

BEWARE THESE MESSENGERS!

Dan Lloyd

A review of Dr. Jacques Vallée's latest book, *Messengers of Deception**

FOR a long time now I have held certain views about UFOs that may surprise many people who believe that, because one is interested in UFO phenomena, one must necessarily be a believer in flying saucers.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. Back in 1968 I wrote a piece for the *Flying Saucer Review* (a misleading title for a journal which has been one of the pioneers in debunking the simplistic solution its title implies) in which I drew attention to the deceptive nature of the phenomena and showed how belief in flying saucers from outer space was a tribute to the seductive powers of Ahriman. I wrote of the stirring of certain sub-conscious faculties in modern man which, when fully awakened, would enable him to perceive his true connection with the planets of our solar system by means of a new form of body-free clairvoyance, and that what is manifesting today as a longing to explore the solar system in spaceships is nothing but a distortion of this sub-conscious awakening. If I may be allowed to quote myself, I wrote:

“There could be no greater distortion of what is actually happening at the present time in man's relation to the spiritual world than to spread the delusion that physical machines are coming to earth with physical beings from outer space. In this way the march of materialism is maintained beyond the earth and a hallucinatory picture is held up before men's eyes. The fact is that the etheric world is beginning to unveil itself in this century, and to slumber away this supremely important event in human development by elaborating fantastic theories based on the present materialistic concepts of outer space will only lead man farther into the abyss which has been planned for him by the Ahrimanic beings.”

Nothing that I have learned about the UFO phenomena since then has led me to change my opinion. In fact, the more one learns about the subject, the more clearly the hand of Ahriman can be seen at work.

It was therefore with great interest that I recently read a book by a French computer scientist, Jacques Vallée, called *Messengers of Deception*, for he documents an astonishing story that leaves little doubt that a process of “subliminal seduction” has been at work for decades to condition people to accept the reality of visitations from outer space.

Vallée believes there is a machinery of mass manipulation behind the UFO phenomenon which behaves like a conditioning process, using absurdity and confusion to achieve its goal while hiding its mechanism.

He speculates that there may be a genuine technology at work — but not the technology of “spacemen.” This

Mr. Lloyd's contribution is taken from Vol. 1, No. 1, of a new publication *Towards the Third Millenium* which he jointly edits, and publishes, on behalf of a group of anthroposophists. Readers are invited to take note of the short piece which precedes this article, and which was prepared as an introduction and explanation of a few things which may otherwise puzzle them.

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technology, which could be holographic in nature, or of a kind which orthodox science does not comprehend, is a device which creates a distortion of the witness's reality. He believes it does so for a purpose, which is to project images or fabricated scenes designed to change our belief systems, and that the technology we observe is only the incidental support for a worldwide enterprise of deception.

The three main aspects of the phenomena are:

1. **Physical** Including pulsed light phenomena and electromagnetic radiation — and microwaves that distort witnesses' senses of reality.
2. **Psychological** Visions, hallucinations, physiological effects and long-term personality changes of witnesses.
3. **Social** Rapid spread of UFO belief throughout the world, together with a flow of books, periodicals, documentaries, and major films, which buttress this belief.

Vallée deals at length with the so-called “contactees” — those who claim to have been in close contact with visitors from outer space and to have received messages from them. He finds that these propagators of a new mythology are infiltrated by members of occult groups as well as government intelligence agents, who may be using the “contactees” for their own purposes. He asks whether the public is being deceived and led to false conclusions by someone — or some group — who is using UFO witnesses to propagate revolutionary new ideas which act as a conditioning process not over days or weeks but over the timespan of a generation.

He makes the point that many of the stories of trips in flying saucers have been duplicated in volunteers who underwent hypnotic regression. The cause of such fantasies could lie in complex processes of the human mind which can be triggered by suggestion, hypnosis, drugs and the physical tools of deception. In other words, those who claim to have been abducted by flying saucers are likely to have taken a non-physical “trip” controlled and guided by an unknown system that acts on human consciousness.

