

# Episode #017 – Ghosts and Loyd Auerbach

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## The Infinite and the Beyond

An esoteric podcast for the introspective pagan mind hosted by Chris Orapello  
[www.infinite-beyond.com](http://www.infinite-beyond.com)

### ❖ Show Introduction

- It's Saturday November 06, 2010. Happy belated Sabbat everyone! MM, BB, 93, hello and welcome to the #17 Episode of “The Infinite and the Beyond,” an esoteric podcast for the introspective pagan mind. Where we explore a variety of topics which relate to life and one's unique spiritual journey. I am your host Chris Orapello.
- Intro music by George Wood.
- In this episode...
  - We speak to Parapsychologist Loyd Auerbach about his experiences as a paranormal investigator.
  - We learn a about a certain famous escape artist and spiritualist debunker in A Corner in the Occult.
  - We see which listener won a copy of Jeva's book *Bed Time Stories* for the faint of heart.
  - And in The Essence of Magick Series we discuss the ideas behind magickal intent.

### ❖ Announcements

- (Background Music: “Nightbook” by Ludovico Einaudi)
- Welcome to any new listeners of the podcast. The downloads have been going up recently and the shows place on iTunes has jumped up into the top #20 and even got so far as being #5 in the Others section in the Religion and Spirituality category. That was a nice surprise.
- The submission deadline for Misanthrope Press's story anthology *Etched Offerings: Voices From the Cauldron of Story* has been extended until November 30th. So, if you thought that you missed the deadline there's still time. The complete writers' guidelines can be found on their website at, [www.misanthropepress.com](http://www.misanthropepress.com).
- I was the guest host of episode 7 of Kakophonos. Because Rikki LaCoste the regular host has gone missing after an evocation he was recording went horribly wrong. If you haven't heard episode 7 of Kakophonos please check it out for Rikki's sake and hope that he come back to us.

### ❖ Thank You!

- Thank you to
- **Flickr**
- **YouTube Channel**
  - Elzky85

- Trippingbillie1216

➤ **Forum**

- Ran
- Vespín
- Leiwolf
  - For joining the show Forum

- Also thank you to Dee from Pagan FM for playing this podcast on the radio during the non podcast portion of PaganFM. Welcome to any new listeners of the podcast who found us from Pagan FM. I hope you enjoy the show!
- And last but certainly not least, thank you to those of you who take the time every month to vote for the show on Podcast Alley! And if you would like to vote, but don't know how, just visit the show website at [www.infinite-beyond.com](http://www.infinite-beyond.com) and look for the vote button on the left side of the screen. Just click vote and provide them with an email which they only use to verify your vote. Feel free to even leave me a comment about the podcast. Thank you to Kerrie for being the first listener this month to do that. So, be sure to vote if you like this show because it helps others find it and know that it has the approval of others. Thank you.
- In a bit we'll be visiting our favorite corner.....but first let's here from some of the podkin.

❖ **Promo**

- A Pagan Heart in Maine with Greywolf Moonsong
- Media Astra Ac Terra with Oraia Sphinx

❖ **As of Late:**

- (Background music: “Voices from the Ether” by ASCIAN)
- Life has been pretty busy during the last month. The beginning of October I was involved with South Jersey Pagan Pride Day which went well aside from some technical difficulties and I got to see some familiar faces, catch up with friends, meet a couple of listeners of the podcast, and I even got to chat with Gary Blackheart who is a regular on the Pagan Centered Podcast. He did one of the workshops that day which I was unfortunately unable to attend due to being an event volunteer (I was scheduled to work at a table during that time). Gary even has his own internet radio show called Beyond the Threshold and it airs Tuesday nights at 9:30pm on Tenacity Radio which can be found online at [www.tenacityradio.com](http://www.tenacityradio.com). Gary is even interested in coming on the show in the near future to discuss his path, which is known as the Twilight Path, which has nothing to do with sparkly passive aggressive vampires or buff Native American werewolf boys. I think it's in a sense a darker form of paganism which incorporates, “other” elements from life and nature that often get ignored.

