

All over the world people who do not otherwise appear to be abnormal believe they are receiving psychic communications from beings of other worlds. The messages, which are often less than profound, are not likely to impress most of us as evidence that extraterrestrials have initiated a dialogue with certain selected Earthfolk. Nonetheless we still don't know where they are coming from or why people who have never even heard of each other are receiving strikingly similar messages. Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, a psychologist who has studied this curious phenomenon, tells more.

Messages from Space **by R. Leo Sprinkle**

A fascinating puzzle is the claim by many persons that they receive telepathic messages or mental communications from UFO occupants. The difficulties presented by these claims are obvious.

First, there is general disagreement among UFO investigators about the significance, if any, of the "UFO messages." David Jacobs has described the contactee formula as follows:

People from a utopian planet accidentally or by design contacted an unsuspecting human. The extraterrestrials gave the contactee a ride in their spacecraft, explained the workings of the craft, told about their own planet's civilization and predicted dire events to take place on Earth that also would affect other planets. They endowed the contactee with a mission that if successful would avert the calamity, allowing Earth to exist in peace and harmony. The contactee,

having little or no proof, embarked on a publicity campaign to get his message to the people.

Dr. Jacobs has described the effects of the publicity-oriented behavior of early contactees, including the probability that the U.S. Air Force anti-UFO position was bolstered by adverse public reaction to the contactee claims. Thus, many UFO investigators have viewed these claims as nonsense or as impediments to serious UFO research.

Second, there is the problem of how to investigate these messages. Even if an investigator were sympathetic to the problem, what kind of research approach should be used? Anthropological? Historical? Linguistic? Parapsychological? Psychological? Sociological? Theological?

Third, the status of UFO research is controversial, at least in comparison with that of more traditional scientific endeavors. Many UFO investigators prefer to emphasize the "nuts-and-bolts" aspects of UFO research in hopes that their investigations will lead to more acceptable results.

Nevertheless, if these messages could be verified as space communications, the scientific community as well as the general public would be most excited. Many traditional scientists have expressed the viewpoint that communication with extraterrestrial intelligence (CETI) is a quest of enormous significance.

For example, Carl Sagan is known for his rejection of the significance of UFO reports but his acceptance of the evidence for extraterrestrial life. He has stated:

The situation we find ourselves in is rather curious. There is at least a fair probability that there are many civilizations beaming signals our way. Except for a few back-burner efforts . . . we—that is, mankind—are not carrying out the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Such an enterprise is sufficiently exciting and, at last, sufficiently respectable that there would be little difficulty in staffing a radio observatory designed for this purpose with devoted, capable, and innovative scientists. The only obstacle appears to be money.

A recent issue of *Science* (1977) contained an article which was written by two scientists from the California Institute of Technology. The authors (Kuiper and Morris) suggested that "knowledge, in a general sense that encompasses science and culture, is likely to be most highly prized by an advanced civilization." They summarized their analysis as follows:

In summary, the above arguments yield two different possibilities: (i) technological civilizations that last long enough to begin the colonization process are rare, in which case the galaxy is essentially unpopulated and the number of radio contact beacons is negligible, and (ii) there are several such civilizations, in which case the galaxy is fully explored or colonized. (P. 620)

The authors concluded that the search for extraterrestrial intelligence should begin by assuming that the galaxy has been colonized. If one assumes that the galaxy is colonized, then one could assume that the claims of "messages from space" are worthy of consideration just in case these messages might contain some information about the purposes and characteristics of extraterrestrial intelligence.

The messages themselves appear at first glance to be a mixture of comments, reports, and statements from a variety of persons with different backgrounds, interests, and attitudes.

For example, during the past few weeks I have received UFO correspondence which included the following materials:

A. A letter from a woman who describes a dream (or out-of-the-body experience?) in which she experienced a vision of an earthquake. She believes these visions are related to UFO phenomena and sends the following notes: "earthquakes . . . loud noises and many cracks . . . hills no trees . . . large building under construction . . . hospital was mentioned . . . 7 to 8 . . . I flew over a seaport and saw ocean liner."

B. A statement from a woman who describes a dream

(or psychical experience?) in which she saw two strange men who were leaving her bedroom.

