

**A NATURAL CLAIRVOYANT**  
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It is so tiresome to hear another self-proclaimed clairvoyant charlatan rise to prominence. People are so entranced by magic they will go to extraordinary lengths to embrace it. Embracing magic is the free way to discard our shackles and attain power in our lives. So what if we must dispense with cruel reality and the harsh rationality that forces you to acknowledge it. But the great irony is that while we covet chimerical magic so ceaselessly we remain blind to the natural magic all around us.

On the July 5 when Leon was 7, one of the neighborhood jerks set off a firework bomb left over from the night before just as Leon was passing by. The explosion deafened him. When he still couldn't hear the next day his parents took him to an ear doctor. The diagnosis was that his eardrums had broken, and that it would take a few months for his hearing to return, assuming no other fine scale damage.

So, Leon's parents sent him to a lip reading specialist. Even if his hearing returned, it wouldn't be a bad skill to have.

Leon didn't mind this imposition on his summer play schedule. For one hour a day, five days a week, he was granted the privilege to walk the 6 or 7 blocks into town and cross all the necessary streets after stopping and carefully looking both ways. That put him right in the town center, with the candy store, the book store, the library, and the movie theatres, which in those days were affordable.

Learning how to lip read wasn't easy at first. He had to learn how to watch people very carefully. For the first two weeks, Leon just couldn't get it. Then it clicked. Curiously, it wasn't anything connected to speech. Rather, it was seeing a brief confrontation between two men on the street. Leon noted a fleeting expression of what he was sure was fear on the smaller man's face. It was gone so fast that Leon might have questioned himself, but he felt the man's fear so strongly that he was sure he hadn't imagined it.

Leon had found the key not only to lip reading but to emotion reading. He had noticed what psychologists call a microexpression. And in the days and weeks that followed he began to observe such expressions on an almost routine basis. He even sought to create such expressions. It greatly helped to subject his pet dog to a series of careful emotion experiments, not all of which the dog enjoyed.

Leon's newfound skills impressed his lip reading instructor, who told Leon that he had developed an exceptional ability all on his own and that he should keep developing it all his life. All people unconsciously broadcast, sense, and react to these microexpressions, but few ever bring it to a conscious state. Leon got the message. That confirmation not only reinforced his sense of self confidence, it would determine his future choice of profession.

Satching people became Leon's passion. And since he was deaf, people tended to leave him alone, which allowed him to observe and eavesdrop unnoticed. It was as if people were speaking a foreign language that they assumed he could not understand, so they felt free to say anything in his presence. This opened for Leon a most wonderful window into the human psyche.

Leon also watched animals, learning from their actions, expressions, and body movements. He watched people with Down's Syndrome who were hired to bag groceries. He watched the town derelicts, some of whom verged on insanity. He quickly found that they were easier to learn from than 'normal' people, who went to great lengths to mask their true emotions. These observations reinforced his understanding of people's subtle giveaways. He even began experimenting with his own body language and watched carefully how people reacted.

Some time around the end of the summer Leon emerged from deafness, now as a master psychologist. You might even call him a clairvoyant. He could, in fact, foretell aspects of a person's future events in so far as any particular event resulted from the person's character.

Leon enjoyed both honing and concealing his secret ability. It gave him definite advantages in dealing with people. But when he was 12, two incidents occurred that would have an enduring impact on him.

Seventh grade meant Junior High School. Leon was put in a class of new students. One of them was the most beautiful girl in the world. He had a cosmic crush on her even though she was sharp tongued. For a month or two she didn't notice him. Then one day she looked at him in a most inviting way. Leon instantly dropped his eyes and averted her glance. She would never look at him again. He, the expert in observing microemotions had fallen victim to his own knee jerk reaction. His life vision broadened along with his depression and came to encompass the range of sexual implications. It was part of growing up and growing up aware.

The second incident followed a ruckus in the hall that disrupted history class. Adele, a violent and highly disturbed girl who had been in his 6<sup>th</sup> grade class was pummeling some boy who had bothered her. Mr. Baxter, the history teacher ran into the hall and tried to separate Adele from the prone boy. Then Leon stepped to the edge of the chaos in a way that Adele had to see him. Leon looked at Adele without saying a single word. Adele stopped.

The boy was beaten so badly he was taken to the hospital. Adele was removed from the school. Leon never saw her again.

Mr. Baxter was thunderstruck by the scene. He did not believe that such a thing could be possible. Back in class, and before he could regain his composure he asked, "Leon, what happened there in the hall? What did you do to that girl?"

"I told her that she was safe."

"Without saying a single word?"

"I know Adele from 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She liked me. So, I showed her. Anyway, it's no big deal."

"What you did is a big deal. Leon, have you ever done anything like that before?"

"A few times, Mr. Baxter. I see what people feel."

It turned out that Mr. Baxter also taught science and loved the history of science. So Mr. Baxter asked Leon, "Do you know about Charles Darwin?"

"Yes, he discovered Evolution."

"He discovered how it works! But he did more than that. He also wrote a book called, *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*. In that book, Darwin describes facial expressions and motions that reveal many things about how we feel and think. Some of these signals are so subtle that the only way we react to them is subliminal. You seem to have the unusual ability to read these signals and respond to them consciously. I can loan you my copy. You might want to read it."

"I would love to!" Leon was very excited. He had no idea that anyone had written on such a strange topic and he was greatly complimented that his teacher cared and knew about such a book.

During Leon's career the CIA, FBI and eight presidents used his remarkable ability in ways I am not at liberty to divulge.