

Shrink Rap Radio # 30, March 26, 2006, Scientific Parapsychology
David Van Nuys, Ph.D., aka "Dr. Dave" interviews Stanley Krippner
(transcribed from www.ShrinkRapRadio.com by Sandra Huang)

Excerpt: *Ullman is a psychotherapist and he began to notice that many of his clients were having dreams about his personal life so he thought why not put this into a laboratory setting and monitor peoples dreams with the Electroencephalogram machine and associated devices, wake them after it seems that they've had a dream while a person in a distant room or a distant building is looking at a vivid picture or a vivid film clip of some sort or another trying to transmit the contents of that into the person's dream. Just a very neat, simple, direct experimental setup with all sorts of in-built controls. And then we have outside judges try to match the light of dreams to the correct picture. Now if we had twelve lights of dreams and twelve pictures, the chances are that they'd be able to do this one out of twelve. Instead we were coming up with seven, eight, nine or ten hits out of twelve. Which was statistically significant.*

Introduction: You've just heard the voice of Dr. Stanley Krippner, good friend and world renowned psychologist describing the groundbreaking paradigm of his research into parapsychology. Since 1973, Dr. Krippner has been professor of Psychology at the Saybrook Graduate School and research center in San Francisco, California. I've titled this episode *Scientific Parapsychology*; now for those already invested in the scientific investigation of extra sensory perception and other psychic phenomena, the phrase scientific parapsychology may seem redundant since they would equate the word parapsychology with the scientific study of these phenomena, however, I'd guess that most people outside of the field would equate the term parapsychology to a wide variety of popular accounts of unusual experiences. So I wanted to underscore the fact that there have been and there are a small band of pioneers who've brought the rigorous methods of science to bear on the intriguing but elusive phenomena associated with the term ESP or Extra Sensory Perception. Now today's guest, Dr. Stanley Krippner stands out as one of the foremost of these scientific investigators. To full appreciate Stanley Krippner's contributions to psychology in general and parapsychology in particular, you really must visit his website at www.stanleykrippner.com and that's spelled s-t-a-n-l-e-y-k-r-i-p-p-n-e-r.com and there you will find links to the twenty-five books that he has authored or co-authored. Beyond that, you'll discover a host of books that he's edited and then beyond that you'll find a long list of chapters contributed to books; more than I really wanted to take time to count. And then if you look at his list of scientific papers and presentations, they run into the hundreds, and then he has a list of awards. His list of awards is too long to read, so I really refer you to the website. But let me just give you a feel for it: he received the Ashley Montagu Peace Award, also the American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Contributions to Profession Hypnosis; he received the American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology, he received the Dr. J.B. Rhine Award for Life-Time Achievement in Parapsychology, he received the Latin-American Parapsychology Award, he received the Outstanding Career Award from the Parapsychological Association, he received a Pathfinder Award from the Association for Humanistic

Psychology, he received a Citation of Merit from the National Association for Creative Children and Adults, and another Citation of Merit from the National Association for Gifted Children, he received the Service to Youth Award from the Y.M.C.A. and the list goes on. All of this may help you to understand why I'm so excited and feel so privileged to be able to share the following interview with you.

Dr. Dave: Stanley, thanks so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to be with us today. I could take all of our time just introducing you. I goggled you and came up with fifty-nine thousand, eight hundred references to your name. Your list of publications is way to long to recite so clearly there isn't time to cover all of your accomplishments and honors here so I'll refer my listeners to your website at stanleykrippner.com, which will...

Stanley Krippner: I've never goggled myself. I had no idea there were that many.

Dr. Dave: (laughs) Yeah. I know, it's fairly shocking. So there'll be a link to that website in our show notes. Now you're a top authority in more areas of psychology than anyone else I know of. And I'm not sure I even know all of your areas of specialization. The ones I know about are dreams, mythology, consciousness, hypnosis, parapsychology, healing, creativity, special education and peace studies. Have I left any out?

Krippner: You did a better job than I could ever.

Dr. Dave: (laughs) Okay. Now out of all of this wealth of knowledge and accomplishment, I'd like to focus in on parapsychology. In the middle sixties and early seventies, you were Director of Dream Laboratory at the Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. And during that period, you carried out what struck me as a series of very tightly controlled studies on mental telepathy and precognition. Could you give us a brief recap of that work?

