

The FREE Experienter Study is a Paradigm Shifting Moment and Opens the Potential Avenues for Future Research

Brad Steiger

George Ventz, an engineer-physicist, who has followed our work through the years, recently commented:

“There are many dimensions that exist that we cannot see or fathom. From all of the research that I have done over the years it is obvious that beings from other dimensions do visit our planet and have done so for thousands of years. Since they are at a higher evolutionary state, they have the ability to move from their dimension into or through ours very easily.

“They have no desire to harm us or alter our lifestyle. Their points of entry/exit into our dimension are purposely all located deep within our planet’s oceans so they will not be disturbed by any earthlings that have not yet evolved to their intelligence level. They have left hints, instead of personal confrontation, of their presence over thousands of years for us to examine. They have abilities that we cannot ponder or comprehend. They are much wiser than we and realize that they cannot confront us directly with their presence. It will be many years before we realize the facts attributed to other dimensions.”

In the groundbreaking new study conducted by the Dr. Edgar Mitchell Foundation for Research into Extraterrestrial and Extraordinary Experiences (FREE) reveals the first major comprehensive academic research study on individuals who have experienced various contact experience (CE) with a non-human intelligence (NHI) associated with an unidentified aerial phenomenon (UAP). It is important to note that FREE is not a ufology investigative organization. Instead, its goal is to explore all aspects of what they term the “Contact Modalities”, the different ways that humans are having contact with NHI, and how this interaction can begin to provide clues on what is “Consciousness”, the true nature of our complex cosmology.

Thus far, FREE, under the able guidance of a team comprised of the late Apollo Astronaut Dr. Edgar Mitchell, Reinerio (Rey) Hernandez, an attorney and Ph.D. Candidate, Dr. Rudy Schild, an emeritus professor of Astrophysics at Harvard, Dr. Jon Klimo, a retired professor of Psychology and a pioneer paranormal and consciousness researcher, and Australian Researcher Mary Rodwell who has spent over 30 years researching this field. They, and a large group of retired academics and lay researchers, over the last five years, have amassed an astonishing number of comprehensive quantitative and qualitative surveys which address a diverse range of physical, psychological, perceptual, and paranormal aspects based on both physical and non-physical interactions with NHI being. I have had frequent conversations with Rey Hernandez for several years and I have always been impressed with his integrity, his knowledge and his passion for the establishment and mission of FREE. The conversations in which I was privileged to have had with the late Edgar Mitchell always convinced me that a very important *something* had touched his soul while he was in outer space. I am also familiar with the solid reputations of Dr. Schild, Dr. Klimo, and Mary Rodwell as scholars and researchers.

The most exciting aspect to me, a paranormalist, who began researching UAPs in 1963 with the idea that the “Alien Visitors” were an aspect of the spiritual-psychic dimensions, is that we now have a major study that recognizes contact modalities in Near Death Experiences, Out of Body Experiences, Channeling, Remote Viewing, Mystical Meditation, contact with ghosts, visitations by NHI and view all of these as interconnected through what is commonly called Consciousness. What may be the most significant finding of the survey is that approximately 85% of the study population stated that they declared their interaction with the CE changed their life in a positive way.

According to FREE’s co-founder Dr. Edgar Mitchell (2014), FREE is “concerned with how consciousness works and its relation to the origin of life and its current condition, the codependency and interconnectedness of all life with itself and its environment, including the past, present and future evolution of our Universe and everything in it.”

Rey Hernandez has written that he is well aware that The FREE foundation is likely to provoke criticism for its emphasis on the cross comparative academic research of “Experiencers” of the Contact Modalities, but he firmly believes that such techniques may provide insight into the validity of various models of consciousness.

“Once this cross-comparative research has been undertaken among the various Contact Modalities,” he writes, “numerous commonalities may be derived that are shared among all Experiencers of the Contact Modalities. The variables identified by the Experiencers can then be utilized to develop a viable hypothesis for a possible Unification Theory of Consciousness associated with Contact Experiences involving non-human intelligence. Whether or not the QHTC, or one of many other existing scientific theories (Synchronized Universe Model, Unified Space-Memory Network, and Integrated Information Theory, among others) proves to be valid, remains a matter of speculation. This study, therefore, which will be subject to criticism and debate, may serve as an initial important step in a longstanding effort to better understand the very ‘real’ phenomena of individuals that are having UAP related contact with NHI and who experience a range of complex phenomena.”

I agree with Rey’s analysis and for his request for further research in this field. My agreement with Rey and FREE’s approach is discussed below.

The Steiger Questionnaire for Mediums, Psychic Sensitives, and Witnesses to Paranormal Phenomena

In 1967, after having interviewed mediums, psychic sensitives, and witnesses to paranormal phenomena for nine years, I put together a questionnaire of thirty-four questions whose principal objective was to attempt to determine as much information as possible about the inner-workings of these “special people.” One of the main objectives of the questionnaire was to ascertain if there were certain patterns of personality development which might be consistent in evolution of mediumistic and psychic abilities. If it were possible to discover at least a few common denominators, then it might also be possible to understand why some people develop preternatural abilities or the sensitivity to be able to perceive such phenomena as ghosts, poltergeists, UAPs, and visitors from other dimensions.

