay it aside and say that “well, it happened a long time ago and I don’t remember,” and that “time heals all.” They say time is the great healer. Actually, time is the great charlatan, if time exists. As far as a facsimile is concerned, it doesn’t exist.

The facsimile has in it a little tab here that says “Wednesday, two o’clock, A.D. 1205.” That is what it says, but that doesn’t mean that facsimile is pinned on the time strata. You could pick up that facsimile and move it up into present time with great ease, great neatness and dispatch.

Therefore, working a psychogalvanometer, what you must keep in mind you are doing is you are taking your preclear's material and you are moving it up on him, enough into contact so it will register on the machine. You can find out anything you want to as relates to a service facsimile.

Other charges, such as sexual behavior in this life, minor things like almost drowning little brother or being beaten and punished by Papa and that sort of thing, you are not likely to get much of a flick out of the machine. But a service facsimile — it is way off the dial right away (which, by the way, is very fortunate), which should tell you, then, why a service facsimile is important.

You are not going to talk a service facsimile into suddenly vanishing into the blue. No, that much charge is going to go someplace.

Now, isn't it odd that no matter where this service facsimile is located it will show up like this and show up with so much greater magnitude than you would expect any other experience ever to show up with? So, for the first time the psychogalvanometer is of use, and it is definitely of use to an auditor. Don't let the preclear look at the needle, because the preclear will try to modulate the needle. He can, by flexing his hands, slightly change the reading. And he can actually give you a dip when he wants to throw you off. He can give you a dip if he is looking at the needle, but only if he is looking at the needle, because he has to watch that dip. Furthermore, the machine doesn't consistently dip. On the service facsimile, you only get maybe two dips out of three, or three dips out of four, or something like that. And if somebody is trying to fake it on you, he will give you a dip for every question — a fake one.

Furthermore, you can look over and see whether or not he is; you can watch his wrists and you can watch his hands tremble as he is gripping the electrodes. But you can send that needle slightly by squeezing the grips hard; it generates more current. You add to the already existing body potential, you add the friction current and you get an interesting result with it.

The main trick is setting — machine settings. You can set the machine up so it is so sensitive that it just starts flicking all over the place, but you can set it so weak that it won't flick at all. But this requires more or less standardized sets. You can set that machine up just so it registers and will hang about center on the dial. And after that, why, you will get the machine registering.

If it starts reacting to everything, you have the machine set too sensitively, so you just back off on the sensitivity and recenter it on the dial till it doesn't react to everything; then all of a sudden you are all set. It has been this inconsistency in the past that made the machine unworkable.

This machine, for your purposes, by the way, is much better than a big lie detector — the big lie detector with its blood-pressure gimmick and with all of its various straps and respirator measures and needles and pins and all that sort of thing. It is very interesting.

I am about, I think, to write a letter to the biggest company that has to do with those and ask them to do a little experiment, and I will probably write New York City and San Francisco, which are quite hot with this machine. I will write to the department that handles these things and I will ask them to conduct a little experiment. They are getting confessions of murder for murders that were done too long ago! We did, by the way, the other night with this machine. We got a confession of murder. The machine was saying "Murder, murder, murder, murder, murder." A short time ago — it only happened in 1913. It is still in the newspaper's files.

You want to know about past deaths: I am afraid everybody is sunk on these things now, because the psychogalvanometer doesn't make it necessary to audit anybody. You just start flicking around the machine — "Where did you live last?" and "Who were you?" — and get your machine reacting, and if you can get your machine reacting on the last couple of lives, there are vital statistics on file. Write to the county courthouse. They will say, "Yes, poor old

Joe Doakes died here. He left a wife and eighteen children; his farm was very heavily mortgaged. Yes, hm-hm.”

You say, “Well, no wonder.”

This girl, the other night, was very interesting. She left the place and she was still fogged up on the thing, and the only thing she was worried about was, where was the jewelry? She had killed the other girl to get that. She would say, “But where is that? I wonder who has it? I wonder if it was my daughter. I wonder if she has it. Hm.” Here we had just discovered a trail of blood, enough to fill several buckets. But she wasn’t interested in this; she was still interested in the motive for committing the crime. The goal was that piece of jewelry, and anything that stood in its way was nothing. 1913 — I could give you the date, hour, name of the people killed. Interesting.

So here you have police departments all over the country using these big lie detectors and getting confessions of robbery, murder and so forth, but they are neglecting to ask what century! And it clearly states in the legal codes that a person is not guilty of anything committed out of this life! It is agreed that there is amnesty on this thing.

This, by the way, should be very interesting to you, because it is the first main-line validation — otherwise than subjective — into which Dianetics has gone on past lives. And it just leaves you with no questions whatsoever.

By the way, people who you are having a hard time with, trying to get to drop through, something like that: there is nothing to it; put them on the machine. Say, “Well, it’s a very funny thing, but this machine says it happened in 1285 A.D. It happened at four o’clock in the afternoon and the guy’s name was George. Now, you can run it or not as the case may be, but of course it would be pretty tough for you there. Why don’t you just start stamping in George’s face?”

The preclear pretty well gives up, as far as you are concerned. You have just made yourself into God.

But the preclear knows, by the way. You start hitting on this; he has the idea he can protect all this data, he can shut off all his emotions, he can control himself like mad, but all of a sudden here is something “lying” about him — “obviously lying.” Every time you ask a question, after a while you can get that facsimile so closely connected that he is starting to shiver and fall and turn hot and cold and so forth.

It doesn’t do any harm to analyze somebody on this machine, evidently. But the possibility is that if you got a person deeply into apathy and you suddenly caught him off guard with this machine and you asked him exactly the right question, he would do one of two things: he would either go straight into the facsimile with no more ado, or he would kick the bucket. I mean, the violence that you are dealing with, with an apathy person, is very great — where a track is so charged that a machine won’t even read it. This guy will blow on it. And, actually, apathy cases are just that far from going out the bottom.

So, for the first time we have got a mechanical measure of the tone scale. This machine pretended to before, but it didn’t. It just gave you approximations and guesses and so forth.