

# The Science of Hauntings:

## A Hypothesis

By

John Mimms

A few weeks ago I wrote an article called *Common Ground; Reconciling Faith, Science and the Paranormal*. In that article I discussed a hypothesis I have been considering for a long time regarding the science of the soul. I feel that this is an area that requires further investigation because there are a lot potential explanations that can be derived from this theory. The theory stems from the Law of the Conservation of Energy. This law states that energy or matter cannot be created or destroyed; it can only be changed from one form to another. This law has evolved from the work of many scientists over the centuries but the modern postulation first came about in 1844. William Robert Grove postulated a relationship between mechanics, heat, light, electricity and magnetism, by treating them all as manifestations of a single "force" (energy). Grove published his theories in his book *The Correlation of Physical Forces*. In 1847, drawing on the earlier work of James Prescott Joule, Sadi Carnot and Emile Clapyron: German scientist Hermann Von Helmholtz arrived at conclusions similar to Grove's and published his theories in his book *Über die Erhaltung der Kraft (On the Conservation of Force, 1847)*. The general modern acceptance of the principles of the Law of the Conservation of Energy stems from this publication. The concept of mass–energy equivalence, as expanded on by Albert Einstein and his famous  $E=mc^2$  formula, unites the concepts of conservation of mass and conservation of energy, allowing rest mass to be converted

to forms of active energy (such as kinetic energy, heat, or light) while still retaining mass. Conversely, active energy in the form of kinetic energy or radiation can be converted to particles which have rest mass. The total amount of mass/energy in a closed system (as seen by a single observer) remains constant because energy cannot be created or destroyed and, in all of its forms, trapped energy exhibits mass. In relativity, mass and energy are two forms of the same thing, and neither one appears without the other.

First let's cover the most common classification of a "haunting" as generally accepted by legitimate paranormal researchers. There are three types of hauntings recognized: intelligent, residual and inhuman. An intelligent haunting is considered to be an entity that is interactive with its environment. This can cover a wide variety of activities including but not limited to auditory responses to direct questions, moving objects at will and touching or hitting people. Much like a video tape, residual hauntings are playbacks of auditory, visual, olfactory, and other sensory phenomenon which are attributed to a traumatic event, life-altering event, or a common event of a person or place, like an echo of past events. Ultimately, it is one that displays no recognition of its environment and is repetitive. Alleged residual hauntings often center on moments of intense emotion: someone's beheading, a great battle, a murder, or even a celebration. This would cover such things as witnessing an entity, noise or smells in a repeating pattern. Some good examples of this would be seeing an entity walk down stairs at regular times or hearing footsteps or other sounds at regular intervals. An inhuman haunting would be considered as the presence of a negative entity, most commonly a demonic presence. These are extremely rare and really have little to do with this hypothesis but should be mentioned just the same so we have a clear

understanding of all the possibilities of a haunting. The commonality between intelligent and residual haunting is that they seem to be localized to a specific area. Science would dictate that there must be some sort of environmental relationship between these. Finding that relationship could be the metaphorical lock that is the counterpart to the key which is the Law of the Conservation of Energy. If the two can be brought together it may unlock our understanding of that, which is at present, considered paranormal.

To start our exploration of the Law of Conservation of Energy (or Matter) let's use an example that is commonly performed in several college science classes. When a piece of copper metal is heated in air, it comes together with oxygen in the air. Then if it is weighed, it is found to have a greater mass than the original piece of metal. If however the mass of the oxygen of the air that combines with the metal is taken into consideration, it can be shown that the mass of the product is within the limits of accuracy of any weighing instrument, equal to the sum of the masses of the copper and oxygen that combine. This behavior of matter is in accord with what is called the Law of Conservation of Matter: During an ordinary chemical change, there is no detectable increase or decrease in the quantity of matter.

Conversions of one type of matter into another are always accompanied by the conversion of one form of energy into another. Usually heat is leveled or absorbed, but sometimes the conversion involves light or electrical energy instead of, or in addition to heat. Many transformations of energy, of course, do not involve chemical changes. Electrical energy can be changed into either mechanical, light, heat or potential energy without chemical changes. Mechanical energy is converted into electrical

energy in a generator. Potential and kinetic energy can be converted into one another. Many other conversions are possible, but all of the energy involved in any change always appears in some form after the change is completed. Once again, the Law of Conservation of Energy states that energy cannot be created or destroyed, but can change its form. Probably the most important thing to remember about this scientific law is that the total quantity of matter and energy available in the universe is a fixed amount and never any more or less.

The human body is a miraculous instrument. It is capable of so much that is still beyond our scientific understanding, probably the most incredible aspect is the consciousness it houses for each and every one of us. Our sentient nature gives us the ability to think, feel emotion and to reason. As miraculous as this is, we do have a basic and primitive scientific understanding. We know that thought is an electrical process in our brain. How it fully works is still a long way from scientific understanding but we are scientifically certain that this is an electrical energy process as well as biochemical. Aside from thermal energy produced by the body, these are probably the two most important examples of corporeal energy for our discussion. The body is constantly producing these types of energy. When we are awake or asleep electrical, biochemical and thermal energy is constantly being produced by the human body. The only time this energy production ceases is upon the death of the body. So, what does this have to do with the Law of the Conservation of Energy? To answer that question, I would ask another one. What happens to that energy upon the death of the body? As discussed earlier, that energy does not cease to exist, so it must have changed form. What form has it taken? What environmental conditions reacted with, stored or redirected that

energy? To answer this question should be the primary objective of anyone examining this hypothesis. The answer could be the explanation man has been searching for for centuries; the coupling of the Law of Conservation of Energy along with common environmental conditions could be the answer, in this case, to understanding intelligent hauntings. There are several possibilities for environmental causes which could include everything from weather conditions to mineral deposits or construction material in a specific area. I have an idea about quartz and limestone but we can save that speculation for a different time.

Perhaps the electrical energy that left the nervous system of the deceased person's body contains their consciousness or "soul". Upon exiting the body there could have been an environmental cause to retain that consciousness in a particular area. It is a distinct possibility; however, I believe we can more easily apply this hypothesis to a residual haunting.

In a residual haunting there is a lot more potential energies that can come into play. In this type of haunting the energy from a powerful event such as a battle, a murder, an execution or possibly even a celebration. The theory would be that the energy from these events somehow got trapped in the environment and is "playing itself back" at regular intervals. This does go hand in hand with the Law of the Conservation of energy in that this energy is not gone but is still trapped in the localized environment. What the environmental conditions that I called the "lock" that we can apply our "key" to remains to be seen.

In short, as paranormal researchers we should study any and all environmental data regarding alleged hauntings whether they are intelligent or residual. Discovering the common environmental component is paramount in this research. Is it possible that for

the last 161 years science has had the key to a proverbial environmental lock that when opened could lead us to an understanding of the paranormal or more specifically, hauntings? Maybe...