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Etheric Studies, (CC)2017
Seeking to Understand the Nature of Reality
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ATransC Occasional Update 16

Tom Butler, (cc) 2018

(Also at <http://mailchi.mp/fb8cbc98e55b/atransc-occasional-update-16>)

And Now It 2018!

This Update comes to you from sunny Reno, Nevada. Unlike the inches of rain we received by this time last year, we have only 0.78 inches in our rain gage (1/23/2018 – average is 1 inch and annual is 7.5 inches.). Snowline on the mountains must be around 8,000 feet. Ski areas are using mostly manmade snow. This is just the opposite of last year. Much of our drinking water comes from the snowpack, so we feel a little guilty enjoying this really mild winter.

ET or ITC

We have been watching the *Ancient Aliens* television series on the *History Channel*. We have not looked into the UFO question since the 1997 UFO conference we attended in Laughlin. That was when a very convincing fellow named Lee Shargel, claiming to be a former NASA scientist, said that NASA had spotted an object cloaked in the tail of Comet Hale-Bopp. Shortly after that, and apparently related to Shargel's talk, the Heaven's Gate group killed themselves so as to be lifted up to the approaching UFO.

Of course, Shargel has been shown to be a fraud. I remember we had that "too good to be true" response, as did most of the attendees. He was convincing, but the sort of people attending such conferences are pretty smart. Nevertheless, many in the mainstream press assumed we were all duped. They like to assume anyone not mainstream is gullible.

That brings up one of our continuing concerns as Directors of the ATransC. We have had a number of attempts by website visitors to trick us with faked ITC examples. We all need to remember that there are always Lee Shargels and James Randies lurking in the shadows, looking for a "Gotcha moment."

I express this caution, but this is a good time to admit that we have been fooled by techniques that appeared to be promising at the time. Of course, we spent way more time than we like trying to find something good about radio-sweep and EVPmaker, but one technique for EVP that really fooled us is the use of recorded foreign language as background sound.

The technique was to play the foreign language recording into the room and record it with a different device. We used two recorders during a multi-session study. Right away, we thought we were recording EVP. However, since the technique was so different from what we use for transform EVP, we began examining the results in more detail.

As it turned out, we were not recording EVP. We were recording badly distorted versions of the original material that sounded paranormal. Propagation errors caused by the transmitting device, attenuation of the

sound in the air and the way the recorders detected and processed the sound combined to produce what sounded like entirely different utterances.

The first red flag was when we found the same results in each recording session. As communication, we expect instances of EVP to be different. The fact that we recorded the same utterance each time suggested that the supposed EVP was part of the process, rather than communication.

The second red flag was that both recorders produced only slightly different results. We have no verified instances in which two recorders will simultaneously record the identical utterance. This is so, even for two channels of a stereo recorder and when many people are recording together. While it may be possible for the communicating personality to simultaneously cause the same utterance in two recorders, not finding an example after all of these years has caused us to make the use of a control recorder a recommended best practice. (ethericstudies.org/control-recorder/)

We determined that the technique simply did not produce EVP ... at least not for Lisa who is an effective practitioner. Certainly not for me. Although they have apparently not been reported, we are pretty sure other, more formal studies have also shown the technique is useless. (It is reasonable to expect an occasional EVP to be formed in the noise of the sound streams, but using voice as a source is expected to constrain the needed chaotic process, making it much more difficult to induce EVP.)

The problem is that we were fooled into thinking it did produce EVP until we did a controlled study. The informal report is at *Using Live Voice Input Files for EVP* (<http://atransc.org/live-voice/>). If the technique does work, it produces so many false positives that it should be considered useless except for research.

By the way, we would not have had the opportunity to conduct the study without the Idea Exchange. One of the members began posting her examples using a foreign language as a sound source and several of us decided to conduct coordinated sessions for a few weeks. It was embarrassing to have to later admit that some of the examples we posted were not EVP.

