

Spirit Alive:
Reflections on the Ministry and Trance Mediumship of
Rev. Stephen Ralph Fulton
(September 4, 1942 to June 16, 2017)



It would be impossible for me to capture fully the essence of Rev. Stephen Fulton or his mediumship in such a limited amount of space. All I can do is present what has come to be a most meaningful experience and blessing in my life and hope you will pursue further your investigation of the superb mediumship and allow the wisdom, guidance, and teaching to speak for itself.

Without the slightest degree of reservation would I proudly proclaimed that Rev. Fulton was one of the finest and most committed channels for the voice of spirit. A natural integrity, humility, and honesty have been fashioned very carefully within his work and his ministry. His faith in God created a channel which was full of character, strength, and compassion for all people. His humility allowed the spirit to impact fully his consciousness with a minimum of interference from such hindrances as ego, prejudice, and resentment. Above all, his love for God and people was made manifest through an uncanny ability to serve the needs of his brothers and sisters, rather than their wants and desires. In this, there is a deep love which came from the spirit rather than the personality.



Rev. Stephen Fulton

The Call is Made

When Rev. Fulton was a youngster of ten years, he had his first undeniable spirit visitation and calling to the ministry. It was Easter morning, 1952, and young Stephen was watching on television a rendition of the life of Jesus. Up until his death, he remembered how deeply touched he was by this man's life and ministry. Yet, he knew within himself that something very important was missing from the narrative. While absorbed in the story, he suddenly became aware of someone standing next to him. He looked to his side and saw the figure of a tall gentleman, standing as solidly as anything else in the room.

Rev. Fulton remembered clearly the stately appearance of this spirit friend and the advice given to him: "Together shall we discover the missing element of this great story; and together shall we help others in their discovery of a living God." At that time, young Stephen knew that he had a calling and that somehow, in some less traditional manner, he would minister to the needs of others. He also knew that God and Christ would lead him in this endeavor.

The Vessel is Created

While in the Navy, young Mr. Fulton had several psychic experiences. He was not quite sure what they meant, but his faith offered him assurance that everything was in God's hands. Strangely enough, he was stationed at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia; but at that time, he had not been aware of the Edgar Casey Foundation nor the help it could have offered him in understanding these experiences. It was not until the fall of 1968, after visiting, of all things, a local Edgar Casey inquirers group, that he was experimented upon by the group leader. Nothing happened at that initial meeting. The leader was about to consider his efforts fruitless, when, suddenly, the window blinds flew up and several objects fell off various shelves. "I shall take this as a sign," exclaimed the group leader, and he continued meeting with Stephen. After a few meetings, Stephen was able to become entranced by the spirit, and the voice began speaking. It came forth with great difficulty and at a very low level; however, communication had been established.

It was shortly after this episode and after an amazing series of coincidental incidents, that I first met the medium in August 1969. Having come from a strong ethnic and Orthodox Christian background, I was totally unfamiliar with such experiences. Stephen had just begun working with a group of people that met both in Dorchester and in his Boston apartment, and he invited me to attend one of these meetings. I was nineteen at the time. I had recently decided not to pursue the Orthodox ministry and was very confused over what direction my own calling would take. With great hesitation, I agreed to attend this meeting.

I shall never forget the experience. There were about nine others in the room. Even though, as a teenager, I had had psychic experiences, I did not understand them, and communication with the "dead" was in opposition to everything I was taught. Despite this, when the communicator, then known as *Elexius*, came forth, I somehow recognized him as a very dear and very old friend. I sat motionless throughout the whole evening and said nothing. Just before departing, *Elexius* turned to me and said, "Welcome, my friend. It is good that we should speak to each other once again." He then proceeded to address every fear and concern storming through my mind at the time. Even though I did not understand what was happening, I knew that it was good and that it was of God. At that moment, I committed myself to understanding all I could about this phenomenon known as mediumship and to working with this young man.

