

Why I believe Adamski

by Dr Leon
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DR. LEON DAVIDSON, publisher of the [United States] Air Force Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14, is also author of the new book *Flying Saucers: Weapons of the Cold War*. It is the policy of the *Flying Saucer Review* to allow complete freedom in its columns for the expression of all points of view, but the Editor feels obliged to state that Dr. Davidson's article does not represent the considered opinion of the journal. Simplicity is the first test of any theory in the absence of conclusive proof. The "secret weapon" theory has had to be abandoned because it has, with the passage of time, become both complex and uncomprehensive. It fails to take into account the global nature of the problem as well as the historical aspect.

SCIENTIFIC and objective saucer researchers have tended to discount entirely the "contact stories" as being fabrications or delusions. In this article I will give my personal reasons for believing that Adamski, for one, is telling the truth. I believe that his two books* are honest reports of things that he actually saw and heard with his physical senses. I see no reason to consider that they represent metaphysical, psychic, extra-sensory, or hallucinatory experiences, or that they are fictional or due to prevarication.

But I must put down the following disclaimers:

- (1) I believe that *all* the "Brothers" (as Adamski calls the "extraterrestrials" with whom he had the contacts) were human beings, born and raised on earth.
- (2) I do not believe that *all* of the scientific or technical statements which Adamski makes are correct. Some of the things which he was told by the "Brothers" are incorrect. Some of the things which he was led on to surmise are errors of scientific fact.

Some obvious errors

One obvious error which Adamski makes is the reference to a temperate zone on the moon, between the "hot" and the "cold" sides. (ITSS)† As any reader may see for himself by observing the moon, each spot on the moon's surface has alternate "days" of bright sunlight and "nights" of darkness, lasting about two weeks each.

Another scientific error is the thought expressed (ITSS) that Martians, Venusians, Saturnians and Earthmen would all resemble each other so closely that they would be indistinguishable. The tremendous variations in the races of intelligent life on earth alone, and the extreme variations between planets in mass or "gravity," atmospheric composition, surface temperature, and so forth, make it highly improbable that such close similarity should exist.

Other implausible things which Adamski reports are less subject to scientific scrutiny than the above items. In this category is the idea (ITSS) that essentially all of the other "inhabited" planets in the Solar System (and in other nearby planetary systems also) are leagued together co-operatively and engaged in joint space travel ventures, while the earth is the only planet which has thus far been excluded from participation.

Despite such errors, I believe that Adamski is honestly and sincerely reporting what he was told by people in whom he had full and implicit trust. If he was misled by the crews and "Masters" of the space ships, it was for reasons of their own, which I propose to discuss at another time. Adamski accepted much of this misinformation because he himself already be-

* "*Flying Saucers Have Landed*," by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski, and "*Inside the Space Ships*," by George Adamski.

† These two books will be referred to in this article as "FSHL" and "ITSS," respectively.

lieved in similar concepts of extraterrestrial life. (ITSS) I am told that some of Adamski's pre-1947 writings also present similar philosophical ideas. I would wager that the "Brothers" read these carefully before arranging to contact Adamski.

Core of truth

Discounting the misleading errors of scientific fact which were told to and accepted by Adamski, we may look for truth in the basic narrative of his personal experiences: that is, the story of his trips to Los Angeles from Mt. Palomar, the various meetings with Ramu and Firkon (the "contact men," as they called themselves; see ITSS), the night drives in the Pontiac into the California desert, the entrance into the "scout ships," the brief and motionless "flights into space," the descent down rails into the "mother ship," the tours of the lounges and laboratories, the hourly drinks of innocuous liquids, the views of the moon in the viewing screens, the newsreel of "Venusian" life, the strange fruits served at the farewell banquet, and so forth.

Let us examine whether this narrative of events hangs together of itself; whether it seems believable. I will try to show that it is all perfectly believable and, I think, all true. But I make one important qualification:

I do not believe that either the "scout ships" or the "mother ships" ever flew above the surface of the earth, although Adamski was led to believe that they did. **THIS IS THE KEY TO THE WHOLE SITUATION!**

Many details of the "space ships" and their equipment sound like nothing more than stage props designed to make Adamski believe that he was indeed travelling through space. The crew men, the contact men, and the Masters behave like well-trained earth people putting over a colossal hoax on a naïve and trusting Adamski.

