

## Mystical Experience

### My Encounter with God Continued: Paranormal Phenomena

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#### ABSTRACT

Paranormal phenomena such as telepathy and mind-reading have been treated with scorn and disdain by the main-stream scientists. They were even believed to not occurring at all; rather it was believed that they were mostly falsely reported as occurring by some ignorant and superstitious people. So, when I have a genuine paranormal ability myself, why should I disbelieve others who might also have one or two genuine paranormal abilities themselves?

**Key Words:** paranormal phenomena, mystical experience, proof, existence of God.

Did I hope that these paranormal phenomena would help me prove the existence of God? Yes, I did. This is because I myself possessed, and still possess, one paranormal ability. If “somewhere in this world somebody is going to die”, then I will have a premonition of his/her death days before, and sometimes in one or two rare occasions, even months before, the occurrence of such death. I cannot exactly say who is going to die, but I can with absolute certainty say that very soon I am going to receive the death-news of someone with whom I even may not have any blood-relation at all. Here there are three circles within which such deaths can occur: 1) Family circle, 2) friends circle and 3) last but not the least, the celebrity circle. These celebrities may be local, regional, national, or even international. The only criterion that is applicable in each case here is that the death-news of the person must have to reach me somehow.

Now I must explain how I come to know beforehand that “somewhere in this world somebody is going to die”. There are some common symptoms. One such symptom is that suddenly my mood will become off. I will lose all the positive meanings of life. I will lose interest in everything. Everything of this life will seem to me an illusion, a Maya. Whatever I do at present, whatever I propose to do in future, appear to me as nothing but vanity. “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity”. When this mood comes heavily on me, I become dead sure that somewhere on earth somebody is going to draw his/her last breath very soon. Then one day again everything will become normal, and I will again find that life is worth living. And I will then get the news of someone’s death either through the newspaper, or maybe over phone, or by some other means, depending on within which circle such death has actually occurred.

Another common symptom is that during those days my throat will be choked. It will become extremely difficult for me to utter even a single word. I will feel in those days that if I try to talk to someone, then I will definitely begin to cry. So when it becomes urgently necessary to talk to others, I have to suppress this propensity to cry with some tremendous effort and then only I can speak out. And this constant urge to weep will always be there. I will not understand why I am so prone to weeping. But when I will get the death-news of someone, everything will be clear to me.

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Then there is another symptom, the most mysterious of the three. I will feel as if I have been transported somehow in another time, in another century that has long been lost. This time is not the present time, but another time of some bygone century, long, long ago lost from the surface of the earth. The people that I am seeing around me are also not of this present world, but they are all from that lost world. The road I am trotting is also of that lost world. I will feel as if I am in a world that was here on earth many, many centuries ago, but that has gone forever. Thus there will be a veil of unreality over everything surrounding me. When I will have this feeling, I will again know with certainty that “somewhere in this world somebody is going to die”.

Although in the first two cases the suffering I have to go through is simply unbearable, still I must have to confess here that when I do have this particular type of experience, I relish it very much. This is because if one can see this present world as an already lost world of some bygone century, then nothing can be more mysterious than that. Physicists may not agree here, but I think this experience is equivalent to some sort of time-travel, because I am seeing this present century as a bygone century. As if my consciousness has somehow gone many centuries ahead of time, and from there it is seeing this present century retrospectively as a long-lost century. If this is not time-travel, then what is time-travel? During such an experience my wife appeared to me so distant in time that it seemed as if she was from some pre-historic period. So I was seeing a woman of some pre-historic age just in front of me! Although it was only an appearance, because it could not be real in any way, still her whole bodily appearance as a woman of some pre-historic century seemed very much real to me.

I have written that “I cannot exactly say who is going to die, although I can with absolute certainty say that very soon I am going to receive the death-news of someone”. But this is not the whole of truth, because in one or two rare occasions I have been able to exactly guess the name of the person whose death is imminent. I will give just one example here. A few weeks back a famous Bengali poet, novelist and litterateur has died. Months before his death I knew that this time it would be him. Once when I saw him appearing on the TV screen, I thought: “How come he is still alive when he is supposed to die?” A few weeks later he died.

So, when I have a genuine paranormal ability myself, why should I disbelieve others who might also have one or two genuine paranormal abilities themselves?

All these have actually begun in the year 1969, almost two years before the death of one of my uncles. He was the elder brother of my father. During those two years I had to face a horrible experience of nothingness, because I could not see life anywhere. Life was everywhere, but I could not see it, I could not feel it, I could not touch it. I had instead a sense of void only, of futility of everything. God also appeared to me as a cruel monster at that time who, I thought, was torturing me in this way for the sole purpose of forcing me to renounce this beautiful life and to turn to asceticism. That was why He was showing me the hollowness of everything surrounding me, and that was why I was also failing to find any meaning in anything. But I was also strongly determined to never lead an ascetic life, and so far I have not faltered in my determination. I had to bear this intense burden of nothingness for almost two years at a stretch.

Then after my uncle's death everything became normal. I have to bear this same burden of nothingness many, many times in my life, but the duration of such experiences was never so prolonged. I can well remember when Yehudi Menuhin died (12 March, 1999), I had to suffer for only 12 to 13 days before his death. In part IV I have mentioned the death of one Bengali poet and novelist. In his case it was almost four months that I had to suffer. In another case it was about six months.

Sometimes this suffering would be so intense and unbearable to me that during those moments I would think that only death could give me some relief. So the next thought that would come to my mind naturally was to bring my life to an end by any means whatsoever. So there is always a suicidal tendency in me. "Either kill me, or spare me this suffering that I cannot bear"-that would be my prayer to God during those intense moments of suffering.

I relate all these experiences of my personal life here just to convince the readers that paranormal phenomena are real, very real. However I still fail to understand as to why I will have to suffer for the death of anybody and everybody who may not even be known to me, but the news of whose death will definitely reach me somehow, simply because he/she happens to live in the same locality as that of mine. And what is the purpose of it all? Was God instigating me in this way to seek something that was deathless? Perhaps in olden times also God had instigated many others in the same way to seek something beyond death. In their case God's plan was successful, but in my case His plan has totally failed due to my stubbornness, due to my refusal to renounce life. But my life has also become a miserable one as a result of this stubbornness.

Now let me return to the main theme of this article. After reading the book by Koestler I became somehow convinced that paranormal phenomena would help me prove the existence of God. There are certain phenomena in this universe that can be easily explained by the proper scientific method. Most of the phenomena of this universe fall within this category; they are all explicable scientifically. But there are certain other phenomena also that cannot be so explained. All these other phenomena can be commonly categorized as paranormal. Although they cannot be explained scientifically, still it cannot be said that they are not real for the sole reason that they are not scientifically explicable. I thought that perhaps God was the explanation here. In my case the explanation would be something like this: There is a universal mind who knows everything timelessly. So he will know beforehand when someone is nearing his death. If my mind is somehow tuned with that universal mind, then I will also know beforehand that someone's death has become imminent. The intense suffering that I will have to go through during such experiences will make me aware of that person's imminent death. So, if paranormal phenomena are real, and I know through my personal experience that they are real, then with the help of these phenomena it can be easily proved that there is a God.