

## ESP PROJECTION: A PROLEGOMENON TO EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH

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This is a brief summary to date of a cooperative research project which has sought to make progress toward working agreements on five basic propositions:

- 1) E. S. P. projection constitutes separability of the conscious personality from the physical brain.

Ninety-nine cases reviewed in a report to the ASPR in 1953 indicate that ESP projection involves the following features: (a) perceiving one's own physical body from the outside; (b) perceiving other physical objects and scenes clairvoyantly; (c) finding oneself to be observing and operating from within an apparitional body almost always recognizably similar to one's own physical body; (d) moving, with or without one's own volition, to points more or less removed from one's physical body, at rates of speed which may approach or reach instantaneousness and with the capacity to transcend gravitation and to pass through physical barriers; (e) carrying with one the memories, attachments, interests and purposes which characterized one's personality when physically embodied.

- 2) Apparitions of the dead are essentially similar to conscious apparitions of the living.

Evaluation of 165 cases of apparitions of the living, the dying and the dead, when considered in respect to forty-six apparitional characteristics, and tested by two basic but different statistical procedures leads to the conclusion

that no significant difference is evident between apparitions of the living or the dead.

- 3) Apparitions of the dead are vehicles of memory and purpose.

The statistical study concluded *inter alia*, that, "Apparitions [are] vehicles within which the conscious personalities of the individuals represented go on with their past loves, hopes, and interests, carrying with them memories of the past, and purposes for the future. . . ."

- 4) Recent advances in the understanding of hypnosis open the way to exploration of hypnotic methods of inducing ESP projection.

Among ninety-nine cases summarized in the report to the ASPR, were twenty cases of "traveling clairvoyance" induced by hypnosis. Such experiments were reported by thirteen different experimenters, from various countries, over a period of sixty years, and this suggests that they may be repeatable.

- 5) Methods of purposely self-induced projection, reported by preliterate medicine men, by Oriental yogis, and by various occult and spiritualistic groups of students of such matters, challenge systematic investigation.

Full-fledged ESP projection appears to have been approached most closely in two types of reported cases. The first type includes spontaneous cases in which individuals with no expectation or intention of doing so—and sometimes much against their own will—have found themselves outside their physical bodies and have reported more or less evidential observations by themselves or by others who have seen their apparitions.

The other type is systematically induced. The most widely discussed techniques for deliberately producing what is often called "astral projection" are those described

by Sylvan Muldoon in his publications in this field. In general, the evidential value of reported cases achieved by such techniques has been low or non-existent. But if the phenomenon really occurs, and if people of widely separated places and times have learned to induce it experimentally, then the field is ripe for vigorous experimental approaches.