

Questions for Lesson 15: The Paranormal and the Queen Mary

1. Why is it important to consider such subjects as this one?

Answer: The question of whether we can “work out our own salvation” or not is vital. Knowing we can control our destiny underlies the reason for our being, and our confidence that God is in control needs to be unshakable.

2. What are some of the devious reasons people promote UFO sightings and wild theories about extraterrestrial influences upon man?

- Answer:**
- a) As a substitute for religion--a way of obtaining immortality.
 - b) To make money.
 - c) To get attention.
 - d) To justify things they do.

3. What things on the Queen Mary suggest that making money is the primary objective of the claims being made?

Answer: The heavy tourist advertising of ghosts and hauntings are a major one. The fact that the “ghost detection equipment” (the divining rod type of tool) is so tenuous and ambiguous would be another. Scientific investigation of the claims has offered no support, and in some cases (like the tanning light story in the lesson) expose the fraudulent nature of what is being claimed.

4. What psychological experiences can explain why some people would see a ghost or have a paranormal experience with a close relative or friend who has died?

Answer: We can be so distraught about the death of a loved one that we will jump at any possible way to reestablish contact with that person. Many ghost experiences have been of this nature. The Betty and Barney Hill abduction story is an example of a woman who has had severe emotional problems in the past that have caused her to be under psychiatric care. Witness credibility is a major issue in incidents of this type. There need to be multiple witnesses for a story to be worth serious consideration.

5. What does the image reversal demonstration with the red triangle demonstrate to us about people seeing ghosts or UFOs?

Answer: That physical problems with the observer can make visual incidents unreliable in claims made about what someone saw.

6. If you stare at a magenta triangle (blue and red mixed) and then stare at a white wall, what color triangle would you see?

Answer: Green. You have three types of color cones--red, blue and green. If you wear out the red and the blue, green is all that is left. (The purpose of this question is to make sure the students know what is causing what they saw.)

7. In the lesson we saw a picture of a centaur—a horse body with human torso and head on it. What is the message of that kind of picture.

Answer: It is easy to fake a photograph. What we tried to learn was a first step in how to look at a picture to determine if it is a fake or not. There are technical ways to

analyze pictures using densitometers or other equipment, but even the average person can be trained to look critically at any picture--especially the ones in the tabloids.

8. What natural phenomena can cause people to see things they might think are paranormal experiences?

Answer: The northern lights, earthquake lights, bolloids (large meteors from outer space), luminescence or phosphorescence, etc. Many years ago I saw a ghost tree in Canada. Late at night this tree would glow an erie blue color. It was phosphorus in the tree trunk being activated by northern light emissions. They can be very strange looking.

9. What examples do we have of religious paranormal activity that we need to be careful not to support?

Answer: Claims of supernatural revelations are the major one. Catholic icons like the Shroud of Turin, weeping Mary, visions of Joseph Smith Mohammed and any religious figure who teaches things that deny the person or teaching of Jesus Christ, such as the Moonies, David Koresh, Jim Jones, etc. Claims of spiritualism or demon possession, which we will talk about in our next lesson are also examples.

10. What dos UFO stand for, and why is it important to remember this?

Answer: Unidentified Flying Object. It is just that--unidentified. That just means we are too ignorant to understand what we are looking at. What it doesn't mean is that these are unexplainable and proofs of alien or supernatural visitation.