

Subject: Cons. Jouranl. Part 6 of 6.

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This talks about a planet called The B-ack Knight.

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Working on the assumption that the signals constituted some intelligible message, Lunan proceeded to try to crack what he envisaged as a coded pattern. His report, published in the April 1973 issue of Spaceflight, is extremely complex and has to be read in the original to be appreciated. But what it boils down to is a graphical diagram of the constellations of the northern hemisphere - a picture that contains one startling incongruity: the binary star epsilon Bootis is wrongly aligned. Using astronomical measuring techniques, Lunan has deduced that the binary star appears in his diagram as it would have been 13,000 years ago - a hint that this was the time when the probe first reached our solar system.

Unfortunately for Mr. Lunan, there are a number of serious objections that can be raised to his theory. First and most serious as Robert S-eaffer has pointed out in his book The UFO verdict - Lunan's map does not correctly represent the echoes published by van der Pol, as Lunan claims. And, even allowing for alterations in the positions of epsilon Bootis that Lunan claims, the map is only a very crude approximation to the actual positions of the stars in the Bootis region. As Sh-affer says, 'one would not think it too difficult for advanced, space-faring civilization to make its interstellar probes capable of transmitting its star maps correctly.'

But perhaps the most da-ming indictment of Lunan's theorizing is his own reaction to criticism. If the map does not depict the stars of the constellation Bootis, then perhaps, he argues, it is the constellation Cetus - an extraordinary claim, given that Lunan once believed that the map showed the epsilon Bootis solar system down to the smallest moon, and that epsilon Bootis is a double sun whereas tau'Ceti is single, something that one would expect to be apparent from so detailed a map.

But Mr John Stonely of the London Enquirer, at least, has taken Lunan's claims seriously enough to calculate mathematical odds, of 10,000 to 1, against delayed echoes producing such a diagram merely by chance. Of the nature of the probe, Stonely writes that it must be some kind of incomparably advanced computer. 'As soon as the existence of the probe is definitely established, we should interrogate it...it might lead to the release of information from its certainly immense store of data.'

In 1953, four years before the U.S.S.R. launched Sputnik I, an object of unknown origin was sighted by Dr Lincoln La Paz of the University of New Mexico orbiting the earth. As more reports of sightings trickled in from around the world, the U.S. Department of Defense appointed distinguished astronomer Clyde W. Tombaugh (best known for his discovery of the dwarf 'planet' of Pluto in 1930) to run a search for the mystery object. The blip became known as "B-ack Knight". The P-ntagon never formally released the results of Dr Tombaugh's study.

No more was heard about the object until December, 1957, when Dr Luis Corralos of the Communications Ministry in Venezuela photographed it. The first modern satellites, Sputnik I & 2, had been launched just a few months earlier. Dr Corralos was taking pictures of the second of these modern marvels as it passed over Caracas, and his photos caught the unknown object shadowing the Russian craft.

"Bl-ck Knight" was observed once again in 1960, this time by one of the stations that formed the Northern American Air

Defense System. The object was in a polar orbit, something that neither the Americans or Soviets were capable of at the time. Several times larger and heavier than anything capable of being launched with 1960, rockets, it shouldn't have been there, but it was. The observance sent panic through the U.S. military. Not only did the intelligence agencies have no idea that the USSR had launched a new satellite, nothing in their reports on Soviet space activity suggested they had the capacity to place an object into a polar orbit, or to launch something that was estimated to be in excess of 15 tons. The military scientists were horrified, since they were at least four years away from achieving polar orbits and getting payloads that large into space.

Similar waves of shock and anxiety were spreading through the Soviet ranks. They had not launched the satellite and knew they were years away from being able to accomplish such a feat, they also knew that the Americans could not do it either. No one knew where it came from, but it was definitely there.

In 1960 Radio Astronomer Ronald Bracewell of Stanford University speculated on life elsewhere in the galaxy. An article published in Nature offered the theory that an advanced civilization might not necessarily use long-range radio signals to communicate with other intelligent beings. Such signals would be considerably weakened over interstellar distances. Instead, Bracewell said, those far-off beings might employ robot space probes as their message bearers. Sent to a promising nearby star, such a vehicle could swing into an orbit around it at approximately the right distance to encounter a planet with life-supporting temperatures. If it picked up telltale radio signals, the probe might then bounce them back to advertise its presence, thereby producing an effect like the echoes of the 1920s. Finally, as its first message, the robot might transmit a picture of the area of the heavens from which it came.

Source: TG Daily
<http://www.tgdaily.com/space-features/59509-alien-probes-could-be-within-solar-system-say-researchers>

- S-CRET MESSAGES DEPARTMENT -

Hidden Face of the Devil Discovered in Giotto Fresco

The smirking face of the Devil has been discovered hidden in a fresco by the Italian medieval artist Giotto after remaining undetected for more than 700 years in the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi.

The Satanic image went unnoticed until now because it is artfully hidden in the folds of a cloud and is invisible from ground level.

The discovery of the face, in a fresco which depicts the death of St Francis, was made by Chiara Frugoni, a medievalist and an expert on the saint.

"It's a powerful portrait, with a hooked nose, sunken eyes and two dark horns," Ms Frugoni said in an article in a forthcoming issue of the St Francis art history periodical.

"The significance of the image still needs to be delved into. In the Middle Ages it was believed that demons lived in the sky and that they could impede the ascension of human souls to Heaven.

"Until now it was thought that the first painter to use clouds in this way was Andrea Mantegna, with a painting of St Sebastian from 1460, in which high up in the sky there's a cloud from which a knight on horseback emerges. Now we know that Giotto was the first (to use this technique)."

Sergio Fusetti, the head of the restoration work in the basilica, said the devil face may have been a dig at somebody the artist had quarrelled with.

Claudio Strinati, an art historian, said it was not unusual for Renaissance artists to include hidden meanings in their works. "Paintings often had two facets - an explicit one and an implicit one."

Millions of pilgrims and tourists have trooped through the basilica in Assisi, in Umbria, since the fresco was painted in

the 13th century without noticing the devil's face.

It was only discovered during restoration of the fresco, the 20th in a series of images of St Francis's life and death by Giotto.

Born near Florence in the late Middle Ages, Giotto di Bondone became one of the most important figures of the Early Renaissance.

Among his most celebrated works are a series of frescoes in Padua, frescoes and altarpieces in Santa Croce church in Florence and a painting of the Madonna which is on display in Florence's Uffizi Galleries.

Source: The Telegraph

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/art/art-news/8872780/Smirking-face-of-the-Devil-discovered-in-Giotto-fresco.html>

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