

# CROP CIRCLES AND STIGMATA: SYMBOLS OF DIVINE ORIGIN?

**Crosses and religious symbols appear imprinted in crops and on the human body. Is it evidence of supernatural intervention or a product of the human psyche?**

© By George Wingfield, MA(Hons), Editor of the *Cerealogist* and a Director of *Flying Saucer Review*.

In my recent article, *Pope John Paul II and the Third Secret of Fátima*, (FSR 40/2), I mentioned the Italian stigmatist Giorgio Bongiovanni and I said that George Wingfield was preparing a report on him for us.

This extraordinarily interesting report has now appeared in issue No.14 (Summer 1995), of *The Cerealogist*, which Mr. Wingfield himself edits. I am most grateful to him for letting us have it for FSR also, and here it is. I believe that the matters with which we are here concerned are of enormous importance for every one of us.

EDITOR OF FSR

The highly controversial idea that some crop circles — genuine circles, that is — may be of divine origin is one that I have touched on before in previous issues of *The Cerealogist*. It is not a popular theme either with scientists, who generally deride such interpretations, or orthodox religionists who view such manifestations as very possibly satanic. Nevertheless crop formations which were quite clearly in the shape of Christian crosses frequently appeared in the wheatfields of England during the years 1988 to 1991 and were very striking to those who recognised their symbolism.

None of these formations was ever claimed as man-made or shown to be of mundane origin. One particularly well known formation was the 1988 Celtic Cross at Charity Down which appeared on the front cover of *Circular Evidence*. Although the rather uneven double-ringer nearby was said to be the work of Doug & Dave (and may well have been), the pair backed off any claim to the Celtic Cross when confronted by Colin Andrews who had examined it in minute detail when it was fresh.

This formation was very special to Colin who had anticipated the appearance of a Celtic Cross circle near his home, which was then in Andover. He had even sent me to look at a similarly shaped Celtic Cross gravestone in the nearby churchyard of Goodworth Clatford. Days later, on September 10th, this crop formation appeared just two-and-a-half miles away.

Since Colin's Celtic Cross there have been others fascinated by the circles who have told me of their quite overwhelming feelings that particular circles were something of divine origin. Whether or not this belief is justified, or merely the product of auto-suggestion, there is no denying the extremely powerful influence which the

circles have exercised on many people.

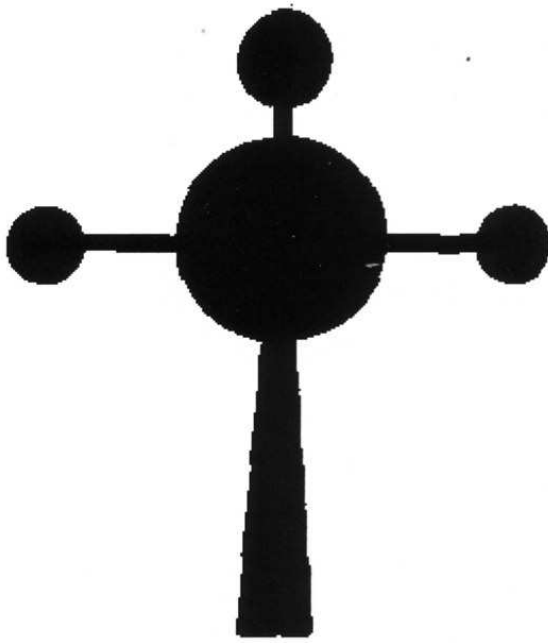
Earlier that summer an extraordinary series of quincunxes had appeared imprinted in the wheatfields near Silbury Hill. The first of these, found on July 15 1988, was shortly preceded by the sighting of a huge luminous oval object in the night sky near Avebury and from this a long thin beam of light had been seen to project obliquely downwards towards the ground near Silbury Hill. The witness to this event, Mary Freeman, said she felt "awed" and "honoured" by this strange experience which was for her like seeing the light on the road to Damascus.

Within two weeks a series of four huge quincunxes — each with circles positioned like the five on a dice — had appeared near Silbury. The two formations in the field opposite were later joined by a lone circle, exactly placed in such a position that it formed the end point of a long shaft cross, or Christian cross, into which each quincunx was now transformed. Although this was not easily visible except from the air above, the implicit sacred symbolism did not go unnoticed.

In June of 1989 three more of these long shaft crosses, each made as a quincunx plus an extra circle in line, appeared in Wiltshire and to those who saw them they were very striking indeed. Whatever agency made these crosses there could be little doubt that the religious motif was intended. The first was found below Scratchbury Hill near Warminster on June 2. Another found at Cherhill on June 20 is shown in the accompanying photograph. It was also in June 1989 that the bizarre happenings which occurred during Operation White Crow took place at Cheesefoot Head. These are described in *Crop Circle Enigma*.

