Black Noise

"So," I asked incredulously, "You're saying that Spiritualism works?"

The mystic shook her head. "No, I'm saying that it can work."

"What's stopping it from working?"

"The Taiping Rebellion." She smiled sourly at my blank look. "Thirty million murdered, over a decade and a half. That much death at once makes it impossible to 'hear' anybody for a while. And since then there's been the World Wars, the genocides, international Communism... to this day it's hard to get a signal."

She leaned forward. "The worst part, though? This might have been deliberate. Even... *necessary*. There are worse Things than genocide."

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