Scrying – by Anne Piper (Esoteric Online)

Scrying is a form of divination using, most commonly a reflective surface or translucent body help supposed psychic ability. It is, in very basic terms one of the ‘ tools of the trade ‘.

It has a history spanning thousands of years with the ancient Egyptians using ‘ water scrying ‘, ‘ oil scrying ‘ and ‘ mirror scrying ‘. In pre-Islamic Persia the ‘ Cup of Jams hid ‘ was used by wizards and practitioners of the Esoteric sciences for ‘ observing all the seven layers ‘ of the universe. We also know that the Ancient Greeks and Celts practised scrying using crystal black glass, water and other transparent or light catching bodies.

One ‘ use ‘ of scrying is as a auto-deepening trance process using tools such as a crystal ball. It is used initially as a focus for the attention to help the user switch off from all thoughts and all things in their immediate environment. Once this has been effective the process allows the sitter to hear and feel what is more ethereally around them and also to ‘ see ‘ images within the crystal ball or whichever medium is being used.

In terms of paranormal investigating the most common medium to be used is the mirror. Those practised in psychic work will indeed use it as a ‘ tool ‘ for focussing the mind for clairaudience and clairsentience as well as in the hope that images will appear in the mirror. Those less practised tend to focus more on the ‘ seeing ‘ aspect alone. During investigations we most often see footage of this ‘ seeing ‘ aspect as investigators try to film into the mirror to capture what the sitter is experiencing, and this is usually reported as being a person in front of them, changing their face into the face of the spirit present…or standing behind them. When the sitter reports they can see themselves ‘ changing ‘ in the mirror you will often hear other team members stating they can also see the changes…either in the person themselves or in the reflection.

There are many possible logical explanations for these experiences. Investigation teams primarily work in the dark. For that reason the sitter often has a candle or torch placed between them and the mirror. Most reports of ‘ seeing things ‘ happen when a candle is used. As candle light is constantly changing and moving the shadows it casts alter. This can lead to an apparent changing of the physical form. Add this to the ‘ expectation ‘ of something happening and the imagination and people will often perceive things that are different to the reality. Even when a torch is being used the shadows it casts can alter the ‘ look ‘ of the person and what is around them. It is, in basic terms the perfect scenario for the ‘ trick of the light ‘ effect.

On some occasions people report that they are ‘ disappearing ‘. This is most likely due to the very fact they are intently staring at the mirror. If you experiment by focussing on any object in your room (even in daylight) after a short while the object will seem to disappear…it is no different when looking at ones self in the mirror.

As I have already mentioned other team members often state they too are seeing changes or something around the sitter. This is most probably due to the effect of the power of suggestion
alone. Also of course there is the psychology of wanting to be ‘a part of something’, to not feel you are missing something other people are seeing. More experienced groups are less likely to do this however less experienced groups might well fall into these traps. People are not however always consciously lying, to them it could be very real at the time.

When such things are ‘caught on camcorder’ there are, many things to bare in mind. In many ways the camcorder is no more than an extra ‘eye’. Shadows and shapes made by light and shadow can make shapes on the camcorder footage in the same way the trick of the light can cause altered visual states to the human eye. In addition when infra-red is being used, although invisible to the eye, it does reflect off glass or any reflective surface. This bouncing of light can cause more shadowing to appear and for lights to be seen. If the reflective surface is not perfectly flat and smooth these lights can sometimes duplicate themselves time and time again producing what can appear to be a very exciting show.

As with many things scrying in this way can be evidence only for the sitter themselves. How ‘real’ they perceive their experiences to be will be of personal choice. As evidence for others the results of a scrying experiment will always be questionable. The most compelling evidence would be if changes or shapes are captured by camcorder when the scrying is carried out in daylight with no extra lighting.