After I had collected only a few hundred questionnaires, certain factors consistently came to stand out in a great percentage of the responses from those who had participated in the research: As children, they had undergone a series of personal crises or illness that had somehow encouraged psychic experiences. In both children who became ill or in the instances of healthy children, they had their first encounter with an elf, an angel, a holy figure, or an otherworldly being at the age of five to seven.

These elements of childhood encounters became even more prominent as precursors to paranormal abilities and as receptors to the appearance of Visitors when my wife Sherry and I expanded the questionnaire. Due to our lectures, seminars, and media appearances, we began to receive hundreds of requests for the questionnaire. Often, after guesting on national radio talk shows, we would receive as many as 600 requests in the following days. The following may be considered representative of many of these responses:

A clinical and child psychologist from Austin, Texas, wrote that he saw his first angel when he was six. He saw his fourteen-year-old deceased sister the night of her death and spoke with her. Throughout his childhood years and as an adult he reported the sightings of entities of many different types. A special education teacher from Arizona, told us that he was not quite five when a robed figure surrounded by a brilliant light appeared to him one evening at sunset. He claimed that he has benefitted from the entity's continued guidance as a forty-seven year old adult.

A psychic counselor from Florida recalled that figures in lavender robes and hoods with kind, gentle eyes, appeared in her bedroom when she was five. They told her that she had a special mission to undergo before she would be able to return to her true home in the stars. At about the ages of eleven to sixteen, a large number of respondents to our questionnaire suffered a traumatic experience which caused them to turn inward for a time.

Some of those who participated in our research had survived accidents or serious diseases during this period of their lives. Others had endured beatings, molestations, rape, or bullying. Still others were distraught over the divorce of their parents, the death of a loved one, or a sudden move which separated them from the security of established friendships. When she was thirteen, a registered nurse, had an out-of-body experience during an automobile accident that was so intense that it left her without a doubt that we do have a personality-intelligence apart from our physical bodies. This assurance prepared her for the visions of entities that would impart messages to her from that time onward. She described these beings in the following way: "Some appear as white lights, others as softly glowing golden lights. Some as figures dressed in monk-like robe. Others appear in human form, beautiful in face and form, slender, graceful, and perfectly proportioned."

Interestingly, as you may have noticed in the previous chapters discussing the FREE Research Study, a great number of respondents to the questionnaire are professionals who work in the "helping" vocations of our society. They are psychologists, social workers, nurses, medical doctors, chiropractors, school teachers, college professors, journalists, clergymen and clergywomen, police officers, and psychic counselors.

In 1993, the questionnaire first created in 1967 became known as The Steiger Questionnaire of Paranormal, Mystical, UAP Experiences, and it has been returned to us by nearly 20,000 individuals from numerous countries in addition to the USA. Of that number of respondents, 87% indicated that they had experienced the “activating vision” of seeing a paranormal, angelic, or otherworldly being at around the age of five. Also 88%, testified that they had contact with para-dimensional, multidimensional intelligences while undergoing a life-altering event between the ages of six or seven to eleven.

We Have Named Multidimensional Intelligences in the Contact Experience “The Other”

In our research, we have come to name these multidimensional intelligences the “Other,” which masks itself in physical forms that are more acceptable to human perception than its true image--if image it has. The many guises of the Other exist only a frequency away in the background of the unconscious, waiting for some triggering mechanism to bring it into focus.

The so-called collective unconscious of modern psychology is nothing less than a subliminal doorway to that immaterial domain which the physicists are so busily mapping on a different level. Once that doorway has been opened, an as yet unknown psychic mechanism which activates the unconscious mind, the higher self, and summons the Other. Once activated, the Other is able to absorb, reflect, and imitate human intelligence, thereby creating a host of entities that are fashioned by the dramatic by-products of our collective unconscious. Once the Other draws upon a human’s belief construct, it may produce an independent image that can sustain itself on the vagaries of centuries of legend and myth.

In both our past and in contemporary times, those individuals who have encountered the Other may have perceived the Intelligence as an extraterrestrial visitor, a ghost, an angel, an elfin creature, or a demon, a devil, a nightmarish monster have never forgotten the experience. Their lives have never been the same. Their concept of reality has been forever expanded. Upon reflection, some may consider the encounter a life-altering experience, an illumination, an epiphany; but whether the encounter occurred to them a few months ago, a few years ago, or when they were very young children, they remember it as clearly as if no time at all has elapsed. Their experience with the Other remains with them in an Eternal Now.

