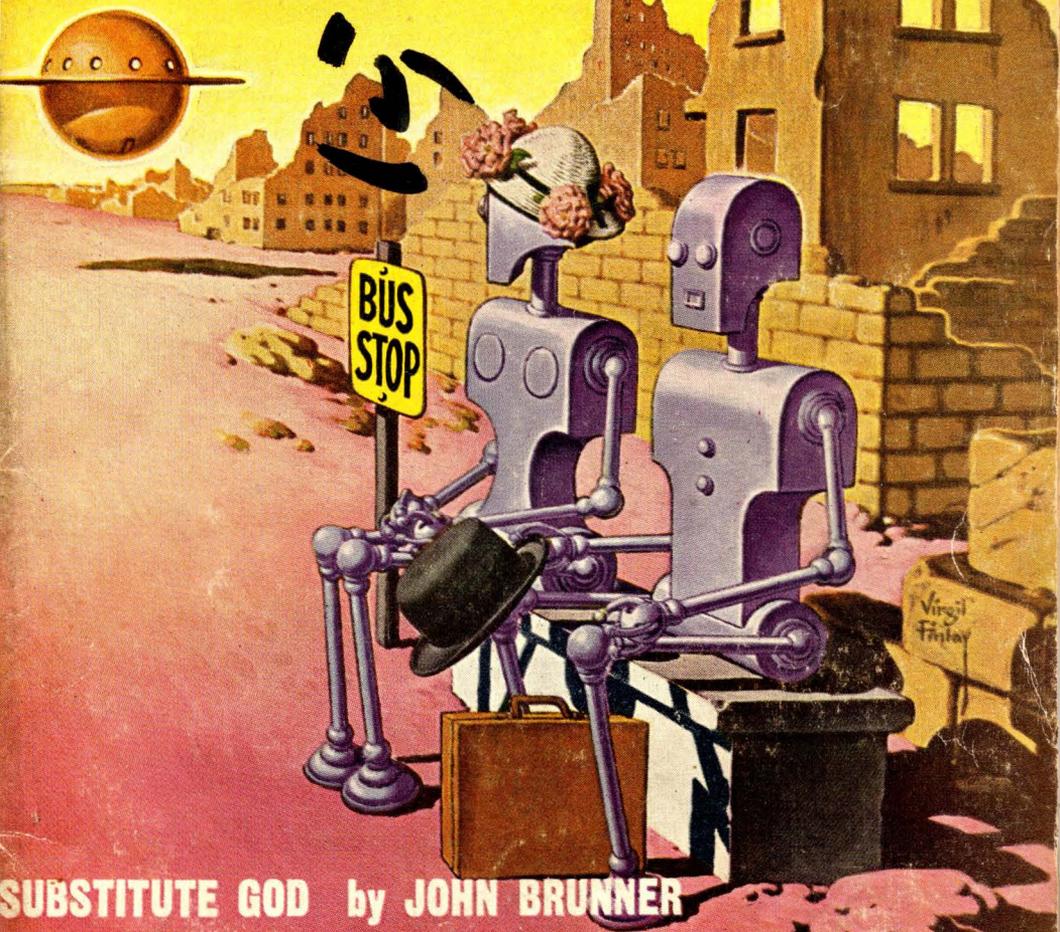


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report from brazil

by . . . Dr. Olavo Fontes

Another report on the little men who keep turning up in stories, here and abroad, of UFO landings. Who are they?

FLYING saucers do not exist . . .

The Air Force has told you that dozens of times. The scientists have already given a dozen or more different explanations, "proving" that most of the reports have been found to be caused by identifiable objects or phenomena. One of them even published a book about saucers—showing that, always, there is the simple, rational explanation. He didn't know perhaps that the story of science is full of simple, rational explanations of the same kind; those that are no more than beliefs. For example: the atom is a hard little particle like a marble, but unbelievably small; the meteorites are not stones fallen from the sky, because they obviously cannot float in the air and beyond the air there is the void; light and other radiations are carried by the ether, etc.

If you believe in Dr. Menzel or in Air Force statements, do not read this story. Because it is concerned with the strange events that took place on December 9 and 11, 1954, at the same hour, in Venancio Aires county, Rio Grande do Sul, in Brazil. There, two farmers who lived in the same area, walked into something unknown. They witness-

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ed the landing of two of these "imaginary" saucers and met some "space-beings." In one of the encounters the "Visitors" seemed to be human—or almost. In the other, they were only humanoids, grotesque little men with no faces.

