



OUTLINE - AUGUST 2024

by Robert Emery and Moritz Schneider

CHARACTERS:

- Franz Anton Mesmer
- Anna Maria Mesmer (Mesmer's Wife)
- Johann Joseph Gassner (Priest & Exorcist)
- Maria Theresia von Paradis (MTP)
- Maria Rosalia von Paradis (MTP Mum)
- Joseph Anton von Paradis (MTP Dad)
- Mozart
- Shadow (Mesmer's Alter Ego)
- Benjamin Franklin (Franklin/Narrator/Commission Author)
- Anton von Störck (Physician)
- Charles D'eslon (Mesmer's Best Friend)

ACT 1

S1: Prologue

Franklin: How does a boy who 1 - becomes a Priest, 2 - becomes a doctor of Philosophy & Medicine with honours, and 3 - is revered as a pioneer who could cure illness like a God - how does he become...

MTP: exiled

Gassner: ridiculed

Anna: forgotten...

Franklin: ...and yet 300 years later his name is used by everybody without realising the origins of the man?

Anna: He may have been exiled, ridiculed, and forgotten - but he was my husband and dear love of my life for 32 years, until...

MTP: he tried to save my life. He tried to lift the vale of darkness, open my eyes to the light. He was my hope, my dream, my future.

Gassner: and a fraud. He tried to play God - but for that privilege, you have to be chosen - like me. He danced with the Devil, and got burned.

Franklin: Where to begin? We are on the edge of a precipice. We humans have been plodding along for the past 250,000 years, happy with huts as houses, happy with hunting for food, happy being ruled by the church - but today, we see a new dawn. The Age of Enlightenment. The discovery of thing new fangled thing called Electricity...

Ensemble: *(kite experiment - mention Franklin - American Independence, Electricity, Bifocal Glasses, Swimming Flippers, Metal Lined Fireplace, Catheter and Volta by name)*

Franklin: And what about the power of water? Or rather, hot water. For those of you who have caught a train today, it all began with hot water - or rather steam.

Ensemble: *(steam engine - mention James Watt - There is a popular story that Watt was inspired to invent the steam engine by seeing a kettle boiling, the steam forcing the lid to rise and thus showing Watt the power of steam. - also wattage - invented the copying machine)*

Franklin: Was Mesmer full of hot air? Well, the Montgolfier brothers certainly were...

ENSEMBLE: *(hot air balloon - the Montgolfier brother invented the hot air balloon, transparent paper, and hydraulic ram to raise water from their well into their mill)*

Franklin: And me, you ask? Well, I'm an inventor, politician, and all-round genius! But this isn't about me... it's about invention, it's about discovery, and our friend Franz Anton Mesmer discovered the existence of the unconscious mind inside us all. The part of us that affects our health, it affects our choices every day - everything we do is part of this - a lot of the things we don't think about, how can we breathe - our unconscious mind is telling us - it controls much of what we do. How do we walk down a crowded street and yet not bump into anyone? Our unconscious is telling us what to do. The unconscious controls our pain, controls our thoughts, and feelings. The unconscious mind gives us instructions - and for 250,000 years before Franz, the unconscious mind was unconscious, it was busy, and we didn't know it existed. But how do we learn how to use this magical tool? That's where Franz comes in - he taught us that the conscious mind needs to listen to the unconscious - we have to listen to our dreams we don't understand - we all need to listen to the other person inside us. So good people, we zoom back to the beginning of our story; please welcome Franz Anton Mesmer.

S2: Mesmer Reveal Scene:

At the end of the prologue, Mesmer is 'casually' walking at the back of the stage - the ensemble part and he is revealed on his name at the end of the song - looks confused, as if to say 'What are you looking at?!'

