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Pondering the Existence of Ghosts

Abstract

The debate of ghosts' existence is a constantly ongoing one. There are several aspects that can be taken into account when this is being determined. Many statistics prove that the majority of individuals believe in ghosts. In addition, throughout history, there have been numerous documented accounts of people sighting ghosts. The most prominent one would be Anne Boleyn's. Evidence that proves the existence of ghosts can be formed by looking at Albert Einstein's creation of the theory of energy. Overall, there is an abundant amount of documented evidence proving that ghosts do exist; therefore, it is evident that they obviously do.

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A ghost is defined as a person who has died and left behind a bodiless spirit, which may often be found in context with haunted houses. (Popa) As Emanuel Swedenborg, a highly respected and educated scientist from Europe best states, “*I am well aware that many will say that no-one can possibly speak with spirits and angels so long as he is living in the body; many say it is all fancy, others that I recount such things to win credence, while others will make other kinds of objection. But I am deterred by none of these: for I have seen, I have heard, I have felt.*” (Starr) This indicates that various people will have a different reaction to the proof that ghosts exist, but for those who have experienced ghosts, they are certain of their existence; however, those who have not seen, felt, and heard the presence of ghosts rely purely on faith. The existence of ghosts has not yet been accepted by society, although, through stories, history, and facts, accurate proof has contradicted what many people today believe: that ghosts don’t exist.

Through the largest study performed on paranormal beliefs, carried out by Consumer Analysis Group for Living TV, researchers discovered that fifty-seven percent of people that live in Great Britain believe in ghosts. (www.eauk.org) This concludes that majority of the British population believe in ghosts.

In the UK, through another study, researchers determined that out of individuals between the ages of eighteen and twenty four, forty-four percent of them believed in ghosts as opposed to the nineteen percent of those who are sixty-five years and older. This study’s purpose was to question individual’s beliefs of the paranormal and supernatural existence; furthermore, it was completed with more than one thousand participants. Additionally, when two thousand people were questioned on their tendencies to buy a house where things moved or bumped at night, only a fifth of them said they would buy the house. (www.eauk.org)

So, answer this: if so many people believe in ghosts, and even more tend not to buy a house with things that moved, why is it that other people still believe that there is no such thing as a

ghost? The answer is that skeptics (or those who don't believe in ghosts) try and find ways to discredit and question the evidence of ghosts.

Essentially, Darryll Walsh, the executive director of the Centre of Parapsychological Studies in Canada, best explains that, "*Unfortunately, believers and skeptics skewer the evidence to fit their ideology and so an unbiased source of information that will present both sides of the argument is sorely needed.*" (Warren) The skeptics' view is that, there are too many people who have either provided false statements about their ghost experiences, or have produced a faulty picture claiming to have seen the same thing.

However, many believers point out that just because duplicates of pictures and stories can be misleading or dishonest, doesn't mean that the originals are not correct; furthermore, they continue to state that if there was an honest investigation, the outcome would prove that the majority of stories are actually genuine. (The Spirit World 303)

Another issue with many skeptics is that there is no real way to prove that a ghost exists because the tools that researchers use to discover the presence of ghosts are inadequate and useless. A very reasonable question is how does someone find something that is transparent and possibly not even visible? *With the use of EMF (Electro Magnetic Field) Detectors, scientists can see changes in energy caused by ghosts. (Science and Ghost Hunting)* Common tools such as flashlights and night vision goggles help the investigator to see more clearly, getting a better image of the ghost he/she is actually experiencing.

The existence of ghosts is not a new philosophy; ghosts have been used in many of Shakespeare's plays, such as the ghost of Hamlet's father, and have even been recorded as far back as 856 AD.

