

4th March 2007

Challenge Derek Acorah

It seems that no matter what I (and numerous other sceptics) say about spiritualism, people will go on believing despite the evidence. And there is no better evidence against this delusion than seeing the likes of Derek Acorah (nee Johnson) talking to himself live on stage. It's cringingly bad as he fumbles his way through a series of half baked attempts at cold reading desperately trying to establish links where plainly none exist. You would think it might implant a smidgeon of doubt in people's minds – but apparently it doesn't. All he has to do is say something that sounds vaguely like a hit and his devotees are happy, if not positively delighted, to go on swallowing the same old tripe indefinitely.

I remember when I first heard Derek Acorah. It was on the James Whale Show on Talk Radio (now Talk Sport). What caught my attention at the time was that the subject of James Randi's \$1 Million Challenge came up and Derek claimed that he and other members of the [ISPR](#) group had applied but had been refused. In fact what had happened was the ISPR (a little troupe self-important ghosthunters) had never applied but instead had dreamt up some stupid idea that they would make Randi's heart flutter at a given time. I can't recall the precise details but I can remember that the whole concept was monumentally stupid. Of course it was no more than a smoke screen to avoid actually having to accept the challenge. Incidentally the ISPR website still lists Derek Acorah as their UK Investigator but then the whole site seems not to have been updated for at least two years.

Shortly after hearing Derek on the radio I met him in person on the Kilroy Show where I told him I would be happy to arrange a preliminary test on behalf of the JREF here in the UK. He seemed very eager to accept, as did his rather pushy assistant who called herself "Ayem". Naturally it goes without saying that as time went by both Ayem and Acorah found all kinds of excuses not to pursue the \$1 million. In the last phone call I had with her, Ayem resorted to implying Randi was a rather odious character and therefore they felt justified in not taking part. Therefore Derek Acorah has never even attempted to apply for the challenge despite trying to give the impression that he had.

The excuses given were, and still are, feeble so I hereby challenge Derek Acorah to live up to his original word and take the challenge. He could donate the money to his chosen charity which, according to his website is '[Pathfinder Dogs](#)'; surely something he would love to do.

Unfortunately the challenge rules will be changing on 1st April so Derek will have to jump in quick. You see after that date he'll have a problem. There are just two requirements he would need to meet. First he has to have some kind of media presence, a criterion easily met by Derek. Ah, but the second might be tricky. He would need to have his claim backed up by an academic and I doubt Dr. Larry Montz, Ph.D of the ISPR would count, but you never know.

So Derek I'm calling you out. I think you're as psychic as a pineapple. Will you prove me wrong? Of course you won't, because both you and I know a pineapple stands a much better chance. So I'm appealing to anyone who has the opportunity, challenge Derek to make a formal application and use his refusal to embarrass him.



Meanwhile do you want to know more about the cottage industry that is Derek Acorah? Then read two sensational articles at www.doubleexposure.co.uk. "*Can the Ethiopian change his skin... ?*" plus "*...or the leopard his spots?*"

And if you are in frivolous mood here's a link to a secret page I put together years ago. [Sam](#).