

## The Wolf in Sheepskin?

### Naive innocence or baiting by a skeptic?

By Klaus Heinemann (originally posted in May, 2007)

It started with what appeared to be a courteous e-mail from a person by the name of Hirano, sending me what looked like an orb picture that topped everything I had ever seen: colors, interiorities, enormous brightness, evidence of mobility, and even similarity with a



well-known star constellation. (Right picture: cropped from the top right section of the left photo; no electronic enhancement applied). Hirano was very specific about certain aspects of the photo, including that the orbs were about 15' (4m) away from him, and that it looked like the Big Bear, asking "could there be a message?"

Following my immediate intuition that what *looks* to be too good to be true probably *is* too good to be true, I responded that I was astounded about this photo but, in order to make any further comments about it, I would need a lot more information, including:

- Is there any possibility that airborne particles or droplets might have been present within 10 cm distance from your camera?
- Were you standing in an urban or rural environment? (everything paved, or basically dusty?)
- When do you estimate did it most recently rain at the location where you took the photo?
- Is the area known for infestation with small insects?
- Taken at 1/8 sec exposure time (from photo metadata): how did you determine that the orbs were at about 15' distance from you?
- You did use a flash; what is your reasoning why you state that the distance of the orbs from you (15') affects their color?
- What were you aiming your camera at (at the sky or at some object in front of you -- what was that object?)?
- Were there any bright light sources in view of the camera? (you said no, but please do think it over, again!)
- Did you crop the image (meaning, did you electronically select just a small portion from the original photo)?
- Could you please send me the original picture?
- What camera (exact make, model, year) did you use?

--- Did you use any filters, or remove any filters from the original camera?  
--- Did you have any specific intention when you took the photo? If so, what was it? (for example, were you *thinking* of the Big Bear formation? Are you an astronomer, or a hobby astronomer?)



A few days later, to my great surprise, Hirano sent me a number of photos and mentioned that there must have been some "defect with the camera," and he would be getting back to Sony, the manufacturer, to have them figure it out. Among the photos he sent me, the one on the left caught my immediate attention -- it was different from the other ones, in that the "orbs" in it appeared "smaller." I subjected it to some standard electronic level enhancement, and the picture on the right is what I got: it reveals that the "orbs" in the photo above are nothing but *out-of-focus images of the lights* in the urban motel scene he had been photographing ... *Yes, what looks too good to be true, is indeed too good to be true!*

Is Hirano a naive orb hunter or a wolf in sheepskin? Is he simply an inexperienced photographer who unknowingly took pictures in the "macro" camera setting, which blurred bright image points into what appear to be orbs, or did he do this *intentionally* in an attempt to discredit those of us researching the orb phenomenon? I trust the former is the the case in Hirano's situation and will leave it at that.

There is, however, an important lesson in this experience for all of us sincere orb researchers. The story points out that it is very important to *approach every orb in a photo with a healthy level of discernment*. Facing overwhelming, exponential increase of recorded evidence of authentic orbs, there will also be increasing numbers of vocal skeptics. Some of them may be fearfully clinging to their limiting conventional world view, and they will use all tactics available to them -- and not even shy away from dishonesty -- to discredit those who dare to step outside of this box of confining world view and try to learn more what *Life* is really about. As history has shown in many examples, from Galileo to Einstein, the power of skeptics can be formidable. Every apparent initial small-scale "victory" on their part, such as a public demonstration that someone's "orb" is just a photographic artifact, may have an entirely disproportionate, detrimental effect on the rate of progress of the development of the emerging paradigm.

But in the end, the paradigm will have been shifted. The authentic orbs in your and my pictures are leading the way toward inevitable recognition *and acceptance* that there is more to *Life* than life. The movement in this direction is unstoppable!

Added on 11/20/2015:

Since the original posting 8 years ago, I have received numerous similar “orb-like” fake orbs with the request to analyze them. It has become clear that many digital cameras with infrared auto-focusing devices have difficulty focusing at low light levels. They will automatically scan the entire distance from very near to very far to find something to focus on. When, due to low light level, they cannot find an object to focus on, they will simply come to rest in the nearest focusing position. This will then image anything in the distance, such as faint point light sources, strongly blurred, i.e., out of focus, and those will *look like* orbs.