

teachings of Islam. Information received through super-normal channels tally with those mentioned in the Qur'ān, except for the fact that they are more detailed.

The Qur'ān says, for instance, that the inhabited spheres in Outer Space are divided into *evolutionary* and *artificial* worlds. Our Planet, Earth, has an *evolutionary* origin. It has evolved from a gaseous to a solid state. When conditions are right, life is implanted on the surface of such a planet. *Artificial* worlds, however, do not pass through a gaseous and hot stage. Artificial worlds are the sources of those Space Beings who belong to a Celestial Government. A small number of UFOs come from planets that are higher on the ladder of development than our planet is.

It is from such planets that we encounter some uncomfortable treatment by Ufonauts, especially in the field of biological and genetic studies. These beings are scientists who are more interested in their studies than in the feeling of their guinea-pigs. Not so with the Ufonauts from the capitals of Celestial Governments. They adhere strictly to the laws of non-interference in the personal affairs of every human being.

Abundant material on these cosmic civilisations can be found in the data accumulated in the early stages

of the UFO phenomenon, but I fear that most of this material has been totally neglected and ridiculed as fabrications and hoaxes. Actually these materials contain a lot of information that will give us some insight into the realms of spiritual truth and teach us some of the moral values of goodness, peace, and harmony already practised in those civilisations.

But from the scientific viewpoint, such information is regarded as worthless, because Science has no way to evaluate such material. While in actual fact it is this kind of information that will shed light on the truthfulness of the information given. A civilisation that is not on a higher level than ours will be unable to produce the science and technology required to overcome the great distances of Space.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the UFO phenomenon cannot be solved completely by the strictly scientific approach by computer specialists, even supported by psychologists, physicists, and other specialists. We shall also have to include students of the Holy Books, and students of supra-normal channels of communication. It is from these latter that we obtain our information of what the Space Beings have said as to their purposes, their origins, and the nature of their work.

“PARALLEL WORLDS”: RECENT COMMENT FROM AN EMINENT OXFORD PHYSICIST

The Reverend Donald Thomas, Oxford; FSR Consultant

A series of lectures on the general theme of “PHILOSOPHY AND THE NEW PHYSICS” was recently delivered in the Gulbenkian Theatre at Oxford by eight eminent physicists from the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Pavia. One of the speakers was Professor Ian Aitchison, M.A., DPhil., Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, and a Professor in the Department of Theoretical Physics here.

Mr Paul Whitehead's recent summaries in FSR on current trends in thinking about these matters has prompted me to write to Dr Aitchison, asking his general opinion about the “parallel worlds” idea, and I think FSR readers may be interested to see his reply, which, with his permission, I give below:—

Department of Theoretical Physics,
1 Keble Road, Oxford.
December 16, 1986

Dear Mr Thomas,

Thank you for your letter of 10th December. The “*Many Universes*” interpretation of Quantum Mechanics is perfectly serious and respectable — even though I think it would be fair to say that most physicists recoil from seriously espousing it! It is not an invention of Dr Paul Davies' — but rather of Hugh Everett III, first published in the perfectly O.K. Physics journal *Reviews of Modern Physics*, Vol. 29, pages 454-462 (1957). It was subsequently taken up by Bryce de Witt (see a semi-popular article in *Physics Today*, Sept. 1970, pp. 30-35), and by de Witt and N. Graham (*The Many-Worlds Interpretation of Q.M.*, Princeton University Press, 1973).

de Witt is a very highly regarded physicist, so one has to take the idea seriously, and it is certainly a logical possibility — but one that doesn't appeal to most of us because of its extravagance!

