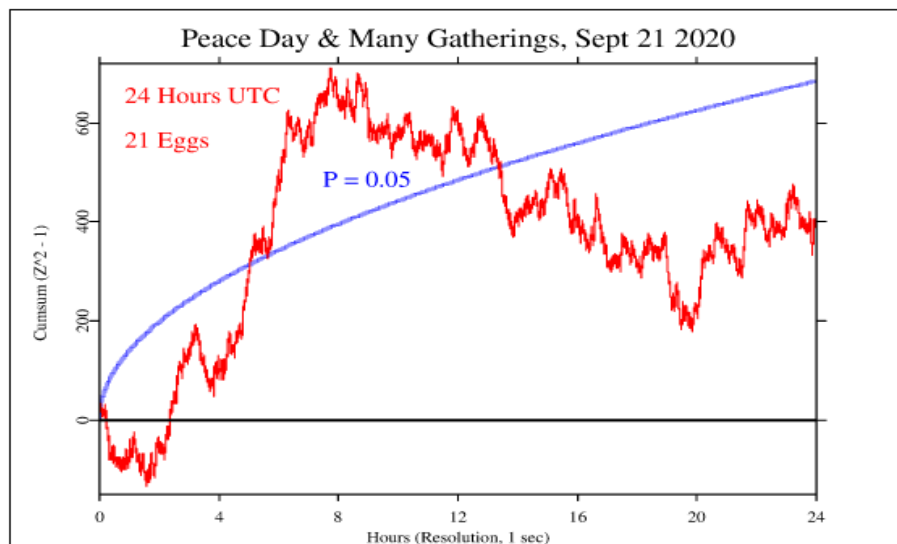# Peace Day Sept 21 2020

Roger Nelson, 9/24/2020

The GCP has been looking at Sept 21 for many years, using the same protocol each year. In this exploration we use exactly the same formal specifications: 24 hr UTC day, standard analysis. Following is the description posted on Facebook's Global Consciousness Project page.

We are winding down what has been called Peace Weekend, including Monday, Sept 21. The International Day of Peace, also called World Peace Day, is a United Nations-sanctioned holiday observed annually on 21 September. It is dedicated to world peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence. 2020 has been so intense that World Peace Day became a focus for more groups than in the past, all bringing their thousands or 10's of thousands together for celebration of the positive possibilities. Using the same protocol as in the past, the GCP examined the full UTC day, and the result is interesting. For the first 8 hours or so, the departure is extreme, and following an inflection the trend changes. The final result is modestly positive as the figure shows.

One can make tentative interpretations of such a figure if there is evidence of persistent deviation. Th formal protocol uses the whole data set, in this case, 24 hours of data. But what about the powerful trend for 8 hours early in the UTC day? We can wave our hands, but the nature of the data makes interpretation difficult, as discussed in the "standard caveat" we apply to all formal analyses:

It is important to keep in mind that we have only a tiny statistical effect, so that it is always hard to distinguish signal from noise. This means that every success might be largely driven by chance, and every null might include a real signal overwhelmed by noise. In the long run, a real effect can be identified only by patiently accumulating replications of similar analyses.