

and a dark glass-like band across their faces at eye level.

It was stated that the being who descended from the left-hand side of the machine seized the boy's right arm (the boy is 150 cm tall), and he noticed that the small beings' hand had only four fingers.* The boy tried to free himself but the humanoid gripped him harder. At the same time he heard the sound of a voice which seemed to him to emanate from the object and which said, in Spanish, "sit down don't move" (sentáte, no te muevas). The being forced the boy down on to a chair but, although he was unable to move, he remained conscious.

While on the chair the boy noticed the other being close the outside door of the room, and then proceed towards an adjacent room. The boy now observed that each being had, strapped to its back an object that looked like a soda syphon with a clock-like device affixed at the top.

In the meantime the humanoid which had seized the boy returned to the machine and apparently activated a reflector which emitted a powerful beam of reddish light. This "blinded" the boy, and made his eyes water. At this point the boy, unable to shout or move, is said to have lost consciousness. After an interval of time, the duration of which the boy has no knowledge, he regained consciousness and found himself still on the chair, and able now to move. Rubbing his eyes he found that the beings and the machine had disappeared. The door which one of them had closed was now open and the youngster ran through this, falling headlong to the ground. His 8-year-old sister arrived just after his fall and saw him getting up from the ground. Shortly after this his father arrived on the scene and saw that his son's face was purplish red, and that he was in a high state of nervous tension. On asking him what had

happened Marcos related all that had taken place.

Marcos' father, realizing that his son had suffered a great shock, took him to a local doctor who immediately examined him, and gave him some sedatives to take.

The incident was reported to the police station by the janitor.

* * * * *

Other details which we want to mention are that the humanoids were in proportion to their height. Furthermore, after regaining consciousness, the boy found the room in disorder, but apparently nothing missing. A sulphurous odour pervaded the room.

People in the neighbouring houses stated that electric fans and refrigerators stopped working, and that their radios emitted the sound of electrical discharges and interference.

Senor Gomez kindly forwarded us details of the Marcos background and family. He is about to enter upon his secondary studies, he is very lively, and he is interested in reading sports magazines. He enjoys good health. He is a Catholic and acts as an acolyte in the local church. He lives in a small country town with his parents, brothers and sisters where most of the people know one another.

We cannot arrive at any definite conclusions about this case until we have gathered more information on the same. We expect soon to receive the doctor's report on the boy's condition. Sr. Gomez has offered to follow up the case for us and, as soon as we obtain fresh information from him, we shall duly report it.

* [Three fingers and a thumb, or four fingers without a thumb? (In which, latter, case how could he grip?)
—EDITOR]

MAIL BAG

UFOs in the Bible

Dear Sir. — Mr. J. W. Goodes, in his letter (FSR Vol. 24, No. 4) commenting on a previous statement by J. Wadkin "Whatever else UFOs might be, they are not covered by any Biblical Prophecy," goes on to draw our attention to St. Mark, chapter 13, verse 27, and quotes what he thinks is a UFO prediction:-

"Coming from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven."

I don't know which Bible Mr. Goodes was quoting from, but verse 27 doesn't say that in mine!

Mr. Goodes was trying to take a

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

verse out of context, but to be correct one should read the whole passage, verses 24-27, and I quote from the *Good News Bible*.

"Then the Son of Man (Jesus) will appear, coming in the clouds with great power and glory. He will send the angels out to the far corners of the earth to gather God's chosen people (born again Christians) from one end of the world to the other."

In this case it would have been made clearer if the same passage had been studied in the other gospels, e.g. Matthew, chapter 24, verses 29-31, and Luke, chapter 21, verses 25-28. Also it's a good idea to read other versions e.g. *Revised Standard* and a modern version *Good News Bible*.

Finally might I add that the Bible is like no other book in that it is a collection of books written by people inspired by the Holy Spirit of God. Therefore one needs help by the power of the Holy Spirit to be able to understand it. As Peter says in his 2nd letter chapter 1, verse 20. (G.N.B): "Above all else, however, remember that no one can explain by himself a prophecy in the scriptures."

Yours faithfully,
D. Whitaker (Mrs.)
Sheraleigh
8 Central Park
Well Head
Halifax HX1 2BT
West Yorkshire.

The Bebedouro Object

Dear Mr. Bowen,— I was very interested by the illustration accompanying Ann Druffel's article "Are There UFOs that Mimic?" in the current edition of FSR. Actually, I had been aware of the José Antônio da Silva case for some time as I had read of it in the Signet paperback *Encounter cases from FSR*.

However, the main purpose for my writing to you is this: imagine that you are an observer on the ground and that above you is the object described in the mentioned illustration. How would it appear? And secondly, how would you describe it afterwards to interested individuals?.

You would, perhaps, liken the object to articles with which your audience would probably be reasonably familiar — a parachute perhaps, or even that the object looked vaguely like an umbrella!