Could some secret midnight team of clerics have produced this rash of crop circle crosses? It certainly did not seem that way and at the time there was no suggestion that they were man-made; nor has anyone ever claimed, or been found to have made, these. Further Celtic crosses, or quincunxes with rings bisecting the outer circles were seen in 1990 and a number of other crosses of varying style, such as the one at Astley Green near Manchester, were also discovered that year.

This was all when the crop circle phenomenon was at its height in England. The mystery was undiminished and it



was as if these potent symbols of human spirituality had somehow bubbled up in the collective unconscious. Of course, mysterious crosses and suchlike religious symbols have manifested in Christian societies in a variety of ways, especially during times of tension and of danger. One variation on this theme is the stigmata and it was exactly at this time in 1989/90 that a young Italian first received these mystical markings as we shall see later.

#### THE STIGMATA

The stigmata are usually defined as the wounds that Christ received during the crucifixion. They are also defined as similarly placed marks or wounds which appear to be miraculously impressed on the bodies of certain people. Their appearance is spontaneous and the effect may disappear after a short time or else become more pronounced and last for years with bleeding from these wounds at regular intervals.

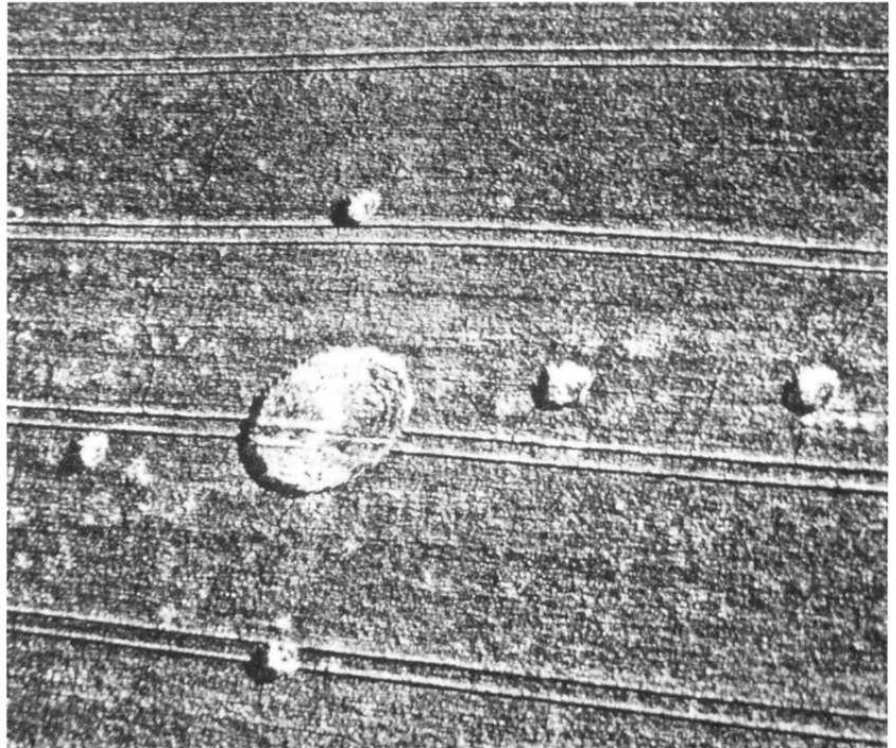
The first known stigmatic was St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226). After a rowdy and even dissipated youth, Francis's transformation to a more austere way of life came about only after much illness and witnessing the horrors of a civil war. He was never ordained as a priest but was the founder of two friaries.

His stigmata appeared only two years before his death at a time when he was praying outside a cave in the mountains. A vision of Christ on the cross appeared to him and at the same time wounds opened up on his hands, on his feet and in his side. These exactly replicated the wounds of Christ on the cross and they remained with him for the rest of his life.

These wounds never healed and yet never became septic or inflamed. An exceptional but not unique feature of Francis's stigmata was that hard protuberances resembling the heads of nails formed in the centre of his wounds.

An eyewitness account by Thomas of Celano gives a graphic description of the saint's stigmata :- "His hands and feet seemed pierced in the middle by nails, the heads of the nails appearing in the inner part of the hands and in the upper part of the feet and their points over against them. Now these marks were round on the inner side of the hands and elongated on the outer side, and certain small pieces of flesh were seen like the ends of nails bent and driven back, projecting from the rest of the flesh. So also the marks of nails were imprinted in his feet, and raised above the rest of the flesh. Moreover his right side, as if it had been pierced by a lance, was overlaid with a scar, and often shed forth blood, so that his tunic and drawers were many times sprinkled with the sacred blood."

