

The Internet Has Answers

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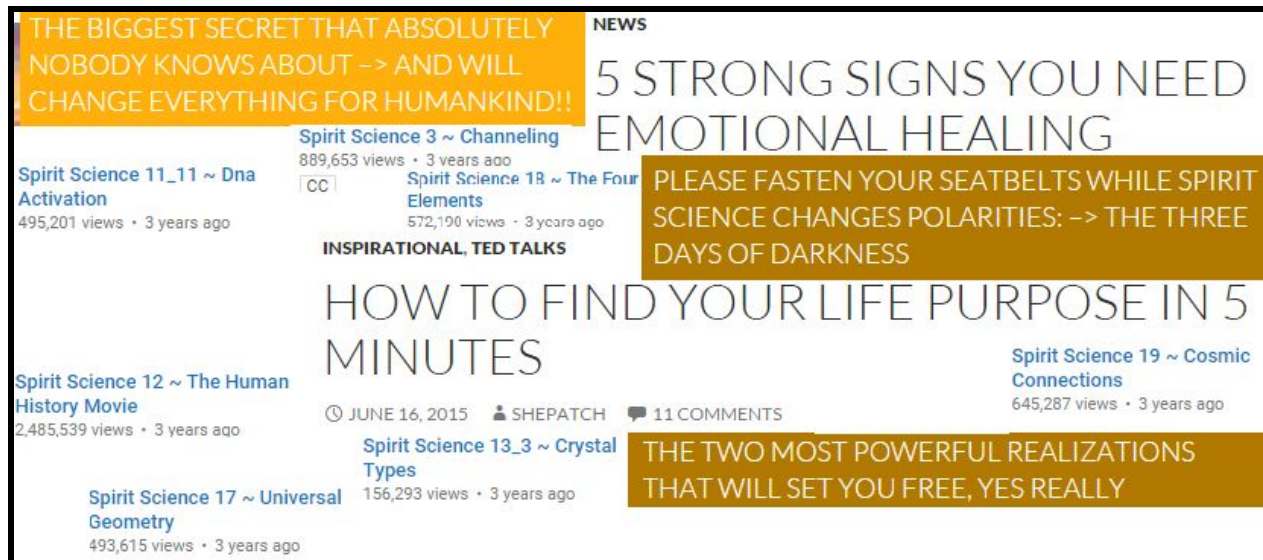
Part 1:

The advent of the internet has transformed human interactions into a globally interconnected network, transferring immeasurable amounts of information at the speed of light and being widely available to anyone with internet access. This great power comes with the opportunity to educate and spread knowledge like never before, but it also has the potential for spreading misinformation and taking advantage of those who make the mistake of being too trusting of information posted online. Science, in particular, is often misrepresented on social media platforms and other means of internet media. As we know, science is the universally accepted model for explaining our reality and it takes years of specialized education and research to become fluent enough in the language of the model to improve or add to it, thus contributing to modern science. But for some people, loosely analogous concepts are enough to create answers for complicated scientific problems. For these people, telepathy, channeling, spirits, astral projection, crystals, souls, and a plethora of superstitious magic ideas fill the gaps in their scientific understanding. And for an even larger portion of the population, seeing basal comparisons and shallow evidence on social media, YouTube, and a stylish web page is enough to convince them of the validity of these fantastical ideas. This is how pseudoscience thrives and the internet has become a popular medium for its proliferation.

I heard about the organization [Spirit Science](#) a few times last year, I was introduced by way of one of their videos on YouTube and immediately realized the video lacked serious amounts of scientific reasoning. The video series depicts a cartoon character explaining various topics regarding spirituality and science, attempting to use science and mathematics to present evidence for ancient belief systems and religious motifs. I was very surprised at its professionalism, it was a very convincing presentation despite the underlying ignorance of everything that came out of that funny sackboy's mouth. Anybody without a basic understanding of scientific critical thinking and analysis could be fooled by this, I thought, but I had no idea how

large that group of people would be. After recently hearing about Spirit Science again, I decided to take another look at their videos and I was appalled. Their most popular video “Spirit Science 12 ~ The Human History Movie” has 2,463,000 views on YouTube. The channel has 501,000 subscribers. Their facebook page has approximately 9.3 million likes.