The point of this little story is that for us as witnesses, it does not matter if we are tricked by fraud or ignorance. The result is that we were at least temporarily unable to distinguish what works from what does not or cannot. That is one of the reasons we have put so much effort over the years into public outreach. The more you know, the more you can learn from others, the better equipped you are to distinguish the paranormal from the mundane. Our community depends on well-informed members.

Getting back to the *Ancient Aliens* television series, their theme is that aliens are responsible for the creation of our early civilization and that the ancient god myths are really based on the direct influence of aliens. In my mind, at least some of their evidence is better explained by possible influence from our friends on the other side.

Point of view is everything. People who study UFO phenomena are predisposed to attribute events in terms of alien intervention. We, who are interested in psi and survival-related phenomena, are predisposed to attribute events to the intervention of spirit. In some situations, the UFO technology explanation seems to model the evidence better than some form of psi influence. But many influences people who study UFOs attribute to alien intervention might be better modeled as the influence of our friends across the veil. That, and naturally emerging responses to the environment.

Consider the implications of two well-established characteristics of contemporary survival phenomena. EVP formation appears to be by way of a small psi influence on chaotic energy to produce an intended order. This is a process that is amplified by our technology. EVP may be a good way of proving the reality of mind-to-mind communication ... either between two incarnate personalities or between discarnate and incarnate personalities.

We know that some of our communicators also attempt to teach us and give us guidance in life issues. This is more evident in mediumship, but proof of such influence is also given by EVP. If we are immortal personality which survives a physical lifetime, and if some of us are predisposed to teach, it seems reasonable to speculate that our ancestors might have been inspired by way of the psi influence provided by discarnate loved ones, rather than aliens or gods.

The second characteristic is the phenomena we sometimes witness in physical mediumship. Levitation, direct voice, spirit lights and ectoplasmic materializations are well-documented possibilities that could easily be directed toward social engineering by crafty priests.

The expression of intended order required to constrain chaotic sound into voice appears to require the same scale of influence I think would be required to cause a change in the DNA of an organism. If Rupert Sheldrake's Hypothesis of Formative Causation is correct, the change might be even easier if the personality expressed intended order on the thoughtform representing the morphogenetic process of organism development. Either way, the idea of intelligent design tends to be supported by what we know about EVP.

These are ideas to think about. If you watch the *Ancient Aliens* series, do so with an eye toward explaining the evidence in terms of survival. Doing so is a good way to begin thinking as an immortal self, rather than thinking as your human.

Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies

The fact that you have registered to receive these occasional updates tell me you have more than a passing interest in psi and survival related phenomena. You may have noticed that it has become more difficult to find reliable information that addresses the real questions of who initiates the phenomena, why they are doing so and how it is possible to seemingly violate accepted principles of mainstream science.

The three parapsychological organizations we follow in our work with the ATransC are the [Society for Scientific Exploration](#) (SSE), [Society for Psychical Research](#) (SPR) and the [Parapsychological Association](#) (PA). Of course, there are others, but the cost of membership can add up pretty fast. We are Associate members because all three require a Ph.D. for full membership. If you do not have one, while you may be able to become sufficiently involved to feel accepted, you will never be on the academic side of the academic-layperson partition. Without a Ph.D., when you speak, your Ph.D. audience will always hear an amateur speaking.

Okay, I know I sound like a sour old man with Ph.D. envy. But if you read much of my writing, if you have followed the way they prefer to overlook the ethical improprieties of their Ph.D. members, you will understand when I say that they do not represent the way forward for the Who, Why or How of survival phenomena.

[If you are a Ph.D., then please prove me wrong because we really need well-trained thinkers with an open mind and willingness to collaborate about these questions.](#)

The paranormalist community is contracting. That should be evident if you have looked around for a good discussion group. Facebook-like social media seems to be at the heart of this dumbing down of our community. The logical evolution appears to be that we are turning into a community that substitutes belief for understanding.

