

"California Report"

By Ann Druffel

IGNACIO DARNAUDE ROJAS-MARCCS

Cabeza del Rey Don Pedro, 9 - (2.º B)
41004 - SEVILLA (Spain)

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"Mistakes" in UFO Contacts

"Mistakes" by alleged UFO intelligences are not commonly reported. If we are to judge by thousands of close encounter reports made by reliable and reasonable human witnesses all over the world, we could assume that UFO intelligences (whoever or whatever they may be) accomplish their contacts with perfect planning, unswerving purpose, and unmatched skill. In other words, "they" know what they are doing and do it flawlessly.

Once in a while, however, a witness is convinced that the close approach by a UFO is a "mistake" by its occupants. Two of these alleged "mistakes" have come to my attention during the past 7 years. The first, surfacing in 1976, was a curiosity to me. I had never heard of "mistakes" made by UFO beings, but since the reported case came from an extremely perceptive witness, I published it in the literature.¹ Now, as of this date of writing (Dec. 20, 1981) another alleged "mistake" has been reported by what seems to be a reliable and equally intelligent witness.

It would be interesting to see if these two cases have any aspects in common. If mistakes are being made by some UFO beings during interaction with the human race, these mistakes can provide clues about motive and purpose of UFOs, equally as much as "perfect" contacts can.

The first mistake referred to above was published in *The Tujunga Canyon Contacts*. For the purposes of attempted correlation and also for the benefit of those readers who may not yet have seen this book,² I will reiterate the essential facts of this unusual case.

According to the two women percipients, Emily Cronin and Jan Whitley,³ who were at the time of the sighting residing in the Tujunga Can-

yons area of California, they were returning late at night in the spring of 1956 from a vacation trip at Lake Isabella, Calif. They were driving along the Ridge Route (Highway 99), which is a winding highway through the mountains from Bakersfield. This route is much traveled even at night by trucks transporting goods between the widespread cities of California and neighboring states. The headlights of the numerous trucks began to hurt Jan's eyes as she drove. Seeing a wide rest stop, they pulled off the highway and went to sleep in their car, intending to continue their journey home when the traffic thinned out.

Some time later, Emily was abruptly awakened from sleep by a bright yellow-white light shining in the left rear window of the car. She assumed it was a trucker pulling off the highway, but to her surprise she found herself unable to move. She'd gone to sleep lying on the passenger side of the front seat, while Jan was sleeping sitting behind the steering wheel, her head resting on the window beside her. Emily heard a loud, whirring sound somewhat like an electric generator. Its piercing tone seemed somehow related to her inexplicable paralysis. Then she felt the car being shaken from side to side and received an impression that a large, dark humanoid shape was on the left rear of the car looking in at her 5-year-old son who lay sleeping on the back seat.

Jan also saw the bright light and was aware of total paralysis presumably produced by a high piercing noise. She also felt the car shake. This state of affairs continued for some minutes; then suddenly the noise and bright light vanished and the shaking stopped. The two witnesses were then able to move.

Without a word, Jan roared the car into life and sped down the mountain. Neither she nor Emily spoke until they had negotiated the winding road and were near a familiar restaurant at the base of the mountain. Then they began to talk excitedly, exchanging information about what they had seen and felt. They concluded that they had both experienced the same things, but the episode remained totally inexplicable for many years.

Hypnotic regression was performed on both witnesses in 1976 when the case came to researchers' attention many years later. Jan was unable to achieve a sufficiently deep hypnotic state to recall any clear picture of what might have happened. Emily, however, proved to be an excellent subject and during a session on March 24, 1976 with W. C. McCall, M.D., relived the experience in all its terror and mystery. During the recall of memories, she received a very strong impression that a "mistake" had been made and almost shouted this fact out to the investigators present.

Later, in debriefing, Emily clarified this unusual statement. She felt convinced that three humanoids, tall and black-garbed, had parked a large, lighted craft farther back in the rest stop and one of them had approached the car. He looked in the rear left window of the automobile, and had shaken the car from side to side, for what reason Emily could not discern. She did find herself somehow "tapped" into their telepathic communication and discerned that the humanoid's two companions stood some distance from the car, calling (mentally?) to their companion and urging him to leave because a "mistake" had been made. They

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repeatedly told the inquisitive one that they must continue on to their proper destination. Eventually the curious humanoid left the car and rejoined his fellows.

These were the essential factors on a "mistaken" contact with intelligences from an unknown source. The case remained, to my knowledge, the only "mistake" reported in UFO literature until Dec. 19, 1981, when Ms. C. W.⁴ of Orange County, Calif., contacted me, asking for help with a difficult situation.