Krippner: Well, yes, I'll be happy to. And the third edition of our book *Dream Telepathy* is now available by Ullman, Krippner, and Vaughan and that tells the whole story for any of your listeners who might be interested...

Dr. Dave: Wonderful.

Krippner:but Ullman is a psychotherapist and he began to notice that many of his clients were having dreams about his personal life so he thought why not put this into a laboratory setting and monitor peoples dreams with the Electroencephalogram machine and associated devices, wake them after it seems that they've had a dream while a person in a distant room or a distant building is looking at a vivid picture or a vivid film clip of some sort or another, trying to transmit the contents of that into the person's dream. Just a very neat, simple, direct experimental setup with all sorts of in-built controls. And then we have outside judges try to match the light of dreams to the correct picture. Now if we had twelve lights of dreams and twelve pictures, the chances are that they'd be able to do this one out of twelve. Instead we were coming up with seven, eight, nine or ten hits out of twelve. Which was statistically significant.

Dr. Dave: Wow.

Krippner: We did that research for ten years and we also did two pieces of research with what we called precognition where the picture would not be selected until the following day. And people did equally well on the precognition studies; now in science you can't make any great claims unless something is replicated in other laboratories and for the past couple of decades, some people in laboratories have replicated them and some people have not.

Dr. Dave: Mmmhmm.

Krippner: And we don't know why this happens. People can't replicate it too easily, and I had one hunch which we tracked that and that there was something really beyond personality rapport and telepathy or precognition talent and we went back over our data and looked at what was happening with the geomagnetic field during the nights of the experiments that were going on.

Dr. Dave: Hmm.

Krippner: In other words, were there some spot activities? Were there electrical storms? And what we found out was the most successful nights were the correspondences between the target, the picture, and the dreams were nights when there was very low geomagnetic activity where there were not storms, there was not much sunspot activity. So this gives us a clue that whatever ESP is, it's something that's affected by the ambient geomagnetic environment and so it's a field effect. A very complicated field effect and one we probably don't know all of the variables for. But at least this gave us a clue as to what a few of the variables were.

Dr. Dave: Right and didn't you also in your research find that emotionality, emotional intensity of the pictures that people were looking at played a role and also that some people seemed to have more of a natural propensity or a talent than others.

Krippner: Yes, we found out that in spontaneous cases, cases that people write in about or that they remember or report, there's usually some emotion involved. If a loved one is in danger for example...

Dr. Dave: Right.

Krippner: ...they'll often have a telepathic dream about that person. So we chose pictures that were very emotionally intense and sometimes a picture that was more bland and more ordinary came up through randomization and those usually didn't have as much of a punch telepathically as the ones that had the emotional intensity to them.

Dr. Dave: Okay, so you also achieved some widespread fame or notoriety or something. You did some large scale psychic experiments at Grateful Dead concerts. Can you replay a little bit of that for us?

Krippner: Well, that was done just for fun.

Dr. Dave: Okay.

Krippner: I knew the Grateful Dead and still keep in touch with a few of the members of the old group and we thought it'd be fun to try to have their entire audience, at a series of concerts in Port Chester, New York send a randomly chosen picture which was flashed on the screen in back of the Grateful Dead to somebody sleeping in our laboratory and the people at the concert were looking at a light show when all of sudden, on the light show, there were instructions "You are about to participate in a telepathy experiment. At this moment Malcolm Bessent is asleep at the Maimonides Dream Laboratory in Brooklyn, New York. In a few moments you will be shown a picture, try to telepathically send it to him." And then, the person running the slide projector flipped a coin and the coin determined which slide would go into the machine next. That was flashed on the screens; members of the Grateful Dead would make some comments about the picture and then they'd go ahead and keep playing. Well, we did that for six nights. Very small numbers of nights, but the results shall we say marginally significant.

Dr. Dave: Mmmhmm.

Krippner: Four out of the six nights, there was a fairly close correspondence. One night the painting was by the Middle Eastern artist Scralian of a man meditating, and you can see the seven spinal chakras in color and the dreamer Mr. Bessent actually had a dream about the spinal column.

Dr. Dave: Wow.

Krippner: And several dreams about energy centers.

Dr. Dave: Mmm.

Krippner: Well, that was the closest correspondence. The others weren't so close. But even though that was sort of a pilot study and one that only involved a few nights. That has been written up in stories about the Grateful Dead which was written up in popular magazines and like I say it's really the best known of all of our studies. Even though it was one that we did just for kicks, just for fun.

