

**February 14, 2023**

Dear Applicant,

Now that BICS has reviewed all 140 received applications, we have decided to clarify three separate aspects of the Challenge. All three are important changes and we ask you to review the three major developments summarized herein.

1. Thank you for submitting your proposal. Having read and assimilated your submitted work, BICS is issuing the following clarification of the primary wisdom acquisition assignments with which you and your teams of mediums will be engaged. These are in substitution of some of the other communications you have received. The previous assignment was to help BICS to calibrate your approaches and thinking regarding questions dealing with the future.

The following expanded questions, as you will see, are more significant and profound and will be the questions in substitution of the previous initial question.

**BICS is taking the Challenge through a significant paradigm shift.**

Since Allan Kardec optimistically predicted in 1857 an end to wars and conflict in the conclusion of his book *The Spirit's Book*, even a cursory examination of history in the past 166 years shows that the exact opposite of an end to conflicts, war and seriously negative human behavior has happened. These comments are in no way intended as a criticism of Allan Kardec's *The Spirit's Book*, since they only refer to a small section in the conclusion section of the book. In fact, the information represented in *The Spirits Book* appears to be authentically acquired and correlates well with numerous other sources.

The major conflicts that erupted after Kardec's rosy prediction included US Civil War in 1865 (750,000 died), followed by the Franco-Prussian War in

1870 (200,000 died), WW1 in 1914-1918 (9 million died), Russian Civil War in 1917 (13 million died) WW2 1939-1945 (75 Million died), Korean War 1950-1953 (2.5 million died), Vietnam War 1954-1975 (3.5 million died), Iraq wars (150,000 died) and Afghanistan War (176,000 died), post 9-11 wars (910,000 died) and the Rwandan genocide (800,000 died) \*.

The evidence therefore (with our huge advantage of hindsight) is that the major conflicts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw in excess of 100 million dead from war and violence. The literature is replete in acknowledging that both incarnate and discarnate humans have free will. As such, Earth can be a dangerous place if that is what enough incarnate and discarnate humans want. The literature thoroughly discusses the fact that there are huge numbers of Earthbound spirits that do not have good spiritual intent.

In the battle of “good versus evil” that is commonly described in the literature, the suggestion is that the negative forces maybe ascendant (the bad guys may be winning).

The data strongly suggests that since the late eighteenth century, there has been a dramatic acceleration in the numbers of violent and brutal killings on Earth and as such, Earth would probably be looked upon in that timeframe as not yet a spiritual place to live.

It took until about 1800 for the Earth to reach a human population of 1 billion. It is now 2023 and Earth accommodates 8 billion people. What happens at 9, 10, 11 or even 12 billion, or at any time before? We don't have to wait for climate change. The greatest and most existential threat to humans is humans themselves. Does advanced technology in the hands of aggressive creatures sound like nothing to worry about?

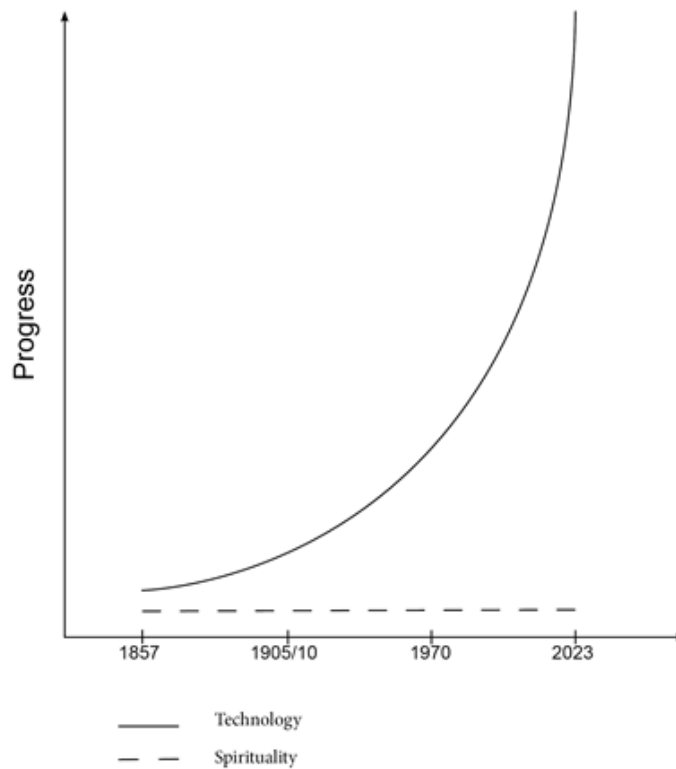
Since Intel's Gordon Moore famously coined what became known as Moore's Law in 1965 for the numbers of transistors on a microchip doubling every eighteen months, the Law in some cases has been generalized and broadened to infer that technology itself has accelerated exponentially during most of the twentieth century.