The theme of my comments here is *Use it or lose it!* The availability of well-informed teachers and safe forums for you to seek help, as you help others, is directly dependent on your interaction with the community here and now. Most organizations that might have become useful have faded away or turned toward the mainstream at the expense of our ability to study survival phenomena.

Our need is for an organization that values the middle way between the pop-culture approach of some groups and the elitist approach of others. The one organization we know of that offers a forum for sharing ideas and learning about new research is the [Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies](#) (ASCS). However, as it happens, it looks like the ASCS is yet another paranormalist group at the precipice of oblivion. It will take support from you to facilitate its rebirth.

Here, we need to make it clear that we are not authorized by the ASCS to speak for them. We are observers who know the dangers to our community of losing the middle-way represented by the ASCS.

It looks like full ASCS membership has been reduced from \$50 to \$40 US Funds. That is full membership, not just associate membership offered by the SSE, PA and SPR to nonacademic people. This is from their *Join* page on the website:

Household Multi-Memberships:

Applications for membership may include the names of any and all adults residing at the same mailing address. There is no extra charge for additional members who share the publication subscriptions.

Publications:

Each member of the Academy receives subscriptions to the *Journal for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies* (twice per year) and The *Searchlight* newsletter (six times per year) Archives of the on-line newsletter, *Spirituality Matters*, accessed at Spirituality Matters! Archives is free to members and non-members. We are working on resuming new issues which will be emailed to those who opt in.

Volunteer Opportunities:

There are lots of meaningful and productive ways to serve. Join our volunteer staff and help us bring enlightenment and solace to a wide and growing audience of seekers.

Opportunity to Review Books:

Members retain books that they review on behalf of the Academy.

Conference Discounts:

For ASCS conferences, registration fees for members will be reduced by an amount equal to the annual dues that they have paid prior to registration.

One last point on this. If you think everything is okay, look around for recent research or even organized study that might further your actual understanding, rather than feed your beliefs. If you cannot go away from an interaction with other parts of the paranormalist community thinking you learned something of value to your personal seeking, then you are talking to the wrong people. My point is that it is becoming more difficult to find the right people to talk with. That is something on which each of us must work to fix if we see value in gaining understanding.

A Model for EVP

The paper by me titled *A Model for EVP* was published in *The Journal for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies*. November 2017 (ascsi.org/). It is now on the ATransC website at atransc.org/model-for-evp/. In it, you will see how the Implicit Cosmology helps us make sense of the Who, Why and How of EVP formation. Much of the information in the essay translates to visual forms of ITC as well.

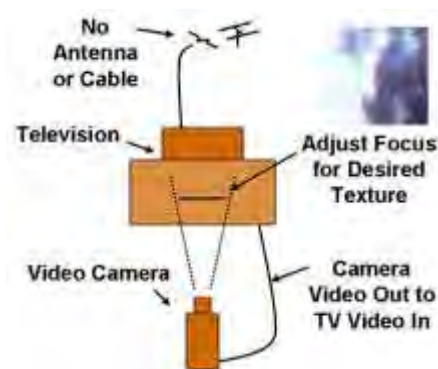
As always, I am interested in your comments and suggestions. *Section I Implicit Cosmology* in *Forum 0 Discuss Your Immortal Self* of the Idea Exchange is a good place to comment: <http://atransc.org/forum/forum-38.html>

Video-Loop ITC

Once *Exploring the Mindful Way* is finished, we intend to return to the study of video-loop ITC. For a frontier subject, the fundamentals of EVP are reasonably well understood. We want to focus on visual ITC because it is not so well understood.

We have been using a Canon 8mm ES2000 analog camcorder that is typically placed about 30 inches from a Sony KV20TS32, 20-inch Trinitron color TV.