Dr. Dave: Yeah, yeah. I was talking to a mutual friend the other day and mentioning that we were going to be speaking in this interview and he reminded me that you were a fairly regular guest for awhile on the Johnny Carson Show. Is that true?

Krippner: I did one appearance on the Johnny Carson show.

Dr. Dave: Oh, okay.

Krippner: And people have seen those reruns so often that they think that I was a regular guest. This just comes up time and time again.

Dr. Dave: Uh-huh.

Krippner: But I'll tell you the most interesting aspect of that Johnny Carson show, was during the intermission when I talked to Ed Randall, Tony Randall who was also a guest. Tony Randall, the distinguished actor who unfortunately died a few years ago.

Dr. Dave: Yeah.

Krippner: But very very odd. Fine actor and producer, had his own acting company in New York at the time of his death. And he told me his story about going to a psychiatrist because he was having anxiety attacks and then the psychiatrist was telling him that he was taking Amphetamines and he could get twice as much done and see twice as many patients as he could without the Amphetamines and then he forgot who Tony Randall was and he mixed him up with other patients. It was obvious the Amphetamines were burning out his brain cells.

Dr. Dave: (laughs)

Krippner: And then the psychiatrist committed suicide...

Dr. Dave: Oh, my goodness.

Krippner: ...and so Randall thought "Look, I've concluded my psychotherapy. I have no more anxiety attacks. I haven't been back to a psychiatrist since."

Dr. Dave: (laughs) Good story.

Krippner: So that was the high point of the Johnny Carson show for me and that didn't even get on T.V.

Dr. Dave: Yeah. Great. Well I'm glad to be in on that. Now I know you as someone who's a strong believer in the canons of science on the one hand and at the same time someone who keeps an open mind about an amazing array of paranormal phenomena that people have reported. And I've always marveled at this ability that you have to kind of tread that tightrope. I know people have told you about the wildest sorts of paranormal experiences imaginable. And I know you believe in empirical science and somehow you never invalidate anyone. How do you pull that off?

Krippner: To be very frank with you, I don't believe much in anything.

Dr. Dave: Interesting.

Krippner: Yes, I believe that the scientific method is our best guard against self deception and there are a number of social and political issues that I believe in very strongly but in terms of these supposedly paranormal experiences, I play with them.

Dr. Dave: Mmmhmm.

Krippner: I'm not ready to say I believe in them, but I play around with the possibilities. And then people have these experiences and tell me about them. I'm not going to invalidate their experience. Of course there might be any number of ordinary explanations but how am I to know? So I just listen courteously and if they ever seem to going off of the edge of if they ever seem to be taking something too seriously in a way that might damage them. Then I might step in and I might say "Well, you know the evidence demonstrates such and such and so and so. So I'd be a little more skeptical about doing this if I were you. I'd think twice."

Dr. Dave: Mmmhmm. Mmmhmm.

Krippner: So I do make an intervention if I see somebody in danger of taking an unwarranted risk but other than that, sure I play around with the ideas. I enjoy hearing about them and I learn something from them.

Dr. Dave: Interesting. Yeah, and I...

Krippner: And of course, I always think "Now how could this be turned into a scientific study? How could this be put into some rigorous framework so we could verify this or nullify this."

Dr. Dave: Yeah, yeah. And that's one of your distinguishing characteristics I think and as I say you do have a gift for somehow holding true to your strong embrace of science on the one hand and really supporting people, not invalidating them. I've run into so many people who, you know, comes out somewhere in the conversation, they say "Oh do you know my good friend Stanley Krippner?" And these are people from all over the world and you have all these people that say "Stanley Krippner, my good friend." Those two phrases always go together so...

Krippner: *Tu eres sympatico* as we say in Spanish "You're very kind, very thoughtful."

Dr. Dave: (laughs) Now, back in the seventies you traveled to what was then the U.S.S.R. to check out a lot of the claims made by Ostrander and Schroeder in their bestselling book *Psychic Discoveries Behind the Iron Curtain*. What did you find there?

Krippner: Well, I didn't find as much as Ostrander and Schroeder claimed.

Dr. Dave: Mmmhmm.