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/figures/2021/WarDeathToll>.

Humans have made astonishing progress in technological development during the twentieth century, exemplified by the first tentative hops on December 17, 1903 in Kitty Hawk North Carolina to walking on the moon by Neil Armstrong on July 21<sup>st</sup> 1969. On hundreds, maybe thousands of different fronts, technological progress has consistently accelerated decade after decade.

In contrast, during the same time period, there is no Moore's Law for spirituality. In terms of numbers, it can be argued that the number of people who are deeply spiritual as opposed to being deeply religious has not increased at any consistent rate during the twentieth century. Recent polling data from the 21<sup>st</sup> century appears to indicate a slight shift away from mainstream religious belief in the direction of spirituality, although the trend is not dramatic.

However, if in a very drastic display you were to graph the progress of spiritual versus technological growth over the last 166 years, your line graph might look something like this.



## **Major Assignment of the BICS Challenge**

Therefore, a central question of wisdom acquisition that BICS is directing to the Other Side is **“since 1857, has the Other Side failed and Mankind failed to achieve good progress in securing human spirituality? If so, are bad spirits and bad humans winning?”**

If you think that the spirits will say that overall spiritualism among incarnate humans is growing rapidly enough to prevent mankind from extinguishing itself, then BICS says prove it beyond a reasonable doubt either way.

If the spirits think they have succeeded in moving spirituality forward on Earth, what history says over the past 166 years is to the contrary and BICS absolutely needs proof of this position from the spirits beyond a reasonable doubt. If BICS is incorrect in the premise of its question, BICS wants mediums from multiple research teams to ask that question and the corollary question, **“explain to people on Earth why the Other Side has not failed in fostering spiritual evolution”**

Is there any proof since 1857 that spirituality overall in humans is deepening or becoming more common? Can we find any data in support of a Moore’s Law of spirituality (a doubling globally every eighteen months)?

While the overall progress of spiritual evolution has been meager the overall technological progress has been astounding. Without some eventual shift in planet wide spirituality to match technological growth, are humans on this planet at serious risk of self-inflicted extinction?

## **Scientific Involvement in Spiritualism in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

During the putative highpoint of spiritualism in the late 1800s, beginning in the 1870s, mainstream science itself began probing the boundaries of spiritualism.

Certainly, the golden age of scientific engagement with spiritualism and in particular, with mediumship, comprised luminaries such as Sir William Crookes, Sir Oliver Lodge, Nobel Prize winner Charles Richet all engaging very proactively in testing mediums and in experimentally interrogating those who claimed to communicate with the Other Side.

Contrast this vigorous pursuit and investigation of spiritualism in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with the situation in 2023, when scientific interest in, or engagement with, spiritualism is rare and confined to isolated individuals and groups in North and South America and in Europe.

Again, BICS intends to contract with researchers and mediums who will need to ask, **“what difference has the Other Side made in the past 166 years in influencing humans to accelerate their spiritual progress”?**

Indeed, the 166-year-old literature on activities on the Other Side suggests that there is a great potential of focused physical and mental power to be directed from the afterlife to humans. Multiple books written in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries report many fun experiments conducted among groups in small scale where extremely heavy tables and chairs were frequently lifted and manipulated by unseen forces in well controlled and closely witnessed experiments. Secondly, many simultaneous reports (late 19<sup>th</sup> century) describe spectacular mental powers such as telepathy, psi abilities or mediumship in a small number of individuals allegedly emanating from the Other Side. Has television and Internet entertainment taken over human attention in more recent times, so why bother to entertain yourself with group circles at home?

Is there a relationship between the number of mean earthbound discarnate entities and the lack of spiritual progress among incarnate humans? BICS is also pointing out that since 1857, when the population of Earth was about 1.25 billion people, and 2023 with a current population of 8 billion, in addition to the huge number of people who have perished violently in wars and other violence, an estimated 9 billion people have died (~50-55 million per year x 166 years)<sup>4</sup> and that a significant number of those people may have joined the swelling ranks of earthbound spirits that remain close to living people.