Through the ages, our shamans, priests, and philosophers have developed innumerable frames of reference in which better to perceive the Other and to assess its various manifestations, presumed intentions, and purported messages and teachings. Through the centuries, the Other and its host of images have been identified as diversely as Messengers from the Most High God, Deceivers from the Master of All Evil, Magical Elves who protect the Earth Mother, and most recently UAP Intelligences.

Hynek's "Metaterrestrial"

Interestingly, in his recent book, *The UFO Experience*, my good friend John White, an explorer of consciousness, whom I first met in the 1970s when he was the Director of Education for Astronaut Ed Mitchell's Institute of Noetic Sciences, states that Dr. J. Allen Hynek, professor of astronomy at Northwestern University, the Air Force's expert in analyzing UAP reports, and the founder of the Center for UFO studies, coined the term "metaterrestrial" to define the entities who originate outside the ordinary three-dimensional space-time framework in which we feel at home.

"The word is synonymous with metaphysical, meaning 'beyond the physical,' White explains, but it has a more scientific connotation to it...Some people call that realm extradimensional, interdimensional, ultraterrestrial and supraphysical. Whatever word we use, this category...provides evidence that some UAP experiences are due to nonphysical, but real entities which come not from other locations in our physical universe but from other sets, of dimensions or other realms which interpenetrate our more familiar space-time." Apparently the FREE organization also suspects that this is a reasonable hypothesis.

Look to the Skies from Whence Cometh Thy Help

It should be no surprise to those familiar with the world's religions and the classical myths of the Greeks and Romans that with the sighting of nine shining objects (UFOs) by Kenneth Arnold over Mt. Ranier on June 24, 1947 the contemporary nations of the world were alerted to what the masses would soon interpret as the presence of visitors from other worlds and that the NHI hypothesis should become the dominant one for so many years. For our terrestrial, earthbound species, the skies above us have always been a source of mysteries, miracles, and wonders. Sunrise brought the glowing orb of the Sun, the clouds, the rain, lightning, thunder. Sunset summoned the Moon, the stars, and on occasion, comets and meteors streaking across the night.

Later, as our species had become more capable of interpreting complex objects traversing the skies, there have always been accounts of mysterious supernatural entities seen riding in fiery chariots, moving within mysterious globes of light, driving strange aerial vehicles, or appearing suddenly blinding flashes of light. These beings -- humanlike in appearance, yet somehow different--always seemed supernatural compared to the struggling and evolving species of *Homo sapiens*. These "Others" have been called Angels, Devas, Light Beings, and, on occasion, demons and devils, as well as gods and overlords. Whatever the name applied, the various activities ascribed to these entities have remained constant through the ages and consistent from culture to culture.

In an analysis of the works of fifty writers of antiquity, W. Raymond Drake, author and scholar, found references to such celestial phenomena as airborne lights, shields, fiery globes, strange ships, and warrior-like "men" with the ability to fly. In addition, he discovered mentions of two or more "moons," two or more "suns," new "stars," falling lights, unknown voices, "gods" descending to Earth, and "men" ascending to the sky. Drake strongly believed that the old gods of Egypt, Greece, Rome, Scandinavia, and Mexico were not simply manifestations of lightning and thunderbolts. "By some strange twist of the human mind," Drake once mused wryly, "we worship prodigies in old Palestine as manifestations of the Lord, yet scoff at identical phenomena occurring at the same time only a few hundred miles away."

If we are able to lower our expectations that every glowing sphere in the sky must come from "outer space," then we may consider the unidentified illuminated objects as "etheric" vehicles, rather than spaceships, and the beings who travel within them, benevolent or otherwise, of multidimensional, rather than of extraterrestrial, origin.

The Skies of the 1950's Became so Alive with Reports of Extraterrestrial Visitors that to Many It Seemed a Prophet Would soon Appear

The skies of the 1950's were so alive with reports of unidentified objects, little gray men, tall blond Nordics, and a host of other entities that those individuals with a tendency toward Armageddon and the coming of the Last Days began to be certain that a prophet was about to appear to reveal what it was the Visitors wished of us. Not only were the skies populated with a variety of what many deemed to be extraterrestrial craft, but more and more individuals were claiming contact with the occupants of such craft.

To many people, the very notion of an extraterrestrial or multidimensional entity contacting an Earthling belongs to the speculations of science fiction writers. Even the majority of researchers who specialize in the study of UAPs seem almost categorically to deny accounts of contact between *Homo sapiens* and alien species. However, reports of occupants sighted near landed UAPs have been carefully analyzed and, in certain dramatic instances, thoroughly documented.

Those Yearning for Answers Receive Their First Prophet

On November 20, 1952, George Adamski walked into the night near Desert Center, California, and claimed to have communicated with a Venusian flying saucer pilot through telepathic transfer. The entity was benign and seemed concerned with the spiritual growth of humankind. He was what George Adamski called "a Space Brother." His description also sounds quite a bit like Klaatu.

