

BOOK REVIEW. ALIEN IDENTITIES: ANCIENT INSIGHTS INTO MODERN UFO PHENOMENA

By Joan Wilder

***Alien Identities: Ancient Insights Into Modern UFO Phenomena*, by Dr. Richard Thompson, MD. Issued on September 1, 1993, by Govardhan Hill Publishing Co., P.O. Box 99584, San Diego, California 92169, USA, 550 pages. U.K. sales agents: BBL Distribution Services, P.O. Box 324, Borehamwood, Herts., WD6 1NB. (Tel. 081-905-1244). U.K. Price £13.50.**

A new and important work now joins the expanding literature on UFOs. But this book is refreshingly different in its approach. Dr. Richard Thompson has used a much larger canvas to present his logical and scholarly work. He gives the reader an in-depth and detailed survey of UFOs and related phenomena occurring in the modern world and then deftly parallels these with similar events described in the ancient Sanskrit writings of great Indian literature, such as the Bhagavata Purana, the Mahaabhaarata and the Raamaayana.

In the far distant time of the ancient Vedic civilisation, it seems that space-travel and communication between different worlds was considered a normal activity. Visitations to the Earth by different humanoid races was taken for granted. Descriptions of the Vimaanas of ancient India appear to be almost exactly like the descriptions of the "flying saucers" seen in recent years.

As one reads this book, it becomes clear that the UFO phenomenon has been going on, not just for a few hundred years, but many thousands of years. The Vedic descriptions of the numerous types of flying craft and their humanoid occupants with their mystical and superhuman powers is echoed again and again in recent times. Even the UFO contactee stories and abduction claims are paralleled in the Sanskrit writings.

As well as being a distinguished scientist, Dr. Richard Thompson has a profound knowledge of Vedic philosophy and literature. He uses this to give the reader a clear insight into the Sanskrit texts.

Due to the deliberate policy of "debunking" which goes back to the Robertson panel convened in the U.S.A. in 1953, people who reported UFO sightings were made to feel ridiculous. Gradually, this attitude filtered through to the academic world where scientists were actively discouraged from research into this field. However, sightings of

UFOs and reported abductions have been increasing persistently since 1953 and more and more people are beginning to take the subject seriously.

The author has meticulously researched material from all over the world in writing this book. It is a veritable encyclopaedia of information on this subject. It is likely to become a classic in the world of ufology.

NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR.

The first general discussion, (from a "UFO" aspect), of this early Sanskrit material containing numerous references to what appear to be objects greatly resembling our modern "flying saucers" will be found in the manuscript by Desmond Leslie, which FSR's second Editor, Waveney Girvan, wove into a book by combining it with another MS. sent in by George Adamski of the USA. It was published in 1953 by the London firm of Werner Laurie, of which Girvan was the Managing Director. Neither MS had managed till then to encounter a publisher on either side of the Atlantic, but Girvan turned them into what became a best-seller, FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED.

The Sanskrit texts quoted therein by Desmond Leslie were these:-

The Raamaayana. English translation by Romesh Dutt. (Dent, London 1950).

The Raamaayana. English translation by Manatha Nath Dutt. (Elysium Press, Calcutta, 1891).

The Mahaabhaarata. English translation by Protap Chandra Roy. (Bhaarata Press, Calcutta, 1889).

(Containing the following texts: Drona Parva, Ghatotrachabadma Parva, Karna Parva, Samsptakabhada Parva, Vana Parva, Bala Parva).

The leading European student of these Sanskrit texts today is Dr. Roberto Pinotti of Firenze, Italy. He is the President of the Italian UFO Research Group C.U.N. and in 1988 (October 8-15), when the IAF (International Astronomical Federation) was holding its 39th. Congress at Bangalore, India, Dr. Roberto was one of their guest-speakers, and he delivered talks to them, firstly on the themes of ETI, SETI, AND TODAY'S PUBLIC OPINION and, subsequently, on INDO-ARYAN TRADITIONS AND THE HISTORY OF ASTRONAUTICS. (See article in FSR 34/2, 1989).

The most interesting point to be noted in these texts relates to the Sanskrit word VIMAANA (विमानो), which is rendered today in the standard dictionaries as "an aerial car or vehicle; a celestial chariot of the Gods". The texts specifically describe the Vimaanas as "like shining pearls in the sky" — which is precisely what quite a lot of modern Western observers have said about "flying saucers" seen by them.