Now I’m not going to take the time to debunk the entire video series since it has [already been done](#). But I do want to say the very fact that it needs to be debunked underlies a serious issue with education and scientific literacy. With these horrifyingly large numbers of people getting their information about current events, science, and history from such an unreliable source, I can only conclude that critical analysis of information using logic and scientific reasoning is a skill that is either under taught or under emphasized. In the regards to internet media, this is a dire problem and I will explore it and share more of my thoughts on Spirit Science in the next blog post of this 3-part series.



Part 2:

So after discovering Spirit Science again, I decided to give their videos another try. I would not recommend this course of action to anyone with high standards when it comes to scientific explanations. It left me gasping for air, with my world of logical arguments and models shattered. Their version of history and science was so factually inaccurate and logically nonsensical, I couldn't believe this was being passed off as actual educational information. It was like learning about video game lore or the background story to some fairy tale. The talk of Martians, Atlanteans, Sacred Geometry, higher consciousness beings, chakras, Greys, spirit channeling, magic tablets, and polar shifts made me really question the positions of the 9.3 million followers. Maybe they all understood this was fictional? But sure enough, people in the comments on YouTube and social media were defending Spirit Science. They claim it contains valid theories and insinuate that they are comparable to theories in modern science. I decided to look into the creators of Spirit Science for some insight into their credentials or educational background. Big surprise, Jordan Duchnycz, the creator of Spirit Science, has no scientific or even educational background that I can find. He's an animator that made a cartoon series, and I believe that is the context to keep in mind when watching these videos. They are cartoons. Now there's nothing wrong with cartoons except for the fact that many of the videos advertise that "history is not what we know" and that the topics discussed are directly applicable to one's own life. There's little doubt that Duchnycz's intention is to spread some kind of knowledge and indoctrinate some subset of viewers.

Meanwhile, there is certainly a profit to be made in this business. Reiki, crystal therapy, and other pseudotreatments gain clientele by selling the idea that there is some singular problem that is the root of all their anxieties and misfortunes (i.e. chakras out of alignment, spirit energies unbalanced). Fortunately, they have just the solution for you! By inventing a problem and then offering a solution, they can make a profit by stringing along anyone who believes their claims.

In the past decade, these therapies have gained popularity as the unsubstantiated claims have transcended into the realm of common pseudoscientific belief.

Now, you may say, everyone has the right to believe what they want. Science is, after all, just another way to model reality. If people want to choose a different model, they have every right to under the protection of religious freedom. Indeed this is correct, there is nothing morally wrong with believing all of these claims. But in today's world, the worldview we share is becoming increasingly important and in the next segment of this blog series, I will elaborate on the possible consequences and dangers of rejecting scientific education.