Dec. 1975. Casper WY 82601—I saw two “men.” They spoke to each other saying something like “it’s not here” and then they disappeared. Shortly afterward, a sound like a turbine engine began and increased in sound level and became more high-pitched until the sound was almost unbearably loud. The sound awakened my two children sleeping in the other room. They were frightened. I checked the doors and they were locked and there was nothing visible outside. The next day my husband noticed two bruised spots on the inside of each of my thighs. I did not know where they came from.

The impression I have is that these “men” had somehow drugged me—as I awoke, when they were in the room, in a way similar to when I awoke after surgery. My body was positioned in an abnormal way. Arms at full length and out to the side, legs spread (in a froglike position). I felt no pain—and experienced no unusual fear at seeing these men in my room. After they disappeared, however, the sound outside frightened me as it became so loud, and the house shook with it. I feared that the children and I were going to be hurt. But the sound after coming to a certain high pitch got farther away and the shaking stopped. The children came running in from their rooms, frightened.

I cannot describe the men—as I did not “see” them as much visually as I perceived them. The room was very dark but my impression is that they were manlike in shape—either bald or had smooth (cowlike) hats. Were thin-framed, were about 5’ 6”–6’ tall. (It is difficult to gauge height lying down.) One was about two inches taller than the other. They wore light clothes and were light-skinned. The tall one kept his hand at his waist, as if massaging or touching something there (just before they disappeared).

I have had many dreams of a recurring nature

(not the same dream, but the same subject) since this episode. The dreams are always about me having a baby . . . variations on that . . . and always without a father. . . .

C. A newsletter from “*White Star*,” which contains an “Ashtar” communiqué.

ASHTAR COMMAND COMMUNIQUÉ—Re: THE CONDOR FLEET.

There are many SPACE/TIME levels of life-intelligence. In the past we have not sought to make you too keenly AWARE of these existing subplanes, as our MISSION has been to RAISE YOUR AWARENESS and *pin* your attention to levels of STABILITY. . . .

THE CONDOR FLEET—though MANNED by BEINGS of PLANETARY HIERARCHY—is under *direct* authority of ASHTAR COMMAND. We are all MONITORED and DIRECTED by SUPREME INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY. NO ACTION is taken independent of DIVINE AUTHORITY DIRECTION.

D. An issue of *UFology*, which contains a letter from two people who claim to possess knowledge of UFO phenomena and forthcoming world events.

Dear Editor:

There are indeed “Two Witnesses.” These two have very specific information to give but government agencies, news media, and people in general are reluctant to even listen to them. Nevertheless, and very soon, even before the end of 1977, many shall be enlightened on the UFO phenomena.

The UFOs are reality. The UFOs are manned. The UFOs are extraterrestrial. The UFOs are conducting systematic and explicit reconnaissance of this planet. There is an answer to the UFO enigma and also that answer is vital to the human race on an individual basis. . . .

And of extreme interest to UFO investigators, word came that a UFO will land in Oklahoma City between the date the message was received, which

was June 9, 1976, and December 31, 1977. The UFO will land and pick up two persons. These two will be given information that will upset the entire planet.

E. A batch of materials from a man who claims to possess paranormal powers that were developed within him by intelligent beings from outer space.

F. A leaflet from a woman with information about her methods for communicating with multidimensional intelligence.

G. A letter, and telephone call, from a man whose wife has been receiving regular messages about the language, technology, and people of "ARGENT—Another World."

H. A letter, from a regular correspondent, which contained a message received from her spiritual guides, Prado and Zenith. The message contains information on death and reincarnation and other issues of spiritual development.

I. A letter from a regular correspondent in Argentina who describes a book he has written about the messages he receives on parapsysics and parapsychology.

J. A letter from a regular correspondent who wrote to describe her recent experiences. She has been indexing her messages, which she has been receiving for more than a decade, in categories or topics on the scientific and spiritual development of earth people.

K. A letter from a regular correspondent who describes his psychic impressions—obtained through night dreams—of UFO phenomena, including impressions of persons who claim to have been abducted and examined by UFO occupants. He does not claim to receive "space messages," although he does believe that his impressions are an indication that UFOs are physical craft that are controlled by intelligent beings.

L. Information from a woman who states that a college professor has encouraged her to describe her UFO experiences. She claims that for several years she has been receiving telepathic communications from UFO occupants. At first she was frightened and upset; she became emotionally disturbed and was institutionalized. Now, she wishes

to describe her experiences so that other people will be less frightened if they receive similar messages.

