

TRAVELING ESP

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The terms *Traveling ESP* and *ESP projection* describe any type of experience in which an observer observes from a point in space outside his own physical body. That one is thus projected becomes evident, if and when one sees his own physical body from an outside viewpoint.

Returns from a questionnaire filled out by a representative sample of 155 Duke University students indicated that such projection of viewpoint is fairly widespread. Of these students 30 per cent reported they had seen their physical body from a viewpoint outside that body. Two other groups, similarly questioned, gave somewhat smaller percentages, but it seems safe to conclude that at least 20 per cent of college-level young people believe that they have had experiences of this sort.

Securing evidence that such projections have taken place is much more difficult. Several types of evidence should be collected in order to confirm veridicality. In ESP travel, such objects should be observed as books and pictures, arrangement of furniture, the appearance of rooms and buildings, etc. The ESP-traveler should have no previous knowledge of these things from sensory observation, and a detailed report should be written concerning such objects before there is opportunity for sensory check-ups. Confirmation of the ESP-traveler's observations should be made by independent observers, and a written record of these confirmations should be made and attested before the two accounts are compared. In addition, the ESP-traveler should note appearance, costume, utterances of the people in the scene to which he makes

his ESP excursion; and a detailed written description of this setting and events should be secured from each person before he is informed of the ESP-traveler's observations. If the ESP-traveler appears as an apparition during his projection, a detailed description of his actions should be written and attested before any sensory information about these details reaches the percipient.

Of nine examples of ESP projection in which such evidence was present, two cases were spontaneous, two were deliberate self-projections, and five were cases of ESP excursions induced by hypnotism. These cases have all been previously recorded in my own correspondence, in the *Proceedings* of the Society for Psychological Research, or in other published and documented volumes. One may be reported here as an example of the types of cases and supporting evidence given.

On April 22, 1850, in Peterhead, Scotland, John Park, a clairvoyant, was projected by hypnotism to the whaling vessels "Ross" and "Eclipse." Park reported the second mate of the Ross had lost some of his fingers and his hand was dressed by the captain and surgeon of the ship. Park also reported that the captain of the "Ross," in consultation with the "Eclipse" skipper, said the former vessel would return first of the fleet of eleven whalers, and would carry "upwards of 100 tons of oil." On May 3, the "Ross" returned, first of the fleet to do so, carrying 159 tons of oil. The ship's second mate had indeed shot away portions of his fingers while fishing. The captain of the "Ross" confirmed that he conferred with the captain of the "Eclipse" on the date reported by Park. William Boyd, a Peterhead lawyer, heard the statements of the clairvoyant Park several days before the "Ross" arrived, and personally witnessed the arrival of the ship and the confirmation of Park's statements.

The cases presented (which range in time from 1850 up through 1938), plus 29 other cases summarized in a longer paper, would appear to establish a *prima facie* case for the reality of ESP travel. But the hypothesis cannot be regarded as conclusively proved.

There also exists a "parallelism" between apparitions of the dead and apparitions of the living. One of the most promising approaches to the problem of possible survival of human personalities beyond death would seem to be the systematic and rigorous investigation of spontaneous and experimental ESP projections. It is therefore proposed that a research project be established to test ESP projection, utilizing hypnosis as the most immediately promising method. It should be possible to select and train a large sample of college students capable of deep hypnosis; reliable tests of the veridicality of their observations in ESP projection could be made, and it is only a question of devoting an amount of time and money which would be moderate in comparison with many current research projects.

The hypothesis of ESP traveling seems to be supported, by reports of spontaneous and experimental cases, with such evidential strength that the likelihood of its actual occurrence seems fairly high. The major significance of the hypothesis is so great, with respect to philosophy, religion, and the whole orientation of life, that the need for rigorous and comprehensive research in the field seems imperative.

[Dr. Hart presented two supplements to his basic report: *Hypnosis As an Aid in Experimental ESP Projection*, and *The Evidential Status of ESP Projection*.]