See if you can laugh about these "hallucinations."

On the evening of December 9, 1954, a farmer named Olmiro da Costa e Rosa, who lives in a place called "Linha Bela Vista," about two and a half miles from the town of Venancio Aires, Rio Grande do Sul, witnessed the landing of an alien craft on a cultivated field where he was working. What came next will be described in his own words, from his report to special investigators sent by the State Government. In the presence of the authorities, after a long interview, he told the following story (transcribed verbatim):

"On December 9, 1954, at 5:00 p.m., I was mowing in a French-bean and maize field when I heard a strange noise, resembling that of a sewing-machine. At the same time, the animals in the nearby pasture ran away hastily. Raising my body, bent over my hoe working on the ground, I saw a stranger. He was very near, just looking at me. Then I also noticed, at a small distance from the place I was, a craft shaped like an explorer's hat. It was of a cream color, protected by a kind of transparent smoke, and was not in contact with the ground. The

unknown engine was stopped in mid-air, motionless, at about five feet above the ground. A strong smell was coming from it, a smell that can be compared to that of the smoke expelled by steam-locomotives using coal as fuel.

"It was then that I observed, behind the first man, two other human figures: one was inside the craft with his head outside; another was more distant, close to the fence, and apparently doing a careful examination of the barbed-wire. On the top of the craft I saw three holes, but I don't know how the two men came out because I didn't see it.

"I was scared. I tried to cry for help but no sound came from my throat. I couldn't even move my legs to run away, the fear was paralyzing. The hoe fell from my hands . . .

"The stranger made a greeting gesture, which looked like a military compliment, followed by a sad smile. Afterward, he kneeled down to get the hoe, looked at it from all sides, turning the tool deftly with the hands. After studying it carefully, he gave me it again, i.e., he placed again the hoe in my hands. Then, he picked up from the soil French-bean and maize plants (he rooted out a sample of each) and, without a word, left toward the craft—apparently no longer interested in my problems.

"Seeing that there was nothing to be feared, I controlled my nerves and walked toward the craft. But

my movements were attentively observed by the man who was inside the craft. He was watching me carefully all the time, but did nothing to stop me. But the other, the one who was still at the fence, more distant, made a negative sign toward me—clearly showing that I was not allowed to come closer of the machine. I stopped, of course, and decided to go toward the fence, to see what he was doing there. He was studying the wires with the eyes and fingers, making a careful examination.

"Some sheep that had run away at the beginning, were now coming back and approaching the place. I saw that the stranger was looking at them with a great interest. With words and gestures, I asked if he accepted one of them—as a gift. The stranger seemed to understand and answered with a negative sign.

"After this, I don't know how to tell, because things happened fast, but they went back to the craft, disappeared inside it—and suddenly I was alone. . . . The alien craft took off vertically, climbing up about thirty feet. Then it accelerated brusquely and flashed away obliquely through the sky, at great speed, vanishing toward the west.

"The three men can be described as beings of medium stature, broad-shouldered, blond and with long hair which blowed in the wind. The faces were so similar that they might be taken, easily, as twins. They didn't look like normal persons because of their slanted eyes

and their pallid faces. The pallor of their skin was so intense, in fact, that their faces looked like those of "corpses." They appeared, however, to be strong.

"These strange men were dressed in light brown clothes, which were one-piece garments like overalls, or uniform. The trousers were close-fitted and seemed to be linked with the shoes. The shoes were odd; they had no heels—the footprints they left in the earth showed this clearly.

"The whole thing lasted approximately five minutes. The alien craft was large and might have, perhaps, a diameter of about fifty feet. It appeared to be made of a yellow metal, very light (in color), and shining brightly (in spite of the yellow color).

"After the take-off, I searched the ground at the area above which the craft was stopped all the time. I found nothing.

"The smell of burning coal (fossil-coal) remained, for some time, in the air after the craft's departure."

Mr. Olmiro, who was fifty years old, was interviewed for several hours by the authorities that had traveled from Porto Alegre (the State capital) to investigate the incidents (see also incident 2). He was able, however, to relate the sequence with apparent accuracy and obviously was telling the truth (or what he thought to be the truth). It was found that he had never read science fiction (he read

with great difficulty). He had never heard about flying saucers, "space beings" from Venus or other planets, etc. At least he said so, showing a great surprise when asked about these matters. Apparently he didn't understand these questions. He seemed to believe that the "visitors" were persons from some other country.