Mesmer meets up with his best friend, d'Eslon. They have a laugh and a joke, but Mesmer then says "I can't treat this patient (Österlin); the traditional methods are not working. You're my best mate and doctor to the royal family, help me" - and d'Eslon says, "You're a visionary, you're always coming up with crazy ideas, you're a genius - if one method doesn't work, find a new path. I've heard of this astronomer called Maximillian Hell - go and see what he's doing". Mesmer says "thank you..." and d'Eslon exits

S3: Mesmer/Anna/Shadow Scene:

Mesmer: Am I really a visionary?! (Intimate, to himself) I know he is my best friend, and it's nice he called me a genius, but is he right?

Shadow: (appears for the first time - the audience are lead to believe he is a friend of Mesmer - we do not know anything more about him)
Yes, is d'Eslon right? Are you a visionary...?

(Potential mini-reprise of prologue opening)

Anna: Don't put yourself into an early grave by working the hours you are - you can't cure everyone

Mesmer: I can, I can - how can I turn them away?! My treatments aren't working as well as they should - no one's are. Us Doctors have a responsibility to improve our techniques. d'Eslon just told me about this dude with magnets, called Hell (!) - I'm excited it... it has some unusual ideas that have been playing on my mind.... But I just don't understand yet if they have anything to do with my medicine.

Anna: But don't worry about that my love, we have more urgent matters - as we have commissioned that young wunderkind, Mozart, to write his first opera - we have to actually organise the performance at home to family and friends. It's supposed to be happening this Sunday!

S4: Mozart Opera Scene:

We hear an excerpt from the opera, Bastien und Bastienne, and see a bit of hilarious over dramatic acting.

At the end of the performance, everyone is surrounding Mozart, congratulating him, and he finally turns to see his sponsor, Mesmer. Mesmer says the usual well done, and Mozart asks Mesmer if he has every seen or heard about this new instrument everyone is talking about, the Glass Armonica.

Mesmer says he hasn't, but he is looking forward to seeing one at some point soon. Mozart being crazy Mozart, doesn't care about that, get's bored of the conversation. He just is more interested in introducing MTP.

S5: Anna Gives Permission To Go On Inspiration Tour:

Mr and Mrs Mesmer are discussing how wonderful the opera was. How they are the 'most important' people in society in Vienna, and how nice it is to be respected.

Mesmer: It's all very nice, but I don't really care about that. I can't stop thinking about Österlin and how I've failed her. I think I have to go and meet this Maximillian Hell chap to find out what he is doing...

Anna: That's okay, my love. Then you go and do what you need to do. I'll be here waiting for you when you return from hell! Now go!
(We blend naturally and segue from the S4 song into the S5 Inspiration Tour song)

S6: Inspiration Tour:

Scene of 'Inspiration Tour' - trying to find new methods.

He first meets Maximillian Hell, and sees what he's doing with the magnets.

Hell then says, 'Go and see a Gassner exorcism' - and Mesmer sees Gassner with the metal crucifix.

Gassner is treating 1340 people that year, is very dramatic in his appearance and theatrical methods, and is seen as a superstar and an amazing healer — Mesmer decides in his head that the metal element is the key to success and not the religious element.

Whilst on the tour, he sees someone playing the Glass Armonica that Mozart had told him about, and people fainting and going into a 'trance' whilst listening. He thought that was cool, and Mesmer decides to use all three - Hell's magnets, Gassner's theatrics, and Franklin's Armonica.

He likes the ego side of being 'praised and loved', like Gassner, Hell and Franklin are - and it's just too appealing to ignore...

In the Inspiration Tour - we must include SHADOW at appropriate points.

S7: Mesmer Returns from Inspiration Tour:

He is back in the arms of his wife and telling her all about the inspiration tour.

He is clearly excited and has tons of energy.

It's also a little obvious that Anna is developing insecurities about Mesmer's ideas becoming an 'unusual Doctor' - she is worried he is going down 'a rabbit hole'.

They kiss, and Mozart, being Mozart (!) - just appears at their face, and scares them into a joke.

Mozart then says 'have you found the treatment yet from your inspiration tour that can help my friend, MTP'.

Shadow appears.

Mesmer says 'I'm not sure, but I did find the Glass Armonica! I've bought one!'.

