

OUTCAST EARTH TRANSCRIPT OF ASH'S IWO JIMA DEBRIEFING

SYNOPSIS: Meridian and Trespass interviewed Ash (and later Cipher) following the former's experience in which he claimed to see and speak to Tahiki on the island of Iwo Jima on October 19, 2006. The following is a partial transcript of those recordings, made on October 21, 2006, in Ash's hotel room in Garapan, Saipan. The debriefing transcript for Cipher follows this text. The interviews were tape-recorded and then transcribed by Meridian.

Meridian: Okay, it's 4:35 p.m. on October 21st on the island of Saipan. This is Meridian and with me [are] Trespass and Ash. Ash, do you understand why we are interviewing you about what happened the day before yesterday on Iwo Jima?

Ash: Yes.

Meridian: Can you start by telling us, as completely as possible, what you were doing prior to seeing Tahiki on the beach?

Ash: I was walking with Cipher on the beach, but he saw some big rocks up ahead that he wanted to climb on so he ran off.

Trespass: Why didn't you go with him?

Ash: Because I was already hot and sweaty and I didn't feel like it.

Meridian: So Cipher ran ahead to play on the rocks. What happened then?

Ash: I was walking after him and then I saw Tahiki walking toward me from the side.

Meridian: The right side or the left side?

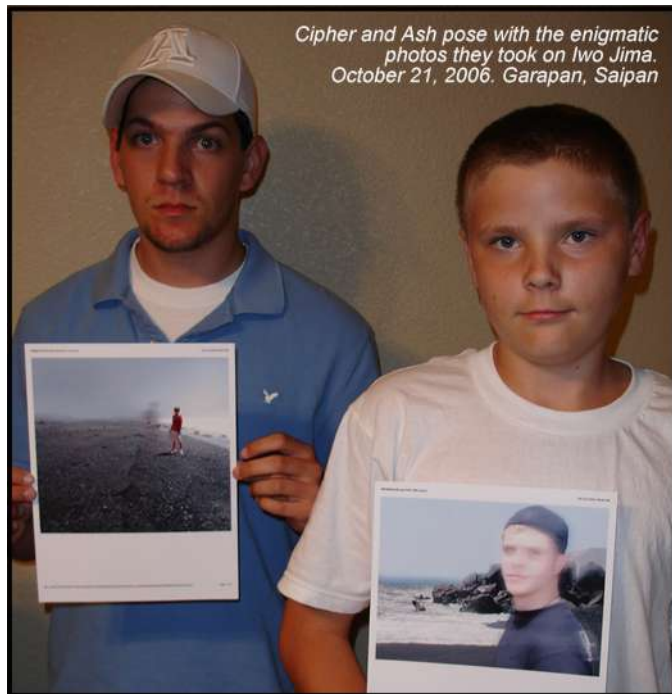
Ash: The right side, where all the sand dunes were.

Trespass: Did you see where Tahiki came from?

Ash: No, he was just there. But he was walking like a normal person so I assumed that he came from over the sand dunes. I stopped and he walked up to me.

Meridian: Who spoke first? You or Tahiki?

Ash: I didn't recognize him at first. I thought he was someone who lived on the island maybe. When he was in front of me then I recognized him. Then he started talking.



Meridian: What did he say? Can you remember it just how he said it?

Ash: Not really. He said something like we had friends who were watching us, but there were also enemies out there and we should watch out for them. He said something about enemies sneaking into your room like flies.

Meridian: Like flies? Like a house fly, you mean? One that buzzes around? That kind of fly?

Ash: I guess. I was surprised to see him so I didn't pay real close attention. I remember the thing about flies.

Trespass: Then what happened?

Ash: I asked him how he was and said that we were worried because we couldn't find him when we left Tahiti.

Trespass: And did he respond?

Ash: No, he just looked at me. So then I took his picture.

Trespass: Why did you decide to take his picture?

Ash: Because he was just standing there staring at me and not saying anything which was really weird. It made me feel uncomfortable.

Meridian: Were you scared?

Ash: No, not scared. It was weird. It was like he wasn't hearing me. He just kept staring at me so I took his picture and then he was gone. I took his picture because I wanted everyone to believe me when I told them I saw him.

Trespass: You didn't think people would believe you?

Ash: It was too weird. And no one else was around to see him.

Meridian: Explain what that means, 'he was gone.'

Ash: He just disappeared into thin air.

Meridian: Did you see him disappear?

Ash: No. I took his photo with the digital camera and then I looked down at the camera to see how it came out on the little screen. When I looked back up he was gone but it happened really fast, like in a second or two.

Trespass: When you were standing there with Tahiki, did you think he was a real person?

Ash: What? I don't understand that?

Trespass: In other words, at the time you were talking to him did you think you were talking to a real person who was really there in front of you?

Ash: Yes, he was real.



Trespass: Did you touch him? Could you feel his body heat or anything like that?

Ash: I didn't touch him. I don't remember anything about feeling his body heat. I remember that it was weird that he was talking to me but when I talked back he didn't say nothing. It was like he didn't hear me. But I thought he was real.

Meridian: Where was Cipher at this time?

Ash: I'm not sure. On the rocks I think. He wasn't close by.

Trespass: What did you think of the photo you took of Tahiki? At the time I mean. What did you think of the photo when you looked down at the camera?

Ash: Nothing. It looked like Tahiki. It all happened really fast. Our whole conversation was like less than a minute I think.

