

DR. HIROSHI MOTOYAMA

by Robert Dean Dunham

The Shrine

Although thirty minutes from downtown, the Inokashira district is still pure Tokyo, minus the skyscrapers. The narrow streets are crowded with people, cars, bicycles and motorbikes. Noise and smog fill the air of the "endless city".

In the midst of this confusion is a large oasis, Inokashira Park, which serves as a pastoral backdrop for the Shinto Shrine of Tama Mitsu (The Ball Of Light).

This shrine looks like many others, but is different in that through its Torii Gate pass those who have witnessed or benefited from the psychic powers of Dr. Hiroshi Motoyama. He is the high priest of the shrine, a yogi and the internationally-known psychic who is the head of the Institute of Para and Religious Psychology, located within the shrine's compound.

As I enter, the four-story concrete building looks just a bit forbidding. A moaning wind takes yesterday's gift of cherry blossoms and blows them into ashy mounds around the front door. Regardless, the bell must be rung. Dr. Mo-

toyama has agreed to one of his rare interviews.

President Only

"Take off your shoes and follow me." This is said in perfect English by a good-looking young American man wearing jeans and a turtle neck sweater. He leads the way upstairs to an overheated and empty sitting room where a sign on the biggest chair reads "President Only".

My affable guide is presently living and studying yoga at the Institute. He says "Before coming here I was studying Zen in Kyoto. There I had some psychic experiences that eventually put me in touch with Dr. Motoyama."

Without my realizing it, Dr. Motoyama has come into the room almost as if he had materialized when I wasn't looking. He eases himself into the "President Only" chair as the student leaves the room.

Without any formal introduction, Dr. Motoyama says "My life's goal, the purpose of this institute, is to prove the existence of the spiritual world from a scientific stand-

point. I want to verify Psi, or psychic ability. Here in my laboratory we are compiling data using sophisticated electrical equipment to show changes in the internal organs of the body induced through psychic powers."

Dr. Motoyama graduated from the prestigious Tokyo University of Education, where he studied comparative religion and medicine. From 1962 to 1965 he did research and lectured at Duke University's Laboratory of Parapsychology. The author of several books on parapsychology, he has also authored many articles, including "The Mechanism Through Which Psi Ability Manifests Itself", which was published by UNESCO in the mid-seventies.

Many Worlds

Life for Dr. Motoyama is divided among several worlds. There is the everyday world: husband, father of five, priest, teacher. The spiritual world: fasting and sleeplessness (up to 20 days), meditation, communicating with spirits, exorcising, psychic healing (diabetes, muscular dystrophy, deafness). The old world: "I remember living with the Emperor Oji in a Yamato castle during the 5th century when the tree that is now a 'kokuho' (national treasure) was just a tiny sapling." And there is the future world: "By the end of this century, a cataclysmic catastrophe will cause the deaths of millions and a vast change in the earth's climate."

Dr. Motoyama's psychic experiences began early in his present

life. "When I was six years old, my mother took me to bathe in a mountain waterfall. Just as she put me under the fall, the water parted and I remained dry."

As green tea is served in handsome earthenware cups, he adds almost casually "I saw my mother walk on water twice. She is a mystic, and can see a golden aura around me."

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Although the Shinto religion is not based on belief in a supreme being, Dr. Motoyama says that he believes in God. "Well, I call him God, but the name is not important. I also believe in the existence of evil spirits. In fact, I have confronted and exorcised numerous ones."

Exorcism

One of his most recent exorcisms was for a woman plagued with personal tragedy. "She arrived at the shrine one morning during my meditation period asking for help. Her only and once normal son had developed schizophrenia and she had confined him

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to a mental hospital. She was practically impoverished and desperate because she couldn't find a buyer for some valuable land she had inherited, and she needed the money to pay her son's hospital bills.

"As I talked to the woman, I could sense a brooding, bloodied soldier dressed in an old fashioned uniform standing right behind her shoulder. When I closed my eyes I could still see the soldier but not the woman."

This used to be a beautiful place. I remember riding through the bamboo grove on horseback about two hundred years ago.

According to Dr. Motoyama, he meditated and prayed during the week following his encounter with the woman. He had another vision of an open field at the foot of a mountain. In the middle of the field he could see a tomb.

Subsequently, when describing the scene to the woman she said she was sure it was the property near Oayama Mountain which she wanted to sell. The tomb was that of a soldier killed in battle back in the 16th century.

"I realized," said Dr. Motoyama, "that the soldier was angry at the impending disturbance of his tomb,

which represented his honorable death in the Bushido tradition. Consequently, he was harassing the woman.

"During deep meditation I asked the soldier to leave the woman in peace. I explained that modern Japan is not militaristic, as it was when he was alive. We no longer lived by the code of the Samurai, and his honor was no longer at stake."

Dr. Motoyama said that within ten days the woman's son was well enough to be released from the hospital, and soon after that she sold the property for a large sum.

Psychic Healing

In psychic healing, where he claims amazing results, Dr. Motoyama combines Chinese acupuncture with principles of yoga, also using an electronic machine which he invented. Needles are placed on the chakra points of the body, which he believes to be the centers of the extrasensory system.

"We all possess this extrasensory system beyond our mind and body," he explains. "It can accept psychic energy from outside itself and convert it to physiological energy.

"When this outside energy from God, or the Universe, or even someone's special psychic powers is transmitted, there is a bodily change. I am proving this through encephalograms, cardiograms and other medical tests which we are recording daily for study.

"My patented machine, manufactured by San-Ei Denki KK, measures each chakra point and indicates, to an almost infinitesimal degree, the optimum spot for the acupuncture needle. It also helps me do detailed diagnosis and prognosis."

Sayonara

Suddenly Dr. Motoyama remembers that patients are waiting. One has an ulcer, another is totally deaf. "I pray that I can cure them both in time," he remarks.

Bowing a sayonara, he stops to mention that his shrine fulfilled a prophecy. It is built on a former bamboo grove near the Kanda Gawa river, which flows from east to west. On a clear day you can see Mt. Fuji.

"Long ago in a vision, God told me one day I would have such a shrine on a river flowing from east

to west. When the head of our believers found this property just after the end of World War II, it was another miracle. The Kanda Gawa is probably the only river in all of the Kanto Plains area that does not flow from north to south."

Dr. Motoyama looks mournfully out the window at the urban sprawl beyond the shrine compound. "This used to be a beautiful place. I remember riding through the bamboo grove on horseback about two hundred years ago."

As one leaves the shrine to ride the jam-packed train back to Tokyo proper, it is impossible not to feel one has visited a special place and met a very special person.

About the author: Robert Dean Dunham was a foreign correspondent in Japan from 1957 to 1974, and covered many psychic stories during his tenure there. He currently freelances in the U.S.

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