S8: Mozart/MTP Scene:

MTP is playing 'Song of the Garden' - Mozart is in the background listening to her. After a while, he jumps in, he starts playing in the top octave variations of her music, and eventually moves down the octaves to shove her off the piano. He then plays a crazy variation on her piece. We don't know at first that she is blind. It's all a little jokey. They're old friends. Finally, she gets the piano lid, and shoves it down, narrowly missing his fingers.

Mozart: 'You're amazing', 'how did you learn to play like that - especially as you can't see'.

MTP: I'm just known as the blind pianist - where you're known for your music. Except I'm a woman - and I am blind, so that could never happen.

Mozart: Well it's not quite as easy to be me as you think! Genius doesn't come easily!!!

MTP: Yes - but you also earn your respect and money from your music. I get mine from the Empress. Without me being blind, she wouldn't support me and my family financially - and she wouldn't have even heard of me.

Mozart: Well you should play the other piece of music you wrote - it's much better than this garden song. Anyone who can shit in sinks can compose that! Anyway, if you want a bit of fun, come and meet my Doctor.

MTP: You're very strange Wolfy!!!! And what is this about a Doctor?
I've met every doctor in Vienna!

Mozart: No, not as a Doctor. Because he has a great instrument (*wink wink*) - he has the one and only glass harmonica in Vienna...

MTP: A glass harmonica?! What's that?

Mozart: Yes - you'll see...

S9: MTP Dilemma:

MTP solo song - the dilemma of to be blind or not - what is it like to be blind? To see but lose fame and respect as the blind pianist (let alone money from the Empress), or to stay blind, famous, respected, and in money.

Should she side with her Father or Mother?

The beauty of sound—what do you lose if you start seeing things.... She hears Mozart's music even better than he does—does she want to risk losing this 'gift'?

S10: MTP Parent's Argument Scene:

Mum & Dad enter at the end of the MTP Dilemma song. Now that MTP has heard about Mesmer, and she wants them to take her to him - Dad/Mum argue.

Dad loves child and wants her to see again (if that is what she wants) - Mum doesn't want her to see again, to protect income and their family status - MTP is torn between supporting Mum or Dad. Mum says "I don't want you to see because I think you're perfect as you are. Seeing is not the only thing - it doesn't define you - you may not like what you see."

Mum: You need to stay away from that Mozart. He is overshadowing your gift - and he's a bad influence. (Undertone of Mum not really believing that she is as good as Mozart - plus she is still a Woman, and should be perfectly happy with 'her lot'.)

Dad: Let her be. If she wants more - to see this new fangled instrument - what's the harm in that?!

Mum: You're overreaching yourself. Don't be so silly. Etc etc

Mum to leave stage - Dad and MTP alone

S11: MTP/DAD SWEET SONG

Little song - Dad showing Daughter that he loves her and will do anything for her. Not to worry about your Mother - she is only to protect you...

MTP: So Dad, will you take me?

Dad: Let's keep it quiet and between us, but yes, I will...

S12: MTP meets Mesmer

Mesmer is playing the Glass Armonica.

MTP/Dad arrive

They talk about the Glass Armonica

He switches conversation:

Mesmer: You're blind?!

MTP: Yes - since I was four.

Mesmer: What cures have you tried?

MTP: There is no cure... I've tried everything

We see a 'fast-forward' of her life, showing a Doctor called von Störck treating her with traditional remedies (blisters/bleedings/cauterization), then with no success, encasing her head in a plaster cast helmet for 2 months, then with no success, then an exorcist called Gassner tries to 'release the devil' from here, with again no success.

Then lastly, we see von Störck trying electroshock therapy over 3000 times to her eyeballs.

This needs to be a horrendous, fast-paced nightmare of a sequence.

S13: Back to MTP meeting Mesmer:

She is irritated by the conversation of blindness yet again, and to change the conversation, goes to the Glass Armonica and starts playing. She is hesitant at first, but finds her way very quickly.

