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Use of modern times. Many cultures have practiced the act in one form or another throughout history, and ancient Greece was no exception. The Pythia was the priestess who prophesized at a place called Pytho. This began around the 8th century BC as the Oracle of Delphi. The Pythia did so in a sanctuary dedicated to the Greek god Apollo. It is said that this priestess, who was chosen from among a group of priestesses at the temple, had to dedicate herself to being the Pythia exclusively and give up any and all family obligations once selected. People seeking her counsel brought the priestess offerings of money and sacrificed animals for her words. She was known to go into a frenzy while predicting things like wars, political moves and solutions to national problems. Nostrodamus Also known as Michel de Nostredame, this famous fortune teller really went all-out. He published a book back in 1555 in France that claimed to predict numerous future events through poems. Some people say there is nothing to them, and that when translated properly, they show the reader vague predictions that can be very loosely interpreted and applied to many things. Others, however, say the man was a genius with a clear gaze into the future. What did he predict? Some say Nostrodamus foretold the great fire of London that took place in 1666, the French Revolution, Louis Pasteurs work as the godfather of vaccines, the rise of Adolf Hitler, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, JFKs assassination and September 11th, 2001, to name a few. Not bad for one mind and one book. Daniel Dunglas Home Daniel Dunglas Home. Image credit: Wikimedia.org Daniel Dunglas Home was alive in the 1800s in the United States and made his name by healing the sick and communicating with the dead families and friends of his clients. Home was originally from Scotland but moved to the United States as a child, and went onto become a well-known physical medium and self-professed clair-voyant who gained fame with the elite on the east coast. He was famous for his so-called ability to let spirits speak directly through him. He also gained a following for his ability to levitate. Tables would dance in his presence, and history has it that he is said to have even levitated his own body to the ceiling in some seances. Many called Home a fraud steeped in trickery, but others backed his act, claiming it to be tried and true magic. Edgar Cayce Have you ever felt really connected with the world? Has it ever happen while you were sleeping? You may have found a friend in Edgar Cayce. In fact, he felt so at home while in a self-induced sleep state that he claimed his subconscious mind would actually leave his body and travel to the land of the spirits. Here, it would collect knowledge about the future. It would then bring this back to the land of the living, where he would pass it onto his clients. Some say Cayce predicted the stock market crash of 1929 that led to the Great Depression. He is also said to have foretold World War II, the shifting of the Earths magnetic poles, the collapse of the Soviet Union and an alliance occurring between the United States and Russia. Jean Dixon Jean Dixon. Image credit: Wikimedia.org Jean Dixon began her career as an astrologist writing in a syndicated column in newspapers in the 1900s in the United States. She wrote several best-selling books, including an astrological cook book and horoscopes for animals. Like many other modern-day psychics, Dixon famously predicted president John F. Kennedys assassination. She also advised President Franklin D. Roosevelt during WWII, and gave advice to Richard Nixon while in office, in the face of terrorism on U.S soil. Dixon had a wide audience. According to Oprah, she foretold her huge career and fame to come in a conversation back in 1977. Baba Vanga Baba Vanga. Image credit: www.republicworld.com Do you think you need a great pair of eyes to see what others cannot? Perhaps it depends on your definition of sight. One the most famous clairvoyants in Bulgaria was Baba Vanga, or Grandmother Vanga. Born with proper eye sight, she is said to have gradually lost it after suffering through a large natural disaster best described as a tornado. She says it lifted her up and threw her a great distance. The injuries she sustained when hitting the ground caused her to slowly lose her eyesight. Babb Vanga is said to have predicted 9/11, Brexit, Thailand tsunami of 2004, future time travel in 2304, Trump and Putins lives being in danger in 2020, and terrorism acts by Muslim extremists to name a few events. Was she truly gifted with intelligence beyond that of the rest of us, or just a wild imagination? As it is with all other fortune tellers, psychics, clairvoyants and mediums, it is impossible to prove concretely whether she was truly gifted or not. Extremely precise predictions remain elusive, but many of general statements have come true. What do you think, truth or fiction? The answer, at least for the moment, seems to lie in the mind of the listener. Practice of predicting information about a person's life"Fortune teller" redirects here. For the form of origami, see Paper fortune teller. For other uses, see Fortune teller (disambiguation).Gypsy Fortune-Teller (1841) by Taras