A Ministry is Founded

Since that time, I worked very closely with Rev. Fulton and his mediumship. The teachers, counselors, and philosophers who spoke through him were a great source of guidance and inspiration and became my dear friends and companions. I witnessed the medium go through one experience after another, challenged and tested time and time again. I saw the fruits of temptation placed before him, never to be partaken. I saw groups of people come and go. I saw some people worship the medium and others call him a fraud and an advocate of Satan. I saw respect, appreciation, indignation, jealousy, and envy surround him. I bore witness to a trance mediumship which evolved from a faint whisper, barely heard by most, to full voice communication which often thundered throughout the Temple. I was even blessed to witness incredible physical phenomena in his presence, including direct voice.

Time and time again, we attempted to build the foundation for this work and ministry; time and time again, we failed. Faith and trust in God and spirit kept us going, even though we

did not know how, where, or when a home for this work would be found. It was frustrating, it was difficult, it was painful, but it was all good, for out of all that appeared to be chaos and disorder, there was being fashioned and nurtured with Rev. Fulton a ministry which would later prove to be worth every moment of difficulty, challenge, and struggle. God knew what He was doing, even though we were not quite so sure.

At this point I need to go back a bit in time. It was in 1968, that Clara Hussey, Rev. Fulton's beloved mother, invited him to attend one of the monthly Wednesday evening lectures held in the music room of the original First Spiritual Temple, at the corner of Exeter and Newbury Streets, Boston. Following the lecture, Clara introduced Stephen to Temple trustee, A. Viola Berlin. Little did either of them know that this was a meeting written in the spiritual and religious ethers of the Temple. It was also at that meeting that a direct link to the Church's wondrous past would be established. You see, the voice of spirit had been silenced since our founder, Marcellus Seth Ayer, passed to Spirit on January 30, 1921. It was through Rev. Fulton's trance and physical mediumship that the glory of the Temple's rich legacy would be resurrected and brought into the present. In time, Stephen became closely involved with the Temple



Clara Hussey



A. Viola Berlin

and its legendary Exeter Street Theatre. It was a difficult time for the, then, trustees. The Church membership was practically non-existent, and the trust was in serious financial debt. Much to the regret of the trustees, the original Boston Temple had to be sold and, in 1975, the Temple, with its dying Church, relocated to a lovely Georgian building in the Longwood area of Brookline.

But, before one door opens, another often must close. That closing door was the death of A. Viola Berlin, on her 77th birthday, May 12, 1976. Shortly thereafter, on March 16, 1977, the sole surviving trustee, Florence Berlin, appointed Rev. Stephen and myself as trustees of the First Spiritual Temple.

A Home is Found

Here at last was a home for Rev. Fulton's mediumship, which confirms the age-old truth: First, be called and inspired to do God's work; work hard and with faith in that calling; and then, God will provide that which is needed. By this time, the communication was in full voice and easily understood by all. The mediumship had gone through various stages, with various teachers as the primary communicator, and each stage became a stepping stone of learning and development. Nothing in life is static and without movement, and Rev. Fulton's mediumship continued to go through cycles and expand in its work and impact.

The Communicators

Throughout most of Rev. Fulton's career as a trance medium, there were six major guides and teachers who spoke through him: **The Evangelist**; The Healing Guide, later known as **John**; **Pharos**; **Ho-Tung**, the medium's control; **Syrsha**; and **Christal**. Others, on occasion, spoke through Rev. Fulton, most notably Marcellus Ayer himself, J. Commodore Street, first pastor of the church, and various teachers, most notably Mrs. Copely, and mediums who worked with the Temple during the period between 1883 and 1921.

The Evangelist: This is the name which we gave to a spirit guide and teacher whose primary message was the need and means of establishing a working relationship with a Living God and His Holy Spirit. He spoke in the evangelical style, with great dynamism and fluency. We knew very little of his personality beyond his keen appreciation and love for the Holy Scriptures. He spoke with a tone of authority and with an obvious love for God. When *The Evangelist* addressed the congregation, you could feel the power and magnetism projected as he attempted to get everyone intimately involved with what he preached. Indeed, he was a preacher of the Word.

The Evangelist gave his first public address on Sunday morning, November 20, 1983. It was a most powerful and inspiring spirit address. It was on that morning that I fully appreciated, within my heart and not simply within my mind, that Scripture continues to be written today; for here was a living prophet, not unlike those who graced the Hebrew nation centuries ago.

