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Asking the Other Side:

Employing Experienced Mental Mediums to Question Discarnate Wise Sources

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Abstract

Purpose. The purpose of this exploratory study was to address the hypothesis that valid higher order information (generally classed as wisdom) could be received via communication with intelligent beings possessing post-mortem or other discarnate consciousness (generally classed as spirits or communicators) on the Other Side (which generally includes, but is not limited to, a human-spirit afterlife destination), through the use of robust methodologies, to address a major concern: The future viability or non-viability of humankind over the next twenty to thirty years. Specifically, the study addressed the main premise: The Other Side has failed to promote human spiritual evolution in the past 166 years. Method. Five experienced mediums (sometimes called channelers) were recruited. They made contact with, and asked sponsor-supplied questions of, spirit communicators on the Other Side. Results. 1) Some on the Other Side are helping human spiritual progress but there are obstacles. 2) Some on the Earth Side are spiritually progressing but there are obstacles. 3) All spiritual progress is individual, whether a spirit is on the Other Side or experiencing a lifetime in a human body, as there is no corporate Other Side or Earth Side thinking, purpose, or action. 4) No spirits or spirit groups contacted have achieved anything approaching omniscience. 5) Some spirits in human bodies are more knowledgeable and spiritually evolved than some Other Side spirits. Conclusions. There was consensus across the mediums that the Other Side disagrees that is has failed to promote human spiritual evolution in the 1857-2023 period. It has no corporate responsibility for doing so. Some spirits and spirit groups on the Other Side are available and able to help when asked by individual spirits incarnated in human bodies. Humans fail to progress spiritually by not asking for help and by making free will choices to do harm. This pilot study offers insights into improving future

"Spiritual Science" studies attempting to obtain valuable higher order information through

channels of communication with the Other Side.

Keywords: mediumship, channeling, trance, afterlife, other side.

Introduction

In 2021, the Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies (BICS) Essay Contest proved beyond a reasonable doubt, to the satisfaction of a six-person panel of respected judges from the research and academic communities, the survival of human consciousness beyond permanent bodily death. "Beyond a reasonable doubt" is the most demanding and rigorous burden of proof in the criminal justice legal system. BICS challenged essay contestants to achieve this very high bar in order to maximize the focus on presentation of evidence from as many directions and sources as possible (Kelleher & Bigelow, 2022).

Survival requires an "Afterlife" destination for existence on the "Other Side." On September 1, 2022, a second BICS Challenge (for 2023) was unveiled (BICS, 2022; PortalToAscension, 2022; Open Sciences, n.d.). This was to be a structured attempt to investigate the possibilities of, and techniques for, contact and communication with post-mortem and other discarnate consciousnesses on the Other Side to acquire spirit wisdom. "Wisdom acquisition" was described in the Challenge literature as "the reception of higher order information of value to humankind."

Historical examples of concerted efforts to communicate with the afterlife to acquire spirit wisdom have included: Emanuel Swedenborg (2009; Swedenborg Foundation, n.d.); Allan Kardec (2006; Kardecpedia, n.d.); William Stainton Moses (1924; College of Psychic Studies, n.d.); Edgar Cayce (2018; Edgar Cayce, n.d.); Jane Roberts (Seth Learning Centre, n.d.; Internet Archive a, b, n.d.); Pierre-Emile Cornillier (2017); and the Scole Experimental Group (Solomon & Solomon, 2024; The Scole Experiment, n.d.). (Also see: Afterlife Data, n.d.; Afterlife 101, n.d.). This communication is facilitated by human "mediums" (Beischel, 2018) who are able to "channel" (Wahbeh, 2021; Wahbeh et al., 2023) the information from "communicators" who exist on the Other Side.

A "communicator" has been defined as "a personality, purportedly of a deceased being, who communicates with living persons, often via a medium" (Society for Psychical Research, n.d.). We would add that, in a wider definition from other research, the communicator is not necessarily a deceased human being but could be: a discarnate consciousness who has never had a physical body; a non-human currently living in a body on another planet in our physical universe or in another physical dimension; a deceased non-human being; or an as yet undefined "other" (Solomon & Solomon, 2006; 2024; GrantandJane: Writers, 2023). Communicators in this study identified themselves, via their medium, either: as an individual; or as a group, team, or collective communicating (from the Other Side) with a (somehow previously or simultaneously agreed) consensus voice.

"Communication" involves transmission of channeled messages. It requires a sender, a receiver, and sometimes a conscious assistant recorder if necessary to the process because the receiver, in a trance state (Trance Science, n.d.), is not sufficiently conscious to keep a record of the transmission. In the process of communication, the clarity and usefulness of the message on both "sides" may be interfered with, or distorted by, "obstacles", including: communication aptitude of sender and receiver; emotion of sender and receiver; environment, area, realm, or level of existence of sender and receiver; experience of sender and receiver; known languages of sender and receiver; need to know of receiver; allowed to know of receiver; willingness of sender to share; and ability of receiver to understand. "The communication methods used previously have included: automatic writing; dreams; visions; veridical hallucination; trance;

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hypnosis; direct voice; mental mediumship; physical mediumship; 'spirit boards'; etc." (Ruickbie, 2022).

Irrespective of the type of information received, previous studies have shown that some information accessed from deceased humans through channeling has been accurate (Braude, 2003; Fontana, 2005). Therefore, "The notion that we could tap into novel solutions to problems facing our world, regardless of their source, is worth pursuing" (Wahbeh et al., 2023, p. 367).

Asking multiple mediums the same questions to obtain Other Side wisdom is currently an under-researched area but it is a useful approach for researchers—when seeking novel solutions to humanity's problems—to cross-reference answers and verify information. BICS was interested in exploring and researching information obtained from authenticated Other Side sources in an attempt to address the future viability or non-viability of humankind over the next twenty to thirty years (Wehrstein, 2023). Information for the Challenge, in the form of answers to specific questions, should therefore derive from wise spirit sources, rather than from deceased loved ones trying to prove survival.

In 1857, Allan Kardec, in the Conclusion of *The Spirit's Book*, wrote that the progress of humankind has depended on the practical application of the "law of justice, love and charity," and this law is founded on the certainty of the future. All other laws are derived from this law because it entails all the conditions of human happiness. As history shows, said Kardec, "this law alone can heal the afflictions of society...since their conditions improve as this law is better understood and better applied." Projecting ahead, Kardec optimistically predicted that, along with human spiritual evolution would come an end to wars, conflict, and seriously negative human behaviour. After proposing that the future can be evaluated by studying the past, he said it can be seen (from his perspective in 1857) that: hostilities among peoples are gradually

decreasing; the barriers separating them are reducing as they become civilized; they are joining hands from one end of the world to the other; international laws are bringing more justice; wars are becoming rarer and being conducted in a more humane manner; uniformity is being established in relationships; race and caste distinctions are disappearing; and "people of different beliefs are silencing their sectarian prejudices so that they may unite in the worship of one and the same God" (Kardec, 2006).

Many reviewers of the 166-year period between 1857 and 2023 may reasonably conclude that the exact opposite of an end to conflicts, war, and seriously negative human behavior has taken place. Given the confidence of Kardec's prediction and the playing out of actual historical events, BICS, citing as evidence the rapid proliferation of technology, the expansion of war, and the accompanying erosion of human spirituality over this same period, proposed the main premise for this study: *The Other Side has failed to promote human spiritual evolution in the past 166 years*.

In order to address this premise, BICS challenged our team of mediums to relay answers from the Other Side to four top-level questions. These four questions were overlapping and interlinked. The premise behind them could be agreed with, disagreed with, or somewhere in between. This study presents our findings on whether the mediums on our team (or more precisely their communicators who provided the answers from the Other Side): agreed with the BICS premise and why; disagreed with the premise and why; or were unwilling or unable to answer.

A set of questions was prepared which aimed to provide data and confirm the identity of specific communicators and the veracity of their communications. This question set included priority questions to address the main premise and other areas of interest, control questions to

assess the factual accuracy of communications, and supplementary questions to provide more detailed data. The priority and supplementary questions were assigned categories (A-B-C-S) to delineate their relative importance in this study.

In the 1850s, Kardec assessed answers to over 1000 questions posed to spirits via several mediums. His questions concerned "the immortality of the soul, the nature of spirits and their relationships with humankind, moral laws, the present life, the future life and the destiny of humanity – according to the teachings given by highly evolved spirits through several mediums" (2006). There may be scope for building on the previous work of Kardec and others to extend human knowledge via Other Side communications.

In this pilot study, we have assessed answers to 22 questions posed to five mediums. Our research method was a qualitative approach through the use of semi-structured interviews aimed at obtaining in-depth data. The use of pre-set questions across the participants allowed comparisons between participants' answers and identification of patterns within the data. Themes were identified from the questions and teased out from the answers. Comparison categories included "consensus", "non-consensus", and "contradictions", both across the mediums' answers and within the answers of each medium.

The study was structured and carried out as follows: BICS provided questions and study guidelines to the two principal investigators (PI); PI provided questions and guidelines to mediums (M); M, in various trance or other altered states of consciousness, posed questions to and, in some instances where possible, interrogated answers from, communicators and then recorded the answers; M sent answers to PI; PI sent all data, with weekly reports, and milestone reports at 60-day intervals, to BICS.

Method

Participants

Mediums

We emailed invitations to take part in the study to potential medium-participants (mediums). From an original pool of 13 potential candidates who replied expressing interest in participating, we recruited four mediums and one medium's trance assistant living in the United Kingdom, and one medium living in the United States, making a total of five mediums and one assistant recruited. The mediums were Lou Ann Beecher (LB), Melanie Blyth (MB), Simon Blyth (SB), Chris Connelly (CC), and Brigitte Rix (BR).

All mediums and the assistant were compensated \$200 per question answered, in accordance with the rate defined by BICS.

We recruited mediums whom we knew to be of good character and reputation; we had personal knowledge of them or they were recommended by reputable mediums we knew. Inclusion criteria included: over 18 years old; English fluency; ability to correspond via email; a self-declared interest in participating in scientific research; a minimum of eight years' experience of mental mediumship; a history of provision of veridical information to the bereaved; and a track record of channeling spiritual philosophy and wisdom, either in a public setting or in written works. The median experience of the five mediums was 28 years (see Table 1).

Table 1

Number of Years and Types of Experience of the Five Mediums

Types of experience		MB	SB	CC	BR
Mental mediumship (and total years as a medium)	25	45	9	28	41
Afterlife communication in public arena	10	44	0	26	30

			10			
Afterlife communication in private sessions	20	44	4	27	25	
	10	44	3	26	30	
Teaching mediumship	10	36	0	25	20	

Note. Median total years of experience as a medium: 28.

To avoid of the possibility of collusion, mediums were unaware of each other's identity (the exception being a married couple). Each medium, and the trance assistant, signed consent and a confidentiality agreement which stated that collusion was not permitted. They agreed that their personal details could be shared with the sponsor and that their names could be used in any published literature.

Communicators

The communicator-participants identified, via their mediums, as conscious beings on the Other Side. They included discarnate "spirits", some of whom had previously had a life in human form, and others who had never incarnated on earth. They ranged from *Alfred*, an individual former human who lived on earth many years ago, to a large team, the *Protectors of the Earth (PoE)*, who have never incarnated as humans.

Procedure

- Mediums were tasked with asking their communicators, during mediumistic-type sessions, pre-set questions for the first 30 weeks of the 39-week study.
- The questions were sent to the mediums at regular intervals as email attachments.
- Each question was to be answered within a fortnight.
- Most of the questions were open-ended to allow communicators to expand on a subject area.

- Some areas of enquiry were approached from different viewpoints in additional questions, to encourage more detail, as well as to check the consistency and correspondence of answers received.
- Where possible, communicators were interrogated and probed for more detail on significant points during interviews.
- The last nine weeks was allocated to data analysis and writing the final report.

Questions selection

BICS had challenged our team of mediums to channel answers from the Other Side regarding four top-level questions: *I*) *Since 1857, has the Other Side failed and Mankind failed to achieve good progress in securing human spirituality? If so, are bad spirits and bad humans winning? II) Why has the Other Side not failed in fostering spiritual evolution? III) What difference has the Other Side made in the past 166 years in influencing humans to accelerate their spiritual progress? IV) To what extent have earthbound spirits since 1857 impeded, sabotaged or distorted the progress of human spiritual evolution?*

To address the main premise, the four top-level questions, and other areas of interest to BICS, we started with 15 study questions. Additional questions from BICS were incorporated during the study. A total of 22 questions were posed to the communicators via their mediums (see Table 2).

Table 2

22 Questions Posed to Discarnate Communicators via Five Mediums

#	Question label(s)	Full Question
1	Deepening spirituality evidence	What evidence can the Other Side provide that, since the beginning of spirit communication practices around 1850, overall spirituality in humans is deepening or becoming more common?
2	Accelerated spiritual progress	What difference has the Other Side made since 1850 in influencing humans to accelerate their spiritual progress?
3	Bad spirits winning Bad humans winning	Since 1850, if the Other Side answers it has been unable to help humans achieve good progress in securing human spirituality and fostering spiritual evolution, are bad spirits and bad humans 'winning' and, if so, why?
4	Earthbound spirits; number effect	To what extent, since 1850, have the number of 'earthbound spirits' – who are presumably increasing in line with the population – impeded, sabotaged, or distorted the progress of human spiritual evolution?
5	Earthbound spirits; number non- benevolent	What, if any, is the relationship between the number of non- benevolent earthbound spirits and the lack of spiritual progress among incarnate humans?
6	Self-inflicted extinction; agree Extinction remedies Self-inflicted extinction; disagree	Without some shift in planet wide spirituality to match technological growth, humans on this planet are at risk of self- inflicted extinction. If you agree with this statement, please give specific remedies. If you disagree with this statement, please give us specific reasons.
7	Regain golden age; steps Avoid regain golden age	The "golden age" of scientific engagement with spiritualism and in particular, with mediumship, in the late 19th century comprised luminaries such as Sir William Crookes, Sir Oliver Lodge, Nobel Prize winner Charles Richet all engaging very proactively in testing mediums and in experimentally interrogating those who claimed to communicate with the Other Side. Can the Other Side suggest steps to regain this momentum of scientific engagement with mediums in 2023? Alternatively does the Other Side view it as undesirable or unnecessary to regain this momentum? Please be detailed and specific.
8	Spirit transition; effects of modern wars	What effect has the significant increase in human deaths by war, during the 19th and 20th centuries, had on the dynamics of spirit transition to the Other Side? For example, with thousands of

#	Question label(s)	Full Question
		soldiers simultaneously entering the afterlife from battle on a given day during war, have individual soldiers been met by their deceased relatives in an orderly manner or has chaos ensued? Please give us as many details as possible in your answers.
9	Periodic Other Side efforts; agree Periodic Other Side efforts; disagree	There have been periodic increases in intensity during some epochs (from the time of the earliest humans onwards) when the "Other Side" has made a stronger effort to deepen or increase human spiritual evolution. If you disagree with this statement give specific reasons. If you agree with this statement give specific reasons.
10	ET/human spirit relationship in afterlife ET/human spirit comm. Other Side	Is there a relationship between extraterrestrials and discarnate humans in the afterlife? Is there communication between extraterrestrials and humans on the Other Side? Please give as much detail as possible in your answer.
11	US Presidential election	Who is going to win the US Presidential election in 2024?
12	WSM/Imperator; contact	Can you make contact with the spirits of Reverend William Stainton Moses and/or the entity named Imperator (who communicated with Stainton Moses and Leonora Piper)?
13	Kardec; contact	Can you make contact with the spirit of Allan Kardec (Hippolyte Léon Denizard Rivail) (AK), the founder of Spiritism?
14	Spirit practices; home	From about the year 1850, spirit communication practices, such as home circle groups, became popular. Since the 1940s, television and internet entertainment at home appears to have taken over from spirit communication practices. What could be done to encourage people's interest in spirit communication practices at home, both now and into the future?
15	No spiritual progress; why not	Since 1850, if the Other Side answers it has been unable to help humans achieve good progress in securing human spirituality and fostering spiritual evolution, why is this the case?
16	Population expansion; dangers	In 1850, the human population on Earth was a little over 1 billion. What are the Warnings, Dangers, and Implications as

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#	Question label(s)	Full Question
		the human population expands beyond its current level of 8 billion to 9, 10, 11, or even 12 billion?
17	Threat to humanity; humans	In what ways are humans themselves the greatest and most serious threat to humanity's existence?
18	Advanced technology; concern	How is advanced technology in the hands of aggressive creatures, which humans appear to be, a cause for concern for both the Earth and humanity?
19	Moore's Law; other laws	Moore's Law says the power of technology doubles every eighteen months. Are there any laws which relate to the speed of human spiritual progress and, if so, what are they?
20	Reincarnation; time between, other planets, non-humans	Do all humans reincarnate on earth or do some spirits choose never to incarnate? (a) What is the average length of time between incarnations? (b) Do humans incarnate on other planets? (c) Do non-humans incarnate on earth as humans? Please give as much detail as possible in the answers to the above questions.
21	Information; embargoed, rule- makers	Is there information that is available to some spirits on the other side that is embargoed or forbidden to be transmitted to living people (i.e. those still alive in a human body)? (a) If so, why? (b) Who makes the rules?
22	Information, SETS; examples; access	Is there Scientific, Engineering, Technical or new Spiritual [SETS] information on the "Other Side" that could benefit humanity that is available and can be accessed by living humans now (in 2023-2024)? (a) If yes, can you give examples? (b) If yes, how can humans best access this information from the Other Side?

Note. Questions 12 and 13 had 11 and 8 sub-questions respectively (see Appendix A).

Research Sessions

The sessions in which communicators answered questions were conducted by the

mediums between July 2023 and February 2024. In effect, mediums acted partly as participants

and partly as research assistants, with some "interviewing" the communicators if their level of trance allowed it, and one having an assistant to do the interviewing.

The mediums employed various mediumistic practices and procedures in order to make contact and receive Other Side communication mentally/telepathically (see Table 3). Where possible, mediums, or the assistant, interrogated communicators for more detail on significant points during sessions.