It was at this point that I had the sneaking suspicion that I had encountered a description such as had been described somewhere before, and that it was involved with a UFO event which had occurred locally. I decided to consult my UFO cuttings (I have a couple of scrap books full of them!) and sure enough, I eventually found the report that I had been looking for. Unfortunately, I have not yet managed to have it photo-copied and so here is a written reproduction as follows:-

From *Luton News*, Thursday, September 15th, 1956, under the heading, "Silver thing in the Sky":-

"A silver thing, as big as a dust-bin lid in the sky, that rolled over so that one could see underneath, and then turned off its edge and disappeared into thin air" was how Mr. Len Smith of 104 Flitwick Road, Ampthill, described an object he saw high in the sky above Ampthill Park on Monday evening.

"I have always laughed at reports of people seeing Flying Saucers," said Mr. Smith afterwards, "but I had my son-in-law, Mr. Peter Hughes, who lives next door, with me and he saw it too."

"The time was 7.10 p.m. and there was a clear blue sky. The object was 'at a terrific height.' Mr. Smith said he thought at first it was a parachute, and he was waiting for it to come down. 'Then it turned, and we could see underneath it. It was like someone opening an umbrella. Then it vanished.'

"The total time the object was in Mr. Smith's view was, he thought, one to one-and-a-half minutes."

Well, it could well be, of course, that the above report refers to an object which has no relevance at all with the object described by José Antônio, but because of my initial

observation that both objects would seem to resemble each other when observed from the ground, I considered, for better or worse, to bring this report to your attention. Indeed, if the José Antônio case is genuine then it would seem to make good sense that objects complying to the definition of that reported by José Antônio should be monitored at every opportunity for reasons that are obvious!

To close I must say how I really do enjoy reading FSR — keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely
William P. Dillon
43 Hollybush Road,
Vauxhall Park Estate,
Luton,
Beds.
March 22nd 1979

The Flying 'Man' in Black

Dear Sir,— I would like to submit the following material in connection with the article *A "Flying 'man' in Black" in Russia*, by Vladimir V. Rubtsov, appearing in the recent FSR, Vol. 24, No. 4, 1979, page 13.

The black flying "man" described by the witness Mrs. E. E. Loznaya, bears a striking resemblance to the "Black Monk", occurring in the story of the same name by Anton Chekhov (1890-1904). In this story, the principal character, Kovrin, first gives an account of a legend about an aerial black monk then subsequently in the story encounters the black monk itself.

Here are some interesting excerpts from the story contained in the book, *Select Tales of Tchekhov*, translated by Constance Garnett, and published by Chatto and Windus in 1968.

"I have been all day thinking of a legend," he said. "I don't remember whether I have read it somewhere or heard it, but its a strange and almost grotesque legend. To begin with, it is somewhat obscure. A thousand years ago a monk, dressed in black, wandered about the desert, somewhere in Syria or Arabia... Some miles from where he was, some fishermen saw another black monk, who was moving slowly over the surface of a lake. This second monk was a mirage. Now forget all the laws of optics, which the legend does not recognize, and listen to the rest. From that mirage there was cast another mirage, then from that other a third, so that the image of the black monk began to be repeated endlessly from one layer of the atmosphere to another. So that he was seen at one time in Africa, at another in Spain, then in Italy, then in the Far North... Then he passed out of the atmosphere of the earth, and

now he is wandering all over the universe, still never coming into conditions in which he might disappear. Possibly he may be seen in Mars or in some star of the Southern Cross. But, my dear, the real point on which the whole legend hangs, lies in the fact that, exactly a thousand years from the day when the monk walked in the desert, the mirage will return to the atmosphere of the earth again and will appear to men. And it seems that the thousand years is almost up... According to the legend, we may look out for the black monk today or tomorrow." (page 319.)

Then subsequently:-

"But then waves began running across the rye, and a light evening breeze softly touched his (Kovrin's) uncovered head. A minute later there was another gust of wind, but stronger — the rye began rustling, and he heard behind him the hollow murmur of the pines. Kovrin stood still in amazement. From the horizon there rose up to the sky like a whirlwind on a water spout, a tall black column. Its outline was indistinct, but from the first instant it could be seen that it was not standing still but moving with fearful rapidity, moving straight towards Kovrin and the nearer it came the smaller and the more distinct it was. Kovrin moved aside into the rye to make way for it, and only just had time to do so.

"A monk dressed in black with a grey head and black eyebrows, his arms crossed over his breast, floated by him... His bare feet did not touch the earth. After he had floated twenty feet beyond him, he looked at Kovrin, and nodded to him with a friendly but sly smile. But what a pale, fearfully pale, thin face! Beginning to grow larger again, he flew across the river, collided noiselessly with the clay bank and pines, and passing through them, vanished like smoke." (page 320)

The resemblance of Chekhov's figure with that described by the witness in the FSR article seems beyond mere chance. Chekhov was born in Taganrog, in Southern Russia, some 1600 miles west from Pavlodar also in Southern Russia, where the witness claims to have had the experience.

Since the coincidence of the stories is too close to ignore we could infer the following:-

Either, (a) The witness had read or heard of the Chekhov story which then subsequently, wittingly or unwittingly, influenced her into giving the account or experiencing the "apparition."

Or (b) The legend of the black monk described by Chekhov in his story is current in that part of the world. From which it would follow that the witness was again influenced

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