In the modern Hindi language, which is the direct child of Sanskrit, just as modern Italian is derived from Latin, and also in at least several of the other Indian languages and dialects that I have seen, *Vimaan* or *Bimaan* is the current term for "aircraft" or "aeroplane". Another word, often used, is *havaai jahaaz* (हवाई जहाज़) which is presumably derived from Persian (Farsi). The important point to bear in mind is that whatever it was that the ancient Indian writers were describing when they wrote about "Vimaanas", it is perfectly evident that modern-day Indians do think it to have been what we call an "aircraft" ■

MORE ON THE "INTRADIMENSIONAL HYPOTHESIS"

By Ann Druffel

FSR readers will no doubt be interested to see this section of a letter written by FSR Consultant Ann Druffel of Pasadena, California, which appeared in the MUFON UFO JOURNAL for April 1993 (to which Mrs. Druffel is herself a frequent contributor). EDITOR.

"Various persons have inquired, through letters to the *Journal* and in person, for clarification of my term "intradimensional" as used in my March 1992 "Resisting Alien Abductions" article¹. One reader inquired if I referred to (1) a spatial dimension; or (2) hidden dimensions such as in H.P. Lovecraft's books; or (3) the "astral plane," where psychic phenomena (astral projection, telepathy, etc.) are supposed to take place.

Lovecraft's writings are fiction, and have nothing to do with ufology. The term "astral plane" as used by my inquiring reader, is imprecise. Although many "abductees" report that they seem to be "out-of-body" during abductions, not enough is known about the OBE altered state to link it directly to the interdimensional hypothesis. Other psychic phenomena such as telepathy, clairvoyance, clairaudience, precognitive dreams, etc. seem to be widespread human talents which may or may not be "interdimensional". My own experience with remote-viewing under laboratory conditions seems to indicate that it works within our physical universe, but this is a purely subjective observation. Parapsychologists, although they have been trying for over a century, have not yet determined the source or nature of psychic phenomena.

The "intradimensional hypothesis," as used by me, refers to the hypothesis that there are other dimensions besides our four-dimensional physical world (three space dimensions and one time dimension). For example, Theodor Franz Kaluza's 1919 proposal to Einstein of a five-dimensional theory of gravity interested Einstein

because a fifth spatial dimension provided enough "room" to fit the electromagnetic force into Einstein's theory of gravity, a problem which Einstein had been unable to solve. Mathematicians of the present day continue study into the multidimensional theory.

The implication for ufology, of course, is that other dimensions might be peopled by intelligent, non-human creatures. Following out this assumption, it is hypothesized that abducting entities interpenetrate from their own dimension into our own space-time, work their mischief, and disappear back into their own dimension, leaving little or no verifiable traces.

As Jacques Vallee has described in his book *Dimensions*, writing about incubi, faerie folk, etc. and as Gordon Creighton has so elegantly written about the jinns of the Muslim world in *FSR (Flying Saucer Review)*², there seems little doubt that the human race has been harassed for thousands of years by non-physical intelligences whose true nature and motives remain a mystery. The "abducting entities" currently being studied avidly by ufology, in my opinion, might have nothing at all to do with physical UFOs, but are simply an old human problem, currently posing as "UFO extraterrestrials." The situation cries out for continued study by objective minds." Ann Druffel, Pasadena, CA.



Footnotes by Editor, FSR.

(1) This article was reproduced in FSR 37/3 (Autumn, 1992). See also Ann Druffel's other work in which she discusses these problems:-

(a) *The Tujunga Canyon Contacts* (book), New American Library, New York, 1988.

(b) *Can We Battle These Entities?* (article), in FSR 33/3 (Autumn 1988).

(c) *Input into the Infra-red/Ultra-Violet Theory* (article), in FSR 37/4 (Winter, 1992).

(2) See *A Brief Account Of The True Nature Of The "UFO Entities"*, by Gordon Creighton, in FSR 29/1 (October 1983), reprinted in FSR 33/3 (Autumn 1988) ■

SCHOOLBOY PHOTOGRAPHS "UFO FLOTILLA" OVER REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN IN CENTRAL ASIA

JEZKAGAN, January 26, 1993. TASS News Service Report from KAZTAG Correspondent Andrei Sivaschenko:-

"Vanya Shavnev, an eleven-year-old schoolboy in the Kazakh city of Jezkagan, could never have dreamed that the first snapshot he would get with the camera he had just received from Santa Claus for the New Year would be of a flotilla of twenty flying saucers.

Vanya, a fifth-form pupil, took the photograph on the same day on which an accident occurred at the

local power-generating plant, and wonders whether the "Extraterrestrials" had come to warn the townspeople. But, as he told the newspaper *Tsentralny Kazakhstan*, "they came too late!"

Three UFOs are seen most clearly on the photograph. Vanya and his parents said that they can distinctly make out the "diamond-shaped fairing of the stabilisator and two hemispheres of the chassis below it". They added that in sci-fi books they had seen similar pictures of UFOs.

Experts say however that the photograph is no fake."

Item ends.