

CE-III REPORT FROM RAUMA, FINLAND

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AFTER our book *Ufojen Arvoitus* (The Riddle of UFOs; a general introduction and handbook) was published by the Astronomical Association URSA in June, 1980, and widely referred to in Finnish newspapers, we received many letters describing personal UFO experiences. Naturally, many were apparently due to astronomical or other known causes, but some were quite interesting and encouraged further study. Here we present preliminary results concerning an especially interesting case.

We received a letter from a man whom we shall refer to as Allan, according to his first name. He described an incident which occurred in June 1979 whereby he, together with his wife Maila, watched through the opened window of their house, in full daylight, a peculiar object at a distance of about 60 metres.

Allan (invalid, with one leg amputated) asked Maila to go and take a closer look at it, which she did. When she was quite close to it, the thing flew away in a flash. Also, it was claimed that there was still visible, after more than one year from the event, some influence on the surface of the flat rock above which the object was seen.

We thought that the case was worthy of a closer check, and made a visit to the site in September 1980. Allan (58 years, a baker by profession before he lost his leg because of necrosis) and Maila (39 years, they have been together for 7 years) live alone in a small wooden house on the northern outskirts of the small town of Rauma (21° 29' 43" W, 61° 08' 06" N) which is situated on the shore of the Gulf of Bothnia. The surroundings of the present scene are rather peaceful, with a few small, one-family houses nearby, and a road with a little traffic, especially during the holiday season. Rauma lies about 259 km from Helsinki.

The day of the visit turned out to be quite rainy, which hampered the field study and the physical influence on the rock could not be confirmed. However, we had a lively discussion with the witnesses, and unexpected information was obtained from Maila. The following description is based on the taped interview and on letters from the witnesses before and after the visit.

Description of the incident

June 19, 1979, was a hot, sultry day. The sun was shining from the clear sky. No pedestrians or traffic could be discerned outside. At 12.30 p.m. Allan and

Maila were sitting in their living room and the window (to the south) was open.

Maila caught sight of something over the nearby rock (60 m, we measured the distance) and she told Allan to look at it. Now also Allan glanced through the open window (see figure 1) and what he perceived was a very peculiar object. It had a curved upper part which was silver-grey in colour, and a flat lower part which was blue-black. A dark shadow could be seen on the rock under the object; it was "as if resting on its own shadow" (figure 2).

A blue-black "beam" emanated from the middle part of the object. This beam was horizontally sweeping the wood near the rock with an undulating motion. This action lasted about one minute. Then the beam suddenly disappeared "as if a light had been switched off".



Figure 1: The scene of the observation, through the window through which the UFO was first seen, and through which Allan watched Maila walk towards the object. The dot in the circle shows position and size of the UFO as recalled by Allan.

At this point Allan asked Maila to go and find out what was happening on the rock. He himself stayed inside watching Maila and the object, because, due to his handicap, walking is not easy for him.

Maila started to walk very cautiously towards the rock, and the object, which she could see clearly all the way. She went very close to the object, and as a matter of fact she could have touched it (which she intended to do). Maila realized that she was standing close by a cupola-like object, about one metre wide, which was resting on tiny legs, and hardly reached her knees.

The entities

The upper part of the object was transparent and the lower part was black. Inside the cupola Maila could discern some details. The most shocking of these were two little creatures who were sitting on two miniature chairs. The creature nearest to Maila held one hand on some gadget in front of him.

Maila told us that the creatures were "most terrible looking men" with crooked beaks like those of hawks, and their skin was flecked with green-brown spots. She compared the skin to that of a toad. The eyes were large and bulging, the mouth was also big, and the chin was long (see figure 3). When asked about the

ears Maila remembered that they were pointed in a way reminiscent of leaves.

Maila could also discern some details of clothing. The creatures wore on their heads shining grey helmets with antennae. There was a yellowish line in the middle of the helmets. The upper part of the clothing as well as their long gloves were black.

Other details of the interior

In the front part of the object there were numerous levers and gauges "as you can see in cars or in aeroplanes." Some gauges were roundish in shape, and Maila said she could see some markings on them. In one gauge was a moving pointer like that in our watches; Maila thought she had seen figure "one" in one of the watch-like gauges.

When Maila was about to touch the object with her forefinger, the creature nearest to her turned its head and made some movements with its left hand.