Adamski was the first of our New Age UAP prophets; and interestingly, as the prophets of old had retreated into the desert wilderness to receive their inspiration, so had Adamski, by prearranged cosmic signal, gone to meet his Space Brother in the desert. After 1952, there were several other men and women who declared contact with these concerned outer space beings. Throughout his career as a Contactee, Adamski's believers steadfastly declared him to be one of the most saintly of men, completely devoted to the teachings of universal laws.

The death of George Adamski on April 12, 1965, by no means terminated the heated controversy which had never stopped swirling around the prolific and articulate Contactee. Adamski was quickly resurrected by his followers. In the book *Scoriton Mystery* by Eileen Buckle, a Contactee named Ernest Bryant claims to have met three spacemen on April 24, 1965, one of whom was a youth named Yamski, whose body already housed the reincarnated spirit of George Adamski.

The Psychic-Channeling Saucer Groups

By the mid-1950s, very few Contactees were claiming the kind of direct physical contact that George Adamski had alleged had been his on the desert, but the "psychic-channeling saucer groups" were becoming increasingly approved by the faithful.

George Van Tassel and Ashtar

George Van Tassel published his first booklet in 1952 and introduced the world to "Ashtar, commandant of station Schare." *Schare* is said to be one of several saucer stations in Blaau, the fourth sector of Bela, into which our solar system is moving. "Shan" was the name that Van Tassel's contact gave for planet Earth. Van Tassel's Ashtar also decreed the universe to be ruled by the Council of Seven Lights, which had divided the Cosmos into sector systems and sectors. Van Tassel founded the Ministry of Universal Wisdom based on his revelations of the Space Brothers. Tassel maintained his headquarters at Giant Rock, California, for many years, and he made it a gathering place for both the curious and the true believers.

Daniel Fry and A-Lan, Understanding Incorporated

Daniel Fry (1908-1992) established his Understanding Incorporated in 1955 as a means of better spreading the teachings of A-Lan, whom Fry claimed to have met on his first trip in a UAP. Fry remains active as a lecturer, and has directed one of the largest of the Flying Saucer Movement groups, containing over sixty units.

George King and Master Aetherius, The Aetherius Society

In 1954, George King, a devout student of Christianity, world religions, and Yoga, received a message from a space being while in deep meditation informing him that he would soon receive a message from the Interplanetary Parliament. In 1955, the 35-year-old Englishman was informed by Master Aetherius, a 3,500-year-old Venusian that he was to become the human voice of the cosmic masters in order to instruct earth people in ancient truths. In 1955, George King was named the "Primary Terrestrial Mental Channel" by Master Aetherius of Venus, tasked with sharing the teachings of the Interplanetary Parliament, they fully revealed themselves to the planet at large. In 1956, together with a number of men and women who had been drawn to the teachings King conveyed, he formed the Aetherius Society in London, England. By 1960, King and the Aetherius Society had spread their Cosmic Gospel throughout the British Isles, as well as the United States, and an American headquarters was established in Hollywood, California. Soon, they had branches in Detroit, Michigan; Australia; and West Africa.

Prophets of a New Age on Earth

UAP Contactees often speak of an impending New Age wherein humankind will attain a new consciousness, a new awareness, and a higher state or frequency of vibration. They speak of each physical body being in a state of vibration and of all things vibrating at their individual frequencies.

The UAP intelligences, they say, come from higher dimensions all around us which function on different vibratory levels, just as there are various radio frequencies operating simultaneously in our environment. We can attune ourselves to these higher dimensions in much the same manner as a radio receiver tunes into the frequencies of broadcasting stations. Different entities travel on various frequencies, according to their vibratory rate.

Then the question arises whether such information comes from the Contactee's own higher self or from a separate and distinct outside intelligence. Although most of the Contactees claim an initial physical contact with a space being, the operable mechanics of the experience seem very reminiscent of what we have come to see in traditional Spiritualism and in New Age channeling as the medium working with a Spirit guide or

a control from the "otherside" or from other worlds. In Spiritualistic or mediumistic channeling, we are familiar with the psychic sensitive who goes into various depths of the trance state and who relays information through the guide, who contacts various spirits of deceased human personalities. The mechanism in the Flying Saucer Movement is very often that of the Contactee going into some state of trance and channeling information from Space Beings.

The Flying Saucer Missionaries

Ever since 1970 we have been conducting a serious study of certain Contactees, whom we call "flying-saucer missionaries." It is at this point that we feel that we must make a disclaimer of sorts and state that we have found the vast majority of Contactees to be congenial and all around good people. We have maintained friendships with a number of them for over forty years. We have visited them in their homes, shared meals with them, and, in turn, many of them have been guests in our home.

Through the years, although we have always questioned their source, we have noted that some the information dispensed in the Contactees' cosmic sermonettes has contained a good deal of accurate information and that several of their predictions have been realized. For us, the process of channeling is exactly the same whether the medium/Contactee identifies the source as Shooting Star or Billingsly or Monka from Mars or Ashtar from the Cosmos.

