

REMOVED FROM REALITY

Stunning Teleportation Cases

by Scott Corrales

Teleportation has traditionally remained in the province of science fiction.

Isaac Asimov's *Pebble in the Sky* features a protagonist who steps out of a 20th-century Chicago building to find himself in a dead, radioactive Earth of the far future. Moviegoers are aware of teleportation and its perils from the 1950s classic *The Fly* and its sequel. Even generations raised on *Star Trek's* apparently seamless transporter units know that teleportation entails risks.

Is instantaneous—though unwilling—abstraction from one location to another possible or merely the stuff of fantasy and hearsay? Recent scientific advances in the field of teleportation have given a smattering of dignity to what until recently was dismissed as “crankery.” In 1993, a group of scientists of international repute stated that teleportation, far from science fiction jiggery-pokery, was theoretically possible. This opened the door to a number of experiments in this direction, none of them, however, involving the translation of solid objects, much less living ones. For the time being, science has restricted itself to experimental demonstrations of

teleportation using “trapped ions” and laser beams. Possible applications for these research endeavors include long-range quantum communications, but no transporter rooms a la *Star Trek*, since the scientific principles at work suggest that the original must be destroyed in order for teleportation to work.

But what about events of teleportation that do not involve any inconvenient machinery? Sudden, unexpected transportation to “somewhere else” is without a doubt one of the most terrifying things that could conceivably happen to anyone. Imagine walking down a familiar street or driving along a road when a sudden, unexplained force removes you from your surroundings and deposits you elsewhere: another city, state, or country, without any memory of how you got there, or, in many cases, how to return.

Gone for Good?

Certain locations on the planet have acquired the reputation of places where human disappearances are quite common. Some of them, like the Bermuda Triangle and the Devil's Triangle of Japan, have formed part of “pop” paranormal study



Are UFOs behind the mysterious teleportations of unsuspecting humans?

Zamora, Spain. Reports indicate that José María wandered away from his squad in the midst of a light rainfall, while the other soldiers tried to find shelter under the trees. The young man was never seen again, even after a massive search by the Spanish army, which to this day lists him as a deserter.

Salvador Freixedo, who looked into these bizarre disappearances in his book *La Granja Humana*, cites the curious case of a vehicular accident in Burgos, Spain, that caused the deaths of a number of people and the disappearance of a ten-year-old from one of the trucks involved. He was not found among the victims of the crash, and has never been seen again. The police initially believed that the boy had wan-

dered away from the crash scene in an amnesic state, and a thorough search of the area was mounted by both civilians and police officials, yet nothing was turned up. In order to bring the case to a close, the authorities suggested that the boy had been disintegrated by a cargo of sulfuric acid being hauled by the tanker truck in which he was a passenger.

Enigmatic Argentina

FATE readers may be aware of the wealth of paranormal events coming out of Argentina, the southernmost country in the Americas. Unexplained cases of teleportation are perhaps Argentina's greatest claim to fame. Despite the controversy surround-

for decades. Nonetheless, mountains play a greater role as locales for mysterious disappearances than any other type of site.

In ancient tradition, travelers straying too close to Greece's Mt. Parnassus or Mt. Olympus would often be lost for good. Puerto Rico's El Yunque, New Hampshire's Mt. Glastonbury, and Eastern Zimbabwe's Mt. Inyangani never quite managed to acquire the name recognition of the better-known ones, despite the vast number of unexplained cases which have occurred in and around them.

Mist-shrouded El Yunque has always been a source of mystery involving paranormal phenomena and, more recently, UFOs. Dozens of individuals, largely weekenders and campers, have disappeared inexplicably from this mountain rain forest, and even rescue teams sent to investigate have been swallowed by this deceptive wilderness area. Forestry officials are quick to blame quicksand and unexplored sinkholes, even when disappearances occur in areas far from any such conditions.