According to Ms. W., her eyes had been rather severely injured during an encounter with a very bright "shape" which appeared in her bedroom in May 1981. She was awakened abruptly from a sound sleep and, for a fraction of a second, glimpsed a very bright orange glowing object standing across the room near her closet. The shape was not really solid, but more "cloud-like" in nature, but it was oval, about 7 feet tall and 3 feet wide. Ms. W. obtained these dimensions by comparing the object's size to the nearby bedroom door.

The cloud vanished almost instantaneously after Ms. W. opened her eyes. She was surprised and intrigued, but felt no fear. She had trained herself in metaphysical techniques and instantly went into a meditative state, receiving the information that the appearance of the cloud-like object had been a "mistake." Her meditation also yielded information that the cloud had intelligence of some sort in or about it, and she instinctively linked it to UFOs. Although she is not particularly knowledgeable about UFOs, she had viewed a documentary on the subject that same evening before retiring. She feels that the object was some sort of UFOlogical phenomenon but has no opinion as to whether it was an actual entity, a craft-like manifestation, or whatever.

She deliberately continued meditation immediately after the incident, asking if she could be permitted contact with the intelligence, but received the answer that she was not

"developed" enough to pursue the question further. She felt warned that she would be unable to determine or distinguish between "good" entities and "evil" entities involved in UFO activity. She was convinced, however, the intelligence who had mistakenly appeared in her room was essentially benevolent.

Ms. W., upon arising, found her face severely reddened and her eyes bloodshot and painful, as if from a bad sunburn. The next day small blisters formed all over her face, but this cleared within a few days. She offers additional witnesses to confirm the damage to her face and eyes. Her eyes did not improve, however. She has gone to several doctors who confirm conjunctivitis and tissue damage with various tentative diagnoses from allergies to infections. Her father, a chemical engineer, was of the opinion that she had somehow received radiation burns, but the doctors she consulted did not seem to understand or accept her statements regarding the apparent source of her problem.

At the time she contacted me, her eyes seemed infected as though with a bacterial infection, which she surmises began because of the initial damage and sensitization of the eye tissues. I referred her to Richard M. Neal, Jr., M.D., a Los Angeles physician who is conducting in-depth physiological/psychological research on alleged injuries stemming from close encounters, and she was also put in touch with other CE-III witnesses in this area who claim eye injury resulting from close UFO approaches.

Since these are the only two cases in my extensive experience where mention of a "mistake" on the part of alleged UFO entities has surfaced, I was curious to see if any correlative factors were possible. The following aspects of each case seem similar:

1. In both cases the witnesses were women.

2. In both cases the witnesses were asleep just before contact, and abruptly awakened.

3. Both cases involved bright light sources.

4. Both lights were inadequately perceived — the first because the witnesses, being paralyzed, were

prevented from looking at the light directly, and the second because the light vanished after a fraction of a second's direct viewing.

5. In both cases, the witnesses were metaphysically inclined, regularly used meditative techniques, and received information about the nature of the occurrence during altered states of consciousness.

6. In both cases, the apparent intelligences were benevolent or at least non-malevolent.

What the above possible correlations mean I cannot conclude. What the nature of the "mistakes" were is equally tenuous. We have only the impressions of the witnesses to give us clues. In the first case, Emily Cronin felt that the humanoid had acquiesced to its companions' urging to stop exploring the car at the rest stop. Then, when the humanoid's investigation continued overlong, the other two entities decided that they had made a "mistake" in agreeing to stop and at that point began to urge their colleague to come along. It was my own suggestion, however, that the entities might have stopped to check out Jan and Emily's car because Jan had been involved in another CE-III with another young woman, Sara Shaw,⁴ in a Tujunga Canyon cabin in May 1953, scarcely 3 years before. Sara's hypnotic regression, in 1975, yielded the information that Sara (and also Jan?) had been "marked" by black-garbed aliens who examined the two witnesses aboard a Saturn-shaped UFO. This "marking," according to Sara, was partially for the purpose of "tracking," somewhat as animals are tracked by wildlife researchers.⁵

Had the black-garbed aliens, in the spring of 1956, stopped to investigate Jan's car and found her companion to be not Sara, but Emily? Had they therefore determined that a "mistake" had been made and so went on their way? In searching for a logical reason why a "mistake" was made, a wide number of speculative answers could be surmised.

The nature of the "mistake" involving Ms. W. is likewise tenuous, but

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