The flying-saucer Contactees are convinced that they are in direct communication with "space intelligences" through telepathic thought-transference. In certain cases, the Contactee also claims a personal and physical relationship with a beneficent "Space Being," who originated the contact.

The UAP Contactees' Manifesto

A good many of the Contactees seem to be imbued with an almost religious fervor to spread the message that has been given to them by the Space Beings. The zeal with which these flying-saucer missionaries desire to preach the cosmic gospel might remind some readers of the passion of the early Apostles of the New Testament who believed that they were given a divine mission to "go quickly and tell." A distillation of the Outer Space Manifesto would reveal such concepts as the following:

•Humankind is not alone in the solar system. Space brothers and Sisters have come to Earth to reach and to teach those humans who will respond to the promise of a larger universe.

•The Space Beings have advanced information which they wish to impart to their weaker brethren. They want humankind to join an intergalactic spiritual federation.

•The Space Beings are here to teach, to help awaken the human spirit to help humankind rise to higher levels of vibration so that the people of Earth may be ready to enter new dimensions.

•Humankind stands now in the transitional period before the dawn of a New Age.

•If the Earthlings should not raise their vibratory rate within a set period of time, severe earth changes and major cataclysms will take place.

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In my book, *Revelation: The Divine Fire*, I sought to make the point that the spiritual mechanism remains the same age after age by likening UAP Contactees to familiar personalities from the Bible:

Saul, a young firebrand, a member of the Sanhedrin who were dedicated to halting the Apostles' preaching of Christ, was struck, blind on the road to Damascus. When he recovered his sight by heeding instructions given to him in a vision, he not only changed his name, his religion, and his life's work, but he may have altered the course of history.

In like manner were a salesman in South Dakota, a businessman in New Jersey, and a policeman in Nebraska temporarily blinded by a strange and powerful light that appeared above them as they traveled lonely highways. When they recovered their sight, they changed their names, their occupations, and began to devote their lives to the preaching of peace, love, brotherhood, and the coming transition to higher dimensions.

The boy Samuel heard his name being called at night. When no earthly voice could be found responsible, Eli, the priest whom Samuel would one day succeed, told the lad that it must be the Lord calling. Samuel was told to lie down and say, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth." When Samuel did this, the Lord came and stood before him. Samuel became the last of the judges, the first of the prophets, and as founder of the monarchy, the sole ruler between Eli and Saul, whose principal mission was the organization of the Kingdom of Israel.

In like manner, did a housewife in Colorado hear her name being called at night from a glowing orb of light in the sky. When no earthly voice could be found responsible, she opened herself to the instructions that she had begun hearing from the orb. Now, a few months later, she is practicing touch healing, speaking in a tongue that confounds academic linguists, providing spiritual lessons to an ever-growing flock, and prophesying on both an international and a personal level.

Ezekiel saw a wheel within a wheel land before him. He watched four angelic occupants emerge, and he felt the Spirit enter him when one of the beings spoke to him. From that day on, Ezekiel had the gift of prophecy and the ability to work miracles.

In like manner a television copywriter in California, an Air Force pilot in Florida, and a college girl in Washington observed the landings of unknown aerial vehicles. They communicated with the occupants, felt the Spirit enter them, and later discovered that they had remarkable precognitive and clairvoyant abilities.

Moses spoke to the angel of the Lord as it appeared in a pillar of flame near a wilderness bush. The voice from the fire assured Moses of Divine aid and the power to work miracles.

In like manner a voice from a glowing orb spoke to an artist from England, a clergyman from Illinois, and a sailor from Kentucky and promised them paranormal abilities. All have since forsaken their former callings and have devoted their lives to cleansing the Earth for the coming New Age.

Close Encounters of the Third Kind

It was Dr. J. Allen Hynek who coined the term "close encounters of the third kind" to classify an interaction between a citizen of Earth and the humanoid occupant of a UAP. Hynek, who was responsible for categorizing UAP sightings (sightings of the first kind, second kind, third kind, and fourth kind), was technical advisor to Steven Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Hynek also appeared in the scene when the alien UFO lands atop Devil's Tower.

Hynek investigated over 80,000 reports of unidentified flying objects from over 161 countries worldwide. He was so dedicated to trying to find an answer to the UAP controversy that when the Air Force's Bluebook study was terminated, Hynek founded the nonprofit Center for UFO Studies based in Evanston, Illinois. Later, he founded a second office, the Center for UFO Research, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Sherry Hansen Steiger was honored to have worked closely with Hynek during the last years of his life, serving as his assistant and publicist. Through her work with Hynek, Sherry was privy to much information and insight into the incredible and often bizarfield of UFOlogy.

