

Book Reviews: UFOs FROM INNER SPACE?

Colin Bord

OMENS OF AWARENESS by David Tansley
Neville Spearman Ltd, 1977, £5.35

RECENT YEARS have seen a plethora of UFO books whose authors have sought to use UFO reports to explain religious and mystical writings in mundane physical terms. It started with a few well-meaning but low-keyed attempts to show how the parting of the Red Sea could have been, and therefore probably was, caused by a hovering UFO activating the appropriate "force field." Subsequent writers took up the theme until now we are assured that God is not dead but "Drives a Flying Saucer," and the unworldly experiences recorded by Ezekiel are bent and butchered to fit the mechanistic explanations of a N.A.S.A. space technician, in Blumrich's *The Spaceships of Ezekiel*.

In his foreword to *Omens of Awareness* David Tansley explains how this Blumrich paperback came into his hands and how, after reading it, he found it necessary to formulate an answer to the mechanistic concepts it contained, and was thereby projected into the dizzying world of contactees, abductees, MIBs and the whole multifarious world of the UFO. He brings to the problem a mind uncluttered by years of "nuts and bolts" conditioning, but as a leading researcher and writer on the subject of radionics and the subtle, non-physical "bodies" of man, he has an approach that many ufologists will recognise as being of great validity in this strange area of modern research where the physical and the phantasmagorical merge.

The UFO enigma, says Tansley, is a form of cosmic koan. A koan is a question which teachers of Zen Buddhism put to their pupils, and as it has no rational or logical answer it is useless to apply the intellect to the problem. The answer must arise spontaneously from the pupil's inner awareness, and will only manifest when the pupil achieves the necessary level of perception. The author draws on a wide range of religious symbolism and mystical writings (including those of Madame Blavatsky and Alice Bailey) which are largely ignored today, and finds frequent parallels between UFO happenings and the writings of Carlos Castaneda. Though Richard De Mille's recent book* has thrown doubt on the authenticity of Castaneda's alleged experiences, it in no way negates the authenticity of the reports upon which Castaneda must have drawn when researching his books, and so the correlations which David Tansley finds between shamanism and ufology will serve as a useful key for many future ufologists. He also examines several classic cases from his unique viewpoint and advances an original and provocative explanation for the Betty and Barney Hill case which I doubt many seasoned ufologists will be prepared to accept. As well as his parapsychical approach to the subject, the author also relates some anecdotes of the

early 1950s when as a student living near Los Angeles he had friends who were involved in a number of paranormal UFO incidents. He tells us that at that time he was not interested in the subject of flying saucers and spacemen, and took no advantage of the opportunities then open to him!

So, what is David Tansley's explanation for the UFO enigma? He does not believe that UFOs arrive from other planets. Quoting from the Upanishads, he points out that for centuries mystics have tried to tell mankind that the mind can travel unfettered even to the stars. To some extent he tends to follow the Jungian line of thought and believes that UFOs are partly emanations from the human psyche in response to an individual's needs, and partly emanations from other levels of existence, the intelligences on these other levels responding to and, to some extent, moulding the psychic responses of the individual percipient. This subliminal interaction between ourselves and our unseen, unknown neighbours, now brought to a conscious level by the manifestation of the UFO, is the area in which the most pertinent of ufological investigation is occurring today, and so this book should undoubtedly go on to the reading list of all who are keeping abreast of the current ideas.

I end with a small, but important, criticism. It is regrettable that no sources are given for the various cases that are quoted especially in view of some of the controversial statements the author makes. The works cited in the acknowledgements and in the UFO section of the reading list are all well known, but readers will sometimes wish to refer to the original account of a case, and detailed source information would have been much appreciated, as would an index.

COLIN BORD

* *Castaneda's Journey: The Power and the Allegory* by Richard De Mille (Capra Press, 1976).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEXT (Vol.23 No.4) ISSUE OF FLYING SAUCER REVIEW...

UFO and Solid Light in Dorset	Leslie Harris
The Man-in-Black syndrome	Dr. B.E. Schwarz
More on the Coyne helicopter case	Jennie Zeidman
Attempted abduction at Vila Velha	Dr. W. Buhler
Talks with Betty Hill: Pt III, Experiments	Dr. B.E. Schwarz

BE SURE YOU GET YOUR COPY!