Correspondence with Adamski

In this article I hope to show how Adamski had been carefully chosen as the subject of this hoax. I will discuss the probable organisation of the hoaxers, their motives, their source of funds, and their method of operation. For a start I will concentrate on developing Adamski's own narrative of events, and will point out two men, named by Adamski, who may have been involved in the technical execution of the hoax.

As background material, I quote portions of several letters which have passed between Adamski and myself.

July 2, 1953, addressed to Adamski:

"... have you given serious consideration to the possibility that the 'flying saucers' are merely U.S. guided missiles under development? ..."

August 8, 1953, addressed to me:

"... From the standpoint of obtaining photographs of objects that definitely are not missiles of any sort, but without question are craft of styles unknown to our aircraft, I have had much success. ... Not only have I had personal contact and conversation with the personnel in one of these craft, but I also have reports from others who have had similar experiences. ..."

August 26, 1953, addressed to Adamski:

"... I wonder if you could positively state whether or not the personnel of the 'saucer' could, possibly, have been human beings? ... Did they have any features that definitely precluded the possibility that they were human beings, as for instance, a total height of one inch, or a neck three feet long?"

September 14, 1953, addressed to me:

"... the individual with whom I visited for about 45 minutes, telepathically and with gestures, is very definitely a human being so nearly like us in every respect that with his hair cut and in a business suit as men here wear he could mingle with anyone anywhere and never be recognised as being from elsewhere than earth. ... Thousands of them today are walking the streets of every nation on earth, but not yet revealing their identities. ... Time will prove the truth of this statement."

April 5, 1954, addressed to Adamski:

"... the person whom you describe as a 'Venusian' bears so many resemblances to *homo sapiens* [earth people] that I ... believe that he or she was [an earth person] sent on purpose to confirm your beliefs of the interplanetary origin of the saucers. ... The mere mention of fingerprints which you think might have been identifiable in terrestrial files (FSLH) ... indicates that this person was really an earth person ... (why worry about 'betraying' him ... if really from Venus). ... My conclusion from your book [FSLH] is that the [United States] is interested in fostering the growth of an elaborately detailed 'interplanetary' explanation of the flying saucer. ..."

What Adamski saw

I will point out my interpretation of Adamski's narrative, as given in *Inside the Space Ships*, by quoting from a letter I wrote to Adamski in April, 1958. Activities associated with the technology of the movie industry appear to be involved. Later in the article I will show the

evidence for such a connection. The remainder of this section is quoted from my letter to Adamski:

“ . . . [2] The fact that the space ships were landed in the desert about a 90-minute drive from Los Angeles leads me to ask whether you are familiar with Camp Irwin, about 20 miles north of Barstow, Calif. Would you say that the drive out from Los Angeles to Camp Irwin resembles the rides you were given on the nights when you went to the ships?”

“ [3] I am told that at Disneyland there is now an amusement device called ‘Trip to the Moon’ or some similar name, in which the audience watches a projection screen in the ceiling and one in the floor, and gets the illusion of traveling through space and around the moon. Similar training devices were used in World War II to train navigators of aircraft. May I ask whether you would say that the ‘space ships’ to which your visitors conducted you might conceivably have contained a similar set of screens, in ceiling and floor, which gave you the impression that they were viewing lenses. . . .”

“ [4] Your statements, at several points [ITSS] that you felt *no motion at all* in the little ‘scout ships’ when they flew in an *incredibly short time* up to the ‘mother ship,’ and that you then *first felt motion* when starting to descend down into the mother ship along the rails, lend

themselves to the following . . . interpretation:

“The little ‘scout ships’ *did not leave* the surface of the earth while you were in them. The realistic use of projection screens in ceiling and floor gave you the illusion of travelling from the earth’s surface, but the ship did not move. . . . The portholes in the sides were closed at these times.”

“When the moment of *landing* on the mother ship was supposed to occur, a *tunnel* into the earth was uncovered (this entrance closure usually not being readily discernible by you since the visits were all at night) and the ship *slid down* on rails into an underground chamber. . . . The happenings in these underground chambers would then have transpired as you have reported, except that you were given to understand that these things took place in a ‘mother ship’ flying above the earth. . . . Despite the supposedly great speed, you again felt no motion, since, as I would have you believe, the whole room was solidly entrenched deep in the earth.”