Hynek told Sherry that the UAP reports which came into Project Bluebook that seemed to have the most substantial information to investigate were removed from his hands. As a matter of fact, he was sometimes ordered to make up cover-up stories to steer the public away from any UAP suspicions. Of the 80,000 cases in Bluebook files, over 10,000 were "actual UFOs." Or in other words, phenomena that could not be explained away to the public as weather balloons, aircraft, or natural phenomenon-- they were true unidentified flying objects.

Hynek was impressed by the caliber and sincerity of the people who reported the cases he investigated firsthand: "Worldwide, people who report UAPs have *definitely* seen something, but the fact remains that more people do not report what they have seen or experienced for fear of ridicule."

Always quick to point out that with the information available, no one has been able to prove whether or not the sightings were alien spaceships or some unknown earthly phenomenon. "The sightings and descriptions display a strange universal consistency that adds to the mystery," Hynek told Sherry. She recalls that before the day of Internet and instant international communication she witnessed hundreds of drawings made by UAP and aliens witnesses from nearly every country on the planet. By far, the majority of the drawings were of the dark-eyed, large-headed Gray, regardless of which country the sighting originated.

The Abduction of Betty and Barney Hill: Cosmic Kidnappers Who Conducted Brutal Medical Examinations

During the last half of the 20th century, a new type of extraordinary encounter garnered the attention of the public, book authors, and researchers alike: encounters of ordinary people with NHIs, referred to in Ufology as Extraterrestrials (ETs), often in the presence of a UAP. The first widely publicized case was that of Barney and Betty Hill, a couple from New Hampshire who claimed they had been kidnapped by ETs, taken aboard

a flying saucer, and subjected to painful medical procedures. Their experience became public when notes from confidential interviews with investigators and a psychiatrist who helped them recall details under hypnosis were obtained by a reporter and disclosed in a 1965 newspaper article. This report was followed one year later by a book by John Fuller, (1966) and a 1975 television film *The UFO Incident*. Following the Hill case, many more individuals came forward publicly to report similar kinds of contact experiences.

FREE has not overlooked the alien abduction experience. The alien abduction field of study became known as “alien abduction research” or research into the alien abduction phenomenon (AAP). FREE is fully cognizant of the large number of terrifying anecdotes of strange-looking beings invading bedrooms in the dark of night to “abduct” people and subject them to medical procedures. These alien abduction stories fired the fears and imaginations of thousands of readers and inspired numerous 21st century horror movies.

According to FREE, “A standard alien abduction narrative evolved in which strange beings appear, paralyze the “victim,” transport him or her to a perceived physical craft, perform frightening medical procedures that may entail a hybrid breeding program, and/or insertions of alien implants. These individuals are then returned to their homes, sometimes with strange marks upon their body. The entire research field of UAP contact with NHI was primarily associated with a forced horrific abduction by an evil and negative ET. Whitley Strieber, an American writer best known for his horror novels, wrote *Communion* (1987), a non-fiction account of his alleged horrific abduction experiences with what he calls “The Visitors,” helped to perpetuate this worldview of the negative and horrific AAP.

With the success of Strieber’s book, FREE notes, “Positive experiences resulting from UAP contact with NHI were largely disregarded by the general Ufology community and the motion picture industry. The positive encounters presented by Harvard psychiatrist John Mack, academic clinical psychologists Leo Sprinkle and Jon Klimo, and researchers Mary Rodwell and Barbara Lamb were largely ignored. The publications of David Jacobs, Bud Hopkins, and Whitley Strieber, however, were prominently featured in the varied Ufology conferences, in Ufology radio shows and are still prominently featured throughout the internet and YouTube.”

Fortunately, FREE has focused on the important work of one academic who deviated from this evil alien abduction narrative during this time period, Dr. Kenneth Ring, a professor of psychology at the University of Connecticut and probably the world’s leading academic researcher on near death experiences, NDEs. In 1992, Ring published one of the few statistical studies on UAP abductees, titled: *The Omega Project: Near-Death Experiences, UFO Encounters, and Mind at Large* (Ring, 1992).

Ring interviewed and administered a battery of psychological tests and structured questionnaires to 97 individuals who had UAP related abduction experiences with NHI and a separate 74 individuals that had undergone a NDE. According to Ring, both the CE with UAP (N=97) and NDE (N=74) subject groups manifested very similar positive behavioral transformations despite their uniquely different experiences. Both groups also underwent a profound psychological profile changes for the positive from their experiences.

The following psychological attributes increased significantly in both the CE with UAP, and NDE groups: concern with spiritual matters, desire to help others, compassion for others, ability to love others, concern with the welfare of the planet, conviction that there is life after death, tolerance of others, and insight to the problems of others, among other characteristics. Unfortunately, Ring's book and his historic research findings from his 1992 book were largely ignored by the field of Ufology and alien abduction researchers.