The phenomenon of the nail heads has been reported in other stigmatics, such as Theresa Neumann, in more recent times but it is extremely rare. Several aspects of St Francis's stigmata, in particular the deep fissures in his hands, feet and sides, can hardly be the result of auto-suggestion to which sceptics blithely ascribe the condition.



The cruciform formation at Chervill, Wiltshire, found 20th June, 1989

## THE BAVARIAN STIGMATIC

Even more difficult to explain is another characteristic of some stigmata, including those of Theresa<sup>(1)</sup> Neumann (1898-1962). The blood flowing from the wounds in her feet would, if she was lying face up on a bed, flow upwards towards her toes; that is, in a direction counter to gravity. This is of course the direction in which Christ's blood would have flowed from his foot wounds during the crucifixion. This was witnessed on many occasions and it must surely take more than auto-suggestion to flaunt the laws of physics.

Neumann was a peasant woman from a devoutly Catholic family living at Könnersreuth in Bavaria. Her stigmata, which she bore for most of her life, were examined by doctors, devout believers, ecclesiastics and even sceptics. She was also credited with other miraculous feats such as bilocation and divine inedia (existence without food).

A series of severe illnesses and accidents presaged the onset of her religious asceticism. These led to her being bedridden and blind and during this time she frequently suffered severe convulsions. Her disability continued for years until suddenly these afflictions were apparently miraculously cured, one by one, seemingly by the intercession of St Thérèse of Lisieux, a French nun to whose example Neumann showed deep devotion.

Her blindness and her paralysis were both cured and she was soon able to leave her bed without aid. Her stigmata first appeared six months later in 1926, in the form of the five classic wounds of the crucifixion, when she had a vision of Christ. These remained with her for the rest of her life.

Her stigmata bled periodically and at such times she would usually have visions. On Fridays she would enter a trance and re-enact the entire Passion as though she was witnessing the event. At these times blood



Marking on hand of Gulf Breeze UFO witness

would flow from her hands, feet, shoulder, forehead, and eyes in such quantities that bandages were used to soak it up. These ecstasies became so common that the people of Könnersreuth would gather at her house on Fridays in the hope of being admitted to see her in this state.

At times her stigmata were so intense that they glowed and this phenomenon was photographed in 1927. By 1930 observers became aware of protuberances resembling nail heads slowly appearing in her wounds, similar to those of St Francis.

In 1927 she had a vision in which she was told that she would no longer need to rely on earthly food. From then on she neither ate nor drank anything, yet she did not lose weight, nor did she weaken but lived a normal healthy life. Certainly a commission which tested this inedia of hers and kept her under constant surveillance affirmed that she took no food or water during a period of 14 days in 1927.

What possible link, one may ask, can there be between the stigmatism of religious visionaries and the modern day crop circles? There is, I think, a possible link which is provided by a latter day stigmatic, Giorgio Bongiovanni, whose story I will attempt to relate.