- A week after Pagan Pride I went to the Philadelphia to attend a lecture that was being given by Lon Milo DuQuette at Thelesis Lodge, of the O.’.T.’.O.’. It was great to be able to meet Lon after having interviewed him previously. He was lecturing on Solomonic Magick which is a recent growing interest of mine and he’s even going to be coming back to the show in the near future to talk about his new book *Low Magick* now that it’s available. I’m in the middle of reading it right now as we speak and when I’m done with the episode I intend on finishing the book and scheduling an interview with him so we can discuss some of what he talks about in it. And if you haven’t read Lon’s “My Life with the Spirits” be sure to read it before reading “Low Magick.” Because *Low Magick* is a follow up to the book and they’re both really good books and I’m not just saying that. His humor, insight, and openness make them very interesting, entertaining, and even touching. Honestly. If you ever have the opportunity to see Lon in person, be sure to take it. You won’t be disappointed.
- Then a week after meeting Lon I had the pleasure of speaking with noted parapsychologist Loyd Auerbach, whom we’ll be meeting later in this episode.
- Then I was asked to help out with episode 7 of *Kakophonos*, which I mentioned earlier.
- This month has been extremely busy as you can tell and I have been also going through a bit of a crisis of faith, which I didn’t entirely go into last episode because of how long the episode already was. But what happened was that I did what Ran warned me against back in episode 13 when I read his letter on the show. I accidentally put some of my faith under a microscope. And as he stated, it disappeared before I was able to realize it. It left me stumped and I have been stuck there for the last month. I guess I’m just one of those transitional times. They happen. I just have to work through it. But don’t worry this issue of mine isn’t going to effect the podcast. That, I’m certain of.
- Times like these are common for me and tend to happen every several years. They’re important and as much as they seem to suck, they also offer an opportunity for growth as mentioned in the last episode. Its periods such as these that allow me to experiment more and explore areas of my path that were put aside because of where I was at the time.
- And it’s especially helpful during times like these for me to embrace some of the more consistent aspects of my life, like reading a good book, enjoying the company of pets, hanging out with friends, going to lodge regularly, working on art, or catching up on some of my favorite podcasts.
- A crisis of faith is like almost falling off a cliff. When what you’re standing on begins to crumble beneath you, it’s best to grab onto something more stable to help keep you from falling too hard. So, if anyone listening is going through something similar, take heart in the stable elements in your life, because they may be able to help see you through whatever you happen to be dealing with. Bright Blessings.

❖ **Promo**

- Beyond The Threshold with Gary Blackheart
- Kakophonos Bumper

❖ **Segway**

- In a few moments I’ll be sharing some of my personal ghost experiences and then we’ll be speaking with well known parapsychologist Loyd Auerbach, but first it’s time for us to make a dramatic escape into A Corner in the Occult.

❖ **Segment: A Corner in the Occult: Harry Houdini** (approx. 1300-1500 words)

- (Background Music: “Piano Quartet in g 3<sup>rd</sup> Movement by Mozart” performed by Linda Holzer)
- Hello and welcome to “A Corner in the Occult” Where we focus on one part or person from the history of occultism. In these regular segments, I touch upon many aspects of the occult and I hope to offer you something new or at least something to think about. The information presented is always done so in the best manner possible in regards to its content and accuracy depending on the available sources. There is a lot in occultism that one may never choose to look into, and here you have the opportunity to learn about something which you may have never bothered to investigate. And oddly enough there are a lot of people who may not be that aware of whom today’s topic is on...
- In the combined worlds of psychics, mediums, spiritualism, authorship, film making, and magic there is only one man who should come to mind. And that man is Harry Houdini.
- Born as Ehrich Wiesz on March 24<sup>th</sup> of 1874 in Budapest, Hungary, though later in life he would claim that he was actually born in Appleton, Wisconsin which was false. Ehrich was the son of Rabbi Mayer Wiesz and his second wife Cecilia Steiner and was one of six children. Two years after his birth in 1876 little Ehrich’s father immigrated to the United States with the hope for a better life of which his family shortly followed two years later.
- When he was eight years old his family moved to Milwaukee and young Ehrich helped to support his family by selling newspapers and shining shoes. When he was nine he did his first appearance, performing in a trapeze act of which he billed himself as “Ehrich, the Prince of the Air,” and was said to have always been very athletic throughout his life which would go to serve his later performances which relied heavily upon his physical endurance and bodily control.
- Possibly due to family difficulties, at age 12, he ran away from home by means of hopping into a freight car that took him Kansas City, but it is not known where else he went during his time away. After a year he reunited with his family who had moved to New York City and as a result of their continued financial difficulties Ehrich

worked a variety of jobs, of which included being a messenger, neck tie cutter, and even photographers assistant. It was around this time in his life that he began getting involved with magic. His idol in magic was the great French magician Robert-Houdin and it was from him which the name Houdini grew forth from, for by adding the extra “i” to the French name of Houdin made the name Houdini mean “Like Houdin.” It has been suggested that the name Harry was an American adaptation of his childhood name of Ehrie, making his name Harry Houdini.

