



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

From the spooky desk of James Willis:

Spreading the Ghostly Love!



James

Happy belated Valentine's Day! Here's hoping you all got to spend some time with the ones you love.

As always, I have to bring ghosts into every holiday. Valentine's Day is no different. This year, as I was

reflecting on the holiday and trying to avoid stuffing my pie hole with another pile of Sour Patch Kids (man, those things are addictive), the thought occurred to me that we needed a Valentine's Day-type holiday for ghost hunters.

You see, every Valentine's Day, people set aside their petty differences and

pledge their undying love to one another...or at least attempt to tolerate certain people for 24 hours. This is something that is sorely missing from the ghost-hunting community.

Now, I'm not talking about "paranormal unity"; that's a phrase that, to be honest, is very hollow and, let's face it, the paranormal community is way too diverse to ever hope to be unified. Rather, I'm just wondering if we couldn't be a wee bit more accepting of each other. Or, you know, just tolerate each other for 24 hours.

Having been in this field for many, many years, I think this field is currently in some rather dark times. The level of name-calling, backstabbing, and just general disrespect has grown to epic proportions, the likes of which I have never seen. And it makes us all look bad.

So I think we all just need to agree to set aside a day, any day, and just play nice with each other. You don't have to agree with what everyone else is saying or how he or she goes about conducting ghost "business." Just agree to disagree and to be civil about it, at least for 24 hours.

I'm sure after those 24 hours are up, most will go back to the name-calling and just generally being mean to each other (hey, just like the day after Valentine's Day), but it will at least be a start.

Cheers,

James A. Willis
Founder/Director

TULPAS: A D.I.Y. ENTITY?



Wendy

Many people who study all things ghostly have heard of the Philip Experiment. Essentially it was an experiment carried out in the 1970s by a group of Canadian parapsychologists

who came up with a storyline for a person they called "Philip" and then attempted to get this false persona to manifest as a ghost. Some might call this a tulpa. If you watched Supernatural episode 1-17 Hell House, Sam and Dean fight a tulpa created by a website called Hell Hounds Lair. The

website owners, Ed and Harry, went on to become the Ghostfacers after helping Sam and Dean destroy the tulpa. Thought concentrated on a specific story on the website in this case caused the ghost in the story to manifest.

But what exactly is a tulpa, and do either of these examples fit the profile? A tulpa traces its roots back to Buddhism, so I sat down for a talk with fellow Cleveland Ufology Project member Cathy Lee, who belongs to the Palyul Ohio Tibetan Buddhist Temple, near Richfield, Ohio.

Cathy began with one of the first people to explore the creation of a tulpa, or Yidam diety, Belgian French explorer/spiritualist Alexandra David-Neel. From her teen years in the early 1900s, Alexandra studied with Madame Blavatsky's Theosophical

Society and achieved the 33rd degree of mixed Scottish Rite freemasonry. She began traveling to India to continue her studies in Buddhism with the lamas there, eventually living in a cave for several years. She spent much of her life writing about Eastern mysticism, with Magic and Mystery in Tibet being her most popularly read book. While studying in Tibet, she heard about yidam deities (or tulpas) following initiates and lamas.

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PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Jerri H., Columbus, Ohio

THE TEXT

My son Brandon was your typical teenage son. He was always one with his cell phone. No matter where he was or what he was doing, we was always texting away or just playing on his phone. I used to joke with him and tell him that with all the texting he did he could at least text his mother once in a while. He would just roll his eyes at me.

With all the texting he did, I was your typical mother of a teenager and was always telling him not to text while he was driving. I had seen too many of those scary commercials! He always promised me he wouldn't text while driving and as far as I know he never did. But of all the things I tried to protect him against, I couldn't protect him from the stupidity of others. Brandon was killed in a head-on car accident when a drunk driver swerved into Brandon's lane. Brandon was only 17 years old when he died.

It was technically a crime scene, so I wasn't able to get Brandon's personal items right away. When the police called me and told me I could come get his stuff, a lot of it had been gone through by the police. My guess is they wanted to make sure Brandon hadn't been drinking or on drugs that night, and he wasn't. I don't know how his cell phone ended up in a plastic baggie with Brandon's wallet and some other personal things he had on him when he died, but that is how they gave it back to me. I couldn't really look at that stuff, so when I got home, I just took the whole plastic baggie and threw it in a drawer in Brandon's dresser.

A couple of weeks later, I was laying in bed one night watching TV when my phone went off telling me I had a new text message. I was shocked when it said that the message was from Brandon's cell.

I looked and the message said LUV U and had a big smiley face next to it. I looked and the message had come from Brandon's phone. I looked again and yes, it had just come from Brandon's phone...the same phone that I had stuffed into his dresser weeks ago.

