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EDITORIAL:

The SuperHero Effect: Scope for Massive Deception of Mankind?

We all should at least remember the Marvel Comics Series, whose most infamous protagonist was surely Superman himself.

The most common story-line goes like this: There arise in the world one or more Really Bad And Dangerous People who proceed to create mayhem in human society, and thereby inflict a Climate of Terror.

Typical candidates are fairytale characters, diehard dastards with often self-appointed descriptive titles like the "Joker", or the "Riddler". They are bizarre and twisted psychopathic mentalities who engage in massive crime on a humanity-threatening scale -truly monstrous conspiracies of devious evil.

Fortunately the world has Superman, or one of the other SuperHeroes, who are the only agencies who, by virtue of their morality and Super-Powers, are equipped to intervene and so, in high drama, remove these terrible threats from the world.

All good fairytale stuff. Let us now subvert the classical story-line, and suppose that the real Superman has been kidnapped and immobilised (I think this one has been explored too)...

A Fake Superman takes his place -and conspires with the very villains themselves to set them up, in some cases manufacture them, as enemies of society, and frightful agents of terror...

The job of Substitute-Superman remains, of course, that of overcoming these enemies, which he continues to do, to the acclaim and relief of the world...

Yet, ever more dreadful enemies of society arise, and Superman must enlist the help of society itself in order to keep on top...

This help requires the progressive removal of all kinds of normal civil liberties, and in due course all but the super-criminals become pet-tagged; slowly, by a process of psychological attrition, and alternating terror and protection, people become persuaded to accept a life of obedient and restricted servitude as the norm, and as the only way possible.

In this sinister scenario, only when it is too late, does the human race perhaps realise its collective error, and that its alleged saviours and the villains themselves -are deeply in cahoots.

Maybe, with a bit of luck, the real Superman will escape from the throes of his incapacity, and be able to round up "saviours" and villains alike, to inhabit the same gaol. But maybe not...

We can, of course, add to this monstrous conspiracy theory, the idea that Superman may not be the only alien involved...Food for thought -Philip Creighton.■

References.

- 1) *The Hidden Face of terrorism*, by Paul David Collins, Nexus Magazine, April-May 2003.
- 2) *The Screwtape Letters: Letters from a senior to a junior Devil*, by C.S. Lewis. Fount Paperbacks, 1977.

I expect that many FSR readers will be surprised to see us publishing the following article by Margaret Buckingham, and although I agree with those who might find it over-pessimistic, nevertheless I admit that there have often been moments when I have felt the same way as Margaret about the subject.

Personally, however, I do still believe that there is a benevolent side to the UFO phenomenon. If so, things are not as bad as Margaret thinks. Let us continue to hope that this will prove to be the case. -G.C., Editor.