John, the Healing Guide: This spirit teacher offered very little information about himself, as he felt that his personality was the least important element in his ministry with the medium. To me, this reveals the most about him. *John* spoke primarily when the subject at hand revolved around the ministry of spiritual healing. He spoke with a softness which soothed body, mind, and spirit. He used guided meditation and imagery to help people attune to the Healing Spirit. He also worked with Rev. Fulton as a healing channel. People who received healing through this combined channel very often experienced tremendous power and internal change, followed by a wonderful sense of peace and tranquility. Over the years, spirit *John* became a most inspiring communicator speaking through Rev. Fulton's trance mediumship. He always spoke from the heart and his message always touched people in the heart. He brought into the congregation a serenity of spirit, a tranquility of mind, and a healing balm of the body.

Pharos: This spirit teacher came to us from the period between Moses and Jesus. Like spirit *John*, *Pharos* had a serene gentleness about him, yet he became quite roused when addressing certain issues which were near and dear to him. Like *The Evangelist*, he was very prophetic in nature, and the focus of his work was biblical philosophy, exegesis, and interaction. He carried with him a wonderful blend of Greek-Hebrew and Judaic-Christian energies. When *Pharos* spoke, he did so with tremendous feeling and emotion. His words radiated not only from the lips, but from his very being.

We were told that *Pharos* had to link with Rev. Fulton through various spirit intermediaries for trance communication to be established. This indicates that he came from a realm of life somewhat "distant" from the Earth plane. From his words and what he brought forth from within people, it is evident that he is a very enlightened soul.

On one occasion I had the wonderful experience of seeing, with clairvoyant vision, the spirit of *Pharos*; not the *Pharos* who walked the earth several thousand years ago, but the spirit who was once *Pharos*. The “center” of his being was at a distance, but I could see the great light and energy which radiated from this loving friend. I could also see the even greater light which was inspiring and guiding him. I could see clearly that he had the ability of travel and “flight” and could bring himself and his message to many different places. In my opinion *Pharos* is indeed a “messenger of the Lord”.

Ho Tung: This was the controlling guide (often referenced as the gatekeeper) of Rev. Fulton’s mediumship. In this, *Ho Tung*’s primary purpose was to protect the medium while entranced and direct the various energy shifts that were necessary for effective trance communication. *Ho Tung* came to us as an Oriental philosopher who spoke infrequently. When he did speak, it was with a gentle wisdom which is reflective of the Oriental philosophers. When on the Earth plane as *Ho Tung*, he was small in stature. This was evidenced from the way in which the medium’s body curled together and seemed much smaller while entranced by *Ho Tung*.

Ho Tung obviously had a great understanding and respect for the medium’s well-being during trance communication, as he **always** asked mentally for the medium’s permission when considering to attempt something out of the ordinary, such as the bringing forth of a new communicator, the further opening of the communicative links and channels, or for what is known as “rescue work”. This demonstrates clearly the cooperative work and respect between medium and controlling guide.

Whenever we met for transfiguration, *Ho Tung* transfigured his face over that of the medium; usually at the beginning or the end of the meeting. Clearly, he was always there as the gatekeeper.

Syrsha: *Syrsha* worked with Rev. Fulton for many years and was the primary speaker and teacher during Rev. Fulton’s ministry at the First Spiritual Temple. For karmic reasons, he used his ancient Egyptian experience to work with the medium and the church. *Syrsha* told us that he lived in Egypt during the time when the throne was moved to Memphis and that he was involved with the Egyptian mystery schools. He further stated that he was connected to the Great Pyramid of Giza, primarily in the areas of initiation and healing.

Syrsha was a dedicated teacher and counselor who had committed himself to never assuming from anyone, in the slightest degree, the experience of working things out for himself or herself. In this, he used the Socratic method of teaching and counseling. Many people feel this method is rather indirect, but, in effect, it offers a person the opportunity to receive tremendous guidance while working through the problems of life. Thus, the experience remains that of the individual and the overall benefits are quite evident. Having worked with both the medium and *Syrsha* since the emergence of their joint ministry, it is my opinion that *Syrsha* was extremely direct in his teaching and in his counseling, but he insisted that people think for themselves. Many scholars and psychologists consider the Socratic method of counseling to be a most effective technique for helping an individual get to the root cause of his or her issues; first and foremost, by going within.