Krippner: Now Ostrander and Schroeder were friends of mine and were very helpful to me in terms of making contacts but you know, they were journalists, they were popular writers and so they did a little bit of ah, shall we say dramatic exaggeration.

Dr. Dave: Yes.

Krippner: But on the other hand, one of the very interesting things that I found out about is that the Soviets who had actually done murdering shamans and folk healers for years because they were not Marxists did a quick change of pace and began to try to go to the shamans in Siberia to find out tricks from them that they could use for strategic purposes.

Dr. Dave: Mmm.

Krippner: And I found out that they were actually taking these shamanic techniques to try to confuse the lines of politicians in Washington and get them to make stupid decisions.

Dr. Dave: Hey, it's working.

Krippner: They succeeded all too well.

Dr. Dave: (laughs) Right. It seems like it's finally kicking in. Or maybe...

Krippner: Yeah, that's right. I'm afraid there's layover, right.

Dr. Dave: Yeah.

Krippner: Residual effect.

Dr. Dave: Yeah.

Dr. Dave: Now this was a good connection for me to make because once the Soviet Union dissolved, Shamanism became an even stronger field of study and I've been to Russia several times for conferences with Shamans and they have flown them in from Siberia and they brought their equipment with them. We've had wonderful drumming ceremonies and they come with their traditional costumes and they do their chants, their songs, and their healing and they are the sons or brothers or grandsons or granddaughters of the Shamans who were killed by the Communists or had to go into hiding. Some of them buried their drums and fifty years later, their sons and daughters and grandchildren dug up the drums and started using them again. It's really quite a remarkable story.

Krippner: Really? Yes, yes it is. Looking back a little bit more, what's your evaluation of the remote viewing research that was conducted by Puthoff and Targ at the Stanford Research Institute and people may not be familiar with that research so you might just briefly characterize it.

Krippner: Well, this is the type of what parapsychologists call clairvoyance, where you see something at a distance, combined with telepathy where you supposedly read somebody's mind. Targ and Puthoff did develop a very ingenious device of randomly selecting a location that the outbound person would drive to and then while they were at that location, the inbound person would do remote viewing. They would try to find them and they would draw a picture and dictate an account of what was going on and then using techniques very similar to the techniques we had tied in with our green telepathy studies. There would be these matchings, trying to match the description with a location and this really spawned a whole new area of research, now there's been several remote viewing studies by people in different laboratories all over the world and I think that the first remote viewing studies were a little bit unsophisticated and open to questions in terms of their rigorous controls but I think for this time went on, they tightened the controls and now the remote viewing studies that are being done I think are rigorous enough so that we give some confidence in the results. And the results are quite impressive to tell you the truth.

Dr. Dave: Mmmhmm.

Krippner: I think they should be taken seriously.

Dr. Dave: Interesting. Going back again there was the famous Uri Geller, the psychic spoon bender and I know you had some contact with him as well. What's your take on him as you look back?

Krippner: Well, Geller and I have always had a very cordial relationship and one time we were going to be on a program together, a T.V. program by the way, and we were backstage and he said to me "Stanley I know that you're very skeptical about my abilities and I'd like to give you a demonstration right now. I'm going to give you a pencil and paper and I'd like you to just draw something on it and I'm going to turn my back and I will try to draw just what you have drawn." Well, you know I know the old trick of where a magician will do that and...

Dr. Dave: Yes...

Krippner: ...turn his back and he'll have a little mirror and by looking in the mirror he can see the way the pencil moves, so I said "Fine Uri, I'll just step outside the door."

Dr. Dave: (laughs)

Krippner: So I stepped outside the door, drew a picture, came back in, he showed me his picture, I showed him mine. Sorry, but there was no match.

Dr. Dave: Oh okay.

Krippner: And he says "Well, we'll have to try again some other time."

Dr. Dave: Well, of course...

Krippner: On the other hand...

Dr. Dave: Uh huh.

Krippner: ...I'll say something in favor of Uri because later on that television show another friend of mine, the Amazing Randy, was telling me that he really was going to expose Geller because he had a actor friend in Australia pretend to be a psychic, went on the radio and said to people "Bring your electrical equipment with you, that's broken down watches, toasters, computers, and focus on them and I will focus on them and they'll start running again." And sure enough people phoned in and all sorts of electrical appliances had started to work even though this guy was an out and out fake. Well Geller got up, he did the same thing for the television audience, and people were phoning in from all over the country because it was live television. Watches had started to work that hadn't worked before, etc. And then Randy showed his television clip of the actor in Australia, thinking to expose Geller, and so then the television camera went to Geller and Geller said "But this is what I keep telling people, that power doesn't come from me. It comes from the people themselves. And so even a fraudulent psychic can stimulate that people that people have within themselves." That was very, very clever.