On the other hand, it is true to say that it is probably the *only* interpretation of Q.M. that follows logically from the initial postulates of the theory without requiring some sort of additional postulate when "measurement processes" are discussed. Thus its advocates like to claim that, *though expensive in universes, it is economical in postulates.*

There are a number of "popular" books on Q.M. that discuss these issues. A useful one is "THE GHOST IN THE ATOM" (Cambridge University Press), which is an edited collection of broadcast talks by various physicists, offering several different points of view. (It is edited by Paul Davies and a BBC man, J.R. Brown.)- Dr. David Deutsch, (a Research Fellow at Oxford) puts the case for the Everett interpretation and proposes a (rather sci-fi) test, in Chapter 6.

You may also know "*The Quantum World*", by your fellow-priest, John Polkinghorne, F.R.S., which is a clear and slightly more technical introduction to the debate. A.I.M. Rae has produced "*Quantum Physics: Illusion or Reality*" recently for Cambridge University Press. There are also: "*Quantum Reality: Beyond the New Physics*, by Nick Herbert (pub. Rider, London, 1985), and "*In Search of Schrodinger's Cat*", by John Gribbin (Bantam, 1984). So you have some Christmas reading to do!

You may also like to know that the Department of External Studies will be running a lecture series next term on some "philosophical" aspects of the "New Physics", in which problems associated with the interpretation of Q.M. will play a large part. David Deutsch will be speaking about the many (or parallel) universes idea, and I shall be giving one of the early lectures, on "Schrodinger's Cat" (the problem of measurement — trying to explain what the *problem* is!). As far as I know, nobody here has written anything "official" recently either for or against the many-universes idea — but you can read what Prof. Sir Rudolf Peierls has to say about it in the book by Paul Davies and J.R. Brown ("THE GHOST IN THE ATOM").

Yours sincerely,
Ian J.R. Aitchison

(In a subsequent telephonic conversation which I had with him, Professor Aitchison elaborated a little more, and said: "*I am perhaps a little uneasy about the use of the phrase 'other worlds', as I would prefer to talk in terms of what I would call 'overlapping possibilities'.*" D.T.)

SECTS AND UFOs IN THE ANDES

SOON after the invasion and rape of Tibet by the Chinese Red Armies (November 7, 1950) I recall a suggestion by some shrewd observer, whose name I forget, to the effect that

"The Mystics and Masters of Old Tibet will now have to shift to the Andes!"

It looks as though the prediction has come true, for Paul Whitehead recently drew my attention to an interesting report under the above title, which had come from a journalist just back from Bolivia, and which appeared in the London newspaper, *The Guardian*, of Saturday, November 15, 1986.

From the writer's account it seems that this backward and landlocked South American "opposite number" of Tibet is now as plagued as California with all manner of "religious groups" — no less than 240 major sects at the last count (although it seems there may actually be a further 150 or so!) — and all adding considerably to the country's problems, which are already severe enough. (For example, the provincial calm of the Andean town of Cochabamba is now disturbed not only by the massive upsurge of the illegal coca and cocaine trade, but also by the mere presence of a group of five Nepalese transcendental meditators, called, it seems, by the splendid name of "*The Navel*

Contemplators". According to an official of the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, these peripatetic five have been a headache to the Bolivian authorities for the last few months of 1986, particularly as the whole party now appears to have vanished into the Andes.) The Government of the Republic, the population of which is 95% nominally Catholic and mostly Amerindian in composition, is decidedly worried, and has decreed that all these mushrooming sects and churches and guru cults should register themselves with the Foreign Office not later than November 1986. (All 240 of them. Or is it maybe 390?)

Throughout almost all the 31 years of FSR's existence, as the pages of our past issues show, there has been a steady stream of reports of UFO activity over the whole of South America and over Bolivia and the Andes in particular. The reports we are receiving today are no different from those of 1955 and 1956. Inevitably, as foreseen by the anonymous seer years ago, the Andes have become an area of pilgrimage for gurus and sect-leaders of all hues and kinds. That delectable guru-goddess Ms Shirley MacLaine, authoress of some best-sellers, like "*Don't Fall Off The Mountain*"; "*The Other Half of the Sky*"; "*Out on a Limb*"; and "*You Can't Get There From Here*", was