

OPENING REMARKS

STANLEY KRIPPNER: I would like to welcome you to our conference on Parapsychology and Human Nature. Each of the papers you will hear this weekend addresses itself to this provocative topic. After a century of psi research, the field of parapsychology still contains more enigmas than data. And after somewhat over a century, psychological research has presented us with what is, at best, an incomplete portrait of the human being. Perhaps our meeting will provide some modest insights as to which pieces are missing from the puzzle if not point the way to the incomplete pieces themselves.

Our host is the Parapsychology Foundation which celebrates its 35th anniversary with this conference. Founded in 1951 to encourage and support scientific inquiry into the anomalous aspects of human behavior and experience, the Foundation is well known to those of us in the field. It maintains an office in New York City where scholars from around the world come to use its magnificent library. The Foundation's official journal, the *Parapsychology Review* is, perhaps, the most comprehensive publication in the field. When a non-parapsychologist asks me what single parapsychological publication he or she should subscribe to, I invariably recommend the *Review*. It contains scholarly articles, book reviews, and news reports that reflect parapsychological activity throughout the world.

The Foundation also publishes a series of monographs distinguished for their diversity and academic tone. I use one of them, *Altered States of Consciousness and Psi*, as a required text in my course at Saybrook Institute on experimental parapsychology. The yearly proceedings of the Foundation's international conferences, such as this one, represent a third publication vehicle for research and theory in the field.

Over the past 35 years, the Parapsychology Foundation has conducted a grant program to stimulate serious parapsychological research. These grants have enabled non-American researchers, as well as promising graduate students, to inaugurate psi research programs. In addition, the Eileen J. Garrett Scholarship has been of considerable assistance to highly motivated students.

Eileen Garrett, of course, was the founder of the Parapsychology Foundation. Perhaps the most celebrated medium of the century, she was a participant in some of the landmark experiments in the field. I

was honored to have Eileen as a personal friend, and recall with pleasure our many visits, not only at her office in Manhattan, but at her villa in France and at our laboratory in Brooklyn's Maimonides Medical Center. She defined the aims of the Foundation as furthering "knowledge of human responses to psychologically recognized stimuli, transmitted by human beings by means other than sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell." As a token honor, I dedicated volume three of *Advances in Parapsychological Research* to Eileen as well as to her daughter, Eileen Coly, who so capably carries on the Foundation's important work.

The Parapsychology Foundation's first conference was held at the University of Utrecht (in the Netherlands) in 1953. Subsequent conferences have been held in various parts of Europe and North America, bringing together scholars representing a wide variety of disciplines, backgrounds and points of view. This conference appears to be one of the most valuable, as well as one of the most stimulating of the series. Again, I would like to welcome the participants as well as the observers; I am sure that we all look forward to our weekend together.