## GIORGIO BONGIOVANNI

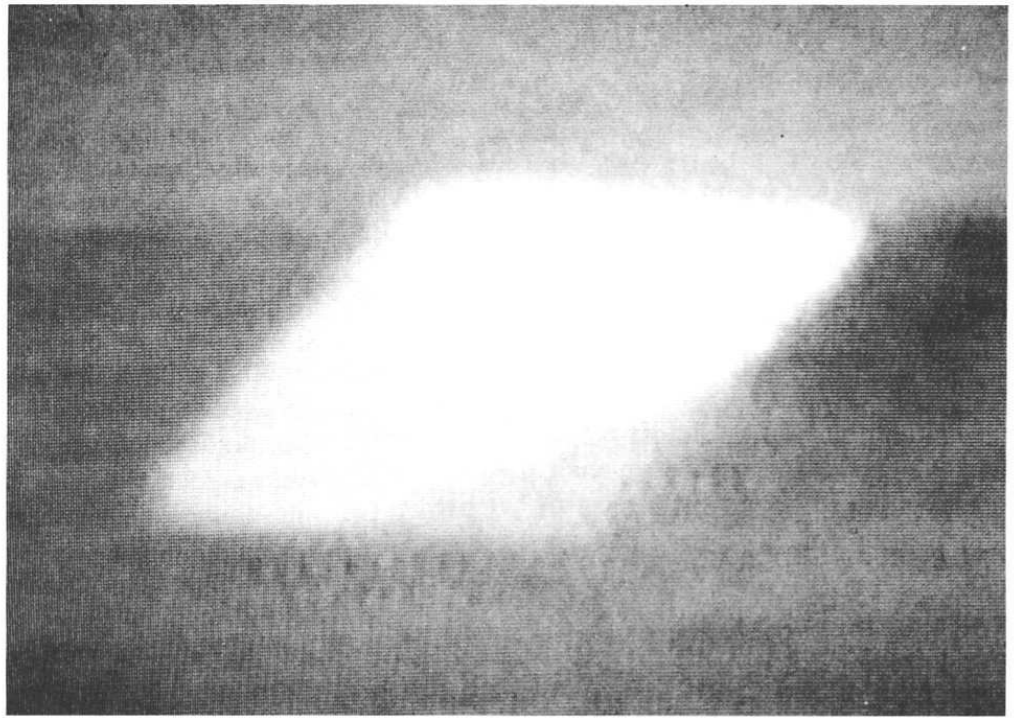
Giorgio Bongiovanni<sup>(2)</sup>, who originally came from Sicily and whose parents were Catholics — though he does not think of himself as religious — received the stigmata as recently as 1989. This is an unusual story, and one which many will reject as far beyond the realms of the believable, but his stigmata stand witness to the strange events which have shaped his life. Perhaps we would do well to ponder the significance of these happenings.

Giorgio is a UFO contactee. He talks of the many occasions when he has met and spoken to extraterrestrial beings. Most of these he describes as “beings of light” in that they quite evidently are beings from a higher spiritual plane. Other people have called these beings transcendentals or, more traditionally, angels. However, Giorgio says that he sees these figures as having a physical body --“very bright”-- and he says it is quite possible to photograph them. They speak to him in words rather than telepathically.

Besides these beings of light, Giorgio says he has occasionally encountered humanoids who also come from stellar systems many light years from planet Earth. These are the “greys” who loom large in the demonology of the UFO subject, though he denies that they are in any way demonic. Their technology, he says, is about 100 years in advance of our own and they have their purpose in the universal scheme of things.

Giorgio's encounters with beings of light can be described as visions, since others who are with him are usually unable to see these divine presences. This is entirely similar to the frequent visions of the Virgin Mary experienced by the children of Medjugorje or the young visionaries of Fátima. Indeed Giorgio has, we are told, received messages from the Virgin Mary and even from Jesus himself.

This has also been the case with some other UFO contactees (who should of course be distinguished from UFO abductees, whose experiences are entirely passive and who are abducted and manipulated by the “greys”). One such contactee was Eugenio Siragusa<sup>(3)</sup>, who had numerous contacts from the 1950s to the 1970s, and was known as the Italian Adamski. Giorgio describes Siragusa as his spiritual father and was raised by him in this respect. For eleven years he was prepared by Siragusa and worked as editor of the magazine he founded, “*Non Siamo Soli* —We are not alone”.



**UFO which was photographed with a video camera by three men who were fishing in Norfolk on 26th October 1993. Bongiovanni says these craft make circles**

### HIS FIRST STIGMATA

**M**ystical stigmatics are most often visionaries and the appearance of their stigmata is closely linked to particular visions of, say, the Virgin Mary. This was exactly the case with Giorgio, and he says that it was she who stigmatized him.

In April 1989 he had a vision which occurred in his home town, Porto Sant’Elpidio<sup>(4)</sup>. He saw a very bright, shining, being of light who told him she was the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM). He must travel to Fátima in Portugal where she would manifest a sign which would be permanent and something that the whole world could see. In fact the sign would constitute proof that he must take around the world. It was not until September 1989 that he travelled to Fátima where he expected he might see some kind of heavenly sign in the skies.

But the sign was not something in the sky. When he arrived in Fátima he went to the Cova da Iria which was the place of the 1917 miracle (see box). Under the oak tree where the original apparitions had occurred in 1917 he saw the BVM again and she spoke to him. Within hours the first marks of the stigmata had appeared in the palms of his hands. He had seen two rays of light which struck his hands, his feet, his left side and his forehead.

The stigmata he received are permanent wounds unlike the case of those who have simple stigmata. Those on his feet appeared some time after his hands were stigmatised and the wound in his side months after that. The wound on his forehead which corresponds to Christ’s “Crown of Thorns” is much more recent. It has spontaneously shaped itself into a very definite cross which is unusual. However the coagulated blood of stigmata frequently do form insignia such as crosses or a crown of thorns, and this has been the case with Giorgio.

