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Exploratory Blinded Field Experiment Evaluating Purported Precognitive  
Dreams in a Highly Skilled Subject: Possible Spiritual Mediation?

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## Abstract

This exploratory mixed double and single-blinded field experiment was designed to determine whether a purportedly gifted and experienced individual could foresee different physical locations over a ten day period. Christopher Robinson (CR), known as the “dream detective” in England, served as the precognitive dreamer. Before CR traveled to Arizona, the primary experimenter (PE) selected twenty possible locations in southern Arizona. PE placed the name of each location in a separate envelope, sealed and shuffled the envelopes, and mailed the envelopes to a secondary experimenter (SE) in California. SE, who was blind to the locations, selected a tertiary experimenter (TE) whose identity was kept secret from PE and CR for the duration of the experiment. For ten consecutive nights, CR went to sleep, dreamt about the next day’s location, and recorded his dreams. The primary pattern of themes of information per day matched its respective location as well as associated events for the day. The patterns of evidence indicate that selective attention and perceptual priming were insufficient to explain the complete set of findings. The data can be interpreted as consistent with CR’s hypothesis that the presence of spiritual mediation can sometimes be inferred from the appearance of highly improbable and organized patterns of significant events in real life.

**Key words:** precognition, precognitive dreams, parapsychology, double-blind, super-psi, telepathy, remote viewing, selective attention, perceptual priming

### NOTE TO READERS

A version of this paper was rejected by a parapsychology journal on the grounds that one aspect of the data collection procedure was not completely double-blinded, and that selective attention / perceptual priming could explain the results. I attempted to explain to the reviewers that the *patterns of findings obtained in the experiment ruled out this experimental limitation as a plausible explanation for the totality of the findings* (i.e. the design limitation was inconsequential in light of the actual findings).

The reviewers chose to ignore the findings and instead focused on the limitation per se. I submitted this paper to the *Journal of Spirituality and Paranormal Studies* with the hope that the actual data (patterns of findings) would be taken into account in making a decision about the merits of publishing these exploratory observations, especially since they speak to the spiritual possibility proposed by CR of inferring the existence of spiritual mediation in human functioning.

*The important thing is not to stop questioning.*

Albert Einstein

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this exploratory mixed double and single-blinded field experiment was to determine if an alleged precognitive dreamer, Mr. Christopher Robinson (CR), could receive specific details – and in particular, patterns of details – in his dreams, about ten different locations that he would be taken to (one location per day for ten consecutive days). It was recognized at the outset that the pattern of details provided by CR would need to be specific and novel enough to rule out selective attention and perceptual priming as likely explanations of the findings.

Moreover, it was the explicit belief of CR that the findings might speak to evidence of some sort of spiritual mediation in human affairs which inspired the author to evaluate CR's claims. It should be clearly understood that the spiritual mediation hypothesis was CR's.

The purpose of this paper is not to provide a comprehensive review of previous published theories and findings concerning psi and dreams (e.g. see<sup>1,2</sup>), nor to review alternative psi interpretations of apparent precognition. Rather, the focus here is on (1) the novel history of CR's experiences and claims, (2) the conditions that led to the design of an exploratory proof-of-concept blinded field experiment, (3) a summary of the kinds of patterns of qualitative and quantitative data obtained, and (4) some implications for future research in parapsychology and spirituality.

Though CR interprets his abilities as reflecting the process of precognition, the present experiment does not rule out the potential role of implicit remote viewing and / or clairvoyance as possible psi explanations as well.

### **Brief History of CR and the Arizona Precognitive Dream Experiment**

In a book published in England<sup>3</sup>, CR's personal history was described in some depth; from CR having been a television repairman to becoming an undercover agent for Scotland Yard and British Intelligence. The book reports a series of events where CR was presumably able to predict the occurrence of serious crimes, terrorist acts, and natural disasters through messages received while he slept.

CR claims to have carefully recorded the preponderance of his nightly dreams in diaries for more than three decades. He has also demonstrated his purported precognitive dream ability on more than thirty television shows in England and Japan (some are described at [www.dream-detective.com](http://www.dream-detective.com)). The author spoke with two separate police officials in England who confirmed CR's longstanding collaboration in law enforcement activities and their satisfaction with the accuracy and usefulness of his information.

CR originally contacted the author (GES) claiming that he had precognitive dreams (regularly used by local and governmental officials in England), and that he wanted to be tested scientifically under controlled conditions. CR learned about GES through a paper published in the *Journal of the Society of Psychical Research* conducted documenting anomalous information retrieval by a team of high skilled mediums<sup>4</sup>. The authors of this paper had conducted a series of experiments with individuals who appeared to have psychic abilities<sup>4,5,6,7</sup>, as well as experiments with at least one individual who attempted (and was uncovered) to have engaged in fraud in the laboratory<sup>8</sup>.