ShevchenkoPart of a series on theParanormalMain articles:Astral projectionAuraBilocationBreatharianismClairvoyanceClose encounterCold spotCrystal gazingConjurationCryptozologyDemoniac possessionDemonologyDoppelgängerEctoplasmElectronic voice phenomenonExorcismExtrasensory perceptionForteanoFortune-tellingGhost huntingHaunted locationsIndiaUKUSMagicMediumshipMiracleOccultOrbOuijaParanormal fictionParanormal televisionPrecognitionPreternaturalPsychicPsychic readingPsychometryReincarnationRemote viewingRetrocognitionSpirit photographySpirit possessionSpirit worldSpiritualismStone TapeSupernaturalTeknisisTelepathyTable-turningUfologySkepticismCold readingCommittee for Skeptical InquiryDebunkingHoaxNews Educational FoundationMagical thinkingPrizes for evidence of the paranormalPseudoskepticismScientific literacyScientific skepticismParapsychologyAnomalous experiencesApparitional experiencesEmpathFalse awakeningHypnosisIdeomotor phenomenonOut-of-body experiencesParapsychologySynchronicityRelatedAnomalisticsArgument from ignoranceArgumentum ad populumBandwagon effectBegging the questionCognitive dissonanceCommunal reinforcementFallacyFalsifiabilityFringe scienceGroupthinkHypnosisJunk scienceProtosciencePseudoscienceScientific evidenceScientific methodSuperstitionUncertaintyUrban legendvteFortune-telling is the spiritual practice of predicting information about a person's life.[1] The scope of fortune telling is in principle identical with the practice of divination. The difference is that divination is the term used for predictions considered part of a religious rite, invoking deities or spirits, while the term fortune telling implies a less serious or formal setting, even one of popular culture, where belief in occult workings behind the prediction is less prominent than the concept of suggestion, spiritual or practical advisory or affirmation.Historically, Pliny the Elder describes use of the crystal ball in the 1st century CE by soothsayers ("crystal orbis", later written in Medieval Latin by scribes as orbuculum).[2] Contemporary Western images of fortune telling grow out of folkloristic reception of Renaissance magic, specifically associated with Romani people.[1] During the 19th and 20th century, methods of divination from non-Western cultures, such as the I Ching, were also adopted as methods of fortune telling in Western popular culture.An example of divination or fortune telling as purely an item of pop culture, with little or no vestiges of belief in the occult, would be the Magic 8 Ball sold as a toy by Mattel, or Paul the Octopus, an octopus at the Sea Life Aquarium at Oberhausen used to predict the outcome of matches played by the Germany national football team.[3] There is opposition to fortune telling in Christianity, Islam, Bahsm and Judaism based on scriptural prohibitions against divination. Terms for one who claims to see into the future include fortune teller, crystal-gazer, yarrow stalks or coins and the I Ching.Kau cim by means of numbered bamboo sticks shaken from a tube.Lithomancy: by stones or gems.Molybdomancy: by molten metal after dumped in cold water.Naeviology: by moles, scars, or other bodily marks.Necromancy: by the dead, or by spirits or souls of the dead.Nephromancy: by shapes of clouds.Numerology: by numbers.Oneirromancy: by dreams.Onomancy: by names.Onychomancy: by a form of palmistry looking at the fingernails.Palmistry: by lines and mounds on the hand.Parrot astrology: by parakeets picking up fortune cardsPaper fortune teller: origami used in fortune-telling games.Pendulum reading: by the movements of a suspended object.Pyromancy: by gazing into fire.Rhodomancy: divination by rods.Runecasting or Runic divination: by runes.Scrying: by looking at or into reflective objects.Spirit board: by planchette or talking board.Taromancy: by a form of cartomancy using tarot cards.Tasseography or tasseomancy: by tea leaves or coffee grounds.Romani fortune telling. Facsimile of a woodcut in Cosmographia universalis of Sebastian MnsterWestern fortune tellers typically attempt predictions on matters such as future romantic, financial, and childbearing prospects. Many fortune tellers will also give "character readings". These may use numerology, graphology, palmistry (if the subject is present), and astrology. [citation needed]In contemporary Western culture, it appears that women consult fortune tellers more than men.[4] Some women have maintained long relationships with their personal readers. Telephone consultations with psychics grew in popularity through the 1990s, and by the 2010s additional contact methods such as email and videoconferencing also became available, but none of these have completely replaced traditional in-person methods of consultation.[5]Main article: Children's Fortune-Telling GamesChildren's fortune-telling games are informal activities that mimic traditional divination practices, often serving as a form of play rather than serious attempts to predict the future. These games are prevalent in various cultures and have been documented in folklore studies. They are often played with simple objects like folded paper or pencils like Mash and Cootie Catchers.Storefront psychic fortune teller in BostonDiscussing the role of fortune telling in society, Ronald H. Isaacs, an American rabbi and author, opined, "Since time immemorial humans have longed to learn that which the future holds for them. Thus, in ancient civilization, and even today with fortune telling as a true profession, humankind continues to be curious about its future, both out of sheer curiosity as well as out of desire to better prepare for it."