In reading Vallée's books it is difficult not to pinch oneself to make sure that one is not reading the script of a Hollywood movie. And yet the extraordinary facts he has unearthed, with their implications for human control and manipulation by skilled practitioners of the art of deception, should make us stop and think next time

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someone jocularly asks: "Do you believe in flying saucers?"

The fostering of just belief serves the interests of some hidden group who have been at work for a very long time. Vallée is unable to point a finger at the group in question, but it should not be difficult for Anthroposophists to be alert to the fact that behind whatever human group may be active in this area there hovers the invisible but palpable presence of the Being who acts as their inspirer.

This is not to say, however, that UFO phenomena are not genuine. That inexplicable phenomena have been sighted in our skies for decades can hardly be contested by anyone who has studied the matter. But there is a world of difference between granting the existence of a mysterious phenomenon (some people prefer the term "inexplicable aerial phenomenon" to "unidentified flying object" with its loaded connotations) and attributing such a phenomenon to a flying machine.

The vast majority of "sightings" are of strange light effects in the sky, which can perform rapid manoeuvres, hover and disappear in the twinkling of an eye, leaving the observer with a sense of wonder and bafflement. The descriptions of such phenomena are, in my view, more consistent with processes occurring at the borderline between the etheric world and the physical world than of machines. We are all familiar with the strange behaviour of comets and meteors and recognise them as natural phenomena that fulfil a spiritual purpose. It seems to me that an unknown purpose of spiritual origin may well lie behind those manifestations of an etheric nature which have excited attention in our skies in recent times.

Such phenomena, however, must be sharply distinguished from the machine-like apparitions and attendant beings that have been reported from around the

world, and which serve as the basis for belief in flying saucer contact.

Here Vallée's theory about "psychotronic" technology affecting the perceptions of witnesses is particularly interesting, for he believes it possible that the physical means may be in the hands of a human group to engineer all the effects which have been reported by deliberately staging events in selected areas before selected witnesses and then relying on the use of the media to spread news of the "event" far and wide.

If one has doubts about the existence of such technology, perhaps we should bear in mind that there have been reports that high military priority has been assigned both in the USSR and in the USA to research into ways and means to use psychic disciplines such as telepathy and astral projection as a counter-espionage technique, not to mention the more ominous uses of radiations for affecting the perceptions of people at a distance.

There can be little doubt that a dangerous form of occult practice is being employed in such pursuits. Vallée's big question is: what if such devices have already been perfected by some group or other who, for their own ends, are deliberately producing the distorted images of flying machines and their occupants in order to further the flying saucer mythology?

It is a question well worth pondering. Common to all the "contactees" is the belief in benign visitors from outer space, visitors who will one day land on the Earth and take over the reins from a humanity gone sadly astray and unable to solve its global problems.

Could it be, I wonder, that Ahriman will manifest in a guise that will fulfill all the expectations of these sky watchers with their distorted religious longings?

That is another question well worth pondering.

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FSR BOOKSHELF — 7

New UFO books reviewed. . .

Janet & Colin Bord

ALLAN HENDRY'S definitive study of UFOs, *The UFO Handbook: A Guide to Investigating, Evaluating and Reporting UFO Sightings* (Sphere Books large-format paperback, £5.95, 300 pages) is based on his personal research into more than 1,300 UFO sightings reported to him during two years as chief investigator for the *International UFO Reporter*. It is the most objective and sensible book about UFOs ever published, but to many ufologists it will make depressing reading. Hendry reviews the different types of sightings, and shows convincingly that many (if not most) can be confidently attributed to natural phenomena (especially stars and planets), or man-made objects (especially planes — and in USA, ad planes). That these are so often seen by excited witnesses as “flying saucers” is a sign of the emotional hold the UFO idea has over people in the Western world.

