

# The Memory Of Water Script

## The Memory of Water <sup>1</sup>

by Shelagh Stephenson<sup>2</sup>

### Act One

*Blackness. A pool of bluish green light<sup>3</sup> reveals VI, aged around forty. She is sitting at a dressing-table. The drawer is open. She wears a green taffeta cocktail frock circa 1962<sup>4</sup>. She is sexy, immaculately made up, her hair perfectly coiffed. She wears earrings and a matching necklace, and carries a clutch bag, from which she takes a cigarette and lighter. She lights up. The pool of light opens up to reveal the rest of the room in a dim, golden, unreal glow<sup>5</sup>: a bedroom, dominated by a double bed in which Mary lies, wearing a pair of sunglasses. She watches VI. The room is slightly old fashioned, with dressing-table and matching wardrobe. Some clothes are draped over a chair<sup>6</sup>. There is a long diagonal crack running across the wall behind the bed<sup>7</sup>. An open suitcase lies on the floor, half unpacked, a half-full bottle of whisky and a pile of books on the bedside table.<sup>8</sup>*

**Mary** What do you want?<sup>9</sup>

**VI** Someone's been going through these drawers.

**Mary** Not me.

**VI** What did you think you'd find?<sup>10</sup>

**Mary** Nothing.

*She closes the drawer and looks over to the bed.*

**VI** That crack's getting worse. Have you noticed anything about the view?

**Mary** No.

**VI** It's closer.

**Mary** What is?

**VI** The sea. Fifty yards closer. It'll take the house eventually. All gone without a trace. Nothing left. And all the life that happened here, drowned, sunk. As if it had never been.

**Mary** D'you remember a green tin box with chrysanthemums on it?<sup>11</sup>

**VI** No.

**Mary** It had papers in it. It's gone. Where is it?

**VI** I've no idea.

**Mary** What have you done with it?

**VI** *picks up some books from the bedside table and looks through the titles.*

**VI** *Head Injuries and Short-Term Changes in Neural Behaviour ... The Phenomenology of Memory ...Peripheral Signalling of the Brain.*

*She puts them down.*

Bloody hell, Mary. What's wrong with Georgette Heyer?<sup>12</sup>

*Go to black. Fade up bedside lamp. VI has gone. Mary is lying prostrate. She stirs and gets out of bed, goes to the dressing-table, opens drawers, rifles through them<sup>13</sup>. The phone rings.*

**Mary** Hello? ...What time is it? ... I wouldn't be talking to you if I was, would I? I'd be unconscious ...Where are you? ...Jesus ...you're what? So will you want me to pick you up from the station?

*The door opens and Teresa comes in.*

**Teresa** Oh ...

**Mary** Hold on ... (To Teresa.) It's not for you.

**Teresa** Who is it?

**Mary** (to caller) What? She's gone where? ... OK, OK. I'll see you later. Are you sure you don't want

The memory of water script has become a significant topic in the fields of science, philosophy, and alternative medicine. This concept suggests that water has the capacity to retain a "memory" of substances that have been dissolved in it, even after they have been removed. The implications of this theory span various disciplines, from homeopathy to environmental science, and provoke a deep inquiry into the very nature of water itself. In this article, we will explore the origins of this idea, the scientific studies surrounding it, and its broader implications.

## Origins of the Memory of Water Concept

The notion of water retaining memory can be traced back to the late 20th century. French immunologist Jacques Benveniste was one of the first prominent figures to propose this

idea through his controversial research.

## **Jacques Benveniste's Experiment**

1. **The Study:** In 1988, Benveniste published a paper in the journal *Nature* that claimed highly diluted solutions of antibodies could still produce a biological effect when used on white blood cells. He suggested that the water in which the antibodies had been diluted retained a "memory" of the antibodies.
2. **Criticism and Reproducibility Issues:** Despite initial excitement, Benveniste's claims faced substantial skepticism. Many scientists attempted to replicate his results but failed, leading to significant criticism of his methodology and conclusions.
3. **Subsequent Research:** Despite the skepticism, Benveniste's work opened the door for further investigation into the properties of water. His findings inspired a number of studies aimed at understanding the molecular structure of water and its possible interactions with solutes.

## **Scientific Investigations into Water Memory**

Research into the memory of water has continued to evolve, with various studies attempting to explore its validity.