The two men are amazed at what she is doing...

Mesmer tries to take her hands, a bit of intimacy, to guide her. She doesn't need it... they freeze

S14: Franklin Appears:

Isn't that Glass Armonica an amazing thing... etc (the audience still does not know he is Benjamin Franklin; they just think he is in love with the instrument; whoever invented this instrument is a genius!!!!!!).

He says, "Hmm... what's going on here? Where will this lead? And that's just the beginning - they met - it sparked an idea in his head."

S15: Anna Appears: - MTP and Mesmer unfreeze

MTP and Mesmer unfreeze, Anna enters to see Mesmer holding MTP's hand at the keyboard...

Anna: Hello, who's this here? (With a slightly jealous undertone) etc

Mesmer: It's a new patient of mine. She is phenomenally talented at the piano, but can't see. I'm going to try and help her. etc

Shadow appears again...

Anna is clearly frustrated... segue to:

S16: Anna/MTP Duet - Seeing The Future

Anna: She develops insecurities regarding MTP - the triangle - she loves Mesmer and wants him to succeed with MTP, but at the same time, she can see the 'writing on the wall' and forecasts that this is going to cause trouble.

She wants her out of their lives to protect their marriage - it's a dichotomy.

She realizes that Mesmer could very well fall in love with MTP BEFORE even Mesmer himself realizes it. The idea here is to show how the subconscious, imagination, and gut feeling can 'see the future'.

MPT: Is seeing the future a dangerous thing? Does she want to see? Etc etc

S17: Mesmer Treats MTP

There are 4 sections to this scene for the treatment of MTP from Mesmer (d'Esilon is also in the scene as Mesmer's assistant) -

1. Mesmer using magnets and glass Armonica, and it's not working. Shadow is asking annoying questions...
2. Mesmer still using magnets, but he is falling in love with her - it's still not working, but he is now frustrated. Shadow is asking more questions

about whether he is doing this for science, medicine, or personal 'love' reasons...

3. He throws away the magnets, as he realizes that he is the 'power' - he is now fully in love with her (but would never do anything - is it a love that is sexual or just a Father/Daughter type of love?), and she says, "It feels different to day, what are you doing?!?" Shadow is thrown out of the scene as Mesmer has enormous confidence all of a sudden.
4. Suddenly, MTP can see. Big, big, huge 'hallelujah' moment (but from Mesmer's point of view only). (*Song or moment - 'And There Was Light' - I was blind, and now I can see*)

S18: God of Man | Man of God

Gassner is in trouble. People are starting to find his methods unorthodox, and the public is starting to revolt against him. d'Esilon hears about this and runs to inform Mesmer, and asks him to help.

Mesmer, who is on a high from his successful treatment of MTP, publically stands up for him to support him.

We end up in a trio between Gassner, Mesmer, and Shadow:

'GOD OF MAN: MAN OF GOD':

Mesmer: We can find a way of curing illness - do we really have to rely on God - isn't there room in the world for me to help humans? It's not just a miracle from God curing these people; it's science too. We are creating miracles. *God of Man: Man of God.*

Gassner: "God cures all - don't try and play god; you're not the almighty. We humans don't understand how the Lord works..."

Mesmer: "Well, it's God that gave the world Franz Anton Mesmer".

(Mesmer held the materialist position – that his therapies were "*physiological*" rather than "*psychological*" interventions – in contrast to the supernatural positions of Gassner.)

Shadow: "Does Mesmer have it the wrong way around? - he believes the physical changed the psychological - but is it the other way around? (We, of course, now know it is...) - and is there a God, or am I (the subconscious) the only real God...?"

The song ends with Mesmer being ecstatic that he is curing people - Gassner is jealous, and Shadow is prodding that he may not be as successful as he thinks. We hard cut to:

S19: MTP Treatment Is Cancelled

MTP tried to play the piano - she can't play as well as she is confused by sight. Her mother hears this and is utterly distraught - the Mother immediately goes to von Störck and tells him of Mesmer's success.