Hendry is not debunking UFOs but rather he is exhorting us all to raise our critical standards and improve our investigation techniques. As he says in his conclusion: “I do not endeavour to argue that UFOs do not, in some form, exist; indeed, why shouldn't they? The twentieth century hardly understands everything that is seen in its complex skies. Personally, I *want* there to be anomalistic UFOs that defy the laws of physics for the simple reason that it would usher in a new scientific revolution. But with our current inability to fully draw the distinction between real UFOs and IFOs, fantasies or hoaxes, coupled with a heated emotional atmosphere, I can only assert that it is my *feeling* that some UFO reports represent truly remarkable events. . .” (p.285).

With its detailed coverage of all types of UFO sightings, including radar visuals and CE IIIs, and over 100 pages devoted to investigation tools (including hypnosis, lie detection, magnetic detectors and statistics), this is a book which should be read carefully by everyone who honestly wishes to begin to understand the UFO phenomenon. It is a well written book, not at all heavy going, and is illustrated with photographs and diagrams.

The persistent rumours, during the past 30 years, of crashed UFOs found with little charred bodies inside, have recently received fresh impetus from Leonard Stringfield's publications and lectures (see FSR Vol. 25 Nos.4, 5 & 6, for example), and *The Roswell Incident* by **Charles Berlitz & William L. Moore** (Grosset & Dunlap, New York, hardback, \$10, 168 pages; UK hardback edition published January 1981 by Granada Publishing, £5.95) provides more fuel to heap upon the fires of speculation. Similar in approach to the authors' earlier *Philadelphia Experiment*, the central incident here is the discovery in July 1947 of some space debris on a remote ranch in New Mexico. It was taken to nearby Roswell air base and an enthusiastic public information officer issued a press release announcing that a crashed

disc had been found. The previous week had seen a tremendous UFO flap across the USA, and the press and radio gave wide publicity to the release which the Air Force promptly quashed by announcing that the “crashed disc” was only a downed weather balloon. That much seems to be fact. The rest of the material in the book falls into the “rumours of rumours” category, often from unnamed witnesses — interesting but unsubstantiated.

If half of these rumours are accurate, it would seem that there are several caches of crashed discs, pickled spacemen and God knows what else hidden away in various top secret sites across the USA. In past years such ideas were easily dismissed as ridiculous, but now that the “silent majority” is slowly becoming aware that unscrupulous deception is one of the tools of power, we must all be prepared to think again. The material available to the authors was barely sufficient to make a book and has had to be thinly stretched and padded in places with associated but not strictly relevant UFO material. The result will probably be welcomed by nuts-and-bolters and derided by the parapsychical school, but it is likely to be of interest to many ufologists. The authors provide a bibliography and index, and there are some old press photographs of the principal participants.

Although apparently aimed at the teenage reader, *Earth's Secret Inhabitants* by **D. Scott Rogo & Jerome Clark** (Tempo Books/Grosset & Dunlap, New York, paperback, \$1.95, 218 pages) will appeal to a much wider readership. UFOs and entities, “winged weirdos”, “the mad gasser of Mattoon”, Springheel Jack, phantom cats, monster birds, Bigfoot, and trolls. . . all are represented here, and in their closing chapter the authors give various explanations for the mysterious appearances of these “secret inhabitants” of the Earth. 29 illustrations include witness drawings and photographs of the things they have seen.

It is perhaps an indication of the growing interest in strange phenomena of all kinds that a new weekly partwork was launched in Britain in mid-October by Orbis Publishing. The title *The Unexplained* covers a wide variety of subject matter, and the first five issues under review contain articles on UFOs, ESP, man-beasts, hypnosis, spontaneous human combustion, black holes, telepathy, Kirlian photography, regression to past lives, the black madonna, clairvoyance, and sea monsters. Most of the articles are written by well-known authorities, including FSR editor Charles Bowen whose UFO series has a prominent position. Each issue is priced at 50p in the UK and contains 20 pages and 6 articles. There are many illustrations, in colour and black and white, and UK readers should have no difficulty in obtaining *The Unexplained* from their newsagent. It is also (or will be)