

BOOK REVIEW

FLYING Saucers Farewell by George Adamski. (Abelard-Schuman Inc., New York).

This book is in three parts: the first reviews the author's experiences with his acquaintances from Venus, Mars and Saturn and includes new descriptions of the electromagnetic propulsion of spacecraft and a diagram of the solar system showing three as yet unknown planets beyond Pluto as well as a second belt of asteroids, with a description of the function of these belts; the second relates to his world tour in 1959, in his opinion interrupted by the hostile influence of the Silence Group, and the third reproduces a brochure, brought up-to-date, which he published in 1937 entitled *Satan, Man of the Hour*.

Adamski has done more than any individual to publicise flying saucers and we have no reason to think that he has done this for personal gain. His first book, which was incorporated in *Flying Saucers Have Landed* went round the world and so did the author, lecturing by invitation only, after interest had been further stimulated by his second book *Inside the Space Ships*. His photographs of spacecraft are still the best available to the public and they have independent corroboration by photographs others have taken and by thousands of sightings; although it should be remembered that, of the several types of craft, he has encountered only the three-ball landing gear scout-craft and the cigar-shaped carrier ships.

Contact claims

This having been said and our indebtedness to Adamski acknowledged, it must be admitted that many readers have been unable to accept everything he has asserted. Somewhere along the line, they feel, he abandoned fact for fiction. Moreover, he does not

appear to be alone in this: others who began by claiming contacts with flying saucer occupants under reasonable circumstances have gone on to romance wildly or to preach to us.

Such developments may not be as unaccountable as they seem if the people from other planets have, as one would expect them to have, a civilisation very different from ours upon earth. Here, people have been brain-washed by contact with another political system; how much more upsetting would be the effect of the mental adjustment resulting from even a brief exchange with highly intelligent members of another civilisation? It must be unbalancing, to say the least.

Different accounts

There is an opening for innocent departure from the truth, as it is understood in normal life. Even as witnesses to any incident notice different things and sometimes contradict one another, so can those who listen to an account subsequently write down different versions of what they heard. Each person hears most readily that which is familiar to him or what he wishes to hear. There is no reason to think that communication by telepathy is any more accurate than by word of mouth; indeed, it may give greater opportunity for misinterpretation, what is thus received being the more easily altered to fit preconceived opinions.

Adamski became a controversial figure chiefly because of the suspicion that his aim is to put across a philosophy which, as a lifelong student and a teacher of universal laws, he feels can save the world. This is the message of brotherhood given in his second book, which combines factual description of trips in spacecraft with accounts of conversations which have a reverential and dream-like quality.

His "brothers" are no casual visitors to this planet, landing to eat their sandwiches on a sunny hilltop, asking for a jug of water as recently in Milwaukee, or looking for a sweetshop as reported earlier this year from Russia. They chose him to give a message to humanity. Although the message may be couched in terms of Adamski's own philosophy, the main theme of danger from nuclear explosions is to be found in the briefer accounts given by others who have met people from space.

Is civilisation in danger? Mr. Krushchev has said, "We are spending huge sums of money on rockets and atom bombs and they are not for slicing sausages."

His scientists had told him they could make a bomb with the power of 100 m. tons of T.N.T. and had said they could make a rocket to lift it. "That is a picture of the future," he said.

A strange story

In that strange article "Son of the Sun," first published in 1947 in *Fantastic Stories* and reprinted in *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, Vol. 4. No. 6. (November-December 1958) is written: "You have lately achieved the means of destroying yourselves. Do not be hasty in your self-congratulation. Yours is not the first civilisation to have achieved—and used—such means. Yours will not be the first civilisation to be offered the means of preventing that destruction and proceeding, in the full glory of its accumulated knowledge, to establish an era of enlightenment upon the earth."

"However, if you do accept the means offered you, and if you do establish such a 'millennium' upon the basis of your present accomplishments, yours will be the first civilisation to do so" . . .

If you do fail, as other civilisations have failed, we will see your descendants wearing wiring dia-

grams for simple machines as amulets, expecting the diagrams to do what their forefather were taught the completed article would accomplish."

Must humanity emerge from the caves in centuries to come and grow through tribes, clans and feudal kingdoms into nations again—to what end?

One may be excused a brief feeling of resentment against the "brothers" who seem to pass by on the other side, but what should they do? The worst has not happened yet and it is for us on earth to say whether or not it shall. As for these people of other planets, earthmen persist in ignoring both the possibility and the indications they continue to give of their existence: how, then, could one claim that they ought to be neighbourly? If we do, we risk the condemnation deserved by those who say and do not. There is no scope for intervention in our affairs by people who do not enter into our lives. Among Christians few are missionaries; however, these come to bring good news.

The symbols

We have never been satisfied that any constructive purpose is served by the strange symbols in the footprints of the visiting Venusian in *Flying Saucers Have Landed* and, in the present book, Adamski confesses he is unable to give a complete explanation of them: the various explanations he has received from readers bear no relation to one another and include a rearrangement of the symbols to produce a diagram of a scoutship. No more are we impressed by the ideographs that the author has privately shown as representing Venusian writing,

which resemble Chinese characters.

In *Inside the Space Ships* Orthon says "... the messages I gave you were of a universal character. We knew that although the understanding of such writings was buried with civilisations that were lost long ago, there are a few people scattered about your present world who would be able to translate them. With such translations only the determinedly incredulous can still refuse to believe." Nine years later Adamski cannot give out the translation and those who believe in the existence of visitors from other planets do so in spite of the footprints.

Problem of the past

Do we realise, on earth, that our history is short; that we have a long pre-history including many civilisations, some indicated by monuments and markings both durable and gigantic, of purpose unknown to us? We believe in progress, as does Adamski and his space brothers, and we see that modern machinery can lift ancient Egyptian rock hewn temples above the flood and that the Chinese will replace their ideographs by alphabetical script in order to keep pace with the advance of civilisation, of which the achievements in raising the standard of life for mankind exceed anything previously known or indicated. What authority is there in the past for the future? It is only a footprint in the sand of time.

Does the dust of ancient philosophies stir with the coming anew of the spaceships and old rhyme come to mind?:

"The man in the moon came down,
they say,
And asked his way to Norwich;*

They told him South, but he burnt
his mouth

By eating cold pease porridge." That may be crude and degenerate in comparison with Homer's *Odyssey*, but what proof is there that any legend—ancient or modern—is other than a work of the human imagination?

Are flying saucers radar trackings, films, pieces of metal and all—themselves just that? Let us, too, be philosophical for a moment: If so, then they are an effect of developing human consciousness and, provided that we have wisdom to resist destructive tendencies on the way, we shall see more of them as our thoughts reach out in the universe and encounter manifestations of intelligence in forms we can comprehend. Today shadows, tomorrow the light may shine upon them. The light alone is substance and two thousand years ago we were given the Way.

In conclusion

Adamski concludes this, his third book. "My preliminary studies, which began with the advent of flying saucers, have now been completed. Of course, this does not mean that I intend to abandon the subject, but it does mean that a new programme of greater intellectual expansion, along technical and philosophical lines, will be carried out by myself and my associates."

We do not say farewell to flying saucers in favour of any philosophy. We are interested in them, interested in their makers and in their occupants; and we remain

Our Reception Committee

* Where, at time of writing, two thousand scientists were assembled for the 123rd annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.