

PARANORMAL FEATURES IN UFO PHENOMENOLOGY

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IN recent years, UFO literature has shown a growing tendency to associate the UFO phenomenon with facts which, as a rule, are the subject of study by parapsychologists.

Laying stress on this stand, some authors have gone so far as to claim that there is an inter-dependence between both disciplines. For instance, American researcher John Keel stated in a letter published by the *Merseyside UFO Bulletin* (September, 1970): "Ufology should be a branch of psychical research . . . It is folly to ignore and exclude cases which contain unsavoury psychical elements, just as it would be folly for medical researchers to ignore leukaemia because they don't like the sight of blood."

Even Dr. Jacques Vallée, notwithstanding his professional background of physics and mathematics, seems to share today this significant change of concept, as evinced by his published statement (*Psychic*, January-February, 1974): "The key to an understanding of the UFO phenomenon may lie in the psychic effects it produces (or the awareness it makes possible) in some observers, whose lives are deeply changed, and who develop unusual talents with which they might find it difficult to cope."

In sharp contrast with these opinions, and maybe as a sort of reaction against them, other researchers who are more inclined to material or physical conceptions, refuse to even consider the possibility of the paranormal encroaching on UFO phenomenology. Since in our opinion all angles and phases of the UFO phenomenon must be investigated, we propose examining in this paper the factual basis of both contrasting views through a comparative study. This will be limited to the particular field in which the UFO and psi phenomena are apparently connected. This field of super-position refers to certain patterns of behaviour which the entities associated with the UFOs share *prima facie* with the paranormal forms called "apparitions" or "phantasms of the living". Below is a study of some of these features.

Sudden disappearance

The instantaneous vanishing of phantasmal images before the eyes of the witnesses is one of the principal features which permit classifying these phenomena as "apparitions". To such an extent, that in many cases it is only on the strength of the unaccountable circumstances in which the image fades away that the percipient realizes that he is not in the presence of a person of flesh and blood. This a well-attested fact, for which there are numerous examples.

Similarly, in the field of UFO experiences it is not difficult to come across cases in which the entities involved partake of the characteristic of sudden disappearance, something which could not possibly occur in the entities had material consistence.

For example, on October 27, 1954, at Les-Jonquerets-

de-Livet (France), at about 9.30 p.m., a young man of 18 named Cheradame, fell off the motorcycle he was riding when it failed unexpectedly, in the same place where two hours earlier a farmer saw a strange object land. When some neighbours arrived on the scene, they again saw the object and two figures, one metre tall and clothed in what looked like shining armour, standing by it. They vanished suddenly and the device took off noiselessly (see Vallée, J. *Passport to Magonia* — Regnery edition — page 239).

In the evening of November 18, 1957, at Aston, Birmingham, England, Mrs. Cynthia Appleton, aged 27, mother of two children, felt an oppression similar to that preceding a storm, and then saw the figure of a "man" standing by the fireplace. The image appeared just like a TV image, at first blurred and then clear.* The "man" was tall and blond and wore a tight-fitting plastic garment. He disappeared so suddenly that "in an instant he was no longer there" (see Bowen, Charles, Editor, *Los Humanoïdes*, page 24). [Still available in English version paperback: *The Humanoids* — see page 17 — C.B.]†

Similar events have also been reported in Argentina. One of them happened on August 31, 1968. The witness was Sra. Susana E. Larroude de Salazar, residing in the city of Bahía Blanca. While in the kitchen of her home, accompanied by her two small children, the young woman thought she heard knocking at the front door. Upon drawing the curtain covering the sight-hole, she saw a strange being, two metres tall, with very long arms and wearing tight-fitting clothes. The witness was paralyzed with fear, while the individual started to move backwards producing a sound like the echo of a human laugh. Suddenly, it disappeared when it reached the fence at the front of the house (see *Gente y la Actualidad*, Buenos Aires, September 12, 1968).

Gradual disappearance

In psychical research, the gradual fading away of apparitions is not an unusual occurrence. Numerous happenings of this type are to be found in the voluminous documentation on spontaneous cases systematically compiled since the foundation of the Society for Psychical Research of Great Britain, in 1882, up to the present time.

The following descriptions represent only a few of the many examples which could be given: ". . . the figure began to get dimmer gradually, until it disappeared altogether . . ." (Tyrrrell, *Apariciones*, page 89). "As I did

*Parapsychological literature provides, though not very frequently, cases in which "phantasms" appear forming gradually.

† [Obtain from FSR Publications Ltd., West Malling, Maidstone, Kent ME19 6JZ: price £1.20 inc. postage and packing—ED]

not believe in apparitions, I thought I had gone mad . . . But when I moved on, my eyes never leaving the figure and this started to fade away before my own eyes, I had to persuade myself that they do exist" (*Ibid.*, page 254). "It surprised me so that I hesitated to carry out what I had intended, my eyes remaining fixed on the apparition of my brother. It gradually disappeared, leaving me wondering what it meant" (Gurney, Myers and Podmore, *Phantasms of the Living*, page 431). "At this time his appearance was very much more persistent than before, but his face seemed to retire and gradually fade away" (*Ibid.*, page 279).

