

BUYER BEWARE – by Ella Groves

Summary of Sunday Service Talk about Psychic Selection and Fraud – May 2006

Things you should know about to avoid disappointment

1. **Research the different types of readers.** There are many readers to choose from – palmistry, tarot, numerology and astrology or psychics, intuitives, psychic counselors, intuitive counselors, psychic medium, spiritual mediums, Spiritualist mediums and channels.
2. **Narrow down the selection process.** Understand the kind of information that you are looking and then narrow the selection of a reader according to your needs and expectations.
3. **Avoid making hasty decisions.** Don't make spur-of-the-moment decisions to consult a reader or do something out of curiosity because this can lead to disappointment.
4. **Do research and background checks.** Check for criminal records or complaints by contacting local police departments, the Better Business Bureau or the City Hall Consumer Department.
5. **Ask Questions.** Potential clients of any psychic or reader have the right to ask questions. Prepare a list questions before interviewing a potential reader.
 - How long have they been doing readings?
 - Are the sessions taped? (Many people prefer this so they can listen to the session afterwards.)
 - Do you have an e-mail or web site?
 - What is your spiritual philosophy?
 - Which psychic arts do you practice - clairvoyance, tarot, astrology, palmistry?
 - What is your fee?
 - How long is a reading?
 - Are there overtime charges?

How it find a reputable reader

1. Word of mouth is the best indicator of an ethical practitioner. For many practitioners there is no need to advertise as new clients come through referrals from existing clients.
2. Check the local metaphysical books stores and tea rooms because the proprietors will have screened the readers for suitability to sponsor in their establishments.
3. Attend a Spiritualist church demonstration of mediumship to see the medium at work. Church mediums are held to highest ethical standards by church boards and ministers.

Seek readers who have ethical practices

Permission before intuition. It is unethical for a reader to tap into people's energy prior to permission or knowledge that the reading is actually going to take place. Psychic intrusion or psychic snooping is never appropriate at any time and is considered to be a violation of privacy. Once an agreement is made that a reading is to proceed, then it is appropriate for the reader to use their intuitive gifts.

Spirit before money, not money before Spirit. Find readers who have committed, through their soul path, to give service to Spirit and the spiritual well-being of others. Over the years, those in this category will have already made a commitment to Spirit that they will serve others, sometimes without charging clients for their services.

Compassion not fear. Select a reader who has a compassionate attitude toward his or her clients. Readings can be incredibly intimate experiences and sensitive issues can arise. Fear is a negative element that will ultimately bring down the spirits of the client and can be harmful to them. A reader who is working with compassion can lift spirits and open the soul.

Empowerment not 'power over'. Readers who focus on empowering others will use words, intention and information to uplift and motivate the individual. They present the truth without hurting. At the end of the reading, the client mostly likely will feel optimistic, strong, enlightened, reassured.

Independence not dependency. Ethical readers suggest that clients wait a minimum of six to 12 months between readings. More frequent readings are cause for concern because clients can become dependent on their readers when they need to do their own thinking and problem solving instead. In situations where the reader holds the power, this person can influence clients to become reliant on him or her. Unfortunately, the motivation may have more to do with enriching themselves and not the client.

Signs of Psychic Fraud

- If someone's energy doesn't feel right to you. Trust your gut feeling.
- If a reader informs you that you have negative energy, but for a fee they will remove it.
- If the solution to a perceived problem or remedy is to buy a 100 candles or some other product they just happen to have on hand.
- If someone tells you that you have a curse, a spell or a charm on you.
- If anyone tries to talk you into extra services. These all add up to more money.
- If someone makes you feel bad or scared.

- If someone tell you when you are going to die. Remember that readers are not God.
- If someone uses high pressure, pushy sales tactics to persuade you to have a reading.
- If someone offers a choice from a multitude of psychic disciplines. It may indicate that they dabble in many psychic arts but are masters of none.
- If someone makes all kinds of promises or claims such as giving you the winning lottery numbers or directing you to your soul-mate.
- If someone uses a mystical name instead of their real name or won't issue a signed receipt.
- If some time after a funeral, a family member is approached by someone claiming to be in touch with the spirit of a loved one and uses as proof details about the deceased person's life. One of the con's games is to research the obituaries or newspaper articles to get the information.
- If you are lead to stereotypical studios complete with fringed tablecloths, low lighting and a reader wearing a turban. Genuine psychic practitioners do not use props or mysterious settings.

Words to the Wise

1. Remember that at all times, you are in control. You have the free will to accept or reject any part of a reading that doesn't resonate to you.
2. If the reader doesn't provide a tape, bring along your own tape and recorder so that you can evaluate the session afterwards and check the information as time goes on.
3. Psychic frauds prey on those searching for comfort, support, direction and spiritual connection at times when people are most vulnerable. Vulnerable times include periods of grief, financial hardships, worries over family members, being in a state of discontentment about life and a desire for change, loss of direction or fear of making a wrong decision.
4. In the world of psychic arts there are the cons practicing fraud and deception, but there are also many ethical and competent practitioners with the highest integrity who regard the session with a client as a sacred time to receive guidance and direction and support others on their life's path. There are many qualified readers in whom one can have trust and confidence.
5. Often there is confusion about the difference between a psychic and a medium. Psychics derive information by tuning into the client's energy field. The Spiritualist medium does not use psychic links when doing a reading, nor do they work with

crystal balls, cards, charts, palms or other aids. The true Spiritualist medium relies only on his or her link with Spirit to bring information to clients.

Recommended Reading

- *Psychics & Mediums in Canada* by Jean Porche and Deborah Vaughan
- *After Death Experiences* by Dianne Archangel