

InPresence 0006: Blocks to Psychic Functioning with Jeffrey Mishlove

Video Transcript - *New Thinking Allowed* with Jeffrey Mishlove
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(00:39) Hello. I'm Jeffrey Mishlove. Today, I'm going to talk about psychic functioning. Specifically, blocks to psychic functioning. I've mentioned in an earlier episode of "In Presence" that, speaking for myself, I'm not a practicing psychic. I don't turn it on and off on demand. I don't sit for hours doing psychic reading for individuals or organizations or work on projects for the government, or finding missing people, and so on. I have done that occasionally. Most people who do it regularly, find that this is very difficult work. It's sporadic. Even the very best remote viewers, for example, can be 100% accurate but perhaps only 10% of the time.

(01:34) There's a great irony because parapsychologists have yet to find anything that blocks psychic functioning. Distance doesn't seem to matter, in time or in space. You can put a person in a sealed room that's completely shielded from electromagnetic signals, it seems to enhance psychic functioning. It doesn't block psychic functioning. People can be taken down into submarines under the ocean and still function quite well, psychically. And yet, why then is it so difficult, is it so sporadic, is it so controversial? I think the reasons for that lie within us.

(02:20) First of all, we do know this. We know that when the mind is agitated, psychic reception, ESP reception, is going to be blocked, simply by the agitation of the mind. The myriad of thoughts and emotions that pass through our mind. That's why the yoga sutras say, that through the practice of yoga and meditation, when the mind is still like the surface of a lake on a calm day, it can reflect perfectly the reality around it.

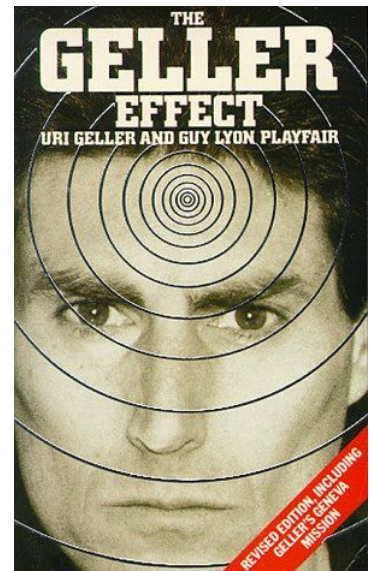
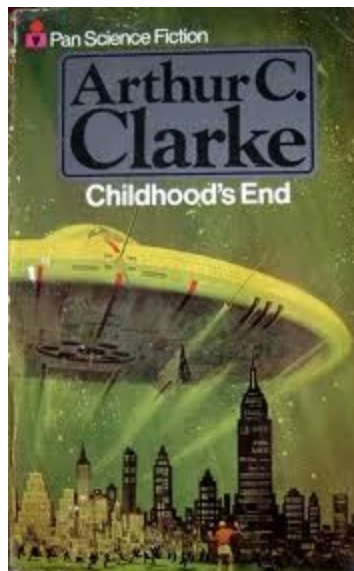
(02:57) Now, interestingly, however, an agitated mind seems to actually help telepathic sending, one of the most common experiences. In the nineteenth century, it was called a crisis apparition. When the Society for Psychical Research began collecting spontaneous cases, this is what they found occurred more often than anything else. It's still reported today. For example, when somebody is gravely ill, or when they're dying, other people seem to know. Especially loved ones get dreams or other messages so they're in touch with what's happening.

(03:43) The fact that it often occurs in dreams, again, suggests a relaxed state can be conducive to psychic perception. But there is much more involved. After all, I'm sure everyone viewing this video

realizes how controversial the field is. Why, there are some people who will say they won't accept psychic functioning in spite of the testimony of every member of the Royal Society. I believe that was Helmholtz, or another great nineteenth century British physicist made a statement to that effect. It's just unacceptable.

(04:23) I think we ought to explore some of the causes, some of the reasons for this. To me, I look at Freud. Sigmund Freud was probably one of the three or four greatest thinkers of the twentieth century. His discovery of what we call the Freudian unconscious, can be put simply by saying that we don't want to know the contents of our own mind. We live in a civilization in which certain thoughts and feelings are considered unacceptable. Our aggressive thoughts, our sexual urges. We repress them, we hide them, from ourselves. And certainly, if we don't want to know what's in our own minds, the idea that other people, psychics or any other person might be able to see things that we're hiding from ourselves is completely unacceptable. I think that motivation drives a lot of the opposition to parapsychology.

(05:36) Once I interviewed Arthur C. Clarke. It was in an audience where he was speaking at the University of California at Berkeley when I was a student. After his talk I raised my hand and I said to him, "Mr. Clarke, do you believe in ESP?" Now, he had just published some very negative statements about Uri Geller in *Time* magazine. He spoke - I thought it was one of the most honest things I ever heard him say. He said, "I don't believe in ESP because I don't want anybody to read my mind."



(06:13) Now, for those of you who study his biography carefully, you will discern that he probably had some reasons for not wanting people to read his mind. But there's more to it, there's another level. Well, before I go to that other level, I should say we all have reasons for not wanting other people to read our mind. So, for that reason, let's suppose you're engaged in criminal activity. I once had a friend who remarked that there's a little bit of larceny in everybody.

(06:49) We all have a private side. We all have things that we'd rather keep to ourselves. So, one might imagine that in the evolution of human society, methods were developed to dampen down the psychic functioning of other people. Those methods, which have a long evolutionary history, maybe even pre-human, are still at play.

(07:18) But now, let me take it one level deeper because I suspect many people watching this video now are interested in what I have to say because of my background in parapsychology. Not just because I interview people. Or just because I happen to have been a psychotherapist, or a student of mystical and spiritual traditions.

(07:45) Many viewers are opening up to psychic functioning and find it very disturbing. One of the reasons for that is because we find ourselves exposed to the pain of other people, the pain of the world itself. This is a world in which there is so much oppression, so much dishonesty, so much corruption, so much disease, so much mental illness, so much delusion. To be exposed to all of that can be overwhelming.

(08:31) And yet, think about it for a moment. The word telepathy, actually means feeling at a distance. It's about picking up on the feelings of other people. I mean, right at this moment in your community and certainly on the planet, there are thousands, maybe millions of people in agony for various reasons. Some of it is completely unnecessary but some of it is quite normal. We all die. We all get sick sometimes. How do we protect ourselves from it?

(09:09) Well, the truth is, most people go through life in a state of numbness because we are protecting ourselves from the pain of the world. That's how we get by, is by numbing ourselves. To some people that numbness can become so extreme, that they become psychopathic, exploitative. I'm not quite sure how that word is pronounced, but I think you understand what I'm saying.

(09:42) One has to develop compassion in order to open up this way to the pain of the world. How else can you address it but with compassion or with a sense of cosmic distance. With a sense of, "because I embrace the entire universe and all of its wholeness, I can accept the height of agony and misery as well as the height of joy and cosmic consciousness and bliss and love that exists." It's all there, the light and the darkness is part of the whole puzzle in which we live.

(10:29) But, to the extent that we're unable to address the process of numbness, of self numbing that occurs so that we protect ourselves - and I think it's largely at an unconscious level - to the extent that we can make that conscious, we are more prepared to accept the fullness and the higher functioning of our psychic abilities. So, I'll leave you with that thought. And thank you for being with me. (11:05)

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