

# Believe It...

## *Believers versus Skeptics : Psychics*

### *Michelle Burg - Believer*

*www.michellesmessage.com*

#### **1. Who are you?**

I'm Michelle Burg, a natural born psychic medium and clairvoyant living in Maryville, Illinois. I've helped thousands world-wide with their life burning questions or concerns. I also host my own radio program, Into the Light on the Shadow Talk Radio Network every Monday at 8 pm EST. The show discusses the paranormal and metaphysical realm.

#### **2. What is a psychic?**

A psychic can be something different for everyone. To me it is someone who can just see through the "veil" we were given before birth. A psychic is someone who is capable of tuning in with whatever ability they have been given, to help others throughout their lives.

They are able to communicate with spirits and pick up on the emotions of a situation and/or person. Being psychic is nothing general but a very wide open ability. It is the sixth sense. It is used to HELP people, not hurt them. It is used to help a person weed through the possibilities and/or choices they have in life with a bit more guidance. A psychic is not a special person, just someone who is more in tune with the abilities that are available to us from the universe. I strongly believe that we all can tune into our own "sixth sense".

#### **3. Why do you believe in psychic abilities?**

I believe in psychic abilities because since I was a very young child I have not only witnessed them but I have been guided by spirits on the other side. I have experienced amazing things myself and with other 'psychic' type people. Of course, there are fake psychics too. I am able to strongly state not only for myself, but for others, that psychic abilities do exist.



#### **4. What is the best example you have that could prove the existence of psychic abilities?**

I believe it is nothing that I can prove in this short interview however each person who sits for a reading with me does get their own proof. If it is connecting them with someone who has crossed over with exact details such as full name, age, occupation and so forth, to being able to tell one certain things that no one else could possibly know.

I definitely believe Chris Angel's idea of putting something in an envelope and then allowing psychics to figure it out is a great way to prove psychic ability. It may not work for everyone as each ability is different. But it would surely weed out the fakes! I do not believe setting up a psychic to fail is a good test, as you are already drawing negativity to the situation. If you are ever looking for proof with

a psychic you should just give them your name. They should not need any other information and they should NOT ever ask you questions!!!

#### **5. In your opinion, how do you explain psychic abilities?**

Psychic abilities are a gift, a blessing from God. It is very obvious to me that these abilities were given to people to help others. Throughout history there have always been psychics, prophets, gypsies and other people with these special abilities. Psychic ability is a blessing. It is not a get rich quick scheme like the telephone psychic Miss Cleo. People who are open to the universe with great passion use their abilities to help others around them, as their promise to God. I am so thankful for this blessing I have been given and I cannot wait to share it with many, many more!

# Or Not...

**Jon Donniss – Skeptic**

***www.badpsychics.com***

## **1. Who are you?**

I'm Jon Donniss of Bad Psychics.com. I'm author and editor of the UK's largest online skeptical network. We have sites covering various areas of paranormal claims, including psychics and mediums, ghosts and paranormal groups, homeopathy and healing claims, as well as a media outlet called BadPsychics TV (BPTV).

I am not an academic or a scientist; instead, I'm just an average person who has a deep and passionate interest in all claims of the paranormal and supernatural. I have spent the last 5 years investigating and researching as much as I can, as well as truly trying to see things from the other side of the paranormal fence.

## **2. What is a psychic?**

The word psychic is often used as a catch-all term to describe anyone with paranormal abilities. However, to be more precise a psychic is someone who believes they pick up information from the person being read, or from a non-living object or building, etc. A medium is someone who communicates with the dead, whether it be through feeling, seeing or hearing. It is often said that all mediums are psychic, but not all psychics are mediums.

## **3. Why do you not believe in psychic abilities?**

Whether I believe or not is not the issue, all that matters is that if someone claims they can do something that is beyond science, then they need to prove it.

I remain open minded regarding all claims of the paranormal. However, at this point in time, since 100% of psychics and mediums fail when the chance to cheat is removed, then I personally believe it is unlikely that such an ability exists. But I would love to be proven wrong.

## **4. What is the best example you have that could**

## ***disprove the existence of psychic abilities?***

I have yet to see any example of a psychic doing anything that I couldn't explain, but it is also very hard to disprove such claims, as the burden of proof should always be firmly on the claimant.

If I were to say that the Loch Ness Monster could fly, could anyone disprove that claim? What if I said he was invisible too, or that he just flew past my window smoking a cigar? Can anyone disprove these claims? Of course not, but does that give my claims any more credence? Again, no. So in my opinion, anytime someone makes a claim it is completely up to them to prove the claim, and not for others to disprove it.

## **5. In your opinion, how do you explain psychic abilities?**

One mistake many skeptics fall into is to simply use the term "Cold Reading" to blindly label all psychic readings. Yes, cold reading can explain a lot, and most psychics do use this technique. However, sometimes it is even more simple than that. Sometimes

it is a lucky guess, or a coincidence, or the psychic researched the client beforehand, or they interpret the subject's body language.

Let's say I give the exact same medium reading to one hundred people; not a cold reading, just a detailed, specific description of a fictitious dead relative. Out of those one hundred people, purely by chance, I am likely to find at least one person who could identify with my description. Now say that this one person did not know I had given the same information to ninety-nine others. Ask yourself, how can that one person explain how I gave them such a 'precise' reading? I didn't use cold reading, or hot reading; I was specific with details and had a large sample group.

When this happens, this is the hardest reading for a skeptic to explain. Sometimes the medium just gets lucky. But most of the time, whether it is someone bending a spoon with their 'mind', reading the history of an object just by touching it, or communicating with the dead, there is a simple, natural explanation. The question always is; when is the claim worth the time to figure out how the reading was done?