“When you re-entered the scout ship and rose back to the outer deck of the ‘mother ship,’ along the rails, you again reported feeling motion. . . . At the surface of the ground, you were shown on the view screens a moving picture giving you the illusion of travel through space back to the earth’s surface, but you felt

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no motion because there was actually no motion. . . .”

“ [5] . . . Consider some of the other features of your experience which indicate to me that ordinary earth dwellers were playing the part of ‘space people’ for you:

“At your farewell banquet on August 23, 1954, in the ‘mother ship,’ the fruits served were all earth fruits, but the flavours had been switched around. A good Japanese chef could duplicate this with ease, I am sure. . . . [They have such in Los Angeles.] . . . The ‘newsreel direct from Venus’ was apparently a collection of film clips which [someone] from the movie industry of California could have [prepared]. The use of a transparent screen hanging in the middle of the room is readily duplicated by any theatrical magician or illusionist. . . .”

“ . . . You were told, on August 23, 1954, . . . that the ‘mission was fulfilled’ and that your visitors would no longer return. . . . Did you associate this with the story on August 25, 1954, that a ‘saucer occupant’ had landed in Norway and talked to two women? [In April, 1955, the ‘Brothers’ returned for the photograph incident. ITSS, p. 246.] From October, 1954, to April, 1955, a series of saucer sightings occurred in Eastern Europe and behind the Iron Curtain. [See Ruppelt, *The Report on UFOs*, Doubleday, 1956, page 310.] Since the Norwegian ‘visitor’ was later admitted to be a U.S. pilot on duty in Norway, it might well be that the Iron Curtain activity was due to U.S. Intelligence activities. If your ‘space visitors’ were no longer contacting you after August, 1954, I would suggest that they were now busy behind the Iron Curtain.”

“ [6] You have stated that each time you entered the ‘mother ship’ you were given an innocuous drink, and that apparently every hour or so similar drinks were supplied. [ITSS] I raise the question of whether these drinks were of a medicinal nature, containing some sort of stimulant or other drug which kept you, as you report, from feeling sleepy or tired during the long period without sleep which you spent each time you visited the ships. . . .”

“ [7] You have stated that the ‘visitors’ told you that they had been watching you for years, that they in effect selected you because you were the type of man they wanted, to act as their spokesman. [ITSS] . . . They chose you well; you trusted them implicitly. . . . Their faith in you was well justified. You do not indicate even getting the licence number of the black Pontiac in which you rode four or five times. This . . . is in the same category as the

possible fingerprints of the Venusian, which you were thoughtful enough to wipe from the plate-holder [FSHL]. . . . From the viewpoint of a group of hoaxers, who would want to select a man to carry forth their message with little inclination to doubt them, you were an ideal choice. I say this without malice. . . . It is a *reason* for believing your accounts. It is *reasonable* to me that you, being the type of person you are, should be selected.”

The two scientists

A very important test of Adamski’s story is offered by the incident of the moon photographs [FSHL]. Here Adamski brings in the names of two scientists who really exist. These men will be shown to provide a connection with the “Movie industry” type of activity which I consider to account for what happened “inside the space ships.”

The following is quoted in Adamski’s words (FSHL):

“ . . . Late in 1949 four men came into the café at Palomar Gardens. Two of them *had been in before and we had talked a little about the flying saucers.* . . . [Dr. Davidson’s italics.] . . . We began talking about flying saucers again. One of these men was Mr. J. P. Maxfield, and another was his partner, Mr. G. L. Bloom, both of the Point Loma Navy Electronics Laboratory near San Diego. The other two men were from a similar setup in Pasadena. One was in officer’s uniform.”

“They asked me if I would co-operate with them in trying to get photographs of strange craft moving through space. . . . And finally the moon was decided upon as a good spot for careful observation. . . . And it was not too long after this meeting that I succeeded in getting what I deemed at the time to be two good pictures of an object moving through space. I first saw it as I was observing the moon.”

“ . . . During the time radio reports were being broadcast of a flying saucer landing in Mexico City . . . Mr. Bloom stepped into the place . . . I handed him the two photographs which I had taken . . . to pass them on to Mr. Maxfield for examination. . . .”