Von Störck is having conversations with Gassner, they are good friends. They are both horrified, and the Mother says, "von Störck, you must stop this now! Go and stop Mesmer from treating my Daughter".

Gassner agrees with the Mother's idea, and persuades von Störck to get involved again.

S20: Störck Spreads Rumours

Störck and Mesmer fight - Störck says, "You have to stop treatment now; I forbid you to see her anymore." We see Mesmer upset by this and not knowing what to do. Mesmer's sidekick, d'Eslon, is also there, trying to support his best friend, Mesmer.

We then move on to Störck spreading rumors about Mesmer being inappropriate with MTP.

Mesmer hears the rumors and is devastated - he does love MTP, but he would NEVER do anything inappropriate to hurt either MTP or his wife.

S21: Mesmer Leaves Vienna

Scene of Mesmer and Anna discussing leaving Vienna - she says, "I have to stay here; it's my home, I'm loved and respected," he says, "I have to go, it's not my home - I'm not loved or respected in this city anymore."

She says, "I know deep in my heart you love me, but your true love is your mission to find a better way to heal others - so go and do that in Paris, put all your heart into that, and I'll be here ready and waiting when you need to return back to me". (No nasty element in the split)

Shadow is around again, asking questions...

Big Mesmer Solo Number - All alone in the world - mission to accomplish - leave for Paris... "I'm trying to save the world of illness, but illness is trying to save the world from me"

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

S22: Opening - Whirlwind in Paris - June 1778

Scene zipping through quickly, setting up Mesmer as a success in Paris.
Scene/song to include:

Arriving in Paris, believing it's a fresh new start, he is immediately confronted with the fact the rumors are quicker than him. The Académie des sciences and the Société royale de médecine immediately rejected him. This gave Mesmer more of a drive to succeed.

Mesmer received a letter from MTP saying, "I'm your happy and most grateful 'Daughter'". It makes him feel sick, sad, and all alone. The people he loves are back in Vienna. Until...

There is a knock at the door. d'Esilon turns up, with his huge smile, stating he has moved to Paris. d'Esilon felt life wasn't the same without his best mate, so the 'terrible two' are back together.

Mesmer opens a practice, and it becomes an 'overnight success'. He is massively popular with the patients, so much so that he can't treat the queues.

Word of mouth spreads like crazy, so he invented what he called the 'Baquet', to accommodate groups at a time. (Baquet - tubs filled with bits of glass, metal, and water, from which flexible iron rods protruded - in creating this, he actually was the first to design 'group therapy'.)

At the Baquet, patients joined by ropes, also had Mesmer press and prod their bodies with a mesmeric wand, or, more often, his fingers. The ladies have mass orgasms. He is trying to treat the Parisian women seriously; they're there just for the sex. And they're loving it!

Because the reactions Mesmer provoked seemed to be contagious, the dramatic effects are exacerbated in the crowded room.

Big ensemble number. Very positive and fun opening.

S23: Getting Official Support

Mesmer is on such a high that he approaches the Academy of Science to view his work. Their Director, Jean Baptists le Roy, watches a display of Mesmer's science and laughs - he would have nothing to do with Mesmer.

Mesmer is angry, but arrogant. If le Roy doesn't see the genius before him, that's his loss. He discusses this with d'Eslon. As d'Eslon is a member of the Faculté de Médecine in Paris, he offers to approach them instead of the Academy of Science to get Mesmer's methods certified as authentic.

d'Eslon says to the Faculté, "Here is a 144-page pamphlet with my arguments as to why you need to take notice of Mesmer and his treatments. My best friend is a genius".

The Faculté de Médecine reject the plea of d'Eslon, and accuse him of a misdemeanor. They remove him from the Board of the Faculté.

d'Eslon is shocked and now nervous about his reputation and association with Mesmer.

Mesmer is still arrogant - doesn't care about the Academy of the Faculté, and vows to continue anyway.