Though GES was initially highly skeptical of CR's claims, as a result of (1) holding multiple transcontinental phone conversations with CR, (2) reading the Robinson with Boot

book<sup>3</sup>, (3) conducting some informal long distance experiments to test CR's purported abilities, (4) hearing CR's conviction that the patterns of information were so complex as well as instructive as to imply some sort of spiritual mediation, and (5) accepting CR's motivation to have his apparent skills put to a rigorous scientific test (including his commitment to cover personally his own expenses, including travel and lodging), GES agreed to design an exploratory experiment with CR.

### **Prior Literature and Five Criteria for Precognitive Dream Experiments**

The author was familiar with the relatively small literature of laboratory research on precognitive dreams<sup>9,10,11,12</sup>, and the larger literature on remote viewing and ganzfeld research (e.g. reviewed in Radin<sup>13,14</sup>). He also examined research by Markwick and Beloff<sup>15</sup>, McClaren and Sargent<sup>16</sup>, Sargent and Harley<sup>17</sup>, and Sherwood et al<sup>18</sup>.

However, the author wanted to take a fresh look at the phenomenon, "seeing with new eyes" as phrased by Marcel Proust, taking into account CR's specific claims. The experiment was designed so that after the data were collected, independent judges could (1) read summary information provided by CR, (2) observe photos or videos of the sites, and (3) make blind judgments for matching. Also, the author wanted to have the opportunity to be open to the possibility of observing potential evidence of higher meditation if it presented itself.

Lange, Schredl, and Houran<sup>19</sup> provide a comprehensive review of precognitive dream research, including survey studies, diary studies, and laboratory studies. They cite Bender's<sup>20</sup> five criteria for investigating precognitive dreams:

1. The dream must be told or recorded before its fulfillment.
2. The dream must include enough details to render chance fulfillment unlikely.

3. The possibility of interference from actual knowledge must be excluded.
4. Self-fulfilling prophecies must be excluded.
5. Telepathic influences cannot explain the occurrence of the precognitive dreams.

The present field experiment fulfills the first four of Bender's criteria.

In addition, concerning the fifth criteria (potential telepathic influences), the experiment was designed so that the dreamer (CR), the primary experimenter (PE), and the person who ultimately opened an envelop for a given day and location (the tertiary experimenter, TE, see below), were each blind to the site actually selected for the day prior to the dreams being recorded and summarized; hence, telepathy is questioned as a plausible mechanism.

Although implicit remote viewing and / or clairvoyance of the actual envelop to be opened could have revealed a given location, the unique patterns of information revealed in the dreams – including situation-specific events that had not yet happened – render this potential mechanism improbable as well.

The PE added a sixth criterion for designing research in this area:

6. The experiment should be designed as a fair and fitting test of the participant's specific claims.

In other words, the experimental design should closely match (and therefore expressly assess) the purported skills of the participant as he actually implements them. This was especially important in light of his controversial belief about the higher source of some of information he received in his dreams.

CR not only went to sleep in Tucson and dreamt each night, for ten consecutive nights, where he would be taken each morning. He also collected three sets of ten consecutive nights of dream information in London over a three month period before he came to Tucson (and before the locations had been selected by the author), because this was his preference.

The primary hypothesis was that CR would obtain patterns of details about the sites that could enable blind judges to match the summary information with photo's of the sites. This paper reports the primary findings obtained in the experiment. The report includes blind scoring of CR's summary information matched with photo's of the sites.

Both the author and CR were cognizant of the fact that the primary limitation of this kind of exploratory mixed double and single-blinded field experiment was the possibility that selective attention and perceptual priming could conceivably account for much, if not all, of the observations collected. However, CR was convinced that certain observations would prove to be sufficiently specific and improbable as to effectively rule out selective attention and perceptual priming as plausible explanations for the complete set of observations.

As it turned out, CR was correct in his prediction.

## **Methods:**

### **Selection of Locations and Experimental Preparation:**

A few weeks before CR was to travel to the US, PE selected 20 possible locations in greater Southern Arizona. Only PE knew the identity of the 20 possible locations. The locations were chosen to vary in:

- (1) distance from CR's hotel (e.g. from less than a mile, to more than 70 miles)

- (2) strikingly different and contrasting features (e.g. flat lands to mountain tops, local shopping malls to aircraft museums, indoor sites to outdoor sites, above ground to below ground sites, desert plants to tall trees, etc.), and
- (3) local landmarks to relative obscurity (e.g. “Old Tucson”, a theme park and western movie studio, to an out-of-the-way gem and mineral store).

PE was familiar with all of the sites and had previously visited each of them on more than one occasion. Moreover, they were personally favorite places of his. Favored places were selected because CR claimed that sites that had emotional meaning and significance could receive stronger and more detailed information. CR was unfamiliar with the sites and had never visited any of them.

[Note – even if CR had been familiar with some of the sites, his prior knowledge would not have been a confounding factor because he, as well as PE, were kept blind to the identity of the actual ten locations selected as the sites to be visited, as well as the exact days the specific locations would be visited.]

Each location was typed on a separate sheet of paper, placed in an envelope and sealed. PE wrote his name on the flap of each envelope and shuffled the twenty envelopes. The preparation of the envelopes was videotaped.