Dr. Dave: Yes.

Krippner: Of course from my point of view, when people take something that hasn't worked for awhile, shake it a little bit, hold it, maybe insert some bodily heat that melts the wax or cleans out the insides. It'll start running spontaneously, but I didn't get a chance to get say that on television. The drama was exciting enough between these two protagonists.

Dr. Dave: Yeah, I regularly fix things by banging on them. (laughs) Or shaking them. It's interesting that you bring up James Randy and I'm surprised to hear you refer to him as your friend.

Krippner: Oh, I was just in Las Vegas with Randy. I was a speaker at his skeptics conference.

Dr. Dave: Really? Yeah...

Krippner: Nearly 900 people there, the biggest collection of skeptics that has ever assembled under one roof.

Dr. Dave: Yes, so he's a leading skeptic and he's offered a large cash prize to anyone who can demonstrate a psychic affect.

Krippner: That's right and the fact that nobody has collected shows how elusive these abilities are.

Dr. Dave: Ummhmm.

Krippner: And of course people say "Well, Randy put so many pre-conditions on it that it makes impossible." No, I don't that's the reason at all. I think that the phenomena are just really outside of easy control because there are so many variables. Like I say, these abilities whatever they might be are the results of the very complex system. Now when I was in Las Vegas speaking at Randy's conference I said "Randy, I'll be happy to speak at your conference but I'm not going to speak on parapsychology because they'll have their minds made up." And so instead I talked about one of my other lecture topics - Rational and Irrational Beliefs about HIV and AIDs. And the audience loved it because there is so much irrational thinking that's killing people off in different parts of the world including our own country that that was a really good topic for the skeptics.

Dr. Dave: Wow, well if you ever want to give me another interview, I'll bring you back to talk about that. This could be another outlet for that information.

Krippner: Well you see this does get into paranormal topics because in Africa, there is one group of sorcerers who was telling people "If you have sex with a virgin, you will get over AIDs." So they go out and rape all of these girls and all of them die from AIDs.

Dr. Dave: Oh my goodness.

Krippner: Now there's another group in another part of Africa saying "Well if you have sex with a woman past menopause, you'll get over AIDs." So they'll rape a woman who is past menopause and then they all die from AIDs. But this irrational thinking is not only taking place in Africa, and paranormal beliefs are not only in Africa, in our own country, people are saying "God is killing homosexuals..."

Dr. Dave: Right.

Krippner: ..."AIDs is the agent of his justice. And I say "Well, how come so few lesbians die of AIDs then?"

Dr. Dave: Mmmhmmm Mmmhmm.

Krippner: Much less what you hear from our government on the topic and just go to the websites and you find out that the use of condoms is really put down and being deemed as ineffective protection which we know that it is not. It's really very effective protection if used properly.

Dr. Dave: Right.

Krippner: So I could go on and on about irrational paranormal beliefs about HIV and AIDs but that's what I talked about at Randy's skeptics conference.

Dr. Dave: Okay. Interesting.

Krippner: Now again, I said something positive about Uri Geller, I should say something positive about Randy. He has exposed some fraudulent faith healers who were keeping people from seeking medical help and were giving him fairly large amounts of money so this is all in his book *The Faith Healers* and so he has done a good service by exposing some of these people.

Dr. Dave: Yeah, yeah. Now I was struck in the beginning of our conversation. You said you don't believe in much but I gather you do believe in some sort of rudimentary psychic phenomenon and I'm wondering if you've had any sorts of experiences yourself, personal experiences that would reinforce your sense that there's something going on, you know more than meets the eye, so to speak.

Krippner: Well, my position is that yes, there's something going on here but it's not paranormal, it's normal, it's not supernatural, it's nature and that's the framework that I operate in and I actually took part in one of our dream telepathy experiments back at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn and I must say I did fairly well. The picture was of a mountain, of a chasm, of a valley between two mountains and I had a dream that I was mountain climbing and I fell down the chasm into the void below and fortuitously I woke up. So that was my one experience in a controlled laboratory setting that we're talking about.