Table 3

Medium	Level of trance	Means of receiving communication	Comments
LB	Light trance	Not unconscious, placed fingers on the keyboard, closed eyes, and typed as the answer was given	Afterwards, made typing corrections
MB	Light trance, aware of surroundings	Wrote with guide controlling words, so was separate from what was being written	Typed up afterwards
SB	Light trance, aware of surroundings	Wrote what guide communicated	Typed up afterwards
CC	A focused state with little awareness, or no awareness of external surroundings	Was aware of what the spirit communicator wished to say at that specific moment but had no recollection of what had been said	Audiotaped by research assistant; transcribed using online AI tool
BR	Light to deep trance	Information was received via telepathically guided, automatic writing usually while in a slightly altered state or was sometimes completely unaware of surroundings	Typed up written notes afterwards; had no recollection of what had been said

Self-reported, Mediumistic Practices and Procedures of the Five Mediums During the Study

After receipt of communicated answers, mediums emailed us their transcribed reports, which included: question posed; full, verbatim answer received; and relevant notes where applicable. Any communicated personal information relating to mediums, sitters, or living others, was deleted prior to sending. All audiotapes were transcribed.

Analysis

We applied short labels to each question (see Table 2) to assist in navigation and assessment of the data. Initially, descriptive codes were deduced from the BICS premise and the four top-level and other questions. We kept a listed record of these codes in a codebook, along with a description of each code. Coding was done manually, on all data, by both of us. Once we began independently reading and becoming familiar with transcribed data from the mediums, we discussed and agreed further codes on a weekly basis. This was to ensure that coding was consistent between us and to minimise bias; i.e. to avoid: 1) only applying codes to data which concurred with our beliefs and assumptions; and 2) ignoring data which did not concur with our beliefs and assumptions.

On each of multiple rounds of reading the data, as answers to different questions were received, necessary adjustments were made to codes: by deletions, additions, or merging; for example, one deduced theme from the BICS questions–"Other Side agrees it's failed to foster human spiritual progress"–was not supported by the data, so was removed from the code list. As potential themes and sub-themes emerged within the data–such as "humans are spirits in bodies", "universal individual experience", and "free will"–new codes were generated. As we coded, we looked for common or similar phrases and communicator viewpoints in the data in order to identify consensus, non-consensus, and contradictions.

We also independently looked for agreement and disagreement in answers to those questions which required an agree/disagree response.

Results

Mediumistic Practices and Procedures of Mediums

The five recruited mediums ranged in age between 50 and 80 years and included three females (LB, MB, BR) and two males (SB, CC) of British (MB, SB, CC), French (BR), and American (LB) origin. One medium (MB) reported having previously taken part in formal research. All mediums had considerable experience of entering a trance state at will.

All mediums reported having regular communicators and some had additional communicators for this study. We labelled the answers according to which communicator(s) gave the answer via their medium (e.g. *White Owl* via MB). Italics were used when referring to all communicators. For quoted material, when the mediums were not sure which communicator had answered, we included all that were communicating at the time.

One medium (BR) received communication via automatic writing (Hamilton, 2017) whilst the others received answers mentally. Only BR looked at the questions prior to her sessions as her communicators stated that they would be better able to answer the question if they understood it beforehand. She read the information to them a short while before the mediumistic session. CC instructed his assistant not to read the question out loud before he was in his usual trance state. In practice, interrogating the communicators for more detail on significant points during the interviews was not possible for three of the mediums (LB, MB, SB) since, once they were in an altered state, they were unable to ask further questions. CC's assistant was able to probe for more information. BR was able to do so when her level of trance allowed.

Regular and Total Number of Communicators per Medium

During the study, in addition to their regular communicators, a range of new (to the mediums) communicators made contact with some mediums to answer certain questions (see Table 4). The ratio of regular to total communicators follows. LB) 1:7; MB) 2:3+collective; SB) 1:2+collective; CC) 1:1; BR) 2+large team:2+large team.

Table 4

Medium	No. of Regular communicators	Total no. communicators	Comments made by mediums about their communicators
LB	1	7	"He comes close to the Earth plane at times to interact with the physical."
MB	2	3 + collective	"They exist in energy form in a dimension of thought."
SB	1	2 + collective	"They draw close to communicate and are in my mental aura."
CC	1	1	"He exists in the spirit realm but is only slightly ahead in terms of spiritual understanding."
BR	2 + large team	2 + large team	"Two regular guides, plus evolved teachers and a large team of higher dimensional beings who have never experienced life on Earth."

Regular and Total Number of Communicators per Medium During Study

Notes. A regular communicator was one who communicated for four sessions or more. MB and SB described additional communicators as "a collective" whereas BR described her regular communicators as "a large team."

Description of Communicators and Communication by the Mediums

Lou Ann Beecher

The spirit person I work with most is named *Daniel* who lived in Scotland, the US, England, and Paris in the mid-1800s. He refers to where he is as the Spirit World. However, that is a term that I would understand, so perhaps that is why he refers to it in this way. He has talked about coming close to the Earth Plane at times, because so much has changed since he lived on Earth. In one session, he talked about trying to chase cars, and how quickly they move. But I do not recall him talking about a plane or level of existence where he is/lives. I also have a teacher guide named *Ming*, whom I believe is Chinese. *Ming* has connected with me in my mediumship development, but has not been a part of my trance development. (LB)

During this study, LB had several communicators with whom she was not previously familiar, such as *Hildegard*, *Albert*, and *Ezekiel*; and some who were "*Unknown*."

Melanie Blyth

My Guides are present with me at all times. I hold conversations with them. I work with several Spirit Guides. *White Owl* has been with me my whole life. He first entranced me when I was about 19 years old, that's 43 years ago. *White Owl* was a Lakota Sioux from South Dakota. He was a shaman born in 1745 and passed over at the age of 45 in 1790. He is my Trance Mediumship Control, which means that he orchestrates who comes through me in Trance and helps my energy and the visiting Spirit Person's energy to blend. *Lama Prajna* was a Tibetan Buddhist monk from Bhutan. *Elk* was also a shaman and was Oglala Sioux. My guides exist in energy form in a dimension of thought. Sometimes they communicate as a collective. (MB)

Simon Blyth

My main guide is *Rector John*. He was a rector in the South of England. He lived South of the River Thames and also in Dorset and Norfolk. He was married with children and lived in a rural area with several churches in his parish. He was a Christian missionary in Africa where he caught malaria. He had Parkinson's disease and that is what he passed with. He has been writing philosophy with me for three years. Another guide is *Han*. He and *Rector John* draw close to communicate, and are in my mental aura. Sometimes a collective of guides communicates. (SB)

Chris Connelly

The source of the information is a guide who made his presence known in our circle around 10 years ago. It took some time to get to the point where he was able to communicate through myself. When he did, he said we could refer to him as *Alfred*, which we have done ever since. *Alfred* exists in the spirit realm but is only slightly ahead in terms of spiritual understanding. I'm aware of what *Alfred* wishes to be said in that specific moment; but in that moment I have no recollection of what has been said or what will be said after. It is like a focused state with no to little awareness of external surroundings but only a glimpse of one word at a time to be said. (CC)

Brigitte Rix

I have two regular guides, *Silver Arrow* (my spirit guide and Door-Keeper) and *River Man.* In the background are a large team of higher-dimensional beings called the *Protectors of the Earth* who have never experienced life on Earth. The more 'advanced' or 'evolved' they are, the less likely they are to have individual names. Their Minds and thoughts blend and merge, and facts and knowledge are melded into one clear flow, which is then concentrated on to my receptive level. *Silver Arrow* and *River Man* act as go-betweens to ensure that there are no sudden breaks in the knowledge being communicated. The thoughts of the many Minds are constantly blended into 'one flow', sounding like just one Being is speaking. This is to avoid several Beings talking on top of each other; or adding their points of view, which may already have been communicated earlier. (BR)

Aims and Categorisation of Questions and Answers

Categories were assigned to the questions to aid analysis and weighting of answers according to the study aims. Of the 22 questions, 13 were classed as priority questions and divided into three categories. Five category A questions (1-5) aimed to ascertain the communicators' views on whether the Other Side and Mankind has failed or succeeded in accelerating or fostering human spiritual evolution in the past 166 years. Five category B questions (6-10) aimed to address other topics BICS was interested in. Three category C questions (11-13) were "controls" aimed at assessing: a) the accuracy of prediction from the Other Side; b) the willingness of the Other Side to commit to providing answers on the upcoming [US] presidential election; c) the ability to "receive wisdom" from the Other Side through *Imperator/William Stainton Moses/Allan Kardec*. The categories determined how we weighted the respective answer data in each category; more weight was placed on category A answers, less on B, and less again on C. Nine supplementary (category S) questions (14-22) aimed to collect extra data across all categories.

Number of Answers and Word Count per Medium

All mediums made better progress than one answer per fortnight and were therefore able, as new questions were added during the study, to answer more than the starting target of 15 per medium for the 30 weeks (see Table 5). Answers totalled 92. The median number of answers was 19. The total answer word count was 121,682. Words provided by each medium ranged between 7,824 (6.43%) and 63,620 (52.28%).

Table 5

Medium	Answers	Word Count	Word Count	
		_	% of Total	Rounded % of Total
LB	16	9936	8.16	8
MB	21	22932	18.85	19
SB	19	17370	14.27	14
CC	16	7824	6.43	6
BR	20	63620	52.28	52
Total	92	121682	99.99	99

Number of Answers and Word Count per Medium

Note. Median number of answers: 19.

Difficulties in Answering Associated with Definitions of Terms

Most communicators said they had difficulties answering questions before terms such as "spiritual," "spirituality," and "Other Side" had been defined. Answers regarding spiritual progress, for example, could only be given after definitions of "spiritual" and "progress" had been addressed. *Daniel* or *Ming* (via LB) said, "Spirituality is a deeply personal aspect of the human condition, and differing individuals and cultures may have opposing understandings of the definition of spirituality." The communicator then asked, "Do you define spirituality as a belief in a power greater than oneself? Or do you ask about those people who believe in the afterlife, and the ability to communicate with those who reside there?"