His stigmata bleed every day, most often in the morning and this causes him considerable pain. Doctors have tested these flows of blood and expressed amaze-

ment at what they find. There has never been any sign of infection as would normally be the case with an open wound. Indeed, in normal circumstances, such an open wound would soon lead to severe infection and even death. Nor does Giorgio display any signs of anaemia.

The blood from the stigmata coagulates very rapidly, perhaps within ten seconds. However normal blood would take about ten minutes to coagulate and this is the case with blood taken from veins on other parts of his body. It is almost as if he had two different types of blood in one body.

### WHAT MAKES THE CIRCLES?

**I** first met Giorgio Bongiovanni at a UFO Conference in Mesquite, Nevada, in November 1994. He sought me out and told me that he had information for me about the link between the crop circles and UFOs. I asked what he had been told about the circles by the beings of light with whom he was in contact.

“They have told me this. There are some pictograms that they make. Of course there are some speculations; some of the circles are false, but the real ones, which the investigators acknowledge, are true. These are signs which they make with devices they call synchronisers; they are like UFOs, small ones. These circles, they appear and they do not alter the plants genetically, or the growth, or the development of the plants. They only bend them, from up high. You can see that they leave these pictograms: they are messages. They are left for the scientists, for researchers, so that they can translate them.”

He went on to talk about the actual craft which he says make the circles. Two such craft were recently captured on video film by three men fishing on the



Giorgio Bongiovanni

Norfolk Broads in October 1993. An extremely similar object was also filmed near Sevastopol in the Crimea (Ukraine) on August 15th of that year. A photograph from one of these sequences is reproduced here. The image of the luminous object depicted appears shaped like a rhombus though it might well be discoid and edge on.

Critics maintain that this shape is a false construct of the Panasonic video camera's aperture --though there is indeed a bright object-- but Giorgio rejects this explanation. These craft he says are made of plasma<sup>(5)</sup>, or at any rate exist in that state of matter of which the beings of light also have their substance.

He goes on to say that spaceships of this kind account for many of the UFOs which have been seen at Gulf Breeze, Florida. It is interesting to recall that a few years ago a witness to the Gulf Breeze UFO experienced an extraordinary marking on the back of his hand similar in nature to simple stigmata, where marks darken the skin and blood sometimes seeps through it. This occurred while the man was observing the UFO and a clear pattern of seven equally spaced dots in a ring surrounding a central dot was left on his hand for several days afterwards.

#### THE SECRETS OF FÁTIMA

Giorgio Bongiovanni was told by the beings of light that he was in fact the reincarnation of Francisco Marto, one of the three children of Fátima. The purpose of his stigmata was that the whole world should know of

these matters and that the suppressed third secret of Fátima should be made known. The principal visionary of Fátima, Lucia dos Santos, had given the secrets revealed to her by the BVM to her priest and these were passed on to the Vatican. The first two secrets she made public in 1941 but the third secret was never disclosed in 1960 which was when she had been told that it could be revealed.

The first secret was that Francisco and Jacinta, his sister, would soon die and join the BVM in Heaven. This prediction soon came to pass and both children died of influenza in the great epidemic which raged during 1919-1920.

The second secret was that another world war would scourge the earth if man did not stop offending God. This war would be heralded by a mysterious light in the sky. This prediction also came to pass: the aurora borealis was seen all over Europe on January 25th 1938, which was not long before the outbreak of World War II.

This display of northern lights was most spectacular and extended far further south than is normal. Together with the warning that a further ferocious war might be waged, came a plea to pray for

Russia, otherwise that country might spread its evil influence throughout the world.

The third secret was supposedly read by Pope John XXIII to a secret conclave of cardinals in the Vatican in 1960. A decision was taken not to reveal it publicly and it is said that distraught and white-faced attendees were seen to emerge from that meeting shortly afterwards.<sup>(6)</sup>

Giorgio Bongiovanni says that popes John XXIII and Paul VI communicated the warning of the third secret on an unofficial basis through diplomatic channels. His mission, which if he is the reincarnated Francisco seems especially suitable, is to divulge this secret at the present time. The secret came in three main parts and was interspersed with much invocation to prayer and penance, and warnings of dire misfortune.

Firstly, there will be a crisis in the Roman Catholic church which will become divided.

Secondly, that there was a danger of nuclear war and ensuing holocaust which could erupt at any time in the second half of this century if man did not stop offending God. The danger, he says, is not yet past although it appears to have receded. (How the concept of "nuclear" war was expressed in 1917, long before such things were known, is a mystery.)