It is important to note that the FREE Experiencer Research Study incorporated approximately 100 questions from Dr. Ring's study. The FREE findings, based on more than 4,200 respondents to their surveys from over 100 countries, validated the research findings of Dr. Kenneth Ring. The vast majority, approximately 85% of survey respondents, view their experiences as positive and also had profound positive behavioral transformations. Once again, these findings were consistent throughout the more than 3,000 respondents for these diverse countries. The FREE study also found that more than two thirds of individuals who claimed to have had an "alien abduction" now call themselves "Contactees".

Other Research Groups Are Responding to the Need for New Approaches to the Paranormal

It is interesting to note that other groups of researchers and scholars are recognizing the need for a less materialistic approach to an examination of the paranormal. On February 7-9, 2014, a group of internationally known scientists from a variety of fields, such as biology, neuroscience, and medicine, met at Canyon Ranch in Tucson, Arizona, for a summit on post materialist science, spirituality, and society. The gathering was co-organized by Gary E. Schwartz, and Mario Beauregard, and Lisa Miller.

The purpose of the summit was to evaluate the “impact of the materialist ideology on science and the emergence of a post-materialist paradigm for society, spirituality, and society.” The result of this meeting of top scientists was the creation of “The Manifesto for a Post-Materialist Science” prepared by Beauregard, Schwartz, and Miller in collaboration with Larry Dossey, Alexander Moreira-Almeida, Marilyn Schlitz, Rupert Sheldrake, and Charles Tart. The Manifesto is composed of Eighteen Conclusions, the most relevant to theme of this chapter is reflected in Number Nine:

Studies of the so-called “psi phenomena” indicate that we can sometimes receive meaningful information without the use of ordinary senses, and in ways that transcend the habitual space and time constraints. Furthermore, psi research demonstrates that we can mentally influence—at a distance—physical devices and living organisms (including other human beings). Psi research also shows that distant minds may behave in ways that are nonlocally correlated, i.e. the correlations between distant minds are hypothesized to be unmediated (they are not linked to any known energetic signal), unmitigated (they do not degrade with increasing distance), and immediate (they appear to be simultaneous). These events are so common that they cannot be viewed as anomalous nor as exceptions to natural laws, but as indications of the need for a broader explanatory framework that cannot be predicated exclusively on materialism.

FREE Reaches “Beyond UFOs” Focusing on the Science of Contact with Non-Human Intelligence

As the precepts of FREE emphasize, “It is important to note that FREE does not claim to provide a definitive explanation of this phenomenon (Contact with non human intelligence). The research objective is to simply present the study results to facilitate discussion and continued multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research in this area. This research is just a very important and paradigm changing initial step in a long process to better understand what governs and regulates the ‘Contact Experience’.”

“It is also hoped that this (research) will help others to better understand a unique and profound personal event which may have facilitated pronounced behavioral and psycho-spiritual (i.e., states of awareness and values such as ethical, aesthetic, humanitarian, and altruistic) outcomes in Contact Experiencers.”

In the coming months and years FREE will investigate deeply into the role of human conscious, the unconscious, the collective unconscious, and the latent human abilities—the powers that are our very own that will enable us to better understand our other dimensional visitors...and ourselves.

Brad Steiger's 17 Theories of the UFO Enigma

Brad Steiger

Sometime in the late 1960s or early '70s, Tim Beckley asked me to present my favorite theory of UFOs for one of his publications. I told my friend Tim that it was impossible for me to select one above many others, so I submitted 17 possible solutions to the UFO enigma:

1. They come from an extraterrestrial civilization: While it seems likely that the visitors have had Earth under surveillance for centuries, they most often choose to conduct their activities in secret, perhaps even misleading humankind and deliberately misleading us for some undetermined reason, such as one of the following:

* They are a benign species that follow a policy of noninterference in our planet's evolutionary development.

* They are largely indifferent to us as a species and dispassionately observe and study our planet's evolutionary struggles.

* They are in the final stages of conducting important tests that will determine whether they will destroy us, exploit us ruthlessly, or totally enslave us. It is this category of visitors who conduct human abductions and who have made secret deals with certain levels of Earth's governments - agreements that they may break with extreme prejudice.

2. Military Secret Hypothesis: The entire concept of alien spaceships, "invaders from Outer Space," was created by military intelligence to mask highly classified research being conducted at such bases as Area 51.

* Or -- The "aliens" are actually our own military scientists conducting secret maneuvers with highly classified aerial vehicles based on captured Nazi technology brought to the United States immediately after World War II in Project Paperclip.

* Or -- The crews of UFOs are terrestrial astronauts conducting secret military maneuvers with classified aerial vehicles based on alien technology reversed engineered from alien technology recovered in extraterrestrial vehicle crash sites, such as that near Roswell, NM in 1947.

3. The UFOs are products of a terrestrial secret society: Centuries ago, a secret society of alchemists developed an advanced technology, which they kept hidden in underground or undersea cities. This ancient society has been subtly guiding Earth's "elite" throughout history, and when it deemed the proper times, it provided certain "outsiders" with scientific breakthroughs. This mighty secret society only awaits the appropriate moment to conquer the outside world and enslave it.

