

Subj: [rvassociation] Re: Courtney Brown
Date: Thursday, March 25, 1999 12:29:15 PM
From: radin@interval.com
To: rvassociation@egroups.com
bcc: Puthoff

*Jay,
F-I
Hal*

Courtney recently asked me if I might provide a blurb for his about-to-be published new book, Cosmic Explorers. After reading it, here's how I replied:

I've read through your book and have decided not to provide a blurb. I have two main concerns that prevent me from doing so.

First is a matter of scientific strategy and politics. RV is a highly controversial phenomenon. ET is even more controversial. In the first case, we have a huge amount of anecdotal and a growing body of experimental data backing up the claim. In the second case, we have some anecdotal but no experimental data. In effect then, you are using one controversy to validate another. And even if your ET speculations someday were proven to be correct, your promotion of an RV-ET link seriously damages the credibility of those of us who are attempting to mainstream RV. In fact, the primary reason I've found that skeptical academicians are so dead-set against psi research is that when it comes to the wild world of the paranormal, the uninformed do not discriminate between valid scientific studies, entertainment, and speculative fiction. As a result, I believe that your popularization of ET through RV has inflamed the public's confusion and it has made my job, and the job of my colleagues in the Parapsychological Association, significantly more difficult.

Second is a matter of interpretation of results. I believe that using RV to study ETs is fine, but it must be made extremely clear that the results of such exercises are speculative *at best*, because the results of those RVs are not verifiable. I do not read this caution strongly enough in your book. Further, I believe you may have overlooked something that would

cause a re-interpretation of the ET RV readings. That is, if you target someone, even blindly, on specifics about this or that particular ET agenda, then it is not surprising to me that the RV information returned is an elaboration of the target.

The point is that we have no idea where RV info comes from. It could be from the person writing the target information, the written information itself, the viewer's future reaction to announcing the information, etc.

Verifiable ET information is only one of many alternative hypotheses, and in my opinion one of the least likely to be true. To bolster the skeptical reader's belief in actual ETs, a systematic treatment of all alternative interpretations of the RV info must be included in your book. This includes conventional explanations such as fantasy, delusion, wishful thinking, etc., to the psi-oriented such as telepathy, clairvoyance, distorted RV, intentionally blocked RV, etc., to speculative ET-influenced RV, to conspiratorial government-influenced, etc. etc. etc. Somewhere at the end of this line of possible interpretations is actual, undistorted information about ETs.

Please don't misunderstand my comments. As you know, I am highly supportive of the cause of frontier science. I know first-hand how difficult it is to swim against the mainstream. And I know a few credible RVers who talk about ET-type information. I support your investigations, but please, please inform your readers about how *extremely* speculative your conclusions are.

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