

Placement: Evidence Toward Survival
by Dianne Arcangel

A bereaved mother emailed her concern, “My son saw angels on the right of his deathbed so what does that mean? I heard that 88% of apparitions occur to the left, close to the ceiling, because that’s God’s placement.”

The placement claim did not mirror my findings as hospice chaplain and researcher, nor did it seem to represent the extensive repositories of my longtime colleagues. Furthermore, wouldn’t such an extreme portion counter the survival hypotheses? If apparitions routinely appear on one side, at the same height, with different witnesses, wouldn’t they most likely be a product of the imagination? Curiosity drove me to invite participants to complete a preliminary survey.

Because I wanted to compile an overall consensus quickly, I emailed the Afterlife Encounters Placement Survey to people who were familiar with the phenomenon. The greater portion had recently participated in my Afterlife Encounters Survey Phase 3 (AES3), which is posted on the Internet at www.afterlife-encounters.com. The others had read my book, *Afterlife Encounters*. As a result, I did not need to define the term or describe the characteristics.

Afterlife Encounters Placement Survey

Have you ever had an afterlife encounter? If so, reflect over one. It does not matter in which form it occurred (visual, auditory, olfactory, touch, etc.)

Now imagine that you are standing in the center of a giant clock. You are facing 12 o'clock – directly behind is 6.

Where is the apparition?

Is he/she straight forward at 12 o'clock? On your right side at the 3 o'clock position? Behind you at 6? On your left at 9? Some place in-between those mentioned?

On what level is she/he? Close to the floor, waist high, ear (or eye) level, higher than your head, directly overhead, or a level in-between?

Comments:

Results

According to the 120 surveys collected thus far, placement was a matter of logistics. The afterlife encounters occurred in various positions and heights, each in accordance with the modality and environment. Furthermore, approximately 25% of the apparitions were

mobile rather than stationary. I discovered one standard, however — the placements were natural.

Location

Modalities. In general, when the encounters were visual, the images appeared within the 9 through 3 o'clock placement – our normal field of vision. Whereas most auditory AEs were heard to either side (left or right) of the witnesses, a small portion reported hearing someone behind them. Encounters that occurred in the 6'clock position, or thereabout, regularly encompassed the sense of touch or visceral sensations.

When the discarnate personalities were within close proximity (6 to 24 inches), respondents generally saw them in the 12 o'clock placement, but heard them at the 3 or 9 o'clock position.

Lighting. When the setting was dimly lit, the figures typically stood in or near the light. While working at the in-patient unit of our hospice, for example, most of the patients' visual encounters occurred straight ahead (at the 12 o'clock position.) Why? Inside every room, the main light was at the foot of their beds, where the visitors could best be seen.

The patients' doors, usually closed, were in the 1 o'clock location. When opened, the light shining in was brighter than at the foot of their beds and that was the second most likely place for encounters.

Survey participants, in similar circumstances, claimed their AEs occurred nearest the light as well.

Room setting. Let's now consider placement in certain settings. An almost-octogenarian submitted her survey and comments, saying the church where she had been baptized some 50 years prior was scheduled for demolition. The moment she heard the contents were for sale, she called the pastor and purchased one of the pews. As she walked inside the front door to retrieve her memento, she saw, to her left, the only remaining bench, and on it sat an apparition of a former slave.

An opposite location narrative came from a daughter who wrote, "The only chair in the room was on Dad's right, beside his bed, and that's where my uncle sat as they talked for awhile."

Movement. Not all visitors remained in the same place. Nearly one-fourth of survey participants commented that their AEs began in one spot and then moved to another. A widow described her account as follows, "I was cooking dinner, almost in tears because sitting down to eat is the loneliest time for me. I felt someone staring at me and when I turned around it was my husband standing inside the back door like he always did when he came home. He went right on over across the room and sat down at his place at the table. It was casual and normal, as if nothing had happened."

Height

The theme regarding normalcy grew stronger with my question, "On what level is he?" The surveys contained analogous sentiment, such as "reality", "realistically", "real-life", "normal height", "our natural levels", "the usual level", etc.

Let's review three annotations. "My dad stood in the doorway exactly like he always did when he'd check to see if us kids were asleep, and I was in bed so the level was ordinary. All of it was ordinary, except that I could see through him." "It was normal ... he was sitting at his desk and I was standing." "Mother was sitting in her usual chair, and I was sitting in mine ... across the kitchen table from each other ... so we were eye-to-eye as usual."

Based on the survey commentaries, the levels duplicated real-life situations. When the perceivers were sitting and the apparitions were standing, the perceivers were looking up. And vice versa—if the witnesses were standing and the figures seated, then the witnesses looked downward. When their heads were at the same height, neither was elevated. Accordingly, the levels were realistic.

Conclusion

Upon reviewing the 120 surveys, I found no template. The afterlife encounters did not appear on a particular side of the witnesses nor did they occur at a routine height. Because placement was varied and natural, we possibly gathered more evidence that consciousness survives bodily death and is able to manifest in some form.

References

Arcangel, D. (2005). *Afterlife encounters: Ordinary people, extraordinary experiences*. Charlottesville, VA: Hampton Roads Publishing.

Dianne Arcangel
www.afterlife-encounters.com