- In the beginning of his magical career Houdini performed with his brother Theo and together they were known as “The Houdini Brothers.” Some of his early performances were done for civic groups, in music halls, at sideshows, and at New York’s Coney Island amusement park, where he sometimes performed 20 shows each day.
- In 1893 while performing in Coney Island with his brother, he met fellow performer Wilhelmina Beatrice (Bess) Rahner, whom later he married. Bess replaced his brother in the act, which became known as “The Houdini’s” and for the rest of his performing career Bess would act as his stage assistant. They were very devoted to each other and Bess became a vital part of Houdini’s life and career. He even gave her credit for his success and was said to have written her a love note every day of their life together.
- In 1895, the Houdini’s performed in the Welsh Brothers Circus for six months. Harry did magic, Bess sang and danced, and together they performed the “Metamorphosis,” trick in which they traded places in a locked trunk and one which is still performed to this day by many magicians. Wanting to aspire to doing bigger and better effects Houdini worked on developing new tricks as well his speaking voice and showmanship. To up the stakes and popularity when he arrived in a new town, he claimed to be able to escape from any pair of handcuffs that the local police could provide. He offered \$100 to anyone whom provided him with handcuffs that he could not escape from, a prize which was never collected. Over time the developing complexity of his escapes along with his creative uses of magic to produce publicity, in 1899 Houdini became a headline performer on the national vaudeville circuit. Though despite his national acclaim he was still unsatisfied and decided to take his act to Europe the following year.
- So in 1900. Harry and Bess left for England with prearranged shows and only enough money for them to survive for a week which may have been too much money as they shortly procured a performance at a London theater. His big break came when he successfully escaped from being wrapped around a pillar and handcuffed at Scotland Yard. As a result the theater extended his performance booking. He then took his act around Europe using similar techniques and approaches to gain the attention of the local public. He even reinvented the stakes of his routines liked by being tossed handcuffed and chained into local rivers where he would later emerge from the water, waving the restraints over his head long after any normal person could have survived. It was said that Houdini would stay under water extra long to increase the audience’s anticipation for his emergence.

- Houdini’s illusions and magical feats were so good that some people were convinced of his abilities to make the impossible possible to which he found flattering, but bothersome at the same time. For example Madame Sarah Bernhardt once requested Houdini to bring back her missing leg. Shocked and bewildered at the seriousness of her request, Houdini stated that such a thing would be impossible. To which she replied that he does the impossible and that she had never been more serious in her life.
- Houdini worked very hard at being able to do the impossible. So, when he wasn’t performing he would practice holding his breath, focus on increasing his flexibility, as well as his ability to untie knots. Apparently he had an oversized tub in which he would submerge himself in and it was not uncommon for him to be untying knots with his feet while in conversation with friends.
- In 1920, several years after the death of his mother in 1913, a new chapter of Houdini’s life would soon begin. As a result of his mother’s death, Houdini began seeking the aid of psychics and mediums in an attempt to make contact with her beyond the grave. But as he was soon to discover, his background in illusion and magic would cause him to see through the charade put on by such individuals that he consulted. This realization would soon overturn his original pursuit to make contact with his mother and instead filled him with the determination to debunk and expose fraudulent mediums for the charlatans that they were. Though to illustrate his open mind in regards to the afterlife he declared to friends and family that upon his death if there were any possible way for him to make contact with them from the spirit world he would do so. Houdini never seemed to be against neither the possibility of making contact with the spirit world nor the idea of an afterlife, and was only ever against fraud in regards to medium ship.
- Houdini despised how mediums were taking advantage of people’s grief to make money through lies and cheap sideshow tricks that he recognized and well knew. He referred to such individuals as “vultures who prey on the bereaved.” In the introduction to his 1924 book *A Magician among the Spirits*, which revealed many of the tricks employed by mediums to create the various illusions that their séance’s contained. Houdini writes:
  - ◆ *FROM my early career as a mystical entertainer I have been interested in Spiritualism as belonging to the category of mysticism, and as a side line to my own phase of mystery shows I have associated myself with mediums, joining the rank and file and held séances as an independent medium to fathom the truth of it all. At the time I appreciated the fact that I surprised my clients, but while aware of the fact that I was deceiving them I did not see or understand the seriousness of trifling with such sacred sentimentality and the baneful result which inevitably followed. To me it was a lark. I was a mystifier and as such my ambition was being gratified and my love for a mild sensation satisfied. After delving deep I realized the seriousness of it all. As I advanced to riper years of experience I was brought to a realization of the seriousness of trifling with the hallowed reverence which the average human being bestows on the departed, and when I personally became afflicted*

*with similar grief I was chagrined (shai-grinned) that I should ever have been guilty of such frivolity and for the first time realized that it bordered on crime.*

