

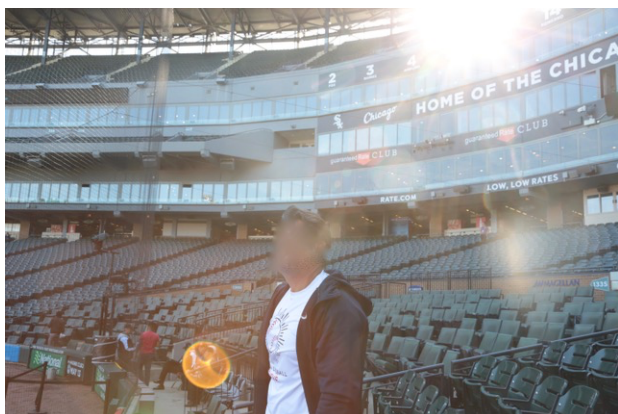
Some Reflections about the “Authenticity” of Orbs

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The subject of authenticity of orb recordings is of primary importance to critics. We have addressed this subject a length in our previous publications, including the books *“The Orb Project”* and *“Orbs, Their Mission and Messages of Hope.”* In these publications, we have intuitively assumed the following Webster definition of what we mean when we talk about orb authenticity: *“Worthy of acceptance or belief as conforming to or based on fact.”*¹ With regard to orbs, this has been understood by critics as meaning that an orb is authentic only if its appearance cannot be explained with conventional wisdom that is based on rigorous scientific research.² If, for example, it can be demonstrated that an orb-like feature can be explained as due to flash reflection at a dust particle near the camera lens, or a light reflection in the camera, or some other explainable camera or photographic defect, this feature would be categorized as “non-authentic.” Such non-authentic orbs would then be entirely discarded, and no meaning would be associated to them. In this Article we discuss that this criterion for authenticity of orbs is limiting and insufficient.³ The following example describes such a situation:

Following a profound personal spiritual experience, Antony C. (name changed and face blurred for privacy), was photographed by a person accompanying him. Antony noticed a golden orb in the photo in front of his body



and interpreted it as a sign of confirmation given to him in conjunction with what he had earlier experienced. Overjoyed about this instantaneous confirmation from another realm, he queried the Internet and located me as an “orb expert.” He emailed me, asking me for my assessment of the uniqueness of this orb appearance. Unquestionably, his approach was based on the above-described authenticity definition – he kept emphasizing the importance to learn if this was, indeed, a “genuine” orb. When I looked at the photo, I immediately knew that, what Antony had interpreted as an orb was in fact a lens reflection, and to confirm this to him I requested more photos, taken before and after this one, if available, as well as the original photo files.

¹ This is, of course, only one of many dictionary meanings attributable to the word “authenticity,” but it is presumably that which critics would use.

² There are, of course, some critics – albeit decreasing in number -- who go a step further and steadfastly state that, if we have not yet found a “natural” explanation for the particular appearance of an orb, we will certainly find one after some additional research effort. On this basis, they *categorically* dismiss orbs as “authentic.” This article is not intended to address this class of critics.

³ It is for this reason that we have placed the word “Authenticity” in parenthesis in the chapter headline.

Why did I know that we were dealing with lens reflections? We keep receiving photos from readers of our books on orbs with similar orb-like features as noticed in Antony's photos. Common to all of these photos is (a) that the "orb" is blue or green in color and has an interiority that is very different from "regular" orbs, and (b) that a light source was shining into the camera lens whereby *the center of the light source and the "orb" are located diagonally opposite in the photo.*

It turned out that Antony's photo was one of a series of many, all taken by a professional photographer with a high-end digital camera. He flooded me about 20 photo shots, all taken a few seconds apart. All were taken from the same perspective, all showed a bright light source in the top right corner of the photo. And all showed the expected reflection feature in the diagonally opposite, lower left corner of the photo – except that only four of them showed the "golden" feature Antony had hoped to be "orb;" the others just showed a small green dot which he overlooked as likely being insignificant. I looked at the metadata and found that the four photos showing the golden "orb" were taken at 32mm camera zoom, all the others with 24-28mm zoom settings. The rest was obvious. Of course, light reflections at the surfaces inside the camera objective (lens) must be expected to be different at different zoom settings, which explained without a question of a doubt that we were dealing with lens reflections. The photos taken in one zoom setting showed golden "orbs" and, as it was the case, no orbs – but instead the expected green dots were seen at other zoom settings.⁴ The "orb" was "fake." End of story.

End of story? Really? For the skeptic, this may be so. The "fact" is that the orb came about as a totally explainable natural effect. There is nothing supernatural in or about it. We are not dealing with a supernatural orb phenomenon, but with a simple physical lens reflection. Therefore, the skeptic would simply conclude that there is no meaning involved. But this would not work for me! For me, the story is just beginning to get juicy! After having worked with the orb phenomenon for many years, my – albeit still very personal and, in the scientific community widely considered controversial – assessment is an emphatic "no, this is not the end of the story." We have just seen the top of the iceberg in terms of the questions which I submit need to be asked: *Why* did Antony see that orb, just after having had his profound experience? *What* was it that triggered this photo to be taken, in this particular constellation, with the positions of the photographer, the sun and the window above just being right to generate the orb on the photo, in just the perfect location with regard to where Antony was standing? Was it all coincidental that this particular camera was used, exactly at 32mm zoom, so that the orb would show? What can be deduced from the particular location of the orb with respect to Antony? Could it be that only he would know? What enticed the photographer to take so many shots, changing the zoom, hence increasing the chance that unbeknownst the "correct" focal length was used that would produce the orb, just this particular orb? What was behind all that? Was it all random? Or was there some guidance behind all this? Are these all irrelevant questions?

We should never park our common sense when it comes to looking at the authenticity of phenomena. We can never get to the *real* results of an investigation if we shut ourselves off from asking the right questions. When it comes to the fringes of, or beyond, the physical reality, which is where phenomena range, where – as modern physicists understand – an influence of the mind cannot be excluded, we must dare to ask these kinds of "scientifically unusual" questions that seem irrelevant to the skeptic. *We must rather adopt a new paradigm of*

⁴ It should be noted that the photographer who took Antony's photos used a high-end camera with variable zoom. Nowadays, more and more people are photographing with their iPhones, which have only one focal length setting – and that setting happens to uniformly and invariably produce *only one* orb-like feature, a blue-green featureless dot. *This dot appears whenever a bright light source is part of the photographed scene, and it is always located diagonally opposite to the center of the light source.* It appears, just the same, in the still-photo mode and in the video mode of the iPhone.

research approaches, a paradigm that includes the mind – both the mind of the experiencer and the Mind at large, whatever this may be.

Given this framing of a larger context, Antony's hunch, when he first saw the orb in the photo, may well be considered confirmed. And what we now know about how Entities on the other side of the veil can make use of our highly energy-sensitive equipment,⁵ such as digital cameras, this photo may well have been *intended* to convey to Antony precisely the same message as it would have if it had been an "authentic" orb. Indeed, this is *"a message worthy of acceptance."*

⁵ See "The Orb Project," "Orbs, Their Mission and Messages of Hope," and other books and articles summarized in <http://www.healingguidance.net/orbs/> and <http://www.healingguidance.net/books/>.