This earliest form of ghost was a poltergeist (uses sounds and moving objects to make itself known) in Rhine, Germany. Other examples of ghosts found in the

first century AD would be Pliny the Younger in Greece. Also, as a recorded statistic found on the discovery channel website stated, Anne Boleyn's ghost has been seen over thirty thousand times in 120 different locations. (Ghost History)

In all truth, it may be questionable to believe a single person's claim to have seen a ghost; however, when thirty thousand people declare they have all seen Anne Boleyn's ghost it is extremely hard to not believe them. This obviously concludes that the existence of ghosts is in fact a reality, and has been evidently proven.

Throughout history, individuals of different religious views have also questioned the existence of ghosts. However, for those Christians who rely on the Bible for information about God and His history, it refers to ghosts on more than one occasion, proving their existence. For example, in Luke 24:39 it reads, "*Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.*" (Casper) In addition to the reasoning behind the belief of ghosts, there is always the real story itself. There are an unimaginable number of stories about ghosts. These stories connect the scientific reasoning to the realistic experience of being affected by a ghost, consequently, providing substantial evidence supporting the existence of ghosts.

Over the past few years, there has been a dramatic increase in the amount of people interested in ghosts. (Ghost History) Overall, there are more than 600,000 websites on the topic of ghosts and other paranormal beings as well as many novels, television shows, and movies. (Warren) Aiding in the idea of ghosts are the television shows that display ordinary people encountering, feeling or searching for ghosts. These shows include, *Ghost Hunters*, a show of ghost investigations made by paranormal experts, *Ghost Whisperer*, a show where an ordinary woman can see and talk to ghosts, and *Most Haunted*, a popular British documentary on investigations of paranormal activity. It has been proven numerous times that ghosts do exist through these different approaches to explain them. However, there are still many who believe

that ghosts are just a figure of people's imagination; among them, are many scientists who protest against any form of spiritualism, which would include ghosts.

Unlike most scientists, Thomas Edison, a brilliant scientist, firmly believed that ghosts, in fact, did exist, and was determined to prove this.

He began working on another invention to prove his theories; unfortunately he passed away before his project was completed. As well, Albert Einstein, a very respectable and honorable man of our time, who was named Time Magazine's Man of the Century and was one of the smartest men in the world, best described the existence of ghosts like this, energy can neither be created nor destroyed; it can only be changed from one form to another. To summarize, energy cannot be destroyed. As humans we have the ability to contain both chemical and electrical energy throughout our bodies using our brains and nervous system. (Science and Ghost Hunting)

When people die, their bodies begin to decompose, but, what happens to the electrical energy in the bodies, because it cannot just simply vanish as that would conflict with the laws of science? Although people's beliefs on where the energy goes are very different; nonetheless, the energy cannot be destroyed, evidently proving that ghosts exist.

With the use of EMF (Electro Magnetic Field) detectors, scientists can view the magnetic fields of objects in their surroundings. Everything gives off some form of electromagnetic field; although, this can vary depending on the object. For instance, a television would give off higher distortions (or signals) than a toaster. Scientists can tell when ghosts are present, as the distortions are extremely high and can sometimes interfere with other electrical appliances. Additionally, the levels of static electricity are high and detectable. Another scientific method to discover and prove that ghosts exist is temperature changes in a room with an

already constant temperature. Scientifically, for there to be a change in temperature, there must be some form of energy present to create an alteration to the temperature. In some cases energy levels have fluctuated more than ten degrees in a small room with a constant temperature. Many people who have experienced ghosts either feel a very warm or cool presence. This not only proves that ghosts exist but also that some ghosts absorb heat and light making them appear dark and give off a cooler temperature, and others do the exact opposite, and reflect heat and light giving off a bright appearance and a releasing a warmer temperature. (Science and Ghost Hunting)

Ghosts do exist in people's lives, and whether a person chooses to accept this or not is not going to hide the evidence that has been documented through people's history and stories. As Dr. John Markway stated,

When people believed the earth was flat, the idea of a round world scared them silly. Then they found out how the round world works. It's the same with the world of the supernatural. Until we know how it works, we'll continue to carry around this unnecessary burden of fear. (Broome)

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