Four mediums agreed that spirituality involved showing love and compassion toward others. "Spirituality is not just sitting in a place of worship. It is a way of life, based on compassion..." (*PoE* via BR).

The fifth medium asserted that spiritual progression involves an individual becoming more spiritually aware and realising, "The true nature of themselves and the spiritual reality of which we are all part" (*Alfred* via CC).

The "Other Side" and "Afterlife" were generally taken, by the communicators, to mean the place to which humans transition when they die. These "locations" were also referred to as the "Spirit World" and "Our World." One medium said, "The Spirit World is in a different dimension to…the earth plane…The Other Side is a world of thought" (*Rector John* via SB). Another said that dead humans are met at a "reception area" but:

> [T]he Afterlife is not just that limited set of "reception level" slower vibrations, but also more subtle and superior and varied ranges of frequencies – like in higher levels, where Beings of creative Thinking who have not bothered

trying the Earth Experiment, are focusing on and delving into their own

Existences. (*PoE* via BR)

Thematic Analysis of Channeled Answers

Analysis of the data revealed three main themes:

- Some on the Other Side are helping human spiritual progress but there are obstacles
- Some on the Earth Side are spiritually progressing but there are obstacles
- All progress is individual as there is no "corporate" Other Side or Earth Side

Category A

Some on the Other Side Have Always Tried to Foster Human Spiritual Progress

All the communicators stated that the Other Side has always tried, and continues to try, to foster spiritual progress. The Other Side has been giving help and guidance in various ways to humans for thousands of years, way back before 1850: "Throughout...all 'times' and epochs, innumerable Beings of creative Thinking chose to go to the Earth as humans in order to bring Light and Hope to those in need of guidance" (*PoE* via BR).

The Other Side has been supporting those in the human condition since humans were able to have functioning logical minds. Those on the Other Side are observers of those in the human condition and are available for support and to guide, as we ourselves were once human and understand the challenges that can arise in the lifetime. (*Daniel* or *Unknown* via LB)

Another communicator agreed: "[W]e in my world are solely here to provide support and guidance as you walk your path in your world" (*Alfred* via CC).

The Other Side continues to try to inspire humans, "There have been initiations of new ideas to help those who are deprived of good health or means to live. Those ideas having...been inspired by Our World were bound to do some good" (*PoE* via BR).

The Other Side varies its methods as the Earth Side evolves. "We, in the Spirit World, are trying to reach people via modern media" (*Elk* via MB).

Once a person makes a choice to progress spiritually, "[W]e help to connect enlightened teachers and healers with those who are seeking guidance" (*Daniel* or *Unknown* via LB).

The Other Side will not stop trying.

We constantly try to plant seeds, even if it does not look very promising in certain areas and countries. But we shall never stop doing so, for the good reason that, as long as you pour light into darkness, light eventually will 'win' and overcome darkness. (*PoE* via BR)

The Other Side Focuses on Individual Spiritual Progress

Although all the communicators often implied in their answers that they were treating humanity's spiritual progress as corporate, (e.g. "you humans"), there was an underlying consensus across all answers that spiritual progress is made on an individual basis, depending on the choices made by the individual. "As each incarnate human has free will it is up to them whether they live a life of spiritual meaning or materialism" (*Rector John* via SB). "Perhaps where we have been most influential is at the time that a person decides of their own accord to explore their own spirituality. This is a choice that is being made by an individual" (*Daniel* or *Unknown* via LB). "Spiritual progress is primarily an individual and personal journey. It is difficult to make sweeping judgments about the spiritual progress of all individuals collectively" (*Daniel* via LB).

Accelerated Spiritual Progress

Acceleration of human spiritual progress appears not to be something on which the whole Other Side is focused for the whole of Mankind as there is plenty of time. *Daniel* or *Unknown* (via LB) stated that the Other Side is capable of helping accelerate human progress: "But it is never our intention to influence humanity to accelerate spiritual progress unless that request is made"; and "The enlightened ones can help accelerate spiritual progress among those who are ready to receive it."

Another medium thought the word "evolution" in the questions implied Earth Side speed and direction in the progression of spirituality, which is not the right way to look at it.

> There is no journey from point 'a' to point 'b', no velocity, whether that journey is what an Earthly Being would think of as travel or a symbolic journey towards spiritual progress or enlightenment. It is the spirit which progresses spiritually and not the physical self. (*Lama Prajna* via MB)

One medium wondered why accelerated progress should be attempted now, when Mankind has been on the earth for a long time and it will take eons of [Earth Side] time for humans to progress spiritually.

> We in our world are hopeful that...as the aeons of time go by...there will be a gradual awakening and those in your world...will come to realise the true nature of themselves and the spiritual reality of which we are all part. But this is not something we see occurring in your world at any great speed, and nor should we expect it to be so. (*Alfred* via CC)

Two mediums did not specifically refer to either speed or acceleration in their answers.

Human Spirituality is Only Deepening and Becoming More Common in Some

There was non-consensus as to whether human spirituality is deepening and becoming more common. One medium saw no evidence of an expansion of spirituality.

[M]any of the current World leaders, politicians and CEOs of vast companies call themselves Christians or spiritual people. No, they are not. They are misguided. So...there is absolutely no evidence of an increase in spirituality or a deepening. (*White Owl* via MB)

Another medium agreed that there was a lack of evidence for human spiritual progress. "If spirituality in humans is deepening that would imply that progress had been made. Logically there would be no wars, violence, refugees fleeing conflicts, rape, paedophiles, attacks on people due to their sexuality" (*Rector John* via SB).

Conversely, one medium said practices which evidence a deepening spirituality are increasing amongst a significant number of humans. Meditation, yoga, and other spiritual practices are spreading.

Spirituality has spilled over into schools, work establishments, and even into medical offices. A plethora of books are now available to the public that introduce people to spiritual practices and understanding. In the past, those book topics would have been relegated to specialty stores or available only in religious establishments. Public events that focus on spirituality are being hosted with a high level of interest. (*Daniel* or *Ming* via LB)

A number of mediums pointed out that assessing human spirituality is about more than communication with spirits and survival of spirits. "Modalities that were hidden from the general [presumably meaning Western] public in the past have now become commonplace...such as mindfulness, reiki, feng shui and mediumship. These are all recognized words today" (*Alfred* via CC).

People increasingly understand that spiritual practices are available to all people, and spirituality has become more inclusive to people from all backgrounds, rather than exclusive to religious or other specialist practitioners.

> While spiritual practices in the past were seen as God-given gifts, people are now understanding that these practices are available to all people, and spirituality has become more inclusive, rather than exclusive, to people from all cultural backgrounds. Access to information has contributed to increased awareness of spiritual practices, which has resulted in a deepening of spiritual exploration. (*Daniel* or *Ming* via LB)

The fifth medium's answer was nuanced.

[A]t first glance...overall it does not seem to have improved. As you have, on one hand, lots of possible communications (between the two worlds) taking place with people sitting in the quiet to reach higher vibrations; yet on the other hand, the leaders and wealthier people, as well as the armed forces leaders, seem to revel in self-centred, greedy manipulations, causing harm, killing, or war-faring all over the place. The picture is rather bleak in many areas. (*PoE* via BR)

A Major Obstacle is Free Will

All communicators agreed that the Other Side wants to help but they are hindered by the universal spiritual Law of Free Will, so there can be no "enforcement" by the Other Side, only "encouragement."

Free will is paramount in humans and guides, angels, and ascended masters cannot ride roughshod over that...You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make it drink. Nor can you manufacture humans to become enlightened...To be human is to have the free will to err. That is the greatest freedom, but also the biggest problem...Humans have free will and the Other Side will not interfere if someone is going down the wrong path. (*Rector John* via SB)

The Other Side has to adhere to the universal laws, "[W]e cannot force people, any being, to do anything...All beings have Free Will and Freedom of Choice" (*PoE* via BR).

Daniel or Unknown (via LB) said humans have to freely choose to make spiritual progress before help can be given: "[P]eople have free will to live their life of their own accord;" "Each person is free to make their own decisions and choices;" "It is free will that impedes and sabotages the progress of human spirituality. The glory of the gift of free will is only as beneficial as the way in which a person chooses to use it."

Absence of Other Side Omniscience is a Significant Obstacle

There is no omniscience of any spirit or spirit group on the Other Side. Whatever level spirits exist on or in, they are all learning and progressing spiritually, in the same way that spirits in human bodies are. Many spirits want to help but they do not always know how.

[T]though we are not in your world and we have transcended into ours, we are still quite fallible, our knowledge is not complete, and we too are still pursuing our own spiritual awareness...It may be quite true that, because we have passed into our world, we perhaps appreciate the reality of our spiritual nature but that does not mean we have all the answers, nor does it mean we should impose our conclusions upon those in your world. (*Alfred* via CC)

Forbidden Knowledge is Another Obstacle

There was consensus across all mediums that the Other Side withholds information from humanity as humans are not currently ready for it. "There is a wealth of information held here in the Spirit World that is not offered to human beings because the human mind often would not have the capacity to understand it, and confusion would ensue" (*New Female Guide* via LB). "[T]here are many pieces of information not transmitted to the incarnate...things that people are not ready for...Who makes the rules? All Life does at Soul Level" (*White Owl* and *Lama Prajna* via MB).