Once the shuffling was completed, PE no longer knew which envelopes contained which locations. The author served the role of primary experimenter.

A skeptic might speculate that the PE could have been a skilled magician; for example, he could have somehow known the order of the locations at this point. In theory this is correct; however, in practice PE is not a trained magician, and it was not his purpose to

know the order of the locations. More importantly, the experimental design called for the envelopes to be re-shuffled and numbered by a second person whose identity was kept secret from PE.

The envelopes were overnight mailed William L. Simon, a person who served as the secondary experimenter (SE). SE is a distinguished author of non-fiction books and collaborated with PE on four books<sup>21,22,23,24</sup>. SE also happened to be a trained magician and was an elected member of the Magic Castle club. SE's skill as a magician helped design the experiment to eliminate fraud as a plausible explanation for the findings.

SE gave the unopened envelopes to a third person (the tertiary experimenter, TE) whose identity was kept anonymous to both PE and CR. In front of a video camera, TE shuffled the envelopes, and then numbered the envelopes from 1 to 20.

Envelopes 1 through 10 served as the experimental locations. Envelopes 11 through 20 were placed in a separate large envelope and served as the control locations.

The primary purpose of the 10 control locations (11 through 20) was to insure that PE could not figure out which locations were remaining as the experiment progressed over the ten days. If only ten locations (rather than 20) had been chosen, by the process of elimination, PE would have known after day 9 what the 10<sup>th</sup> location was.

The control locations were not included in the data analysis; blind ratings of the 10 experimental locations were sufficient to establish matches between the summary patterns of themes of information provided by CR and the actual sites visited.

Neither SE nor TE knew what the locations were or which locations were in which envelopes.

As mentioned previously, prior to the experiment, CR had never visited any of the locations. Many of the locations are described in books and websites about Southern Arizona. However, even if CR had decided to learn about Southern Arizona, he was completely blind to the identity of (1) which locations were selected to make up the initial set of 20, (2) which of the selected 20 were further selected as the 10 to be visited, and (3) what was the precise order of the 10 final sites to be visited.

### **Pre-Tucson Precognitive Dream Data**

In London, CR collected three sets of ten consecutive nights of dream information over a three month period, well before PE selected the specific locations. CR claimed that since his dreams were precognitive, they could apply to the order of the locations even before PE consciously selected them. PE was initially highly skeptical of this claim; his skepticism was tempered by what transpired in the experiment.

Upon arriving in Tucson, CR showed PE his dream diary of the pre-Tucson dreams. PE confirmed that the diary contained dated information that was generated prior to the beginning of the ten-day experiment. A reviewer might wonder why PE did not take the pre-Tucson diary from CR to ensure that CR did not modify it. The primary reason was that each day, the information from the pre-Tucson diary was video taped before CR and PE learned what the specific location was for a given day. Hence, the only incentive CR would have to modify the pre-Tucson diary would be that he received information from the previous night's dream that he wanted to claim he had actually obtained weeks before. Nonetheless, it would have been preferable to remove the pre-Tucson diary from CR to exclude any possibility of tampering, or to have made a copy of the entire diary when CR first arrived in Tucson. The

PE's strong skepticism of the scientific plausibility of the pre-Tucson dream information likely contributed to this design oversight.

### **Tucson Dream Data.**

The procedure was the same for each of the ten days. In the evening, CR would go to sleep and ask where he would be taken the following morning. He recorded his information in a dream book.

The following morning, PE went to CR's hotel. PE videotaped the written information – not only the information obtained the previous night, but the information obtained in the same night in the sequence for the previous three months of dreams as well.

CR then read the verbatim information and summarized the information and themes obtained for the four nights of dreams (three in London and one in Tucson).

This summary information is referred as the primary theme information. CR calls these primary themes fundamentals. What was critical to CR was that the patterns of primary theme information matched a given location.

CR was requested to write down his summary thoughts each morning, prior to PE's arrival at CR's hotel. PE interviewed CR each morning, and requested that CR state out loud, in front of the video camera, the patterns of primary theme information. Though PE sometimes questioned CR about specific statements for a given day (for example, CR sometimes used British slang words that PE did not understand), the predictions were all made by CR – as patterns of fundamentals - and were duly recorded prior to PE calling SE in California.

The patterns of primary theme information were based on a combination or pattern of images witnessed by CR in his dreams and recorded in his diary, as well as CR's interpretations of the images as needed. Since CR had worked as an undercover agent for the police and other agencies, he understood the nature of evidence and the need to distinguish between what he experiences (the raw data) and what he interprets (his hypotheses). Part of CR's art of detection is his ability to see patterns in the raw images and distinguish when an image is literal and when it is to be interpreted as a symbol.

To optimize CR's natural process, he was given the freedom to summarize the primary information in his own way – so long as he did this prior to learning the identity of a given day's location. These fundamentals were all clearly stated by CR and recorded before the actual identity of the day's location was provide to PE and CR.