If we analyze some UFO cases, it will be observed that humanoid entities are sometimes governed by behavioural patterns similar to those described above for apparitions.

On June 26, 1962, in Verona (Italy), for about one hour, 20-year-old Roberto Poregozzo, his mother María, and his 25-year-old sister Luisa, observed a silvery disc, the apparent diameter of the moon, manoeuvring in the sky near Santa Anastasia church. They finally went home. At about 03.00, Luisa was awakened by a feeling of intense cold** and perceived a greenish light in the room. In the window a sharply defined human shape, delineating a semi-transparent body, was visible. The apparition had a huge bald head. The witness screamed, awakening the two others, and they saw the apparition shrink and vanish "like a TV image when one turns off the set" (Ref. Vallée, *J. op.cit.*, page 285).

We know of another similar case, which happened at Laguna Paiva, Province of Santa Fe (Argentina), on June 24, 1968, at one o'clock in the morning. Sra. Dora Egger de Torres was sleeping with her husband when she was awakened by a loud buzzing which hurt her ears. On turning round, she perceived in the corner of the room an oval of light,*** and inside the oval, two human-looking creatures: one was tall, about, or more than two metres; the other very small, about 50 to 70 centimetres. Both wore a metallic cover-all and a helmet with plastic visor which covered their faces. The witness was completely paralyzed with fear and was unable to utter a single word. Finally, the oval of light and the anthropomorphic beings began diminishing gradually against the background formed by the closed window until they disappeared altogether. (Ref: Report of the Institute of Psychical Research of Santa Fe.)

Other types of disappearance

There are parapsychological experiences in which the vanishing of the phantasmal presence follows different patterns (although equally unaccountable) from what has been described above; for instance, fading away while going through walls or closed doors, or even when entering hermetically sealed rooms. This unquestionably points to the incorporeal nature of such presences.

Taking into account the above mentioned features, the

**It should be remembered that thermic sensations of cold are quite a common feature accompanying paranormal apparitions.

***The oval of light has different parallels in the case of apparitions. To describe this curious phenomenon, percipients use such expressions as "shining oval", "disc of light" and "great luminous oval."

following two cases connected with the UFO phenomenon, which are given for comparison purposes, show striking similarities.

On June 27, 1968, at 5.30 in the afternoon, at Cerro de las Rosas (Province of Córdoba, Argentina), three children who were riding their bicycles in the countryside saw, as if suspended over the trees, an oval-shaped object under which a propeller was spinning with dazzling white and pale blue lights. Over the object there were two persons — a man and a woman — who floated in the air. They were enormously tall and wore shining clothes. Hand in hand, they descended slowly and disappeared inside the object without any door opening to let them through. (Ref: *La Voz del Interior*, Córdoba, June 30, 1968).

On September 21, 1972, 56-year-old Mr. Teodoro Merlo, watchman at the lockers of the Ika-Renault automobile plant at Santa Isabel (Province of Córdoba), when starting his day's work at 5.50 a.m. noticed that in one of the bathroom sections the light had been turned off and a person was sitting on one of the large basins. It was a being of tremendous height (about 2.50 metres), wearing a dark blue, tight-fitting, one-piece suit. Its skull was big and rounded at the top; its ears, large and pointed. As Merlo approached, the light in that section went on suddenly, which allowed him to note that the entity had disappeared. Merlo made a careful inspection of the locker room without finding anything at all. The only two entrances to the locker room were locked, and the transom-windows, which can only be opened and closed from the inside, were also closed. (Ref: Galíndez, O., "Los Fenómenos antropomorfos de Santa Isabel", in: *OVNIS; Desafío a la Ciencia*, No. 2, July-August 1974). [See also *Flying Saucer Reviews* Vol. 21 Nos. 2, 3/4 and 5 1975—ED]

Movement patterns

In moving from one place to another, apparitions do not always act in a realistic fashion, in other words, they do not do so as a person of flesh and blood would walk. It sometimes happens, according to the account of the witnesses, that the "phantasm" shifts without apparently moving its legs, in a sort of sliding or gliding movement, a most curious, but typical feature.

"The lady glided backwards towards the interior of the room, as if she were skating . . .", according to the account of a witness (Tyrrell, *Op. cit.*, page 100). ". . . he saw the figure glide towards the foot of the bed and then vanish" (Sidgwick, E., *Phantasms of the Living*, page 365). "the apparition glided onwards towards my sisters, who were standing inside the room . . ." (*Ibid.*, page 367). "This apparition, which had moved with a gliding motion, was between 4 and 5 feet high, and was soundless . . ." (*Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 14, No. 3, page 17).

The following case from Argentina, which falls fully within the field of UFO research, enables us to determine that the strange form of motion mentioned above also occurs in the case of some UFO occupants.