[6]Although 5000 years ago, soothsayers were prized advisers to the Assyrians, they lost respect and reverence during the rise of Reason in the 17th and 18th centuries.[7]With the rise of commercialism, "the sale of occult practices [adapted to survive] in the larger society," according to sociologists Danny L. and Lin Jorgensen.[8] Ken Feingold, writer of "Interactive Art as Divination as a Vending Machine," stated that with the invention of money, fortune telling became "a private service, a commodity within the marketplace." [9]As J. Peder Zane wrote in *The New York Times* in 1994, referring to the Psychic Friends Network, "Whether it's 3 P.M. or 3 A.M., there's Dionne Warwick and her psychic friends selling advice on love, money and success. In a nation where the power of crystals and the likelihood that angels hover nearby prompt more contemplation than ridicule, it may not be surprising that one million people a year call Ms. Warwick's friends." [7]In 1994, the psychic counsellor Rosanna Rogers of Cleveland, Ohio, explained to J. Peder Zane that a wide variety of people consulted her: "Couch potatoes aren't the only people seeking the counsel of psychics and astrologers. Clairvoyants have a booming business advising Philadelphia bankers, Hollywood lawyers and CEO's of Fortune 500 companies. . . If people knew how many people, especially the very rich and powerful ones, went to psychics, their jaws would drop through the floor." [7] Rogers "claims to have 4,000 names in her rolodex." [7]Janet Lee, also known as the Greenwich psychic, claims that her clientele often included Wall Street brokers who were looking for any advantage they could get. Her usual fee was around \$150 for a session but some clients would pay between \$2,000 and \$9,000 per month to have her available 24 hours a day to consult.[10]In 1982, Danny Jorgensen, a professor of Religious Studies at the University of South Florida offered a spiritual explanation for the popularity of fortune telling. He said that people visit psychics or fortune tellers to gain self-understanding,[11] and knowledge which will lead to personal power or success in some aspect of life.[12]In 1995, Ken Feingold offered a different explanation for why people seek out fortune tellers:[9]We desire to know other people's actions and to resolve our own conflicts regarding decisions to be made and our participation in social groups and economies. ... Divination seems to have emerged from our knowing the inevitability of death. The idea is clearwe know that our time is limited and that we want things in our lives to happen in accord with our wishes. Realizing that our wishes have little power, we have sought technologies for gaining knowledge of the future... gain power over our own [lives].Ultimately, the reasons a person consults a diviner or fortune teller depend on cultural and personal expectations.Traditional fortune tellers vary in methodology, generally using techniques long established in their cultures and thus meeting the cultural expectations of their clientele.In the United States and Canada, among clients of European ancestry, palmistry is popular[13] and, as with astrology and tarot card reading, advice is generally given about specific problems besetting the client.Non-religious spiritual guidance may also be offered. An American clairvoyant by the name of Catherine Adams has written, "My philosophy is to teach and practice spiritual freedom, which means you have your own spiritual guidance, which I can help you get in touch with." [14]In the African American community, where many people practice a form of folk magic called hoodoo or rootworking, a fortune-telling session or "reading" for a client may be followed by practical guidance in spell-casting and Christian prayer, through a process called "magical coaching." [15]In addition to sharing and explaining their visions, fortune tellers can also act like counselors by discussing and offering advice about their clients' problems.[13] They want their clients to exercise their own willpower.[16]A fortune-telling storefront on the boardwalk in Point Pleasant Beach, New JerseySome fortune tellers support themselves entirely on their divination business; others hold down one or more jobs, and their second jobs may or may not relate to the occupation of divining. In 1982, Danny L. and Lin Jorgensen found that "while there is considerable variation among [these secondary] occupations, [part-time fortune tellers] are over-represented in human service fields: counseling, social work, teaching, health care." [17] The same authors, making a limited survey of North American diviners, found that the majority of fortune tellers are married with children, and a few claim graduate degrees.