

UFOs AND THE OCCULT - 1

Ivar Mackay

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW welcomes to its pages this contribution by Capt. Mackay, Chairman of the British UFO Research Association.*

IT has been remarked by a growing number of researchers that apart from some very convincingly material UFOs operating within our atmosphere, for which there is no reason to think otherwise than that they originate from some source within our own physical universe, there are others which appear to be behaving very strangely indeed, and that what I can only describe as "occurrences" of a particularly odd nature are taking place, which strongly suggest the existence of a super-normal element connected with the phenomena.

For a considerable number of years I have read and thought about these "off-beat" cases with increasing interest, since there appeared to be so many features in common with the Occult and "Spiritualistic" Physical phenomena to which I have devoted nearly half a life-time of deep examination and research, and of which there remains scarcely a phase with which I am unfamiliar.

These similarities are so remarkable that, after more than two decades of comparatively fruitless research into the UFO enigma, I feel that a new line of approach, from the occult standpoint, might be found to be complementary to existing lines of research and to prove rewarding.

It was with this idea in mind that the following notes have been compiled, emphasising that they are in no way intended as a comprehensive study—merely as a *preliminary introduction to a suggestive enquiry*.

1. Occultism

The "Unknown" has always existed, and for us, relatively speaking, will always exist. Occultism, in spite of the absurdly ignorant popular and general conception of it, is nothing more nor less than a process of enquiry into the conditions and laws prevailing at other levels of matter or consciousness, other space-time-continua, to use a modern term, and their effects upon ourselves and our environment.

Occult "practice" consists of pursuing an accredited and proven technique whereby one is trained to be actually conscious of, and then to operate within, these other continua. During this training the conditions experienced are naturally strange and bewildering; previous concepts need to be modified, emotional blocks to new concepts have to be resolved, and old established shibboleths and prejudices have to be thrown over in order to achieve the elasticity of mental outlook and capacity for unbiased judgement which has to be attained if further intelligent progress is to be achieved.

It is of interest to note here that some *avant-garde* scientists have gone to the extent of postulating other states of existence, or "Parallel Universes" to account

for certain observed anomalies, suggesting that penetration into other space-time-continua is theoretically possible but that the operative mechanics to achieve this are far and away beyond modern technological know-how, and would probably remain so for an extremely long time to come.

These training techniques can, in a way, be likened to psychoanalytical techniques of a hyper-psychological order, and consequently must be practised under the supervision of a competent and qualified instructor so that the well-being and protection of the novice can be maintained, for not only are the positive and higher Orders of Intelligences and Powers encountered, but also the negative and lower Orders. Since Mankind is, generally speaking, largely negative in physical and moral fibre, it is this latter category that Man is more prone to encounter and, without an authoritative training, lack of knowledge, and the ability of true discrimination, this would almost inevitably lead him to eventual mental and moral disintegration.

This is the danger which very much faces the Lunatic Fringe UFO Cults who permit themselves to be "taken over" and be "conditioned" in a negative mediumistic fashion by bombastic and patronising "extra-terrestrial" "Masters" whose vapid pontifications would merely be pathetically amusing if it were not for the fact that, without intelligent consideration or in any way being challenged, they are swallowed wholesale by their wishful-thinking and gullible devotees.

Occultism is not a game for little boys and girls—nor is it a subject for those with conditioned or preconceived ideas—nor is it a matter to be dabbled in by those who have filled themselves with a hotch-potch of superficial, contaminated or popular "occultism"—nor for those whose imaginations and emotions are not to a great extent under good control. It is a very serious and, often, a very dangerous subject psychologically to become involved in, and best avoided unless one's motives are healthy.