Thinking someone had stolen Brandon's phone and was playing some sick joke on me, I ran upstairs to Brandon's room. I dug through his dresser and found the phone. It was still in the plastic bag. I opened up the bag and looked. The phone was still turned off. I tried to turn it on, but the battery was dead.

I went and plugged the phone in and charged it. Then I turned it on. The message I got was in there and showed that it had been sent at right around the time I had received it, even though the phone's battery was dead and nobody was using it.

I have no idea how that happened. The only thing I can think of is that Brandon's ghost texted me one last time. At least that's what I want to believe. It's the only thing that makes sense.

**GOT A SCARY
STORY TO TELL?**

Have you had a ghostly encounter in Ohio? Want to see it featured in a future issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter? Then here's all you have to do:

Just write down your story and send it to info@ghostsofohio.org with the subject line "Newsletter Ghost Story." Be sure to also include your name as you'd like it to appear with the story. We'll take it from there and send you out an email letting you know which issue it is going to appear in. That way, you can get all your friends to sign up for the newsletter so they can see how famous you are!

The initiate will begin creating a sand mandala such as the one seen below. This mandala represents the deity the student is focusing on. Every grain of sand is dropped into its place with intention and thought of the chosen deity.

Cathy noted, "Compared to Western mysticism or Magick, this is similar to the

function of the deity, "they can get themselves into a lot of trouble," Cathy continued. "The deity can separate itself from its initiate, and take on a life of its own. In that case, the Master teacher can help destroy it or pull it back. The students who never believe that it is anything other than a creation of the mind are the ones who have truly achieved the result. For a Buddhist, everything in nature is empty. Everything is a creation of causes and conditions that come together to form a manifestation and all of that is created by the mind."

Thinking of the episode of Supernatural and the Philip Experiment, I asked Cathy if a group of monks ever got together for the purpose of creating a tulpa. "Not to my knowledge," she answered. Remember, the purpose of the tulpa is to enlighten the student creating it; it is a very serious act of meditation and control by a single student.

An example of a tulpa gone wrong is the one reputedly created by Dion Fortune (Violet Mary Firth). Dion was a contemporary of Alexandra, and also studied with the Theosophical Society. Like Alexandra, she was a prolific author, and one of her most highly regarded books is *Psychic Self-Defense*.

While at University of London, she was a member of Alpha Et Omega (The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn). She split with the group after she claims she came under psychic attack by its leader Moira Mathers. As she became sicker, her thoughts went to defending herself, and she mixed them with her current studies on Norse Mythology. Then, while sick and fearful of being psychically killed, she apparently spontaneously created a tulpa based on the wolf figure of Fenrir. She envisioned the wolf attached to her by a silver cord, then blacked out. A wolf was seen around campus...somehow she had let the thought form loose. Once she discovered this, she had to destroy it. "Her writings do not state it, but some of Aleister Crowley's followers write that he helped her pull it back in," said Cathy.

Some people may even regard the golem as a tulpa. The Jewish Book of Creation talks about creating a golem, but it isn't simply a thought process. "In this case, physical items are used...virgin earth that has never been overturned, and water, creating a small mud man," Cathy said explaining the difference. "From there you invoke the sacred names of God and prayers, to help it grow and to give it life. In 16th century Prague, Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel reportedly created a golem. There was a lot of anti-Semitic

feelings in the little town he lived in. He created the golem as a defense for the people of the village, but the golem ran amuck. It decided not only to protect, but to attack anything it perceived might be a threat." The Rabbi had to deconstruct him slowly, starting with erasing the holy words written on the golem's forehead one letter at a time, according to 18th century legend.

In Western mysticism, there is a rite called the Knowledge and Conversation of the Holy Guardian Angel. In this case, the student is attempting to contact and communicate with his Angel, which also involves a process of purification that can take months or years, similar to a Buddhist student attempting to reach his Yidam deity. There are other various rites and ceremonies practiced by all types of Western and Eastern esoterics in an attempt to get a higher spirit to manifest itself physically.

Looking back at the examples of the Philip Experiment and Sam and Dean Winchester's Hell House episode, only Hell House fits. In that case, an image that could be seen and could act out was created by thousands of minds focusing and believing on the story of a farmer who murdered his daughters, even though that never happened. In the Philip experiment, even though he also never existed, the parapsychologists were only able to get Philip to knock, move objects and leave EVP, he never manifested in physical form.

So with all these stories and examples, what is true and what is legend? As Cathy put it, "The actual kernel of truth is for us to determine for ourselves."

And as usual with the paranormal world, it creates another thousand questions to be answered. If a poltergeist is actually unleashed and uncontrolled energy of the mind, would that qualify as a tulpa? Oh yes, this will be another night in which I get absolutely no sleep!