The Other Side Disagrees It Has Failed

There was consensus across all communicators that there had been no failure on the part of the Other Side. It is not their role to "succeed" in fostering overall human spirituality. They are available to help if they can; if and when asked. "[I]f a time comes in a person's life that they choose to move their awareness and understanding to a more spiritual nature, we will most certainly assist them in the learning and guidance" (*Daniel* or *Unknown* via LB).

There was, however, a consensus on the Other Side that the failures have been on Mankind's part. Humans are hampered by free will, greed, materialism, imposed religious beliefs, forgetting their spiritual nature, and a lack of mediums. "So, we can't reach into minds that are clouded by materialism, fear brought about by religious indoctrination...and just plain lack of knowledge about what they truly are" (*Lama Prajna* via MB).

Perceived failures were also due to some humans not following spiritual law.

[I]t is not so much a question of 'us failing' to ensure a return to the standard state of spirituality; it is the fact that there are those who foolishly and

selfishly chose and choose to ignore the Law...we cannot force them to do anything. (*PoE* via BR)

This is in part due to the difficulties associated with physical incarnation. Simply being contained in a physical body reduces the ability of the spirit in each human body to make contact with either its own higher spiritual self or Other Side spirits. "The dense energies of the earth plane make it hard for the human to hear their enlightened guides and the still small voice within" (*Rector John* via SB).

Humans are Responsible for the Failure of Spiritual Progress

The Other Side needs humans (incarnated spirits) to try harder, "We are trying but a lot more needs to come from the souls currently in the body" (*White Owl* via MB). Another medium added that humans close themselves off from spiritual thinking. "Many humans are not aware that they are a spirit in a body. They go through life seeking wealth, and hooked on materialism. They have Guides and inspirers who cannot reach [them]" (*Rector John* via SB).

The communicator identifying as *William Stainton Moses* said each human is in some way responsible for the failure to achieve overall spiritual progress.

What is needed, dear people of the Earth world, is that you straighten up your mental attitudes, face the facts shown to you and accept that every single one of you is at fault in a way, for what is happening to your world. You have anger and greed floating all over your world. (*PoE* via BR)

The Influence of Earthbound Spirits, Bad Spirits, and Bad Humans

There was non-consensus across the mediums about the existence and potential influence of earthbound spirits. There was also non-consensus as to a definition of that term. There was consensus that bad spirits and bad humans (bad spirits in Earth bodies) exist. Four of the mediums thought that a limited number of bad spirits could have an effect on some humans. These bad spirits would not necessarily be defined as "earthbound".

White Owl (via MB) acknowledged the existence of earthbound spirits, who: "[M]ay 'hang around' the Earth Plane and not move on into the next phase of life. Now, whether these earthbound spirits can or will impede, sabotage or distort the progress of human evolution is questionable and frankly doubtful." Spirits in human bodies (whose temporary physicality tempts and allows them to forget their ultimately spiritual nature), not earthbound spirits, are overwhelmingly responsible for bad things on the Earth Side.

> [I]t sounds like you think that there are loads of marauding Earthbound spirits ganging up on Earthly humans, preventing them from being or becoming spiritually aware. I know that there are some dreadful human beings in the world but their behaviour has an incredible number of reasons for it and mainly not caused by Earthbound spirits. In fact, most humans who make cruel and unkind choices in life are so lost in the illusion that they are singular living beings only living for themselves, that they wouldn't be aware of a Spirit Being if it slapped them round the face, screamed at them or managed to throw things around. Goodness me, if it was that easy for we Spirit Guides to reach people, don't you think we would? (*White Owl* via MB)

One medium stated that earthbound spirits are relatively weak, "[W]e doubt they would be able to 'conquer' or influence your whole world population...simply because their Mindpower handling is not that efficient" (*PoE* via BR).

CC's communicator, *Alfred*, said it takes a great deal of effort for individuals who have discarded their physical form to remain "bound" to the Earth Side. This communicator, who left

the Earth Side many years ago, states he is, "[Y]et to come across any individual who is bound to the Earth."

LB, in contrast to the other mediums who thought that earthbound spirits can have an (albeit limited) effect on living humans, said, "It is not earthbounds that impede, for there are truly no such beings" (*Daniel* via LB).

The general consensus was that there are a significant majority of good spirits on the Other Side and good humans on the Earth Side so that bad spirits and bad humans could not have sufficient influence to be blamed for lack of spirituality and spiritual evolution amongst living humans.

Solutions for Human Spiritual Progress

Those on the Other Side are always trying to help and guide those on the Earth Side. They offered some solutions for the evolution of human spirituality.

Encourage Spiritual Education. Four out of the five mediums said that spiritual education for everybody would enable individuals to understand their true nature, "There is not sufficient education about the fact that we have a soul, that we do not die" (*Rector John* via SB). One medium suggested there could be more schools, "[R]un on an open, encouraging, respectful basis, with the administration listening directly to us, the Guides, not the egos of those on the Earth plane who have forgotten about the Oneness of life" (*White Owl* via MB).

Practise Meditation. There was consensus that practising meditation will help individuals with their spiritual progress as well as facilitating connection to the Other Side, "Perhaps the use of modern methods in meditation, modern methods in consciousness studies...[could provide] insight into...the spirituality of the individual, this will provide and maintain the bond of communication between our two worlds" (*Alfred* via CC). "The true self, the undying eternal soul, is an unconditionally loving energy. The way for us to expand is to find that soul through meditation" (*White Owl* via MB). "Spiritual gifts are by-products of meditation" (*Rector John* and *Han* via SB).

One medium said meditation should be taught to children as, "[T]hat would help their mental health and a much better connection to the Other Side" (*PoE* via BR). The same medium added, "Also, encouraging people to learn how to access altered states of consciousness would help people to go deeper to stop their minds from interfering with what the Other Side is trying to inspire them with."

Practise Telepathy. As well as meditation, humans should practise telepathy, which BR described as "mind to mind communication." "Spirits are minds on the Other Side. Practise telepathy on Earth Side first with Earth Side people, plants, and animals and you will then know how to develop telepathy with the Other Side" (*PoE* via BR).

Encourage Mediumship. The Other Side still wants to inspire humans to become mediums so that they can use them as human instruments to spread their important message that humans are spirits in bodies. Mediumship and demonstrations of the fact of Survival of the human personality after permanent bodily death need to be encouraged, as recipients of the knowledge will share with others and some will become mediums themselves.

Two mediums stated that there are not enough well-trained mediums at present to deliver more useful communications from the Other Side, or to be able to take part in more scientific trials. *White Owl* (via MB) said, "Our suggestions to support modern scientific investigation into mediumship must also include good training for Mediums so that, should an investigator attend a demonstration of mediumship of any kind, they will witness something astounding, supportive and life changing." **Train Researchers.** Researchers need to know how to interview and interact with mediums. A researcher should not expect to get informative answers each time they ask a medium a question, especially if it requires specialist knowledge.

Investigators cannot expect specific technical questions, for example, to be answered automatically, simply because a medium is in trance...Testing...needs to be done over several sessions...and hopefully numerous communicators will come to provide satisfactory replies, if it is within their knowledge...[A] communicator does not necessarily have whatever knowledge your investigators may decide to extract. The question is: at what level of mental vibration and knowledge is that communicator, at that moment? (*PoE* via BR)

Promote Spiritual Science. Use all means to try to persuade scientists and other influencers of the benefits of Spiritual Science.

We rejoice that the resurgence of physical seances, and modern experiments in Spiritual Science, including spirit communicators using electronic devices, can be promoted nowadays, to demonstrate without a doubt the survival of the departed and the reality of a dynamic, invisible level of frequencies. (*PoE* via BR)

Category B

Technological Growth and the Risk of Human Self-inflicted Extinction

There was consensus across the mediums that science and technology–without ethics, responsibility, and spirituality–has been the cause of a lot of problems. BR shared that humans overestimating their advanced technology and not using it sensibly and spiritually could lead to extinction if they "did not have the intuition, know-how, and wisdom to resist 'shooting first' the

moment they saw something that they are not accustomed to" against the "superior forces" of [alien] visitors to the Earth.

There was some agreement that human technological growth, without a spiritual attitude, is harming the planet and this may get so bad that humans can no longer live on Earth.

If there were awareness of the soul and unconditional love, then there might be a different attitude to the effects on all life on the planet. There also might be consideration of where are souls going to incarnate if the earth cannot sustain human life? Souls would have to...find somewhere else to incarnate. (*Rector John* via SB)

Science and technology could also be a part of the solution. With ethics, responsibility, and spirituality, science and technology could help alleviate humanity's challenges. MB suggested that there must be "wholeness of self within the creation [of the technology]...The fundamental energy here is harmony. Technology must be balanced in its creation and its usage" (*White Owl* and *Lama Prajna*)

In answering the self-inflicted extinction question, some mediums wanted to offer some words of hope.

Despite the violence and harmful words in the current world, never underestimate the power of the human spirit. It is stronger than weapons, and stronger than words. Putting a negative connotation on the world situations does not heal. Faith in the human spirit, and the Divine essence that lives in each person, will not allow for a self-inflicted extinction to occur in the world. (*Daniel* via LB)

Humans are intrinsically good. At their core, they are unconditionally loving.