S24: MTP Paris Tour

Mesmer hears that MTP is performing a tour of Europe, with 14 concerts in Paris. He is excited to go and see her perform and, once again, see the love of his life that could never be. He still thinks she is cured...

We cut to before the concert, where Mozart (who is there to support his best friend, MTP) sees d'Eslon, and takes him aside, saying:

Mozart: Did you see my piss-take of Mesmer in *Così fan Tutti*? Poor Anna (Mesmer's wife) was so upset I thought I'd cheer her up by including him as a character. Which leads me to my next point - What the fuck are you doing d'Eslon? You're a good person, and

all Mesmer does is destroy people's lives - he left his wife, he hurt my best friend - he will destroy you, too. If I were you, I'd abandon him and move away from his quacky life...

For the first time, we see d'Eslon being pulled slightly away from supporting his friend.

The lights dim, MTP is about to appear on stage. Mesmer is excited to see her, and also to relish in the success of his treatment to all his Parisian friends.

She appears, stumbles over a stool, and it's clear she can't see.

Mesmer is shocked. Horrified. From such a positive, fun start to the act, this is the beginning of Mesmer's downfall.... Mesmer is just confused at this point...

Marie-Antoinette, who was also attending the concert, thought (like everyone else in the audience) that MTP was treated successfully, and was a miracle. She hears so much of Mesmer in society circles, that she decides to speak to the King and advise him to create an investigation of Mesmer.

S25: The King's Interview

Marie-Antoinette introduces Mesmer and d'Eslon to King Louis XVI. They are officially 'interviewed' by the King.

In this interview, they all sign an agreement stating:

1. Some of Mesmer's patients are examined by the King's "commissioners"
2. Mesmer was to remain in France and could not leave except by permission of the King
3. If the "commissioners" reports were favorable, the government would issue a letter to support his treatments.

The King exits, Mesmer is in a state of nervousness. From being so popular in Paris, he now has everyone whispering behind his back. He can't think straight.

Shadow appears, telling him to rescind the agreement with the King. Shadow persuades him it's too dangerous.

Within two weeks, Mesmer backs out of the agreement, stating he was under duress.

S26: The King's Response

We go back to the King. He is surprised Mesmer has backed out of the agreement. But he likes Mesmer, and he thinks he can brag to the world about France having the world's best medical professionals, so he dictates a letter to Mesmer, saying:

—

"Dear Mesmer.

HRH The King, informed of your dislike of being investigated by commissioners, wished to excuse you from that formality.

His Royal Highness grants you a life annuity of 20,000 French livres, and pay 10,000 livres a year for the instruction of students, of whom three were to be selected by the government."

—

Mesmer is angry and is now visibly starting to lose control. He is angry that the King and his Government dare to suggest they can select students for him.

Mesmer decides to reject the offer and writes an extraordinary open printed letter to the Queen of France (*which, if written 20 years earlier, would have meant imprisonment in the Bastille*), stating:

“It is my intention to leave France, and while there are many circumstances in which Kings must guide the opinion of the people, there are still many more in which public opinion prevails over that of Kings.”

We see in the background King Louis and Queen Marie-Antoinette furious at this!

S27: The Argument

d’Eslon can not believe Mesmer has insulted the Royal Family twice. He is angry at Mesmer, as his reputation is tied with Mesmer’s - and they are now both sinking fast.

d’Eslon has just been thrown out of the Faculté de Médecine for being associated with Mesmer, and he has had enough.

And to make matters worse, d’Eslon has just heard through a friend that the King has appointed a commission to investigate the Mesmer practice.

He has heard that four Physicians from the Faculté de médecine de Paris, and five scientists from the Académie des sciences were commissioned to run a trial, with Benjamin Franklin as the lead investigator.

As he is so angry, d’Eslon admits he has just stabbed Mesmer in the back, and tomorrow a letter to the Journal de Paris, describing the difficulties he has experienced with Mesmer, is to be published. He is also announcing the opening of his own independent clinic.

Despite them being friends for twenty years, he can no longer take any more. This is the end of their relationship.