The "Asapress" put the story on its wires a few days later, and it was printed on December 14 in the "Diario Carioca," one of Rio's newspapers. On January 15, 1955, the reporter João Martins (one of our best UFO-investigators) published in the magazine "O Cruzeiro" an excellent report about the incident, including photos of the witness at the place of the sighting.

INCIDENT 2—It happened two days later, at the same hour and in the same area as incident one; this time the witness was another countryman, Mr. Pedro Morais, who lived at less than one mile from Mr. Olmiro da Costa's place. This man had never attended school and didn't even know the alphabet. Because of his ignorance, it was hard to get a coherent narrative about the facts he had witnessed. He said that he didn't know what had happened with the other man, just two days before. It had been only on December 13—two days after his own experience—that he was informed about the other case. The weird story he told to the State authorities, when interviewed

by them, was the following (transcribed verbatim):

"On December 11, 1954, I had decided to purchase some foods at a nearby warehouse. At exactly 5:00 p.m., when I was preparing to make the trip, I heard the frightened cries of a chicken. Thinking it might be a sparrow-hawk, I went outdoors to see what was happening. The day was very hot. There was no wind and I saw nothing in the cloudless sky. I still heard the chicken but couldn't find it—because I found another thing that made me forget the original purpose of my search. . . . I saw a strange object suspended in the air, hovering, making a noise like that of a sewing-machine and exhibiting an agitated oscillatory movement. It was shaped, it appeared to me, like the hood of a jeep, on the top; and like an enormous, polished, brass kettle, on the lower part.

"When my eyes left the strange craft, turning toward the cultivated fields, I noticed two figures of human shape that were walking through the tobacco-plantation. I didn't like that, and began to walk toward the machine to ask for an explanation about that invasion of my fields. One of the figures was watching my acts and immediately raised one arm, motioning me not to come any closer. Of course, I didn't obey the sign to stop and continued to walk toward the craft. Seeing that I was approaching rapidly, the figure that was at a distance of about ten yards started

to run toward the craft. Meanwhile, the one that was near the craft kneeled down swiftly and picked up a tobacco-plant from the ground (I saw later that the plant had been rooted out abruptly). They entered together into the object, which disappeared in the sky in a few seconds."

Pedro described the beings as about four feet tall—the size of a ten-years' child. "The figures were human only in the shape of the head and body. All the time, I concentrated my eyes upon their faces, but I didn't see the eyes, the nose, the mouth and the ears. There was nothing of the kind, no face was visible. I got the impression that they were placed into a kind of sack (or bag) of yellow color, which enveloped their bodies completely, from the head to the feet."

He failed to notice any smell or special odor coming from the craft. After the incident, he searched carefully the ground where the figures were walking—but found no footprints or tracks. The tobacco-plant, however, was gone; there was only an empty hole in the earth. . . . Thus, it was not a dream—it had really happened.

Knowing nothing about flying saucers and about "little men" stories, Pedro thought at first, in his ignorance, that the beings might be saints or ghosts. But later, when others told him that the Government wanted one of those "men" live or dead, he decided to shoot one of them with his gun to get a

reward—if they appeared again.

This incident was not printed in the newspaper. However, like the other, it was included in Mr. Martins' article about UFOs, together with four photos of Pedro Morais. In one of them he showed the UFO's landing place; in one of the others he showed the empty place corresponding to the tobacco-plant picked up by the "little men."

These cases are not, obviously, contact reports. As a matter of fact, I have rejected all cases involving alleged two-way communication between earth-people and "space-people." Obviously they are such clear fakes they are not even worth considering. On the other side, however, there are other reports of encounters with "space-people," not involving communication, which show common characteristics that set a definite pattern for the whole group. In fact, they all present the same strange but definite characteristics. The number of such cases is not yet large enough, in my opinion, to be accepted as evidence—but these reports are extraordinarily interesting and should, at least, be analyzed and investigated. A scientific evaluation of the whole group could be of interest some day in the future.