More attention needs to be given to this fundamental truth. How? Through projects such as this [BICS Challenge]. Through listening to the great spiritual teachers of the Earth, both past and present, and using platforms that are used in modern life. (*White Owl* via MB)

The consensus message was that the problems arising from humanity having the use of ever-advancing technology could be solved by individual humans making make more spiritual choices and actively working to do more good and less harm.

Regaining the Golden Age of Scientific Engagement with Mediumship

There was consensus that scientific engagement with mediums to suit today's world requires new methods and approaches. One new method and approach would be mediumship experiments using "energy" rather than the "ectoplasm" used during the "Golden Age."

> If we have something to suggest, it would be to let go of the past method of physical mediumship, and focus on the more 'modern' ways...Ectoplasm has done a good job, but it was not meant to be in existence or in use forever...These days, you seem to have regained the Energy-Based phenomena...This type of physical demonstration should be encouraged and recognised as having some value...There have already been numerous cases of interest from the more scientifically-minded section of your populations...[e.g.] the use of your electronic and electric devices and appliances, for some beings coming from Our World to make their presence known. And we gather that there will be far more happenings created that way, over the 'years' ahead—because it is 'easier' for those in Our World to play with, and manipulate such vibrations, in order to attract your attention and leave messages, so to speak. (*PoE* via BR)

Another medium suggested that the Other Side is actively seeking to use modern technology to communicate. This may or may not require a medium.

Two mediums were not against further research but stated that more well-trained mediums are needed for mediumship to be scientifically researched effectively again.

Spirit Transition "Chaos" During Modern Wars

One medium pointed out that wars have not been the only large-scale transitions to the Other Side. "[F]or many millennia, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and all manner of natural phenomena, famine, droughts...have caused many hundreds if not thousands of deaths" (*Alfred* via CC).

There was consensus that all the dead are met in an orderly fashion on the Other Side. "Each person who crosses from physical to spirit is welcomed by those who have been waiting for the arrival...There are no surprises and there is no turmoil" (*Two Unknown* via LB).

There was consensus that there is no chaos on the Other Side during modern wars. "There is no time on the Other Side. Thus, there is no queue of humans and other beings waiting to go to the Other Side" (*Rector John* via SB).

As time is irrelevant to spirit, chaos doesn't ensue when a lot of people pass over at once. Spirit People are also not confined to space in the sense of being in one location at a time. It is possible to be in many places at once, or that's how it would look to a human. (*White Owl* via MB)

The humans passing over are assessed so that those on the Other Side know how to assist them.

We need to try and 'separate' the different possibilities of arrivals, as it always depends on the state of Mind and emotions of the victims—even in a normal (not wartime) situation...The circumstances and the state of Mind of the victim will be seen to accordingly, and will trigger the 'methods' that the Team uses to help the new arrival. (*PoE* via BR)

Relationship and Communication Between Extraterrestrials and Humans on the Other Side

Two mediums had no experience of extraterrestrials (ET) so were unable to comment. One said, "My interest has not been in exploring other dimensions or communication with extraterrestrials...I am unable to be of much assistance in answering your questions because I have not explored those areas of knowledge or alternate dimensions" (*Daniel* via LB).

The three other mediums agreed there is a relationship and communication. One said:

I most certainly do communicate with extraterrestrials as does my Ward [medium] from time to time. I am discarnate, my Ward is incarnate. Some of those who are extraterrestrials that I communicate with – and who can communicate through my Ward's Mediumship with my support – are discarnate extraterrestrials, and some are incarnate. There is one particular race of extraterrestrials that live in a fluid environment, for example, who communicate with one another telepathically and have developed technology to amplify that. They are able to communicate mind to mind with Human Psychics and Mediums quite successfully, but they are not necessarily discarnate. These extraterrestrials communicate quite naturally with their own discarnate relatives at will. (*White Owl* via MB)

A second said that humans and ETs can communicate on the Other Side. "On the Other Side there is no body, there is only thought [used for] communication... Extraterrestrials and humans [have] the same awareness" (*Rector John* via SB).

A third offered a different perspective. There are ETs, similar physically to humans, who, like humans, will leave their bodies when they die and go to a "reception area" on the Other Side. Generally, an ET will be on a different vibrational frequency to a human. However, if they both share similar thinking they may be on the same wavelength. "In which case, he [the ET] may be 'seen' or 'felt' or sensed by a discarnate human, especially if that ex-human was aware of, or believed in, the existence of other Beings outside his ex-earthly environment" (*PoE* via BR).

Category C

The Result of the US Presidential Election 2024

When asked to predict the result of the US Presidential election in 2024 none of the mediums predicted who would win. One medium said that free will and free choices made by presidential candidates and voters would determine the outcome. "Everyone has free will. They can choose to vote or not vote and for whom they want to" (*White Owl* via MB).

Another stated that, "This is impossible to predict as so many factors come into play" (*Rector John* and *Han* via SB).

One medium shared, "[I]t would not be appropriate for us to make comments about what we see as future events in your world due to the possible impact and consequences of choices made due to having this knowledge" (*Alfred* via CC).

One medium stated that those on the Other Side can only see potential outcomes and probabilities. "What we can look at is potential, which comes of the decisions and actions that a person makes" (*Daniel* via LB). Another medium agreed, "Your grid of 'thought-energies'...to us is like staring at endless tidal waves of possibilities which could swing one way or the other if a larger portion or wave 'interfered' with the rest" (*PoE* via BR). The same medium suggested

that, if we want to predict the future, we should train people here on the Earth Side. "[H]ave people doing this properly and regularly in your human world, then you would be much more equipped to have 'predictions' diagnosed – i.e. you would have some reliable 'antennas' within your own set of vibrational frequencies" (*PoE* via BR).

Contact and Communication with William Stainton Moses and Imperator

Only two mediums (MB and BR) were able to make contact with a communicator who identified as *William Stainton Moses* (*WSM*). Both mediums wrote in the present tense, implying that *WSM* and *Imperator*, his communicator when WSM was alive, are still connected on the Other Side.

Both mediums channeled correct information about the life of WSM, some easily verifiable and some which we had to search for in archival material. Some facts were incorrect, and some not possible for us to verify. *WSM* explained his difficulties:

You may want to ask me questions, but it is not certain I could reply about details of that physical life. It has been a long 'time', so to speak...This would mean a lot of recollection... It is not easy to pinpoint 'moments' once one is here, you know (*WSM* via BR).

When MB asked if *Imperator* thought that Earth Side had improved or deteriorated in the last 150 years, MB's communicator reported *WSM*'s answer.

Imperator is concerned that humans are still killing one another. He has noticed the extremes to which faith, religion, politics, and wealth [have] taken people...He is saddened by the polluting effects of modern industrialisation but acknowledges that there is a growing wave of environmentalism. (*White Owl*) *Imperator*'s advice (via MB's guide *White Owl*) to Mankind in 2023 was to "focus on [your] individual awareness and development thus allowing [you] to expand into compassion for others and [your] world." *WSM*'s advice was "attune to [your] Higher Mind so that [you] live according to God's will and not [your] own."

Contact and Communication with Allan Kardec

Only one medium (MB) was able to make contact with a communicator who identified as *Allan Kardec*. The answers about his life were a mixture of factually correct, incorrect, and unverifiable (by us) information.

Kardec appeared to be somewhat disillusioned with the progress of Spiritism and Spiritualism:

He [*Kardec*] feels disappointed in the lack of progress in Spiritism. It is not so much a religious path but one of science and proof of life after death...he believes that Spiritism has failed to reach a significant portion of the World population in exactly the same way that Spiritualism has failed too. He says that there are too few decent exponents of either discipline, insufficient monies invested and no powerful figureheads (*White Owl* for *Kardec* via MB).

He said it is hard to help humans who do not want to listen, especially if they allow themselves to be influenced by bad spirits.

AK [*Allan Kardec*] seems to be showing me that Human Beings need to confer, we need to talk and bring differing points of view together but that many greedy and bloodthirsty Spirit People are still influencing World leaders. This can be directly, through mediumistic means but also, and predominantly, through national memories, influences and feuds. Those in charge, the politicians, are not

seeking spiritual elevation. They are only interested in retaining their position of power. (*Kardec* via MB)

Discussion

This exploratory study found that there was a general consistency of answers from each medium and across all mediums when asked similar questions from different viewpoints. We found consensus, non-consensus and contradictions. Across the mediums, there were a number of clear and common themes. There was Other Side unwillingness or inability to answer some questions such as those involving prediction and knowledge that could not be shared. Identity questions resulted in some verifiably correct answers, some incorrect answers, and some that were either ambiguous or that we were unable to verify.

There was consensus amongst the Other Side communicators that they disagree with the BICS premise that the Other Side has failed to promote human spiritual evolution in the past 166 years. However, there was consensus that some of Mankind has failed. Following these two consensuses along a logical path, if Mankind has partially failed in accelerating and fostering human spiritual evolution, then the Other Side *must* have, at least partially, failed; if it is conceded that the Other Side can be held to account for Mankind's failure. This is apparently not conceded by the Other Side. Firstly, the Other Side says it cannot be held accountable as it is not responsible for human spiritual evolution; individual humans are. The contribution of individual spirits or spirit groups to the progress of human spirituality from the Other Side–should they choose to help, and be able to help–can only be one of assistance and encouragement, not coercion and enforcement. This is partly due to all-encompassing spiritual laws that some spirits forget when they incarnate in human bodies. In other words, the Other Side is restricted in what it can do, especially by the universal law of free will which allows any spirit the choice to behave

badly and unspiritually, whether in a human body or otherwise. Secondly, in the same way that there is no corporate Earth Side thinking, purpose, or action, there is no corporate Other Side thinking, purpose, or action; as below, so above. So the Other Side is not corporately responsible or accountable for anything. These two contributing factors, and others, including obstacles, suggest that a degree of context and nuance is required if the BICS premise is to be addressed properly.

