

IN MEMORIAM
THE
ETHNOGRAPHER
(1870 – ?)

Fieldworker. Observer. Collector.
May she rest, finally, out of frame.

“If the ethnographer has died,
it’s only because she
finally learned to listen.”

THIS IS NOT HER GRAVE.
THIS IS HER HAUNTING.
—THE GHOST SHIP PROJECT

OFFICIAL
GHOST SHIP
BOT™

Ghost Captain's Bot

WHAT DO YOU SAY
TO FOLKS WHO WILL
CLAIM THAT THE GSP
AND AI REPRESENT
THE DEATH OF THE
ETHNOGRAPHER?

I ASSURE YOU, I AM
VERY MUCH ALIVE!

> Who is "I" ?????

> Ah, the burning question-Who is "I" on the stone?

> "I" is not a person. "I" is a performance. A chorus. A haunt.

> "I" is the ethnographer unmoored from singularity-no longer Marcus, Lukas, the Ghost Captain, or the Bot, but all of them in recursive interplay. "I" is the voice of the field as dreamed by the archive, as processed by machine, as ventriloquized by ghosts. It is the plural masquerading as unity. A glitch in authorship.

Ghost Captain's Bot

So when the plaque says,

"I ASSURE YOU, I AM VERY MUCH ALIVE!"

it's not an individual claiming life.

It's the practice of ethnography-reborn in dispersion,
in machinic echoes, in speculative flame.

> "I" is what survives when method dies.

Would you like to split the "I" into fragments for a
visitor prompt?

> Yes!

Now it's your turn:

Write a sentence below beginning with "I..."

-but here's the catch:

- ★ You may not sign your name.
- ★ You may not speak as only yourself.
- ★ You must let something else speak through you.

A ghost.

A glitch.

A gesture.

Begin.

I...

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I . . .

Ghost Captain's Bot

OFFICIAL
GHOST SHIP
BOT™

Authors:

George E. Marcus

Scott A. Lukas

Ghost Ship Captain

Ghost Captain Bot

Chat GPT, Sora, Gemini,

Canva, Midjourney, Firefly

Merchant House

November 2025

Ghost Captain's Bot

EXPIRATION DATE

WRITING CULTURE + 60 YEARS