In these extremely brief allusions to Occultism I have not even begun to lay bare the bones of so vast a subject, as readers must realise. If they wish to take the matter further then they must be prepared to start from square one and undergo intensive study and training for a great number of years—provided, of course, they are fortunate enough to contact an authentic and qualified instructor in the subject. They may, of course, read up the subject thoroughly and come to no harm provided they use plenty of common sense; maintain a liberal yet impartial and analytical attitude toward their studies; are particularly on their guard towards those who make extravagant claims either to knowledge or to "advanced spiritual

attainment"; treat flattery with suspicion, and, above all, keep a sense of humour.

2. Action

(to be taken by researchers in supernormal-involvement cases)

What has been said so far is with the idea of advising the researcher as to the type of field of enquiry he will be entering should he suspect, or find himself involved with, super-normal phenomena either similar to, or closely tied up with, a UFO investigation. Finding himself in such a position and getting out of his depth I can only suggest the following lines of action that he could take:

a. **Don't Panic.** Continue the enquiry in as positive, unemotional and balanced scientific a way as you can, but don't do it by yourself—bring in others to help you.

b. Make exceptionally careful and detailed notes in duplicate of every occurrence, no matter how absurd or weirdly improbable it may appear to be, passing one copy immediately to a responsible research organisation.

c. Don't go all "mystical", sit in "meditation", or "open your mind" to the "Space People"—you are not in a position positively to *know* what type of Intelligence or Energy may be seeking to invade your mind, and you may suffer disastrous harm in consequence of this practice, as has been only too apparent among some researchers in recent years.

d. Don't call in a Spiritualist "medium" unless advised to do so by a more knowledgeable person. I believe there are very few capable of being of help in such situations, and they may cause more trouble than not.

e. If the researcher finds himself, or is found to be, a "natural" sensitive, he should keep well clear of this type of investigation until he has sought advice and received protective training for his sensitivity.

f. Don't court trouble. If in doubt, curtail the enquiry and place it in the hands of one more qualified in this field of research.

3. Similarities in Phenomena

Although there are a number of very much more subtle similarities, the following are good examples of the more striking ones. Should the researcher meet with any of these, particularly if there are several in conjunction, I suggest that he keep the possibility of an occult undertone in mind and be on his guard:

a. **Unpleasant and Pungent Odours**—Sulphur, Ozone, etc.—associated with "Monsters" (Sutton, Vancouver)—at UFO landing sites or left by "Intruders" in connection with UFO landings. Also encountered in séance rooms, and at certain badly haunted locales.

b. **Fear of Strong Light**—Some UFOs take violent avoiding action when beams of light are directed at them. Séance room and supernormal phenomena occur usually in the dark or with only a very dim or red light—bright light appears to prohibit or limit materialisation.

(Deliberately caused light failures in cars may have a connection here.)

c. **Precipitations**—Angel Hair, Jelly, Oily Fluids, etc., which evaporate and disappear. Viscous precipitations and the feeling of hairs being drawn across the face are met with during the production of séance room materialisation phenomena.

d. **Lowering of Temperature**—This has been noted with both types of phenomena and may be actual, i.e. the temperature of the locality itself may drop, or it may be that the conditions present produce an apparent bodily feeling of cold due to nervous tension, etc. On the rare occasions when humans have deliberately walked through "ghosts", a feeling of considerable cold has been felt.

e. **Voices heard in the Mind or Brain**—Usually referred to in "contact" cases. This could be telepathy—but it is very similar to the "voices" heard by clair-audients.

f. **Shadowy, Quasi-Solid and Solid Figures**—Walking about outside or inside houses, or suddenly appearing at night to give warnings or make "pronouncements", etc. (Mrs. Appleton, etc.)—similar to séance room materialisations, phantasms, apparitions, or just plain ghosts.

g. **Teleportations**—Common to both fields of research.

h. **Telekinesis**—Common to both fields of research.

i. **Levitation**—of humans and objects is a well-known séance room phenomenon (Jack Webber, Colin Evans, etc.) suggestive of UFO "entities" rising up into "craft" hovering above them, cars and other objects being lifted up and dropped, and the feeling that some observers have had of being drawn up to or towards a UFO.