Some Context and Nuance

When addressing the BICS Challenge questions, those on the Other Side apparently wanted to provide some context and nuance for the discussion.

Definitions of Terms

It is clear from the answers that communicators felt that definitions of terms needed to be considered before appropriate answers could be given. This is perhaps to be expected. Just as humans would want to define a term such as, say, "spirituality," before having any discussion about whether it has "progressed" or "evolved"; the spirits said the same.

There has been Partial Failure and Partial Success on Both Sides

Whatever definitions are used, on balance, from the Earth Side perspective, this study suggests that both the Other Side and Mankind have only partially failed, or only partially succeeded, in accelerating or fostering human spiritual evolution between 1857 and 2023. The individual spirits and spirit groups who communicated extremely optimistic visions of the future back in the 1850s, and in other communications between then and now, appear to have been at least partially mistaken.

We use "partially" regarding the failure or success of either side because the answers showed a consensus opinion amongst individual spirits and spirit groups on the Other Side that, since 1857, Other Side individual spirit and spirit group effort, when it is requested by individual spirits in human bodies, has contributed to *some* spiritual progress for *some* spirits incarnated in human bodies.

Individuals are the Key Focus for Spiritual Progress

A common thread was that individual thinking, behaviour, and responsibility are the issues to be addressed in any discussion about spiritual progress; this being the case whether a spirit is incarnate on the Earth Side or disincarnate on the Other Side. There was consensus amongst the individuals and groups of communicators contacted that there is no "corporate" Other Side speaking with one voice or acting as one unified whole. Our impression is that this is similar to many human organisations which have many individual members with diverse views and sub-groups of members who agree on certain issues but which have no "corporate" view. In other words, "as below, so above."

Individuals and Groups on the Other Side Have Limited Knowledge and Capability

No spirit or spirit group is anywhere near all-knowing. All spirits have a particular area, or areas, of expertise, or lack thereof. For example, there was uncertainty for some as to the existence of non-human intelligences or extraterrestrials. A thought-provoking comment from the communicators was that some spirits in human bodies are more knowledgeable and more spiritually evolved than some spirits on the Other Side, which raises questions about the purpose of incarnation. If the purpose is to spiritually progress, why would a highly evolved and knowledgeable spirit incarnate on Earth when less evolved and knowledgeable spirits remain on the Other Side? One answer given was that highly evolved spirits, that is those sufficiently evolved to not forget who they really are when they take human form, incarnate from time to time to try to move humans along in the direction of spiritual progress.

The Other Side is Multi-Leveled and Complex

There is no single "Other Side" environment. There are many levels, areas, or realms of existence, of which the Afterlife destination for human spirits when they leave the body is just one. Some of the discarnate communicators have never had an incarnation in a human body, nor any other body; so they are not former human spirits. Therefore, the whole of the Other Side cannot be held collectively responsible for failures on the Earth Side.

The Situation on Both Sides is Complex

Given these considerations, it is understandable that the Other Side would want to provide some context and nuance because the situation on both sides is complex. All mediums (i.e. their communicators) agreed that some on the Other Side have succeeded in fostering human spiritual evolution in some ways, including an expansion of spiritual practises. The reasons for any apparent failures on the part of Mankind include universal free will and spirits forgetting their spiritual origins and purpose when they incarnate. Given the complexity and obstacles, there appears to be little hope of an overall securing of "human spirituality" in the near-future unless more individual spirits in human bodies make more spiritual choices.

All the mediums regularly mentioned "Mankind" and "humanity"; implying a whole or corporate humankind. However, they all also regularly stated that spiritual progress is very much a uniquely individual concern and individual spirits and spirit groups on the Other Side can only influence humans one at a time; with the hope being that there will be enough humans influenced that the overall effect is collective progress. In the same vein, the communicators regularly said "we" when talking about the Other Side, as if it might be one unified whole, but then all described very different experiences, levels of knowledge, or areas of focus, implying a complex environment and no corporate Other Side view. The use of "we" also clearly sometimes referred to a particular group of spirits who had previously said that they were communicating as a group with one consensus voice, so the message was only from that particular group. These apparently irreconcilable individual and holistic perspectives might be reconciled with an appreciation of the idea that each individual is a part of a single greater whole. Like a droplet of water in a sea, the whole is in the individual and the individual is in the whole.

Some Challenging Problems

There is Universal Free Will on Both Sides

Individual spirits, whether in bodies, out of bodies, earthbound, bad, or good, and whether or not they band together in gangs, groups, teams, or collectives, cause and are responsible for all problems that involve free will choices. The existence of a universal right to make free will choices will inevitably be a problem if enough individual spirits in human bodies make choices to behave badly and do harm. The challenges of physical, material existence, including those associated with pure survival (in the "of the fittest" sense) make purely spiritual choices difficult. This appears to be appreciated by some on the Other Side who have had a physical life on Earth. They understand that free will choices become much harder and more complicated when one has a physical body-that needs feeding, clothing, and protecting from the elements-and responsibility for vulnerable living human beings such as children, the sick, and the elderly. This appears to be one point of incarnation; it's more difficult to make spiritual choices when there are physical considerations and consequences like hunger, pain, and death. It may therefore be a reasonable question to ask a spirit adviser whether they have ever experienced a life on Earth. Those who have chosen never to incarnate or who cannot incarnate as a human may not have so much relevant knowledge to impart about being a human living on Earth as one who has had one or many earthly incarnations.

There are Amnesiac Spirits on the Earth Side

Entering the physical human body in the material Earth Side environment causes many spirits to forget their original spiritual nature and purpose. Many of these amnesiac spirits get over-enamoured with the attractions of the physical experience and pursue the material rather than the spiritual path.

There are Communication Obstacles Between the Sides

There are obstacles to clear communication between the sides which prevent spiritual knowledge reaching more humans. There was consensus that humans on the Earth Side are spirits in bodies. Physical incarnation creates limitations for those embodied spirits in regard to thinking and action. Communication limitations create obstacles which are partly responsible for the unspiritual behaviour of some humans. However, even if they could communicate loudly and clearly, there is still the problem that those on Other Side would not be able to impose individual or group thinking on humans, or otherwise influence their actions, due mainly to the universal spiritual Law of Free Will.

There is Some Inability or Unwillingness to Share Knowledge

Another potential problem is the ability or willingness to share knowledge. There was hesitancy, inability, or refusal by those on the Other Side to provide specific future event or useful technological data. In some instances the reason given was that humans would not understand the answers. Some humans, including us, may think this is not a satisfactory explanation for not giving a complete answer and letting us try to assimilate it. Other investigators have agreed. One emeritus professor of electrical engineering commented on this point for a previous study: We were often told by the communicators that we would not be able to understand explanations of what was going on. I think there were times when we all wished that they would just explain fully and let us decide whether we understood or not! (Solomon & Solomon, 2006, p. 16)

The Communicator Identity Problem

There is a long-standing problem in mediumship research associated with the claimed identities of communicators. Others (Keen et al., 1999, pp. 305-306) have noted some of the difficulties involved in trying to identify communicators by addressing the question, If they are genuine, should they not identify themselves, enabling us to check their authenticity? No phenomena or statements depend solely on investigators knowing the identity of the spirit communicators. In most cases the evidence would neither be supported nor undermined by the communicators revealing their names. Previous efforts to test the credentials of named communicators have produced varied and confusing results. Some communicators show a good recollection of names, events, persons and places; others do not. There appears to be no relationship between the strength of memory of earthly lives and the accuracy of the information imparted. Even if evidence of identity is strong, anything which turns out to be accurate will be known, immediately or eventually, to the inquirer, so it could be labelled as precognitive telepathy. If the information cannot be confirmed, it is not relevant evidence. Given the above, the communicators want investigators to concentrate on the actual evidence, not on often unresolvable arguments about those responsible for its origin.

The Communicator-Channeler Information Source Problem

A related verification problem for researchers is that much skepticism about channeled material stems from the alleged source or sources of the information. Does the content arise from

the purported communicator or from some aspect of the channeling medium? Some researchers have suggested, in apparent agreement with some on the Other Side, setting aside the question of the communicating source until adequate tools exist to confirm or deny the true source of channeled information; in the meantime, the focus could remain on the validity and usefulness of the content itself (Wahbeh, 2021, pp. 119–120).

Some Challenging Solutions

The "Worst Case Scenario" Solution

Ultimately, if humans use their technological progression to annihilate themselves and their home planet, all would not be lost for spirits in human bodies. Since "spirit" is the original and ultimate form of existence, those spirits in bodies killed by any Human Extinction Catastrophe would transition to be spirits on the Other Side. Spirits who were planning to incarnate as humans on the Earth Side, either for the first time or again (if reincarnation is an actual option), could incarnate elsewhere. So, whilst it is not considered by those on the Other Side to be the most desirable option, there would at least be other physical worlds on which spirits could incarnate in order to have experiences and the potential to make spiritual progress not available when on the Other Side.