As mentioned previously, the sixth criteria for designing this study was to match as closely as possible what the claimant CR actually did. The process that CR used to arrive at the patterns of primary themes was clearly complex and qualitative, involving his extensive experience in doing this kind of field work. However, it is essential to understand that because this complex and qualitative summarizing process was conducted in a thoroughly blinded context (i.e. neither CR nor PE knew at the time what the given location would be), the process was not confounded by Bender's<sup>20</sup> criteria 3, 4 and 5.

Since PE had examined the pre-Tucson dream diaries when CR first arrived in Tucson, he could reasonably be sure that whatever pre-Tucson information was included in the primary theme summaries, that such information had indeed been obtained at some time prior to CR's visit to Tucson (e.g. that there was no evidence of erasure or crossing out of information in the appropriate section of the diary). Though PE did not think to have

independent witnesses see the pre-Tucson diary upon CR's arrival (or have it copied – though he subsequently was given the original), he did inform a number of colleagues in the laboratory about the existence of this diary upon CR's arrival (which was then video-taped each day).

Only after the patterns of primary themes / fundamentals were recorded did PE phone SE in California. SE then contacted TE, who in front of a video camera in California opened the respective envelope for the day. TE informed SE of the location.

SE then called PE and informed him of the location for the day. PE did not share with SE what CR had dreamt. PE did not share with CR where he would be taken.

PE and CR then drove to the selected location. Information (1) en route to the location, and (2) at the location was recorded, as well as (3) information obtained after the day's experiment was completed (post session data). CR was clear that his dreams expressed information (1) en route to the location, (2) at the location, and (3) post the location (i.e. a 12 to 18 hour window of time per day). Since during this process PE and CR were selectively looking for evidence based upon the primary theme information, the potentially confounding effects of selective attention and perceptual priming were present and carefully evaluated.

Though information (1) en route to the location was of interest, it was more challenging (and time intensive) to score blindly than (2) the information at the location. Hence, although this report mentions some of the en route data, this report focuses on the themes predicted by CR that would apply to the locations per se.

PE and CR each took video and still digital photo pictures en route and at the location (the primary data). After each location visit, PE and CR reviewed which information was

accurate (i.e. fit the observations made on route to and at the site), and which information was either inaccurate or had not yet happened.

As described below, the preponderance of the summarized information (provided by CR before PE called SE) was found to apply to the locations and / or the route to the locations. As mentioned previously, we were fully cognizant of the fact that since we were looking for specific primary theme information each day, that the number of matches might be inflated due to selective attention and labeling of the information. However, as will be evident below, careful attention to the analysis of patterns of information in each case effectively invalidates this potential experimental bias.

### **Matching Patterns of Information - Examples**

Consider the statement “holes, lots of holes” (part of the primary theme for Day 1, described below). This statement could fit a golf course, a cave area, or a mining area. PE and CR were well aware of such multiple possible fits at the outset.

Hence, as the experiment unfolded day by day, we looked to see whether primary theme information obtained in one day – i.e. patterns of the fundamentals – could as readily fit other locations in the ten included in the experimental locations.

Concerning the Day 1 fundamental “holes, lots of holes,” it turned out that there were no golf courses or mining areas in the ten locations visited. Though there was one cave location (Day 6, described below), this location had only one major hole.

Moreover, the complete pattern of primary theme information reported by CR for Day 6 clearly fit Day 6 better than Day 1, and vice versa. For example, on Day 6 one of the

fundamentals was “ladders.” Day 6 included a “ladder tour” – however, there were no evidence of “ladders” on Day 1.

It was the closeness of fit of the collective patterns of fundamentals in each case – not individual fundamentals or themes per se – that ultimately defined the match to each location.

The general statement repeated in the results section, “none of the other nine locations had the pattern of these themes (or fundamentals)” turned out to fit each of the ten locations. The key phrase here is pattern of themes.

This same issue applies to the fact that four of the ten locations turned out to be museums. Interestingly, CR never dreamt of a museum per se; in fact, he never once used the word museum. Instead, he dreamed about unique patterns of fundamentals that distinguished an outdoor animal museum (Day 1), from a gem and mineral store that contained a museum (Day 5) from an astronomy space museum (Day 8), from a Native-American museum (Day 10) that he never entered (it was closed; his dreams predicted that this day would end early).

To reiterate, it was the careful analysis of patterns of fundamental information that best matched CR’s dreams to the different locations.

## **Results:**

The results are presented in two phases. Phase I: the data are reported as CR and PE collected them on-line (i.e. day by day, as the process unfolded). Phase II: the findings are reported using post-data collection blinded judging.

What is important in the data analysis are the precise details and unique patterns of summarized information that were selectively observed en route to, as well as present at, the specific locations.

Note that CR rarely named the locations. As mentioned previously, CR had never been to Tucson and had never visited any of the ten locations. What CR did was obtain specific information that captured key patterns of elements of the locations that turned out to reflect unique combinations of information specific to each location.

The primary theme (the pattern of fundamentals) information is reported for each of the ten days, followed by the en route and location findings. CR put together the primary theme information each morning as a summary of the four days (one plus three prior) of sleep information before PE called SE and the days envelop was opened by TE.

