

Bumps in the Night!!!!

March 2014 Issue

Paranormal "U"

The Witching Hour

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'Tis now the very witching time of night, When churchyards yawn, and hell itself breathes out Contagion to this world: now could I drink hot blood And do such bitter business as the day Would quake to look on.

Hamlet, by William Shakespeare, 1603.

The Webster dictionary defines Witching hour as: The middle of the night, especially midnight. Many, however, also believe that this is a time for witches, demons and ghosts to appear as the veil between our world and the spirit world is thin. The origins of this belief, which I discussed in the November 2013 issue, go back at least 400 years. Some things such as the time, midnight versus 3 a.m. has changed but the basic feeling that something may be amiss during those hours remains.

What is it about the middle of the night that people fear? For most, it is the unknown. Familiar sounds and sights may become distorted ...

How does the Witching hour relate to paranormal investigating?

Most paranormal investigators have been asked, at least once, why investigate after dark. Answers will vary from basic logistics to a belief in a thinning veil between this world and a spirit world. In complete darkness a person's other senses become heightened; we listen more intently, more mindful of smells and special relationships. The timing of the Witching Hour spans from midnight (the zero hour) to, in some cultures, 4 am. This span of time is typically when most are sleeping, there is minimal traffic and the day to day noise has subsided making this an ideal time to listen for that slightly out of place sound or watch for a fleeting shadow that may go unnoticed in the daily hustle. Is this what is meant by the thinning veil? We are mentally open to experience paranormal activity in the still of the night?

Some attribute the concept of the veil to the myth of Ishtar and her descent into the Underworld. Ishtar must pass seven gates on her journey and at each gate she removes an article that connects her to the world above till she faces her judgment in her most vulnerable state. The gradual peeling away is symbolic of the necessary steps to reveal one's true nature, a shedding of external layers to uncover the essence of the individual to have a clear understanding of the self and to be closer to Spirit. It represents the transition essential to transform from one state to the next as one grows personally and spiritually. For Ishtar to return to the world above she must provide a substitute and for this she chose her husband. In some telling's it is her husband and his sister and they each spend 6 months in the Underworld, thus providing an explanation for the seasonal change- the light and dark halves of the year. The shifting between Ishtar's husband and his sister at these seasonal shifts are represented as Samhain and Beltane and the thinning veil to allow them to cross between.

The Veil between this world and the spirit world is representative of ones own spiritual connections. The Veil as the filmy barrier between the world of the physical and that of the spirit varies in density depending on the time of year and the individual's ability to see the spirit world. For



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those with psychic ability, the view is still shrouded in fog, yet accessible a good amount of the time. For those without the gift of second sight, the Veil is thick and can be impenetrable. Those who are able to access the Veil have experienced it as a place of silence, calm, and peace. All that is outside of the Veil is motion, noise, and desire. To be in the Veil is to be both separate from the physical world and a part of the oneness of Spirit.

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