- And so as a result of his feelings he traveled across the country giving lectures against mediums and their alleged séance’s. Demonstrating the various manners in which they went about creating the illusion of spirit communication and manifestation. As a result of his efforts, he was brought in as a member of a committee started by the Scientific American Magazine to investigate Spiritualism and mediums. Apart from Houdini the committee consisted of Dr. William McDougall, of Harvard University; Dr. Daniel F. Comstock, formerly of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Walter Franklin Prince, of the Society for Psychical Research; and Hereward Carrington a British psychic investigator and author. Houdini was brought in as a final part of the debunking process for if a scientific approach was unable to debunk a medium then it was thought someone skilled at the art of illusion such as Houdini may recognize something which went unnoticed by the scientists. Possibly Houdini’s most famous debunking was in regards to medium Mina “Margery” Crandon who had previously stumped the committee. Houdini made debunking her a priority and so attended one of her séances in disguise and by the end of it he had her figured out and so made a special fraud preventing cabinet just to address her trickery and upon using the cabinet she was unable to produce her usual psychic phenomena. As a result of his success and her fame, Houdini would make his experience of debunking Margery a part of his stage act. He would explain all her tricks and demonstrate how she did things in order to benefit the public’s understandings. Similar to today’s \$1,000,000 prize offered by The Amazing Randi, the Scientific American Committee had an undisclosed prize and Houdini himself was even said to offer \$10,000 to anyone who could produce a psychic effect which he could not reproduce. No one claimed the prizes.
- Through his interests in spiritualism he made friends with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who was an advocate of the spiritualist movement. And despite their growing differences of opinion in regards to spiritualism their friendship seemed strong for some time, though there were reports of public conflicts and articles written illustrating a growing dislike for one another. The legitimacy regarding such allegations seemed to be more fictitious than fact. To further illustrate their differences of opinion, Houdini was never able to convince Sir Arthur of the tricks that were employed by mediums despite his ability to demonstrate and reproduce the effects; while Sir Arthur was of the opinion that Houdini secretly harbored psychic powers which enabled him to perform his stage magic and to debunk, expose, and dominate other mediums with to his abilities.
- After several years of his pursuit against Spiritualism, Houdini returned to his home in New York in spring of 1926, with the intention of spending the summer months relaxing and devising new mysteries for his fall season. His autumn tour was reportedly plagued with problems that often suggested foul play or some form of outside tampering which some suspect as having been a backlash to his battle with the spiritualist community for the last several years. First his wife Bess became ill to ptomaine poisoning of which she survived. During one

performance his famous Chinese Water Torture Cell escape, a chain slipped which fractured his ankle. The more fateful occurrence was when he received several unexpected blows to the stomach by a fan who was trying to test Houdini’s athletic ability of taking punches to the stomach. Unfortunately when this occurred Houdini was taken off guard and so neglected to prepare his abdomen. The shock to his body as a result of the punches is believed to have ruptured appendix which was thought to have been a developing problem for Houdini and that the punches merely contributed to his condition. As his health declined, he was admitted to a hospital where he lived out his final days. His wife who was still dealing with her poisoning also checked into the hospital and suspecting that he may be dying he gave his a wife a secret phrase that she could use to identify him during a séance. And as his condition worsened, several days after speaking to his wife, Harry Houdini died on October 31 in 1926 at the age of 52 from peritonitis. His wife lit a candle in his memory which she kept burning for years to come.

- Bess began to hold séances shortly after Houdini’s death and even became a yearly media sensation for the next ten years upon the night of his death. The final séance, which was conducted in 1936 in Los Angeles on the roof off the Knickerbocker Hotel, was covered by radio and was even broadcast all over the world. But after over an hour with no responses Bess decided to turn out the light that she lit for her husband so many years before. She was reported to have said that *ten years is long enough to wait for any man*. Rumor says that as the séance came to an end, a violent storm broke out over the hotel that was full of thunder and lightning and drenched everyone involved. The participants would later learn that the storm did not occur anywhere else in the area; but only above where the séance was being held. Though she had decided to stop trying to contact her late husband, séances to contact Houdini still continued to be held yearly by other magicians for years to come and even continue to this day.
- Despite the appearance, Houdini played a valuable counter role in regards to the occult, psychics, mediums, and the public’s perception of these related practices. By existing on both sides of the stage and permitting the public to do the same he empowered them with a belief which was magickal unto itself which entitled the great Harry Houdini to his own corner in the occult.
- **Suggestions for A Corner in the Occult are welcomed and encouraged and you can do so on the show website or through the show forum. Thank you.**