Physiological effect

At this point Maila got "electricity in her eyes." She could not, however, make it quite clear what she meant by this expression. In any case, after this she was momentarily blinded and she staggered about on the rock rubbing her eyes. The object took off with a whistling sound. Maila's eyes were irritated for many hours and she had often to interrupt her daily work because of the need to rub them.

Maila then returned to Allan who had been watching what happened on the rock from the open window. According to Allan, Maila was "in a state of mild shock." She immediately told him about the two creatures. Allan had seen Maila approach the object and when she was quite close to it, the object had disappeared to the left. He did not see the creatures. The whole incident took about 10 minutes, which Allan had checked from his watch. The radio was on — there was the daily news at 12.30 — and there was no disturbance in the reception.

Discussion

The story is at the same time incredible and interesting — a well-known combination in ufology! Of course, there is the pure fascination of UFO-lore as modern folk-lore, but as physical scientists, we are also interested in the possibility that among such reports may be hidden evidence for unknown empirical phenomena. Then, the interest arises mainly from two aspects:—

First, the estimated reliability of the witnesses as reporters of an exceptional observation, and secondly, the correlation of the details in the report with those found in sub-classes of world-wide UFO reports. The first aspect also includes possible pieces of physical

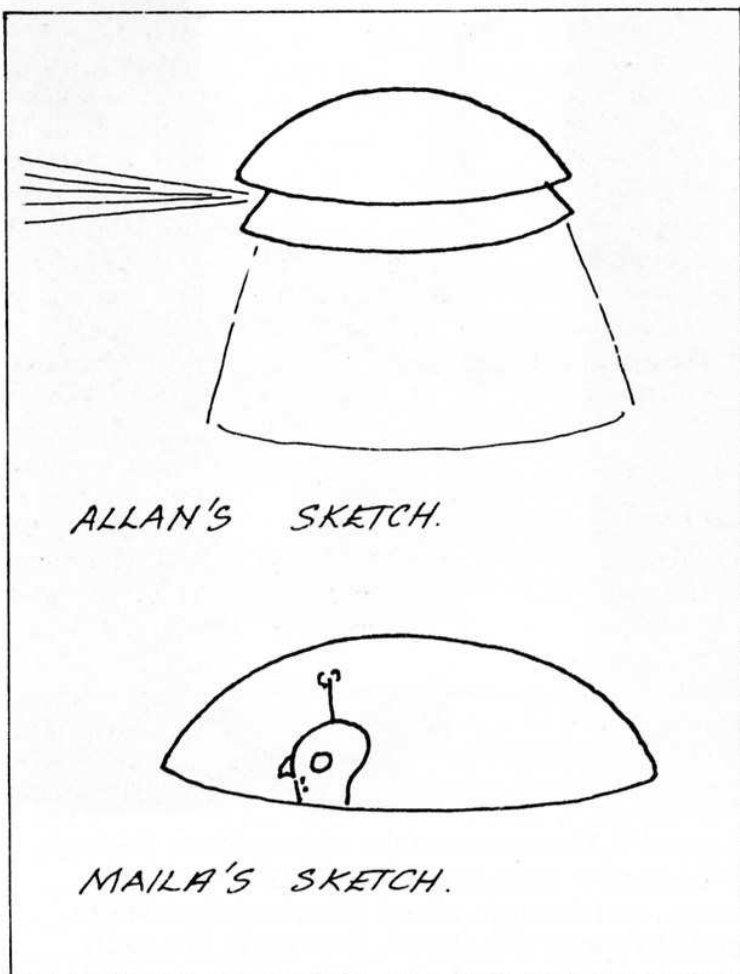


Figure 2: Witnesses' drawings.



Figure 3: Maila's drawing of the nearest humanoid. She could see them only waist upwards, so did not draw the part not visible to her.

evidence.

Our experience with the witnesses, though not very extended, has nevertheless led us to conclude that they speak the truth *as they conceive it*. We have not found any signs of hoax, inconsistency, or search for publicity. In fact, the manner how the incident was reported after more than one year, and even then just because "university-men were involved," is characteristic of the witnesses (before that they had mentioned the case to neighbours).