Thirdly, beings of light will be seen by everyone and humanity will discover it is not alone in the Universe. This will happen before some great natural catastrophe occurs. The second coming of Jesus, accompanied by beings of light, will occur at the end of

this century or in the first years of the next century. Giorgio has not been given an exact date for this.

### THE PURPOSE OF THESE SIGNS

He says that as far as the crop circles are concerned there would be more signs of this kind all over the world. In the same way as Giorgio's stigmata, these would enlighten and affect many people who would gradually begin to realise that man is not alone and is not the highest form of life in the Universe.

**Giorgio points to what has happened with successive religions: each one has led to division, war and the quest for power. He says this is why he does not belong to any religion and does not wish to create a religion or church. Although he describes himself as a Christian, he remains outside the Catholic Church, which officially disapproves of much of what he says, such as his claim of reincarnation.**

The Vatican is well aware of Giorgio Bongiovanni and some regard him as a heretic. Nevertheless he has his supporters within the hierarchy. At present he travels widely and has appeared on TV in many countries, spreading the message of "Non siamo soli", that we are not alone. Today, he says, this visitation is stronger, more visible and more present than in the past. It is stronger because of the tragic circumstances which man himself has brought about on Earth: war, starvation and the pollution of our planet. Even so, it is for us to change things, he says, though we would receive help from the beings of light if we were to ask for it.

### MIRACLES OR MANIA?

Many dismiss the stigmata as merely a psychosomatic condition which can occur in certain highly religious people who are of a hysterical disposition. Such a glib explanation is hardly consistent with the facts. Undoubtedly a wide variety of psychosomatic conditions can be caused by hysteria but hardly deep wounds which bleed on a regular basis. There are stigmatics undoubtedly who suffer hysteria but it is a totally insufficient explanation. Some like Giorgio are the very opposite, and could be described as serene, even placid.

One should not confuse hypnotically induced stigmata with the genuinely mystical stigmata. The former are transient effects which can be self-induced or induced by hypnosis. Mystical stigmata, which we have considered in the cases above, bleed either perpetually or periodically. The wounds of the genuine stigmatic never heal, nor can they be healed: sometimes deep fissures open up and intense pain is experienced. The Gulf Breeze case mentioned earlier is akin to transient hypnotic stigmata where the blood --if it appears at all-- merely seeps through the skin. Divine stigmata always first appear when the stigmatic is undergoing an ecstasy or vision, and there is no way such deep and permanent wounds can be simulated or faked. Just let hoaxers try to produce effects like these!

No discussion of stigmata is complete without

mention of one objection which is often raised. It is said that when the Romans crucified their victims they drove nails through the wrists since ones through the hands would not support the weight of the body, which would tear loose. Thus the wounds of Jesus would not have been in the palms but through his wrists. There is some proof of this from the skeletal remains of crucifixion victims but this really is a canard. Very likely those condemned would be tied to the cross before the nails were driven through their hands and this, together with the support given by the projecting foot block, would be quite sufficient to support the body's weight.

In attempting to rationalise what many see as a miracle those who are not metaphysically inclined will maintain that all of these effects are produced by the human psyche: that of the stigmatic himself or herself. External influence, whether divine or extraterrestrial, is a concept that simply cannot be allowed. I suggest that this an entirely false limitation that results from our established way of looking at the world. If we approach this in terms of consciousness, all consciousness from whatever level is interconnected and so the concept of internal or external influence is simply inapplicable.

There are subtle energies and there are also, of course, physical factors which determine these phenomena. But maybe that is not so much the issue with which we should concern ourselves: the 'how' is of less importance than the 'why'. It is the message of the stigmata and the message of the crop circles which we should seek to understand.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS BY EDITOR, FSR