The listing below is selective in the sense that examples of patterns of information which (1) were clearly specific, and (2) were unique to a given location, are highlighted.

To ensure the reader that this selection process was not biased (and therefore not leading to an erroneous interpretation), a more complete presentation of Days 9 and 10 is provided in the discussion. This presentation also speaks to the possibility that CR's hypothesis about spiritual mediation may have some merit.

Moreover, a detailed example of post location information predicted by CR's dreams for Day 5 is presented in the discussion. It too speaks to the possible operation of a spiritual mediation hypothesis.

Finally, an example of results of a demonstration experiment which procedurally removes selective attention and perceptual primary is also provided in the discussion.

### **Phase I: Day 1 through Day 10 Patterns**

**On Day 1**, the primary theme of CR's dreams was "holes, lots of holes."

He also saw a “basin empty of water.”

CR was taken to the Sonoran Desert Museum.

This outdoor museum happens to be situated in a “basin” that was once an ocean (now empty of water). The Museum has a striking vista of the expanse of the basin.

The Museum’s exhibits of animals include many large open holes in the ground that house and display the animals, as well as many holes containing exhibits which visitors can explore.

As mentioned above, none of the other nine locations had the patterned theme of an empty basin plus of lots of holes.

It is noteworthy that PE’s favorite section at the Desert Museum has prairie dogs that feature numerous holes in the ground.

**Historical Note:** CR also had a dream regarding a future bombing in London that night. The next day (Day 1 of the experiment), a bombing in London matching his dream was reported on CNN.

**On Day 2,** the primary themes were “shops and workshops...fabricating things...metal”

CR was taken to Tubac (an artist colony) to a specific shop which had metal sculptures.

The shop had a workshop in the back. None of the other nine locations contained this pattern of specific themes.

**On Day 3,** the primary themes were “heads, lots of heads...belts, leather, jeans.”

CR was taken to the Tucson Mall. PE parked where he always parked, the lower level of a department store called Dillards. Upon entering the store the very first sales counter had a large selection of painted mannequin heads for sale. The sale of mannequin heads was sufficiently novel that PE purchased one as a remembrance.

CR purchased a pair of jeans in the store as a reminder. None of the other nine locations had this pattern of information.

**Historical Note:** CR also reported that a fire truck would be at the scene. However, it was not included as being part of a fundamental theme. Upon leaving the Department store, the parking lot was blocked by a fire truck. The author has parked in that lot at least hundred times over the past twenty years. Save for the Day 3 of the experiment, the author never witnessed a fire truck in that location.

**On Day 4**, the primary themes were “suns, mirrors, LCDs, telescopes, Mount Olympus (after his 35mm camera), airplanes, hangers, and a pitched propeller).

CR was taken to Kitt Peak National Laboratory (at the top of a huge mountain) to the world’s largest Solar Telescope.

CR and PE ate lunch at a nearby airport restaurant with hangers that had a large pitched propeller in front. None of the other nine locations had this unique pattern of themes.

**On Day 5**, primary themes included “car with a flat tire, no ‘mineral’ oil, and cars stopped by men at a ‘border crossing’.”

CR was taken to an old Gem and Mineral store which had a car with four flat tires in front (parked there for 20 years).

En route CR and PE passed workmen stopping cars near a huge water tank with lettering that said “Borderland.” None of the other locations had this pattern of themes.

This particular day will be discussed in greater depth in the Discussion.

**On Day 6**, CR was awoken by police outside his window and lost his immediate dream.

However, the fundamental themes of his earlier London dreams (collected prior to coming to Tucson) were police, moving vans, a road closed curving at a dead end, murky water, and ladders dangerous.

CR was taken to the Colossal Cave which has ladders in it and a specific “ladder” tour that is advertised at the location. Care is required when climbing these ladders.

CR and PE passed murky water on the side of the street (the only day it rained during the ten day experiment).

The Cave ended at a curved road closed at a dead end; and a moving van had gone up the road and got stuck (the police came)! None of the other nine locations had this precise pattern of themes.

**Note:** The Day 6 data speak to the probability that the dream information obtained by CR in London, prior to traveling to Tucson, was not tampered with. Moreover the observations indicate that the dream information included specifics which PE could not have predicted by remote viewing the envelopes (e.g. the van incident – which was not typed on the sheet of paper in the envelop).

**On Day 7**, the primary themes included “dust, dust everywhere, including on the floor in a building, a court room, and a train robbery.”

CR was taken to Old Tucson, a western theme park that is also used as a movie set. There is dust “everywhere” at Old Tucson, including a room purposely designed with a completely dusty floor.

A large train has been used in more than 100 movies involving train robberies.

Old Tucson includes a courtroom. None of the other nine locations contained this precise pattern of themes.

**On Day 8**, the primary themes included “space, space capsule, archeology, crossing over a dry river.”

CR was taken to the University of Arizona Planetarium (a space museum), which includes archeology and actual pictures of purported dry riverbeds on Mars. None of the other nine locations had this specific pattern of themes.