Although Allan had read a couple of UFO books (the other was actually by von Däniken), he does not seem to be excessively influenced by UFO-lore. In any case, it is quite improbable that Maila — not a reading type — could have participated in any hoax planned by Allan. Of course, these impressions are subjective, but they seem to be supported by the more objective principles of Report Profile Analysis as described by Haines.¹

In short, Allan and Maila behave like people who have had a real experience. If it happens that our impression of their sincerity is incorrect, then the present case exemplifies the ability of two ordinary people to make up, and present very skilfully, a complex CE III story. In any case, it is worth putting on record, and we intend to continue our studies of this report.

If one is not willing to accept that this story is a sincere description of a *real, objective* event, one should study the possibility of, say, a shared hallucination. One kind of shared hallucination — a communicated

form of mental disorder, known as *folie à deux* — has been described by Grinspoon and Persky.² However, we are not competent enough on such matters, and do not attempt any interpretation along these lines (perhaps some knowledgeable reader would like to comment?). At this point, the behavioural scientist should enter the picture. Physical scientists may actually be biased towards psychological or psychiatric explanations in situations where such interpretations may *not* be well-founded, as was pointed out by Hall.³ On the other hand, insufficient experience in the fields of psychology, psychiatry, and sociology may as well lead him to regard some explanations possibly offered by behavioural scientists too "exotic". Serious works on these aspects — such as the recent *UFO Phenomena and the Behavioral Scientist*⁴ — are much needed.

It should be noted that Allan and Maila are not repeaters, and do not seem to be sensitive to paranormal experiences (said Allan: I have never "seen things").

As far as we could ascertain, the witnesses have quite well overcome possible psychological stresses caused by the experience, though Maila showed some signs of fear of "bad dreams" and was visibly upset when describing to us the look on the face of the humanoid. The way the creature looked at her was especially frightening to Maila.

The witnesses stated that on sunny days, when the surface of the rock is dry, one can see from the window a clear trace at the landing-site of the object. Because of the rain we could not confirm this. Inspection of the site when Maila showed us where she saw the object, revealed that the rock is irregularly covered by short lichen, being otherwise devoid of vegetation. We did not notice any clear connection, say, between the absence of lichen and the position of the object as Maila remembered it. We intend to make another trip to the site in order to try a better localization of the exact position (c.f. figure 1 where Allan marked the object after our visit).

As to the second aspect mentioned above, one cannot avoid noticing many features in the report, well-known to students of UFOs. They may be divided in three groups: 1) descriptions of the object, 2) description of the humanoids, and 3) sensations and after-effects. We restrict ourselves to the following comments:—

The form of the object is typical — a curved upper side and a flat bottom. The size is rather small and thus reminds one of the Suomussalmi case of 1967.⁵ The beam of "light" (or solid light) is a part of the UFOlore (see e.g. ref. 6) and one of the striking features in the present report.⁷

Viewing humanoids through a transparent "cupola", "window", or "wall" is common to many CE III reports. Here we point out the behaviour which in one form or another can be identified in, we think, quite a number of CE III reports: First a kind of indif-

ference on the part of humanoids, then a look at the now quite nearby human being (perhaps a giant in their eyes, one can imagine!) and a rapid disappearance from the scene. It may be added that only one of the two humanoids was said to have looked at Maila — a detail remotely reminiscent of many descriptions of the behaviour of humanoids in the presence of human witnesses.

As to the appearance of the miniature humanoids, Maila's description fits rather well with that of Group 2.B. in the classification devised by Eric Zurcher,⁸ though the size is small.

Maila could not explain more accurately her sensation when "they gave electricity upon me." What followed was a dizzying feeling and temporary blinding, with irritation of eyes as a well-known after-effect.

There are some problems with timing the rapid sequence: the humanoid looking... "electricity"... blinding... departure of the object. However, Maila said that she could see the object moving before it disappeared. Also Allan used the term that it "disappeared to the left." It is difficult to decide, on the basis of the testimonies, whether there could have been a "disappearance-on-the-spot," or a tremendous acceleration (only a slight "whoosh" was heard). A similar

problem has arisen, e.g., in the well-known case of Valensole 1965.

Tentative conclusions

We put on record this CE III report as a piece for the world-wide UFO puzzle. Such reports form the peculiar data base for UFO studies. Each investigator should apply his or her own reasoning and criteria when utilizing these reports in attempts to gain some understanding of what is happening when people claim such experiences.

We did not find evidence for lying, and are inclined to think that the experience was real to the witnesses. Of course, we cannot claim that the experience has a counterpart in the objective world, in the normal sense of the term. At present, without any solid framework for such extremely peculiar events, the question of their objective reality remains open. However, it is important to continue to gather and study such reports.