As a spirit teacher, *Syrsha* brought forth amazing spiritual and religious teachings and philosophies concerning God, life, death, and the journey of the soul. He had a unique ability to scan the energies of a congregation or audience in order to determine what concern or question each person was asking or working through. He then delivered an address which managed to touch upon just about every one of the questions and concerns churning through

the minds and hearts of those attending. He spoke with the fluency and style reflective of one who had been teaching for centuries. His words were filled with depth and emotion, indicating strongly his personal faith and belief in that which he taught. He was able to bring forth complex philosophies with a sense of humor and naturalness that allowed people to relate directly to what he was saying. Of course, he could be very serious when the occasion called for it. Like any good teacher, *Syrsha* was able to combine levity and gravity into his addresses and teaching lectures.

Syrsha was a profoundly simple and unassuming character, and this is what I loved most about him. He needed not refer to himself as an enlightened soul or a master spirit. Wisdom and experience speak for themselves and, in my opinion, they spoke loudly and with crystal clarity in *Syrsha*. Rarely does one find within the realms of mediumship such a combination of wisdom and humility.

Christal: *Christal* came to us as a young child, a girl who died quite young some time during the middle of the nineteenth century. She was also a tangible link to the church's early history, as we have many recorded cases of her speaking through our church's early pioneer mediums. As she had done during the early period of our church, she often spoke in rhyme while working through Rev. Stephen's mediumship. What was most intriguing about the communications from spirit *Christal* was that, at times, she was very philosophical and spoke with great depth of wisdom and understanding of the spirit. This testifies to the fact that children are, in fact, old souls who happen to be in new bodies.

Christal worked with Rev. Fulton primarily as a magnet and energy source for physical phenomena and transfiguration. It is common for physical mediums to have child spirit workers because of the necessary magnetism and energy which they bring forth to produce the various phenomena. Whenever *Christal* entranced Rev. Fulton, his body shook and quivered, and his facial/vocal expressions clearly indicated the presence of a young girl. It was quite remarkable and rather amusing to witness this rather stout, crusty medium assuming the *persona* of a young girl with a high-pitched voice. She always commenced and concluded her communications with a poem which was relevant to the audience and the situation at hand.

The Ministry

The predominant message coming through the mediumship of Rev. Fulton was always one of involvement and action: involvement with Creation, involvement with self, involvement with spirit, and involvement with God. Over the years, we were taught that we are co-creators with God; that God is a living and loving Guardian; that we are all responsible for our lives and not puppets on a string, subject to some universal whim; that there is Divine Plan and Purpose behind it all; and finally, that we can re-create that which we have created. In the deliverance of these basic messages, Rev. Fulton's workers gave tremendous hope, faith, and insight to life, death, and the creative process.

Rev. Stephen Fulton was indeed a dedicated servant of God, and I am honored to have worked with him for over forty-five years. His example and mediumship have been a great source of encouragement and inspiration in my own work and ministry. I can only attest to what I have seen and learned. I encourage all readers of this memorial tribute to look more deeply into the teachings which have come through him. You will venture on a journey of discovery, and you will discover something wonderful: **SPIRIT** is alive; **GOD** is alive; and **YOU** are alive!

After years of suffering chronic back pain, diabetes, neuropathy, and other diabetic-related complications, on June 16, 2017, Rev. Stephen stepped across the threshold of experience and began writing the next chapter in his life's journal. With his passing, so very much passed along with him. The voice of his amazing spirit guides and teachers – who inspired and moved to tears countless seekers of truth – was silenced. The phenomena which bore testimony to the amazing power of the Spirit suddenly ceased. The man who helped carry the banner of Marcellus Ayer's dream and vision now carries it in another dimension, for others to witness. When I bid my farewells to Rev. Stephen, I did so also to the most amazing period in our Church's history; a period surpassed only by the time Marcellus Ayer, himself, walked this good earth.

I hope you will consider purchasing some of the discourses delivered through Rev. Fulton's mediumship at the First Spiritual Temple. You may do so by logging on to the following webpage:

www.fst.org/discourse.htm

Rev. Stephen, we bid you peace and Godspeed. Indeed, you did your work well!

~ Rev. Simeon Stefanidakis

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