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An international journal devoted to the study of reports of Unidentified Flying Objects

THE PSYCHIATRIST'S COUCH — AND *LA CONDITION HUMAINE*

READERS may recall that Volume 22, No. 3 of our Journal (October 1976) contained an extremely important article by Dr. Alvin H. Lawson, Professor of English at California State University, Long Beach. The title of the piece was *Hypnotic Regression of Alleged CE-III Cases: Ambiguities on the Road to UFOs*, and the article was in substance a paper which Dr. Lawson had delivered at the *First CUFOS Conference*, held at Lincolnwood, near Chicago, on May 1 of that same year (1976).

Dr. Lawson's revolutionary thesis, as readers will assuredly recall, was no less than this: *that, in fact, all UFO abduction tales and medical examination tales are merely the fruit of the birth-experience — the pre-natal and peri-natal traumata!* This would mean that they are all simply part of the common ills and banes inflicted on us by life — by *la condition humaine* in which we find ourselves — and that consequently there is nothing for us to worry our heads about.

Not surprisingly, Dr. Lawson's pioneer approach, his vigorous speculation, and his forthright manner of plunging into this new line of enquiry, generated enormous interest. In his introductory remarks, FSR's Editor at the time, Charles Bowen, wrote: "We hope to publish a follow-up article, with full details of the Garden Grove incidents, in a future issue of FSR." But almost seven years have elapsed since then, and I can find no trace of any further article ever having been received by FSR from Dr. Alvin Lawson.

I have therefore written to Dr. Lawson to enquire about the present position in his line of enquiry, and while his interim reply, just received, seems a trifle unclear, I gather that we may live in hopes of seeing something more from him at some time in the future and we shall look forward to publishing it.

We realise, of course, that not everyone has been a fervent convert to the Lawson Thesis. For — as Dr. J. Allen Hynek has so sagely observed — *if all these stories about UFOs and abductions and medical examinations are due to our birth traumata, then why on earth don't some of us, for a change, choose as our subjects pink elephants or London buses? Why, indeed, should it always have to be UFOs and UFOonauts?*

To this question I have not yet seen any reply.

Speaking for myself, I want to say that I hope very fervently indeed that Dr. Lawson is going to be proved to be 100% right! There is mighty good

reason why one should harbour such a hope!

For, if Dr. Lawson is wrong, then it could well be (though God forbid it!) that the well-known modern American artist Budd Hopkins is *right* when he claims that, on the contrary, he, with the help of a number of New York doctors and psychiatrists, has investigated in depth a total of nineteen American UFO abduction cases (involving a total of thirty-seven victims) and has found out that the abduction experiences are genuine, and discovered what the UFO critters are up to.

Budd Hopkins' remarkable book, *Missing Time: A Documented Study of UFO Abductions* (Richard Marek Publishers Inc., 200 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016, 1981) has already been reviewed for us by Janet and Colin Bord in their *FSR Bookshelf — 13* (Vol. 27, No. 5). And, as the Bords observe, anyone who believes that he is going to learn anything about the cause of the UFO Phenomenon or its possible motivation from the evidence given under hypnosis by the abductees "is likely to be disappointed, since all abduction cases generate more questions than answers."

For our part, however, as we say, we fervently hope that Dr. Alvin Lawson and the Bords are right and that Budd Hopkins is wrong. For, if it does turn out

that Hopkins is right, then it looks as though poor old *Homo Sap* (self-christened) could possibly be in for heap big trouble.

Budd Hopkins explains that, in addition to the nineteen abduction cases examined in detail in his book, he has also studied closely the Bloecher-Webb HUMCAT Lists and the 105 abduction cases discovered by Dr. James Harder, plus all those gathered for APRO by Dr. Leo Sprinkel, and that he has come up with a grand total of at least five hundred individuals in the USA who were known to have been abducted by UFO entities up to the date when he wrote his book.

We plan to publish very shortly, in full, an extraordinarily interesting and extraordinarily long and detailed new abduction case from Spain which has been supplied to us by Antonio Ribera. We hope that this splendid Spanish case, with its superb Freudian undertones, will put paid to the argument, will set everyone's mind fully at rest, and will prove to everyone's total satisfaction that the brilliant thesis of Dr. Alvin Lawson is well-founded. We shall then be able to terminate the whole of this argument about pre-natal and peri-natal birth traumata, and, hopefully, be ready to move on to something more important.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE TRUE NATURE OF THE "UFO ENTITIES"

Gordon Creighton ©

ONE of the more curious features of the followers of the various current religions is that, being so dogmatically certain that in their own particular little faith they already possess the whole of Truth about all things in Heaven and Earth, it almost never occurs to any of them to look elsewhere and find out what the followers of the other religions may know or may have discovered.

This is certainly a pity, for study of all the great world-religions — and notably of Islam — would yield valuable clues as to the true nature of the so-called "UFO Phenomenon" and would rapidly eliminate much of the fatuous "Space-Age Mythology" that has been spawned in such profusion over the last three decades.

Islam knows in fact of the existence of *three* entirely separate and distinct species of intelligent beings in the Universe, and indeed can furnish surprisingly precise details regarding their nature and roles and activities.

Angels, Men, and Jinns

The first category is of course that of the *Angels* or

Messengers (Greek: *Angelos*; Hebrew: *Malach*; Arabic: *Malak*). These are high beings created of *light*.

The third category are *Men*, with bodies created, according to the *Qur'an*, of *clay*, or, in other words, this being poetic language, they have physical bodies assembled from the mineral and chemical elements of our *Periodic Table* — the "*planetary body*", as Gurdjieff used to call it.

The second category, however, and the one with which we are here concerned, is the category of those beings (*created before man was*) who are referred to collectively in Arabic as *Al-Jinn*¹. Although there is some dispute about it among Arab grammarians, most of their lexicologists seem to hold that the word derives — as Arabic words almost invariably do — from a verb-root, namely *janna*, "*to hide or to conceal*" — indeed a very fitting derivation for the name of these creatures.

Whereas the bodies of Angels are of light and the bodies of men are of the gross elements of the Earth, the bodies of *Al-Jinn* consist of what is variously translated as "*essential fire*";² or "*essential flame*", or "*smokeless fire*";³ or "*smokeless flame*", and it is specifically stated in the *Qur'an* (Surah XV, 26 and 27) that they