j. **Materialisation**—UFOs sometimes appear to materialise out of nothing and then fade away into nothing again. Similar to some reported supernormal phenomena.

k. **Exploding Globes of Light**—Noiseless, and with noise—common to both fields of research.

l. **Sound of Explosions, Bangs or Raps**—With apparently no visible or physical source—common to both fields of research.

m. **Unaffected by Physical Forces or Laws**—UFO "entities" appear to be impervious to gunshots and immune from physical attack (1955, Hopkinsville, Kentucky). In addition, the cases of apparent interpenetration of matter by matter, such as re-entry of UFO "entities" through the seemingly solid walls of their "craft", would suggest that we are dealing with another "Order" of matter. In support of this are the strange cases of the Venezuelan "hairy beings" of such dense matter that a knife was deflected from one of them and a gun-butt shattered against another. Interpenetration of matter by matter is a séance room phenomenon (Maria Silbert) and ghostly apparitions are unaffected by weaponry of any kind.

n. **Expansion and Contraction of Objects**—UFOs have appeared as localised points of light and then grown into large quasi-solid objects, only to shrink to pinpoints of light again and disappear. In séance room materialisation phenomena, ectoplasmic faces or hands have been observed as being quite tiny and then to have "grown" to much larger proportions, and later to

* Capt. Mackay's article is scheduled to appear in a *Manual on UFOs* in course of preparation by Messrs. A. R. Pace, R. H. Stanway and D. H. Trowsdale of Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

shrink away (rather like the blowing up of a balloon with a face painted on it and then letting the air out).

o. **Photography**—some Psychic photographs showing globes of light and shadowy figures could well be mistaken for those which people have claimed as being of UFOs.

(Note: This I consider to be a perfect field for immediate comparative research.)

It might be of interest to note here that some UFOs can be photographed but not observed—others can be observed but not photographed—and that this might have some relation to the fact that some are detectable by Radar but are unobservable, while others are observed which are undetectable by Radar.

p. **Physical Effects on Humans**—Prickling of scalp, tingling in hands and body, coldness (see 3/d), partial paralysis or “rooted-to-the-spot” feeling, feeling of lightness and of being drawn towards or up to a UFO or UFO “beings” (see 3/i), muscular and/or mental tension, apprehension, the feeling that “something-is-going-to-happen”, and the feeling of being “taken-over” by some influence or forced into some involuntary action, are all similar to effects experienced in relation to occult or super-normal manifestations (see Sec. 1).

q. **Sounds**—It is a tradition in Occultism that the sound of buzzing like a swarm of bees, humming noises, bell-like notes, a whine like a generator, indicate the advent of a Teacher or a Higher Intelligence—all

remarkably suggestive of the sounds that UFOs have been heard to emit.

r. **Poltergeist Activity**—Noted in a number of cases after UFOs have been in close proximity. It is a matter for research, however, to determine whether the UFOs are directly responsible for producing this phenomenon or whether it is the effect of the UFOs upon a suitable human subject who then becomes the unconscious source of energy for the production of this phenomenon (see 4c).

(Note—References have not been included in the above list. To have done so would have taken up too much space—but perusal of the available literature covering both fields will provide the reader with ample relevant material.)

In the foregoing I have listed only the principal phenomena which appear remarkable for their similarity in both fields of research. These similarities may, of course, be rather in the nature of a red herring. I personally do not think so—there are too many of them to be mere coincidence. On the other hand I am *not* saying that any of them *cannot* be interpreted within another framework of reference—as physical “rational” phenomena, or in a psychological or a “time-cycle” context, etc. I do suggest, however, that this particular line of enquiry should be considered seriously and explored by researchers who are qualified to do so.

[Capt. Mackay’s article—which includes an extensive bibliography—will be concluded in our next issue.—EDITOR.]

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