

## Essay

# On the Nature of Ghost Sightings and Behavior

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### Abstract

It was theorized recently that the human body normally is managed by two sources of consciousness (spiritual and biological). Consciousness having been formed is not material, and so does not suddenly disappear from existence with death. The spiritual consciousness is reliably reported from NDEs to move into spiritual realm, even though temporarily returning to the body to extend material life for the person having an NDE. The biological consciousness, having developed from Id and Ego in life as described by Freud, would not disappear or move to spiritual realm, so it is left to exist on Earth in a ghostly form.

**Keywords:** Consciousness, spirit, Ego, ghost, OBE, NDE.

A new theory [1] about the nature of consciousness holds that the human body normally is managed by two sources of consciousness (human spirit and biological sources that Freud had described as the Id and Ego) which are prone to conflict. Theorizing was based on three documented cases of Out of Body Experiences in which the discarnate consciousness of the individual observed their own body behaving rationally even though it had no control over it. Consciousness having been formed is not material, and so does not suddenly disappear from existence with death of the material body. The spiritual consciousness is reliably reported from Near Death Experiences (NDE) to move into Heaven, even though temporarily returning to the body to extend material life for the person having an NDE. The material body's consciousness, having developed from Id and Ego in life, would not disappear or move to Heaven, so it is left to exist on Earth in a ghostly form.

Ghosts now appear in Western society to own a reality status similar to unidentified flying objects (UFOs). Legion numbers of sightings across history have now been buttressed by camera copy in film and digital formats. While it's prudent to expect that some portion of such unusual sightings have been faked or misinterpreted from hazy images, a rational science may no longer reasonably dismiss such appearances as unreal. A better explanation is warranted.

The eminent inventor, Thomas Edison, had proposed in the early 1900s that the body formed a consciousness that endured after death. From Edison's personal diary [2]:

I believe [our bodies] are composed of myriads and myriads of infinitesimally small individuals, each in itself a unit of life, and that these units work in squads - or swarms as I prefer to call them - and that these infinitesimally small units live forever. When we

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"die" these swarms of units, like swarms of bees, so to speak, betake themselves elsewhere, and go on functioning in some other form of environment.

The theory proposed by Hiller [1] was based on Out of Body (OBE) reports about rational, purposeful behavior witnessed while the spirit consciousness no longer felt their body or had any control over its behavior. Thus it appeared that the body itself has its own source of consciousness to motivate purposive behavior in addition to its soul (typically referred to when detached from the body as discarnate consciousness or spirit). Furthermore, as proposed by the theory about the nature of consciousness developed in [3], consciousness is immaterial and exists in a domain in which time does not run, having the status of an eternal Now. The body's own consciousness (its combination of Id and Ego we may term as its ghost) would continue to exist after the material body disintegrated after death. Thus, the two theories of consciousness, one focused on the nature of spirit consciousness [3], and the other [1] on any normal individual possessing both a spiritual consciousness and a ghostly bodily consciousness, consistently imply that there is a real basis for ghosts to exist.

Support for theory which distinguishes between a consciousness attributed to eternal spirit, and consciousness developed by the body's Id and Ego functioning, is based on how spirits and ghosts appear to own different styles of behavior. The NDE research literature reliably supports spirit to exist in a stressless, blissful (Heavenly) environment, and thus to be free of human vices and aggression; spirits never exhibit aggression or act to be hurtful or scary. By contrast, the ghost literature exhibits substantial variability about how ghosts behave, and they often exhibit hostility and create scares [4]:

In many traditional accounts, ghosts were often thought to be deceased people looking for vengeance (vengeful ghosts), or imprisoned on earth for bad things they did during life. The appearance of a ghost has often been regarded as an omen or portent of death. Seeing one's own ghostly double or "fetch" is a related omen of death.[39]

Union Cemetery in Easton, Connecticut is home to the legend of the White Lady.

White ladies were reported to appear in many rural areas, and supposed to have died tragically or suffered trauma in life. White Lady legends are found around the world. Common to many of them is the theme of losing a child or husband and a sense of purity, as opposed to the Lady in Red ghost that is mostly attributed to a jilted lover or prostitute. The White Lady ghost is often associated with an individual family line or regarded as a harbinger of death similar to a banshee.

Stability of the ghost body over time is an issue. Whereas the NDE literature describes spirit as eternal and ordinarily spending its existence in Heaven, with occasional reincarnations, there is little evidence or theory about how long ghosts may survive death of their body. It appears that ghosts may persist for centuries, "Legends of ghost ships have existed since the 18th century;

most notable of these is the Flying Dutchman." [4]. Thus, it is apt to conclude that more research is needed.

## References

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