**On Day 9**, the primary themes included “parking meters, satellite dishes, and a murder taking place nearby.”

CR was taken to downtown Tucson. The place that PE had planned to park had parking meters and a huge set of satellite dishes.

The following day, the front page of the Tucson paper reported the murder of an elderly woman not far from downtown Tucson. None of the other nine locations had this specific pattern of themes.

**On Day 10**, the primary themes included “trees and greenery that looked like a London park, crossing over a river, and an Army building.”

CR was taken to the Arizona State Museum. The area of the building has huge trees with green grass (unique for Tucson, looks like a London park; it happens to be adjacent to Park Avenue).

CR and PE had to cross over a “river” (a stream of water) to get to the Museum (construction was going on at the time).

Returning from the Museum (which was closed – see below), CR and PE passed the Army ROTC building. None of the other nine locations had this unique pattern of themes.

This day will be discussed in more detail in the Discussion.

## **Phase II: Preliminary Blind Judging**

There are three primary reasons for performing follow-up blinded judging of the pattern of themes / fundamentals. The reasons are listed below from the least important to the most important:

1. To determine how general or specific the fundamentals were: Could they be matched to specific pictures taken either at the locations, or en route to the locations?
2. To determine if specific pictures taken either at the locations, or en route to the locations, could accurately be culled from the complete set of fundamentals provided per day?

3. To determine if the fundamentals provided for a given day were unique to a given location and / or en route to the location, or were found at other locations or en route to the locations?

In the present experiment, the first purpose for blind judging was straight forward to implement; it required minimal expense and was conducted.

Based upon the findings, it was not necessary to perform the second purpose (for reasons described below).

However, as explained in some detail in the discussion section, the third purpose for blinded judging could not be adequately addressed from the video tapes collected in the present experiment, and should be performed in future research.

Seventy-six University of Arizona students (47 females and 29 males) between the ages of 20 and 55 performed the blind-judging task. Nine exemplary fundamentals, one per location per day – which were unique to each location and not present at the other locations – were selected for scoring. The tenth was an “en route” fundamental (the pitched propeller); however, had a location fundamental for this particular day been chosen for judging (e.g. a solar telescope), the scoring accuracy would be the identical (clearly unique to the location and readily recognizable).

Ten pictures, one per location per day, were presented via PowerPoint; subjects attempted to match the ten possible statements with the ten pictures. The ten statements were arranged alphabetically: “dust in a building,” “flat tire” (it was not possible to take a single photo showing all four flat tires), “holes in the ground” (one representative hole was shown),

“jeans”, “ladders”, “metal sculpture store”, “pitched propeller”, “satellite dishes”, “space capsule inside a building”, and “trees in a park-like setting” (the actual descriptions used).

Forty-two females and 28 males scored ten out of ten matches correctly. Five females and one male made a total of 13 errors out of 50. This resulted in 767 correct matches out of a possible 780; the total percent accuracy of judging was 98.33%.

Given the high degree of apparent specificity of primary theme description and content observed in the pictures, it is clear that blind judging for the second purpose would yield similar high levels of matching.

However, the third purpose of blind judging could not be adequately addressed in the present study because CR and PE took the videos. Since CR and PE were searching for the fundamental information provided each day, the videos so collected did not present the full scope of possible information present en route and at each location.

Nonetheless, as mentioned previously, each day CR obtained specific patterns of information about the location (as well as en route) which turned out to be unique to the location.

The key here is that the patterns were unique to each location.

Hence, if naive judges were given the full list of the patterns of fundamentals obtained over the ten days, and then they visited each location following the route taken to each location, they would discover that the majority of fundamentals provided each day were unique to its respective location.

Consider two examples:

Only one location had a car with four flat tires parked for twenty years at the given location (gem and mineral store), and only one location had one inch thick dust covering the

floor in a building at a given location (Old Tucson). A car with four missing tires and no “mineral” oil (the car had no oil and was in front of a gem and mineral store), and dust everywhere (in many old buildings with no windows), including the construction of the floor in a unique building (a Hogan built at Old Tucson), were precise images taken from the day’s specific dreams.

It is the combined specificity and novelty of such information, replicated over the ten days, which convincingly rule out selective attention and perceptual priming as being sufficient explanations for the apparent precognitive observations.

### **Discussion:**

#### **The Importance of Patterns of Fundamentals and their Relationship to the Spiritual mediation Hypothesis**

The above findings revealed patterns of details that were surprisingly specific and unique to each location. Moreover, the degree of apparent precognitive specificity revealed in the patterns of information proved to be meaningful and speaks to the implausibility of alternative paranormal explanations such as remote viewing or telepathy as explaining the totality of the findings.