The following appeared in a privately circulated paper entitled "Abductions in El Yunque—Are Aliens Responsible?" by Hermes Rivera (1989): "About ten years ago, some 15 children disappeared in El Yunque while on a school trip. The teacher responsible for the kids committed suicide because the students were never found. A search team from the U.S., sent to the mountain to try and find the missing youths, ran into a short humanoid creature wandering around the bushes. As soon as the crea-

ture realized it had been seen, it ran and disappeared. The search was fruitless: no trace of the creature or of the missing children was ever found. The involvement of Tupamaro revolutionaries was suspected, since they had long before threatened to kidnap children all over the U.S. and Latin America to sell them for money. . . . Two Italian kids, about 9 years of age, were also reported missing between 1976 and 1978. Their case was put on hold because of their father's involvement with the Mafia. The Colón brothers, who used to live on the road that leads to the top of El Yunque where the first UFO landed, were also reported missing without a trace about 25 years ago."

Not even well-trained and armed soldiers are immune to whatever force is behind the disappearances. In March 1976, two Marines stationed at the Roosevelt Roads naval facility vanished in El Yunque.

When the Dutch sensitive Gerard Croiset was employed by the Puerto Rican police in the mid-1970s to find two children belonging to a local millionaire, he concluded, chillingly, that the children were nowhere to be found on this physical plane. Unwilling to be blinded by what they perceived as mysticism, the police thanked Croiset and resumed their investigations with conventional means. The children remain missing to this day.

José María Carnero, a 26-year-old medical student, vanished off the face of the earth in April 1987 while on maneuvers with the military unit to which he belonged on the Montelareina Military Base in

ing the now legendary disappearance of the Vidal family from an Argentinean highway and their sudden reappearance in the Mexican countryside thousands of miles away, there are other cases involving mysterious disappearances that cause even the most prudent researcher to wonder.

Many of these unusual vanishings take place in a curious location that local investigators of the unusual have come to know as the Triángulo Interprovincial (the interprovincial triangle) between the towns of Victoria, Pueblo Esther, and San Nicolás. Juan Carlos Gauna, a private pilot who has dedicated himself to reporting about this strangeness-prone region of his country, suggests that this triangular area "activates" every 45 to 60 days, causing either unusual aerial phenomena or disappearances to occur. He takes his conclusion a step further by noting that these disappearances take place in a straight line running from the city of Victoria (a UFO and cattle mutilation hotspot) to the banks of the Paraná River. "The disappearances of human beings from the southern reaches of the Triángulo Interprovincial," he writes, "are much more alarming than those occurring elsewhere in the world, since people here have vanished before the eyes of friends and relatives, as though gobbled up by space itself."

Gauna was a firsthand witness to one such disappearance. One day in June 1996, while at the headquarters of the Pueblo Ester Aero Club, accompanied only by the airfield's staff, a distress call was received at

19:00 hours from a Cessna 172 Skymaster belonging to a club member. The pilot anxiously reported that he was lost and that his VOR was inoperative. He had taken off from Junín for the 40-minute flight back to Pueblo Ester, but now, after 90 minutes aloft, had completely lost his bearings. Gauna took the microphone headset and asked the frightened pilot to give him some visual reference in order to steer him back to the airfield, asking if any large communities such as Arroyo Seco or San Nicolás were in view, as should have been the case. The answer was negative—the pilot could see only darkness.

An effort was made to guide the pilot verbally toward the airfield, but the answer was still the same—nothing but inky darkness could be seen from the small cockpit. At one point, Gauna and the staff could hear the Cessna flying overhead, but could not see its lights. (The pilot couldn't see the runway lights either.) Suddenly, a wild cheer of joy came over Gauna's headset: the pilot's VOR had come back to life as mysteriously as it had died, and the runway lights were now perfectly visible. An uneventful and very welcome landing followed.

In January 1997 it would be Gauna's turn to face the unknown. Traveling aboard a Piper PA-11 toward San Nicolás, he was suddenly awakened from a nap by the plane's pilot, who worriedly told him that "he didn't know where he was." Thinking it was a joke, Gauna looked out the window and saw a landscape he had never seen before. He inquired if the pilot had at any

point crossed the Paraná River, to which the flyer said no, but the landscape below was filled with unknown islands similar to the ones in that river's estuary. This alarming situation went on for 30 minutes until "there was a sudden change in the landscape below" and both men were able to recognize the town of Zarate. In 50 minutes of flying time they had covered a distance that usually requires 90 minutes.