What do these messages mean? Are they "real"? Are they the products of fertile imaginations or of subconscious fears and wishes? Are they the results of lies and hoaxes? Are they communications from intelligent beings from other planets or with higher levels of consciousness?

E. P. Moyer views the evidence as indicating that there are "space people" who provide information through UFO observations and UFO messages; he believes that "space people" want us to know of their presence but not in a manner which would be certain:

They want the evidence to be known but not conclusively, so that we are forced to think and ponder about the reports, but we are always left with a strong element of doubt. . . . We may respond to the celestial activity, but only through deliberate and willful action of our own, not through involuntary reaction to a positive stimulus.

Vallée hypothesizes that UFO activity produces a conditioning effect; he questions whether the UFO phenomenon represents an "open" or "closed" system of control of human consciousness.

Keel has registered his misgivings about the effects of UFO experiences; he argues that UFO activity is leading to a new religion, probably to the detriment of mankind.

Other investigators have attempted to summarize the sources and patterns of messages. Elkins and Rueckert in their fascinating book *Secrets of the UFO* compare the content of messages from many contactees and offer an interpretation of the significance of these communications of the "New Age."

If I may be permitted a fancy, I have assumed that the content of these messages was being summarized by *The Intergalactic Gazette* as follows:

Wake up, Humankind! It's time for graduation! Yes, UFOs have been around for thousands of years. The origin of the UFOs is not so important, but the mission of the UFOs is important. What is the mis-

sion of the UFOs? The mission is to assist humankind through another stage of development—into the New Age!

The news story would continue with a paragraph which paraphrases the Aquarian Revelations as summarized by Brad Steiger:

1. Humans are not alone in the Universe; they have "Space Brothers."
2. Space Brothers have advanced information that Humankind will join in an intergalactic federation.
3. Space Brothers are here to teach, to help humans to rise to higher levels of vibration—new dimensions.
4. Humans stand now in the transitional period of a New Age,
5. Severe earth changes and cataclysms will take place if humans do not raise their vibratory rates. These disasters will not end the earth but they will burn off the dross of unreceptive humanity.

Additional information is provided in the next paragraph of the story:

The timetable of mass landings of spacecraft and direct communications is dependent upon cycle changes—the consciousness of human kind; the timetable is not dependent upon a specific number of years. Knowledge of UFO-nauts, or Space Brothers, is given to humans for informational purposes—not to "bully" or coerce earth people. The appearance of UFO entities and the etheric beings is to assist in the development of humankind; this development proceeds along certain lines: awareness of self and others can be increased through the practice of daily meditation; humans can rediscover long-lost abilities including psychic abilities; humans can create their own worlds of "good" or "evil"; humans can create "miracles" through service to others.

The journalist, anticipating a question from some readers, becomes somewhat melodramatic with the concluding paragraph:

You may ask: "Why do the entities appear at the change of the cycle?" The answer is always the same: "It is time for the earth to be born!" "It is time to return to the souls who are volunteers on earth to become Masters." These "star born" souls—these "apples"—have come to earth in order to help others. Now, it is time to return to the "salted apples." Now, it is time to assist Humankind to raise their level of cosmic consciousness—to raise the frequency of their vibrations. Wake up, Humankind! It's graduation time! Wake Up!

As we turn from the imaginary journalist of *The Intergalactic Gazette*, we face the task of assessing the scientific significance of the "messages from space." What can we conclude?

As Elkins and Rueckert have noted, "The obvious weakness of this contactee information is that evidential proof of its validity is not obtainable. Its strength lies in its sheer bulk and in the similarity of messages produced by sources widely scattered around the world."

My own small studies of the characteristics of UFO percipients lead to the tentative conclusion that the majority of participants are not experiencing neurotic or psychotic reactions which might account for their unusual claims.

I do not know how to examine these claims in terms of traditional scientific approaches; but I believe that the potential significance of these messages is important. (Sometimes I wonder if the story by Clarke, *Childhood's End*, is a precognitive awareness of the UFO answer.) The number of persons who claim to receive these messages apparently is increasing; the contents of the messages are similar, indicating there is a high reliability of the content. Now, it behooves us as UFO investigators to study these messages further, in the hope that we can learn something about their possible validity.

Thus, we can conclude that—regardless of the "truth" of the messages—more and more people are claiming to experience mental communications, telepathic messages,

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