

Differences between two versions of Tesla's autobiography

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The aim of this web page is to compare the following two autobiographies of Nikola Tesla:

- [My Inventions](#), published in 1919 by Electrical Experimenter (EE), with Hugo Gernsback as Editor in Chief
- [The Strange Life of Nikola Tesla](#), prepared by John Roland Hans Penner in 1995, Kolmogorov - Smirnov Publishing.

It seems that some of the sentences, appearing in *The Strange Life of Nikola Tesla*, have been left out from *My Inventions*. And vice versa, some of the sentences have been added to *My Inventions* which Tesla did not write. It seems to us that *The Strange Life of Nikola Tesla* is the book corresponding to Tesla's original text, and not *My Inventions*.

Chapter 2: My First Efforts At Invention; p. 9

Now, my well-being is simply the result of a careful and measured mode of living and perhaps the most astonishing thing is that three times in my youth I was rendered by illness a hopeless physical wreck and given up by physicians. MORE than this, through ignorance and lightheartedness, I got into all sorts of difficulties, dangers and scrapes from which I extricated myself as by enchantment. I was almost drowned, entombed, lost and frozen. I had hair-breadth escapes from mad dogs, hogs, and other wild animals. I passed through dreadful diseases and met with all kinds of odd mishaps and that I am whole and hearty today seems like a miracle. But as I recall these incidents to my mind I feel convinced that my preservation was not altogether accidental, **but was indeed the work of divine power**. An inventor's endeavour is essentially life saving.

Chapter 5: The Magnifying Transmitter; p. 26

Upon regaining my health, I began to formulate plans for the resumption of work in America. Up to that time I never realised that I possessed any particular gift of discovery, but Lord Rayleigh, whom I always considered as an ideal man of science, had said so and if that was the case, I felt that I should concentrate on some big idea.

At this time, as at many other times in the past, my thoughts turned towards my Mother's teaching. The gift of mental power comes from God, Divine Being, and if we concentrate our minds on that truth, we become in tune with this great power. My Mother had taught me to seek all truth in the Bible; therefore I devoted the next few months to the study of this work.

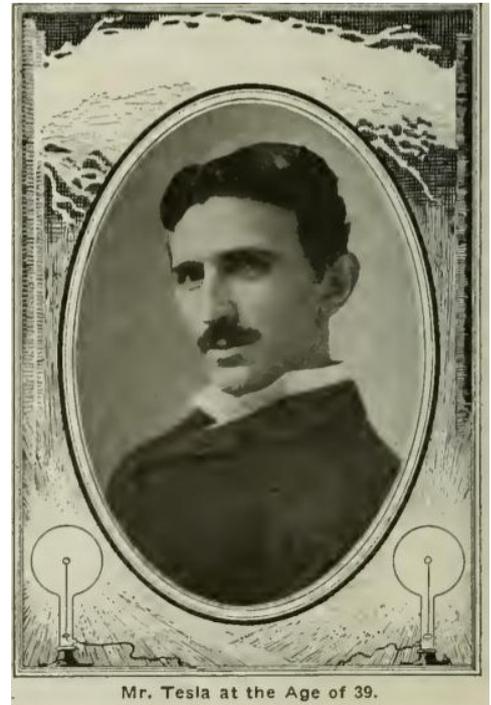
One day, as I was roaming the mountains, I sought shelter from an approaching storm. The sky became overhung with heavy clouds, but somehow the rain was delayed until, all of a sudden, there was a lightening flash and a few moments after, a deluge. This observation set me thinking.

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It seemed a hopeless undertaking, but I made up my mind to try it and immediately on my return to the United States in the summer of 1892, **after a short visit to my friends in Watford, England**; work was begun which was to me all the more attractive, because a means of the same kind was necessary for the successful transmission of energy without wires.

At this time I made a further careful study of the Bible, and discovered the key in Revelation. The first gratifying result was obtained in the spring of the succeeding year, when I reaching a tension of about **100,000,000 volts — one hundred million volts** — with my conical coil, which I figured was the voltage of a flash of lightening.

[Dokumentarac](#) o Nikoli Tesli je snimila Hrvatska radio televizija (HTV 2) 2007. godine prema autobiografiji „Moji pronalasci“. Glas za film dao je glumac Rade Šerbedžija. Taj film koji traje 45:44min, počinje s autentičnim tonskim zapisom gradonačelnika New Yorka, gospodina Fiorello la Guardia-e s izvješćem o Teslinom preminuću: „U četvrtak navečer u našem gradu New Yorku, čovjek u dobi od 87 godina, preminuo je u svojoj skromnoj hotelskoj sobi. Njegovo ime je Nikola Tesla. Umro je u siromaštvu, a bio je jedan od najkorisnijih i najuspješnijih ljudi koji su ikad živjeli...“ . Film se nastavlja čitanjem rečenica iz Tesline autobiografije. I onda, neočekivano, čujem odlomak (iz 2. poglavlja *Mojih pronalazaka*) koji me duboko pogađa: „**Preživio sam strašne bolesti i sreo se sa svim vrstama strašnih nezgoda, a još uvijek sam ostao hrabar i čitav, što je čudo. Ali, kad se sjetim, svih tih događaja, uvjeren sam da se nisam spasio slučajno.**“ Bilo je to na 4:54min od početka filma. Kako to, pitao sam se, znanstvenik, koji nije religiozan, može biti 'uvjeren da se nije spasio slučajno'? Ta rečenica mi je jednostavno izgledala nezavršenom. ...



[Ivan Meštrović](#), znameniti hrvatski kipar, o Teslinom je idealizmu zapisao sljedeće:

Njegov ideal i svi njegovi napori bili su usmjereni na to, da koristi napretku čovječanstva. Iza toga je skrenuo u mistiku i pripovjedao mi, kako se još od mladosti prije spavanja, klečeći na golim koljenima, molio Bogu. Kad sam ga upitao, kakve molitve moli, odgovorio mi je:

- One, koje sam u djetinjstvu molio. Ali, da, tako sam se molio sve do svoje pedesete godine. Od toga se doba molim drugačije, nu to je svejedno, suština je ista, i ja se molim Bogu svakoga dana.

Ivan Meštrović: *Uspomene na političke ljude i događaje*, Buenos Aires, 1961., Knjižnica Hrvatske revije. (str. 191-193); ili Matica hrvatska, Zagreb 1969. (str. 169-170)

[Ivan Meštrović](#), distinguished Croatian sculptor, wrote the following about Tesla's idealism:

His ideal and all his efforts were directed towards the advancement of Mankind. After that, he turned to mysticism and recounted to me, that he was since his youth praying to God before going to sleep, kneeling on bare knees. When I asked him, which prayers does he pray, he answered to me:

- Those, that I prayed since my childhood. But, yes, I prayed so until my fifties. Since then, I pray differently, but the essence is the same, and I pray to God every day.

Ivan Meštrović: *Uspomene na političke ljude i događaje* (Reminiscences of Political People and Events), Buenos Aires, 1961., Knjižnica Hrvatske revije. (pp. 191-193); or Matica hrvatska, Zagreb 1969 (pp. 169-170)