

Note to users of this “Science and Spirit” course.

THIS is a “Beta” or “Pilot” version of the course, and is to be improved in the light of reports of those using it. Please give feed-back to editor@thegroundoffaith.net

FOR THIS REASON IT IS NOT TO BE COPIED.

Each subsequent version will be assigned a date of issue.

SCIENCE AND SPIRIT

Introductory Lesson

The aim is to convey an overall picture of what we are about to explore

SCIENCE AND SPIRIT



DOES DEAD MATTER
PRODUCE MIND?

OR SPIRIT PRODUCE
MATTER?

IS LIFE “A TALE TOLD BY
AN IDIOT, FULL OF
SOUND AND FURY,
SIGNIFYING NOTHING?”

WHAT ARE THE
DIMENSIONS OF LOVE?

Note to Teachers

The basic medium for this course is the PowerPoint presentation.

Teacher background material, Student Ppt presentations, visual aids, reference material, activities, material to be printed out, can all be found through links in the following slides.

To make fullest use of the course, it would sometimes be helpful if the computer were connected to the internet.

Students are invited to have a notebook to be used as a journal, to record notes, reactions, and questions.

The Teacher could ask:

What is Spirit?

Think.

Write Lesson 1, and date in Journal Make notes

Pair share.

Share with class.

It is possible that you might like to spend two class periods on this Lesson. If so you might like to create some further activity to help all come to grips with the subject.

An important aspect of this course

Open Minded Science is our protection against unwarranted cynicism, and also against unwarranted beliefs about the spiritual



We are going to study experiences of Spirit..

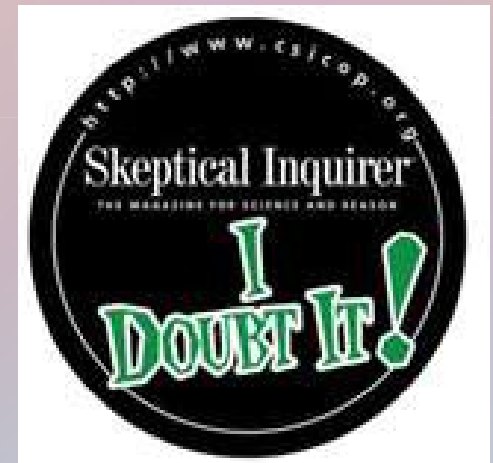


..using the methods of open minded science

..using evidence that might stand up in a court of law

..thinking about our own experiences

..understanding the thinking of people who deny the reality of Spirit



Religious Studies



In this course we are not
thinking about..

Churches

Synagogues

Mosques or

Temples

..but about experiences of Spirit
that lead people to build them



These beliefs are found within Christianity



Basic beliefs are:

..that there is a spiritual dimension to reality

..that there is eternal life. The death of the body does not change this.

...that the way we live is important to our spiritual development

Less basic: ...that there is a Communion of Saints of the church militant and the church triumphant. [*Theological language*: it means "the Oneness of the living and those in spirit in the Cosmic Christ."

N.B.

Now is not the time to discuss these beliefs.

We are just noting these beliefs, and that after we have seen some of the things that Science has to say about Spirit/Mind, we may look at these beliefs again.

More Christian beliefs

Some believe ...



...that we may pray to the saints

.. that spiritual beings, “angels”, can help us in our earthly lives

..that prayer matters, and can sometimes play a part in spiritual and physical healing

..that in the New Testament we see cases of telepathy, clairvoyance, distance seeing, prophecy for the future, inspiration, peak experiences, inspiration, spiritual healing

We shall be thinking about things like this in our course.

Some of these beliefs are in fact found in other religions

- It is in the nature of all religions to accept that there is a spiritual dimension
- Spiritual phenomena considered in this course are experienced by humanity in general
- We find differing corporate histories, theologies, stories and customs
- Most of the phenomena feature in all of the above

How do we personally arrive at our pictures of what is real?

How many of our ideas have come from our parents?

From School?

From the media? (Books, papers, Internet, radio and TV)

From friends?

From personal experience?

From our religion?

Our political party? Our culture?

How differently would we be seeing things if we belonged to another culture, or religion, or spoken language?



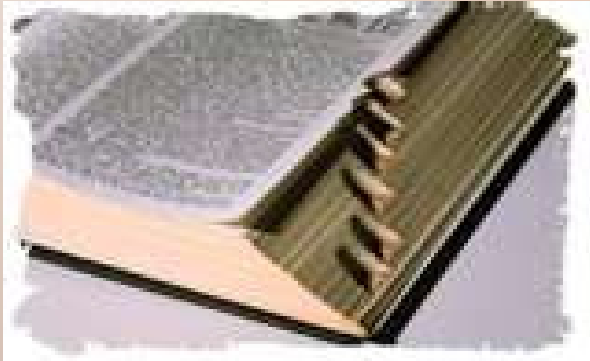
To come back to the question of SPIRIT



Think “Spirit”... and some of us may think of Charismatic or Pentecostal churches who feel that they have succeeded when people are “in-filled with Spirit”.

In this course we are using “spirit” in some of the ways that you can find when you look up a dictionary.

“spirit” and the dictionary



Life principle, soul

Mind, intelligence

Consciousness, thought

A supernatural being

Frame of mind

Real meaning, intention

What comes from God

The course is called Science and Spirit



Therefore we must be careful and skeptical.

To be **skeptical** is to withhold judgement until there is good evidence.

To be a **cynic** is to dismiss evidence without investigation

Q

What is a cynic?

What is a sceptic?

What is the difference between a sceptic and a cynic?

Several ways that Spirit may show itself

Take your copy of the questionnaire. Look at the ways in the left hand column. When the topic on the screen has been shown, put a tick in the square that best fits your opinion, or feeling.