Trespass: So you didn't think it was strange at the time that Tahiki was kind of transparent in the photo?

Ash: I didn't notice that. The photo looked blurry to me on the little screen. I was going to take another but then [Tahiki] was gone.

Trespass: What did you do after Tahiki vanished?

Ash: That freaking creeped me out, so I ran up the beach and found Cipher. He was near the big rocks then and was walking toward me. I showed him the photo of Tahiki but he didn't believe me because he had just taken a picture of me and Tahiki wasn't in it.

Meridian: You guys didn't see the misty shape in the photo Cipher took?

Ash: Not at first. Cipher didn't believe me but I was arguing with him so he looked at his photo more clearly and then he saw the ghost. We were able to blow up that part of the photo with the camera's thing... what do you call that so you make the photo bigger?

Trespass: The zoom?

Ash: Yeah. Cipher was able to zoom in on that part of the photo and he saw the ghost. Then we went and found dad and told him about it. We were both pretty freaked out then.

TRANSCRIPT OF CIPHER'S IWO JIMA DEBRIEFING

The following is a partial transcript of the interview with Cipher, made about forty-five minutes after the interview with Ash in the same hotel room.

Meridian: Tell us in your own words what happened the day before yesterday on the Iwo Jima beach between you and Ash...

Cipher: Well, we were walking on the beach. It was one of the invasion beaches but I don't remember which one. Everyone else was more inland among the sand dunes because they wanted to photograph the volcano. Ash was with me, but he was kind of annoying me so I ran off ahead. [Laughs.] I went up to this pile of rocks and I was standing on one taking photos with the camera Polaris gave me.

Meridian: This is the digital camera?

Cipher: Yeah, the little Sony one.

Meridian: What were you taking pictures of?

Cipher: Just everything. Polaris told me to always take lots and lots of photos, so that's what I was doing. Then I jumped off the rocks and started walking back down the beach toward Ash. He was just standing on the beach so I took his picture.

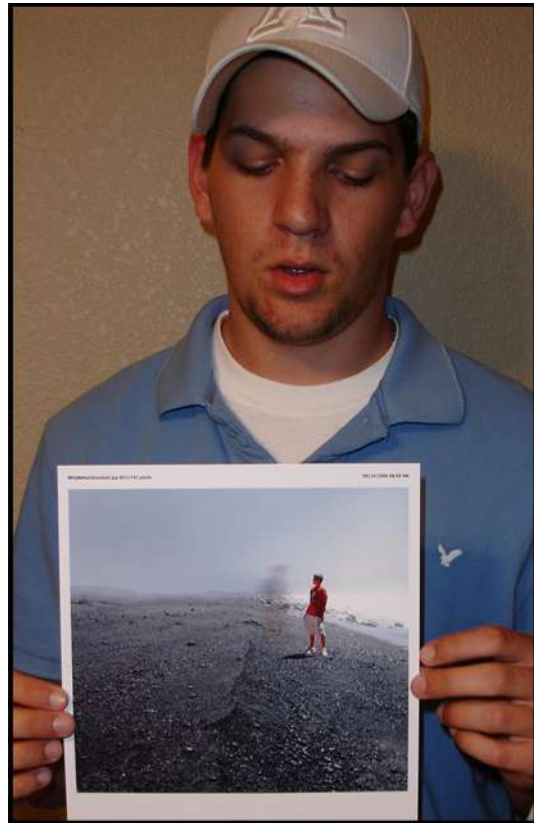
Meridian: How far away from Ash were you when you took his picture?

Cipher: I don't know. I remember I zoomed in on him before I took it, but I was probably a few hundred feet away. I'm not really good at distances.

Trespass: Did you notice anything strange when you took Ash's photo? Did you see anyone with him.

Cipher: No, but it was a really hazy day and I was shooting into the sun, but I'm real sure no one was there. About a minute or two later, Ash comes running up all excited. He says he just saw his friend on the beach. He was being annoying earlier, so I thought he was just fucking with me so I was blowing him off. [Laughs.] Then he showed me the picture of Tahiki and I thought 'that's weird, who the hell is that guy?' Ash kept saying 'that's my friend who I met in so and so and I just saw him over there.' So I told him there was no way because I just shot a photo of him and no one else was in it. I got out my camera and showed him my photo and at first we didn't notice anything weird about it. But I made that one part of the photo bigger and there was like a smudge on the photo near Ash which kind of looked like a guy in a black hat. Ash wanted to go tell his dad so we went and found him.

Meridian: What happened after you found Polaris?



Cipher: Ash showed him the picture but [Polaris] was getting kind of frustrated with us because we were talking so fast so he told us to shut up. [Laughs.] Then he made us tell it all over again. Everyone was over in a little group by that point so we decided to have Ash take us back to the point on the beach where he said he saw the guy. It was easy to find because we just following our footprints on the wet beach. We found the spot where Ash had stopped but there were no other footprints there other than mine. Then Trespass and Anvil ran off to see if this Tahiki dude was hiding in the dunes but we couldn't find him.

Meridian: What was your overall impression of the experience?

Cipher: I don't know if I have one. At first I thought it was all bullshit, but now, uh, hmm, I guess I'm not so sure, you know? It was definitely strange. [Laughs.] I really didn't expect to have ghosts showing up in my photos on my very first [Outcast Earth] outing, so that's pretty sick!

END OF TRANSCRIPT

Submitted by Meridian, October 21, 2006