Dr. Dave: Yeah, what about in uncontrolled long laboratory settings? Have you had other intimations?

Krippner: Well, I had experiences that could all be coincidental but perhaps the most poignant experience I had was when I was working with Spotted Fawn who was the wife of Rolling Thunder a noted Native American shaman and Medicine Man, and Spotted Fawn was being treated for cancer in San Francisco and I was going to see her several times a week, giving her hypnosis to help ease the pain. And then I went off to Mexico for a conference and on the last night of the conference I actually had a dream and in the dream Spotted Fawn came to me and said "You know, I will not be seeing you on this earth again." And I got back to San Francisco and that was the very night that she died.

Dr. Dave: Wow. Yeah.

Krippner: Now of course, I know her death was coming, this might have been coincidental but still it was a very poignant experience.

Dr. Dave: Sure and so many other people have had similar experiences that it's hard for me to chalk it up just to coincidence. But I have to say your own views match my own quite closely about the paranormal versus normal and so on. I know that you studied, you know you mentioned Rolling Thunder and Spotted Fawn and the shamans in Russia and I know that you studied indigenous healers in various parts of the world. You know what's been your take on all that?

Krippner: Well I actually go to Munich, Germany twice a year to lecture on the topic of ethnomedicine to physicians and medical students, along with several other people, most of them Medical Anthropologists and there's this certificate program in Germany that's actually bringing people now from various parts of Europe and I described the medical systems of several Native American Tribes, also Mexican Folk Healing, also Folk Healing in Brazil and other parts of the world that I have visited.

Dr. Dave: Mmmhmm.

Krippner: And I think that what most people don't realize is that Western heliopathic biomedicine only services about 20% of the people on the world.

Dr. Dave: Mmmhmm.

Krippner: The other 80% are serviced by traditional folk medicine and so United Nations has launched this program to bring the two together and to do some testing of folk medicine to see what's effective and what is not effective and also to see how the two systems can work together: the Western allopathic biomedicine and the traditional folk medicine of which of course there are hundreds of varieties around the world. Now just because something is folk medicine doesn't mean that it's valid or useful or good and I cited the examples of the treatments for AIDs a few minutes ago. However, many of the herbs and plants that are used in traditional medical centers by shamans and folk healers and the like, have been taken into the laboratory and have been found to be effective. Especially with Chinese and Tibetan medicines, but also many Native American medicines. Most people don't realize that Native Americans, before the Europeans arrived had a pharmacopoeia that was quite impressive, of course each of the 500 tribes had their own pharmacopoeia but the Rappahannock [a tribe in the Northeastern U.S.] perhaps had the most advanced pharmacopoeia because it was far more effective than the medicines that the Europeans brought to the United States at that time.

Dr. Dave: Wow.

Krippner: So there's something that we can learn from not only the herbs but the ritual and the ceremony that is done to accompany them which probably boosts the immune system and gets the peptides to kick in and helps the inner self healing properties of the sick person to facilitate the healing.

Dr. Dave: Yes, now some years back you moved away from conducting parapsychological research. What was behind that decision?

Krippner: Well, we simply ran out of money.

Dr. Dave: Oh.

Krippner: And that's when I came to San Francisco to work with the Saybrook Graduate School and so I have been working with graduate students and teaching ever since and in the

meantime, I must say most of the parapsychology laboratories in the United States, back in the 1960s and '70s had gone out of business because they ran out of money.

Dr. Dave: Mmmhmm.

Krippner: The majority of the parapsychological research in the world today is being done in Europe and not very much of it in Europe either. I would say that there is two or three well funded programs in Europe and really only one stable program in the United States and that's at the University of Virginia where Ian Stevenson and his group are studying past life experiences.

Dr. Dave: Okay.

Krippner: So parapsychology is a poverty science. There's not really much research going on anyplace in the world and so when money comes your way you simply have to make the most of it and do the best you can.

Dr. Dave: Well, where was the money coming from back when you were involved in it?