Shadow appears, telling Mesmer that he doesn't need d'Eslon, and that he is good enough for this world without anyone else. Mesmer gets agitated, and we move into the Nightmare Sequence:

S28: The Nightmare

Nightmare scene where Mesmer is dreaming of everything going wrong. It's all controlled by Shadow, and this is Shadow's big scene/song:

- a. He first loses his best friend. His biggest supporter.
- b. He then sees a Mozart opera (Cosi) where they take the piss out of him with the big magnets...
- c. Then MTP appears, and not only can't she see, but she loses the ability to play the piano as a result of his treatment...
- d. It's all too much, and the scene ends with him fainting.

S29: The Trial

Until now, we thought that the Narrator was just that, and now, we realise

Franklin: Mesmer, you're a charlatan - you're being investigated for fraud, heresy, and treason.... I don't believe your treatments work. I believe it's the power of imagination that is working, not your magnetism, and I'm going to prove it...

They bring in one of their experimental subjects, a peasant woman with ailing eyes.

While she wore the blindfold, Mesmer had to show his method of treatment. He did the usual prodding and poking, successfully causing a mesmeric crisis. He was relieved until he was told to do it again, this time to a man with gout and kidney stones.

The change this time, was that Mesmer had to do this from behind a screen, without the patient hearing his words. The treatment had no effect. Mesmer

looks worried, confused, and Shadow appears - Mesmer starts going into a Delirium.

Shadow: You've been a fraud all along, haven't you. You've tried to trick everyone in your life, but now, you're been revealed as the true Doctor you are: A Doctor of Lies...

Franklin: We now call to the stand, Father Johann Joseph Gassner.

This now feels like a 'hunt-like scene'. Growing, growing, growing in power against him.

Gassner appears. He takes to the stand, as the representative of the Church. This is finally his opportunity to seek revenge upon Mesmer.

Gassner Solo Song:

Gassner: I was stuck between a rock and a hard place. Either I accepted publically the help of Mesmer, but that meant turning away from religion - or I deny the help of Mesmer to support my religious beliefs, but then I'd be seen as the 'mad priest'. You Mesmer, are the one that put me in this awkward position. Because of your religious blackmail, the Pope stopped me from being an exorcist. And the Emperor retired me to a pathetically small parish church, so no one could see me. God of Man? No. Man of God? Absolutely not! He never 'healed' anyone in his entire life.

Franklin: We now call to the stand, Mrs Anna Mesmer.

Anna appears. She takes the stand with the full intention to protect her husband, but Franklin pushes her into stating that Mesmer is indeed 'a fraud' of sorts. She ends up hurting him inadvertently. She admits that he has lost his religious faith, and she is unsure if he has remained faithful to her or if his 'treatment' of MTP was more than scientific.

At the end of the scene, he 'crashes and burns', by being found a FRAUD.

Franklin: I conclude that 'mesmeric effects' were due to an as yet largely unknown power: not a nervous fluid or animal magnetism, but the power of imagination. You are not a Doctor. You are not a Healer. Your 'power' is nothing more than planting ideas into people's heads, and letting their own mind do the work. Imagination can be manipulated to intoxicate crowds, provoke riots, and spur fanaticism. Imagination is an active and terrible power. The French Government, HRH King Louis XIV and Queen Marie-Antoinette, the Faculté de médecine de Paris, and the Académie des sciences all denounce you as a fraud. GUILTY.

We see Mesmer walking away from the light, slowly, to live an existence of loneliness.

S30: Epilogue

Franklin:

Mesmer walks away from the light, and he thinks we will never see him again; he is wiped from history, or he thinks. The world was 'mesmerized' by this man. *(It's the first time the word 'mesmerized' is mentioned.)*

He lived another 31 years after this commissioned trial.

He left Paris, and moved to England.

During the French Revolution, he returned to France penniless. He successfully negotiated with Napoleon's government for a pension.

He kept an unprecedentedly low profile for the remainder of his life.