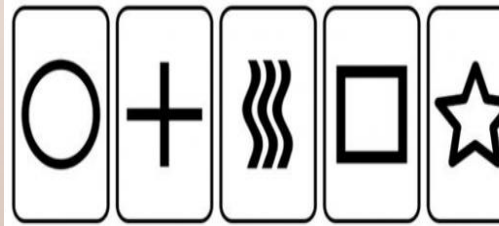
DON'T put your name on the sheet, and don't look at what your neighbour writes. It's supposed to be private

Hand in the sheets to the teacher, who will shuffle them, hand one to each of the students, who will call out answers for writing on the board.

NOTE to TEACHER: [click this link](#) to print copies

We've listed Telepathy first

Telepathy is Mind to Mind communication regardless of distance.



The cards to the left are called Zener cards. There are five cards of each symbol.

The packet of 25 cards is shuffled

Aim to guess which cards is being viewed.

Over many trials expect to be right by chance, one time out of five.

If over many trials there are higher scores then this suggests telepathy/

Each time please tick the appropriate box

Remember

Today, we are just reminding ourselves of the various ways that Spirit can show itself.

We will go into detail at a later time.

Clairvoyance

This is the ability to perceive things that are not in sight, or cannot be seen.



Gerard Croiset (kroy-sett)

Click>>> [Gerard Croiset](#)

After World War II, Croiset was sometimes consulted by Dutch police authorities in cases involving missing persons, or murder. On one occasion he was said to have examined the property of a murdered woman, and provided accurate information relating to her murder, and also gave the name of her murderer.

Spiritual Healing



Jesus was said on many occasions to have healed people by the power of Spirit

There are many people gifted in this way, in the modern world.

Dreams for the future

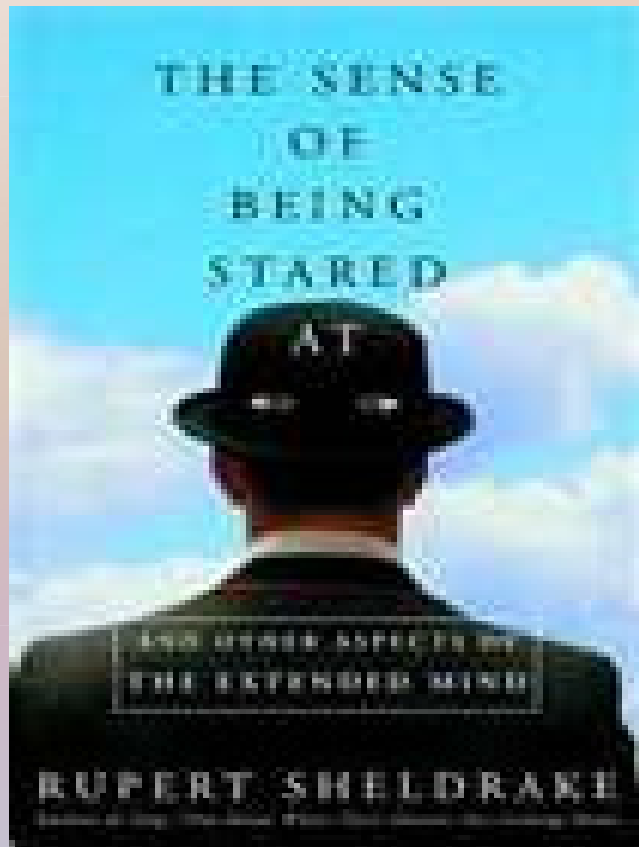


Precognitive dreams, dreams for what is to happen in the future, are not uncommon.

Sometimes they help us avoid an accident.

Sometimes the events occur, and are not avoided.

The sense of being stared at



The biologist **Rupert Sheldrake** *click>>>*
Sheldrake is widely known for his theories about mind and spirit.

In the book pictured here, he investigates this ability, which of course can have survival use. (One senses the enemy.)

Click >>> [Near Death Experiences](#)



Elizabeth Kuebler-Ross is famous for her work with dying people who report:

That the dying person appears to pass through a tunnel

And is met by loved ones on the other side.

Click >>> [Elizabeth Kuebler-Ross](#)

Out of the Body Experiences



It is not uncommon for people who are technically dead, during and operation, to feel themselves to be separate from the body, and observing the operation from a distance. They may even return home to visit their family.

It is always a life-changing event

Inspiration



Inspiration for composing music or poetry often seems as if it must come from the world of spirit.

For instance, how could Mozart compose such wonderful music when he was not much older than an infant?

The mystical experience



The feeling of being in the presence of Spirit, and being lifted out of oneself

When we know who is calling



Tests show that some people have a better than expected chance of correctly guessing which person is calling, when the phone rings.

Feeling of the presence of God

And it does not have to
be in cathedrals



Do spirits give information to Mediums?

Look at this [YouTube](#) presentation.

Warning: a scary clip of a dead young girl.

Hand in you questionnaire after you have ticked the box



There are many dimensions to Being in Spirit



And that is what this course will be investigating.

Has anything surprised you?

Are you seeing things a little differently?

In what ways?

Next lesson we shall be thinking about the use of scientific method

This course is not about believing, but
investigating.

We should be skeptical until we see evidence

We should not be cynical and reject all
evidence

You don't have to remember all that you have
seen in this slide show – this is just to
introduce you to the subject.

Time with our journals

Why do you think we have mentioned the beliefs of Christians, and members of other religions, alongside those matters listed in the questionnaire?

Can you come up with a personal way of trying to say what Spirit might be?

What is the difference between “Sceptic” and “Cynic”?

What interested you most in this lesson?

You might like to share thoughts with your neighbour