

A Javanese A.V.B. ?

Gordon Creighton

WE are much indebted to Mr. W. Tobing, a reader in Indonesia, for drawing our attention to an extraordinary story which appeared in the Javanese newspaper *Pikiran Rakjat* for June 10, 1969, and which he feels very strongly must be a "UFO story", although of course the local people in Java, knowing little or nothing about "UFOs", consider it to be just another ghost story, or demon story.

The summary account of what is alleged to have happened is as follows:

A man of Tjisaga Bandjar, in West Java, found a young man asleep on the grass in a forest known as Gunung Babakar. The young man, aged 27 and named Machpud, was in a strange dazed condition. Accordingly he was taken to a *dukun* (medicine-man or witch-doctor), who restored him to health. Machpud then related the most extraordinary story to the authorities at Purwahardja.

He said that while visiting the Sinar Laksa theatre in Bandjar, he had met a beautiful girl. After the show was over, he had hired a *betja* (a kind of rickshaw) and had accompanied her to her house, part of the way in the *betja*, and the remainder on foot.

Arriving at her house, he found that it was a large

building, with an abundance of light.¹ He could easily move about in the spacious rooms. The beauty of the girl was such that Machpu became greatly disturbed, and the inevitable occurred.

She told him that her husband had just divorced her, and suggested that he remain there and pass the night with her. They accordingly spent the evening in drinking together and in due course retired to the bedroom.

On the following morning, Machpud awoke and found himself lying in the sunshine in a clearing in a *djati*² forest. His clothes, which he remembered having placed on a coatstand the night before, were now hanging from a *djati* tree. Shortly afterwards, the man from Tjisaga Bandjar had come along and found him, but he was too dazed and confused to be able to speak until treated by the *dukun*.

Our correspondent, a European long resident in Java, informs me that he has several other Javanese reports of this kind, involving encounters with mysterious females. Java is of course *par excellence* the land of magic and mystery of this kind. It is a country in which all kinds of very strange and weird cults and religions flourish, and where the fantastic always seems to be just around the corner.

It seems to me however that in this story given above we may simply be confronted with continued evidence pertaining to the age-old human traditions about "fairy lovers", "enchancements", and so on. I have long maintained that, if we are going to "look at all aspects of the evidence", then we cannot neglect or dismiss these odd tales.

NOTES

¹ Note this insistence on the brightly illuminated interior. And see the A.V.B. case.

² A species of teak.

UNUSUAL SKY PHENOMENA IN 1852-53

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but rather flattened on its upper and lower extremities. This greater portion of the body was of a deep red colour, whilst round the outer edge of it was a beautiful blue and yellow tint. Behind it were several smaller globes, and a white streak of light—the latter ending in a point about a degree from the body of the Meteor itself. Its height was apparently trifling; but its passage

was so exceedingly vivid, that this could not be correctly ascertained.

"It is somewhat singular, but, we believe, not unusual, that each of those who observed it—although at a considerable distance from each other—fancied it fell within a few yards of himself. A labourer at Blyth saw it, as he said, fall into an ungathered beanfield: not knowing what it was, he ran home, and told his master of the conflagration which might be expected. His master hastened to the field, but failed to discover the cause of alarm."

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Readers' Reports

Trails, or UFOs?

Dear Sir,—I refer to the article in *FSR Case Histories* Supplement 2 for December last, entitled "Luminous object filmed near Newark". The sighting is so similar to one which I, myself, had recently, that I feel obliged to write to you in some detail about my own experience. Let me say straight away that although I am a "student of Ufology" and do believe in the existence of "flying saucers" (in a general sense), I view the subject very critically, and am not convinced that what I saw was extra-terrestrial.

The sighting commenced at about 2.00 p.m. on a cold sunny afternoon sometime during last January; I do not recall the exact date. The Trossachs Hotel, where I live, is situated nine miles west of Callander, which is about 40 miles north of Glasgow. The building sits at a height of about 300ft. above sea level and faces slightly west of south, across a small loch, to a range of hills opposite, which rise to a height of about 1,700ft.

My mother, father, our secretary and myself were sitting in a front lounge which overlooks the loch. My father was beside a window. He suddenly exclaimed that he thought perhaps he could see two UFOs. On looking out we could all see them, very faintly in the distance. Two horizontal silvery-white trails, each the length of half-an-inch at arm's length. They were both on the same plane, about one inch apart. They were due south, not over the highest range of hills, but appeared about an inch above hill-tops which in this direction range from about 800 to 1,000ft. above sea level. The two objects were both moving towards the west, at a slow velocity as would be the case with very high flying jet aircraft. Their height, speed and distance apart remained constant all the time.

We viewed them for about five minutes, during which time they moved through an arc of about three inches. It was then noticed that they began moving in the reverse direction, back on their tracks. I watched this change of trajectory through a pair of opera glasses and noticed that the trails shortened to one half their usual length in turning, which seemed consistent if they were to be vapour trails, as I by this time believed. However, no loop was ever visible; all changes in trajectory were performed in the same plane. Over the space of about 20 minutes we watched the trails move back and forth through a distance which varied between about four and six inches. Sometimes they passed behind cumu-

lous cloud in the east and sometimes behind higher hills to the west. After about the first quarter of an hour one of the objects failed to reappear from behind the hills. Shortly after this we discontinued watching.

My impression at the time was that they were jets waiting to land, and that one of them had just been given permission to do so. I could never make out any aircraft at the front end of the trail, but the latter did taper off slightly towards its end, as is the case in the photograph in *FSR Case Histories*.

I am quite convinced that I was watching two very distant jet vapour trails. The one slightly odd thing is the point I make that the trail was never curved or looped at all.

Yours faithfully,

B. A. R. Rosier,

Trossachs, Perthshire, Scotland.

What was it over Heathrow Airport?

Dear Sir,—At approximately 8.20 p.m. on August 22, 1970, a well-known British woman writer and journalist was travelling as a passenger in a car along the M4 Motorway towards London. It was of course still light. The sky was clear except for a few patches of sparse and almost imperceptible cloud.

Another passenger in the car drew her attention to a large dark circular phenomenon, of the apparent size of a full Moon, which had suddenly appeared in the sky approximately over or near Heathrow Airport. It seemed to sprout a number of plumes of darkish grey mist from the upper side, halted for a period of perhaps one minute, and then sank again and vanished. (See sketch by the witness.)

The lady (she is well known to me, and has asked that her name shall not be quoted) did not think that the phenomenon was a UFO, but has been puzzled ever since and is anxious to know whether there is a simple and rational explanation. One man to whom she reported the affair assured her that it was "a blast-off from a power station" and she has sent this report to *Flying Saucer Review* with a request to be informed whether this explanation is correct.

Gordon Creighton.

"Copper ball" object long ago

Dear Sir,—I am not a letter writer; one can get so involved and waste so much of people's time, but I do often wonder if you have any record of an enormous copper ball, as big as four moons, following (very low) the course of the river through Sudbury, Suffolk, and travelling from the Colchester direction through Long Melford?

It travelled at walking speed.

I was then physiotherapist at Sudbury Hospital. I left the glass balcony ward with four men in it, and on my way home at 7.40 p.m., I saw this extraordinary thing through an opening between the "Red Cow" (pub) and a butcher's shop. My urge was to rush into the opening. I could have got home that way, but it was not mine, so I ran along the path and into our garden, but the thing was gone.

Next morning I went back to the same ward and I remarked that I had seen a strange thing on my way home. The four patients at once said: "Not a big moon—we saw it pass here." Their windows looked out over the River Cornard side of the town. I saw