1. One day, during World War II, a squad of German soldiers arrived at her Convent with orders to bring Theresa Neumann to the Gestapo Headquarters for interrogation, as she was accused of having slandered Hitler. They discovered her to be in a state of trance, her eyes and stigmata glowing. And she greeted them with such a powerful blast of prophesying, predicting in detail not only the fate of each soldier but also predicting the final fate of Adolf Hitler, that they all fled. And she was never troubled by them again.
2. I have spoken with Bongiovanni by telephone, and he has confirmed the accuracy of the Pope's statement on Fátima, as issued in *Non Siamo Soli* and given by me in FSR 40/2..... We talked in Spanish, as my spoken Spanish is a lot better than my spoken Italian. But, curiously enough, at the date of our conversation, I had no inkling of the fact that Bongiovanni had already claimed that - according to the Higher Beings encountered by him - he had had an earlier life as the Spanish-speaking boy Francisco Marto at Fátima!
3. Eugenio Siragusa, an Italian tax official from Catania, Sicily, had several quite extraordinary experiences and meetings, on the lower slopes of Mt. Etna, during 1962, with two types of seemingly noble and benevolent and quite "human-like" beings from landed saucers. The first meeting, on April 30, 1962, was with individuals "about 5ft 4 inches or so" in height. The others, met on September 4, 1962, were seven-foot tall "giants".  
I was for some years in correspondence with Signor Siragusa, and I have his book (so far as I know never translated into English). Today, he runs the journal *Non Siamo Soli (We are not Alone)*, assisted by Giorgio Bongiovanni.  
I consider Siragusa's story to be one of the most important that I have ever come across. So far as I can gather, most Italian researchers in the UFO field simply regard him as a liar and a hoaxer - probably because he has a strong "religious message" to give. (This same grievous flaw is also widely detected and condemned in me.) For details of Siragusa's contacts and experiences, as translated by me, see two of my articles, published over 30 years ago in FSR:-

The Italian Scene: Part I. Signor Siragusa's Message. in FSR 9/1 (Jan/Feb. 1963).

More News of Siragusa. In FSR 9/6 (Nov/Dec. 1963).

4. Porto Sant' Elpidio is on the east coast of Mainland Italy (Lat.43°15N., Long.13°45E.)
5. According to the *Qur'aan*, the Angels (*al-malaayikat*) have bodies of light (*nuur*), humans merely have bodies made of clay or loam (*salsal* or *tiin*), — i.e. star-dust — the very elements of our *Periodic Table*, while the *Jinns* (*spirits and also demons*) have bodies made from (a) *naari al-samuumi* or from (b) *maarijin min naarin*, these latter two terms, though incomprehensible, being variously translated hitherto into English as (a) "essential fire" or "essential flame" (b) "essential flame", and "smokeless fire" and (b) as "smokeless flame" or "blazing fire".

Seemingly nobody in our modern age therefore knows what the Prophet Muhammad meant by these two abstruse terms.

But it might be found interesting to note that a few years ago - just before the Gulf War - I was in contact by telephone with a very distinguished and important Arab doctor, Dr. Al-Nahas. He was trained in England, received his qualifications at a famous London hospital (Bart's), and also has done postgraduate work there more than once. At the time when I last spoke with him he was occupying an extremely important post in Sadam Hussein's Iraq, for he was the Head of the Department of Radiation Medicine in the Iraqi University in Baghdad. He was on temporary absence from his post when I last talked with him, and again doing postgraduate work at Bart's. *He had long been a keen reader of FSR, and he told me he felt sure I was absolutely right in my theories and my writings about the Jinns and about the Arabic esoteric lore concerning them.*

*And when I asked him what he thought about the two above-mentioned Arabic terms, he replied: "I don't know what they mean. But I can only assume that it might mean some sort of plasma - of a sort that our modern Science hasn't discovered yet!"*

Angels	Al-malaayikat	الملائكة
Men	Al-insaan	الإنسان
Jinns	{ Al-jinn or Al-Jaan	الجن الجان
Light	Nuur	نور
Clay, loam, or mud	Salsal or tiin	صَلْصَل طين
Fire	Naar	نار

QUR'AAN, Suraah 35, v. 13-14  
 "He created men of clay, like the Potter's clay. And the Jinns did He create of smokeden fire."  
 خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ صَلْصَالٍ  
 وَالْعَجَرِ وَخَلَقَ الْجَانَّ  
 مِنْ نَارٍ مِنْ تَارٍ

6. I have already given the essence of the "Third Part" of the Secret of Fátima. (See FSR 40/2).G.C ■

## THE FÁTIMA MIRACLE

13th October, 1917

The story of Fátima in Portugal concerns three young Catholic children, Lucia dos Santos (9), Francisco Marto (8) and his sister Jacinta (6) who were tending sheep in a remote rural area in May 1917. A flash of lightning in a cloudless sky alarmed the children who drove the sheep into a hollow, the Cova da Iria. There they saw a remarkable sight: the dazzling figure of a beautiful woman of about 18 who spoke to Lucia.

The apparition, who was thought to be the BVM, instructed the children to pray and to return to the Cova da Iria on the 13th of each successive month until October 13th when she would show them a miracle. They kept this secret at first but soon the villagers got to know of the apparitions. Many scorned the children, calling them liars, but others followed them to the hollow on the 13th of each month in ever increasing numbers. Soon people came from far and wide.