#### ❖ Commercial / Bumper

- Title Goes Here commercial
- Lon Milo DuQuette bumper

❖ **Segment: Ghosts and I**

- (Background music: “Shadows of the Spirits” by Jim Butler)
- One of the topics of focus on this podcast is the paranormal and it’s something that I try to touch upon from time to time out of personal interest and to vary the show content. So, in the spirit of this podcast I thought it would be time to share some of my personal paranormal experiences with you.
- As odd as this may sound, my interest in ghosts began when I was about three years old, and I don’t mean for that to sound like I’m claiming that I’ve been a paranormal investigator my whole life, like many people do when they talk about being pagan. LOL. It’s just that, that’s when I had my first paranormal experience as far as I can be sure. Now I’m not talking about seeing some monster in the closet and I was never afraid of the boogie man, and I don’t recall if I was really afraid of the dark, which may have been due to the nightlights we had plugged in the hall and in my own room, so I was never really in the dark.
- But one night in particular my usual bedtime routine was disturbed by something out of the ordinary, which I have never forgotten. While lying in bed, being a restless kid something suddenly caught my eye. What I saw was a luminous whitely lit figure standing in my doorway watching me as I tried to go to sleep. The figure was only slightly defined, but it was luminous and brighter than the yellowish nightlight in the hall. Being only three years old and seemingly trapped in my room, my only option was to hide under my covers upon its appearance. This happened over a period of three consecutive nights and then stopped. Though my mother recalls me saying something to her at the time about the figure in my doorway at night, she dismissed it as me being a young imaginative child. Now I honestly don’t know who or what this was, but even as a child always thought that this figure was my grandfather who had recently died around that time. I guess he just wanted to see a little longer before moving I suppose.
- This personal experience sparked my interest in ghosts which about five years later while in grade school caused me to order, "How to Find a Ghost" by James M. Deem (Avon Books 1988), during one of our classroom book orders. Though this book was written for 8-12 year-old children, the information provided in it was strikingly useful and accurate. The accuracy displayed by Deem was due to him referencing the libraries and journals of the American and the British Societies for Psychical Research. As a result of this book I contacted the American Society for Psychical Research (<http://www.aspr.com>) and was placed on their mailing list which lasted for many years unfortunately I was unable to join due to the lack of funds and a driver’s license. The information found in Deem’s book predates the digital age so in retrospect it has a very grass roots take on paranormal investigation which is valuable in itself and I will always regard Deem’s book as a fun introductory text to my journey as an investigator.
- As I grew older my interest in the paranormal took a back seat to my love of the occult; which was a journey that took me out, around, through, and back to my interest in the paranormal ten years later. Through my

exploration of the occult, I experienced some very interesting personal phenomena which teetered on the paranormal. For example: the seeing of mysterious figures standing about me during a personal religious ritual and another experience back in 1998 occurred when a past girlfriend and I decided to conduct a night time ritual outside on sacred ground, apparently without legal or spiritual permission. As after casting the circle we found the need to quickly duck down and hush-up while a police officer investigated the field from the distant road by shining his spotlight into the darkness to see if he could spot anyone. This was either possibly a routine check-up or one of the local residents saw us entering the field and called it in. I suppose he didn't notice us in the distance because he soon got back into his car and left.

- Apparently the local authorities weren't the only one's taking note of our presence in the field as our evening would later take an unexpected turn. During a part of the ritual, when we were doing our own things and enjoying the peace of the cool, still, quiet, night, we both experienced the sound of clopping horse-hooves...
- **(sound clip)**
- ...walking to a halt within several feet of us, a familiar sound, one heard in any movie dealing with the old west. The sound was significant as it caused both of us to each stop what we were doing. With my eyes fully adjusted to darkness of the night I could see all around me and my first thought was that the sound was too close to have been from the woods bordering the field. There's no way a noise from the woods would have sounded like that! The sound of the horse hooves was too immediate and appeared to come from within ten feet of us. We both then experienced a sense of uneasiness, a feeling of being unwanted and that we should leave. So, we quickly closed the circle and grabbed our things and began our walk back to the car. As we made our way out of the field, we experienced a feeling of being rushed out or escorted to the outer perimeter of the field by something ushering us along and upon once being outside the field the feeling of uneasiness ceased. We stood there for several minutes both puzzled and amazed at what we experienced. We didn't run screaming to the car like some people would have because we knew at the moment upon leaving the field that we were ok. We concluded that whatever we heard may have been some kind of guardian to the sacred ground, which I neglected to mention, was a Native American burial site that was discovered during the 1980s. After finding the site, the town wasn't allowed to build any permanent structures on the field and several years later my brother was doing some research on the field and found out that the remains which were excavated and then put back were about 10,000 years old. As it turned out, my girlfriend and I held our ritual above where those remains were. Looking back, I'm not proud of what we did, as it was naive for us to think that as pagans we would have been welcome to conduct a ritual on their land without asking. Of course now, I know better.
- It's moments like these that change a person, that allows them to witness through their experience a part of life which reminds them of something more which exists beyond the veil of reality that we are familiar with 95% of the time during the entirety of our existence. And it is the moments of that make that remaining %5 which we

should cherish and reflect upon during times of doubt or when nothing seems to happen. Sometimes we need to be reminded that our actions always matter and when the veil of what we think reality is reveals a something unfamiliar to us, we need to reevaluate our notion of the real.

- Now you may think that these two stories are just stories, that they are perhaps fictional, but I assure that they are not and are to the best of my ability a recantation of my own personal experiences and as far as I am able to claim did in fact happen. As a child I remember thinking that the figure in my doorway was not an effect created by the nightlight. And while in the field, the uneasiness we felt could have been simply a reaction to the mysterious sound which we both heard; of which there was nothing within the immediate area that could have been attributed to the causing of it. Though upon leaving the field the feelings we were experiencing instantly ceased, which was just as strange.
- In regards to paranormal phenomena, it is the human experience that makes them what they are, because if a ghost haunts a house and there is no one to witness it did the haunting occur? The human experience is the most vital element in regards to paranormal phenomena, and this is something which Loyd Auerbach made very clear to me while reading one of his books several years ago.
- In a minute we'll be speaking with Loyd Auerbach and then I'll be reading listener letters, but first let's hear from one of the podkin.