As shown in this diagram, the video form of the chaotic noise we think is important for transform EVP is generated by looping what is seen by the camera on the television screen, out of the camera and back to the television where the camera can see it again. Done right, this causes a very chaotic, moving display in which regions of order begin to emerge. It is in those regions that we see evidence of intended order, usually in the form of faces. As with audio, we think stochastic amplification is at work.



There are examples and information about technique in these articles:

- *Butler ITC Gallery 1-3* includes a few early examples. (atransc.org/visual-itc-butler1/)
- *Perception of Visual ITC Images*. (atransc.org/visual-perception-study/)
- *Video-Loop, Visual ITC Recording Technique*. (atransc.org/video-loop-visual-itc-recording-technique/)

We know some of you have been working with video-loop ITC. We would like to compare notes about techniques. We are especially interested in recycling our old television set. But to do that, we need to be able to replicate the quality and quantity of examples with new equipment that we are getting with the old equipment. The features we are looking for include:

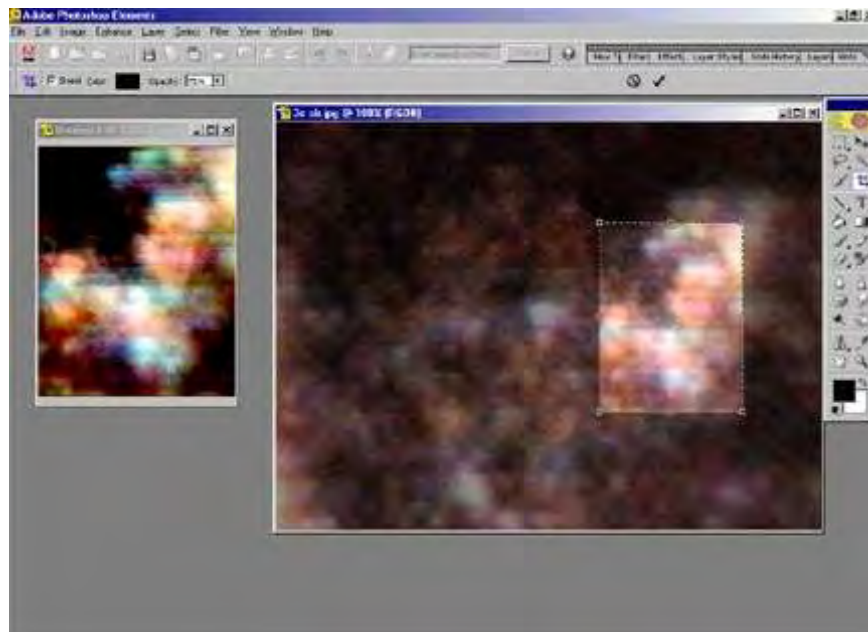
- Works with a digital flat screen, preferably a Windows laptop.
- Works with a HD digital video camera.
- Interface should be USB or HDMI (via mini adapter to Mini DisplayPort version 1.2.)
- The resulting video-loop display on the monitor should include color.
- Recording of the loop can be via the camera or in the computer.
- If a special computer program is required, it should be commercially available.
- Portability is a plus.



Our first capture.

Our objective is to identify an all-digital technique that can be easily replicated for research. We can and will study video-loop ITC using our existing equipment, but the upgrade is needed so that others can replicate the work. All digital loops have been accomplished by some practitioners, but it has been especially difficult for us to develop a useful loop with current technology that also has color.

Your input is welcome. We are mostly interested in technique and theories. The [5. Video-Loop ITC forum](http://atransc.org/forum/forum-54.html) is a good place to begin. (<http://atransc.org/forum/forum-54.html>)



Exploring the Mindful Way

As I announced in the last issue, I have been working on a book as a companion to [*Your Immortal Self: Exploring the Mindful Way*](#). Comments I have received about *Your Immortal Self* indicate that it is a little too technical. Understanding this, I tried to provide an easier to read follow-on book. Here is the draft back cover:

The most important understanding seekers of spiritual maturity must come to is the difference between lucidity and hyperlucidity. Lucidity is the degree to which we are able to clearly sense information from our mostly unconscious mind. Hyperlucidity is a term used in the Implicit Cosmology for a complex of behaviors motivated by the belief we are lucid when we are actually only sensing what we have been taught to expect.