Krippner: It was coming from private sources from foundations and from individual donors. Some other groups were being funded by the U.S. government but this was at the time of the Vietnam War and we actually refused money from the C.I.A. because we didn't fawn at anything to do with the Vietnam War and as a result I ended up not only a F.B.I. file but a C.I.A. file. I've got copies of it through the Freedom of Information Act and I'm certainly on the government list and have been for several decades but you know, you can't pay a price for being patriotic. I did not think that the Vietnam War was in the best interest of our country. I still don't think that it is in the best interest of our country and I did my best in a number of different ways to oppose the war without in any way endangering the wives or the morale of the troops that were fighting and one of the projects I'm engaged in right now is writing a book with a former student of mine on post-traumatic disorder among veterans of all the U.S. wars from the Second World War to the Iraq war because there's still some survivors of the Second World War who have post-traumatic stress disorder.

Dr. Dave: Sure and doesn't it feel like Vietnam all over again with Iraq?

Krippner: It feels that way, the situation is actually different politically which is...you don't have to go into right now but when you have people like William Buckley who was a conservative icon saying that the Vietnam War is a failure then you know that something...

Dr. Dave: You mean Iraq?

Krippner: ...erroneous is going on.

Dr. Dave: You mean the Iraq War is a failure? You said Vietnam.

Krippner: Iraq War. Pardon me, Iraq War.

Dr. Dave: Yeah, yeah. Among your books I believe you wrote an autobiography called *Song of the Siren*. How did you care...

Krippner: My least successful book.

Dr. Dave: (laughs) How would you care...

Krippner: The only way you can get it today is to read the Japanese version.

Dr. Dave: Really? No, it's on ebay. I took a look; you can buy used copies out there on ebay and Amazon.com. How would you characterize the siren that has called to you in your life? What has that siren been?

Krippner: Well, it is simply the lure of the unknown and you have to be very careful when you're exploring fringe areas and unknown areas and borderline areas because what the sirens did in the *Odyssey* by Homer was to lure sailors to rocky shores and then wreck their ships.

Dr. Dave: That's right.

Krippner: And sometimes eat their bodies and I have seen many people exploring these borderline areas go off the deep end and wreck their careers and wreck their reputations and not learn anything in the process. So you have to be very very careful and stay clear of the sirens when you hear their calls and so that's what the siren represents to me.

Dr. Dave: Okay. Stanley, is there anything I missed that you want our listeners to know?

Krippner: I suppose the advice that I typically give is to be open to unusual experiences, see what you can learn from them but also be skeptical and see if there's an ordinary explanation for them. And be careful who you tell about them because there still is a large number of people in this country who believe that telepathic experiences, pre-cognisant experiences, out of the body experiences, the like are the work of the devil. There's another large group of people in this country who think they're signs of psychopathology, mentally ill if they have these experiences. Well neither of these extremes are valid in my opinion. These are simply experiences that we don't have an ordinary explanation for and a small group of us are trying to find out how to reconcile them in a scientific framework and find out more about the human condition by doing it. Yes, a lot of them are chance, a lot of them are coincidental but so what? They're still affecting people's belief system in some way, we want to find out about that too. Why are people taking them seriously or not taking them seriously? So there's something that we can learn from any of these experiences if we approach them in a skeptical but open minded way.

Dr. Dave: Very good. Hey Stanley, I am so pleased to be able to join the legion of people who refer to my good friend Stanley Krippner and I want to thank you so much for this interview.

Krippner: Well, thank you my good friend David Van Nuys.

Dr. Dave: Okay. Bye bye. I certainly hope you enjoyed my interview with Stanley Krippner and that maybe you learned something in the process. In case you're wondering where I stand in relation to so-called paranormal phenomena, I would have to say my own views are much like Stanley's. I agree with him that words like paranormal and supernatural are the wrong words. I believe whatever is going on is a part of our natural world that we don't yet understand. And like Stanley, I would also have to say I don't believe much. Actually, I was quite surprised to hear him say that given his long involvement with parapsychology. At the same time however, I do think there's more going on than meets the eye. The degree of my belief in these non ordinary phenomena seems to fluctuate but every now and then I have an experience of synchronicity that reminds me that there's a bigger picture. Synchronicity, by the way, is Carl Jung's term for coincidences that are just too strong to not seem meaningful and connected. And I've gone through periods of my life where there were amazing runs of synchronicity and I love it when that happens. I take it as a sign that I'm on the right path and that these synchronistic happenings are sign posts marking the way. At such times, I have a strong intuition that there is an intuitive sense that guides me. I'm at a stage in my own life where I want to nurture that sense and live my life intuitively as possible.