

“LIFE” IN THE PARANORMAL

What we are seeing...is it really ghosts?

Throughout these sessions, we will attempt to answer that very important question. The art (and science) of Paranormal research is focused on looking beyond “everyday” occurrences and experiencing events that may not have an immediate explanation. When it comes to defining the Spirit World, there are many opinions, but it is time to approach the unknown in a methodical and scientific manner. We work to provide facts, statistics, documentation and solid answers as part of a quest that has been underway since the emergence of human kind.

The concept of a spirit world is ancient, but as time passes new clues bring us closer to understanding boundaries – and perhaps the rules – of a world that exists beyond our traditional five senses. At this time, there is very little *irrefutable* proof when it comes to ghost investigations. Eyewitness accounts, countless photographs, sound recordings and unexplainable energy signatures are common, but all of this is not enough to redefine ghosts as factual. The most important work is still ahead.

This is where we come in.

Modern technologies, such as Photography and EMF detectors, takes what was once considered to be a past-time for hoaxers and kooks and elevated it to a respected field of scientific study known as parapsychology. It's an extensive field that covers much more than just paranormal investigation.

Like any other science, the rules are always changing - along with the trends and opinions. But there are some generally shared opinions, classifications and definitions available when it comes to the world that exists beyond the veil of sight, sound and smell. Keep in mind, the difference between Science and Superstition is simple.

Within Science, we make observations, test those observations and then modify the conclusions based on the *evidence*.

On the other hand, superstition also makes observations, tests those observations and then *rejects or ignores* any data that does not support their position of wishful thinking.

IS IT REALLY A GHOST?

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I am sure a few people will disagree with those statements, but facts are facts. Or as a fictional archeologist said in a popular movie: “What we are dealing with here is *fact* not *truth*. If you want Truth, there is a philosophy class being offered right down the hall.”

“Haunting” tends to be a general term that refers to many types of experiences and events, feelings and observations, sounds and smells. Most people believe these occurrences are some form of residual energy “left over” from people that are now on the other side of the veil.

A manifestation may be glimpsed from the corner of your eye, or it may appear in photographs or videos. It can manifest as background sounds in audio recordings or perhaps simply be perceived as electromagnetic energy.

While there may be some similarities, no two paranormal experiences are exactly the same. However, because so many different paranormal experiences have been studied and documented, there are different "categories" of paranormal activity. In this course, we focus on those experiences that are related to hauntings, ghosts, spirits and other entity encounters.

Becoming a Paranormal Investigator

People choose to become an Investigator for many reasons. To a believer, ghosts are everywhere. Someone may be hovering behind you right now. Do you feel a chill as you read this? Is there someone watching you perhaps?

With that in mind, ghosts should be easy to hunt but in practice, many dedicated people go for years and never experience a single encounter. However, what most people find during investigations is the *possibility* of ghosts. Once again, the most important work in this field is still ahead.

A few people say they do not believe in ghosts. Others may say they do not believe because they are worried others will think they are delusional. Strangely, for many people, it’s not the ghosts they are afraid of. They are afraid of *believing* in ghosts. It takes courage to believe in something that goes against the majority view. At one time, people believed the world was flat and the Sun revolved around the earth.

Perhaps it is time for everyone to reexamine their beliefs when it comes to the Paranormal.

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At this time, there is very little proof for the existence of ghosts, that is, there is little *irrefutable* proof. Ghost stories are always anecdotal, and it is up to us to supply *evidence* to support (or refute) these stories.

Most “ghost hunts” are disorganized. There is no structure and if an anomaly is detected, it is usually simply observed (or experienced) and not recorded properly. You have probably seen the television shows about “ghost hunters.” In general, the group walks into an area, points their equipment around, and react (for the camera) if something happens. All this does is create more anecdotal stories mostly about how the equipment detected something and “Wow! We were really scared!”

Forget much of what you see on TV (or in the movies). If you want to hunt ghosts, you do not need a state-of-the-art lab, expensive equipment, or assistants that are easily frightened. You do need patience, a methodical approach and an up-to-date knowledge base.

By definition, Parapsychology is “a study of phenomena and events that cannot be explained by conventional science.” At least not yet. We may call on other scientific fields such as biology, physics, computer science, statistics, electronics, astronomy, and others. However, do not let this frighten you. The pieces of other sciences we need will be woven invisibly into these lessons.

The most important tool you will need is patience. You will not experience an anomaly on every investigation. In fact, we have found that 90% of all ghost hunts yield little or no useful information. Again, if it happened every time, there would be no need for paranormal investigators.

In addition to patience, you will need a spirit of conviction. Many people will contend that what we are doing is futile. You may face ridicule and criticism. Some religious groups are “offended” by the thought of ghosts and the Paranormal. In fact, when we can expect to expect “failure” 9 times out of 10, it is hard to stay motivated.

Even without a formal science background, you can learn the principles of a solid investigation. We must recognize, it is necessary to rely on “conventional” science to prove ghosts are real. Faith may help people cope with the paranormal, but science is what will make people fully believe in ghosts.