Others were affected by whatever space/time distortion was taking place over Argentina at that time. Gauna reports that a phone call was received from the Casilda Aero Club requesting emergency search assistance in finding a missing Cessna that ultimately appeared after nine hours aloft over utterly unknown territory—an event made all the more mysterious by the fact that the small plane's endurance was a little over four hours.

At this point we can only wonder what would have happened if the pilot had ditched his plane in this bizarre new landscape—would he have found an uninhabited wilderness, a parallel Earth? Or had Gauna and his fellow pilots flown into that world that appears to exist side by side with our own, and whose denizens have often come into our reality? (See "Nonpeople from Nowhere," *FATE*, April 2001.)

The Other Vidal Case

Teleportation is not exclusive to flyers. According to a case researched by Drs. Nelson Berlanda, Luis Reynoso, and Juan Acevedo, a family bearing the apparently

unlucky surname of Vidal vanished from the road that connects the towns of Cipolletti and Viedma on February 10, 1995, only to find themselves in the vicinity of General Conesa, 15 kilometers from their original destination.

Juan and María Angélica Vidal, accompanied by their teenage son Julio and an unnamed nephew, remember having stopped at a service station on Highway 3 to fill up their "Traffic" passenger van before resuming their drive. Shortly after, they pulled over on the side of the road to see the lights of the nearby port of San Antonio Oeste. But something unexpected happened: all of the vehicle's occupants fell asleep at once—uncharacteristic behavior for them, according to Juan Vidal, as one of them would always stay awake. María Angélica added that she wasn't given to taking naps during trips, either.

Yet sleep they did, for an hour and a half. Upon waking, María Angélica prepared her husband a hot cup of *mate* (Argentina's national beverage) and told him about the strange dream she'd just had: odd people dressed in white, whom she described as "small children with Asian features and long fingers," were touching her and laughing, but at no point did she feel afraid.

But when Juan looked out the window, he realized that they were no longer on the side of the road, parked under tall trees. Instead, they found themselves in the middle of an unknown, empty field.

"Where are we?" he asked his wife nervously.

Juan's nephew, just waking from sleep, said, "Uncle, this isn't where we stopped."

Juan set the van in motion amid the consternation of his passengers. Only minutes later they saw a sign that read: "General Conesa—15 km." Bemusedly, the Vidals realized they had somehow, in their sleep, gone from Highway 3 to Route 251, backtracking some 90 kilometers that they could not account for.

Attesting to the family's physical condition, Dr. Berlanda, a clinician, and Acevedo, a psychiatrist, performed a variety of tests and hypnosis to obtain more details on Maria Angélica's "dream," in which family members had been removed

one by one from the van. The new Vidal case was of great interest and importance to these researchers, given that nearly a dozen UFO cases had taken place in that area between 1994 and 1995. Only 13 days prior to the Vidal family's teleportation, UFOs had been photographed in Las Grutas, only a few kilometers away from the port of San Antonio Oeste. ≈

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Frozen Kitty

One of the most common sayings about cats is that they seem to possess "nine lives" because of their ability to emerge relatively unscathed from the most desperate or deadly of circumstances.

In January 2001, Minnesota resident Roberta Johnson was making a left-hand turn in her automobile off a cold winter's highway when she glanced out her side window and saw a large block of ice with a feline face inside. Because she had rolled down her window to signal the turn, she saw the poor little face clearly and assumed that the creature was dead, frozen solid inside the chunk of ice. Then she heard a "meow" issuing from the pathetic kitten and was astonished to consider that the cat might still be alive.

Roberta pulled over to the side of the road and went to examine the block of ice, which upon closer inspection, had obviously fallen from a car's wheel arch. Outside of frostbitten ears, the cat was fine. Roberta Johnson, not one to turn her back on the strange destiny that brought them together, decided to keep the cat and named him "Car Cat."—*Brad and Sherry Steiger*