The second most important understanding is that lucidity is the seeker's objective, but that it is achieved in small steps. The only real conscious influence we have on our mostly unconscious mind is the expression of intention. This means that we must learn to consciously examine what we think is true. Mind changes only slowly, and so, the seeker's objective is to habitually express the intention to align perception with the actual nature of reality.

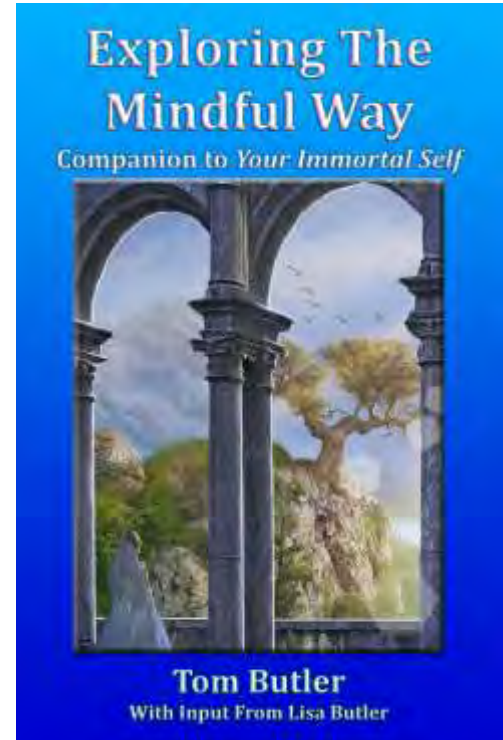
In the first book, *Your Immortal Self*, the process of consciously seeking greater lucidity is referred to as the Mindful Way. Many people practice mindfulness simply to improve personal wellbeing. Only a few step onto the Mindful Way to seek greater understanding of their immortal nature and the nature of the reality they inhabit. Even fewer remain as wayshowers for those who seek greater lucidity.

The fact of our immortality is explained in *Your Immortal Self. Exploring the Mindful Way*, includes twenty-one essays explaining some of the more important concepts encountered on the Mindful Way. While you will benefit from first reading *Your Immortal Self*, there are sufficient explanations in this book to make it a stand-alone text.

Will you be a wayshower?

My approach to solving a metaphysical puzzle is to begin by writing an essay. That creative process seems to be a channel through which I discover things I had not previously considered. The new book, *Exploring the Mindful Way*, consists of 21 essays that originated in this way. The essays are about issues people encounter while seeking spiritual maturity. They are:

1. Conditional Free Will
2. Mindfulness
3. Prime Imperative
4. Immortal Self-Centric Perspective
5. Ethics as a Personal Code for Mindfulness
6. Paranormalist Community
7. Clarity of Communication
8. How We Think
9. Consensus Building in the Paranormalist Community
10. Skeptic



11. Pseudoscience
12. Concerns with Wikipedia
13. Arrogance of Scientific Authority
14. Open Letter to Paranormalists: Limits of science, trust and responsibility
15. Let's Talk About God
16. What is it Like on the Other Side
17. The Hermes Concepts
18. The Razor's Edge
19. Progression, Teaching and Community
20. Law of Silence
21. Informed Regret

All of these essays are on ethericstudies.org, so you do not need to buy the book. However, I did write an introduction to each that sometimes explains ideas not in the essay.

The book should be released this February. I will announce the release.

And so, we begin 2018. The challenges we face are perhaps greater than in the past. Certainly, the rapidly changing climate is posing new problems. But then, so is the rapidly changing technology. Are you ready for a self-driving car?

Please feel free to send us a note if you have questions or comments. We are always interested in discussing theory. How are you integrating the lessons learned from ITC into your life?

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