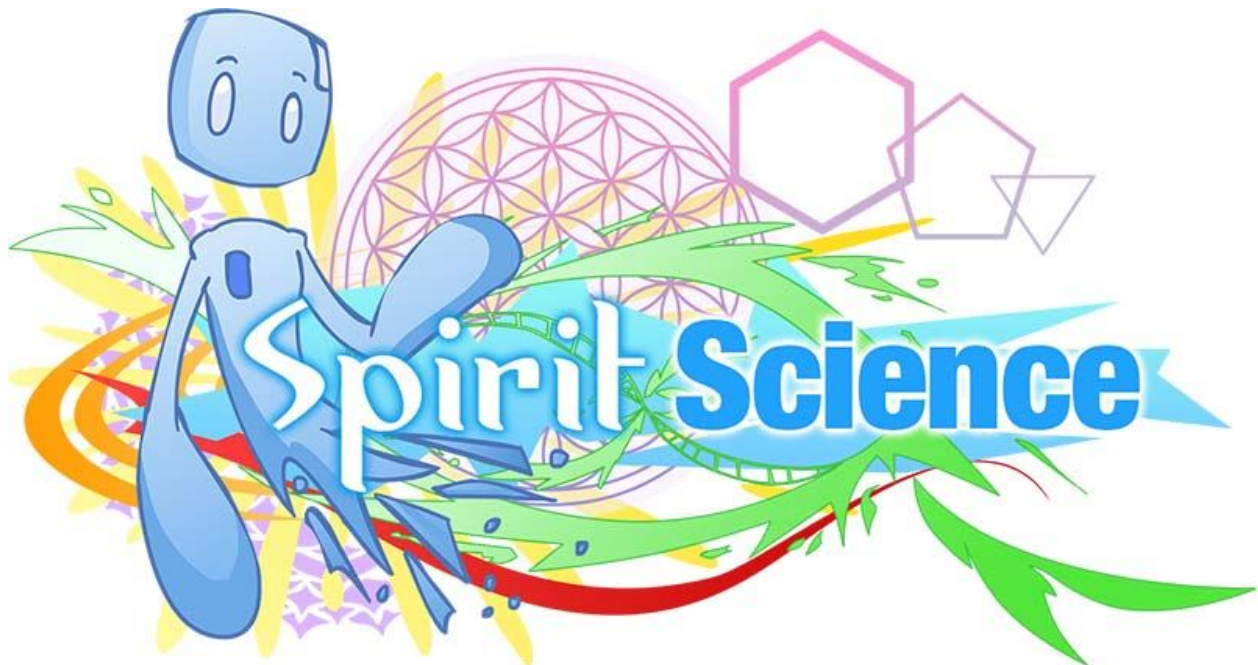
Part 3:

The phrase “jump start the next phase in our evolution” is used repeatedly in Spirit Science videos, articles, tweets, and social media posts. It is a constant reminder of Spirit Science’s grandiose claims of enlightening the population via their content. Ironically, our evolution is leading us (and the entire planet) towards certain ecological collapse and widespread ignorance is a big contributing factor in this phenomenon. Our only solace is the hope that technological innovation will replace our need to exploit the planet at an unsustainable rate. In this race against time, scientific literacy is key! When we give credence to nonscientific sources of information and education, we are silently expressing support for models of reality that are either useless in the face of our global issues or bear little to no replicable or demonstrable knowledge. I believe common sense on the internet and critical evaluation of belief systems is key to a brighter future.

Now I realize I may seem excessively harsh or a little too serious about the consequences of Spirit Science’s influence. Whether it is promoting fictitious beliefs or investments in crystal-based alternative medicine, this sort of pseudoscience may at first seem misguided but ultimately harmless. However, the harm lies in the inability of the internet-going public to separate reason from conjecture and the blind trust of people towards the information on the internet. The internet masses have been fooled time and time again by rumors of anything from false advertising claims to fake celebrity deaths. Worst case scenario, this method of easily spreading misinformation could be ultimately dangerous in the wrong hands. The most likely effect would be large portions of our population, children and adults, left behind in scientific literacy on a global scale. This would, in fact, result in ultimately dangerous situations, especially concerning our currently desperate need for brilliant scientific minds to face the environmental and socioeconomic problems of the future. All in all, we should all be weary of the information we find on the internet. We often forget its inclusive and anarchic nature. No one is silenced for their lack of evidence or logical soundness, so the burden of critical analysis and vigilant skepticism is upon us.

Images for Each Blog Post:

Part 1:



Part 2:

THE BIGGEST SECRET THAT ABSOLUTELY NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT -> AND WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING FOR HUMANKIND!!

NEWS

5 STRONG SIGNS YOU NEED EMOTIONAL HEALING

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🕒 JUNE 16, 2015 👤 SHEPATCH 💬 11 COMMENTS

Part 3:

