

TIBETAN "PEARL OF THE SKY"

THE following extract from *In Search of the Mahatmas of Tibet* by E. G. Schary—published by the Travel Book Club, 121 Charing Cross Road, London WC2—appears in the chapter "The Pilgrimage to Kailas Parbat". The incident occurred near the mountain (Kailas Parbat) after the caravanserai known as Parkah on the way to Laktsang. The year was 1917 (around July/August).

"About an hour before making camp we had left the plains of the lake behind (lake Monasarowar), crossed a pass of low hills and entered another smaller valley. As we neared the top of the pass, before entering this valley, the moon rose, full and yellow, and when I could see down on the further side, I was astounded to behold a second moon shining in what I thought to be the ground in the centre of the valley. I discovered soon that there lay a smaller lake.

"As we traversed the shores of this lake, I beheld a natural phenomenon, if it can be called that. Rising on my right beyond the shores of the lake were a range of low-lying hills, and suddenly above the edge of these hills, which were sharply outlined against the stars, a

large luminous disc rose, silvery in colour, and seeming to be a ball. I glanced to the left at the moon and estimated the possibility of a reflection from it, but noted, when turning back, that this could not possibly be, as the ball rose steadily above the level of the hills until it seemed several yards higher and then quickly dropped back beyond the hills once more. I have never yet been able to account for this.

"We camped at the further end of this valley that night and, two days later, arrived late in the evening at a nomad camp consisting of ten or twelve large black tents. Here the driver left me standing in the middle of the village and went on about his business."

We are indebted to Mr. W. Mathieson of Edinburgh for first drawing our attention to this item. A few weeks later, Miss Tova Bratt, of Geneva, Switzerland, sent the same item. Tongue in cheek, Miss Bratt doubts if the object were a radio-sonde, and adds that Tibetan friends of hers say they can't imagine what kind of natural phenomenon it could have been. They have told her that Tibetans know about UFOs, and call them "Pearls of the sky".

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