The pattern that identifies this type of report was recently established by Miss Isabel L. Davis from C.S.I. of New York, in a wonderful article that should be read by all UFO researchers. Miss Davis show-

ed* that this pattern includes the following characteristics: (1) The "space-people" appearance is humanoid, not super-human; their behavior is quite incomprehensible; and they never *communicate* at all (they utter no lofty messages, no explanations of ancient riddles, no admonitions, warnings, reassurances, prophecies, or esoteric doctrine); even when they are said to "speak," what they say is as unintelligible as what they do; (2) These encounters are always unexpected by the human being or beings involved; they are *never* "alerted" by mental telepathy or other ESP powers to the fact that they are going to "have a contact"; (3) The witnesses are always terrified, or baffled and annoyed, during and after the experience; they wish it had never happened at all, and the last thing they want is any repetition of it; (4) Where the "contactees" are obscure before the event and increasingly well-known afterwards, these other people are only too glad to go back, once the nine days' wonder and scoffing is over, into the same obscurity they enjoyed before their distasteful experience; (5) They write no books, give no lectures, attract no defenders or disciples, found no cults; (6) In both types of meeting the public is highly skeptical; but these people retreat into silence or resentment, or both, in the face of ridicule; while the "contactees" are so fascinating,

so talkative, and so persistent, that eventually they acquire a private following all their own, in whose breathless belief they can bask and ignore scoffing unbelievers.

Both cases (described here) present all these six common characteristics. There is, however, a seventh—maybe the more important. These reports are *always* "little men" stories, as in incident 2. But incident 1 was not of this kind. This is the most disturbing fact in the whole story, chiefly because the two incidents are obviously related with each other. They occurred in the same area with a two-days' interval, at the same hour; the two crafts were almost identical; there was the same strange "sewing-machine sound"; the "space-people" purpose seemed to be similar in both cases, etc. Too much to be only a coincidence. . . . Then, how to explain the extraordinary difference in their physical appearance? Did they belong, perhaps, to two different races from one single species, living on the same planet? Or were they different humanoid species from the same or from different planets? Were they allied and obeying to the same command? Why were the "little men" using "space-suits"?

I don't know, I have no answer for any of these questions. Another mystery for the UFOs files. . . .

Of course, it would be easier to discard incident 1—as an hoax. The "long blond hair" of the strangers, as well as their clothes, seem to suggest a distorted version

Meet the Extraterrestrial. (Fantastic Universe, November 1957.)

of Adamski's Venusian boy. But only that. On the other side, how to explain the words "protected by a kind of transparent smoke" coming from the mouth of an ignorant countryman? How could he describe with such a clarity a phenomenon obviously related with the presence of a powerful force field (probably an electro-magnetic field) around the craft? How could he know about this? Surely there is something very odd in this incident. I would like to know what that "something" is.

Anyway, the official investigation didn't uncover any evidence suggesting that the witnesses could be hoaxers, pathological liars, crackpots or mystics. The two cases are still classified in the Brazilian AF's files as *unsolved*. A particular investigation made by the reporters João Martins and Licurgo Cardoso (from the magazine "O Cruzeiro") showed the same results.

Rumors about a third landing report, still in December, 1954, came from the State of Rio Grande do Sul. This case, it was said, had happened soon after the two other (less than ten days after incident 2, close to the town of Cachoeira do Sul. According to that rumor, a Police Inspector living in that town organized a hunt, together with several friends, which had been started early on the morning. They had entered into the nearby forest and then, at the border of a clearing, they had sighted a strange disk-

shaped craft. "The UFO landed quietly and two 'men'—with long, blond hair over the shoulders—came out from it and walked towards the hunters. The friends ran away, scared, but the Inspector decided to wait. The 'beings' came in his direction. To avoid any surprise, he got his gun and prepared to fight for his life—if necessary. But it seems that the sight of that gun pointed towards their bodies frightened the strangers, who went back rapidly to the craft; and the UFO took off in a few seconds, and disappeared in the sky."

During the investigation of this strange tale, I learned that the case had been reported through several radio Stations in the State, but did not appear in the press. I was informed that an AF officer had been sent to Cachoeira do Sul, to make an investigation, but nothing had been said about the results of it. For a long time, in the hope of getting something more solid (in order to confirm or deny this story), I worked on the case. But all my efforts failed. I did not uncover any reliable information about it.

I believe, now, that there is nothing to be trusted in this story because, unlike the two other incidents, it was not investigated by the State authorities. If it had been, I would certainly be informed about it. Thus, this report probably was obviously inspired by the story told by Mr. Olmiro da Costa e Rosa, which was published in the papers at the same occasion.