It is noteworthy that an earlier version of this paper had been rejected by a well known parapsychology journal on the grounds that one aspect of the data collection procedure was not completely double-blinded, and the reviewers speculated that selective attention / perceptual priming might explain the results. I attempted to explain to the reviewers that the patterns of findings obtained in the experiment ruled out this experimental limitation as a plausible explanation for the totality of the findings\_(i.e. the design limitation was

inconsequential in light of the actual findings). However, the reviewers chose to ignore the findings and instead focused on the limitation per se. The paper was subsequently submitted to the *Journal of Spirituality and Paranormal Studies* with the hope that the actual data (patterns of findings) would be carefully considered, especially since the patterns of findings spoke to the spiritual possibility proposed by CR of inferring the existence of spiritual mediation in human functioning.

Consider the following more detailed exposition of the pattern of findings:

On Day 9, PE informed CR that he might not be able to participate in Day 10. PE explained that he had to be at the University of Arizona Health Sciences for a talk he was giving at 1:00 on Day Ten. He needed to arrive at the medical school by 12 noon. If the location turned out to be near the University, he could participate; if it was some distance from the University (e.g. a town at the Arizona-Mexico border, or the top of Mount Lemmon, two of the possible remaining locations), another person would have to accompany CR to the location.

However, to PE's surprise, CR disclosed that his London dream for Day 10 was very specific. It indicated that CR would be finished "very early" and that he would spend most of the day by a swimming pool. The information was written in his London dream report (verified in the diary by PE following CR's disclosure) that CR said he obtained more than two months before the possible locations were selected.

On the next day, when the 10<sup>th</sup> envelop was actually opened, it turned out that CR and PE were to go the Arizona State Museum (a few minutes from CR's hotel) at the University. Furthermore, it turned out that the Museum was closed that day. As a result, the post location videotaping performed back at CR's hotel was completed by 11:00 am. PE was able to get to

the medical school well before 12 noon. CR spent the rest of the day at the hotel's swimming pool.

The present set of findings, when viewed in their entirety, cannot be explained using conventional mechanisms such as fraud, guessing, or selective searching for information to fit each location. Moreover, when the data are examined in their totality, the findings can not readily be explained by other potential paranormal mechanisms such as remote viewing or telepathy. Instead, the total set of the data appear to be most consistent with CR's claim that he has precognitive dream abilities.

Moreover, if one carefully attempts to envision what kind of information processing system could both know of, and be involved with, the coordination of multiple events necessary to achieve this observation, it speaks to the possibility of an inferred spiritual mediation system.

Though not part of the formal experiment, it was often observed that evidence of patterns of fundamentals that were not present en route and at the location were subsequently observed post location on the same day.

These post experimental observations further support the hypothesis that the key findings (primarily at the location, and secondarily en route) can not be explained as due to selective searching for evidence based upon the specific fundamentals reported per day. The events were too specific, and unique, to fit a selective searching hypothesis.

**An Example of Post-Location (Unexpected) Evidence Ending in “We Answer to a Higher Authority”**

On Day 5, CR summary included four fundamentals: “tires stacked along a fence, lots of umbrellas, PE needing a credit card to enter a store, and ‘the spirit of God.’” These four fundamentals were not observed en route or at the site that day (nor as it turned out, on the other nine days).

However, after the Day 5 location and en route data were logged, and hits (and “misses” – i.e. information not observed en route and at the location) were determined, PE realized that CR and he were running out of digital videotape, and he requested that CR accompany him to a store that sells digital videotape in bulk.

CR and PE went to Costco Wholesale. PE was required to use his membership card (which is credit-card shaped) to enter the store. PE initially dismissed this potential coincidence as possibly the result of an unconscious suggestion from CR to PE concerning information CR had provided that morning regarding his dreams; however, in light of the following three fundamentals, it deserved to be included as potential evidence.

CR was hungry, and PE purchased a sandwich for him in Costco. It turned out that opposite from where PE and CR sat were tires piled up against a chain link fence, arranged as CR had drawn them from his dream diary.

It also turned out that although the eating area was indoors, the round tables had outdoor umbrellas in them (CR’s “lots of umbrellas”). There were at least ten round tables with umbrellas in the eating area.

Most unexpected was that the umbrellas were used as advertising for Hebrew National Hotdogs. The slogan printed on each umbrella was: “We answer to a higher authority” (a potential reference to “the spirit of God”?). This was the first instance where the author was inspired to give CR’s spiritual mediation hypothesis potential credence.

It is noteworthy that no other day contained this precise pattern of post-location fundamental information.

The above example is prototypic of the type of patterns of information provided by CR for constellations of primary themes / fundamentals.

On the one hand, the detailed patterns of findings (the constellation of fundamentals) cannot be explained as selective information matching on the part of the experimenters.

On the other hand, they point to the complexity of attempting to calculate mathematically precise percent accuracy scores when the patterns of theme information span an entire day. For this reason, the present manuscript employs systematic qualitative description of the findings.

### **Implications for Future Double-Blind Judging and Data Collection**

The complexity of the patterns of data obtained in this kind of field experiment underscores the challenge of conducting appropriate double-blind scoring in future research. In the present paper, for preliminary blind scoring, we selected ten exemplary primary theme / fundamental statements from CR, one per day. Subjects were asked to match these statements with ten photos, one per day, selected from the locations that fit the statements.

