

FAMILY PHOTO IS SPIRIT TEST

"It often amazes me that quite a number of people get extraordinarily good evidence from a sitting, but are not satisfied unless it contains a nickname a special feature or something they feel the communicator should have said." So writes London medium Ronald Hearn, who examines the whole issue of sittings and survival evidence, including, as usual, some unusual psychic stories to illustrate his point.

Many seem to think we can demand evidence of survival through the services of a medium, but from my experience we can only hope that contact may be possible and then consider what comes through. In my work, I always advise people to approach sittings with a completely open mind and not to have any preconceived ideas concerning what they should hear, but to listen to what they do hear and to judge the results accordingly. This I suggest both with private sittings and proxy taped sittings.

A lot of people tend to believe they can remember all that comes through, but I advise taping sittings since once a session is over it is easy to forget exactly what was said and how it was said. There is often a great deal of subtlety in messages we receive and only time will reveal the hidden content. Many people have told me - especially in the case of taped proxy sittings - that although they were satisfied on first hearing, as time passes more reveals itself and messages can even take on a different or added meaning. It sometimes takes from one to five years - or even more - before some things work out, but when they do it is worth waiting for.

It often amazes me that quite a number of people get extraordinarily good evidence from a sitting, but are not satisfied unless it contains a nickname, a special feature or something they feel the communicator should have said, as in the case of a friend of mine who said he had never received evidence of his mother's survival. I was giving him healing when I became aware of his mother and proceeded to give a long description and details, some very personal, which he admitted were all true. Yet he was not satisfied and said he could not believe it was her because she would have mentioned a specific detail. I find it never works if I demand or try too hard for anything. After having given so much evidence, for he admitted it was all true, I asked the friend to tell me the one missing piece. It seemed his mother had a small lump on the end of her nose; had I told him that, he would have been happy!

It is hard for us to understand the method of communication. We know, by virtue of the evidence we receive, that there is a continuation of life, and that the spirit world, as we call it, must be in a new or different dimension. I believe it to be a timeless dimension where it is possible we could lose track of time once we pass to it, as indeed we could, on finding ourselves in a new or different atmosphere, forget a lot of what we left behind. I do not say it is so, merely that it could be.

So few people really seem to understand communication or what constitutes good evidence. What, for example, is a name? Many mediums give strings of names. Skeptics and critics say that we all know a William and Connie, and are probably quite right. My contention is that there are millions of people with the same names in the spirit world so a name alone is not enough evidence. I do give names if they come through, but usually concentrate on characteristics and personal habits. These tend to identify the individuals as a description saying that a communicator "is tall, dark and well built" could apply to so many on its own.

If we could analyse our messages, even to the point of being patient until they prove worthwhile, we would find things of infinite value. Naturally we all need immediate evidence, but some things are worth waiting for. Some of the best evidence comes at odd times rather than at a pre-arranged sitting when the recipient's mind is not conditioned to expecting anything. It should be like that even with an organized demonstration or a personal sitting. If one can approach it with an open mind and let it happen the way it will, one is more likely to get something from it. We are always looking for unusual evidence, but sometimes can try too hard.

The following story is a fine example of unusual but interesting evidence, combining something helpful at the same time and something which was not verified until some years later. It shows how much our loved ones can be around and know more about what is going on than we do.

At one time I happened to be talking to a friend on the telephone, as I often did, about general things. Suddenly, I saw in my mind's eye a picture of a much-loved aunt of his wearing a grass skirt and a garland of flowers around her neck. When I told him, my friend commented that although he had been close to his aunt, who could be very lively and had a great sense of fun, he had no knowledge of her in such a get-up. She told me to tell him she would prove it to him. Six months later, he was visiting his grandmother. She had a large collection of family photographs, and decided to show him some as they loved family talk and memories. Imagine my

friend's surprise when one of the photos of the aunt and her husband, who were visiting the seaside, showed them on the pier, where they put their heads through holes in large picture and were photographed. There was his aunt seemingly wearing a grass skirt and a garland of flowers! At the time of the phone call he knew nothing of this photo, but her statement proved to be true.

At the end of the same telephone conversation, the aunt appeared to be wearing a nurse's uniform, carrying a black bag. She said to tell my friend she had her nurse's uniform on and had to go to keep an appointment at midday with a friend of his. She was staying at St. Helier in Jersey with her husband, who was performing in cabaret. The aunt explained she was going to give the lady healing for back trouble as she was in great pain. My friend was surprised as I knew nothing about this lady or her whereabouts. He was also puzzled why his aunt would wear a nurse's uniform. As it neared midday, he got me off the phone and put in a call to Jersey. He asked his friend how she was, not knowing there was anything wrong, except what his aunt had suggested. Her reply was: "Wonderful. I haven't felt so well in months!" He thought the message must have been wrong until she added: "I've been in agony with my back for some time, but especially today when I was crying with pain. "I was laying in a strange position hoping to get relief when at midday, quite miraculously it was though somebody put two thumbs at the base of my spine. Suddenly, all the pain seemed to drain away." The aunt was good to her word. And since my friend was not aware of this lady's problems it was wonderful evidence and great help at the same time.

Twenty years later my friend was speaking to a cousin, the aunt's daughter, about psychic matters. He told her I was possibly the most accurate medium he knew, but there was one thing about his aunt's message that did not make sense. He explained about the aunt insisting she was wearing her nurse's uniform, as though she had been one. His cousin explained that her mother *had* been a nurse, which was how she met her husband.

This story tends to suggest that healing can come directly from the spirit world, but however it happened, it is quite remarkable. The hula skirt and the nurse's uniform were not in my friend's mind at the time, but proved to be true later.

I feel that a sense of humour is retained when we pass on, which causes some of our messages to be trivial yet accurately evidential and highly amusing. No names can be given, but two actress friends of mine were in the chorus of a musical in the West End some years ago. They both believed in an afterlife and often enjoyed talks with my guide Running Water. On one occasion, they complained about the show and the leading man, who was

vain and boring, and it was no fun being in it. My guide then said, "Do you know this man wears high heels (built-up shoes) and corsets?" to which they replied they suspected it, but weren't sure. Running Water told them to watch during the next performance and they would see for themselves that the leading man's mascara would run and his wig would slip. It was harmless fun, but difficult for the ladies not to laugh during the show when this happened. Some might consider this mundane and even a bit naughty, but it was purely an evidential laugh.

We can - and do - receive evidence in so many different ways, but it all depends on our approach. If we keep an open mind and let it all happen as it will, when we look more deeply into the implications, we seemingly get a lot more than we bargain for, but just what we need