**Thus, there has been a vast change in the estimated number of earthbound spirits, good and bad, since Allan Kardec’s buoyant forecast back in 1857.** Another question that mediums need to pose to the Afterlife is **“to what extent have earthbound spirits since 1857 impeded, sabotaged or distorted the progress of human spiritual evolution”?** BICS is not

suggesting that earthbound spirits are the main responsible component for mankind's plight on Earth; rather, mankind is responsible for its own actions and maybe the majority of the cause can be attributed to incarnate humans exercising their own free will, or maybe both.

If the picture that emerges from mediums' dialog with the Other Side is rosy then BICS must have evidence and proof beyond a reasonable doubt for this rosy picture, or the reverse.

- 2. BICS Needs to Validate the Mediums with Whom you will Work:** The success of your application to the Challenge program hinges on several factors, two of which are entirely practical. BICS is developing a research program that aims to go beyond the typical grant-awarding format by fostering a deeper working relationship between BICS, researchers and research participants. This will create a novel environment of co-operation in which BICS will be invested in the success of the program at all levels, whilst successful applicants will operate as "independent contractors" for all legal purposes. What this means is that successful applicants should expect to provide full access to research participants (mediums), including, but not limited to, their personal data, information gathered during the research and the participants themselves. For example, BICS will want to assess and evaluate mediums preferably by face to face conversations on ZOOM or other electronic means. Secondly, as a part of the contractual relationship with BICS, we will be ensuring that joint checks are issued during the payment of milestones so that both researchers and mediums are being paid.

Information credibility is vitally important to BICS and BICS must believe in the efficacy of the mediums and the researchers. And that credibility is a principle challenge upon the mediums and the researchers to produce.

[In jurisdictions subject to the General Data Protection Regulation or variations (e.g., UKDPA), your research enjoys some exemptions from GDPR and will have a legal basis ("legitimate interest") for data processing; however, your consent forms, where used, should clearly indicate that data will be shared with BICS.]<sup>2</sup>

3. **Budgeting and Deliverables:** The second aspect concerns budgeting and deliverables. Applicants must precisely detail all expected costs and justify the amounts being requested. This is particularly important in respect of personnel costs. Such costs will not be paid at arbitrary rates: they must reflect the value being provided by the personnel involved and be based on market rates. For example, Salary.com gives \$26 as the average hourly wage for an academic researcher in the US in 2023.<sup>13</sup> Capital costs must also reflect reality: must new equipment be purchased, or can existing equipment be used? If travel is required, spell out why. Base your costs on actual mileage and ticket prices, quoting examples as evidence. Fully itemize all expected budget requirements and avoid vague language and catch-all categories. In addition to accurate and realistic budgeting, applicants must clearly show what value is being delivered for the cost expended. One way in which this will be expected is in the form of “milestone deliverables.” Typically, these will be reports delivered at intervals commensurate with requests for budget tranches. They will show what budget has already been expended and what results this has produced. Failure to deliver at the appointed time, or other problems with what is delivered will result in delays and, if uncorrected, the termination of the project, so it is vital that applicants professionally manage their projects. Milestone periods should also be seen as opportunities to regularly engage with BICS to ensure successful outcomes.

Project budgets must be fully accountable and as specific as possible. Even an otherwise good project could be rejected if its budget does not meet these criteria. With this guidance, BICS hopes to make it easier for applicants to be successful in their applications and to successfully manage

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<sup>2</sup> For further information, see <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2020/09/16/data-protection-laws-apply-to-anyone-who-collects-information-about-a-living-individual-so-what-do-researchers-need-to-know/>, accessed February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/researcher-i-academic-hourly-wages>, accessed February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

4. <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/number-of-deaths-per-year>

their projects, which will ultimately build lasting relationships and hopefully more programs and more awards.

This letter is an invitation for you to segue in your next proposal from just a 15-year catastrophe forecast to the expanded, much more profound, menu of wisdom acquisition that we have just laid out for you. We give thanks to you for your responses in the form of preliminary proposals. Please contact us with questions.

Sincerely

Robert T. Bigelow

Colm Kelleher