“On the 22nd [of March, 1950] . . . the San Diego *Union and Tribune* . . . asked about the pictures. . . . The paper tried to get information from the Naval Laboratory, but the personnel there staunchly denied ever receiving any such photographs. . . . After this, of course, I really set to work watching and photographing. But no longer did I turn over any of my pictures to the

Laboratory. And they did not stop in for them any more."

Now, the fact that Adamski found and photographed "space craft" *when* and *where* the Navy men had suggested that he look for them, indicates that the Navy people could well have arranged to have some controlled objects flying there at the time. The problem of navigating objects, within the earth's atmosphere, to lie on Adamski's line of sight to the moon would be quite elementary to the Electronics Laboratory people, or their associates.

Identities checked

A statement of Adamski's which is subject to rigorous checking is provided by the names given in the above story. The reality and identity of the men named was checked by a letter to the Point Loma Navy Electronics Laboratory, sent in January, 1957. The following reply was received from G. B. Phelps, Employment Superintendent:

"Our records indicate that Mr. J. P. Maxfield was formerly employed at this activity, and that Mr. G. L. Bloom is currently employed here."

Adamski's story having passed this test, a letter was then written to Mr. Bloom on January 22, 1957, saying:

"... There remains the question... as to whether or not you indeed visited [Adamski] at Palomar Gardens... as described in the above reference, and whether you indeed were interested in helping him secure photographs of flying saucers...."

No reply to the above letter has ever been received from Mr. Bloom, nor has Mr. Maxfield replied to letters. However, we can learn much of interest about these two scientists from their autobiographical entries in *American Men of Science*, 9th Edition, Volume I, a standard reference book. I quote their entries in full, below, because this is so very important to an understanding of the true facts behind the Adamski story. Mr. Maxfield's professional career and specialties are related very closely to what Adamski saw "inside the space ships."

BLOOM, GENE LUTHER, 3621 Wilcox Street, San Diego, 6, Calif. Chemical Engineering. Born Cedar County Iowa, Dec. 22, 1920. Married 1944. B.S., Alabama Polytechnic, 1943. Research chemical engineer, fuels and fractionation, Texas Co., 1943-44. Supervisor, mass spectrometers and petroleum identification, Texas Co., 1944-48. Chemist, nuclear radiation section, U.S. Navy Electronics Lab., 1948-51. Chemist, Submarine and Arctic Research Branch, U.S. Navy Elect. Lab., 1951—. Member, American Chemical Society, Geophysical Union. Specialisation: Arctic geophysics, dynamic oceanography, tides, currents, and sea ice; petroleum products, absorp-

tion-desorption processes for recovery of gaseous hydrocarbons; low temperature fractionation; mass spectroscopy; ultraviolet spectrophotometry.

MAXFIELD, JOSEPH PEASE, Box 125, Espanola, New Mexico. *Physics*. Born San Francisco, Calif., Dec. 28, 1887. Married 1914. Two children. Bachelor of Science, M.I.T., 1910. Instructor in electrochemistry and physics, M.I.T., 1910-14. Physicist, research department, Western Electric Co., 1914-19. Head of Department, Western Electric Co. and Bell Telephone Labs., 1919-25. Manager of Engineering and Research, Victor Talking Machine Co., 1926-29. Consulting and Staff Engineer, Electric Research Products, Inc., N.Y., 1929-36. Director of Commercial Engineering, Elect. Research Prods., N.Y., 1936-42. Director, Division of Physical War Research, Duke University, 1942-46. Member, Technical Staff, Bell Telephone Labs., 1946-47. Retired. Consulting Engineer, 1947-48. Superintending Scientist, U.S. Navy Electronics Lab. (Point Loma), 1948-53. Returned to private practice as Consulting Engineer, 1954. (Did work for U.S. Army and U.S. Navy, 1944-46). Member of American Association for the Advancement of Science. Fellow of Amer. Institute of Electrical Engineers. Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America. Fellow of the American Physical Society. Fellow of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers. Member of Institute of Radio Engineers. Specialisation: Radio broadcasting; electrical recording of sound; talking pictures; electrical transmission of music and speech; recording and reproducing of sound; acoustics of recording for motion pictures.

"Remarkable patience"

As he himself admits, Adamski did not write the texts of his two books himself. They were ghost-written for him, the first by "C.L.J." (see FSHL) and the second by Charlotte Blodget (see ITSS). Possibly Chapter 13 of ITSS was written by Adamski alone, since it is so different from the rest of the book in style and content.