### **Key Research Studies**

- **Luc Montagnier's Work:** In 2009, Luc Montagnier, a Nobel Prize-winning virologist, published a study that suggested DNA could influence the structure of water even after the DNA had been removed. He claimed that electromagnetic waves produced by the DNA could be detected, hinting at some form of memory within the water.
- **Dr. Masaru Emoto's Experiments:** Although not directly related to memory in the scientific sense, Dr. Emoto's experiments involved freezing water samples and observing the resulting ice crystals. He claimed that water exposed to positive words formed beautiful crystals, while water exposed to negative words formed disfigured crystals. This research sparked discussions about the emotional and vibrational properties of water.

### **Challenges and Criticisms**

1. **Lack of Empirical Evidence:** The primary criticism of the memory of water concept is the lack of rigorous, reproducible evidence. Most of the studies claiming to support water memory have not been able to withstand scrutiny or replicate results.
2. **Scientific Skepticism:** Many scientists remain firmly skeptical of the memory of water.

They argue that the molecular interactions in water do not support the existence of a memory mechanism as proposed by proponents of the theory.

3. Alternative Explanations: Some researchers suggest that any observed effects could be due to placebo effects, experimental biases, or other factors unrelated to the water itself.

## **Applications in Alternative Medicine**

Despite the controversy, the memory of water concept has found a place in alternative medicine, particularly in homeopathy.

## **Homeopathy and Water Memory**

1. Principle of Dilution: Homeopathy is based on the belief that substances can be diluted to such an extent that they retain some semblance of their original properties. This is often explained through the lens of water memory.

2. Critics of Homeopathy: The scientific community largely rejects homeopathy, citing lack of evidence and implausibility. Critics argue that the dilutions used in homeopathic remedies often exceed Avogadro's number, meaning that it is unlikely for any molecules of the original substance to remain.

3. Supporters' Perspectives: Proponents of homeopathy argue that the effects of homeopathic remedies can be explained through the memory of water. They believe that water's unique properties allow it to retain an imprint of the substances that were once dissolved in it.

## **Philosophical Implications**

The idea of water having memory raises intriguing philosophical questions about the nature of reality, perception, and the interconnectedness of life.

## **Interconnectedness of Life**

1. Water as a Universal Solvent: Water is essential for life, and its ability to dissolve a variety of substances makes it a universal solvent. This characteristic suggests a deeper connection among all living things, as water acts as a carrier of essential nutrients and information.

2. Mind-Body Connection: The memory of water concept can also be linked to discussions about the mind-body connection. If water can retain the imprint of substances, could it also be influenced by human emotions and intentions? This line of thought, while speculative, invites a broader consideration of how our mental states may interplay with our physical

environment.

## **Implications for Environmental Science**

Understanding the properties of water could have significant implications for environmental science.

1. **Water Quality:** Research into water memory could lead to new insights into how pollutants affect water's molecular structure and behavior. This could inform better practices for water purification and conservation.
2. **Ecosystem Health:** If water can retain information about its contents, monitoring water quality could become more nuanced, providing insights into the health of aquatic ecosystems and the impact of human activity.

## **Conclusion: The Ongoing Debate**

The concept of the memory of water script remains a contentious and fascinating topic. While the scientific community largely views it with skepticism, the idea continues to inspire debate and curiosity. The implications of water's potential memory touch upon critical aspects of health, environment, and philosophy, encouraging further exploration into one of the most vital substances on Earth.

As research continues, it is essential to approach the subject with an open mind while maintaining a critical perspective grounded in scientific rigor. Whether or not water possesses memory, the discussions it sparks are invaluable in fostering a deeper understanding of the natural world and our place within it. The journey of inquiry into the memory of water may ultimately lead to new insights that challenge our current understanding and open pathways for future exploration.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the central themes explored in 'The Memory of Water'?**

The central themes include memory, loss, and the complexity of human relationships, particularly focusing on how personal and collective memories shape identities.

### **Who is the playwright of 'The Memory of Water' and what inspired them?**

The playwright is Shelagh Stephenson. She was inspired by her own experiences with family dynamics and the nature of memory, particularly how memories can be both comforting and painful.

## How does the structure of 'The Memory of Water' enhance its storytelling?

The play employs a non-linear narrative structure that reflects the fragmented nature of memory, allowing the audience to piece together the characters' pasts and the impact of their shared history.

## What role does the setting play in 'The Memory of Water'?

The setting, primarily taking place in a family home, serves as a physical representation of the characters' memories and the emotional weight of their shared history, creating a backdrop for their interactions.

## How does 'The Memory of Water' address the theme of grief?

The play delves into grief through the characters' interactions and coping mechanisms, illustrating how their unresolved feelings about loss affect their relationships and personal growth.

## What impact has 'The Memory of Water' had on contemporary theater?

The play has been praised for its insightful exploration of memory and emotion, influencing contemporary theater by encouraging deeper character studies and the use of innovative narrative techniques.

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