#### ❖ Interview Part 1

- Loyd Auerbach

#### ❖ Promo:

- Pagan FM

#### ❖ Segway:

- Hope you enjoyed part one of my interview with Loyd. Stay listening for part two later in this episode where we discuss ghost myths; paranormal education and certification opportunities; and TV shows that deal with paranormal investigation? But before we get to that I have some letters that I would like to read.

#### ❖ Letters and Messages

- (Background music: “No More Hectic Days” by Alexandre Falcao)
- **Amergin posted the following on the show forum in response to the Essence of Magick Series:** I loved this, and it reminded me that the strongest magic is between yourself and your God(s). Not you, Benny Hinn, Benny's book, and a faceless Big Giant Head. We have a divine spark in us. We are of God(s), and we lose faith, because

we feel powerless without a hundred go betweens. ...We are our greatest tool, not our altar or incense or high priests. If that was the case, magical working becomes..doing laundry.

- (Response adlibbed)

- **Vespid posted this on the show forum in response to episode 15:** Hi Chris, I'm a little late with this, but something you said in your interview with Lon Milo DuQuette caught my attention. You wondered if you might not do better at following your Will if you didn't call yourself a Thelemite and think about following your Will. I wanted to share some of my reactions to that thought.
- I think that for the purpose of this discussion it's helpful to think of two different ways to divide people up. One is, for lack of a better word, introspective people--people who spend time thinking about what they ought to do with their lives--in other words, their Will, although not all of them are going to put it in Thelemic terms--vs. people who just don't care about that sort of thing. (As an introspective type, I find it kind of hard to understand the people who don't care, but I know they exist.) The other division is people who are following their Wills vs. people who aren't. These two divisions aren't related to each other in any obvious way, I don't think. In other words, you can be an introspective person and spend a lot of time thinking about what you ought to do with your life, and still either be doing it or not.
- My point is that even if you stopped being a Thelemite and thinking of it in terms of Will, I bet that you'd still be an introspective person, and you'd find a different way of expressing that. And even if you could stop being an introspective person, that wouldn't mean that you'd suddenly start doing everything according to your Will.
- In this sense, being introspective is both a blessing and a curse. A blessing because you always have a chance at moving closer to your Will, you're always working toward it and thinking about it. A curse because you might be selling yourself short--even if you're doing better than most people, you can still see your own shortcomings and think you could be doing even better.
- Anyway, that's just a fairly tangential thought that your remark spurred in me. I hope it makes sense to you. Thanks for making me think! =)
- Thanks for this episode, too. I admire Lon Milo DuQuette so much, and I love hearing him talk.
  - (Response adlibbed)
- Thank you to Amergin and Vespid for your messages.

#### ❖ Contest

- (Background music: “Reflections” by Guy David)
- Before we get into the Essence of Magick Series and back to our interview with Loyd, it's time to see which lucky listener one a copy of “Bedtime Stories For the Faint of Heart” by Jeva Singh-Anand.
- And now let's look into the essence of Magickal Intent.

❖ **Segment: The Essence of Magick Series (TEoMS): Magickal Intent**

- (Background Music: “Calling Peace” by Alexandre Falcao)
- (Audio clips: Gerald Gardner and Patricia Crowther chanting “The Witches Rune;” Aleister Crowley “Excerpts from the Gnostic Mass;” An interview with Gerald Gardner, early 1960’s)
- *...It is a secret and you will be taught. From the basic to the complex all will be revealed. Welcome to the Essence of Magick Series... echoing forth from the infinite and the beyond.*
- Magickal Intent
- Virtually every book on magick deals with the idea of magickal intent. Ironically enough, I had this topic planned before receiving my copy of *Low Magick* by Lon Milo DuQuette, this very subject is beautifully covered in one of the early chapters of his book and he makes the point that *magical theory suggests that everything in the universe is the product of intent*; a concept which was also discussed by The Kybalion in which it states that *the universe is simply a mental creation of THE ALL*. Of which both sources comply with the idea that form follows intent.
- On a practical level intent is what governs our actions. We do a thing because we intend for a particular result to occur even if that result is rather mundane at times. No act is done without one’s intention even those acts which we say that, “We weren’t thinking” are still done with intent because they happened. It wasn’t that we were not thinking, but that our intentions were just unclear more than anything else.
- In regards to magick, the magickal intent can be explained as being what one wishes to received from a particular magickal working and even how they wish for it manifest. Intent is the reason for which we commit a magickal act, because magick itself is an action. It is something that we do as a means to help enable our intent to manifest in the world by enabling us to focus the will. Without a fully realized intent upon which to base our magick we lose sight of what we want, and may even be doing magick which is ill conceived, resulting in unforeseen effects. Like where we are unsure if we had anything to do with how something came into being. Revealing how important it is for one to be in control of their actions at all times.
- The significance behind one’s magickal intent actually stretches beyond the ideas and practices pertaining to magick. Because in many respects in contrast to the above idea that all magick is akin to a simple act, it would follow suit that any act, no matter how common, is also a magickal act, which is something that Aleister Crowley explained in his introduction of *Part III: Magick and Theory and Practice* with his metaphor of publishing a book and with even directly stated that *every intentional act is a magick act*. Because any action we do has the intent to cause change to occur to have the figurative world confirm to our wills, and because this is the case it’s important to know what we want from the world.
- The role of one’s intent in regards to magick forces one to consider what they want or need in light of others and themselves, and should also beget a level of honesty and mindfulness on the part of the practitioner. For if