4. They come from the Hollow Earth: Ancient secret societies, traditions, and folklore speak of an underground empire inside our planet. This underground world is the home of the Master Race, both feared and sought after by occult societies throughout world history. This shadow race has been responsible for the appearance of mysterious aerial vehicles and many of miseries that have plagued humankind.

5. A program of deceit and lies: A secret agency within the established government, allied with its counterparts in foreign nations, has created the UFO myth for its own nefarious purpose in bringing about a New World Order. Abductions, impregnations, and mysterious disappearances are all the sinister handiwork of those working for a One World Government - a goal which may have been assisted since ancient times by extraterrestrial intelligence.

6. Unknown terrestrial life-forms: Great numbers of UFO sightings may be explained by the existence of previously unknown, unidentified life-forms largely indigenous to the higher reaches of Earth's atmosphere. The "sky-critters," the "sky fish," may be plasmic, electrical, nearly pure energy forms that have the ability to assume a variety of forms.

7. Astronauts from Atlantis: The UFOonauts are the descendents of an ancient civilization on Earth that developed space travel and set about colonizing other worlds at the time when their own terrestrial empire was being destroyed by cataclysmic forces wrought by their own superscience. From time to time, the contemporary Atlanteans return to visit their home planet.

8. Time Travelers from the Future: Our descendents from the future return to study the true destiny of humankind by using the past - our present - as a kind of living museum. They cannot openly declare themselves for fear of up-setting the linear flow of history and thus altering the future - their present.

9. Other Dimensional Visitors: The Visitors come not from a faraway world in our solar system or any other, but from an adjacent space-time continuum, co-existing here on Earth, but on another vibrational/dimensional frequency or level.

10. Psychic Phenomena: The UFO phenomenon is the result of some as yet unknown physical energy that can be activated by the psyche, the unconscious level of the human mind. This physical law or energy would not itself be intelligent, but it would be able to absorb, reflect, or imitate human intelligence.

11. Projections of human beliefs: The UFO enigma is a phenomenon of the collective human psyche that charges to reflect the prevailing belief structures of the time. The UFO constitutes a parapsychical phenomenon that is related both to the psychological state of the observer and the zeitgeist which enmeshes the observer.

12. Psychic need: Certain of humankind's basic psychic needs tap into psychokinetic and other paranormal energies and create images of wee people, holy figures, and otherworldly beings. The familiar forms that these manifestations assume have been intrinsic elements in the human psyche since very ancient times, but they appear modern in that human experiences perceive them in the context of ideas that the conscious mind has acquired through acculturation.

13. Archetypes: UFOs and their occupants are quasi-real images created by the human collective unconscious. Jungian archetypes surface as the result of thought-field energies that are accessible to humans through dreams, meditations, and other states of altered consciousness. These archetypes may, in certain instances, be directed by highly evolved entities who seek to influence and guide human affairs.

14. The Magic Theater: Such paranormal machinations that we associate with UFO phenomena are the result of the "magical" manipulations of time and space that are performed by the entities we have dubbed "elves, fairies, devas," and so forth. These entities are parapsychical beings that have coexisted with us as a companion species and appear to participate somehow with us in an evolutionary design.

15. The Supernatural: The UFO intelligences are the same entities who are described in the scriptures of so many world religions as angels - both the messengers of God and the fallen armies of Lucifer. The entire UFO mystery may be the continuation of the struggle between the two warring factions of angels for the souls of humankind.

16. We are property: The UFO intelligences maintain an interest in our planet because they are literally the lords of the Earth, the creators of the human species.

17. The Reality Game: The UFO intelligence is playing a teaching game with humankind in which our concept of reality is being gradually changed. In the teasing fashion of a Zen riddle or a Sufi joke, we are being provoked and guided into a higher consciousness.

Bio: Brad Steiger passed away in 2018. Before his passing, he was known as the world's greatest authority of what is commonly called the "Paranormal". Brad was the author of over 175 books with over 17 million copies in print. His titles include; "Mysteries of Time and Space", "Real Ghosts, Restless Spirits and Haunted Places", "Conspiracies and Secret Societies: The Complete Dossier", "Touched by Heaven's Light", "American Indian Medicine Power", "Strangers from the Skies", "Project Bluebook", "The Rainbow Conspiracy", "Real Encounters, Different Dimensions and Otherworldly Beings," and many more. Brad began publishing articles on the unexplained in 1956; since then, he has written more than 2,000 paranormal themed articles. From 1970-73, his weekly newspaper column, "The Strange World of Brad Steiger", was carried domestically in over 80 newspapers and overseas from Bombay to Tokyo. He was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, on February 19, 1936. He was married to Sherry Hansen Steiger, author and co-author of over 22 books. They had two sons, three daughters, and ten grandchildren. Keep up with Brad and Sherry at their website: **www.bradandsherry.com**.