The "All for One and One for All" Solution

One theoretical physicist (Bohm, 1983), a colleague of Einstein, suggested that individuality is only possible if it unfolds from wholeness, the "implicate order" or the deepest and most fundamental order of reality. If that is true, all individuals are a part of an underlying "whole". Perhaps this is one reason why some of those on the Other Side consistently mentioned the need for each individual to make spiritual progress as that will in turn benefit the whole. This underlying reality may perhaps also explain the apparent "All for One and One for All" motivation of those evolved spirits who understand it; and hence why they keep gently trying to help each individual spirit to make some spiritual progress for the greater good. In this approach, if sufficient individuals on the Earth Side make free will choices to think and behave more spiritually, overall spiritual progress, and a reduced chance of self-inflicted extinction, could be the result.

The "Overcoming Obstacles to Communication" Solution

Since individuals and groups on the Other Side said they are constantly trying to generate new ways of communicating, one way to achieve this could be humans making greater efforts to overcome the communication obstacles between the sides. This could involve encouraging more humans to discover and use their innate mediumistic talents by changing their attitudes towards contact and communication with the Other Side, including with instruments. It could also involve offering more and higher levels of training to mediums via courses and literature. This could lead to better and more regular contact with good individual spirits and spirit groups on the Other Side. Spiritual progress may then have a chance.

The "Spiritual Science" Solution

Spiritual science is based on the fundamental idea that a human is a spirit essence in a body, a significant theme emerging from this study. This is not the current approach taken by the dominant materialism in science, which treats matter as if it were dead stuff, incapable of producing life, let alone consciousness. An increasing number of scientists and philosophers agree that humans cannot keep pretending to believe that our own experience is just an illusion, which it would have to be if that dead matter were the only reality. In this view, for spiritual science to progress, humanity needs a new mind-body paradigm that acknowledges both the immaterial and material aspects of the lived human experience. "We must somehow find different, more realistic ways of understanding human beings as the active wholes that they are, rather than pretending to see them as meaningless consignments of chemicals" (Midgely, 2012).

More communication with the Other Side could lead to the progression of spiritual science. One eminent psychologist (Foy, 1996), a former president of the Society for Psychical Research, said that physical [psychical] phenomena could lead us to rethink some of the most cherished laws of science and, if this happens, history will rank researcher Robin Foy alongside Lodge, Crookes, Conan Doyle and the other great investigators of the past. In a 1995 entry in his comprehensive diary (Foy, 2023) of a five-year, 500-session, physical and mental mediumship experiment, in which a significant amount of spirit wisdom was communicated, Foy says, "It was during this sitting on 4 August that Manu [the spirit gatekeeper between the Other Side and the Earth Side] gave us the spirit team's own definition of Spiritual Science as being 'the science of life and the afterlife'." What might humans learn if these communication channels to the Other Side were systematically opened up using a Spiritual Science approach?

Some (Bohm, 1983) take the view that, in the West, society has mainly emphasized the development of science and technology (dependent on measure) while in the East, the main emphasis has gone to religion and philosophy (which are directed ultimately toward the immeasurable). A "spiritual science" combination of the two approaches, the immaterial immeasurable and the material measurable, may give humanity as a whole a better chance of avoiding self-inflicted extinction and maintaining its viability over the next twenty to thirty years and beyond.

Humanity may already be on the way to changing its approach. One psychologist (Tart, 2009), internationally known for his work on the nature of consciousness, posits the end of

materialism. The findings of materialistic science have been accepted as if they were the final truth about everything in the universe and anything that does not fit this is automatically rejected rather than scientifically examined. But the idea that somehow science has disproven the spiritual is not factually correct. Evidence of the paranormal is bringing science and spirit together. In this view, humans are already on the road to a different outlook. The future lies in an all-encompassing spiritual science approach rather than the unavoidably limited materialistic science approach.

If humanity, or at least more humans, could be persuaded by the Other Side to take a spiritual science approach with an "all for one and one for all" attitude, the science and philosophy of the future may involve a combination of the physical and the non-physical– material and spiritual–aspects of life. If the "beyond a reasonable doubt" evidence provided in the BICS Essay Contest 2021 and elsewhere by many eminent scientists and philosophers of the past and present is sufficient to change the current approach and attitude of humanity, discoveries on the frontiers of spiritual science could be just around the corner. Spiritual science could provide answers which would not be possible to achieve by a purely materialistic science approach. On the basis of the evidence, if it wants to survive as a species, can humanity afford *not* to pursue the spiritual science approach, including "Asking The Other Side" as often and as vigorously as possible?

Conclusion

There was consensus across the communicators (via the mediums) that the Other Side disagrees that is has failed to promote human spiritual evolution in the 1857-2023 period. The communicators said those on the Other Side have no corporate responsibility for doing so. Some spirits and spirit groups on the Other Side are available and able to help when asked by

individual spirits incarnated in human bodies. Humans fail to progress spiritually by not asking for help and by making free will choices to do harm.

If more channels of communication, whether human or technological or a combination of both, can be opened up, there could be more opportunities for the Other Side to transmit, potentially useful and actionable, valid and verified higher order information. Valuable wisdom, not available via currently accepted "normal" methods of enquiry, could result. On the Earth Side, humans could use such communication channels to systematically interrogate the Other Side, through the use of robust methodologies; with the aim of receiving potentially useful and actionable information as well as cautiously assessing the identity, capability, and intent of the communicators in more depth. If the credentials of relevant communicators could be satisfactorily established (important in the context of observed and recorded apparent "trickster" and non-benevolent behaviours throughout history), a new "spiritual science" approach to knowledge and wisdom acquisition and material science and technology could emerge and be normalised. One Nobel laureate, Charles Richet, said about his observations in psychical research, "I never said it was possible, I only said it was true." If more channels of communication with the Other Side are opened up by more studies such as this BICS Challenge, the "impossible", yet apparently "true", events observed during physical and mental mediumship experiments, and the possibly related encounters associated with the ET/UFO Phenomenon, might be better explained and understood. Once these explanations and understandings are assimilated, the currently impossible, extraordinary, and paranormal may become possible, ordinary, and normal. If this novel spiritual science knowledge and wisdom could then be applied wisely, the world may be a better place than it would otherwise have been, both materially and spiritually.

This pilot study offers insights into improving future "Spiritual Science" studies attempting to obtain valuable higher order information through channels of communication with the Other Side.

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Appendix A

BICS Category C Questions 12 and 13:

Sub-questions in Question 12

- i. Can WSM speak about his health during his last incarnation?
- Can WSM describe any details of Imperator's retinue/team when Imperator was communicating with WSM?
- iii. On July 6th 1873, Imperator revealed his earthly personality identity to WSM (after much pressure from WSM). What was the name that Imperator revealed to WSM?
- iv. Please name WSM's father and mother and what was the profession of WSM's father?
- v. Which specific college did WSM attend?
- vi. Describe how WSM first encountered spiritualism?
- vii. Can you summarize Imperator's central message to the people of Earth when WSM communicated with Imperator (1873-1876)?
- viii. In 2023/2024, 150 years after Imperator and WSM communicated, can WSM or Imperator provide people on earth with a summary of how they judge
 Mankind has progressed in the last 150 years?
- ix. What advice can WSM and/or Imperator give to Mankind in 2023?
- x. During the 1870s Imperator gave many warnings to WSM about "malignant and deceptive spirits" adversely influencing humans. In 2023 are "malignant and deceptive spirits" more or less impacting humans than during the 1870s?

xi. Imperator made the following observation to WSM in 1874: "We leave the society of the perfected, and the atmosphere in which dwells peace; we quit the light and the love, the harmony and the adoration of the spheres, and we descend to your cold earth, to a clime of darkness and despair-to an atmosphere of repulsion and sorrow-to an air heavy with misery and guilt-to a people disobedient, unbelieving, steeped in materialism, and dead to spirit influence-to a world crowded thick with vice, surrounded by the spirits of the undeveloped, and deaf to the voice of God." Our question is: From your standpoint on the "Other Side" has the atmosphere of "cold earth" improved or deteriorated in the last 150 years?

Sub-questions in Question 13

- i. Where precisely did Allan Kardec go to school as a boy?
- ii. Please name the two young girls who initially became the main two mediums that transmitted most of the information for his book The Spirit's Book.
- iii. Since Allan Kardec's death on March 31, 1869, please ask Mr. Kardec to evaluate the success or failure of Spiritism on Earth up to the year 2024 and what, in his opinion are the main reasons(s) for the perceived success or failure?
- iv. What advice does Mr. Kardec wish to transmit to the people of Earth to help humanity in 2024? "Since 1869 (when Mr. Kardec died), has the Other Side/Afterlife failed and Mankind failed to achieve good progress in securing the advancement and expansion of human spiritualty? If so, in our world in 2024, is it your evaluation that bad/unevolved spirits with malevolent intent in

the Afterlife and bad/malicious incarnated humans on Earth are winning the "battle between good and evil"?

- v. In the years since you were alive on planet Earth (1869) explain to people on Earth why the Other Side has not failed in fostering spiritual evolution 1869-2024?
- vi. What difference has the Other Side made in the past since 1869 in influencing humans to accelerate their spiritual progress?
- vii. To what extent have unevolved, earthbound, evil (your words see The Spirits' Book) spirits since 1869 impeded, sabotaged or distorted the progress of human spiritual evolution?
- viii. To what extent have unevolved, earthbound, evil (your words see "The Spirit's Book") spirits since 1869 impeded, sabotaged or distorted the progress of human spiritual evolution?