[18] "They attend movies, watch television, work at regular jobs, shop at K-Mart, sometimes eat at McDonald's, and go to the hospital when they are seriously ill." [19]See also: Legality of fortune-tellingIn 1982, the sociologists Danny L. and Lin Jorgensen found that, "when it is reasonable, [fortune tellers] comply with local laws and purchase a business license." [17] However, in the United States, a variety of local and state laws restrict fortune telling, require the licensing or bonding of fortune tellers, or make necessary the use of terminology that avoids the term "fortune teller" in favor of terms such as "spiritual advisor" or "psychic consultant." There are also laws that outright forbid the practice in certain districts.For instance, fortune telling is a class B misdemeanor in the state of New York. Under New York State law, S 165.35:A person is guilty of fortune telling when, for a fee or compensation which he directly or indirectly solicits or receives, he claims or pretends to tell fortunes, or holds himself out as being able, by claimed or pretended use of occult powers, to answer questions or give advice on personal matters or to exercise, influence or affect evil spirits or curses; except that this section does not apply to a person who engages in the aforescribed conduct as part of a show or exhibition solely for the purpose of entertainment or amusement.[20]Lawmakers who wrote this statute acknowledged that fortune tellers do not restrict themselves to "a show or exhibition solely for the purpose of entertainment or amusement" and that peole will continue to seek out fortune tellers even though fortune tellers operate in violation of the law. In the states of Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, all forms of fortune-telling are illegal.[21]In Australia, fortune-telling is illegal in South Australia and the Northern Territory.[22]Saudi Arabia also bans the practice outright, considering fortune telling to be sorcery and thus contrary to Islamic teaching and jurisprudence. It has been punishable by death.[23]In the United Kingdom, there was The Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951 which prohibited a person from claiming to be a fortune teller in order to make money for another reason than the purpose of entertainment. This act was repealed in 2008, and replaced by The Consumer Protection Act.[citation needed]Josephine and the Fortune-Teller by David Wilkie, 1837Fortune telling is easily dismissed by critics as magical thinking and superstition.[24][25][26]Skeptip Bergen Evans suggested that fortune telling is the result of a "nave selection of something that have happened from a mass of things that haven't, the clever interpretation of ambiguities, or a brazen announcement of the inevitable." [27] Other skeptics claim that fortune telling is nothing more than cold reading.[28]A large amount of fraud has been proven in the practice of fortune telling.[29]Fortune telling and how it works raises many critical questions. For example, fortune-telling occurs through various methods such as psychic readings and tarot cards. Similarly, these methods are largely based on random phenomena. For example, astrolgers believe that the movement of stars in the sky can have implications on one's life.[30] In the case of tarot cards, people believe that images displayed on the cards have significant meanings on their lives. However, there is a lack of evidence to support why such things, such as the stars, would have any implications on our lives.Additionally, fortune-telling readings and predictions made by horoscopes, for example, are often general enough to apply to anyone. In cold reading, for example, readers often begin by stating general descriptions and continuing to make specifics based on the reactions they receive from the person whose life they are predicting.[31] The tendency for people to deem general descriptions as being representative to themselves has been termed the Barnum effect and has been studied by psychologists for many years.[31]Nonetheless, even with a lack of evidence supporting the various methods of fortune-telling and the many frauds that have occurred by psychic readers, amongst others, fortune-telling continues to become popular around the world. There are many reasons for the appealing nature of fortune-telling such as that people often experience stress when there is uncertainty and thus seek to gain deeper insight into their lives.Chinese fortune tellingChinese spiritual world conceptsDivinationDivination in African traditional religionFilm-Flam! Psychics, ESP, Unicorns and other DelusionsFortune teller machineKumarKa-Bala board gameFoudini's debunking spiritualists!Ching divinationBob Nyaard (psychic investigator)Peter Popoff investigated by James RandiProphecyPsychic Blues: Confessions of a Conflicted MediumRose Mackenberg (American investigator of psychic mediums)Tengenjutsu (fortune telling) ^ a b Melton, J. Gordon. (2008). The Encyclopedia of Religious Phenomena. Visible Ink Press. pp. 115116. ISBN1-57859-209-7 ^ Pliny the Elder (1831). Caii Plinii Secundi Histori naturalis libri xxviii, cum selectis comm. J. Harduini ac rectoriorum interpretum novisque adnotationibus. p.579. Retrieved 7 November 2015. (in Latin) ^ Associated Press6 July 2010 ^ Blicourt, Willem de; Osborne, Cornelle. (1999). Women's Medicine, Women's Culture: Abortion and Fortune telling in Early Twentieth-Century Germany and the Netherlands. Medical History 43: 376392. ^ Burton, Valentina. 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