The visitations were invisible to onlookers but there were a number of manifestations which confirmed the impression something extraordinary was taking place. Flashes often preceded the encounter during which Lucia was seen to talk to the unseen presence. Something like the loud humming of a bee was heard and the topmost branches of the tree where the BVM supposedly came to rest were seen to bend down as if under an invisible weight. Some watchers saw a small luminous white orb or cloud settle there for a time before eventually departing towards the east. The sun usually seemed to dim and at least once petals fell from an empty sky. During these visitations Lucia was vouchsafed a number of secrets by the BVM - the secrets of Fátima.

Despite considerable opposition from the civic authorities, about 70,000 people made their way to the Cova on October 13th. There was rain and thick cloud. At midday Lucia cried out "look at the sun" and the crowd turned to see what might have been the disk of the sun emerge from the clouds. But the silvery disk which they saw was not blinding and it began to revolve throwing out multi-coloured light in all directions. It stopped and repeated this "dance" twice. Then the disk, now blood-red, seemed to plunge towards the ground in a zigzag motion. There was great heat from it and many in the crowd were quite terrified that they would be crushed by its enormous mass. Many were weeping and expecting that at any moment the end of the world would come. After ten minutes this phenomenon ceased and the "sun" rose up to its normal position.

The supposition that what occurred was merely hysteria is not borne out by the many accounts of those present who included scientists and sceptics besides many of the faithful. The strange light display was also seen by others several miles away and not part of the crowd. This was undoubtedly a paranormal event.G.W. ■

# ABDUCTED: AN AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENTLY WITNESSED EVENT?

## PART ONE

© *By Keith Basterfield*

October 22nd 1994

Dear Colleague

As promised, enclosed please find Part 1 of a 2-part article on what appears to be an independently witnessed multiple person abduction case from Belgrave, Victoria, here in Australia.

Part 1 tells the account of two of the witnesses from their perspective. Part 2, when written, will detail the accounts of the three other people in a separate vehicle who recall seeing the same UFO and entities, and beyond.

I will forward Part 2 as soon as possible.

Regards

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### I. INTRODUCTION

A unique Australian CE3/CE4 event has been slowly researched and documented since it occurred near Belgrave, Victoria, in August 1993. It involves five people in two independent groups, in two motor vehicles, who were party to a very close encounter one night outside of Melbourne, the capital city of the state of Victoria.

One of the witnesses, a woman who wishes to be known only by her real first name of Kelly, contacted my colleague Bill Chalker of Sydney, in the State of New South Wales, after failing to locate anyone in her home-State to talk to about the experience. Bill referred her to John Auchettl of Phenomena Research Australia, who lives in Melbourne. John interviewed Kelly and her husband Andrew (pseudonym) and then was successful in locating and interviewing the other three witnesses.

Kelly subsequently visited Adelaide, South Australia, where I live, and we were able to spend a week-end exploring her portion of the event. Her husband

Andrew, although acknowledging the event and confirming the marks on Kelly's body, did not wish to participate in an investigation.

I was fortunate to be able to sit in on a hypnotic regression session with Kelly and an Adelaide psychologist with whom I work, in an attempt to unlock an apparent period of missing time.

So, part 1 of this article is Kelly's account of the Belgrave incident. part 2 will look at what the other party recalled and some interesting physical traces found at the site, courtesy of John Auchettl's investigation.

### II. KELLY: THE EMERGENCE OF MEMORIES:

On the 16th September, 1993, Kelly and her husband Andrew were attending a barbecue, at the home of a friend of theirs in the State of Victoria.

During the course of the evening, somehow the conversation turned to the subject of UFOs. The host was very sceptical of the subject of UFOs. Kelly was surprised to hear her husband comment about the two of them having seen a UFO some weeks before on their way home from the house of a friend. He recalled how Kelly had pointed out the object and how they had observed it hovering over the middle of the road, and thought it looked like a football field all lit up. You see, Kelly didn't recall seeing anything like this. This claim of her husband's continued therefore to trouble her over the following weeks, as she couldn't work out why he should have made such a thing up.

October 1, 1993 saw them driving, during the day, through Fountain Gate, an outer Melbourne suburb, in the State of Victoria, then on to Belgrave, and up to Monbulk. They were on their way to visit the house of the same friend where the barbecue was held.

After passing the Fountain Gate shopping centre, quite out of character, Kelly thought to herself that an open area to the side of the vehicle would be a good place for a UFO to land. She doesn't know where this thought came from.

At this point, a feeling of dread passed through her — a fear which had no apparent cause considering the setting they were in. Unbidden memories emerged of an episode from the night of the 7/8th August 1993. She found herself wondering how on Earth she could have forgotten the highly unusual, very disturbing episode?