we are not honest with ourselves in what we want in life how can we ever expect anything to occur or for that matter to find happiness or success? After all most magick is driven by desires for happiness and I imagine not many people do magick to remove a sense of happiness from their lives.

- One of the most common problems faced by newer magickal practitioners is defining their intent and often get caught up in timing games where what they want may not coincide with the phase of the moon for example. Meaning the moon is waning and they want to draw something into their life which is more in alignment with a waxing moon. If this is or a similar issue is a concern for someone then the answer is simple and there is no need to wait for the moon to be in the correct phase, just do the opposite. If you want to draw something towards you during a waning moon, then banish the opposite of that which you want, which, by default, would cause the opposing element to be drawn toward you. Example, you need a job so during the counter moon phase you would banish the lack of having a job or the condition of being unemployed. It’s not always so clear cut as to how you can reverse your intent, but that is a useful trick to dealing with such a situation.
- Another situation often faced is that someone doesn’t think of an alternative solution to a situation and shoot for that instead. For example:
  - Someone at work is constantly doing a real bad job, you’re tired of working with them and cleaning up after their mistakes, and you’re beginning to wish that they would get fired. Well, instead of trying to cause that to happen why not shoot to get yourself a promotion which would take you away from them, or better yet pursue a new job altogether? If either result pans-out you’ve resolved the problem by bettering your situation and not resorting to something else to create to desired effect which could result in the other person getting a new job or the promotion. This approach is also similar to what Dion Fortune did with the Magickal Battle of Britain during WWII as she chose to focus her magick on the safety of Britain and not on the destruction of Germany or the attacking of the Nazi leadership which she felt was unethical. So, by focusing on what she wanted to preserve she inadvertently addressed that which was threatening to destroy it.
  - Another example being you’re single and you wish you were in a relationship. How many times has this been the case? Now think about it, is it that you want to be in a relationship or you’re tired of feeling alone? Often times what we really want is not always what we think we want and it’s important to be able to determine that distinction and a part of being able to do that is being honest with ourselves, which in itself is already an important practice to do.
- So, if magick is an action that is governed by our intent then the best thing we can do for ourselves is be honest with ourselves and foster a sense of self-awareness. After all even Aleister Crowley states that *Magick is the Science of understanding oneself and one's conditions. It is the Art of applying that understanding in action.* So,

if you won't take it from me, take it from Uncle AI, self-awareness and mindfulness are at the core behind the ideas of magickal intent. Hope that gave you some food for thought.

- **This concludes this edition of the Essence of Magick. Suggestions for this series are welcomed and encouraged and you can do so on the show website or through the show forum. Thank you.**

#### ❖ Interview Part 2

- Loyd Auerbach

#### ❖ Promo/Commercial

- Infinite-Beyond.com

#### ❖ Conclusion

- **(Background Music: "Ghost Busters" by Ray Parker Jr.)**
- Next episode who knows? \*wink\*

#### ❖ Episode wrap up

- (Background music: "Universe inside you" by Persian Paladin)
- Well, this concludes this episode of The Infinite and the Beyond.
- If you have any thoughts about this episode or about what I've said in one of its segments please let me know by contacting me through the show website which can be found at [www.infinite-beyond.com](http://www.infinite-beyond.com).
- If you like this show and are interested in hearing more or subscribing, then visit the show website where you can find links to where this show can be found online for you to subscribe, download, and friend.
- Be sure to visit the show's online library found on the manuscripts page of the show website for any available texts related to this episode.
- A list of the regular music used on this show and a manuscript of this episode can be found on the show website and links for the other music played in this episode can be found listed in the show notes.
- "Some of the music provided tonight is from the PodShow Podsafe Music Network. Check it out at 'music.podshow.com'"
- This show is happy to be a member of the Proud Pagan Podcasters which can be found at [paganpodcasting.org](http://paganpodcasting.org)
- The other opinions expressed in this episode are not necessarily the opinion of Chris Orapello.
- The Infinite and the Beyond and its segments are copyrighted by Chris Orapello and are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 License.
- Thanks for listening, thanks for subscribing, and until next time Merry Part, Blessed Be, and 93!