This simple blind judging procedure speaks only to the clarity and specificity of the information. It documents that the information is easily recognized in photos taken at the locations (or en route to the locations).

However, this judging procedure does not answer the critical question: were the findings due to selective attention and information seeking of the experimenters, or do the findings reflect genuine paranormal information reception? In other words, were the apparent

matches observed between the primary theme / fundamental verbal information and the visual descriptions of the locations due to (1) selective video taping by PE and CR, followed by selective choosing of the visual information or (2) actual paranormal information that was specific and unique to the locations predicted per day?

Ideally, multiple blind judges would watch hours of videotapes, collected en route to the location and at the location, and make individual item as well as summary ratings for each of the ten days. Moreover, these video tapes would ideally be collected by naïve experimenters who were not told ahead of time what the specific fundamentals were for the specific days.

The present findings strongly justify the time and expense required to collect and analyze future experiments of this kind. However, as emphasized above, the pattern of evidence obtained in the present field experiment strongly suggests that the hypothesized operation of a potential selective searching bias by PE and CR is neither a plausible nor justifiable explanation for the totality of the findings.

### **Narrowing the Time Window in Future Experimental Designs**

It is possible that the time window of future experiments can be narrowed so that patterns of information can be more precisely and blindly obtained. This experimental design was suggested partly by a field demonstration performed by CR following the ten day in Arizona experiment.

CR conducted a demonstration for a well known evening BBC television news program. CR was told he would be taken to a secret site. He was told he would be blind folded and also fitted with a sound-reducing headphone. He was

to bring the information from his previous night's dream to the TV station in a sealed envelop. The sealed envelop was shown on television and the male and female co-hosts signed the back of the sealed envelope.

CR was video taped being blind-folded and fitted with the sound-reducing headphone. He was then driven to the secret site selected by the TV program. When he was at the site, before the blind fold and headphone was removed, the announcers opened the sealed envelop and read the fundamentals summarized from his dream. The pattern of thirteen fundamentals were:

- hospital
- paddles
- river
- jetty
- wooden poles
- water
- boats
- train
- symbols of a dollar sign
- hospital
- bridge with cars and
- windows.

A picture, taken from the TV footage, shows CR before he was allowed to see and hear where he was. The picture establishes that he was taken:

- to a river
- with a boat in the background
- wooden poles
- the Tyler bridge with
- cars and
- windows.

Not visible in the picture, but available in the video footage, were:

- children playing in paddle boats
- the jetty
- the Royal Mint building (fitting the symbol of money), and
- Guy's Hospital.

The only fundamental that was not observed was the train.

Twelve of the thirteen fundamentals matched the unique location selected by the TV station. The pattern matched almost completely.

As the male announcer pointed out, he said “We could have taken you anywhere.” Possible alternative locations mentioned on the show included stores, the zoo, the train station, etc.

Future research can potentially be designed to restrict the dream information to the actual sites. This procedure would simply the process of experimenter-blind collection and scoring of the information.

### **Additional Information Consistent with the Precognitive Dream Hypothesis**

Following the Arizona experiment, CR conducted a replication and extension ten-day experiment in Washington, DC, with a member of a US secret service agency [who requested to the PE that her identity and agency be kept secret]. In this experiment, CR predicted major events that would be published each day in the news paper.

Their findings replicated, in accuracy and detail, the findings from the University of Arizona ten-day experiment. Though their findings are currently secret (the PE has read the report), it is anticipated that they will be available for publication at a later date.

It is noteworthy that while CR was in Tucson, he experienced a nightmare involving planes crashing into large buildings in New York City and thousands of people dying. These dreams continued when he returned to England. He recorded these dreams, drew the buildings, and told his police superior of the dreams.

A few days before 9-11, he was compelled to post a letter to the London Embassy warning of a serious threat to US safety. CR's police supervisor has a copy of drawings made by CR prior to 9-11 of planes crashing into tall buildings in New York City. The diagram faxed to the police and verified by them is available.

The 9-11 twin-tower precognitive dream was not novel for CR. He has been having

terrorist-related dreams, documented by British police and Scotland yard, for more than twenty years.

### **Future Research and Applications**

There are others who have similar talents to CR and are prepared to participate in controlled experiments. Moreover, the recent publication of the series of basic science experiments performed by Bem at Cornell University illustrates the promise of bringing precognition research into the laboratory<sup>25</sup>.

A major challenge for science and society is to find ways of financially supporting controversial precognitive consciousness research with a collaborative team of experienced open minded scientists and research-oriented psychics.

Numerous factors may influence precognitive performance, including geomagnetic fields<sup>26-28</sup> as well as ability to connect with potential spiritual assistance<sup>29</sup>. Especially controversial is the possibility that this phenomenon might speak to the possibility the existence of some sort of invisible “higher authority”<sup>23</sup>. Can such a program of research be envisioned and undertaken?

It is hoped that the publication of the present findings in a peer-reviewed journal which openly integrates science and spirituality can help address this pressing challenge by illustrating the potential promise of such future research.

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