

***I SING the Body electric; The armies of those I love engirth me, and I engirth them;
They will not let me off till I go with them, respond to them, and discorrupt them,
and charge them full with the charge of the Soul.***

Walt Whitman, The Leaves of Grass

Whether you remember the title line from Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* or from Ray Bradbury's *Twilight Zone* segment of the same name more than a hundred years later, the inference is the same. Whitman wrote *Body Electric* long before the American Civil War (1855), when the entire concept of electricity was magical; Bradbury took the idea one step further when he introduced three young characters to their new android "grandmother" with equal magical influence in 1962. But, what does this have to do with the research of unexplained phenomenon?

While you might think that the human body is just flesh and blood, a composition that is mostly water in essence, the fact is that humans as well as all animals would not exist without a very complicated neural network we call the nervous system, which courses within our frames much like the wiring of your home. The entire system can be tracked moment to moment when you monitor these pathways, thus the body is truly "electric" and worthy of our song, so to speak.

Not wishing to put words in Whitman's mouth, but I really doubt he had any idea just how close he was to the truth when he wrote, "... ***and charge them full with the charge of the Soul.***" In reality that might well be exactly what is happening when the living transform into spirit and sometimes into what we now call ghosts. Energy cannot be destroyed, but its nature can be altered; the body electric is energy, which is transformed after death. Our studies are aimed at learning into what we are transformed and where we might then reside.

The argument, if you will, concerning the concept of the "body electric" is well founded in medical and physical science. Galvanic skin response (GSR) is as good a place to start as any in this discussion. GSR is a method of measuring the electrical resistance of the skin. There has been a long history of electro dermal activity research, most of it dealing with spontaneous fluctuations. Most investigators accept the phenomenon without understanding exactly what it means. There is a relationship between sympathetic activity and emotional arousal, although one cannot identify the specific emotion being elicited. The GSR is highly sensitive to emotions in some people. Fear, anger, startle response, orienting response and sexual feelings are all among the emotions which may produce similar GSR responses.

One branch of GSR explanation interprets GSR as an image of activity in certain parts of the body notably the heart muscle and is the basis for the modern EKG, a non-invasive medical test that shows the intricate movement of the heart, without actually touching it.

The scientific study of GSR began in the early 1900s. One of the first references to the use of GSR instruments in Psychoanalysis is the book by C. G. Jung entitled *Studies in Word Analysis*, published in 1906. Wilhelm Reich also studied GSR in his experiments at the Psychological Institute at the University of Oslo in 1935-6 to confirm the existence of a bio-electrical charge behind his concept of vegetative, pleasurable 'streamings.' GSR was used for a variety of types of research in the 1960s through the late 1970s, with a decline in use as more sophisticated techniques (such as EEG and MRI) replaced it in many areas of psychological research.

GSR measurement is also becoming commonplace in hypnotherapy and psychotherapy practice where it can be used as a method of detecting depth of hypnotic trance prior to suggestion therapy commencing. When traumatic material is experienced by the client (for example, during hypnoanalysis), immediate changes in galvanic skin response can indicate that the client is experiencing emotional arousal. It is also used in behavior therapy to measure physiological reactions such as fear. Skin conductance is also a factor in some modern electronics to measure the activation of touch screen devices. Another common use of GSR can be found in modern behavioral techniques, and of course, the lie detector.

The myriad of uses for Galvanic Skin Response feedback in medicine and science is overwhelming, so there seems little doubt similar devices based on GSR could aid in our work. The Telekinesis and OOBE experiments of the late 1970s at Duke utilized GSR feedback in limited testing, so the concept is not new. Those experiments were later added to the governments own Remote Viewing programs a generation later.

Consider what we are saying for a moment. Simple electrodes, temporarily "glued" to a subject can and does capture a life's array of physical and psychological responses; are those responses present after death or possibly transferred from the host body to another method of movement? And this is just one small part of the human body's electrical system! If you can use a modified EEG on a subject who is reportedly experiencing an Out of Body Experience, can you then postulate that you could do the same as human consciousness is transferred from the body to pure energy?

Of course GSR is just the preverbal tip of the iceberg. The human heart is a wonder of electronic stimulation that allows us to live, not to mention the electrical response that causes the diaphragm to expand and contract, allowing us to breath. And of course there is the mother lode of human electronics, the brain itself; medical researchers can tell you with some degree of accuracy from which centers of the brain responses are formulated, but as to how and where that “energy” is created, stored and fired is as big a mystery today as it was millennia ago. It is all there for us to witness, but does not easily give up its eternal secrets.

The entire involvement of the electrical system of the body needs to be rediscovered in reference to the question of the conscious survival of death and that hypothesis is not new to our research. Countless early researchers returned again and again to the question of the power of the human mind, often misunderstood to be a fascination with the brain itself, rather than the processes that take place there.

Obviously, the work of the ASUP approaches these questions from another direction, simply because to research the activities of the human mind directly, you would be required to be either a psychologist specializing in neurology or a medical doctor with such a specialty, and that would just be a start. Unfortunately, the great majority of medical professionals with the level of training will have been the subject of indirect modifications of their own minds to ever be flexible enough to consider such studies; it would require a life of study and dedication to a branch of medical science that would certainly never find support, theoretically or monetarily.

The ASUP takes an entirely different tact, studying the end result and probing the questions of duration, real electrical power and response in the field, with hopes of eventually following such issues to their source, “through the back door.” We therefore utilize common tools, the EMF meter for example to find and track trace energy; the broad spectrum IR & UV photography to visualize it and EVP research and Box technologies to capture sounds, all of which are in one way or another “electrical” in nature. Our studies take us to active cases near power lines and power transformers, theorizing that proximity to high power “feeds” the sources we want to study, while also visiting places with no visible power that reflects EMF without the apparent source.

To this point, other research groups have dabbled with these technologies as a support mechanism to locate paranormal activity, while we are just as fascinated with the electronic response as

the paranormal manifestation. While we recognize that we need electronic tools to study this phenomenon; a quality recording device or specifically designed Box to “hear” messages, we do not assume that the sender is utilizing any such device on the other end. We accept that the “spirit” is not sitting at a glorified ham radio speaking to us, but that the source is perfectly capable of such communication with the power at hand, which he or she probably has had long before death and probably prior to birth.

This of course is highly speculative and not proven, but it is a hypothesis we now are actively considering. For those who truly want to know, we have left the questions of “if” far behind and are now centering our research on the “how”; or as I have said for a long time, “It is not the existence of the phenomenon that is in question, but rather what the phenomenon is!” The answer has been right there for us to see forever. Our hands move, our eyes see and we are capable of thought, all thanks to a bundle of nerve endings, synapses and the muscles reaction to them. As stated earlier, energy can’t be destroyed, thus the energy captured in that electrical system within the human body likewise will continue on forever; and it is reasonable to believe it will continue to do what it has always done, if only in a slightly different form.

It is our task to seek the next step and to understand what transpires. For us, the easiest way is to communicate with and learn from those who have gone before, hopefully learning for ourselves the steps that follow the cession of life as we now know it. Whether that information is found in a dank basement in an old shop, the attic of a Victorian home or in the woods where a homesteader family once lived is the question. The answer, I believe is a continuation of the human consciousness where life as we know it is just a small part or a greater journey.

As always, if you have comments, questions, etc. feel free to send them along!

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