He died in Meersburg, near Lake Constance, on 5 March 1815. Alone.

And after looking back on his life, I realize I failed him. We all failed him.

My investigation into this unusual man discovered that the Power of Imagination could treat an illness. But my failing was never asking WHY or HOW imagination alone could do this.

His major legacy in the history of psychology was the invention of a form of hypnotism, which would be passed along from the French neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot, and then to another, later Viennese doctor, with a materialist theory of mind, Sigmund Freud.

Without Mesmer, Freud wouldn't be a name we all know. And yet, it's taken us this long to all know the name Mesmer.

He died a lonely, forgotten man.

And the only people today who do remember him think of him as a man who failed; his magnetism was proved wrong.

He was a fraud.

Except he wasn't.

He had the same Shadow we all have.

All the way through, his 'Shadow,' his subconscious, his doubts, his imagination (!) asked questions of himself, "Are you on the right path? Is magnetism really working?"

We all doubt ourselves. And without Mesmer, we wouldn't have discovered the subconscious, imagination, or the Placebo effect.

My commission of 1784 stated imagination was the cure to the subject's ailments, but I never bothered to ask how imagination could be a cure.

For all we know, it could be the Animal Magnetism that enabled imagination to be the cure!

So, without knowing it, Mesmer was truly a world-changing hero - the hero of our story.

Out of the ashes rises the Phoenix.

We rise, we fall.

— **THE END** —

IMPORTANT NOTES AND THEMES:

Mesmer had a threefold quest:

1. How to find, rouse, and maintain the 'therapeutic agent' (i.e. the cure, which he called Animal Magnetism)
 2. How to find the 'obstacles' in the body that cause issues (by stopping energy flow etc)
 3. How to use the 'therapeutic agent' to remove the obstacles
- A quote from Mesmer: "Many things will be born again that have fallen, and many will fall that are now in esteem."
 - Mesmer asserts that a tide in the human body is "produced by the same force which causes the tides of the sea and the air and which causes the humors in their channels in the body to be variously agitated, disturbed, and carried in larger quantity toward the head."
 - He also said, "the grave events that happened at the time of the equinoxes, the conjunctions of planets, eclipses, and the appearance of comets, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, typhoons, floods, and epidemics."
 - Mesmer states that magnetism is to the bodily organs as the wind is to the windmill . . . If the wind ceases to blow, the milling process comes to a halt, and should the cessation continue for long enough, the windmill may fall into disrepair or even ruin. The salvation of the miller comes when the wind begins to blow again, making the machinery of the windmill work again. . . . a greater effort is required to start a windmill after it has stopped than to keep it going, especially if disrepair has set in. . . . In a similar fashion, when animal magnetism ceases to course freely through the nervous system, the organs begin to malfunction, and the whole physiology slows down. Fluids become stagnant and viscous and begin to block the blood vessels and other canals of the body. . . . The symptoms worsen because the organs weaken as the obstructions grow larger and larger and vice versa. Mesmer thought the organs must be galvanized into a greater effort than ever before to push the fluids through the natural channels, and animal magnetism galvanizes them.

SONG IDEAS:

1. Law of attraction
2. Life is a book I cannot read
3. Love kills
4. You can see too much
5. Sun & Moon/Light & Dark
6. Windmills

INTERESTING ARTICLES:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Commission_on_Animal_Magnetism#cite_ref-18

<https://www.cairn-int.info/revue-Annales-Historiques-de-la-Revolution-Francaise-2018-1-page-27.htm>

<https://jungaberle.eu/learning-from-the-history-of-medicine-franz-anton-mesmer/>

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/27gidx8044vrlgqobysrr/MTP-Info.pdf?rlkey=h33uorfu50w36n3i82odq9yqf&dl=0>

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6z7wopbdx06g842nutor2/the_royal_commission_on_animal_-_translated_by_iml_donaldson_1.pdf?rlkey=1zjey2kfk8qxhssjpdjfkws&dl=0