As Paranormal investigators, we are not out to “Bust” or banish ghosts. Humankind already coexists with ghosts, and ghost hunters are confident ghost are not dangerous. On occasion a supernatural entity may pose a threat, but these things are not ghosts. In any case, these creatures are not within the realm of a Ghost Hunter. By most accounts, these entities would be a demon (as defined by some religions) or other maleficent manifestation. We will leave the exorcisms to other experts. The most a ghost will do is to perhaps cause a sprained ankle or a stubbed toe as the investigator attempts record the anomaly in a dark room.

MY OPINION OF MY
WHOLE EXPERIENCE
VARIES FROM TIME
TO TIME. IN BROAD
DAYLIGHT, AND AT
MOST SEASONS I AM
APT TO THINK THE
GREATER PART OF IT
A MERE DREAM; BUT
SOMETIMES IN THE
AUTUMN, ABOUT
TWO IN THE
MORNING WHEN
WINDS AND
ANIMALS HOWL
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RHYTHMICAL
THROBBING ...

H.P. LOVECRAFT

Technically, we are not “Ghost Hunters.” Paranormal Investigators do not “hunt” ghosts. Perhaps a better term would be “Ghost finders” or “Ghost Watchers.” A “hunt” is a blind search, groping for ghosts without evidence of a presence where we are looking. A meaningful investigation is an *informed* search. We follow leads based on legitimate data following up on leads, history and information from reliable sources.

Actually, it does not matter what we call ourselves. We actively seek information in the Paranormal in an attempt to answer the big question: Do ghosts exist?

We reach out to the other side and sometimes we seem to get a response. We examine, analyze, document - and sometimes respond - to the data we collect. We reach out to the other side and perhaps soon something within that Unknown will reach back.

Believer or Debunker?

Humankind has been fascinated with what we call the Paranormal since the beginning of time. Just glimpsed glows, unexplained noises, and flitting shadows at the edge of vision have stirred the imagination, stimulated superstitious explanations and just in general, frightened us. These perceived events have been explained as signs, portents and visitations. Religious explanations have been offered and the ongoing battle between “good” and “evil” have even been blamed.

Today, many people use science in an attempt to understand our complex universe. In any case, the so-called “Science vs. Religion” conflict often hinders research. As a result, most Investigators tend to favor one of two positions; a Believer or a Debunker.

However, the most effective investigator adopts a third philosophy – a position that says: “I don’t know, but let’s find out.”

An objective investigator embraces any tool that is available - Dowsing rods and EMF detectors, strong feelings (from a Psychic) and voice recordings, cold spaces and photographs.

The important thing is: what is the intent of the Investigator? Are they trying to prove ghosts do exist or trying to prove ghosts do not exist?

The answer to this question is clear, but a bit complex. Actually, the question is not valid. Logically, you cannot prove something does not exist. For example, can you *prove* there is no such thing as an elf? First, can you define an elf in a way that will satisfy everyone? And for that matter, is there some location, perhaps in the distant past or even in a place humankind has never visited, where elves, fitting that definition do exist? We will never be able to explore every possibility. There will always be somewhere or some condition that has not (or cannot) be explored.

However, we can prove something *does* exist. But whenever a claim is made, the burden of proof is in the claimant. I can say, Elves do exist, and to support that claim, all I need to do is produce one elf. Then we can spend our time examining the nature of Elves and not waste our resources simply trying to find them.

Unfortunately, these two positions are common. Some people believe, without question, that ghosts are real. Others believe, no matter what, that ghosts do not exist. Neither of these positions is valid, and starting from these extremes casts doubt on all conclusions presented when investigations are conducted with these “blindness” in place.

An effective investigator goes in with no preconceptions. At this time, there is simply not enough evidence to support either position. In addition, the lack of records (from investigators) and the large number of “casual” investigators undermine the entire process.

Our goal is to gather evidence, record the information and evaluate it thoroughly. We do not draw any conclusions until the very end, and in many cases, no conclusions are ever reached – we just continue our investigation.

...LIFE IS ONLY A SET OF PICTURES IN THE BRAIN, AMONG WHICH THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE BORN OF REAL THINGS AND THOSE BORN OF INWARD DREAMINGS, AND NO CAUSE TO VALUE THE ONE ABOVE THE OTHER.

H.P. LOVECRAFT

Religion and the Paranormal

This is a topic that cannot be avoided. There are questions you must ask yourself at this point. Once again, your conclusions will have an impact on your investigations and you must keep this in

mind. In spite of all the legends, stories and mythologies, we are forced to conclude that no one has made it to heaven or hell and returned to tell us about it.

Do we have a soul? Is there life after death? Is what we are experiencing nothing more than left over energy?

These are questions of psychology and philosophy but they are also questions that science cannot ignore. There is no reason to “confront” religion and in the same way, there is no reason to resent science. We are all seeking answers, but the goal remains the same. We are gathering evidence and as humans, our personal position has an impact on our conclusions.

Do not enter the world of ghost hunting thinking you are going to find a spiritual answer during the search. People may say becoming involved in the paranormal helps you to examine the mind of god or perhaps achieve personal Nirvana. If that is why you are here, you are in the wrong business. Most investigations will only create new questions and not answer any of the old.

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