Miss Blodget was concerned by Adamski's lack of concrete evidence to support his story. I quote from her Introduction (ITSS):

"[Adamski] is a man of unquestionable integrity.... He has... true understanding and compassion.... [He] emerges as an unusually well-balanced man.... I am inclined to believe that the remarkable brand of patience manifested by Adamski must have played a large part in his selection as one of their important emissaries on earth by our brothers from other planets...."

"Adamski is fully aware that in recounting [his] experience he is laying himself wide open to attack.... Although aspersions which may be cast upon his sanity or veracity have no power to disturb him personally... he attaches [importance] to spreading the truth about the space ships and their *friendly* mission.... Because of this, and since I did encounter the demands for 'concrete evidence' to substantiate Adamski's claims, I wrote to ask again if he

could agree that something along that line might be incorporated in this book."

Miss Blodget then quotes Adamski's reply to her [ITSS]:

"As I have told you, I do have witnesses to one of my journeys in a space craft. Both are scientists who hold high positions. . . . When they believe that they can release the substantiation they have, without jeopardising either the national defence or themselves, they have said that they will do so through the press. . . . *They were with me at the request of the Brothers. . . .* [Dr. Davidson's italics.]

Adamski's reply continues:

"[*Flying Saucers Have Landed*] had plenty of material for the psychologists, psychoanalysts and professional critics to work on—and they did. Yet the book has gone round the world. . . . Of the letters we received, most . . . were praising. . . . The Brothers will not fail us if we follow their guidance, any more than they failed us in *Flying Saucers Have Landed*. While we humans did very little in spreading [that book] that far, *someone else must have assisted greatly.*" [Dr. Davidson's italics.]

Adamski felt that the "Brothers" would see to it that his book *Inside the Space Ships* was well publicised, and that it would be accepted by the public despite lack of concrete evidence. It was accepted indeed; three printings in three months after publication! With this organisation behind him, Adamski had no need for concern at being unable to state the identity of the two witnesses referred to above [ITSS].

The C.I.A. Enters the Case

One may speculate as to whether the two witnesses to his "journey in a space craft" were the two scientists Maxfield and Bloom, mentioned earlier in this article. It is of extreme interest to study what happened when the identity of these two witnesses was sought through legal process. I refer below to the book *Inside Saucer Post 3-0 Blue*, by Len Stringfield, of C.R.I.F.O. (privately published, Cincinnati, 1957). A letter from a Cincinnati businessman named Thomas Eickhoff is

quoted on page 42 of Stringfield's book, as follows:

"It was my opinion" [said Eickhoff] "that [Adamski] should be brought to Federal Court where he could prove by use of the testimony of his two scientists that he really had been on a space ship from another planet. . . . An attorney friend . . . [said] that in his opinion I had a case . . . [and called] in a certain federal representative to act as a go-between. . . . He suggested a letter of inquiry be sent to a certain agency in Washington. . . . The answer was so evasive that . . . my lawyer friend . . . called the representative . . . [who] asked him to please hold off . . . until he could get to Washington. . . . Within a week my attorney . . . had received the answer which also included instructions for all parties concerned to deny any connections with the statement. The statement itself . . . from Mr. A[llen] D[ulles] of a certain top agency in Washington [the Central Intelligence Agency] . . . said . . . Yes, I did have a case for Federal Court. However, by use of the injunction if necessary, he [Dulles] would prevent anyone from testifying in court *concerning this book* [*Inside the Space Ships*] because maximum security exists concerning the subject of UFOs. . . . My lawyer . . . suggested we drop the case."

The episode just quoted is important in two ways.

(1) It offers circumstantial proof that the two scientists who are Adamski's witnesses are in truth bound by security regulations, thus showing that Adamski's story about them is correct, as quoted above.

(2) It supplies a link between Adamski's books and the Central Intelligence Agency, an outfit which is more and more being brought out into the open as being connected too intimately with the "flying saucer" puzzle. (The C.I.A. was responsible for the Scientific Panel report on UFOs written in January, 1953, was involved with the setup of Project Blue Book by the Air Force, and was involved with the John Otto-Mildred Maier "code message" recorded from a WGN broadcast in November, 1954, among other things.)