On March 13, 1973, on the highway linking the city of Salta to San Salvador de Jujuy, Jorge Roberto Herrera, 23 years old, engineering student, saw a strange object of about 5 metres diameter in the form of two saucers, one on top of the other, land on the highway. It was

aluminium-coloured and resting on the ground on what looked like legs. Suddenly, without the witness being able to say exactly when or in what manner it emerged from the apparatus, an anthropomorphous being, 1.60 metres high and clothed in a sort of one-piece overall, emerged from the side of the craft. It had no hands and the legs ended in very big feet, unshod. When Herrera walked up to it, the entity moved away without moving its legs. Then it stopped and disappeared (it did not "go away", it simply "vanished" (see *Cuarta dimensión*, No. 9, page 23).

Conclusions

Despite the similarities pointed out above, it should not necessarily be inferred that the humanoid entities are none other than the traditional "phantasms" of the occultist literature.

In fact, there are several important differences which prevent making such a simple and conclusive identification. To begin with, apparitions have a striking resemblance to human beings so that they are often mistaken for them until the very instant in which they vanish mysteriously. Furthermore, excepting spectral apparitions (that is to say, apparitions that are linked to certain given places), phantasms are the images of persons recognized by the percipients. "Ufonauts," however, are entities completely unknown to the witnesses, and although they are anthropomorphous, they don't look completely human; their height is usually abnormal — either by excess or by defect — and other anatomic details equally deviate from standard norms.

There are also dissimilarities as to the clothes they wear, according to the descriptions of witnesses, and in this respect, entities as a rule wear practically uniform clothing, consisting of a one-piece overall, usually tightly fitted to the body. This circumstance and the usual association of these beings with devices or anomalous objects (UFOs) confer to this type of figure specific features which are not present in paranormal apparitions.

Briefly, the comparative study made in this paper does not confirm the parapsychologist assumption that UFO phenomena fall within the field of parapsychology, not even in the limited field in which we have carried out our analysis.

What can be stated with strict objectivity is that the anthropomorphous beings associated with UFO

phenomena are sometimes governed by behavioural patterns similar to those of phantasmal images. In other words, there are certain perspective patterns present in UFO research which are also found in the paranormal field. It is logical then to infer from such circumstances the probable identity of the mechanisms involved in the production of both phenomena.

If, as we believe, there are super-intelligences governing the UFO phenomenon, we must assume that their lofty degree of development would not materialize only in technological achievements. We must reasonably admit that their cognizative sphere and understanding of material and spiritual reality would be considerably greater than that reached by man at present. And in such an event, it should not surprise us that what we, the humans, should be, for such super intelligences, a territorial group under control and with no unsolved enigmas.

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CONTACT FROM THE PLEIADES?

Janet & Colin Bord

FOR the past few years hints of an amazing series of contact experiences by a Swiss farmer have been drifting to the ears of ufologists. During this time they have waited for Eduard Meier to approve publication of his experiences and colour photographs of UFOs, and at last he has. **UFO . . . Contact from the Pleiades, Vol. 1** (Genesis III Productions, Ltd., PO Box 32067, Phoenix, Arizona 85064, U.S.A.; price around \$25, but write for precise details) is both one of the most amazing and disappointing books ever published. From it we learn that Eduard Meier is a Swiss farmer/caretaker, a father of three who lives in Hinwel, Switzerland. He rides a moped, uses an Olympus 35ECR camera, and had his left arm amputated after a bus accident in 1963.

On the afternoon of 28 January 1975 Eduard Meier, following an odd compulsion, took his camera and set off into the countryside not knowing where he was going. At 2.12 p.m. he says he saw a silver, disc-shaped craft circling overhead, and that he rapidly started to take some photographs. The craft landed. Mr. Meier ran towards it and, allegedly, an entity came out and walked towards him. This was his first contact, and he says that in the subsequent weeks, months and years he has had many more contacts with these space beings. As proof we are told that he has produced hundreds of good quality 35mm colour photographs, 8mm cine film, and sound recordings of the UFOs in flight. Landing traces and physical samples have been recorded and other eye-witnesses have

filmed some of the events themselves. These contacts have continued right up to the time of the production of this book. Mr. Meier had at that time compiled over 3,000 pages of notes and dissertations said to have been dictated to him by the space beings.

If only half of these claims are accurate, they would prove to be a great turning point in the development of mankind. If they are not, then we are being presented with one of the most elaborate and skilled hoaxes that ufologists have ever seen.

What sort of evidence does this book present? First let us say that the colour photographs of the UFOs are much more detailed than most published UFO photographs. The publishers apparently decided that they would use a large area of each photograph, showing the UFO in relation to the ground below, rather than only enlarging the UFO itself, as is usually done. As each UFO is a comparatively small object in the picture, this has necessitated using a large page size in order to give a good-sized image of the UFO. The size they have chosen is 12 inches square. All but a few of the 29 UFO pictures fill a whole page, and several are printed across two pages. As an introduction there are 6 pages of uncaptioned "mood-setting" pictures of the starry heavens. Also in the book are about 18 smaller colour pictures of investigators and witnesses on sites and in conference in Meier's house, and a colourful but uninformative spread of 'abstract' pictures said to be derived from computer analysis.

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