## Show Notes: Episode #017 – Ghosts and Loyd Auerbach

### ❖ Show Summary:

In the latest episode of The Infinite and the Beyond, we speak to Parapsychologist Loyd Auerbach about his experiences as a paranormal investigator. Loyd runs the Office of Paranormal Investigations out in California and has been consulted and featured on many shows dealing with hauntings and the paranormal. Loyd talks to us about being a parapsychologist and ghosts, educational opportunities, investigating, and we even discuss some of the current television shows that depict paranormal investigation.

I share some of my own personal ghost stories, one of which occurred when I was very young and the other when I was much older. My interest in the paranormal started from this very early experience as a child; while the other experience taught me that you never know when you're being watched and by whom.

We learn about famous escape artist and medium debunker Harry Houdini in A Corner in the Occult. Can you untie knots with your toes? Houdini could! Learn about this famous magician, his battle with the spiritualist movement during the early 20th century and why he is spotlighted in this episode's edition of A Corner in the Occult.

Also in the episode, I read listener email. We see which listener won a copy of Jeva Singh-Anand's book Bed Time Stories for the Faint of Heart. And in The Essence of Magick Series we discuss the ideas behind magickal intent and learn about what makes it up and how it applies to greater scope of one's existence and not exclusively to the practice of magick. This is a real fun episode. I hope enjoy it!

### ❖ Breakdown: (2:02:08)

- (00:00:00) – Introduction
  - Music : “Proteus” by composer George Wood
- (00:01:00) – Announcements
  - Music: “Nightbook” by Ludovico Einaudi
- (00:02:08) – Thank You...
- (00:03:17) – Promos
  - A Pagan Heart in Maine with Greywolf Moonsong
  - Media Astra Ac Terra with Oraia Sphinx
- (00:04:30) – As of Late:
  - Music: “Voices from the Ether” by ASCIAN
- (00:08:49) – Promo/Bumper
  - Beyond the Threshold with Gary Blackheart
  - Kakophonos Bumper with Rikki LaCoste and Wolfgang
- (00:10:48) – A Corner in the Occult: Harry Houdini
  - Music: “Piano Quartet in G, 3<sup>rd</sup> Movement by Mozart” performed by Linda Holzer
- (00:25:18) – Commercial / Bumper
  - Title Goes Here: Magazine

- Bumper from Lon Milo DuQuette
- (00:27:26) – Segment: Ghosts and I
  - Music: “Shadows of the Spirits” by Jim Butler
- (00:36:45) - Interview with Loyd Auerbach (Part 1)
- (01:10:59) – Promo
  - Pagan FM! with Dee and Jasper
- (01:11:53) – Letters
  - Music: “No More Hectic Days” by Alexandre Falcao
- (01:15:48) – Contest
  - Music: “Reflections” by Guy David
- (01:17:10) – Essence of Magick Series: Magickal Intent
  - Music: “Calling Peace” by Alexandre Falcao
- (01:24:11) – Interview with Loyd Auerbach (Part 2)
- (01:57:43) – Commercial
  - Infinite-beyond.com
- (01:58:47) – Conclusion
  - Music: “Ghost Busters” by Ray Parker Jr.
- (01:59:42) – Wrap-up
  - Music: “Universe inside you” by Persian Paladin

#### ❖ Music

- George Wood - <http://podsafeaudio.com/jamroom/bands/1454/>
- Ludovico Einaudi - <http://www.ludovicoeinaudi.com/>
- ASCIAN - <http://www.myspace.com/ascianmusic>
- Linda Holzer - <http://www.ualr.edu/lrholzer/bio.shtml>
- Jim Butler - <http://web.mac.com/jimbutlermusic/iWeb/Site/Home.html>
- Alexandre Falcao - <http://www.soundclick.com/bands/default.cfm?bandID=613461>
- Guy David - <http://www.guydavid.com/>
- Ray Parker Jr. - <http://www.rayparkerjr.com/>
- Persian Paladin - <http://podsafeaudio.com/jamroom/bands/2644/>

#### ❖ Links

- Loyd Auerbach – <http://www.mindreader.com>
- Tenacity Radio - <http://www.tenacityradio.com/>
- Title Goes Here: - <http://www.titlegoeshere.com>
- Misanthrope Press - <http://misanthropepress.com/>

➤ Proud Pagan Podcasters – <http://www.paganpodcasting.org>

❖ **Texts**

➤ Harry Houdini - <http://www.houdinisecretsrevealed.com/pdf/AMagicianAmongTheSpirits.pdf>

❖ **Promos**

➤ A Pagan Heart in Maine - <http://www.paganheartinmaine.com/>

➤ Media Astra Ac Terra – <http://sphinx.libsyn.com/>

➤ Pagan FM! - <http://www.paganfm.com>

➤ Beyond the Threshold - <http://www.tenacityradio.com/beyond-the-threshold>

➤ Kakophonos - <http://www.kakophonos.com/>

❖ **Credits**

➤ PodsafeAudio - <http://www.podsafeaudio.com/>

➤ Podsafe Music Network - <http://music.podshow.com>