

François Schlatter, "The Prophet of 100,000 Healings"



François Schlatter, often referred to as "The Prophet of 100,000 Healings," is a mysterious figure from the late 19th century whose life and actions left an enduring mark on American culture, particularly in the state of Colorado. His story is characterized by a deep spiritual quest, numerous accounts of miraculous healings, and a puzzling disappearance that has fueled legends about his life.

1. The Origins of François Schlatter

[François Schlatter](#) was born on April 29, 1856, in the small village of Ebersheim, in Alsace, France. He came from a modest background, growing up in a rural environment where Catholic faith played an important role. Little is known about his early years, except that he worked as a shoemaker, a humble trade that gave no indication of the extraordinary path his life would take.

In 1884, Schlatter emigrated to the United States, following many Alsatians who left Europe for economic and political reasons. Upon his arrival, he continued working as a shoemaker in several American towns, including Denver, Colorado. It was during this time that his life took a dramatic turn, marked by spiritual and mystical experiences.

2. The Spiritual Calling and Divine Mission

In 1893, Schlatter began to experience visions and felt a strong spiritual calling. According to his accounts, he heard the voice of God commanding him to heal the sick and preach the faith. Believing he must obey this divine call, Schlatter embarked on a pilgrimage on foot, traveling across several western U.S. states. For two years, he walked thousands of miles barefoot and dressed in a simple robe, living off the charity of strangers. He claimed this austerity was necessary to fulfill his mission and draw closer to God.

During this period, he quickly gained fame for his healing powers. People from across the country began flocking to

see the man now known as "The Prophet." Schlatter was said to have healed hundreds, even thousands, of people suffering from various ailments, including paralysis, chronic illnesses, blindness, and more. He consistently refused any form of payment, stating that his gifts were given to him by God and that they should be used freely.

3. Miraculous Healings and Fame in Denver

In 1895, Schlatter arrived in Denver, Colorado, where he temporarily set up camp at the home of a man named Mr. Fox in Edgewater. It was here that Schlatter became a true sensation. Every day, thousands of people lined up to see him, hoping for miraculous healing. The local press widely covered his activities, and stories of spectacular cures spread throughout the country. Schlatter soon earned the nickname "The Prophet of 100,000 Healings," reflecting the sheer scale of his influence.

Contemporary accounts describe long lines of sick people waiting to be touched by Schlatter. His method was simple: he would hold the hands of the sick, pray silently, and tell them to go in peace. Many reported being healed immediately after this contact. Despite skepticism from the Catholic Church and local medical authorities, the stories of miraculous recoveries continued to draw large crowds.

4. Controversies and Criticism

Although venerated by his followers, Schlatter had his detractors. Some accused him of being a fraud or a charlatan. The Catholic Church, in particular, was wary of this man who healed without any ecclesiastical affiliation, despite his claims of deep Christian faith. Medical authorities were also skeptical, demanding more scientific proof of the alleged miracles.

Despite the criticisms, Schlatter remained steadfast in his faith and mission. He sought neither recognition nor wealth, continuing to preach simplicity and God's love.

5. The Mysterious Disappearance of Schlatter

In November 1895, at the height of his popularity in Denver, Schlatter suddenly disappeared without a trace. He left a simple note for his hosts, stating that he had fulfilled his mission and that God was calling him elsewhere. His sudden disappearance fueled numerous theories, with some believing he returned to a life of wandering, while others speculated he had been kidnapped or even murdered. In the years that followed, rumors circulated that Schlatter had been seen in various parts of the western U.S., but none were ever confirmed.

6. The Legacy of François Schlatter

The story of François Schlatter remains shrouded in mystery, and his true impact is still debated. What is certain is that his brief presence left an indelible mark on the collective imagination of late 19th-century America. His name is still mentioned in Colorado's local legends, and some continue to believe that he truly possessed a divine gift.

Schlatter's legacy is also reflected in the countless stories of healing and faith shared by his followers and the people he encountered. Some writings from the period, including his own travel diary, attest to the depth of his faith and his mystical vision of the world.

Schlatter remains a fascinating example of how, at certain times, faith, spirituality, and mysticism could intertwine to produce social phenomena that were both spectacular and mysterious. His quest for healing and spirituality, his barefoot journeys across the United States, and his refusal of fame or fortune make him a figure who is both enigmatic and revered.

Sources

- fr.wikipedia.org

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