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References and notes

1. Haines, R. F.: *Observing UFOs*, Nelson-Hall, Chicago 1980, chapter 5. One detail should be mentioned. When the witnesses were asked whether there were any landing-legs below the object, they answered, almost simultaneously, no! (Allan) and yes! (Maila), the former referring to *his* impression at the window, and the latter describing *her* observation close-by. Many such features form subjective/objective basis for the impression that these two people independently described what happened to them and did not follow a plan for a hoax.
2. In Chapter 11 of *UFOs — A Scientific Debate* (edited by Sagan, C. and Page, T., The Norton Library, New York 1974) Grinspoon and Persky describe *folie à deux* "... as a psychosis in which one of the two intimately associated people develops certain mental symptoms, particularly delusions, which are communicated to and accepted by the second person. This dual psychosis usually involves either a parent and child, two siblings, or a husband and wife. The person suffering from the primary psychosis is the dominant individual, while the one who develops the induced psychosis is of a submissive and suggestible type, dependent upon having a close emotional attachment to the infector. The primary psychotic may have at first a rather limited delusion which, as he develops it, systematizes it, and invests more and more in it, he imposes on the weaker person, who comes to share and even participate in the development of the systematized delusional ideas of the dominant person."

It should be pointed out that we do not claim any correspondence between the description above and the individuals in the present case — as a matter of fact it is

difficult for us to tell which one of the witnesses would be "dominant." We merely remind the reader of a possibility.

3. R. K. Hall in *UFOs — A Scientific Debate*.
4. *UFO Phenomena and the Behavioral Scientist*, edited by R. F. Haines (The Scarecrow Press, Inc. Metuchen, N. J., & London 1979).
5. FSR 1968 No. 3: Further studies and contacts with the main witness, Mr. Arvi Juntunen, farmer, have not revealed the identity of this flying object, also observed

and confirmed by additional witnesses.

6. J. Heering: "UFO Physics — Part I," FSR Vol. 22, No. 5 (1976).
7. One should be cautious of regarding such details as independent evidence for the truth of the narrative (as regards either the personal experience or the objective reality). They make the report in hand interesting, but the question of evidence in UFOlogy is a curious and complicated thing.
8. Eric Zurcher: *Les Apparitions d'Humanoides*, Editions Alain Lefevre 1979.

ARE CONTACTEES LEFT-HANDED?

Dr Bernard E. Finch, MRCS, LRCP, DCh, FBIS

RECENT work on the brain has shown that each half performs quite different functions. The left half is concerned with all the mundane performances which the body has to cope with and carry out from day to day. However, in the right half (or hemisphere) lies the seat of psychic reasoning, and the basis of psychic phenomena, such as telepathy and cognition.

At birth the right hemisphere is predominant, but as we develop so the left hemisphere takes over to carry out all the automatic and meaningful acts — to feed, clothe and protect, etc. — which is necessary for survival. The right hemisphere then becomes subordinate, and is no longer predominant in day-to-day thinking. However, in many people there is one important difference...

It is known that the speech centre in right-handed people resides in the left cerebral hemisphere, and the speech centre in left-handed people resides in the right hemisphere. So here we have an interesting situation: left-handed people would have an active speech centre in the right hemisphere associated with an active psychic centre. This means that all "pure" left-handed people will be using their psychic centre whenever they speak, think, or "think of speaking." They will be more receptive to other peoples'

thoughts, and under stress will be able to "speak their thoughts silently."

All automatic writers and painters are predominantly left-handed, and this includes genuine mediums, but — and this is the crux of the matter — to what extent are UFO contactees left-handed? These people have active psychic centres, would be recipients of telepathic messages, and would be easily contacted, and programmed, in contrast to the insulated right-handers.

I think this is a path for extensive research, and could easily be carried out — are (or were) Betty and Barney Hill, Carl Higdon, Louie Smith, Travis Walton, Maurice Masse, and a host of others, left-handed? If so, we may have stumbled on one of the reasons for the erratic behaviour of UFOs, and/or their occupants, in that they could be trying to locate left-handed humans for programming.

In this context, there could be a relationship between epileptics and left-handed people, and it is a fact that most idiopathic epileptics are left-handed at birth.

Perhaps now we have found the reasons for "their" searchings, but not the reason "why" — as yet!