For information on her temple, visit <https://www.facebook.com/PalyulOhio>

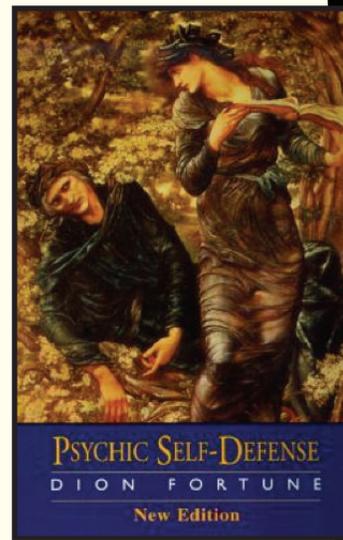


creation of a magic circle, or the sigil of a particular Archangel. You are coming up with—from inside yourself—the energy that you can manifest into what you wish. With Buddhism, you go through certain processes of deep meditation, creating the mandala to muster up energy to put into the actual appearance of the deity. First you will visualize the face, and from there you learn how to visualize every minute detail on the deity to the point that it becomes visible outside of yourself."

The deity will at first be transparent, more meditation continues until the form becomes solid. You must then "feel" the deity touch you on your shoulder and begin to communicate with you. Since these deities are essentially created to teach the initiate, you must be able to communicate with it. If created properly, the deity can be seen by other people. Many students are never able to reach this phase of the creation.

"Alexandra David-Neel did create a tulpa, but she created it in reference to an image she was familiar with, a Christian Friar!" Cathy said laughing. "And apparently it was seen by the villagers."

In some cases, what is created is called a "wrathful" deity. "These are not negative in the western sense," Cathy said. "They are not created to hurt others, they are created to help you come through your own ignorance. They are often seen with a sword, bow and arrow, or some other article that is there to cut through the illusion and help you on your path of life." But if a student is fearful of his creation or misunderstands



OHIO GHOST HUNTING TRENDS



Samantha

When The Ghosts Of Ohio was founded back in 1999, there were a grand total of five ghost-hunting groups that were considered “active” at the time. Then came a little show called Ghost Hunters and, well, let’s just say the number of ghost groups in Ohio grew. A lot. So much so that the decision was made within The Ghosts of Ohio to begin tracking these groups just to know what was out there, how they were going about conducting investigations, and what types of equipment they were using.

Samantha Nicholson was the person entrusted to track all these organizations, mainly because she knew how to use Excel, but more importantly, she volunteered for the job. Over the years, Sam has watched the number of Ohio ghost groups climb into the hundreds and then drop back down again.

Most intriguing of all, Sam began to notice trends in things like equipment use, offering private investigations, and even the use of psychics. These trends say a lot about Ohio ghost hunting as a whole and as such, we feel it needs to be shared!

So keep an eye out for the next issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter, which will feature Sam’s in-depth look at the past and current trends in Ohio ghost hunting!



THE GHOSTS RETURN TO MANSFIELD REFORMATORY

They say the third time’s the charm, so let’s see if they’re right. On April 24, 2014, The Ghosts of Ohio will return to the Mansfield Reformatory for their third all-night private hunt!

If you’re already a newsletter subscriber, keep your fingers crossed because you might have a shot at being our guest for the evening. Even if you don’t, we’ll be sure to have a full write-up of the night’s adventures in an upcoming issue of our newsletter.



GOT GHOSTS?

REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION

From time to time, The Ghosts of Ohio learns about a haunted location that, try as we might, we just can't seem to dig up any additional information on. That's when we turn to one of the largest group of Ohio ghost experts out there; our newsletter readers! That's right, we're asking you to let us know if you have any information (or better yet, have had a personal experience) at any of the following locations. If you have, shoot us an email at info@ghostsofohio.org. And who knows? You just might get the chance to investigate the location along with The Ghosts of Ohio!!

Black Rabbit Road (Samantha / Highland county)

Haunted Train Trestle (Abbeyville / Medina county)

Hell House (Lockbourne / Franklin county)

Witch's Pyramid (Ridgeway / Hardin county)



COMING IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER

Trends in Ohio Ghost Groups

Why So Angry?

The Recent Rise of Surly Spirits

Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts of Ohio are currently scheduling investigations for 2014. If you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at info@ghostsofohio.org or visit our website to fill out an investigation request. All investigations are offered free of charge, and confidentiality and discretion are assured.

Not sure if you want or need an investigation? The Ghosts of Ohio also offers consultations. Let us sit down with you to discuss your current situation and what help we may be able to offer. For more information, please visit <http://ghostsofohio.org/services/investigations.html>.

Interact with The Ghosts of Ohio

In addition to our website, here are a couple of places where you can find The Ghosts of Ohio lurking online:



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